



THE ROYAL
SOCIETY OF
TASMANIA

THE ADVANCEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



J. Gould and W. H. Miller del. & lith.

BERNICLE JUBATA.

Illustrated by W. H. Miller del.

We acknowledge that Tasmanian Aboriginal Peoples have survived severe and unjust impacts resulting from invasion and dispossession of their Country. As an institution dedicated to the advancement of knowledge, The Royal Society of Tasmania recognises Aboriginal cultural knowledge and practices and seeks to respect and honour these traditions and the deep understanding they represent.

The Royal Society of Tasmania Annual Report for 2024

Produced by The Royal Society of Tasmania for the Annual General Meeting 6 March 2025



ABN 65 889 598 100

The Royal Society of Tasmania

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Cover Image: Beautiful lithograph of the elegant Maned Goose *Bernicla jubata* (now Australian Wood Duck *Chenonetta jubata*) by John Gould and Henry Constantine Richter. Plate 3 in Volume 7 of Gould's epic series *The Birds of Australia and Adjacent Islands*, 1848.



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THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

PATRON: Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania

OFFICE BEARERS & COUNCIL MEMBERS 2024

COUNCIL MEMBERS

President	Associate Professor Julie Rimes
Vice President	Emeritus Professor Richard Coleman
Immediate Past President	Professor Jocelyn McPhie
Honorary Secretary	Dr Don Garden OAM
Honorary Treasurer	Dr Sonia Shimeld
Council Members	Distinguished Emeritus Professor Paul Haddad Mrs Mary Koolhof Ms Evelyn Lambeth (Student Councillor) Distinguished Emeritus Professor Ross Large AO Mrs Roxanne Steenbergen Mr John Williamson Mr David Wilson
Northern Branch Representatives	Mr David Morris (Northern President) Dr Liza Snow

EX OFFICIO COUNCIL MEMBERS

Honorary Editor <i>Papers and Proceedings of The Royal Society of Tasmania</i>	Dr Sally Bryant AM
Honorary Librarian	Mr Caine Chennatt
Honorary Solicitor	Mr James Crotty
Honorary Art Curator	Dr Anita Hansen

NORTHERN BRANCH & OTHER RST ROLES

NORTHERN BRANCH OFFICE BEARERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President	Mr David Morris
Honorary Secretary	Mrs Christine Beswick / Mrs Pippa Cotton
Honorary Treasurer	Mr Brian East
Northern Branch Rep on the Foundation	Mr Neil MacKinnon
Committee Members	Dr Andrew Alexander
	Dr Lois Beckwith (Assistant Secretary)
	Mr Shane Fitzgerald (<i>ex officio</i> , QVMAG Representative, General Manager, Creative Arts & Cultural Services, City of Launceston)
	Mr Neil MacKinnon (President Elect)
	Mrs Melanie Morris
	Mr Andrew Parsons (<i>ex officio</i> , Honorary Librarian)
	Dr Eric Ratcliff OAM (Immediate Past President)
	Dr Martin Renilson (Assistant Secretary)
	Ms Lynette Ross
	Dr Liza Snow

OTHER RST ROLES

Auditor	Mr Richard James FIPA (IPA#: 134606)
Newsletter Editor	Mr Bernard Pryor OAM
Webmaster	Mr Eddy Steenbergen
Office Manager	Eleanor Marshall / Dr Nicky Foxlee (from Dec.)
RST Nominee to Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery	Position vacant

COMMITTEES 2024

COMMITTEE	CHAIR	MEMBERS
Aboriginal Engagement	Professor Jocelyn McPhie	Dr Sally Bryant AM Mrs Mary Koolhof Mr David Morris Mr David Wilson
Art Collection	Distinguished Emeritus Professor Ross Large AO	Dr Anita Hansen (Hon. Art Curator) Ms Marley Large Mr Warwick Oakman
Art Fundraising	Mrs Mary Koolhof	Mr James Crotty Mrs Marley Large Distinguished Emeritus Professor Ross Large AO Ms Lorraine Polglase Associate Professor Julie Rimes
Bursaries	Dr Deborah Beswick OAM	Mrs Mary Koolhof Associate Professor Julie Rimes Mrs Roxanne Steenberg Mr John Williamson
Events & Publicity	Associate Professor Julie Rimes	Ms Evelyn Lambeth Distinguished Emeritus Professor Ross Large AO Ms Lorraine Polglase Mr John Williamson
Foundation	Mr Neil MacKinnon	Mr Tony Culberg OAM Dr Don Garden OAM – RST Secretary Dr Sonia Shimeld – RST Treasurer Dr John Thorne AM
Honours & Awards	Emeritus Professor Richard Coleman	Distinguished Emeritus Professor Paul Haddad Professor Jocelyn McPhie Dr Eva Meidl Distinguished Emeritus Professor Jim Reid Professor Jonathan Sprent Professor Brian Yates
Membership	Mrs Roxanne Steenberg	Dr John Thorne AM
Publications	Dr Sally Bryant AM	Dr Margaret Davies OAM Mr John Williamson Mr David Wilson

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As President, I am profoundly honoured to uphold the legacy of the distinguished line of Council Presidents, members, volunteers, advisers, and scholars who have steadfastly dedicated themselves to ensuring The Royal Society of Tasmania remains well-resourced, pertinent, and ready to shape the prosperous future of our State. The Society's illustrious heritage, spanning over 180 years, is a testament to perseverance—nearly two centuries of scientific publishing, nurturing talent, and convening expertise to address socioeconomic and environmental challenges through research. In the words of TS Eliot, 'Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go.' Our relentless pursuit of resources to advance our mission of advancing knowledge is vital.

Our continued success—including our lecture series in Launceston and Hobart, events, and publications —relies heavily upon our persistent and dedicated volunteers, to whom the Society owes an enormous debt of gratitude. This Annual Report details these achievements and acknowledges the occasions and individuals honoured throughout the year.



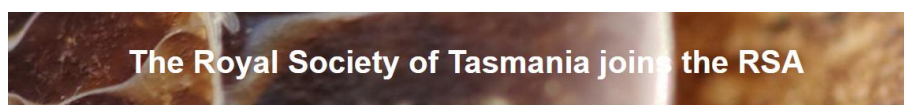
(L to R) President Assoc. Prof. Julie Rimes celebrating at the Wagner Framemakers exhibition with the dedicated art team of Marley Large, Distinguished Emeritus Professor Ross Large AO, Mary Koolhof and Dr Anita Hansen.

What have been your Council's chief preoccupations during 2024? Excellent progress has been made in introducing our historic art collection to art lovers and academics worldwide. For over a year, a group of volunteers, led by Dr Anita Hansen (RST Honorary Art Curator) and Marley Large, have worked diligently to create an online catalogue of our artworks. This web-based system, employed globally by museums, societies, and private collectors, catalogues objects, stores images, manages acquisition information, and publishes collections online. Our collection is accessible at <https://www.ehive.com/collections/204886/the-royal-society-of-tasmania> and searchable through Trove. This repository is a work in progress, continuously refined as our research team undertakes further study and responds to user feedback. Officially launched on 3 October 2024, the project is still in its infancy.

Allied to this is the ongoing restoration and conservation of our artworks, accelerated by the Art Fundraising Committee's efforts, which have raised funds through various projects and successful grant applications. Mary Koolhof, the chief grant writer, deserves our heartfelt thanks. The Art Committee, led by Distinguished Emeritus Professor Ross Large AO, has had a year filled with activity and progress, securing Council approval for the publication of a high-quality, full-colour Art Catalogue, to be published in 2025.

This will be a first-time compendium of all the artworks in our collection, accompanied by scholarly commentary. Additionally, a regional *Hidden Treasures* Exhibition Series is in preparation, bringing our art to all parts of Tasmania. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, which houses our collection especially Director Ms Mary Mulcahy who has been supportive of our endeavours, endorsing her staff to provide the necessary assistance.

Our proud and venerable history positions us to remain a relevant source of scholarship and innovation. Early in 2025, we will embark on a new strategic planning process, uniting our collective minds to consider how we might engage the next generation of thinkers and scientists. What do they envision for the future? It is imperative we understand their perspectives and how they perceive our Society. As we know, strategic thinking empowers organisations to anticipate change, unlock potential, and chart a visionary path towards sustainable success and meaningful impact. Our task in 2025 will be to aim high, honouring the past while enabling the future, and to outline a journey that inspires more Tasmanians to understand the Society's role and importance. This may require presenting The Royal Society of Tasmania to new audiences as a progressive thought leader, building robust, reciprocal relationships beyond academia to embrace corporate and philanthropic engagement. Our immense intellectual capital must be harnessed for the benefit of society and the common good. As former US President, Franklin D Roosevelt, once asserted, 'the only limit to our realisation of tomorrow will be our doubts of today.' Though aspirational, this goal is achievable. I urge you to contribute your thoughts and ideas to help shape a bold future.



The Royal Societies of Australia is delighted to welcome the Royal Society of Tasmania to Membership of the organisation. The Council of the RSA approved its Membership at its meeting on 14 October 2024. At that meeting the President of the RST, Associate Professor Julie Rimes, was appointed to the RSA Council. The RST now intends to make a contribution to the RSA's national projects, bringing a Tasmanian perspective to this important work.

During the year, the Council agreed for The Royal Society of Tasmania to join the Royal Societies of Australia (RSA). The RSA offers a broad-based national approach to promoting intellectual inquiry in Australia, emphasising evidence-based knowledge beyond science. It promotes the efforts of Australia's Royal Societies, holds seminars and events on topics of national interest, coordinates activities nationally, and provides a platform for exploring common issues affecting the Societies. It stands distinct from Australia's learned academies by adopting a broader-based perspective, linking theory, policy, practice, partnerships, and outreach.

As foreshadowed by past President Professor Jocelyn McPhie in last year's report, the RST Library Collections staff have played a crucial role this year, coordinating a rare book valuation, drafting the Collections Development Policy, and preparing necessary work and discussions to complete our Memorandum of Understanding and Loans Agreement with UTAS. We have also agreed to make the RST Library Collections available through the Biodiversity Heritage Library Australia website. For all this work, I am indebted to Acting University Librarian Caine Chennatt and Cultural Collections Coordinator Katrina Ross.

The Royal Society of Tasmania is governed by the Council, but its work is enacted by Committees. I pay tribute to all the Committees, their members, and the Committee Chairs who drive and guide this work. This dedication is further supported by an even larger group of members who contribute in numerous ways — by organising functions, making donations, attending events, and more. The RST Foundation, led by Chair Neil MacKinnon, has produced a bequest brochure to inspire members to support the Society's future endeavours. I hope this will encourage you to consider how you can further aid our mission.



(L) RST Past President Professor Jocelyn McPhie accepts a vote of thanks from incoming President Assoc. Prof. Julie Rimes. (R) Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania, with Dist. Em. Prof. Paul Haddad (L) and Em. Prof. John Church (R), co-recipients of The Royal Society of Tasmania 2023 RM Johnston Memorial Medal.

We are extremely fortunate to have as our Patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania. Along with Emeritus Professor Don Chalmers AO, the Governor has provided unwavering support, encouragement, and wise counsel throughout the year, for which we are deeply grateful.

As the year ends and January approaches, it is fitting to reflect on Janus, the Roman god of beginnings, gates, transitions, time, and choices. As a Council, we have a full and promising year ahead. I hope you will take this opportunity, as you read the Annual Report, to reflect on our achievements and join us as we strive for even greater success in 2025.

Associate Professor Julie Rimes
President

HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

I am sure that most members of The Royal Society of Tasmania will recognise that the work of a secretary is essentially behind the scenes, to maintain a steady pace of necessary but somewhat mundane administrative tasks. Try as we might, I doubt many organisation secretaries get much buzz from preparing agendas, writing minutes and dealing with correspondence. However, there are many aspects of the Secretary's work at RST that indulge my wider interests and provide a sense of involvement and achievement in an interesting and successful organisation.

One of these is being part of the Executive and the Council of such an established significant Tasmanian cultural institution. It has been fascinating to delve back into the foundations of the Society in 1843 and the role it played in the life of the Colony/State. As an early body responsible for the Hobart Botanical Gardens and as the main museum collecting institution until the 1880s, RST played a fundamental role in the scientific and cultural life of Tasmania. I was most interested to see the now-faded gilt sign in the glass over the entrance doorway to the RST's 1863 museum and library, on the corner of Argyle and Macquarie Streets. A visit to the TMAG archives opened the original plans for the 1863 building by Henry Hunter, and its subsequent extension in 1886 when the government established what is now TMAG and took over the museum collection. RST was guaranteed continued occupation and still occupies a corner in the administration wing.

The second aspect also appeals to my life as an historian. I was particularly excited this year to see the developments in the RST collection, notably the separate valuations of the impressive library and art collections, the cataloguing of the art collection and its harvesting by Trove and the creation of a new Collections Development Policy. These have spurred my own efforts to ensure that RST has electronic records of all its administrative functions, including its Agendas, Minutes and reports as well as other significant papers and documentation. I recently completed accumulating a full archive of *Newsletters* which are now available in the digital collections of the National Library and all State libraries. These will provide historians with an invaluable insight into the RST's activities and achievements now and in the future.



(L) Departing office manager Eleanor Marshall replaced by (C) Dr Nicky Foxlee, (R) RST Treasurer Dr Sonia Shimeld.

Thursday mornings in the RST office are a major part in the life of the Society, when members of the Executive and the Office Manager gather to discuss, organise and plan, often over a coffee from the TMAG café. I thank Eleanor Marshall who has been the Office Manager in 2024 for all her work, and I welcome Dr Nicky Foxlee who takes up the position from the start of 2025. Last, but not least, I thank the Executive team – Jocelyn McPhie, Julie Rimes as President, Richard Coleman as Vice President and our excellent and invaluable Treasurer, Sonia Shimeld.

Dr Don Garden OAM
Honorary Secretary

FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial procedures have been streamlined while still encompassing the requirements for the Australian Tax Office (ATO) and the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission (ACNC). To comply with the accounting standards required by the ACNC a full set of financial reports has been prepared and is presented separately, with a summary provided here.

The RST Foundation is treated as an investment arm of the Society as it is not a separate legal entity. Hence, the financial reports represent the organisation in its entirety. The Foundation's investments and interest are integral to the Society's finances for annual reporting purposes.

Major impacts on the 2024 financial results included:

- RST Art Collection – \$23,053 for art conservation and eHive subscription
- Bursaries and Awards – ANZAAS bursary awarded to Danika Wright
- Bursaries and Awards – Dr Peter Smith bursary awarded to Penny Tassicker
- Bursaries and Awards – \$5,844 included the setup costs for the new Louisa Anne Meredith medal, \$1,000 PhD student prize for Tobias Sven Lars Stål, and \$3,500 bursary to Naren Balaji Ganesh Pillai
- Meeting expenses include \$1,200 legal fees, \$1,792 for President to attend a Royal Society of Australia meeting in Canberra in 2023 and Adelaide in 2024, \$520 for AGM meeting
- RST Library Collections revalued and the increase of \$962,445 is shown as Other Comprehensive Income

The financial results for the year 2024 are higher than budgeted, due to the interest earned by the Foundation. Membership income is lower due to a drop in 'Membership with Papers' and Publication income is also lower even with lagged 2024 calendar income boosting the publication figures. There were only two expense categories that significantly exceeded budget – Art & Library expenses and Publication expenses.

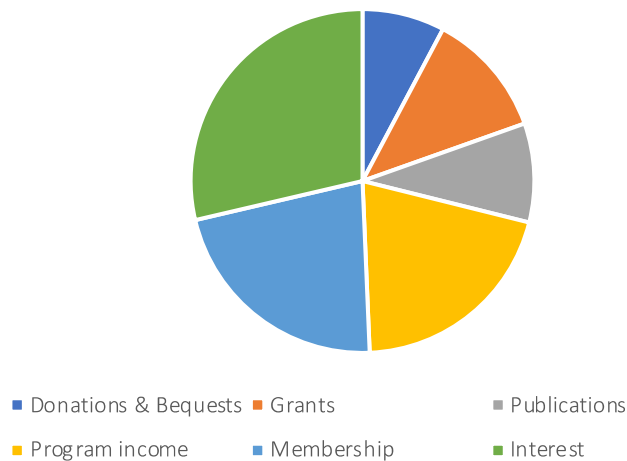
As shown in the summary and pie charts on the following page, the Society's main income streams are membership and program income (dinners, lectures, events) with interest being reinvested for future needs. Donations, bequests and publications all play a critical role with grants supplementing the other income streams.

The expense categories show the highest spending on the RST Art Collections. The office and then publications (*Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania*) are the next highest categories of expenses followed by programs (dinners, lectures and events) and then bursaries.

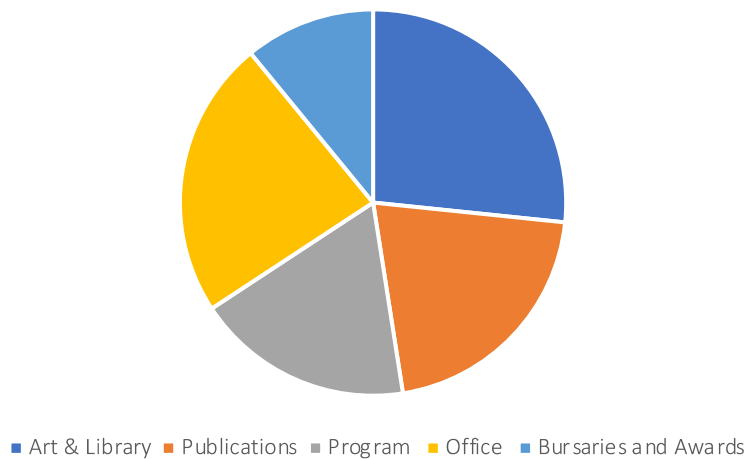
Summarised Income Statement

	2024	2023
Income	\$	\$
Donations & Bequests	8,395	15,345
Grants	12,807	8,000
Publications	10,076	15,105
Program income	22,138	25,817
Membership	23,830	26,130
Interest	31,030	26,902
Total Income	108,277	117,299
Expenses		
Art & Library	23,108	67,525
Publications	18,118	23,599
Program	15,813	18,660
Office	20,245	15,756
Bursaries and Awards	9,474	6,250
Total Expenses	86,758	131,791
Net Surpluys/(Deficit)	21,519	(14,492)

Income categories



Expense categories



The Royal Society of Tasmania

Statement of Financial Position
As at 31 December 2024

		2024	2023
		\$	\$
Assets	Note		
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	25,832	28,623
Accounts Receivable	3	1,447	1,674
Accrued Income	4	9,334	9,147
Investments	5	663,337	609,295
Prepaid expense	6	4,841	1,763
Total Current Assets		704,791	650,502
Non-current Assets			
Plant and Equipment	7	923	0.00
RST Art collection	8	8,100,000	8,100,000
RST Library inc Rare Book collection	9	4,019,800	3,057,355
Total Non-current Assets		12,120,723	11,157,355
Total Assets		12,825,514	11,807,857
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	10	7,699	0.00
Prepaid income	11	26,245	250
Total Current Liabilities		33,944	250
Total Liabilities		33,944	250
Net Assets		12,791,570	11,807,607
Equity			
Reserve - ANZAAS	12	68,068	65,576
Reserve - Library and Art Fund donations	12	71,804	71,804
Reserve - Peter Smith	12	43,152	38,463
Revaluation Surplus	13	12,119,800	11,157,355
Accumulated surpluses		488,746	474,409
Total Equity		12,791,570	11,807,607

This Statement of Financial Position clearly shows the funds available for the Society, and those funds that are allocated for specific purposes (all shown in Equity). The ANZAAS and Peter Smith unexpended funds from 2024 increase those Equity accounts. Note that revaluation surplus is merely the result of revaluing our Art Collection and Rare Book Collection (and has increased due to the revaluation of the RST Library Collections).

Accounts Receivable reflect RST *Papers and Proceedings* that have been sent to organisations but are yet to be paid. Accrued income denotes interest on term deposits that has not yet been received. Prepaid expense represents insurance and an eHive 5-year subscription with this expense allocated across the relevant time period. The prepaid income includes payments for membership and RST *Papers and Proceedings* that relate to the next financial year as well as the unused portions of two grants totalling \$26,062 to be used in 2025.

For a more detailed explanation of these statements please refer to the full set of audited financial statements disclosed separately.



Dr Sonia Shimeld FCPA
Honorary Treasurer



ABN 65 889 598 100

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

I have audited the financial report of The Royal Society of Tasmania.

In my opinion the accompanying financial report of the organisation has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (Cth)*, including:

- Giving a true and fair view of the organisation's financial position for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended;
- Complying with the Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*;
- My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting accounts and other disclosures in the accounts, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates; and
- To the best of my belief and knowledge, all information and explanations required have been obtained and rules relating to the administration of funds appear to have been observed.



Richard H James FIPA FFA
Institute of Public Accountants IPA#: 134606

AUDITOR

20 January 2025

ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT

In 2023, the Society committed funds to a joint project with TMAG aimed at creating a permanent marker to the 2021 paired RST – TMAG Apologies to Tasmanian Aboriginal people <https://rst.org.au/apology-to-tasmanian-aboriginal-people-2021/>. It is envisaged that the permanent marker will serve as a reminder of the apologies and of the historical events central to their making. At the end of 2023, TMAG advised that a five-fold increase in the budget was considered necessary. The budget increase was discussed at four meetings of the RST Aboriginal Engagement Committee between January and July 2024 and at all four RST Council meetings between February and June 2024. The Director of TMAG, Mary Mulcahy, attended the 6 February 2024 Council meeting to provide further context on the revised budget. After exhaustive deliberation at the August 2024 meeting, the budget increase was approved by the RST Council. The project will begin formally in January 2025 and will be steered by a Joint RST – TMAG Working Group. The RST members of the Joint Working Group are President Associate Professor Julie Rimes, Aboriginal Engagement Committee Chair Jocelyn McPhie and Tasmanian Aboriginal leader, Kerry Sculthorpe.

The 2024 RST lecture by a Tasmanian Aboriginal leader was delivered on Sunday 4 August by Heather Sculthorpe, long-standing CEO of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC). The lecture was given on Aboriginal land at Piyura Kitina/Risdon Cove, a site of immense significance, being the scene of a brutal massacre of Tasmanian Aboriginal people by British soldiers in 1804. Heather detailed the operations of the TAC and recalled the key events in the struggle for the recognition and equality of Tasmanian Aboriginal people over the past 50 years, a struggle that continues. A transcript of Heather's lecture was published in Vol 158 of the *Papers and Proceedings of The Royal Society of Tasmania* in December 2024.

The 2025 lecture by a Tasmanian Aboriginal leader will be in Launceston, hosted by the Northern Branch.



(L) Tasmanian Aboriginal leader and CEO of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, Heather Sculthorpe with RST President Assoc. Prof. Julie Rimes at Piyura Kitina/Risdon Cove where Heather delivered her lecture. (R) The theme of the 2024 National Reconciliation Week Breakfast was 'Now More Than Ever' with guest speakers Ged Watts and Shane Howard.

RST President Associate Professor Julie Rimes and Aboriginal Engagement Committee member, Dr Sally Bryant AM, represented the Society at the annual National Reconciliation Week Breakfast held in Hobart on 31 May at MyState Bank Arena. The theme of the event was 'Now More Than Ever', reflecting the aftermath of the 'No' vote in the October 2023 'Voice' referendum and the divisive campaign that took centre-stage nationally. A video of the event is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMJnYf46gj8>.

Professor Jocelyn McPhie
Chair, Aboriginal Engagement Committee

ART COLLECTION

The Art Committee was particularly active in 2024 with the progression of our program of conservation, cataloguing both online and hard copy, exhibition and print sales. Warwick Oakman joined the committee in January bringing his invaluable heritage art knowledge and experience to the group.

The conservation program moved ahead with the treatment of 34 artworks amounting to about 20% of those planned for conservation. Priority was given to those works featuring First Nations peoples, those planned for exhibition in 2025 and those needing attention and rephotographing for the Art Catalogue. The table below shows those restored this year, all by registered art restorer Amy Bartlett of Launceston.

REG. NO.	TITLE	ARTIST
AG1613.1	City of Hobart Town	Knut Bull
AG1721.35	Granite Cliffs and Wine Glass Bay	Louisa Anne Meredith
AG2071	Neptune	Simpkinson de Wesselow
AG2072	King Tippoo from Hobart Town	Simpkinson de Wesselow
AG2073	Barnaby Rudge	Simpkinson de Wesselow
AG2074	Cranky Dick	Simpkinson de Wesselow
AG2075	Bessy Clark	Simpkinson de Wesselow
AG2076	Lallah Rookh from the Huon	Simpkinson de Wesselow
AG2077	Queen Flora, wife of Tippoo	Simpkinson de Wesselow
AG2078	Louisa	Simpkinson de Wesselow
AG2079	Natives Fishing, Flinders Island	Simpkinson de Wesselow
AG2080	Sarah from Cape Portland, VDL	Simpkinson de Wesselow
AG2081	Methinna	Simpkinson de Wesselow
AG2082	Natives at Flinders Island	Simpkinson de Wesselow
AG2083	Augustus from Macquarie Harbour	Simpkinson de Wesselow
AG2084	Daphne from Oyster Bay	Simpkinson de Wesselow
AG2085	Emma	Simpkinson de Wesselow
AG2086	Buonaparte	Simpkinson de Wesselow
AG2042.1	From the Flagstaff Hill	Simpkinson de Wesselow
AG728	Break O' Day Native	Mrs R.V. Legge
AG729	Break O' Day Native	Mrs R.V. Legge
AG1667	Manalargerna	Benjamin Duterrau
AG1668	Manalargerna	Benjamin Duterrau
AG1669	Manalargerna	Benjamin Duterrau
AG1670	Manalargerna	Benjamin Duterrau
AG1671	Tanleboueyer	Benjamin Duterrau
AG1672	Tanleboueyer	Benjamin Duterrau
AG1673	Truggernana	Benjamin Duterrau
AG1674	Truggernana	Benjamin Duterrau
AG1675	Conciliation	Benjamin Duterrau
AG1676	Conciliation	Benjamin Duterrau
AG2068	Weibalenna: Settlement at Flinders Island	Simpkinson de Wesselow
AG2174	Grasstree Plains, Flinders Island	Simpkinson de Wesselow
AG2199	At Weibalenna, Flinders Island	Simpkinson de Wesselow

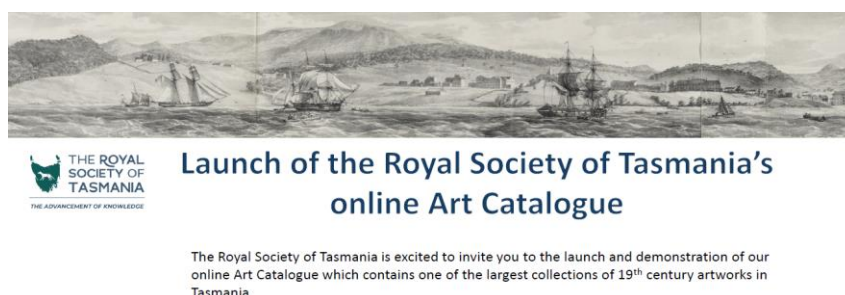
A collaboration was formed with Wagner Framemakers for framing and display of selected works from the collection. This resulted in several sales which have contributed to the RST Art Fund.



(L, L- R) Art Committee Chair Distinguished Emeritus Professor Ross Large AO with President Assoc. Prof. Julie Rimes, Jemima Wagner and Felix Wagner from Wagner Framemakers. (R) Art Fund Raising Committee Chair Mary Koolhof with RST Northern Branch Past President Dr Eric Ratcliff OAM at the launch of eHive.

The Honorary Art Curator Dr Hansen led a team of volunteers to compile information on each artwork for the eHive online catalogue. Over 900 works were added online, and the catalogue was successfully launched in October and now available to the public.

A business plan for the RST Art Catalogue book was completed and approved by Council. The agreed timeline ensures the book will be available for pre-publication sales at a reduced price from July through to October when the 400-page catalogue will be launched in hard and soft cover forms. A generous grant of \$20,000 from the Gordon Darling Foundation will enable the catalogue to be sold for under \$100 per copy, with an additional discount for RST members. A sub-committee has been formed to actively promote and secure sales of the Catalogue.



A travelling exhibition of iconic works from the RST Art Collection is planned for 2025 to 2028. A program of six regional exhibitions over three years aims to bring the Collection to people in the Tasmanian regions. The aptly named *Hidden Treasures* exhibition recognises the assessment of the works as being of National Significance and yet the vast majority have never been seen by the public. We plan to open the exhibition series in Oatlands in August 2025 to coincide with the Oatlands Heritage and Bullock Festival. Follow-up *Hidden Treasures* exhibitions have been planned for Queenstown and Woolmers Estate at Longford. Each exhibition will have a theme relevant to that venue and have a core component comprising some of our iconic works and those showing scenes from the district. High quality framed prints will be exhibited rather than the originals, to enable exhibitions to take place in a variety of community venues that are not suitable for displaying original artworks. The originals in the RST Art Collection are valuable watercolours requiring professional gallery conditions regarding lighting, temperature, humidity and security.

Distinguished Emeritus Professor Ross Large AO
Chair, Art Collection Committee

ART CURATION

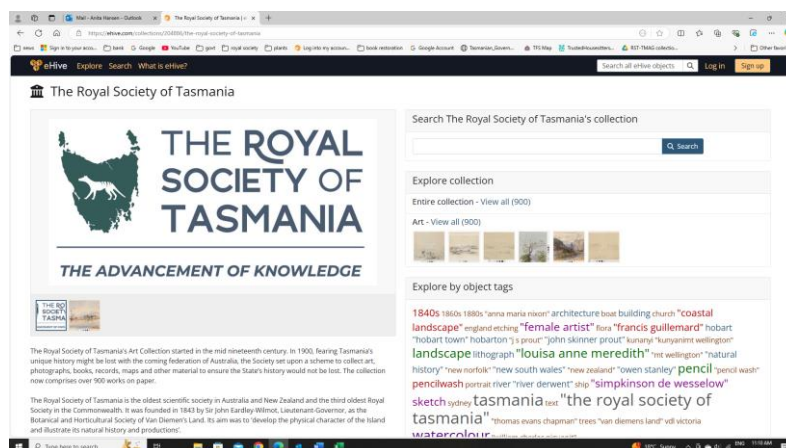
2024 has been a very productive year with a number of major projects underway. Planning for the exhibition at the Allport Library and Museum of Fine Arts, scheduled for April 2025, has progressed well. A number of planning meetings have been held with the Allport's Curator Caitlin Sutton, Professor Greg Lehman and me. The exhibition will feature works by the nineteenth century artist Simpkinson de Wesselow from his visit to Wybalenna on Flinders Island with fellow artist John Skinner Prout in 1845. The Society has in the Art Collection a set of portraits featuring members of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community there. These portraits have rarely been seen previously so this is a tremendous opportunity for the public to learn more about this chapter of Tasmania's history. The works to be featured in the exhibition have undergone conservation in preparation for the exhibition.



'Natives fishing Flinders Island', Simpkinson de Wesselow, pencil and wash, 1845.

As an example of the Society's commitment to 'the advancement of knowledge,' we have entered into an Internship Agreement with Mia Williamson, who is studying Collections and Curatorship at Deakin University, to work on the exhibition with us as a component of her university course.

As Honorary Art Curator, I led a team of volunteers to compile information on each artwork in the collection for the eHive online catalogue. Information about the over 900 works was added to the online database which was successfully launched in October and is now available to the public. The launch completed the requirements of a National Library of Australia Cultural Heritage Grant we received at the end of 2023. This was Stage 1 of the project, with additional information to be added to the site in the future.



The eHive homepage www.ehive.com/collections/204886/the-royal-society-of-tasmania

The presence of the collection online and articles in the Society's newsletter have greatly increased awareness of the Society's Art Collection, and the number of requests for information from researchers, journalists and the public.

A Collections Development Policy for the RST Art Collection and Library Collections, written in conjunction with the UTAS Historical Collections Coordinator Katrina Ross, was submitted to Council.

Work has progressed on the Art Collection Catalogue. To date experts in various fields of art genres have agreed to contribute to the catalogue and first drafts of their articles are now arriving.

Work is continuing identifying the ownership of the Louisa Anne Meredith fish illustrations with the other members of the Art Committee (Ross Large and Marley Large), and Jocelyn McPhie and Mary Koolhof, and some important information has been uncovered. Work also continues on promoting Jane Giblin's PhD based on the Sarah Mitchell Scrapbooks with additional exhibitions planned in Hobart and Collingwood. Jane has generously offered to donate *The Mitchell Women: Untold Stories* touring handmade scrapbook (including its many workshop ink and watercolour contributions) to the RST Art Collection.

Dr Anita Hansen
Honorary Art Curator

ART FUNDRAISING

We are delighted to report that The Royal Society of Tasmania has been successful in gaining three grants this year. The Community Heritage Grants scheme administered through the National Library of Australia has provided \$6,870 to allow an iconic artwork, *A Cool Debate* by noted 19th century artist Louisa Anne Meredith, to be sent to Sydney for highly specialised conservation work due to its degraded and precarious condition. This painting was assessed as being the most culturally and artistically important work in the RST Art Collection requiring urgent conservation and is a highly scientifically accurate early depiction of an Australian frog species. *A Cool Debate* shows a group of green and gold frogs (*Rana aurea* now *Litoria raniformis*) observed 'in conversation' around a pond. This work has been described by Warwick Oakman, Art Committee member and registered Commonwealth Government Valuer of Tasmanian colonial art, as the most well-known image of any work of art by a 19th century Tasmanian female artist. It is of national significance in Australian women's art.



(L) Ms Jandy Godfrey, Chair of Arts National Hobart, at the Wagner Framemakers exhibition launch. (R) President Assoc. Prof. Julie Rimes featured in a Mercury Newspaper article 9th May 2024 on the importance of the Art Collection.

The Gordon Darling Foundation has very generously contributed \$20,000 to the production of the full-colour printed RST Art Collection Catalogue scheduled for publication in late 2025, and \$1,000 was received from the Flavigny Trust to support art conservation and exhibition. The sale of museum-quality framed art prints, organised by Distinguished Emeritus Professor Ross Large AO through Wagner Framemakers, realised \$2,809. The Society is most grateful to the NLA Community Heritage Grants scheme, the Gordon Darling Foundation, the Flavigny Trust and Wagner Framemakers for their support.

The fundraising *Winterfest* held on 18 August was very successful, with members and guests enjoying festive drinks and delicious treats while socialising in the welcoming ambience of President Assoc. Prof. Julie Rimes' home. We extend grateful thanks to Julie and the Rimes family for opening their home to us; the Art Fundraising Committee for providing the catering; the various people who assisted on the day; generous auction donors Bernard and Heather Pryor, Marley and Ross Large, Alison Parsons, Deborah Beswick, Anita Hansen, Grady and Mary Koolhof, Lorraine Polglase, Andrew Vidor, and the family of the late Margaret Marstrand. Guests were appreciative of the musical entertainment provided by Thomas Rimes, Meg Johnson, Reuben Allen, Zachary Allen and Rock Liu. The event raised \$5,200 for the conservation and exhibition of works in the RST Art Collection.



(L, L-R) Marley Large and Lorraine Polglase greeting guests at the *Winterfest*, and (R, L-R) Musicians Rock Liu, Reuben Allen and Zachary Allen providing wonderful entertainment at the successful *Winterfest* event.

The sale of two Louisa Anne Meredith first edition books donated by Miss Alison Parsons raised \$1,500 for the conservation of some of the many beautiful works by Meredith in the RST Art Collection. The Midwinter Dinner raffle raised \$895, with the highlight being an original artwork donated by artist Kaye Volkman, while the Christmas Dinner raffle raised \$700.

It has been exciting to see the conservation work begin; at the time of writing, the funds raised have allowed 34 artworks to undergo conservation. Warm thanks go to the many RST members and supporters who have provided donations and in-kind support for the art fundraising efforts, with \$1,368 received in cash donations, and to the committee members for all their work this year to raise a total of \$40,342.

Mrs Mary Koolhof
Chair, Art Fundraising Committee

BURSARIES

The Royal Society of Tasmania offers bursaries to Tasmanian secondary students who have been selected through a competitive process to represent Australia at an international event. Bursaries may also be awarded for national events held interstate. Bursaries are offered in the fields of science, mathematics, engineering, the arts, humanities, and social sciences. Three students were successful applicants this year, two being from the south of the state and one from the northwest coast.

Naren Balaji Ganesh Pillai (Elizabeth College) attended the Michigan Math and Science Scholars summer program (MMSS), in the United States, with support from The Royal Society of Tasmania and the Rotary Club of Hobart. Naren was a Year 12 Science and Mathematics student at Elizabeth College and a participant in the UTAS High Achiever Program studying Year 2 Psychology in Statistical Methods and Research Designs, and Cognitive and Behavioural Neuroscience at the university. *“One of my happiest days was when...The Royal Society of Tasmania agreed to help support me with this rare conference being in America. It was such a golden opportunity, and I am ecstatic that I could attend.”* Naren has been accepted into Medicine at UTAS for study in 2025. His experiences are featured in advertising for the UTAS High Achiever Program with reference made to The Royal Society.



Two of the 2024 bursary winners, Naren Balaji Ganesh Pillai and Penny Tassicker

Penny Tassicker (Marist Regional College) was a recipient of a Dr Peter Smith Bursary, as a member of the Australian team that participated in the International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO), an annual competition for the world's most talented chemistry students at the secondary school level. Nations around the world send a team of four students who are tested on their chemistry knowledge and skills in a five-hour laboratory practical exam and a five-hour written theoretical examination that are held on separate days with the practical examination usually held before the theoretical examination. Penny won a silver medal. Penny said ... *“it was awesome being able to talk to other people my age who shared my passion for chemistry! Thank you so much again for your support. It was a truly amazing experience, and I'm so glad I got to attend.”*

Danika Wright (Elizabeth College) was the only successful applicant from Tasmania this year to participate in Youth ANZAAS, an annual residential international forum for science students in Years 10 to 12. Danika visited: the Science Works Museum, Melbourne and Monash Universities, Australian Synchrotron, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, RMIT, Melbourne Museum and the Defence Department's Science and Technology Facility. Residency was at Ormond College. Danika found the experience fascinating and learnt about possible career pathways.

Dr Deborah Beswick OAM
Chair, Bursary Committee

EVENTS – SOUTH

7 March

Event: Lecture and RST Annual General Meeting 2024

Speaker: Professor Cassandra Pybus

Title: Morton Allport: the Resurrection Man of The Royal Society of Tasmania, 1862-1876.

Venue: Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Sandy Bay

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TOZueVJohag>

7 April

Speaker: Dr Keith Corbett OAM

Title: Gondwana's Child – the Geological Making of Tasmania.

Venue: Geology Lecture Theatre, University of Tasmania, Sandy Bay

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UQDTmYjGiCg>

22 April

Title: 2023 Medals Presentation

Medal Recipients: Distinguished Emeritus Professor Paul Haddad and Emeritus Professor John Church (RM Johnston Medal), Associate Professor Alex Bissember (MR Banks Medal) and Dr Tobias Stäl (Doctoral Award). All awards were presented by The Royal Society of Tasmania Patron, Her Excellency the Hon. Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania.

Venue: In person event Government House, Domain, Hobart



(L - R) Professor Cassandra Pybus, Dr Keith Corbett OAM and Emeritus Professor Gustaaf Hallegraeff.

5 May

Speaker: Emeritus Professor Gustaaf Hallegraeff

Title: Microbes that Shaped our World.

Venue: Geology Lecture Theatre, University of Tasmania, Sandy Bay

17 May

Event: Launch of the Limited Print Series of the RST Historic Art Collection

Speaker: Distinguished Emeritus Professor Ross Large, AO

Venue: In person event Wagner Framemakers, 65 Argyle Street, Hobart

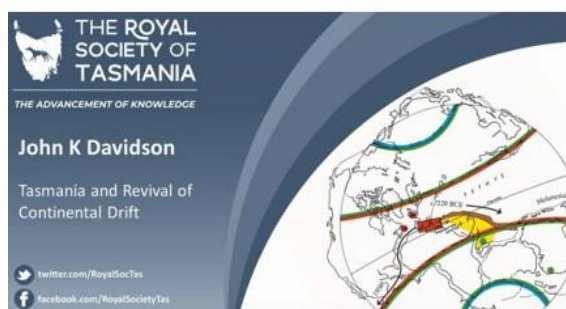
2 June

Speaker: Dr John Davidson

Title: Tasmania and Revival of Continental Drift.

Venue: Geology Lecture Theatre, University of Tasmania, Sandy Bay

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MWq-JFVQfMI>



(L - R) Dr John Davidson's continental drift lecture, Susannah Fullerton, OAM and Ms Heather Sculthorpe.

4 July

Event: RST Midwinter Dinner

Speaker: Susannah Fullerton, OAM, FRSN

Title: Ten Novels that Changed the World.

Venue: In person event Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Sandy Bay

4 August

Speaker: Ms Heather Sculthorpe

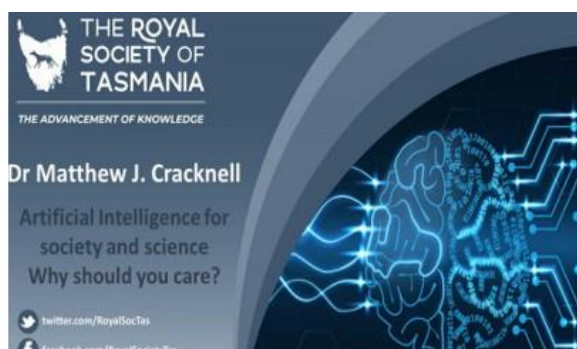
Title: Fifty Years of the Aboriginal Movement in Lutruwita/Tasmania and Reflections on the next Fifty Years.

Venue: Piyura Kitina/Risdon Cove

18 August

Event: *Winterfest* Objets D'art and Collectables Auction

Venue: In person event, private home, King Street, Sandy Bay, Tasmania



(L) Dr Jemina Stuart-Smith speaking at the Beer Aquatic event, and (R) Dr Matthew Cracknell's lecture.

29 August

Hybrid Event: The Royal Society of Tasmania and Beer Aquatic celebrating National Science Week

Speaker: Dr Jemina Stuart-Smith

Title: Trash Talk: The Conservation of Handfish and their Habitats in Lutruwita/Tasmania.

Venue: In person event Hobart Brewing Company, Hobart

1 September

Speaker: Dr Matthew Cracknell

Title: Artificial Intelligence for Society and Science – Why Should You Care?

Venue: Geology Lecture Theatre, University of Tasmania, Sandy Bay

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xyung8uki2E>

3 October

Event: The Royal Society of Tasmania launch of the RST online Art Catalogue

Speaker: Emeritus Professor Jonathan Holmes

Title: Down the Rabbit Hole: the Very Deep Well.

Venue: Stanley Burbury Theatre, University of Tasmania, Churchill Avenue, Sandy Bay

6 October

Event: Presentation of the RST Doctoral Award 2023 and Lecture

Speaker 1: The RST Doctoral Award: Dr Tobias Stål

Title: Deep Antarctica: Exploring Earth under the Ice.

Recording: <https://rst.org.au/view-recording-dr-tobias-stal-october-2024/>

View a recording of the lecture by Dr Tobias Stål - October 2024

The recent 2024 lecture by Dr Tobias Stål, 2023 PhD medallist, "Deep Antarctica-Exploring Earth Under the Ice", is now available on the RST YouTube channel. Open the post to view it now.



View a recording of the lecture by Dr Katie Marx - October 2024

The recent 2024 lecture by Dr Katie Marx, "Antarctic gateway cities, points of public connection?", is now available on the RST YouTube channel. Open the post to view it now.



Speaker 2: Dr Katie Marx

Title: Antarctica: Strategies to Support Polar Public Engagement in Gateway Cities.

Venue: Geology Lecture Theatre, University of Tasmania, Sandy Bay

Recording: <https://rst.org.au/view-recording-dr-katie-marx-october-2024/>

3 November

Speaker: Dr Mel Fitzpatrick

Title: Decades of Climate Disinformation: A Scientist's Story.

Venue: Geology Lecture Theatre, University of Tasmania, Sandy Bay

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xyung8uki2E>



(L) Dr Hanne Nielsen delivered the Christmas Dinner lecture. (R) Dr Mel Fitzpatrick

4 December

Event: RST Christmas Dinner Lecture

Speaker: Dr Hanne Nielsen

Title: Antarctica and Popular Culture.

Venue: Pickled Pear, University Club, UTAS Sandy Bay

Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OWv_PUa-Ido

Associate Professor Julie Rimes

Chair, Events Committee

HONOURS & AWARDS

The Royal Society of Tasmania medals and Doctoral (PhD) Awards recognise the achievements of outstanding scholars at PhD, early, mid and senior stages of their careers. In June 2024, the Society offered two medals: the Peter Smith Medal, awarded to an outstanding early-career researcher in any field, and the inaugural Louisa Anne Meredith Medal, awarded to a scholar who excels in the field of arts or humanities or both, with outstanding contributions evidenced by creative outputs.

The Peter Smith Medal was awarded to Dr Edward Doddridge, Australian Antarctic Program Partnership, Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, University of Tasmania, for his outstanding contribution to the field of physical oceanography. Dr Doddridge's research uses theory, numerical models, and observations to improve our understanding of the fundamental dynamics of the polar ocean and its response to climate change. His work has revealed new details about the influence of sea ice on ocean currents, and of ocean warming on sea ice loss.



The RST Peter Smith Medal was awarded to Dr Edward Doddridge (photo credit Harshula Jayasuriya)

The inaugural round for the Louisa Anne Meredith Medal attracted an exceptionally strong field of nominations. The Honours and Awards Committee decided that it was inappropriate to separate two outstanding nominations, and two medals have been awarded. The Louisa Anne Meredith medals for 2024 were awarded to Professor Cassandra Pybus and Fiona Hall AO.

Professor Pybus is well regarded internationally as an historian of colonial society in Australia, SE Asia, the Caribbean and North America. As a non-fiction writer, she draws on exhaustive historical research to create compelling alternative narratives about the past. Fiona Hall AO is an internationally respected visual artist and one of Australia's most highly regarded and recognised artists. She works across a range of media including painting, photography, sculpture and installation.



2024 RST Louisa Anne Meredith Medal winners (L) Professor Cassandra Pybus and (R) Fiona Hall AO

The RST Doctoral (PhD) Award recognises recent PhD graduates who have made significant advances during their doctoral research. The value of the award is \$1,000 (AUD). In 2024, the Doctoral Award was open to both STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine) and non-STEMM nominations. The two winners of the 2024 RST Doctoral (PhD) Awards were Dr Ingrid Cox and Dr Manon Simon.

Dr Ingrid Cox completed her PhD at the Menzies Institute for Medical Research, University of Tasmania (UTAS). Her thesis sought to understand the health burden and economic impact of Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis in Australia. Ingrid is now a Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Physician and Health Economist at Menzies. Her current research matches her passion for health equity and equality and aims to understand the population, their environment, influences on their health and access to healthcare resources.



**The Royal Society of Tasmania
2024 Doctoral (PhD) Award
Winners**



2024 RST Doctoral (PhD) Award winners (L) Dr Ingrid Cox and (R) Dr Manon Simon

Dr Manon Simon completed her PhD at the School of Law, UTAS. Her project assessed the relevance of a legal analogy between cloud seeding and regional solar radiation management (SRM) through the analytical and normative lens of adaptive governance. Manon is now a lecturer in the School of Law, UTAS and an Australian Research Council Research Fellow interested in the transferability of lessons from the governance of weather modification techniques to the governance of solar radiation management.

Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC Governor of Tasmania is the Patron of the RST and will host a medal and awards presentation ceremony at Government House on 18 June 2025. There will be the three RST 2024 medal winners and the two 2024 Doctoral (PhD) Award winners in attendance.

The Royal Society of Tasmania Medal, the Clive Lord Memorial Medal, the MR Banks Medal and The Royal Society of Tasmania Doctoral (PhD) Awards are scheduled for award in 2025.

**Emeritus Professor Richard Coleman
Chair, Honours & Awards Committee**

LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

COLLECTIONS

A full inventory of the RST book collection was conducted in 2024. To facilitate this, 8,133 books were removed from the shelf, their condition assessed, and any bookplates, stamps, inscriptions or marginalia were recorded. This labour-intensive stocktake had not been undertaken in many decades; however, the results were worthwhile: many cataloguing errors resolved, highly significant items uncovered, and conservation priorities identified. For example, shelved amongst the non-rare books was a 50-volume series, the *Report on the Scientific Results of the Voyage of H.M.S. Challenger During the Years 1873-76*. Published over a five-year period, the series was authored by 75 scientists from Britain, Europe and the United States. The reports were a result of a three- and half-year expedition by the *HMS Challenger* to explore the ocean's depths. The expedition and its scientific reports are widely considered to be a landmark in our understanding of the ocean as a complex ecosystem.

The inventory team (which included casual staff supported by the funding provided by the RST in late 2023) recognised the significance of these works and quickly identified that the series was miscatalogued. As the books were published over several years, it is quite rare for an institution to have a complete set. The bookplate within each volume identified the set as being purchased as part of the Morton Allport Memorial Library. Rectifying the cataloguing error, the team then added the series onto the high value list in preparation for the collection valuation. In monetary terms, the series, valued at \$175,000 is now recognised as the third most valuable item in the RST book collection.



(L) *Challenger Expedition (1872-1876), Report on the scientific results of the voyage of H.M.S. Challenger during the years 1873-76 under the command of Captain George S. Nares and Captain Frank Tourle Thomson / prepared under the superintendence of Sir C. Wyville Thomson.* (R) Final day of counting! (L-R) Anna Millward, Evelyn Lambeth, Josh Prouse.

In November, the highly qualified and independent valuer, Adrienne Carlson, spent a week onsite physically assessing the RST book collection to provide a comprehensive 'fair value' valuation. Sub-collections were categorised into high-value and low-value items. The high-value items were then individually sighted and valued. The low-value items were subject to a statistical sampling methodology, which requires sighting and valuing a random sample of items, then statistically extrapolating a value. Adrienne was very impressed with the collection, noting that the condition of the illustrated plates was the best of the thousands she had seen.

The collection, last valued in 2012 has substantially increased in value. It is now valued at \$4,019,801. The full inventory and comprehensive valuation greatly strengthen the Society's financial position and provide greater awareness of the stories and depth of the collection.



(L) Plate CLXV, Gould, John, *A Monograph of the Trochilidae, or Family of Hummingbirds*; in five volumes 1849-1861; (R) Figure 61, Martyn, Thomas, *The Universal Conchologist, Exhibiting the Figure of Every Known Shell: Accurately Drawn and Painted after Nature, with a New Systematic Arrangement*, 2 volumes 1784.

Collection Development Policy

Throughout the year, Katrina Ross, UTAS Historical Collection Coordinator and Dr Anita Hansen, the RST Honorary Art Curator, developed the Society's first Collection Development Policy. The Collection Development Policy sets out the conditions and guidelines by which the Society undertakes its collecting functions and provides a framework for the sustainable and ethical development, care and management of its collections. The Collection Development Policy, ratified at the December Council meeting, can be viewed on the Society's website.

ENGAGEMENT

Online

In 2024 there were 124,406 downloads of articles from the Society's *Papers and Proceedings*. The top article for the year with 1,326 views and 635 downloads was Sculthorpe, K (2023). *An exploration of the Voice to Parliament – how we got here, and what we might expect after the referendum*. This article was the transcript of the lecture Kerry Sculthorpe delivered to The Royal Society of Tasmania, 30 July 2023.

The RST Map Collection had 2,203 downloads with the *Hobart and suburbs aerial survey maps of 1948*, receiving the most with 489 downloads. People tracing their family history and connections to place once again made the sketches from the Sarah Mitchell Scrapbooks (RS32/89) the most popular downloaded collection of the other digitised RST collections. The various sketches were downloaded 37 times with the image *Picnic at Lover's Leap* the most popular (14 downloads).

Onsite

In 2024, RST members, UTAS staff and students, and the public physically accessed and engaged with the RST Library Collection held at the Morris Miller Library, UTAS.

Onsite Morris Miller Library	2024	2023	2022
Royal Society Member visits	17	18	18
Royal Society rare books viewed	14	10	13
Royal Society Deposits viewed	37	48	281

RST members visited to research articles they were writing and projects they were undertaking for the Society. Council member, John Williamson visited with artist and marine science visual communicator, Kirsten Carlson, who was keen to view the Society's copy of Joseph Hooker's 1844 publication, *The Botany of the Antarctic Voyage of H.M. Discovery Ships Erebus and Terror, in the Years 1839-1843, Under the Command of Captain Sir James Clark Ross*. Kirsten was particularly keen to view the page featuring Bull Kelp (below).



(L) *Durvillea harveyi* (now *D. antarctica*), aka New Zealand Bull Kelp (R) Katrina Ross presenting at the Technical University of Dresden (TUD) for the 2024 University Museums and Collections Conference.

Outreach

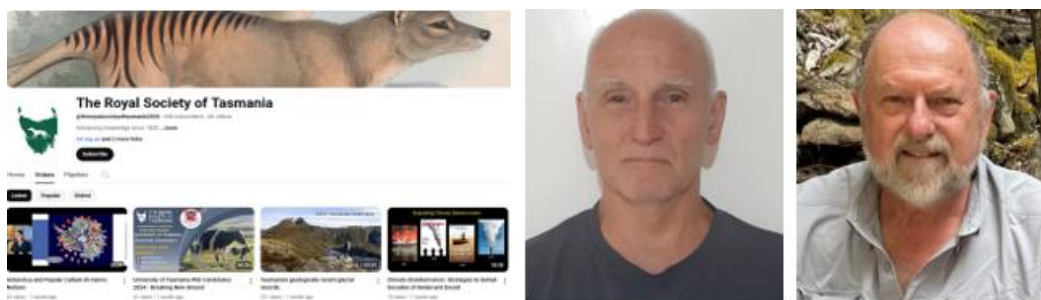
In addition to ongoing advocacy and promotion, Katrina Ross, Historical Collections Coordinator presented at the 2024 University Museums and Collections International Conference which took place between 24 – 29 September 2024 in Dresden, Germany. The presentation titled *Stories Outside the Binding* discussed redefining and reframing the rare book collection from the library to being considered as a rare and unique artifact. From the abstract: “Book stamps and bookplates, inscriptions and marginalia, even the materials it is made from provide evidence of stories separate from the words on the page.” Katrina highlighted the role of the collection as being an invaluable tool for object-based learning and highlighted a case study using *On the Origin of Species* from the RST Library Collection.

Katrina Ross
Historical Collections Coordinator

Caine Chennatt
Interim University Librarian; Director, Curatorial & Cultural Collections

MEDIA & PUBLICITY

The RST web site remains a pivotal communication tool for all the Society's news, events and core business, and again this year we are indebted to Web Master Mr Eddy Steenbergen for his expertise in managing the site. Many of the lectures from the impressive 2024 RST lecture series in the north and south of the state are recorded and uploaded on the RST YouTube channel. Our sincere thanks go to Mr David Wilson for the many hours of editing and processing to make these recordings available.



The RST Website is maintained thanks to Web Master Eddy Steenbergen and YouTube Channel by David Wilson.

Recordings of RST lectures were widely promoted on social media outlets and viewed outside of the RST, including Australia-wide and overseas. Since May 2020 the RST YouTube channel has had 56,465 views. In 2024 the most viewed lecture recording was delivered by Dr Keith Corbett OAM followed by:

LECTURE TITLE	PRESENTER	VIEWS
Gondwana's Child – the geological making of Tasmania	Dr Keith Corbett OAM	13,865
Deep Antarctica-Exploring Earth Under the Ice	Dr Tobias Stål	946
Tasmania and Revival of Continental Drift	Dr John Davidson	522
Tasmania's geologically recent glacial records	Dr Nick Roberts	321
Morton Allport: the resurrection man of The Royal Society of Tasmania	Professor Cassandra Pybus	224

RST Newsletter

The RST newsletter remains another critical communication tool and in addition to news and events contains fascinating history articles based on the RST Art Collection by Hon. Art Curator Dr Anita Hansen. Sincere thanks go to the Newsletter Editor and designer Bernard Pryor OAM, for his dedicated work in producing six outstanding newsletters in 2024 and to John Williamson and Anita Hansen for their valuable support and liaison contributions.



RST Newsletter team (L – R) Bernard Pryor OAM, John Williamson and Dr Anita Hansen.

Position Vacant
Publicity Manager

MEMBERSHIP

Despite the addition of 43 new members in 2024, there was overall a slight decrease in membership numbers from 362 in 2023 to 350 current members.

Membership numbers at the end of 2024 were as follows:

South	243
North	76
Australia (outside Tasmania)	28
Overseas.....	3
Total	350

Council determined the membership fees for 2025 would not change from 2024:

Full member with <i>Papers and Proceedings</i>	\$95
Full member without <i>Papers and Proceedings</i>	\$70
Student member with <i>Papers and Proceedings</i>	\$55
Student member without <i>Papers and Proceedings</i>	\$30

As in 2023 some long-term members discontinued membership indicating ill health prevented them from participating in RST events. Also, in 2024 several prestigious RST members sadly passed away (Professor Jamie Kirkpatrick, Mr George Davis, Dr Clive Crossley and Professor David Green).

Finally, I want to thank Dr John Thorne AM for his assistance and other Council members for their support.



NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED IN 2024

Mr Geoffrey Batten, Dr Scott Bell, Ms Pia Benedetti Vallenari, Mr Dennis Bewsher, Dr Tim Blumfield, Mrs Ann Cripps, Ms Margaret Dalkin, Dr Hannah Fair, Dr Nicky Foxlee, Ms Bronwyn Fuller, Susannah Fullerton OAM FRSN, Mr Russ Gloster, Ms Laurelle Halford, Dr Ann Halliday, Dr Peter Harris, Ms Susan Hawick, Gaye Headlam, Ms Sue Hickey, Professor Stephen Hill, Dr Annaliese Jacobs Claydon, Professor Sue Kilpatrick, Mr Harrison Lunn, Dr Lydia Mackenzie, Dr James Markos, Dr Katie Marx, Professor Tim McCormack, Professor Hamish Maxwell-Stewart, Ms Kathryn Medlock, Mr Luke O'Connor, Mrs Sandra Ospina Rios, Professor Saxby Pridmore, Mr Dan Probert, Dr Philip Reid, Ms Ros Skinner, Mr Darryl Smith, Professor Russell Smith, Dr Tobias Stäl, Mr John Stephenson, Dr William Sutherland, Mr Richard Upton, Mr Rob Valentine, Dr Robert Walker, Dr Malcolm Ward

Mrs Roxanne Steenberg
Membership Secretary and Chair, Membership Committee

NORTHERN BRANCH

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The committee's membership in 2024 saw Mr Brian East elected as Branch Treasurer after a year's rest from the post, and Mr Neil MacKinnon as President Elect. Mr MacKinnon will assume the office of Branch President on 23rd March 2025 at the Branch's Annual General Meeting. Mrs Pippa Cotton was elected Honorary Secretary to replace Mrs Christine Beswick in that role. Mrs Beswick's many years of commendable service to the Branch as Honorary Secretary has been exemplary and greatly appreciated. She has overseen a highly successful handover of duties. Drs Martin Renilson and Lois Beckwith continued sharing the secretarial load. Mr Fitzgerald as Director of the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery (QVMAG) and Mr Parsons is the QVMAG's Librarian. Both these QVMAG representatives were corresponding members of the Management Committee. We would like to thank the Council members for their support in 2024.

LECTURE PROGRAM 2024

The 2024 Launceston Lecture Series included ten lectures and two doctoral candidates' reports.

Date	Guest Lecturer	Title of Lecture	Attendance
25-Feb	Prof Tim McCormack	The International Criminal Court: Ukraine and Gaza <i>[recording on YouTube]</i>	77
24-Mar	Prof Russell Smith	Pandemics and Fraud	56
28-Apr	Prof Dom Geraghty – Third Elvin Fist Lecture	UTAS Northern Transformation Project – Eight Years On <i>[recording on YouTube]</i>	41
26-May	Ms Carmel Towns & Mr Anyame Bawa Sadique	Microplastics in Tasmanian Waters, Soils and Food <i>[recording on YouTube]</i>	44
23-Jun	Dr Hannah Fair	Modifying Health and Lifestyle Factors to Reduce Dementia Risk	57
28-Jul	Dr Ashley Bird – Ninth QVMAG Annual Staff Lecture	Bush Carpentry and the Jimmy Possum Tradition <i>[recording on YouTube]</i>	53
25-Aug	Mr John Dent OAM	York Town: Then (1804 to 1806) and Now <i>[recording on YouTube]</i>	91
22-Sep	UTAS PhD candidates – Ms Pia Benedetti Vallenari and Ms Sandra Ospina-Rios	Breaking New Ground - <i>current doctoral research reports</i> : Using Sensor Data to Detect Ketosis in Cows; Dairy Systems- Cows Rearing Their Own Calves <i>[recording on YouTube]</i>	31
6-Oct	Dr Nick Roberts – Jointly hosted with the Tasmania Division of the Geological Society of Australia	Tasmania's Geologically Recent Glacial Records <i>[recording on YouTube]</i>	72
27-Oct	Dr Ivan James AO	How Can You Belong in Launceston? Refugees in Launceston	54
24-Nov	Dr Kuluni Millaniyage	What Makes a Good Timber Floor?	33

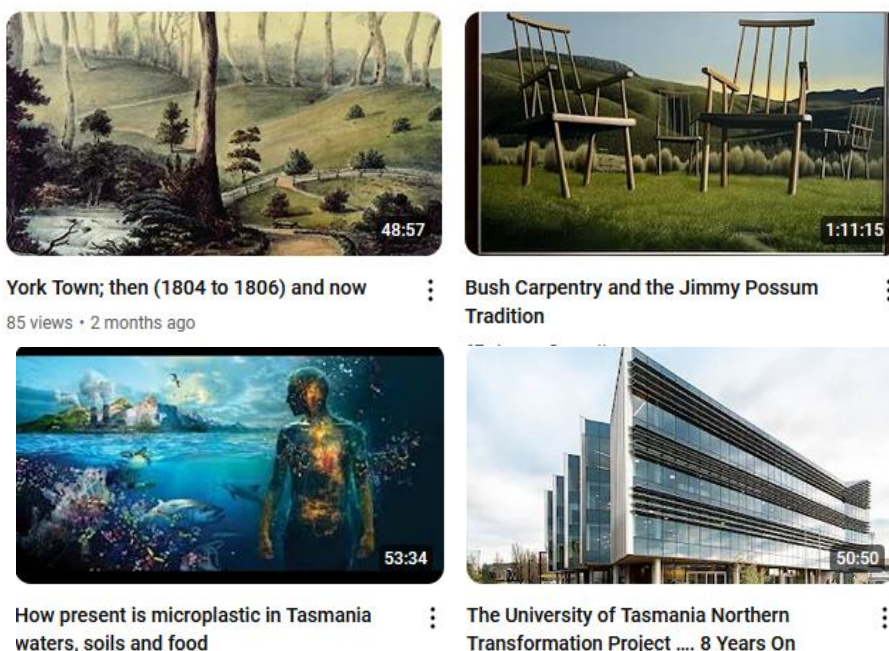
The Committee extends its thanks to all 2024 speakers for their generosity in time and expertise in preparing and presenting their lectures. The year's program was again notable for the quality of the speakers and for the pleasing attendances. Each guest speaker was presented with a certificate of appreciation and a book, as a token of thanks for their contribution. They were also offered a year's complimentary membership to The Royal Society of Tasmania.

We were also pleased to hold a successful fourth joint meeting with the Tasmania Division of the Geological Society of Australia in October. We were honoured to host the ninth QVMAG Annual Staff Lecture in July and the third education-focused Elvin Fist Lecture in April.



2024 lecturers (L-R) Prof. Tim McCormack (February), Dr Hannah Fair (June), Prof. Dom Geraghty (April), Dr Ivan James AO (October), Dr Kuluni Millaniyage (November).

The Branch ceased live-streaming lectures in June 2023 and ceased routine recording of lectures in October 2024. Both moves were driven by the need to reduce operating costs. However, those lectures that were recorded and subsequently posted on The Royal Society's YouTube channel are indicated in the above table. The audiovisual company 'Bent Eared Records' was retained for audiovisual technical support and recording of lectures. The QVMAG plans to further upgrade some of the audio-visual and public address equipment to help mitigate this expense. The program of upgrading has yet to be completed.



A diverse range of northern public lectures is available on YouTube.

Admission to Northern lectures was free for all Royal Society members and to all children under 16 years of age. The admission price in 2024 remained at \$6 for the public, with a discounted price of \$4 for members of the Launceston Historical Society, members of the Friends of QVMAG, Friends of TMAG and secondary and tertiary students who had half-time study loads or greater. A light afternoon tea is enjoyed in the Meeting Room foyer following each lecture.

VENUE

The Northern Branch acknowledges the assistance of the City of Launceston Council through our official partnership with the QVMAG. We are grateful to Director Mr Shane Fitzgerald and his staff for their kind support of our efforts to bring important and interesting lecturers before the community.



The QVMAG venue is used for lectures and other events including displaying items for sale.

BUTTERFLY CABINET APPEAL

The Northern Branch promoted one fundraising appeal in 2024. The QVMAG Lambkin-Knight Butterfly Collection, one of the finest in Australia and of national research significance, requires many more insect-specimen storage cabinets to be purchased to house the extensive collection. The Branch committed in 2022 to raising funds to purchase more cabinets and has already donated a cabinet to QVMAG through this appeal. The Butterfly Cabinet Appeal was progressed through generous work by Branch members. The proceeds of the sale of a rare book, donated by Ms Lynette Ross, provided a very generous boost to the appeal fund. Sales of donated textile items hand-crafted by Mrs Melanie Morris (tissue box covers, coasters, placemats, tablecloths, etc., all with colourful butterfly themes) also raised an equally considerable sum. We are pleased to report that, to date, we have raised \$2,074.33 towards the target of \$4,350.50.



The Lambkin-Knight Butterfly Collection and crafts helping to raise funds to purchase more cabinets.

JANE GIBLIN ART EXHIBITION – *DEAR KATE* AT THE LAUNCESTON LIBRARY

An exhibition by the well-known artist Ms Jane Giblin entitled *Dear Kate*, was opened by Mrs Pippa Cotton on 29th November to a small gathering at the Launceston Library. This exhibition was curated from the artwork and letters of Ms Giblin's ancestors, Kate and Sarah Mitchell, portraying Tasmanian country life in the early 1800s. These works are part of the RST Library Collection. This exhibition toured through several venues in Tasmania and Victoria and was on display at the Launceston Library until February 2025. It was also accompanied by workshops run by Ms Giblin who has kindly donated a beautiful book, the exhibition catalogue, to the Northern Branch library.

CATALOGUE OF THE NORTHERN BRANCH PUBLIC PROJECTS

Dr Eric Ratcliff OAM and Ms Lynette Ross continued the task of preparing a catalogue of the Northern Branch's public projects over the last 100 years.

NORTHERN BRANCH LIBRARY

Accessions, including donations, to the Northern Branch library collection were administered by Mr Andrew Parsons, an *ex officio* member of the Northern Branch Management Committee. Mr Parsons will be retiring in February 2025.

WEBSITE

News of the Northern Branch's events and projects has been posted on the Society's website, Facebook and 'X' pages. We thank Webmaster Mr Eddy Steenbergen and are also grateful to Mr David Wilson for editing and uploading the Northern Branch's lecture recordings to the RST YouTube channel.

EXECUTIVE SUPPORT

2024 has been another successful year and we owe special thanks to our secretarial team, Mrs Pippa Cotton and Drs Martin Renilson and Lois Beckwith for their hard work and dedication to a demanding job, and to Mrs Christine Beswick for her mentoring and guidance in the secretarial area. Finally, our sincere thanks to all Committee members for their efforts in making sure our lectures and meetings are well run.



(L) Mrs Christine Beswick is thanked for her many years of service, (C) Mrs Pippa Cotton is new Branch Secretary and (R) Mr Neil MacKinnon will be the new Branch President in 2025.

Mr David Morris
Northern Branch President

Mrs Pippa Cotton
Honorary Secretary

PUBLICATIONS

The Publications Committee is still gaining momentum after the retirement of Ms Chel Bardell in 2023 and is currently considering several new projects that may be achievable in 2025. This year the Committee provided input on a range of publication issues including refining policies and procedures for journal exchanges for the RST Library Collections, the RST bequest brochure and supporting addition of the Journal of *Papers and Proceedings* to the Biodiversity Heritage Library. The Committee also reviewed several business and project plans in support of the RST Art Catalogue being prepared by the Art Committee and nominated John Williamson to act as a liaison on this project.

Sales of publications were lower in 2024 compared to previous years, as no one was available to progress sales through TMAG or QVMAG. The RST 2024 Gould’s Mammals calendar, produced by David Wilson, sold 737 of the 1,000 printed, making \$1,165 profit. However, escalating printing and postage costs have eroded profit margins, which again has led to the decision to discontinue calendar production unless a special case arises. Despite slow sales, many quality publications are still available for purchase via the RST web site.



RST publications are on sale through the RST web site.

Numbers of books and other items sold during 2024 were as follows:

Australian Mineral Discoverers	10	Charles Darwin in Hobart	15
The Library at the End of the World	13	Mapping Van Diemen’s Land	10
<i>Papers & Proceedings of The RST</i> Vol 158	19	<i>Papers & Proceedings of The RST</i> past vol’s	1
RST Notebooks	11	Poles Apart: Fascination, Fame and Folly	0
A Checklist of Tasmanian Beetles	11	2024 RST Calendar	737
RST gift card pack	1		

Papers and Proceedings of The Royal Society of Tasmania

Volume 158 of the *Papers and Proceedings of The Royal Society of Tasmania* was published on 1 December 2024. The volume totaled 104 pages and contained 11 fascinating papers on diverse themes from colonial art, architecture, taxonomy of newly described species, and applied and theoretical scientific research. Papers were prepared by 15 contributing authors (13 based in Tasmania) and were reviewed by 20 independent referees; ten from Tasmania, nine from mainland Australia institutions and one sourced from Munich, Germany. We sincerely thank the referees for their time and expertise in reviewing papers.

Mary Koolhof contributed two fine papers on the role of the RST's Art Collection in marking significant historic events and the 2024 Palawa lecture, presented by Heather Sculthorpe, reflected on 50 years of the Aboriginal movement in Lutruwita/Tasmania. Dr Rowe's paper on the effect of lime on agriculture followed the review he published in Vol. 157 and Dr Keith and Sib Corbett's paper on the natural history of the Tyndall Range previews Tasmania's next iconic walk. Sadly, Professor Jamie Kirkpatrick's paper on alpine peaks and climate change marks his last as it was finalised shortly before his death in October 2024. Professor Kirkpatrick published his first paper in the *Papers and Proceedings* in 1973, a publishing tradition he maintained almost annually for 50 years, making him the Society's most prolific and esteemed academic contributor.



(L) Cover of Vol 158 featuring a newly described species of lichen by Kantvilas and Elix, (C) a new species of freshwater crayfish described by Richardson, (L) rediscovered brown-caped carpet moth by McQuillan, Schmidt, Byrne and Warren

Sincere thanks go to the Journal's Copy-editor Caroline Mordaunt and Typesetter June Pongratz for their expert assistance throughout the year and Dr Margaret Davies OAM for her sound advice when needed. Thanks also to Katrina Ross and the UTAS Library staff for administering journal exchanges for the RST serial library collection. Papers have been supplied electronically to individual authors for distribution through their networks and have also been supplied to the digital library services team for uploading onto the UTAS Research Repository https://figshare.utas.edu.au/Royal_Society_of_Tasmania.

In 2024 there were 124,406 downloads of articles from the *Papers and Proceedings*. The most viewed with 1,326 views and 635 downloads was Kerry Sculthorpe's (2023) transcript of her lecture delivered to the RST on 30 July 2023 on an exploration of the Voice to Parliament. Since December, four new manuscripts have been received for consideration, which suggests Volume 159 of *Papers and Proceedings* will be another fine volume.

Dr Sally Bryant AM
Chair, Publications Committee

RST FOUNDATION

The RST Foundation was established in the 1990s to build a reserve fund for investment where income therefrom could support the Society in the event of unforeseen or extraordinary financial needs and to ensure donations were recorded and allocated appropriately. Foundation investments managed by the Foundation Committee now amount to \$663,000 earning \$31,030 in interest this year. A schedule of the Foundation's current investments is shown below, with \$192,321 required to be used for specified purposes.

- Tax deductible donations amounting to some \$38,163 (Fund 1) are required to be spent on either the RST Library Collections or RST Art Collection.
- Donations amounting to \$37,219 (Fund 9) were raised to be spent only on the Art Collection.
- Regular income received from the estate of the late Peter Smith (Fund 8) is required to be used to assist senior secondary science students who were selected to represent Australia in international competitions. \$3,000 was used to assist Naren Balaji Ganesh Pillai this year.
- Funds transferred to the RST when the Australian and New Zealand Association of the Advancement of Science (ANZAAS) ceased operations in Tasmania in 2015 and accumulated interest thereon (Fund 3) are to be used only for purposes similar to those of ANZAAS, such as lectures, symposia and other activities enhancing academic excellence in the sciences. \$630 was used to support a student this year.

All other investments are held to earn income that will increase the reserve fund.

The Foundation continues to welcome donations and gifts. During the year the Foundation initiated a Bequest Program aiming to add to the investments managed by the Foundation Committee and hence the income receivable each year.

The Royal Society of Tasmania Bequest

The Royal Society of Tasmania's priorities are:

- Promoting Tasmanian historical, scientific, technological and cultural knowledge for the benefit of Tasmanians,
- Fostering Tasmanian public engagement and participation in the quest for objective knowledge, and
- Recognising excellence in academia and supporting Tasmanian academic excellence.

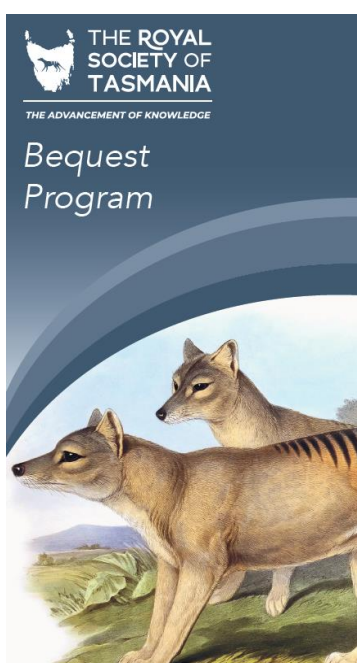
Why leave a bequest to the Royal Society?

The Royal Society of Tasmania Bequest Program has been established so you can help us secure the long-term future of the Society and its Collections. We respectfully ask you to consider a bequest in your will to assist in this aim. Any amount, no matter how small, will help sustain the Society for future generations. A bequest is an easy way for you to leave a lasting connection to an organization you value.

What form can a bequest take?

Bequest can take the form of

- a specified sum of money
- specified assets including shares or property
- any residual balance of your estate after specified gifts for family or friends



Next Steps

If you are considering making a bequest, you may wish to include wording such as:

*"I devise and bequeath to
The Royal Society of Tasmania
a (specified sum/specified assets/
residuary balance of my estate) to
be used for (nominated purpose/
maintenance of collections/
general purposes)".*

It is highly desirable that you let the Society know if you are making a bequest so that your generosity can be recognised.

Further information on suggested wording for inclusion in your will is available from RST. A will is an important document at any stage of life to ensure your estate is handled in the way you wished, so we recommend that you seek specific legal advice in drafting your will and bequest.

For further information or for a confidential discussion the Society is contactable by email on president@rst.org.au

Extracts from the new bequest brochure promoting the RST bequest program

The RST Foundation Committee has continued to adopt a conservative approach to management of Foundation investments aiming to minimise investment risk and preserve capital while obtaining acceptable levels of income. Term Deposits have been invested where appropriate to take advantage of the Federal Government Deposit Guarantee scheme which provides a safety net for funds invested with authorised deposit taking institutions.

RST FOUNDATION INVESTMENTS 31 DECEMBER 2024

These investments are shown as Investments under Current Assets in the RST Statement of Financial Position on page 12.

INVESTMENT FUND	AMOUNT
Fund 1 TPT Long Term Fund - Library & Art Gallery (DGR)	\$38,163
Fund 3 TPT Fixed Term Fund - ANZAAS	\$71,796
Fund 5b MyState Bank Term Deposit	\$38,118
Fund 5d MyState Bank Term Deposit	\$16,303
Fund 6b CBA Term Deposit	\$83,745
Fund 6c MyState Bank Term Deposit	\$231,240
Fund 7 TPT Long Term Fund	\$101,609
Fund 8 TPT Fixed Term Fund - Peter Smith Trust	\$45,141
Fund 9 TPT Long Term Art Fund	\$37,219
Total Foundation Investments	\$663,334

Mr Neil MacKinnon
Chair, Foundation Committee

STUDENT COUNCILLOR

This year I was part of the team that finished the repository intake of the expansive Royal Society archival collection held at the Morris Miller Library at UTAS. This collection is of significant value, both in monetary terms and also historically and culturally for its history of Lutruwita and of Australia more generally. It was an excellent opportunity to learn more about the rich history held within those walls, and I hope to share this in-depth knowledge of the collection with others across the university and more widely so these resources might be better utilised.

The RST has an immense capacity to advance knowledge through its community lectures and events, its expansive archival Library Collections, the academic journal *Papers and Proceedings*, as well as a range of generous awards and scholarships offered. I hope to better disseminate this information amongst student groups going forward.

EVENTS COMMITTEE

In 2024 the RST hosted 11 lectures in Hobart over the course of the year. I assisted the RST Events Committee by liaising with the Beer Aquatic team to help organize and deliver a lecture at the Hobart Brewing Company. The lecture by Dr Jemina Stuart-Smith of the University of Tasmania's Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, showcased the endemic Red Handfish work Jemina and her team were doing to mitigate the threat of species extinction. The event was well attended and the collaboration between the RST and Beer Aquatic will continue in 2025.



Advertising for the Beer Aquatic event and Dr Katie Marx delivering the PhD showcase lecture.

I also organised the PhD Showcase event in Hobart. The lecture was given by Dr Katie Marx who presented her work undertaken at the School of Humanities at the University of Tasmania. Dr Marx gave an informative overview of her PhD research, involving Antarctic capital and its role in public engagement and environmental stewardship.

Ms Evelyn Lambeth
Student Councillor

TASMANIAN MUSEUM & ART GALLERY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

It is an honour and a privilege to have been appointed as Chair of the Board of Trustees at TMAG. The Board's priority is for a sustainable TMAG that excels as an accessible key cultural and tourism asset for the State and continues to deliver value for all Tasmanians and visitors for the twenty-first century. I look forward to advancing TMAG's vision and implementing our next strategy where we will focus on TMAG's research and collections by digitising the collection to make it more accessible; strengthening TMAG's engagement with First Peoples; broadening engagement with our communities; and being a well-run business in line with community and stakeholder expectations.

We would not be able to achieve our future aspirations without the groundwork that the Board has established under Brett Torossi's leadership. As Chair of the TMAG Board of Trustees since 2018, Brett has made a remarkable contribution and I want to acknowledge and thank Brett for all she has done. Some highlights are:

- In conjunction with the RST delivered the Apology to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community for TMAG's past behaviour to and treatment of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community
- Led the Board and TMAG through the pandemic – and out the other side!
- Return of the Preminghana Petroglyphs to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community
- Spearheaded the development of the TMAG Vision and championing TMAG anyway she can
- Establishment of the investment committee and the investment fund
- Overseeing the development of the 2021-24 Strategy and development of the new 2025-28 strategy

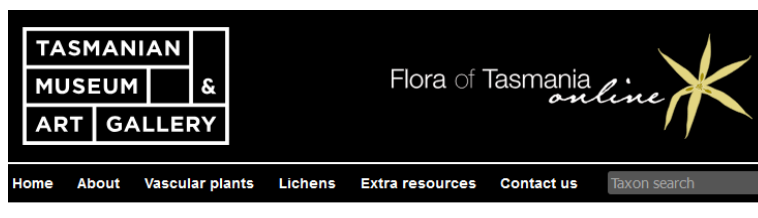
Under the *Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery Act 2017* a Chair cannot hold more than two consecutive terms as Chair. Brett has generously agreed to stay on as a member of the Board ensuring continuity of knowledge and experience as we deliver on TMAG's strategic vision. I look forward to working with Brett and the rest of the Board with TMAG's Executive team to achieve great things.

In 2024 TMAG continued to provide access to the State Collection with our teams undertaking research and scholarly activity and delivering programs of engagement with the public through face-to-face and online programs including exhibitions such as *Hobart Current: Epoch, Lands of Light – Lloyd Rees and Tasmania, Unshackled: The True Convict Story, Through Our Eyes: A Woman's Place is in Antarctica, Home: Here and Now* and our revamped *Islands to Ice* permanent exhibition. TMAG's public program schedule included continuing to offer all face-to-face guided learning programs in virtual format, increasing the reach of TMAG's schools' program to encompass the whole State, TMAG up late programs associated with our exhibitions, exhibition talks, school holiday programs and 'pARTicipate' sessions. TMAG was also a partner of choice for a range of significant festivals and community events across the year.



A highlight this year was *taypani-milaythina-tu: Return to Country* exhibition winning three awards at the Australian Museums and Galleries Association Annual Awards: the Exhibiting Excellence Award, the First Nations Project Award and Best in Show Award.

Our collections and research teams continued to care for, and undertake research, to unlock the state collections. Highlights this year include the continuing Threatened Bird partnership with TasNetworks, Expeditions of Discovery to King Island, *Flora of Tasmania Online*, which this year saw the addition of 51 more lichen genera, bringing this part of the work to now cover 101 genera and almost 300 species, with many more to come. In addition, seven species of lichens new to science were published in the peer-reviewed literature. The Herbarium was part of a collaborative study of the phylogeny of Angiosperms (flowering plants), with Miguel de Salas a co-author in the final paper which was published in *Nature* in April.



Welcome to the *Flora of Tasmania Online*

We have been fortunate this year to receive support from many generous donors and funders. We are grateful to the: Detached Cultural Organisation, Metal Manufactures Pty Ltd, Keith Clarke Foundation, the Estate of Dr Alison Green, the Durno Bequest, the Estate of Eric Parris, Ingrid Mcgaughey, Mountain Air Foundation, Marian Steinberg Squires, the Rees Family, all those who generously responded to our Annual Appeal and several generous anonymous donors. We would also like to extend our gratitude to the artists and collectors who gave generously to the TMAG Collection and to the organisations who provided grant funding to TMAG including Tasmanian Networks Pty Ltd, Allport Foundation, Australian Biological Resources Study, Australian War Memorial, Birdlife Australia, City of Hobart, Council of Heads of Australian Faunal Collections, Creative Australia, CSIRO, Culture Ireland, Department For Education, Children and Young People, Catholic Education Tasmania, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and the Arts, Director of National Parks, Hobart City Council, Monash University and Woolnorth Renewables.

Thank you to members of the public for visiting TMAG, whether in person or online and thank you also for taking the time to provide us with your feedback. Your words are incredibly valuable and are noted and discussed by TMAG staff including the Executive and the Board of Trustees. Thank you to our almost 100 active volunteers who in 2023-24 provided over 8,500 hours of work supporting TMAG.

The RST and TMAG continued to work together on many projects in 2024 and I look forward to seeing what other opportunities arise to work together – including commissioning an artwork to commemorate the atrocities that the RST and TMAG perpetrated on, and that caused so much pain to, Tasmanian Aboriginal People that led to the Apology by both organisations in 2021. This year we have not managed to settle on the ownership of a small number of works that are part of the long-standing issue between The Royal Society and TMAG. I thank The Royal Society for being patient with us as we work around our day-to-day business and track down the evidence and provenance for these works and I hope that collegiality, friendship, and partnership will help us finally resolve this issue in 2025.

My thanks to the Tasmanian Government, and the Minister for the Arts in particular, for her support of TMAG, and the TMAG Board of Trustees for its diligence and strategic thinking. I am pleased that we continue to work collaboratively and have been able to build a stronger relationship with the RST Council. I would like to thank RST President Associate Professor Julie Rimes and her team for their conversations, collaboration and support throughout the year. Together, we are well-placed to continue to champion the cultural, creative and scientific excellence of Tasmania.

Mr Andrew Catchpole
Chair, TMAG Board of Trustees

