



THE ROYAL
SOCIETY OF
TASMANIA

THE ADVANCEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



J. Gould and H. C. Richter del. 1846.

HERODIAS PLUMIFERA

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 2025

Produced by The Royal Society of Tasmania for the Annual General Meeting 2 March 2026



ABN 65 889 598 100

The Royal Society of Tasmania

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Cover Image: *Herodias plumiferus* Intermediate Egret. Rare lithograph of the best and largest colonial image of the elegant Intermediate Egret by John Gould and Henry Constantine Richter, from Gould's epic series *The Birds of Australia and Adjacent Islands*, published for the author, printed by Richard and John E Taylor, London.



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THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

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

OFFICE BEARERS & COUNCIL MEMBERS 2025

COUNCIL MEMBERS

President	Associate Professor Julie Rimes
Vice President	Emeritus Professor Richard Coleman
Immediate Past President	Professor Jocelyn McPhie
Honorary Secretary	Associate Professor Dr Don Garden OAM
Honorary Treasurer	Dr Sonia Shimeld
Council Members	Dr Hannah Dawson Distinguished Professor Paul Haddad Dr Victoria Jayde Mrs Mary Koolhof OAM Ms Evelyn Lambeth Distinguished Professor Ross Large AO (co-opted) Mrs Lorraine Polglase Dr Tony Sprent AM Mrs Roxanne Steenbergen
Northern Branch Representatives	Mr Neil MacKinnon (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 / Coordinator	Dr Anita Hansen (to July 2025) Mrs Marley Large (from July 2025)

NORTHERN BRANCH & OTHER RST ROLES

NORTHERN BRANCH OFFICE BEARERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President	Mr Neil MacKinnon
Honorary Secretary	Mrs Pippa Cotton
Honorary Treasurer	Mr Brian East
Representative on the Foundation	Mr Neil MacKinnon
Committee Members	Dr Andrew Alexander Dr Lois Beckwith (Assistant Secretary) Ms Ali Kemp (Acting Director, QVMAG, ex officio) Mr David Morris (Immediate Past President) Mr Jonathan Morris (Assistant Treasurer) Mrs Melanie Morris Ms Jordana Lory (ex officio, Honorary Librarian) 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	Dr Nicky Foxlee
RST Nominee to Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery	Position vacant

COMMITTEES 2025

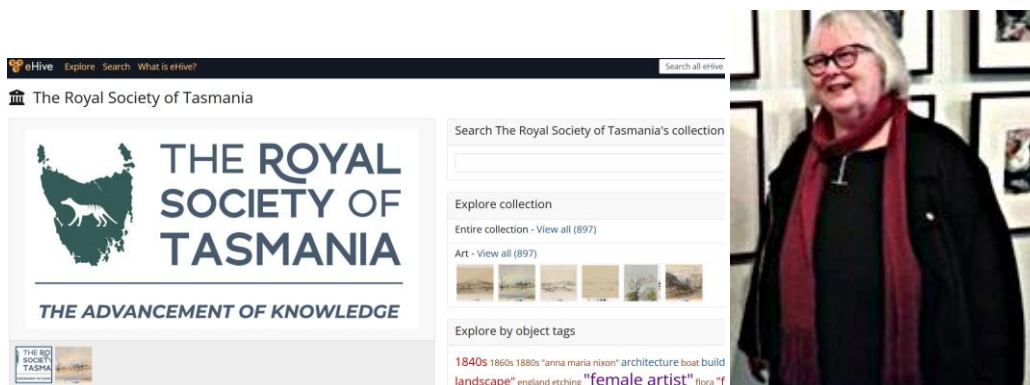
COMMITTEE	CHAIR	MEMBERS
Aboriginal Engagement	Professor Jocelyn McPhie	Mrs Mary Koolhof OAM Mrs Lorraine Polglase Mr David Morris Dr Tony Sprent AM
Art Collection	Distinguished Emeritus Professor Ross Large AO	Dr Anita Hansen (to June 2025) Ms Marley Large Mr Warwick Oakman
Art Fundraising	Mrs Mary Koolhof OAM	Mr James Crotty Mrs Marley Large Dist. Emeritus Professor Ross Large AO Ms Lorraine Polglase Associate Professor Julie Rimes
Bursaries	Dr Deborah Beswick OAM	Mrs Mary Koolhof OAM Associate Professor Julie Rimes Mrs Roxanne Steenbergen Mr John Williamson
Events & Publicity	Associate Professor Julie Rimes	Dr Hanna Dawson Dr Victoria Jayde Ms Evelyn Lambeth Dist. Emeritus Professor Ross Large AO Ms Sue McKerracher Mrs Lorraine Polglase Mr Bernard Pryor OAM (newsletter) Mr Eddy Steenbergen (web master) Mr David Wilson (YouTube)
Foundation	Mr Neil MacKinnon	Mr Tony Culberg OAM (to Sep. 2025) Associate Professor Dr Don Garden OAM Dr Sonia Shimeld Dr John Thorne AM
Honours & Awards	Emeritus Professor Richard Coleman	Dist. Emeritus Professor Paul Haddad Professor Jocelyn McPhie Prof Hamish Maxwell-Stewart Dist. Emeritus Professor Jim Reid Associate Professor Julie Rimes Professor Jonathan Sprent Professor Brian Yates
Membership	Mrs Roxanne Steenbergen	Dr Victoria Jayde Dr Liza Snow Dr John Thorne AM
Publications	Dr Sally Bryant AM	Dr Margaret Davies OAM Mr John Williamson Mr David Wilson

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is a pleasure to present this Annual Report for The Royal Society of Tasmania, reflecting on the Society's work and achievements for 2025. As always, this report represents the collective efforts of Council, committees, staff, volunteers, members, speakers, and our many contributors and collaborators across Tasmania and beyond.

The role of The Royal Society of Tasmania as a learned society, cultural custodian, and public institution brings with it both privilege and responsibility. Throughout 2025, Council has remained focused on good governance, careful stewardship of resources, and fidelity to the Society's long-standing purpose. Council met regularly during the year, supported by the diligent work of our committees, whose expertise and commitment continue to underpin the Society's activities.

I am grateful for the collegial and constructive approach taken by Council members in navigating both routine matters and more complex issues that require patience, judgement, and a long view. I acknowledge the Chairs of Committees who progress the work of the Society through their leadership and commitment. I pay tribute to the longstanding role of Honorary Art Curator Dr Anita Hansen who retired from this position mid-year. Anita has been a central contributor to the work of the Society, particularly her role in leading the team of volunteers who championed global access to our art collection through digitisation and uploading to eHive, thus bringing it to the attention of the world. Anita's scholarly knowledge of nineteenth century Tasmanian art is a wonderful asset to our Society and one on which we continue to draw.



The eHive art collection repository is one of many outstanding contributions made to the Society by Dr Anita Hansen.

Our members remain central to the life of the Society. In 2025 we continued to engage our membership by offering a fascinating program of lectures, events, publications, and opportunities for participation. The Society's ability to bring together people from diverse professional, academic, and personal backgrounds remains one of its enduring strengths.

We continue the important role of welcoming new members, supporting early-career researchers, undergraduates, postgraduates and school students, and maintaining relevance across generations. Bursaries, awards, and opportunities to present work through the Society are key elements of this commitment.

The Society's lecture program in 2025 maintained its strong reputation for quality, breadth, and accessibility. Monthly lectures in the north and south of the state attracted steady attendance and reflected the Society's commitment to interdisciplinary exchange — spanning science, history, culture, the humanities, and contemporary issues of public interest. We also benefited greatly from our ongoing association with the national Royal Societies of Australia, drawing insight, collaboration, and inspiration from their forums and activities throughout the year.

The Annual General Meeting lecture, the Midwinter Lecture, the Annual Aboriginal Lecture and other special events provided opportunities not only to hear from distinguished speakers, in the north and south of the State, but also to reaffirm the Society's role as a forum for thoughtful, informed discussion. These occasions remind us that the Society's purpose is not simply to preserve knowledge, but to share it widely.

The *Papers and Proceedings of The Royal Society of Tasmania* continued to be a cornerstone of the Society's scholarly contribution. The journal remains an important record of Tasmanian research and a valuable contribution to national and international scholarships.

The Society's newsletters have also continued to play an important role in keeping members informed and connected, offering insight into the breadth of activity across the year. During 2025, the Society also developed a new, future-focused website alongside the preparation of a strategic plan, both designed to strengthen engagement, clarify priorities, and support the Society's work into the next phase of its history.



RST invitation to the Hidden Treasures Art Exhibition in Oatlands in August, and at the exhibition (L-R) Mr Warwick Oakman, Dr Tony Sprent AM, Assoc. Professor Julie Rimes and Distinguished Emeritus Professor Ross Large AO.

One of the Society's most significant responsibilities — and privileges — is its custodianship of historic collections assembled, protected, and cared for over more than a century. These works were gathered in trust for Tasmania, and for future generations, through the foresight and dedication of earlier members of the Society. During 2025, Council and committees devoted considerable attention to the care, documentation, and accessibility of the Art Collection. Planning progressed for a major travelling exhibition program in 2025 - 2026, designed to take historically significant works to communities across Tasmania, including regional and remote areas. This initiative reflects a deeply held belief that these collections belong not behind closed doors, but in dialogue with the people for whom they have been held in guardianship.

The travelling exhibitions are not simply displays of art and history; they are an expression of the Society's role as custodian — sharing knowledge, fostering connection, and honouring the intention of those who entrusted these works to the Society's care more than a century ago.

It is appropriate to acknowledge that during 2025 the Society has continued to engage with a complex legal matter relating to aspects of the ownership of part of its historic art collection. While this remains an ongoing process, Council has approached the matter with care, discretion, and a firm commitment to acting in the best interests of the Society and the collections it holds in trust. Throughout this period, the Society has remained focused on its responsibilities as custodian and legal guardian of the works, ensuring their protection, conservation, and responsible use, while seeking clarity and resolution through appropriate legal channels. Council is confident that it is acting responsibly, transparently, and in accordance with the Society's long-standing mission.

The Society's Awards Committee continued its important work in recognising excellence across research, scholarship, and service. These awards are a vital means by which the Society acknowledges outstanding contribution while encouraging ongoing intellectual endeavour within Tasmania. In 2025 the Society was privileged to have our Patron, Her Excellency, the Hon Barbara Baker AC present our annual Royal Society awards, including for the first time the Louisa Anne Meredith Medal jointly awarded to Professor Cassandra Pybus and Fiona Hall AO. I take this opportunity to also express my gratitude to both Her Excellency and Emeritus Professor Don Chalmers AO for their interest and generous commitment to the work of the Society.



(L-R) RST Vice President Emeritus Professor Richard Coleman, Emeritus Professor Don Chalmers AO with Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania and RST President Associate Professor Julie Rimes. Forthcoming RST Art book *A World Apart*.

The Society's financial position remains sound, supported by careful oversight and prudent decision-making. Council has continued to balance initiative with sustainability, ensuring that resources are directed toward activities that advance the Society's purpose while safeguarding its long-term viability. Fundraising events and member support have contributed positively during the year. 2025 marked the beginning stages of a commitment made after the joint RST and TMAG official apology to the Tasmanian Aboriginal people to create a permanent marker of the 2021 Apology. This work will be jointly funded by RST and TMAG. An art installation, created by a Palawa artist, will be erected in the Tasmanian museum premises in 2027.

The work of the Society would not be possible without the dedication of its executive, Council members and many, many volunteers. The office manager, Dr Nicky Foxlee, along with the Executive has managed a demanding and increasingly complex workload with professionalism, efficiency, and good humour. I extend my sincere thanks for their commitment and adaptability throughout the year.

While the Society's historic art collections have necessarily received concentrated attention over recent years, it is timely to note that with the planned publication in 2026 of the full-colour annotated Catalogue, this phase of work is reaching an important point of maturity. This allows the Society to refocus its energy on its core purpose: the advancement of knowledge in all fields.

As we reflect on 2025, The Royal Society of Tasmania remains both grounded in its history and attentive to its future. The year ahead will bring new opportunities for engagement, the realisation of our travelling exhibitions, and continued scholarship and public dialogue.

It is a privilege to have almost completed my term as President of a Society that has, for more than 180 years, gathered, protected, and shared knowledge for the benefit of Tasmania. I thank all who contribute to sustaining this remarkable institution and commend this report to members.

Associate Professor Julie Rimes
President

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The reports that I give to the RST Council every second month explain that as Honorary Secretary I handle very little external correspondence these days. Most external communication is by email and text and is exchanged directly with the relevant people, notably the President, Committee Chairs and the office. There is also a large amount of internal emailing between members of the Executive and the Council, the important parts of which are sent to the Hon Sec to be archived as a future record.

So, what do I do? The main task is preparing papers for Council meetings and writing Minutes; beyond that, distribution of the President's weekly email to members, lodging records on Google Drive, attending the office on most Thursday mornings; participating in operational discussions with the Executive; and other duties as they occur, such as making tea for those in the office.

But these are not my main personal reasons for working with RST. From my perspective, the RST provides intellectual stimulation and a sense of contribution to the Tasmanian community. It helps that RST operates in a much broader sphere than most Royal Societies in Australia and elsewhere where there tends to be an almost exclusive focus on the sciences. By contrast in the RST we are pretty-much all-encompassing, ranging broadly over the pursuit of knowledge across discipline areas. Hence members of RST are the beneficiaries of a richness of learning and experiences.

As will be seen elsewhere in this *Annual Report*, much of the focus in recent times has been on the wonderful Tasmanian heritage art collection, which is one of the most significant held by any member organisation in Australia. RST raises funds to conserve these works and is holding exhibitions of some of them around the state, while working towards the hard-copy publication of the collection catalogue following its online publication last year.

And then, what a range of multi-disciplinary lectures we have had in 2025. Just to mention a few (arbitrarily), we have heard: Nathan Bindoff on the role of Antarctica on climate systems; Dugald Close on cherry cultivation in Tasmania; our own Sally Bryant with Eric Woehler giving an alarming report on Tasmania's threatened birds; at the midwinter dinner we heard Susannah Fullerton on Jane Austen and Adrian Dickens on Regency jewellery; and to finish the year on a high note, at our Christmas dinner Danielle Wood explored the use of words, especially through Words of the Year.

What a richness of knowledge and entertainment! Being a member of RST is very rewarding.

I wish to thank the RST Council and all those who contribute to our success, but notably those who gather in the RST office on Thursday mornings, President Julie Rimes, Treasurer Sonia Shimeld and Office Manager Nicky Foxlee.

Associate Professor Dr Don Garden OAM
Honorary Secretary

FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial procedures are 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 have been prepared and are presented separately, with a summary provided here.

The RST Foundation is treated as the 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 2025 financial results included:

- RST Art Collection \$27,620 for art conservation and eHive subscription,
- Bursaries and Awards – ANZAAS bursary awarded to Ellen Wei, Tom Coward, Hazel Arora, Rui Ong, Laura O'Reilly, Lilly Ryton-Benson, and sponsored the Tasmanian Science Talent Search,
- Bursaries and Awards - RST awarded PhD bursaries to Ingrid Cox and Manon Simon,
- Office expenses – web page renewal and online shop setup, legal expenses, meeting expenses and communication updates.

Two major operational changes that impacted heavily on the cashflow (and volunteers) were the travelling art exhibition and the setting up and running of the online shop. \$15,000 was transferred out of the Art Fund to support the art exhibitions and over \$18,900 was carried forward in stock.

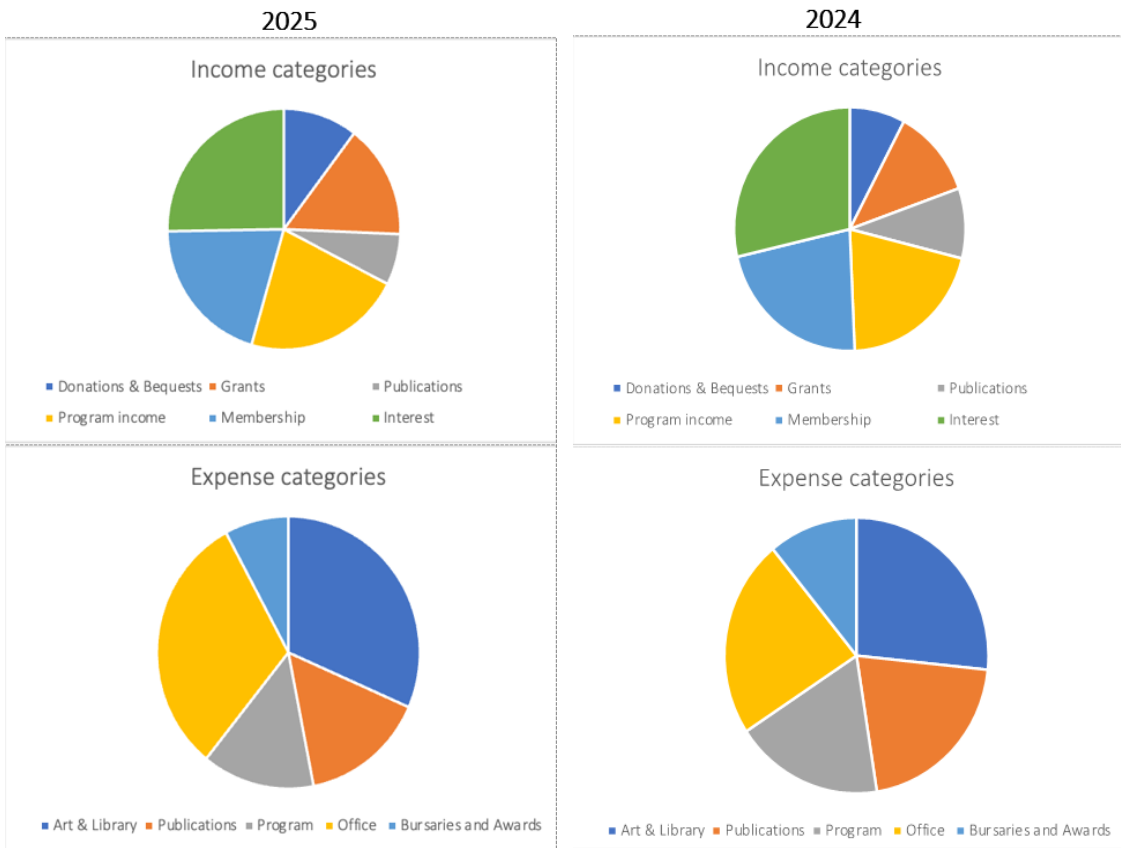
The financial results far exceeded budgeted figures (which were set to breakeven) largely due to the tight control on expenses. Art fundraising and grants largely covered the high art expenses. Office expenses were also very high, but these were anticipated in the budget with a committed investment into web design and the online shop, legal fees and meetings. A commitment was made with TMAG to contribute over several years a maximum of \$75,000 in total towards a marker of the Aboriginal Apology and a proportion was budgeted for that expense, but it has yet to be started. It was also expected that further costs would be incurred in production of the new catalogue (with 51 pre-sales carried forward) but these have been delayed to the next year.

As shown in the summary and pie charts on the next page, the Society is consistent in the proportions of its main income streams with program income (dinners, lectures, events) and membership income combining to form 42% of the income each year. Interest is a critical component, with most of it reinvested through the Foundation for future needs. Grants, donations and bequests account for 26% of the income (up from 20% in the previous year) and publications are slightly lower at 7% (down from 9%).

The major expense categories are also consistent with the highest spending on the art collections and office (63% as compared to 50% in the previous year). Programs (dinners, lectures and events) and publications (*Papers and Proceedings*) account for 29% of the expenses (down from 39%). Bursaries remain the lowest expense category at 8% (down from 11%).

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 bursaries paid out exceeded the interest earned over the year, hence that reserve has decreased. To support the setup of the travelling art exhibitions, \$15,000 was transferred from the Art Fund (interest is accumulated in each of the funds). No funds were used from the Peter Smith reserve. Note that revaluation surplus is merely the result of revaluing the Art collection and Library Rare Book collections.

Income Statement Summary		
	2025	2024
Income	\$	\$
Donations & Bequests	12,527	8,395
Grants	18,625	12,807
Publications	8,340	10,076
Program income	26,684	22,138
Membership	24,575	23,830
Interest	30,702	31,030
Total Income	121,453	108,277
Expenses		
Art & Library	31,107	23,108
Publications	15,107	18,118
Program	13,625	15,813
Office	30,903	20,245
Bursaries and Awards	7,760	9,474
Total Expenses	98,502	86,758
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	22,951	21,519



The Royal Society of Tasmania			
Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2025			
		2025	2024
Assets			
Current Assets			
	Cash and cash equivalents	44,295	25,832
	Accounts Receivable	300	1,447
	Accrued Income	5,647	9,334
	Investments	656,967	663,337
	Prepaid expense	4,245	4,841
	Stock on hand - art items	18,905	0
	Total Current Assets	730,359	704,791
Non-current Assets			
	Plant and Equipment	1,389	923
	RST Art collection	8,100,000	8,100,000
	RST Library inc. Rare Book collection	4,019,800	4,019,800
	Total Non-current Assets	12,121,189	12,120,723
	Total Assets	12,851,548	12,825,514
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
	Accounts Payable	1,546	7,699
	Prepaid income	35,479	26,245
	Total Current Liabilities	37,025	33,944
	Total Liabilities	37,025	33,944
	Net Assets	12,814,522	12,791,570
Equity			
	Reserve - ANZAAS	66,475	68,068
	Reserve - Library and Art Fund	54,984	71,804
	Reserve - Peter Smith	50,575	43,152
	Revaluation Surplus	12,119,800	12,119,800
	Accumulated surpluses	522,688	488,746
	Total Equity	12,814,522	12,791,570

Accounts Receivable reflect *Papers and Proceedings* that have been sent to an organisation and remain unpaid. 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 are payments for membership and *Papers and Proceedings* that relate to the next financial year as well as the unused portions of three grants totalling \$31,5076 to be used in 2026 and \$3,808 pre-orders for a new book publication in 2026. The stock on hand represents art items purchased for sale for the travelling exhibitions.

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



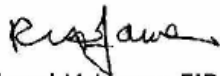
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The Royal Society of Tasmania
Independent Audit Report to the members of The Royal Society of Tasmania
For the year ended 31 December 2025

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 2025 to 31 December 2025 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 FIFA
Institute of Public Accountants IPA#: 134606

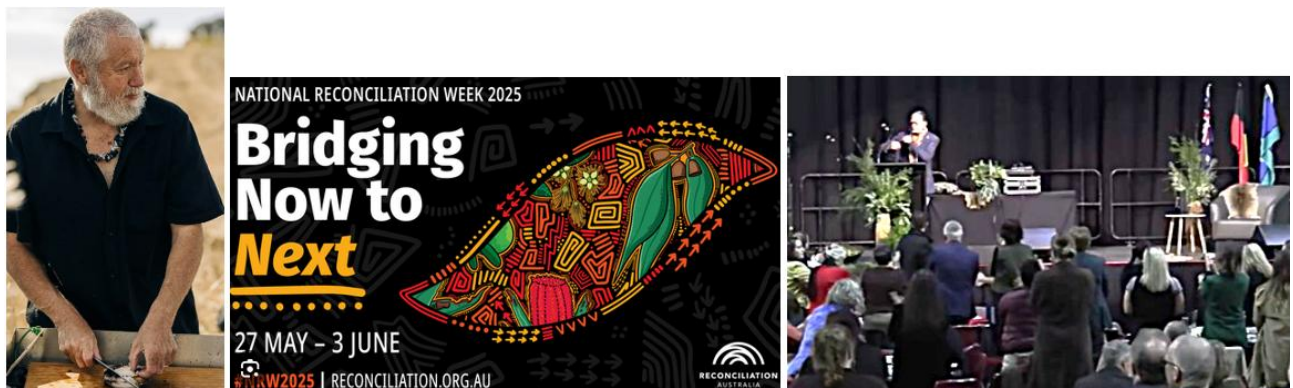
AUDITOR
22 January 2026

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT

The RST and TMAG are collaborating in a project to permanently mark the 2021 paired RST – TMAG Apologies to the Tasmanian Aboriginal people. The plan is to commission an artwork by an Aboriginal artist that serves as a reminder of the Apologies and why they were necessary. The project began in January 2025 and is managed by a Joint RST – TMAG Working Group that has met monthly. The project is called *pumili nayri*, which is palawa kani for *making or doing good*. The project plan, guiding principles, a concept statement, indicative budget and contract for the Project Manager have been settled. In October, a call for Expressions of Interest for the Project Manager position was advertised and an offer was made to the leading candidate in December.

The RST was involved in the Hobart City Council (HCC) Crowther Reinterpreted Project during 2022 and 2023, initially being asked to comment on the plan to remove the Crowther statue and then asked to give deputations at HCC meetings where the plan was assessed. Most of 2024 was occupied with an unsuccessful appeal against the HCC's decision to remove the statue. The fourth and final stage commenced in 2025. Representing the RST, Jocelyn McPhie attended a meeting on 5 March 2025 at which plans for the installation of panels of text beside the now-empty plinth were outlined.



(L) Robert Anders delivered the RST 2025 Aboriginal Lecture in Launceston (photo Adam Gibson), (R) Aboriginal elder Jim Everett puralia meenamatta addressing the Reconciliation Breakfast in Hobart.

The 2025 RST lecture by a Tasmanian Aboriginal scholar was hosted by the Northern Branch on Sunday 25 May. The speaker was Robert Anders, a member of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community originally from northeastern Tasmania. Robert is a PhD candidate and Indigenous Fellow, Academic Development, in the School of Geography, Planning, and Spatial Sciences at the University of Tasmania. His research explores the co-management of Tasmanian Aboriginal cultural landscapes, as one means of supporting and advancing Tasmanian Aboriginal people. In his lecture *How to better manage Aboriginal cultural landscapes in Tasmania*, Robert explained what is meant by 'cultural landscapes', reviewed some of the impacts of colonization and suggested alternative approaches that simultaneously empower regional Aboriginal communities and lead to better environmental and social outcomes.

Reconciliation Tasmania held Reconciliation Breakfasts in Burnie, Launceston and Hobart as part of National Reconciliation Week 2025 *Bridging Now to Next*. The RST was represented in Launceston by Northern President Mr Neil MacKinnon (28 May) and in Hobart by Councilor Mrs Lorraine Polglase (3 June). The guest speakers emphasised the importance of truth telling and truth listening in efforts to achieve mutually respectful reconciliation between First Nations peoples and the wider Tasmanian community.

Professor Jocelyn McPhie
Chair, Aboriginal Engagement Committee

ART COLLECTION

In addition to conservation of the collection, preparing the art catalogue book and fund raising, which are discussed elsewhere in this report, the main task of the RST Art Committee was organising the RST Regional Hidden Treasures Art Exhibition.

The purpose of the exhibition is to bring a collection of nationally significant works from our art collection to the people of regional Tasmania for their enjoyment and education. The first three locations chosen for the exhibition were Oatlands, Longford and Queenstown. Each location has a different theme; the Oatlands theme being the *Midlands and Southern Tasmania*, the Longford exhibition theme is *Northern Tasmania* and the Queenstown theme is *A Walk to the West*.

The Oatlands exhibition in August was extremely successful, with over 2,500 visitors during the two days. Special thanks to all the volunteers who made this happen. Sixty reproductions of artworks from the RST collection were exhibited in two separate venues, the Oatlands goal house and the Oatlands courthouse. The hero of the exhibition was a Simpkinson de Wesselow watercolour painting of Spring Hill just to the south of Oatlands. Other artists represented in the exhibition were Skinner Prout, Louisa Anne Meredith and William C Pignuit. The Royal Society received a wealth of very positive written feedback, some examples are:

- “This exhibition was a great asset to the Bullock Festival”
- “Absolutely magnificent!”
- “What a wonderful event, well managed”
- “I now know who the Royal Society is”
- “Very educational and interesting”
- “Thank you for a wonderful exhibit. Love how the pictures suit the building. Very well thought out”

High quality reproductions were exhibited rather than the fragile originals. Thanks to Wagners Frame Makers and Full Gamut for printing and framing the works and the Southern Midlands Council for their generous support.



Hidden Treasures Art Exhibition poster and some of the RST artwork on display in the heritage buildings.

Preparations for the Longford exhibition at Woolmers Estate occupied most of the latter part of the year. We have been given access to a large exhibition gallery well fitted for the purpose. The theme for the exhibition is *Northern Tasmania in the Mid Nineteenth Century*, with artworks of Launceston, Tamar Valley, Cataract Gorge, Longford district and Ben Lomond.

Finally, thanks to the strong RST supporters who have generously given their time and effort to maintain, preserve, research, fundraise and exhibit The Royal Society Art Collection, particularly Anita Hansen, Marley Large, Warwick Oakman, Julie Rimes, Mary and Grady Koolhof, John Carswell, Tony Sprent, Lorraine Polglase, John Davidson, Pippa Cotton, Lynette Ross and Sue McKerracher.

Distinguished Emeritus Professor Ross Large AO
Chair, Art Collection Committee

ART COORDINATION

The year was productive and successful for the Society's art program, marked by steady progress and important groundwork for the future. Some planned activities were reshaped by changing circumstances. The exhibition scheduled for 2025 at the Allport Library and Museum of Fine Arts was postponed following extensive preparation, and the hardback catalogue project was necessarily adjusted after the resignation of the Royal Society's Honorary Art Curator, Anita Hansen, in July. Anita's long and valued contribution to the Society over many years is warmly acknowledged. Marley Large subsequently agreed to take on aspects of the role as Honorary Art Coordinator, ensuring continuity and momentum. As a result of these changes, publication of the hardback catalogue has been rescheduled for late 2026, allowing time for design revisions and careful preparation. Constructive feedback from reviewers has been incorporated where possible, and with guidance from Council and the support of the Art Committee, work on the catalogue is progressing confidently and to plan.

The presence of the collection on eHive (web-based system allowing sharing of digital images of collections) has resulted in a number of requests to use the images in publications and research projects. A policy exists for the loan of digital images, but it has been revised due to the demand to view the art in person. Higher demand requires a structured policy, particularly since we rely on the availability of Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG) staff to extract the images for viewing.

Another year has passed with a great deal of work on the ownership of Louisa Anne Meredith's fish paintings performed by Anita Hansen, Mary Koolhof, Jocelyn McPhie, Julie Rimes and James Crotty. Jocelyn McPhie, Anita Hansen and Marley Large had the opportunity to view the 44 paintings in dispute and record their condition however, the ownership situation still has not been resolved despite the Society's best efforts.

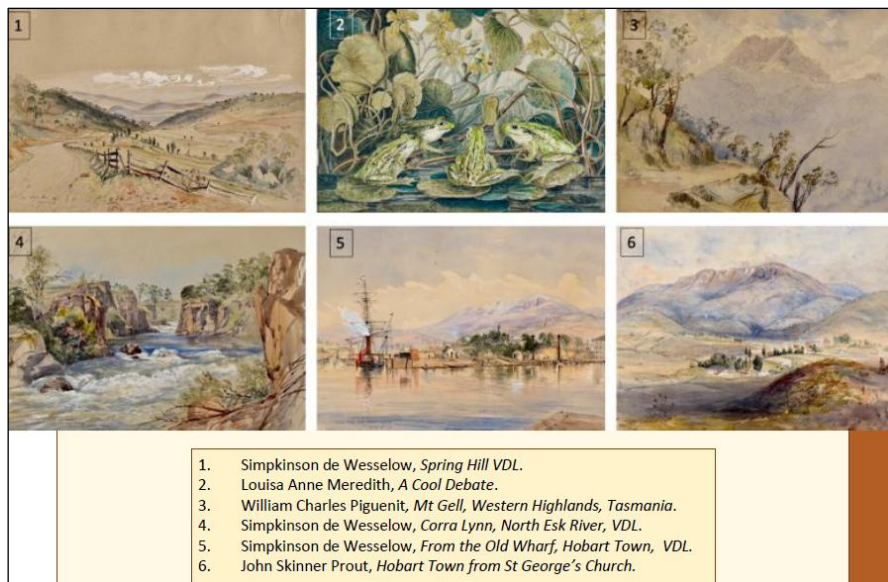
A highly successful exhibition of the Society's art was held over a weekend in August at Oatlands. There was a very strong positive response from attendees accompanied by many requests to keep up the high visibility of the collection. Marley Large presented a talk highlighting several of the major artists in the collection.

In November, two very generous donations were presented to the Society. Professor Greg Lehman presented several important French engravings and a print which will work to inform the images of Tasmania's First Nations People already in the collection. The five French engravings include the very first known images of the male and female representatives of the Palawa People, as well as a large group of Palawa in their natural state and environment, engaging with French explorers and sailors in a relaxed manner. There are also two magnificent images of mothers accompanied by their babies.

Jane Giblin, an artist and PhD student, has donated to the Society's Special and Rare Library Collection, her completed and toured *Mitchell Women: Unknown Stories* Scrapbook. Jane utilised a 19th century scrapbook from our RST collection which contains Kate Mitchell's drawings.

The scrapbook is augmented with small copies of her touring works, as photographed by Simon Olding of Full Gamut and also the work produced by communities who participated in the tour workshops.

All the necessary documentation for both gifts has yet to be completed for the items to be accepted into the respective collections according to the Society's Collections Policy.



Some of the RST's Art Collection on display at the Heritage Treasures Art Exhibition.

Some of the collection will be on view again early in 2026 at the Woolmers art facility and later in the year at two venues in Queenstown on the west coast of Tasmania, featuring mostly museum quality prints of the many northern and south-western sites chosen by 19th century artists. The exhibition will be manned by Society volunteers at weekends; special demonstrations by well-known artists including Lynne Uptin will be drawcards. A Royal Society antiques roadshow valuation by a government valuer on the RST Art Committee, Warwick Oakman will also be a feature at both sites. The Chair of the Art Committee has developed several items of merchandise featuring the art which will also be on sale.

The work of art conservation and restoration continues. Stefano Connone (Art Conservator) has just repaired and conserved five artworks and at the end of 2025, he received six more pieces, four of which received grants won by RST's Fundraising Committee for the work and two will be financed by the Thorne family in memory of the late Shirley Thorne, a longstanding supporter of RST. Importantly, the year also saw the successful conservation of one of the Society's most iconic works, Louisa Anne Meredith's *A Cool Debate*, which spent many months in the care of a specialist conservator in Sydney—an undertaking that reflects both the complexity of the work and the Society's long-term commitment to the responsible stewardship of its collections.

Currently, 59 works have been restored or conserved since the restoration program began in 2024 and another six are in the hands of a conservator. Finance for the programme has come from successful grant applications by the Fundraising Committee Chair and a number of specific fundraising events.

Mrs Marley Large
Honorary Art Coordinator

ART FUNDRAISING

The Royal Society of Tasmania was successful in securing three major grants during the year, supporting the conservation of significant works from the RST Art Collection. Warm thanks go to the local experts who wrote strong letters of support for the applications.

A grant of \$5,000 was received from the ArtsNational *Patricia Robertson Fund* for urgent conservation work on *Old St David's Church, Macquarie Street*, a rare watercolour. The Society gratefully acknowledges Marley Large for the historical research that underpinned the successful application. Her research confirms that the work, painted by an unknown 19th-century artist, depicts the church between March 1835, when the 'Pepper Pot' tower replaced the unsafe original steeple, and September 1874, when the church was demolished and replaced by the present St David's Cathedral. While other images of the church with its original steeple survive, this is the only known architectural watercolour showing the replacement tower.

The Society also received \$4,519 from the Maritime Museums of Australia Project Support Scheme to conserve a unique album of works by Captain Owen Stanley. Conservation was undertaken by expert paper conservator Alison Titchen and included professional photography by Full Gamut to support future access and use. The Society extends its sincere thanks to Alison and Full Gamut for their generosity and expertise.



Australian National Maritime Museum's facebook post featuring expert conservator Alison Titchen and the Owen Stanley Album

The conservation work was extensive and resulted in the stabilisation and preservation of this important historical item. The album contains 82 artworks, 74 watercolours, seven pencil drawings and one pen-and-ink sketch, produced by Stanley during his surveying voyage in the East Indies and Australasian waters aboard HMS *Britomart* (1837–1843). The works form a rare visual record of this significant maritime expedition and are of considerable importance to the maritime history of Australia and the Pacific region. The album also includes explanatory text written by Stanley, adding valuable context to the visual material.

In addition, the Society secured \$8,120 through a 2025 Community Heritage Grant administered by the National Library of Australia. This funding will support the professional conservation of three significant works from the RST Art Collection:

- *Ships at Anchor* by GTWB Boyes, a rare depiction of the female convict hulk HMS *Anson*.
- *Panoramic View of Hobart* (after Augustus Prinsep), an early colonial lithograph showing Hobart's original shoreline.
- *Bull Fish* by Mary Morton Allport, a scientifically accurate watercolour by Australia's first professional female artist.

Conservation of these works will ensure ongoing access to important visual records of Tasmania's maritime, colonial and natural heritage.



Artworks to be conserved under the heritage grant: *Bull Fish, Ships at Anchor and Panoramic View of Hobarton.*

Fundraising activities during the year included a Midwinter Dinner raffle (\$480), sales of art prints and merchandise at the Oatlands Heritage and Bullock Festival coordinated by Distinguished Prof. Ross Large AO, and a Christmas Dinner featuring a silent auction, live auction and raffle, together raising \$4,280.



(L) Mrs Marley Large (RST Art Coordinator) with items for sale at the Hidden Treasures Art Exhibition, and RST Art Fund Christmas auction catalogue which raised \$4,280 at the RST dinner.

The Committee warmly thanks all members and supporters for their generous donations. These funds have directly supported the conservation of 59 artworks at the time of writing, with further projects scheduled to commence.

Mary Koolhof OAM
 Chair, Art Fundraising Committee

BURSARIES

The Royal Society of Tasmania offers bursaries to Tasmanian secondary students who are 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. Six students from southern colleges were successful applicants in 2025 to attend Youth ANZAAS in Melbourne.

Extracts from their reports following their attendance at this event are provided.

Laura O'Reilly "ANZAAS is the Australia and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science. This organisation is to promote science and how it impacts our world for the better. Youth ANZAAS is to help shape future scientists and innovators and I was lucky enough to be a part of it. The program was held over five days of the winter holidays, focusing on how science is involved in everyday life whilst exploring different branches. A group of around 50 people aged 15-18 from around Australia and New Zealand met in Melbourne for this wonderful experience."

"Over this trip I have gained such an amazing understanding of so many areas including biology, anatomy, physics and material science. The opportunity I was lucky enough to be able to participate in helped me grow my confidence and make new friends that are interested in similar things to me. Being able to participate in Youth ANZAAS 2025 has given me so much knowledge that I can apply to my schooling and teach others about. All these incredible opportunities that I was included in this week of science packed fun, will help me in my future endeavours."

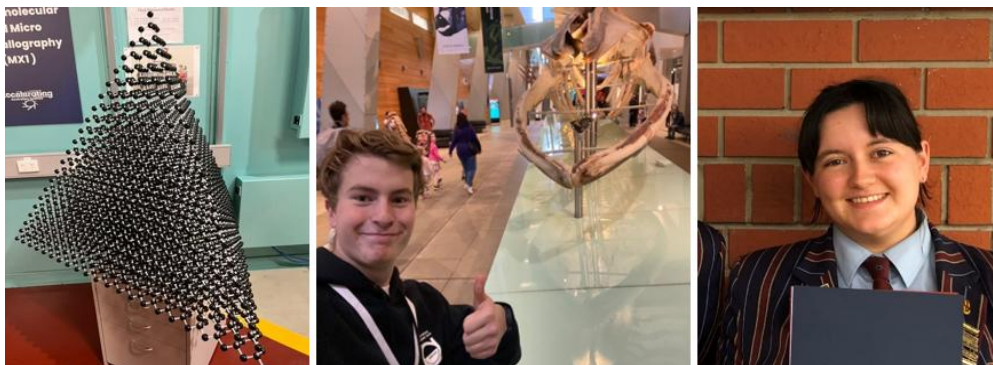
Ellen Wei "Youth ANZAAS 2025, wow! There are simply no words that can describe the phenomenal experience of meeting new people from all around Australia, and New Zealand, and connecting with them over our shared love of science. ... Having the opportunity to visit so many cool places, some of which weren't even open to the public, and learning about all the cool areas of science was incredible. But not only that, ANZAAS gave me the chance to meet 50 other likeminded youth and 10 leaders who are members of the Young Scientists Association. I made countless new friends."

"ANZAAS truly was the most wonderful week of my life, and I walked away with incredible memories, a deeper passion for science, and lifelong friends. I am so grateful to have attended the program. Thank you so much for making it possible!"



Three of the 2025 bursary winners (L-R) Laura O'Reilly, Ellen Wei at Science Works, Melbourne and Ewan Anderson.

Ewan Anderson "I would highly recommend Youth ANZAAS to younger students in future years, both for the scientific and social experience of attending, as it is an exceptionally well organised forum. With tours and lectures otherwise inaccessible to those who reside outside of Melbourne, Youth ANZAAS is a highly worthwhile and valuable forum for interested science students as part of their secondary schooling."



(L-R) Model of a molecular structure by Rui Bin Ong and bursary winners Tom Coward and Lilly Ryton-Benson.

Rui Bin Ong "...it was very enjoyable. I am happy I was selected for the event, and I have found my passion for science again....I'm thankful for being able to go on the trip and learn about different fields; and how many people are researching for possible cures and trying to make advancements to help improve people's daily lives."

Tom Coward "I was a part of an awesome science camp run by the Youth ANZAAS organisation that toured major science facilities and universities. This camp allows students to meet like-minded and future oriented peers which provides a great service not only for networking, but inspiring students to follow a career in science. During the tours we met with field leading researchers and professors that introduced a wide range of scientific topics which piqued my interest in fields that I never even knew about...[we] were very lucky to tour some amazing faculties such as the Australia Synchrotron, Monash University, Melbourne University and other research facilities that explored fields such as pathology (WEHI) and robotics(RMIT).All of these experiences were extremely valuable.... I am extremely grateful for this opportunity to go on such a trip, and it has inspired me and informed me of all the amazing careers and pathways in STEM. I extend my thanks to the wonderful people at Youth ANZAAS who organised the camp, and the Royal Society of Tasmania for sponsoring our places on this trip."

Lilly Ryton-Benson "Over the span of the six days I spent completing the Youth ANZAAS 2025 program, I learnt many new things, gained valuable experiences, and met passionate young people. This opportunity helped me become more confident, gave me so much new knowledge, and helped me navigate my own personal path of where I want to go after school. I am looking forward to further exploring the diverse range of science-related jobs that are available and discovering new careers and pathways that interest me. This year, there was a slight focus on manufacturing and medicine, and while these are not pathways I am looking to pursue, I was surprised by the intricacies of these fields. I also gained much from the various other activities that were offered and am excited to apply my new knowledge to my schooling and future."

Dr Deborah Beswick OAM
Chair, Bursary Committee

EVENTS – SOUTH

6 March: Lecture and RST Annual General Meeting 2025

Speaker: Professor Nathan Bindoff

Title: The Role of the Southern Ocean and Antarctica in the Climate System

Venue: The Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Marieville Esplanade, Sandy Bay

26 March: RST Celebrates Tasmania Reads 2025

Speaker: Mr David Owen

Title: What's Up Pufferfish?! DI Franz Heineken and the Mysterious Danish Connection

Venue: RST Rooms, Customs House Building, TMAG, Davey Street

Celebrating Tasmania Reads 2025 is one of the ways the Society contributes to Hobart's status as a UNESCO City of Literature. Tasmania Reads is a week-long celebration of reading and storytelling in all its forms and is an initiative of Libraries Tasmania. Around 75 booklovers enjoyed this event with well-known Tasmanian identity David Owen who reflected on his career as an author and forthcoming novels in the popular *Pufferfish* detective series published by Fullers Publishing, Warm thanks are extended to David for his much-enjoyed presentation, and to Madeleine Delany from Fullers Bookshop for her support.



(L - R) Professor Nathan Bindoff, Mr David Owen and Dr Rob Johnson.

06 April: Lecture

Speaker: Dr Rob Johnson

Title: The Australian Weather Puzzle: Assembling a National Forecast from Global Weather Models

Venue: Geology Lecture Theatre, U Tas, Sandy Bay Campus

4 May: Lecture

Speakers: Dr Sally Bryant AM & Dr Eric Woehler OAM

Title: Inconvenient Truths: Tasmania's Threatened Birds from Mountain to Coast

Venue: Geology Lecture Theatre, U Tas, Sandy Bay Campus



(L - R) Joint lecture delivered by Dr Sally Bryant AM and Dr Eric Woehler OAM

25 May: Annual Tasmanian Aboriginal Lecture

Speaker: Mr Rob Anders

Title: How to Better Manage Aboriginal Cultural Landscapes in Tasmania

Venue: Queen Victoria Museum & Art Gallery, 2 Invermay Road, Inveresk, Launceston



(L - R) Mr Rob Anders delivered the Aboriginal Lecture, Drs Jan Herrmann and Sara Morawetz, Professor Dugald Close.

1 June: Lecture

Speakers: Drs Jan Herrmann and Sara Morawetz

Title: Measurement for All Times, for All People

Venue: Geology Lecture Theatre, U Tas, Sandy Bay Campus

18 June: The Royal Society of Tasmania 2024 Award Presentations

Awards: 2024 Peter Smith Medal and the inaugural 2024 Louisa Anne Meredith Medal presented

Venue: Government House, Hobart Domain



(L - R) Medal winners Dr Edward Doddridge, Professor Cassandra Pybus and Fiona Hall AO.

3 July: RST Midwinter Dinner and Lecture

Speaker: Susannah Fullerton OAM, FRSN and Adrian Dickens

Title: Jane Austen's Legacy: 250 Glorious Years (SF) and The Jewels of the Regency Period (AD)

Venue: The Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Marieville Esplanade, Sandy Bay



Jane Austen lecture extravaganza delivered by Susannah Fullerton OAM and Mr Adrian Dickens

3 August: Lecture

Speaker: Professor Dugald Close

Title: In Pursuit of the 'Cherry on Top': how eco-physiological research enables practice

Venue: Geology Lecture Theatre, UTas, Sandy Bay Campus

9-10 August: The RST Art Roadshow *Hidden Treasures*

Event: The Heritage and Bullock Festival, Oatlands

Title: Hidden Treasures from the RST Art Collection

Venue: historic township of Oatlands in Tasmanian Midlands

7 September: 2024 Peter Smith Medal Lecture

Speakers: Dr Edward Doddridge

Title: Antarctic Sea Ice loss: Causes and Impacts of 'Gobsmacking' Changes

Venue: Geology Lecture Theatre, UTas, Sandy Bay Campus



(L-R) Dr Ingrid Cox, Dr Manin Simon and Branwell Roberts.

5 October: RST Doctoral Award Lectures

Speakers: 2024 RST Doctoral award winners Dr Ingrid Cox, Dr Manon Simon and Branwell Roberts

Title: Dr Cox: Breathing can sometimes be a burden.

Dr Manon: Learning from weather modification law for the governance of regional solar radiation.

Branwell Roberts: A rough mineral and polished rubbish: Tennyson and Browning in Antarctica.

Venue: Geology Lecture Theatre, UTas, Sandy Bay Campus

2 November: Lecture

Speaker: Professor David Bowman

Title: In a Warming World, how do we Coexist with Fire?

Venue: Geology Lecture Theatre, UTas, Sandy Bay Campus



(L-R) Professor David Bowman coexisting with fire and Christmas lecturer Dr Danielle Wood

4 December: Annual Christmas Dinner and Lecture

Speaker: Dr Danielle Wood

Title: Words and 'Wordability'

Venue: University Staff Club, 38a Dobson Road, UTas Campus Sandy Bay

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 2025, the Society offered three medals: the MR Banks Medal, awarded to a scholar of distinction in their mid-career in any field, the Clive Lord Medal, awarded to a scholar distinguished for research in Tasmanian science, and The Royal Society of Tasmania Medal, awarded to a scholar for substantial original research in any subject.

As there were no nominations received for the Clive Lord Medal or The Royal Society of Tasmania Medal, these medals will be advertised in future years.

The MR Banks Medal was awarded to Associate Professor Jaqueline Halpin, Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, University of Tasmania, for her outstanding contribution to the field of geology. Professor Halpin's research is generating new insights into the geological evolution of the Antarctic continent and the long-term interaction with the ice sheet. In 2023-24 she led the geology team in remote Antarctic fieldwork to the Denman Glacier region, providing crucial new samples and data for interdisciplinary Earth-ice sheet science.



MR Banks Medal winner Associate Professor Jaqueline Halpin, Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, UTas

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 2025, the Doctoral Award was open to both STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine) and non-STEMM nominations, with one award reserved for non-STEMM nominations. The two winners of the 2025 RST Doctoral (PhD) Awards were Dr Laura Dalman (STEMM) and Dr Katie Marx (non-STEMM).

Dr Dalman completed her PhD at the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, University of Tasmania. Her thesis was titled *Physical controls of Southern Ocean ice-associated primary production*. The thesis investigated the distribution and community structure of sea-ice algae, providing an updated estimate of Antarctic ice algal net community production, and examined the physical drivers of autumn under-ice phytoplankton, using in-situ measurements, satellite observations, and animal-borne sensors. Dr Dalman is now a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium investigating, via controlled ice-growth experiments, how microbial communities colonise sea ice and how their physiological adaptations influence brine rejection and carbon fluxes.



2025 RST Doctoral (PhD) Award winners (L-R) Dr Laura Dalman and Dr Katie Marx

Dr Marx completed her PhD at the School of Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Tasmania. Her thesis was titled *Understanding attachment to remote places: Insights from a study of Hobart citizens' relationships with Antarctica*. Her doctoral research focused on the concept of place attachment in Hobart, an Antarctic gateway city. From this, she has built an interest in exploring how we can support members of the public to form a meaningful relationship with remote places (such as Antarctica) that they themselves may never visit. Dr Marx is now a postdoctoral researcher within the University of Tasmania's Antarctic Tourism Research Program. She is the current co-lead of the Public Engagement with Antarctic Research Action Group within the international Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research. She has tutored in a range of subjects, including environmental communication and marine and Antarctic governance, and she tends to spend her summers working as a historian and guide with tour operators on the Antarctic peninsula.

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 22 April 2026. The RST Max R Banks recipient will be presented with her medal.

The Clive Lord Memorial Medal, Peter Smith Medal and The Royal Society of Tasmania Doctoral (PhD) Awards are scheduled for award in 2026.

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

LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

COLLECTIONS

The 2024 book inventory and valuation identified a number of high value books as requiring remedial conservation. Throughout 2025 considerable time was spent creating custom archival book boxes for these significant works. One such book is the Society’s copy of Captain James Wallis’, *A historical account of the colony of New South Wales and its dependent settlements*, published in 1821.

Wallis’s book has the distinction of being the first book of general landscape views of New South Wales and it is also the first plate book to consist of plates engraved in the colony by a colonial engraver. According to its label, the plates were engraved on sheet copper used for coppering the bottom of sailing vessels.

This copy has the original publishers’ textured paper, stiff wrappers, label and cloth spine. The custom archival book box will better protect this fragile publication.



(L) The fragile condition of Wallis’ book will benefit from improved archival storage, and (R) Label of A historical account of the colony of New South Wales and its dependent settlements (Wallis, J 1821)

ENGAGEMENT

Onsite Morris Miller Library	2025	2024	2023
Royal Society Member visits	20	17	18
Royal Society rare books viewed	4	14	10
Royal Society Deposits viewed	65	37	48

In 2025, 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. Once again, visits were primarily made by Council members conducting research for articles and projects.

A licensing agreement between the Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL) and the Society was signed in January 2025. This agreement gives BHL permission to upload the Society’s past and future *Papers and Proceedings* for access through BHL websites in a manner that allows the journal’s articles to be persistently discoverable,

citable, and trackable. As part of the agreement, BHL also agreed to take on the assignment and management of the Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs), a unique number assigned to every article by Cross Ref, a digital registration agency. In February, the UTas Library's Digital Services team worked with BHL and CrossRef to transfer the existing citation data and DOIs into BHL's required format.

RST Journal Collection and Exchange Program

The RST journal collection of 1,452 titles comprises local, national and international periodicals on a range of subjects, with an emphasis on the sciences. The Society's exchange program with museums, universities & other societies, became a major tenet in delivering the aim of the organisation —advancing knowledge. The Society's members, and later the staff and students at UTas, were provided with the ability to physically access relevant and up-to-date knowledge. However, with the advent of digital publishing, and the increasing online availability to full text journals, the method of delivering this knowledge has changed. Many titles and their back catalogue are available freely online or are available in library electronic resources.

Over the past fifteen years the number of active print journals and the number of RST reciprocal exchange partners have dramatically declined. In 2011, there were 290 reciprocal partners and in the following year that number reduced almost 50% to 149. In 2025, the number was less than 50.

In August, acknowledging a long and proud tradition, the Council agreed to conclude its journal exchange program and will no longer send or receive hard copies of journals. The Society's journal *Papers and Proceedings of The Royal Society of Tasmania* will continue to be published annually with all papers and volumes publicly accessible electronically through the University of Tasmania and Biodiversity Heritage Library Australia's research portals.

RST and UTas Agreement

The agreement between The Royal Society of Tasmania and the University of Tasmania became due for renewal in 2025. The current agreement has been extended on a rolling basis, until a revised agreement is put in place (expected in early 2026).

During the year, the University Library & Curatorial Director (Caine Chennatt) and Historical Collections Coordinator (Katrina Ross) have been meeting with RST President (Julie Rimes) to discuss and produce the main terms of the new agreement. It will take the form of a simplified management agreement alongside a loan agreement, to leave no ambiguity of RST ownership over the RST Library Collection.

Several changes are currently being discussed before finalisation in 2026. These changes will reflect the ongoing relationship between the two organisations, financial sustainability in the maintenance of the RST Library Collections changes to institutional and cultural contexts.

Katrina Ross
Historical Collections Coordinator

Caine Chennatt
University Librarian and Curatorial Director

MEDIA & PUBLICITY

The Royal Society of Tasmania’s communications strategy is to use freely available and low-cost channels to reach members and non-members, achieving:

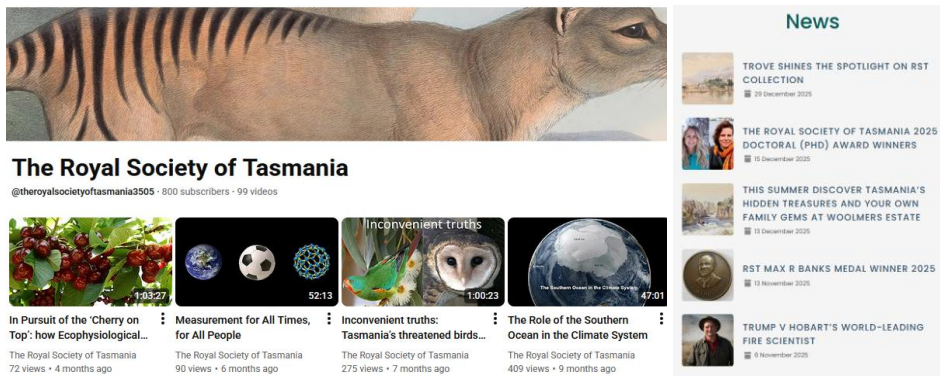
- A stable and growing membership
- Bigger audiences for our lectures and events
- Greater awareness of, and support for the RST in the broader community
- Increased visibility of the art collection for researchers, curators, scholars and the wider public
- Interest from potential donors.

For this purpose we have four channels:

- Owned RST website, YouTube channel, flyers, newsletters, President’s message and Facebook page
- Mainstream media – newspapers, radio and where possible, TV
- Partner media – newsletters and social media of like-minded organisations
- Paid media – to boost our social media posts and occasionally advertise special events.

Our new-look website was launched in August with a clean, simple and inviting design, providing an attractive, contemporary, online ‘front door’ for the Society. Web designer John Anderson of Forte Web Design has gone above and beyond in creating this strong communications platform. We thank John and the RST’s Richard Coleman, David Wilson and Eddy Steenbergen for their help.

There are now 99 videos on our RST YouTube channel, with 800 subscribers. These videos have been carefully edited and curated by David Wilson, whose contribution is very much appreciated. The post-event viewings on YouTube often more than double the audience for our in-person lectures.



RST bi-monthly newsletters, compiled by Bernard Pryor OAM, keep members abreast of all developments and in 2025 these have been supplemented by a weekly email message from President Julie Rimes, which members have warmly welcomed. During 2025, we published 17 news releases on the RST website, covering award winners, events, grants and member achievements. We welcomed the attention these news releases attracted from mainstream media, including a slot on ABC Drive radio for our November speaker Professor David Bowman. On social media, our Facebook posts regularly receive over 100 views and have peaked at 450, with three-quarters of viewers being followers (including a high proportion of members) and 25 per cent non-followers. In the last three months of 2025, we had 4,400 Facebook views.

We thank all the organisations that have supported us during 2025, including the Friends of the Allport Museum, U3A, UTas, Friends of TMAG, Friends of QVMAG, Arts National and the Launceston Art Society.

Sue McKerracher
Publicity Officer (Oct-Dec)

MEMBERSHIP

Despite the addition of 42 new members in 2025, there was overall a slight decrease in membership numbers from 350 in 2024 to 340 current members.

Membership numbers at the end of 2025 were as follows:

South	238
North	69
Australia (outside Tasmania)	30
Overseas.....	3
Total	340

Council determined the membership fees for 2026 would increase:

Full member with <i>Papers and Proceedings</i>	\$100
Full member without <i>Papers and Proceedings</i>	\$75
Student member with <i>Papers and Proceedings</i>	\$60
Student member without <i>Papers and Proceedings</i>	\$35

Again in 2025 some long-term members discontinued membership indicating ill health prevented them from participating in RST events. A reason given by some others for not renewing was leaving the state. Also, in 2025 several RST members passed away. They included Mr Elvin Fist, a Northern Branch member who was a former President of the Northern Branch and later was involved in the Elvin Fist Annual Lecture and Sir Guy Green a former Governor of Tasmania and President of the RST. In 2026, Dr Albert Goede is being recognised for having supported the Society for over six decades.

Finally, I thank the membership committee for their assistance and other Council members for their support.

Membership card

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA
THE ADVANCEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE

VALID UNTIL 31 DECEMBER 2025
RST.ORG.AU | ABN 65 889 598 100

Membership benefits

Members of the Royal Society of Tasmania enjoy:

- Free or discounted access to monthly lectures in Hobart and Launceston, including recordings via the Society's YouTube channel
- A printed copy of the peer-reviewed Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania
- Regular newsletters with updates on events, publications, and opportunities
- Access to the RST library collections, housed in Hobart and Launceston
- Insight into the Society's art collection of early Tasmanian artworks, maintained at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery
- Opportunities to volunteer, shape Society initiatives, and contribute to the legacy of one of Australia's oldest learned societies
- A 10% discount on most RST publications.
- A 10% discount at the TMAG shop (excluding memberships) when you show your membership card.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED IN 2025

Mr Genaro Alessandro, Ms Cecilia Broderick, Dr Ian Broinowski, Professor Dugald Close, Dr Ingrid Cox, Ms Trudi Curtis, Dr Hannah Dawson, Mr Adrian Dickens, Ms Wendy Edwards, Ms Kathi Eland, Mr Anthony Ellis, Mrs Dianne Fowler, Mr John Fowler, Mr Mark Geeves, Dr Barry Giles, Ms Robyn-Maree Gottschalk, Mr Michael Grove, Professor Ian Hay, Mrs Anne Holyman, Mr Robin Holyman, Mrs Melissa Hughes, Dr Ivan James, Ms Sue McKerracher, Mr Peter Knop, Mrs Sue Knop, Mr Paul Mahony, Mrs Liz McQuilkin, Ms Susan Nethercote, Mr Warwick Oakman, Dr Apeh Omede, Professor Helen Phillips, Dr George Prall, Ms Delia Ratcliff, Mr Anthony Rigby, Mr Don Rockliff, Mrs Maggie Row, Professor Michael Rowan, Mrs Caroline Rowell, Mr David Rowell, Dr Manon Simon, Ms Vince Spotswood, Ms Amanda Wojtowicz

Mrs Roxanne Steenbergen
Membership Secretary and Chair, Membership Committee

NORTHERN BRANCH

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Northern Branch's Management Committee continues to operate effectively to manage its business and attract interesting speakers to its Annual Lecture Series. Honorary Secretary Pippa Cotton and Assistant Secretary Dr Martin Renilson manage all aspects of liaison with guest speakers undertaking a substantial portion of the administrative load and we acknowledge with thanks their hard work. The Committee also receives great support on lecture days from Branch member volunteers Simon Bland and Emil Piper. Ms Ali Kemp Acting Director of the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery (QVMAG) and Ms Jordana Lory, QVMAG's Librarian are ex-officio members of the Management Committee, reflecting our long-standing and close working relationship with QVMAG.

LECTURE PROGRAM 2025

We are pleased to report that this year's program has again provided members and guests with interesting and entertaining speakers and topics.

Date	Guest Lecturer	Title of Lecture	Attendance
23-Feb	Dr Michael Woodward	Developing Bio-Inspired Technologies to Support Southern Ocean Climate Research	45
23-Mar	Rachelle Hawkins	From Seahorses to Handfish: A Tasmanian Aquaculture Story	54
27-Apr	Lynette Ross	The House That Paterson Built: The Story of Launceston's Government Cottage	50
26-May	Robert Anders <i>RST's Annual Aboriginal Lecture</i>	How to Better Manage Aboriginal Cultural Landscapes in Tasmania	52
22-Jun	Professor Richard Eccleston	Northern Tasmania's Changing Population: Implications for Policy, Planning and the Future of the Region	59
27-Jul	Associate Professor Jonathon Mulford	Orthopaedic Research in Launceston	81
25-Aug	Mr R Cotton and Mr T Cotton	New Perspectives on the Geological Origins of the Tamar Valley and Cataract Gorge	108
28-Sep	Leanne McLean <i>The Elvin Fist 'Education' Lecture</i>	Learning Across the Life Course: A System Wide Approach	37
5-Oct	Dr Rebecca Sproule – Jointly hosted with the Tasmania Division of the Geological Society of Australia	Geological Survey of Tasmania's History and Future in Understanding the Geology of Tasmania	45
26-Oct	Professor Hamish Maxwell-Stewart and Dr Adel Yousif	Lessons from Lutruwita: Calculating the Impacts of Invasion	49
23-Nov	Burcu Keane <i>The Annual QVMAG Staff Lecture</i>	From Launceston to Wimbledon: The Legacy of the Alexander Patent Racket Company	49

There were ten lectures in the 2025 Launceston Lecture Series. Honorary Secretary Pippa Cotton has made great efforts to publicise the program through member email and local media. Attendance figures indicate that the speakers and lecture topics continue to appeal to members and guests. We acknowledge their support of the program.



(L-R) Speakers Mr Tom and Mr Robert Cotton with Northern Branch President Neil MacKinnon.

We continue to host an annual QVMAG Staff Lecture and an education-focused Elvin Fist Lecture and co-host a joint meeting with the Tasmania Division of the Geological Society of Australia as integral parts of the Lecture series.



(L-R) Burcu Keane presented the Annual QVMAG Staff Lecture and Lynette Ross on Launceston's Government Cottage.

The Committee extends its thanks to all speakers for generously offering their time and expertise in preparing and presenting their lectures. Each guest speaker was presented with a Royal Society book as a token of thanks and a year's complimentary membership to The Royal Society of Tasmania.



Northern lectures were also delivered by (L-R) Professor Hamish Maxwell-Stewart and Dr Adel Yousif, Leanne McLean and Dr Rebecca Sproule

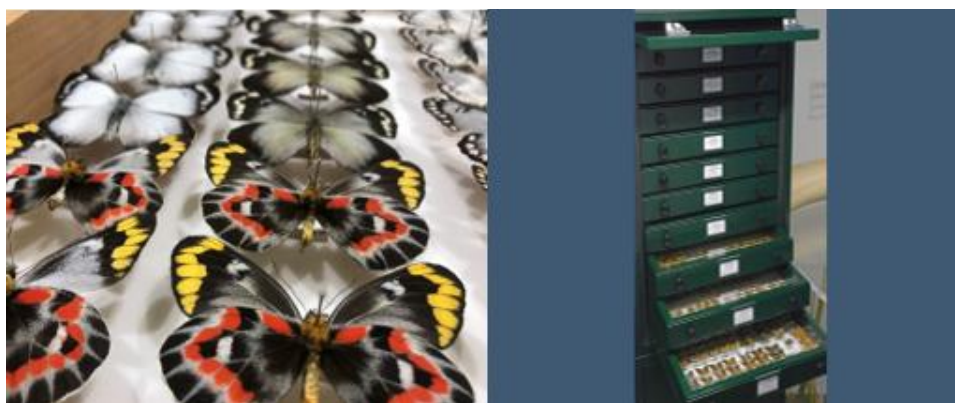
LECTURE VENUE

The Northern Branch acknowledges the assistance of the City of Launceston Council through our official partnership with QVMAG and, especially provision of the meeting room for lectures. We are grateful to the Director of QVMAG and QVMAG staff for their assistance with lecture days and their support in bringing important and interesting lecturers before the community.

We are delighted to report that the long-awaited QVMAG audio-visual equipment upgrade has been installed allowing for improved quality real time audio-visual performance on lecture days and better recording of lectures for upload to The Royal Society's YouTube channel. QVMAG's Adam Van Peelen has been tireless in his efforts to train and advise Committee members to successfully operate the new equipment and record lectures. Our special thanks also to David Wilson who edits and prepares the recordings for uploading to YouTube.

BUTTERFLY CABINET APPEAL

The Northern Branch promoted a successful fundraising appeal in 2022 for a cabinet to house a small portion of the QVMAG Lambkin-Knight Butterfly Collection, one of the finest in Australia and of national research significance. The Branch undertook to raise funds for a second cabinet. This year we are pleased to report that we have now raised those funds and donated some \$4,500 to QVMAG for a second cabinet. Our special thanks to Melanie Morris for her efforts in providing hand crafts for sale to assist in raising the funds.



Lambkin Knight Butterfly Collection

Butterfly Cabinet

REPRESENTATION ON RST COUNCIL

The Northern Branch is represented on Council by Dr Liza Snow and President Neil MacKinnon. Our representatives have been active in ensuring the interests of Royal Society members from the Northern Branch are heard at Council.

FUTURE PLANS

The Committee is well advanced in planning the 2026 lecture series and looks forward to another program of lectures that appeal to members and guests. Efforts in the coming year will also focus on attracting new and younger members to ensure the Branch's relevance in coming years.

Mr Neil MacKinnon
Northern Branch President

Mrs Pippa Cotton
Honorary Secretary

PUBLICATIONS

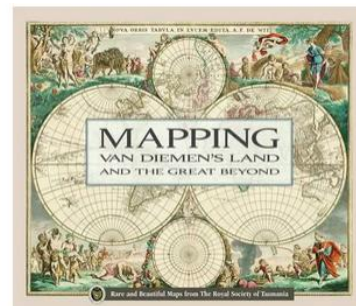
During 2025, in addition to preparing the 2024 Annual Report, the Publications Committee considered several book and catalogue projects throughout the year but due to escalating printing and postage costs most unfortunately were financially unviable. However, the new-look RST website now means RST publications will gain greater exposure and this year, thanks to David Wilson, we made available for sale a range of high-quality print-on-demand digital maps featured in the RST book *Mapping Van Diemen's Land*. The maps are starting to sell and if demand continues, we will potentially add more.



NEW MAP OF THE WORLD ARCHIVAL PRINT FROM THE RST MAP COLLECTION



CHART OF VAN DIEMEN'S LAND AND BASS' STRAIT ARCHIVAL PRINT FROM THE RST MAP COLLECTION



MAPPING VAN DIEMEN'S LAND AND THE GREAT BEYOND

Some of maps on sale through the RST Shop along with RST books and other products.

Sales of RST publications increased significantly during 2025 and the comprehensive publication on the RST art collection 'Worlds Apart', due for completion in 2026, already has pleasing number of pre-orders.

The sale of RST publications from 1 Jan to 31 Dec 2025 returned \$11, 549 as follows:

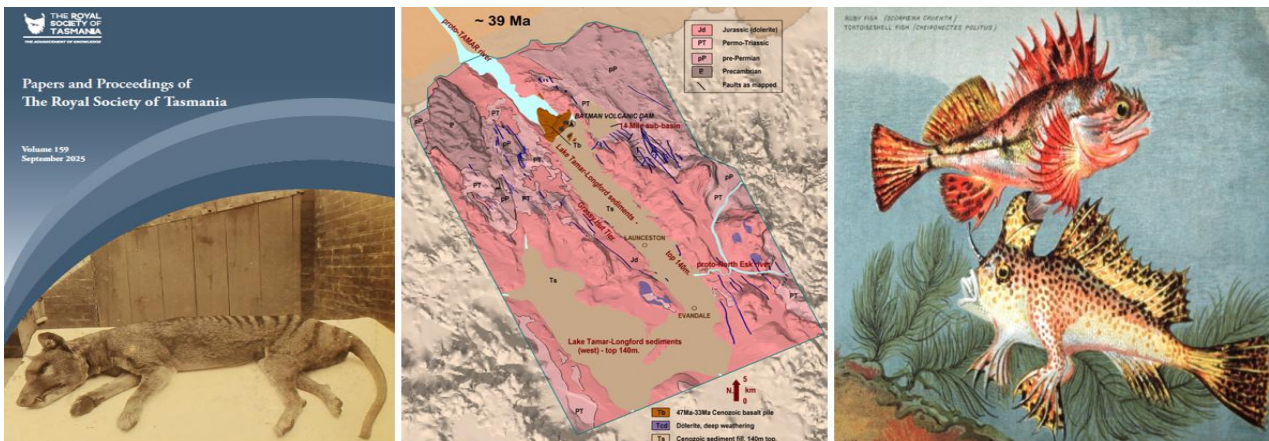
Publication	No	\$	Publication	No	\$
<i>Australian Mineral Discoverers</i>	6	360	<i>Charles Darwin in Hobart</i>	21	491
<i>Library at the End of the World</i>	20	894	<i>Mapping Van Diemen's Land</i>	55	1,936
<i>Journal Papers & Proceedings</i>	19	1,807	<i>Poles Apart: Fascination, Fame & Folly</i>	43	324
RST Notebooks	8	135	RST Digital Maps	4	940
RST Gift card pack	26	305	RST Art book <i>Worlds Apart</i> -pre-orders	51	3,808

Papers and Proceedings of The Royal Society of Tasmania

Volume 159 of the *Papers and Proceedings of The Royal Society of Tasmania* was published in September 2025. The volume was 84 pages in length, containing nine diverse papers from 17 contributing authors, reviewed by 18 independent referees, five of whom were sourced from the mainland. The Society sincerely thanks all the authors and referees for their time and expertise in writing and reviewing these papers.

The opening paper was a tribute to the Society's esteemed member the late Distinguished Professor James Barrie Kirkpatrick AM (1946 – 2024). The cover of the journal featured a thylacine as a prelude to the fascinating paper by Katherine Medlock on how museum specimens can reveal new information centuries after their acquisition. Equally interesting were the insights by lead author Adelina Latinovic's unravelling of the origins of Barnard's map of King Island and by Mary Koolhof in shedding light on Louise Anne Meredith's unrecognized skills as a scientific illustrator. Robert Cotton's new perspective on the formation of the Tamar Valley and Launceston Gorge proves geological theory is not set in stone; and formed the basis to his lecture to the Northern Branch in August. In addition, four papers by primary authors Professor Rod Griffin on Acacia pollen, Dr Mike Newman on birds in the Clarence Municipality, Dr Alastair Richardson on burrowing crayfish and Dr Simon Grove on the insect fauna of Ben Lomond, collectively highlight the value of this journal as a vehicle for important new scientific research in Tasmania.

Published papers were supplied electronically to individual authors and titles posted on the RST web site. The volume was supplied to UTas for uploading onto the Research Repository https://figshare.utas.edu.au/Royal_Society_of_Tasmania and also to the Biodiversity Heritage Library BHL Australia; both these platforms help to facilitate state, national and international open access.



(L) Journal cover of Vol 159, precluding K Medlock's Thylacine paper, (C) Cenozoic sediments deposited in Lake Tamar from R Cotton's paper, (R) Meredith's fish illustrations featured in M Koolhof's paper.

As BHL Australia, is now the principal repository for the *Papers and Proceedings* they were contacted for Altmetric data for annual reporting (i.e., tracking online conversations and downloads that include links to the Journal and articles). I sincerely thank Nicole Kearney their Communications Director, for adding the Royal Society of Tasmania to the BHL's Analytics Dashboard so that this information will be available to determine journal use and interest in authored papers in the future.

Sincere thanks to the journal production team of Caroline Mordaunt (copy editor), June Pongratz (typesetter), Dr Margaret Davies OAM (advice) and Jonathan Eyles (Print Tasmania) who continue to ensure the production of this exceptional journal remains at such a high standard.

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. Over time, those funds have steadily accumulated or been used to meet unforeseen or extraordinary needs and now amount to \$362,776. Interest income on these funds amounted to some \$20,000 in the 2025 calendar year.

The Foundation also holds other investments separately classified as:

- **Specific Purpose Funds**, being those held for specified uses, for example, the ANZAAS and Peter Smith Bursary awards, and
- **Funds Temporarily Held**, being those held on behalf of the RST Council in order that they earn interest pending their use by Council.

Interest income earned accrues to these funds and is quarantined for their identified purposes.

Reporting of the Foundation investments has been revised during the year as shown below to clearly distinguish between the fund balances.

The Foundation welcomes donations, gifts and bequests to assist in accumulating the Foundation's reserves.

The RST Foundation Committee continues to maintain a conservative approach to management of Foundation investments aiming to minimise investment risk and preserve capital while obtaining acceptable levels of income.

Long-standing member of the Foundation Committee, Tony Culberg OAM, retired during the year after many years of service to RST in various roles. We acknowledge his contribution and wish him well. There are vacancies on the Foundation Committee now and volunteers, especially but not necessarily with financial acumen, would be most welcome.



Foundation Committee (L-R): Mr Tony Culberg OAM (retiring), Mr Neil MacKinnon, Dr John Thorne AM, Dr Sonia Shimeld, Associate Professor Dr Don Garden OAM.

RST FOUNDATION INVESTMENTS 31 DECEMBER 2025


These balances are included in Current Assets in the RST Statement of Financial Position on page 12.

SPECIFIC PURPOSE FUNDS		AMOUNT
Library & Art Gallery (income tax deductible gifts)	\$40,445	
ANZAAS (amount transferred when ANZAAS closed)	\$66,475	
Peter Smith Trust Bequest (supporting bursaries)	\$50,575	
TOTAL SPECIFIC PURPOSE FUNDS		\$157,495
FUNDS TEMPORARILY HELD		
RST Operations (temporary cash surpluses invested)	\$122,157	
RST Art Fund (net of funds raised and expended)	\$ 14,539	
TOTAL FUNDS TEMPORARILY HELD		\$136,696
FOUNDATION RESERVE FUNDS		\$362,776
TOTAL FOUNDATION INVESTMENTS		\$656,967

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.



J. Gould, PORPHYRIO MELANOTUS, Temm. Black-backed Porphyris

RST Bequest brochure

Mr Neil MacKinnon
Chair, Foundation Committee

STUDENT COUNCILLOR

EVENTS COMMITTEE

In 2025 the RST hosted 10 lectures in Hobart. I assisted the RST Events Committee with deliberations, liaising with potential speakers, helping to prepare for some of these events including facilitating the electronic recording of lectures supporting the RST's aim of making these accessible to a wider audience. The new projector literally and figuratively amplified everyone's experience of the lectures and was a very worthwhile investment! The ongoing collaboration with Beer Aquatic is still in place, but as they have recently changed management, I will now hand those details to the incoming events team.



(L-R) Branwell Roberts, Dr. Manon Simon and Dr. Ingrid Cox delivering their PhD showcase lectures

I also organized the PhD Showcase event in Hobart featuring three speakers. Dr. Manon Simon lectured on solar radiation management, Dr. Ingrid Cox's work concerned interstitial lung disease and lung cancer and current PhD candidate, Branwell Roberts, delivered research on poetry and its uses in Antarctic history. They even shared some of their own poetry, which was well received.

THANK YOU

This year marks the final year of my three-year term as Student Councilor. 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*, and the range of generous awards and scholarships offered. I hope to better disseminate this information amongst student groups going forward.

In collaboration with other postgrad students, we have begun a newsletter, which I hope will feature the RST news and particularly the lecture and events series on a regular appearance. This will be particularly useful in the coming years as Humanities and Social Sciences merge in the same school.

This role, which seeks to represent the perspectives of graduate students in the wider activities of the RST, has allowed me to ensure that student perspectives were reflected, where appropriate, in Council decision-making. In particular, the PhD Lecture continues to provide an important forum for the presentation of postgraduate research and contributes to the intellectual life of the RST by promoting scholarly exchange and engagement.

I thank my fellow Council members for their support and collegiality during my term of office and extend my best wishes to the incoming Student Councillor.

Ms Evelyn Lambeth
Student Councillor

TASMANIAN MUSEUM & ART GALLERY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2025 marks my first full year as Chair of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, following my appointment on 21 June 2024. On appointment I succeeded the talented Brett Torossi, who has graciously agreed to continue on the Board alongside our other skilled Trustees Scott Baddiley, Heather Rose (retired), Denise Robinson, Adam Liaw and Andrew Young. I thank them all for their time, energy and collective wisdom throughout 2025, as we faced challenges and opportunities for our beloved TMAG.

A special thank you to Heather Rose who retired from the Board this year due to work commitments. Heather has given generously of her time and energy – even before she became a member of the Board. Heather’s passion for TMAG and telling Tasmanian stories is infectious and she has influenced both the Board and TMAG in their consideration of the role of the State Museum and Art Gallery and telling those stories with authenticity and passion.

A priority this year was to implement the TMAG 2025 - 2028 strategy where we focussed on TMAG’s research and collections including 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. I look forward to working with the rest of the Board with TMAG’s Executive team to achieve great things with this strategy.

In 2025 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 15 exhibitions such as *Hobart Current: Here* – co-directed by Board member Dr Denise Robinson and Travis Tiddy; *Home: Here and Now* which also travelled and was shown in the Launceston, Scottsdale and St Helens libraries; *On Island; Botanical Drawings by Lynne Uptin* showcasing the works that won Lynne the Royal Horticultural Society Best Botanical Art Exhibit, along with a Gold Medal, in 2024; *Inside Pompeii: Origins of a European Way of Life*; *Rex Greeno: Memories through Sea Stories*; *Written in Wood: Kevin Perkins inspired by Richard Flanagan*; and *On the Edge* which commemorated 50 years since the Tasman Bridge disaster. In 2025 TMAG began profiling Tasmanian sporting culture with two exhibitions *BBL|14: It Was Our Time* celebrating the Hobart Hurricanes’ first Big Bash League championship win and *The Jackies: Marching into NBL26* celebrating the Tasmania JackJumpers 2023/24 NBL Championship trophy.

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 also partnered a range of significant Festivals and community events including Beaker Street.

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 Plassey and The Quion in the Tasmanian Midlands, Flora of Tasmania Online. A highlight in 2025 was when the Head of the Herbarium Dr Gintaras Kantvilas won the Premier’s Tasmanian STEM Researcher of the Year Award 2025.

Once again TMAG has been fortunate to receive support from many generous donors and funders. I would like to express TMAG’s gratitude to the Australian Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts; Metal Manufactures Pty Ltd; the Keith Clarke Foundation; the Hobart City Council; the Tasmanian Department for Education, Children and Young People; Woolnorth Windfarm Holding Pty Ltd; CSIRO; Tasmanian Networks Pty Ltd; Detached Cultural Institution; the Pennicott Foundation; the Copland Foundation; the Australian Biological Resources Study; the Durno Bequest; Don Squires, Alison Green and Jayne Wilson Bequests; and the Gordon Darling Foundation.

The many members of the Tasmanian public and visitors to our island who come to TMAG, along with all those who visit on-line, help fulfil a key purpose of sharing the knowledge of and delight in the State Collection. Thank you for your interest and for visiting TMAG and for taking the time to provide us with important feedback. Your feedback is incredibly important, and which helps us to improve our programs and offerings.

The RST and TMAG continue to work together on many projects in 2025. One of the most important is 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. Following advice and endorsement from the Palawa kani team at the Tasmania Aboriginal Centre the project has been named pumili nayri (making good). I look forward to delivering on this significant commitment in 2027.



While the ownership of a small number of works remains disputed between the Royal Society and TMAG, I thank The Royal Society for their patience as we work around our day-to-day business and track down the evidence and provenance for these works. I hope that collegiality, friendship, and partnership will help us finally resolve this issue in 2026.

On behalf of the Board, I thank the Minister for the Arts, the Hon Madeleine Ogilvie MP, the Department of State Growth, and the Tasmanian Government for their support and funding that allows TMAG to continue its important work.

I am pleased that The Royal Society of Tasmania and the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery continue to work collaboratively together and that we have been able to build a stronger relationship with the RST Council. I would like to thank 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

