ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1987

The Council has the honour to present to members the following report on the activities of the Society during the year.

COUNCIL AND OFFICE BEARERS

Patron
Her Majesty the Queen

President
His Excellency the Governor of Tasmania
Sir James Plimsoll
succeeded by General Sir Phillip Bennett

Vice-Presidents

Dr P. G. Quilty
Mr C. A. H. Payne

Council

Mr P. M. Bennison
Mrs R. M. Cameron
Mr G. Davis
Dr P. W. McCartney
Prof. O. M. Roe

Dr J. S. Rogers
Mr R. R. Shepherd
Mr C. B. Tassell
Mr M. J. Walsh

Honorary Secretary
Mr D. R. Gregg

Honorary Treasurer
Mr T. A. H. Knight

Honorary Auditor
Mr R. J. Dwyer

Honorary Editor
Dr M. R. Banks

Assistant Honorary Editor
Dr S. J. Smith

His Excellency Sir James Plimsoll,
A.C., C.B.E. (1917–1987)

Sir James Plimsoll, Governor of Tasmania and President of the Society from 1982 to 1987, died on 8 May 1987.

Sir James served as President of the Society from his appointment as Governor of Tasmania in October 1982. He took a lively interest in the activities of the Society and frequently took the chair as President of the Society at meetings of the Society, both in Hobart and Launceston. He did so at the Annual General Meetings in March 1987.

The Council valued his advice on various projects in which the Society was involved and, as recently as 29 April 1987, the Senior Vice-President and Honorary Secretary had consulted Sir James.

Sir James will be greatly missed but Council are grateful for his four and a half years of dedicated service as President of the Society.
Volume 121 of the Papers and Proceedings, published in July 1987, was dedicated to the memory of this outstanding Australian.

Deaths of Members

The deaths of the following members during the year are recorded with regret: Dr G.W. Johnstone, Dr T.H.G. Dick, Mr P.B. Walker, Mr G.F. Davies, A.O., C.M.G., Mr T.D. Raphael, and Professor G.H. Newstead, O.B.E.

Honours

Two former Vice-Presidents of the Society were admitted to Membership in the Order of Australia in the 1987 Queen’s Birthday Honours. They were: Dr June Olley for service to science, particularly food science (Vice-President 1972–73) and Mr I.W.E. Wyett for service to the health industry (Vice-President 1957–58).

Mr H.R. Burton of the Antarctic Division, Department of Science, was awarded the Antarctic Medal on 21 June 1987.

Royal Society of Tasmania Medal

At the 1987 Annual General Meeting it was resolved that the Royal Society of Tasmania Medal be awarded to Eric Oswald Gale Scott (1899-1986) for his distinguished research in zoology. This was the first posthumous award of the medal since its establishment in 1927.

The medal was presented to Dr D.L. Scott, Mr Scott’s son, by the President, His Excellency Sir James Plimsoll, at the Annual Meeting of the Northern Branch in Launceston on 13 March 1987. Previous recipients have been:

1927 Mr L. Rodway
1930 Mr C.E. Lord
1934 Mr H.H. Scott
1935 Dr A.N. Lewis
1940 Dr W.L. Crowther and Prof. V.V. Hickman
1948 Prof T. Griffith-Taylor
1950 Professor J.T. Wilson
1957 Professor F. Walker
1959 Sir Edmund Hillary
1977 Professor S.W. Carey
1983 Dr A.G. Fenton


Medals of the Royal Society

Mr Roger V. McNeice, Honorary Numismatist to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, has published an account of the four medals issued by the Society, entitled “Medals of the Royal Society of Tasmania” (Journal of the Numismatic Association 3: 27–30, 1987).

Annual Meeting

At the Annual Meeting on 3 March, Dr P.W. McCartney retired as Vice-President and Mr D. Hughes and Mr C.A.H. Payne as Members of the Council. The following were elected:

Vice-President

Mr C.A.H. Payne

Members of Council

Mr G. Davis
Mr M.J. Walsh
Mr P.M. Bennison
(to fill casual vacancy)

Honorary Secretary

Mr D.R. Gregg

Honorary Treasurer

Mr T.A.H. Knight

Honorary Auditor

Mr R.J. Dwyer

Membership

The membership is 465, an increase of 34, and is made up as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Northern Branch</th>
<th>Total</th>
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Council Meetings

The Council met four times during the year with Mrs R. M. Cameron and Mr C. B. Tassell representing the Northern Branch on the Council.
Sir Joseph Banks Memorial Lecture

Planting is well advanced for the lecture series to be given in August–October 1988 in each Australian State capital, Canberra and London. The lecturer is Professor Sir David Smith, F.R.S., Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh, and his subject will be “Commemorating Sir Joseph Banks — symbiosis and the concept of mutual benefit”.

The lecture series has been sponsored by Qantas and Ansett who are providing free travel for Sir David. The Australian Bicentennial Authority has provided a grant towards the cost of a booklet.

A medal, designed by Stephen Walker, is being struck to commemorate the lecture series.

The inaugural lecture of the series will be delivered in Hobart on 25 August 1988.

Library

Mr Stefan Petrow resumed duty as Royal Society Librarian late in 1987 after having been on leave of absence since 1984. He reports on activities at the Library for the year:

This year the library operated with reduced staff. While the day-to-day running of the library was maintained during the year, initially under the supervision of Mrs B. Chalmers and in the latter half under Mrs P. Clesnet, no major projects were possible. It is hoped that users experienced little or no inconvenience.

During the year 368 members, University staff and students and other users signed the visitors’ book. A number of significant and sometimes lengthy reference queries were received from members and other researchers. Many (144) volumes were borrowed and a further 135 were consulted in the library. In addition, 125 inter-library loan requests were supplied to libraries in Australia and overseas.

Binding of Royal Society serials continued during the year and 215 volumes were bound.

In September 300 copies of volume 121 of the Papers and Proceedings were distributed to exchange partners.

Royal Society Room

From the June meeting, the new entrance to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery off Macquarie Street was used rather than that of the 1863 Henry Hunter building in Argyle Street. The entrance provides easy access for the disabled and toilets are available, including a toilet for the disabled, in the entrance building.

The Council records its appreciation to Sir Allan Knight who constructed a lectern for the room.

Publications

Volume 121 of the Papers and Proceedings was published on 22 July 1987. It comprised the Proceedings plus 170 pages, containing 18 papers. Thirty authors contributed papers on conchology, history, hydrology, mammalogy, palaeobotany, plant ecology, genetics, ecology and taxonomy, Quaternary history and shoreline processes.

The Tasman Peninsula Symposium proceedings are being edited and prepared for publication which is expected in the early part of the second half of the year.

By the time of the Annual Meeting it is anticipated that editorial work on the proceedings of the Macquarie Island Symposium (Volume 122, part 1) will be virtually complete and setting the volume up for printing well advanced. Publication in May is being aimed for.

Editing of Volume 122, part 2, is underway. Seven papers have been accepted and a further eight are being refereed or revised.

The Society is once more indebted to Dr Banks and Dr Smith for their dedicated work as editors.

Lectures

The following lectures were given at General Meetings during the year:

March — "Sea Level, Ice and the Greenhouse Effect" Dr P.G. Quilty, Antarctic Division, Department of Science (Vice-President)

April — "Conservation and the New Ecology" Dr Graeme Harris, CSIRO

May — "Sampling the Universe" Dr Mark Duldig, Antarctic Division, Department of Science

June — R. M. Johnston Memorial Lecture — "Unhealthy Behaviour and the Ethics of Coercion" Dr T.C. Beard, O.B.E.

July — "Malta: mid-way island" Prof. R. F. Cane

August — "Temperature and Microbiological Growth" Dr T.A. McMeekin, University of Tas.

September — "Scientific and Technological Development and the Future and the Need for Cultural Change" Ms Rhonda Galbally, Commission for the Future

October — "Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy in Tasmania" Dr P.W. McCartney (immediate past Vice-President)

November — "The Conservation of Living Marine Resources" Dr John Guland, Imperial College, London
Members' Night

Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery.

December

The Trustees as unhealthily high.

renovated over the period 1979 to 1986, has provided

spent

on salaries and related costs, a proportion seen by

The Queens Warehouse, constructed in 1870 and

various exhibitions including:

M. George, Queen Victoria Museum

Dunbar, Queen Victoria Museum

M. Morris-Nunn, Australian Bicentennial

search

Mr C. B. Tassell, Queen Victoria Museum

Mr C. Smith

Mr N.J.B. Skinner Prout in

A new display of medals, sponsored by the

Equitable Building Society through the Art Foundation

of Tasmania, was opened by H.E. General Sir Phillip

Bennett, Governor of Tasmania, on 14 December.

improved working and storage facilities for the history

and anthropology departments.

The 1824 Commissariat Bond Store has been

partially restored with a grant of $100,000 from the

Australian Bicentennial Authority and with the support

of Laver Pty Ltd.

The new building for the Tasmanian Herbarium

on the University of Tasmania Sandy Bay Campus was

occupied in November. The building of 570 m² and

costing about $930,000 will be opened by the Hon. Peter

Rae in February 1988. It is an innovative design, built

deliberately underground, and will provide secure storage

for the collection and pleasant working conditions for the

staff.

During 1987, 107,364 people visited the Museum

and Art Gallery, compared with 132,682 in 1986. In the

second half of the year some of the galleries were closed

in preparation for Bicentennial exhibitions.

Much work has been involved in preparation for

Tasmanian Vision, an exhibition of the art of nineteenth-

century Tasmania. The exhibition, sponsored by the SBT

Bank, opened to the public on 1 January 1988 and was

formally opened by the Governor-General of Australia

on 14 January. The exhibition is to be shown in Hobart

until 21 February 1988 and then will be on view at the

Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Launceston,

from 16 March until 1 May 1988. The exhibition has been

indemnified by the Tasmanian and Australian

Governments.

During the year there was an active programme of

temporary exhibitions including: Skinner Prout in

Australia 1840–48 (December 1986–February), Edward

Munch: Death and Desire (February–April), Design in

Sweden Now (April–May), Western Australian Art

(April–May), More and Chandon Touring Exhibition

(June–July), Australian Built: Responding to the Place

(July–August), David Chapman 1927–83: The

Tasmanian Years (July–August), Claude Monet's

"Haystack, Sun in the Haze" (September–October), Inuit:

People of a White Land (September–November), Helge

Larsen and Durand Lewers (October–November), Lloyd

Rees, the Tasmanian Suite (October–November),

Tasmanian Inventions and Innovations (November–December), and Captured Images: Photographs from the Collection (December–).
display includes three Victoria Crosses awarded to Tasmanians and the only George Cross awarded to a Tasmanian.

The Art Foundation of Tasmania continued to encourage support from the private sector for the Museum and Art Gallery. In addition to the medal display, the following works of art were purchased through the Foundation: *Dawn* by Arthur Fleischmann, 1963, bronze; *The Reverend Henry Dowling*, by Robert Dowling, 1850s, oil on canvas. The Friends of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery Incorporated provided funds to purchase a painting *Cressy landscape with a red cloud shadow*, by David Chapman, 1982.

Dr J. E. S. Townrow was re-elected by the Council to serve a further term on the Board of Trustees of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens. She reports on the year's activities:

"Despite continued stringent cuts in Government funding, members of the staff have succeeded in maintaining the Gardens at a standard sufficient to win the Tasmanian 1987 Tourism Award for "Outstanding Achievement in the Category of Tourist Attraction", with the State's highest visitor total of over 250,000 for the year. Our Minister, the Hon. Peter Hodgman's enthusiastic support is well justified and the Superintendent, Mr Tony May, and his workers are to be congratulated.

The actual number of visitors recorded was 285,418, an increase of 21% on 1986 figures, largely attributable to the popularity of the Japanese Garden opened 18 February and publicised world wide by the wedding of famous Japanese film stars Hiroshi Fujioka and Keiko Torri.

The Government allocation for 1987/88 was $943,700, an increase of 2.3% over the 1986/87 grants, which was insufficient to cover wage and price cost variations resulting in the need to make considerable savings through cuts in services.

The Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens was granted registration in May as a Scientific Institution under the *Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act* 1984, enabling import/export of native plant material to other scientific institutions.

Stage I of the Technical Support Services Centre housing the Nursery and staff, commenced December 1986, and as yet without heating, was formally opened by the Minister on 17 November. Foreman Mr Don Harding retired in March after 18 years in charge of the Nursery. It is ironic that the Nursery staff so crowded and poorly accommodated for so many years is now under strength by three due to resignations and retirement.

The popularity of the Japanese Garden was reflected in declining visitors to the Museum and Education Centre in spite of the popularity of several very fine displays. These included "Acacias", the Tasmanian Bark Artists Association exhibition of bark paintings in March, and the successful reintroduction of the live beehive in November.

The Information and Education Officer, Mr Alan Gray resigned on 30 June after nearly five years with the Gardens to take up private consulting work. The position has not yet been filled because of financial stringencies, resulting in an extra load on the office staff answering public enquiries. The Museum was reopened in August with the help of Mr Gray working on contract to set up new displays, and the volunteer Friends of the Gardens on roster duty on weekdays.

The Horticultural Therapy unit has been extended by the completion (about 12 months behind schedule) of a new outdoor practical work area with seven demonstration raised beds. Two teak tables and garden benches have been donated by the Ex-Services Women's Association. Horticultural Therapist, Mrs Pat Mavromatis (formerly Miss Hewitt), continues to expand her services to the disabled community with classes, workshops, home and hospital visits, classes in the Women's Gaol and talks to clubs and community groups. This year the Gardens were visited by 1250 frail and elderly people thanks to the volunteer-driven bus tours run in association with the Easy Access Garden. Mrs Mavromatis has been appointed as the Deputy Chairperson of the Home and Community Care Advisory Committee.

The Gardens Plant Recording Programme has been greatly assisted by continuing mapping of the Gardens by the staff and students of the Surveying and Cartographic Department of the Hobart Technical College with the first 10 sheets of maps completed, Mrs Sue Wells, Plant Recording Officer, has recorded about two-thirds of the existing planting on the Gardens card system, and over 8000 plant labels are now placed around the Gardens. An analysis of the renowned Conifer Collection revealed nearly 500 species with representatives of all eight conifer families in the three major orders.

The Conservatory continued to delight visitors with new additions to its splendid displays including liliums and primulas. Other increasingly popular features in the year's programme were the Spring and Autumn Plant and Bird Walks followed by breakfast in the Restaurant, the Mini Tulip Festival and the Teddy Bears' Picnic.
Acknowledgements

The Council is grateful for help generously given by many individuals and organisations. In particular, the lecturers, the Government of Tasmania, the University of Tasmania, the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery and the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery are specially thanked for their help and cooperation.

D.R. Gregg  P.G. Quilly
Honorary Secretary  Senior Vice-President
5 February 1988

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31 December 1987

General Account

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Papers and Proceedings Account

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ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA
Balance Sheets as at 31 December 1987

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The Society owns works of art which have been donated over the years and which do not appear on the Balance Sheet. They are all housed in the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery and are covered by that organisation's insurance. A catalogue is available to members listing these works of art.

T.A.H. Knight, Hon. Treasurer