ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1984

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

Vice-Presidents
Dr J.E.S. Townrow
Mr I.D. Geard

Council
Mr A.V. Brown
Mr D.G. Hannan
Mr D. Hughes
Dr P.W. McCartney
Mr C.A. Payne

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

Honorary Assistant Editor
Dr S.J. Smith

President
Sir James Plimsoll took the Chair, as President of the Society, at the Annual General Meeting in March.

Membership
The membership is 464, the same as 1982 and 1983, and is made up as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Northern Branch</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Honorary Life Members</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Members</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ordinary Members receiving the Papers and Proceedings</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ordinary Members not receiving the Papers and Proceedings</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Members</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>162</td>
<td>464</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Annual Meeting

At the Annual Meeting on 6 March, Mr L.E. Wall retired as Vice President and Miss R.H. Barnett and Mr I.D. Geard as Members of the Council. The following were elected:

Vice-President
Mr I.D. Geard

Members of Council
Mr D. Hughes
Mr C.A. Payne

Honorary Secretary
Mr D.R. Gregg

Honorary Treasurer
Mr T.A.H. Knight

Honorary Auditor
Mr R.J. Dwyer
Vernon Victor Hickman, OBE, (1894–1984)

Professor Emeritus V.V. Hickman died in Hobart on 20 November 1984, aged 90.

Professor Hickman joined the Society in 1915 and gave dedicated service both as a member and office-holder. He was awarded the Royal Society of Tasmania medal in 1940 and the Clive Lord Memorial Medal in 1960. He was elected an Honorary Life Member in 1967.

The Council places on record its appreciation of his contributions both to the Society and to science and education during his long and active life.

Council Meetings

The Council met four times during the year with Mr D.G. Hannan and Mr C.B. Tassell representing the Northern Branch on the Council.

Library

The Library has continued to function smoothly during the year. The Librarian, Stefan Petrow, left in September on leave of absence to resume studies for a period, and he was replaced by Mrs Gaye Thavisin, working 65% of full-time. Mrs Jane Hutchison remains as part-time clerical assistant.

Visitors to the Library signing the register totalled 520 for 1984, a significant increase on last year's total of 380. Loans of material, chiefly from the Serials collection, numbered 290. The Library supplied 93 items, mainly photocopies, in response to interlibrary loan requests, both from within Australia and abroad, during the year.

Binding of periodicals remained a high priority, and during the year 889 volumes were bound.

In October 1984, 296 copies of Vol. 118 of the Papers and Proceedings were mailed to exchange partners, 54 volumes to partners in Australia, and 242 to partners elsewhere in the world. In the course of the year, our exchange agreement with the Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society was terminated.

Early in the year the Northern Branch of the Society sent its collection of surplus books to the Librarian. 46 titles not already held by the Library were added to its collection, and the remaining 59 titles were valued. These were subsequently offered for sale to members of the Northern Branch.

The following books were donated to the Library in 1984:


In addition two monographs were received from exchange partners:


During the year the Rare Book Collection was reshelved more appropriately, the pamphlet collection thoroughly examined and stored correctly, and the Ernest Clark and history collections filed in one sequence for easier access.

Publications

Volume 118 of the Papers and Proceedings was published in August 1984. It contained 18 papers by 30 authors and totalled 248 pages.

A new method of production, involving the use of a word-processor, is to be employed for Volume 119.

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

Lectures

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

March

‘The East Australian Current’

Dr George Cresswell, CSIRO Division of Oceanography

April

‘Some aspects of self defence in plants’

Professor J.V. Lovett, University of Tasmania

May

‘A gaggle of greenies: 200 years of taxonomic botany in Tasmania’

Dr A.E. Orchard, Tasmanian Herbarium
June  ‘The ‘Pandora’ re-discovered’  Ms Shirley Lester,  Queen Victoria Museum and  Art Gallery


August  ‘AIDS and other things that happen to some people’  Dr David Evans,  Commonwealth Pathology Laboratory

September  ‘The Black War: a new look at an old story’ Eldershaw Memorial Lecture. Joint meeting with  Tasmanian Historical Research Association  Professor Henry Reynolds,  James Cook University of  Townsville

October  ‘Aquaculture: food, finance or fantasy?’  Dr T.G. Dix,  Tasmanian Fisheries Development Authority

November  ‘EZ’s role as a corporate citizen of Tasmania’  Mr W.T. Wise,  Electrolytic Zinc Co. of  Australasia Ltd

December  ‘Prehistoric archaeology in another Southern land’  Professor Hilary Deacon,  University of Stellenbosch

Two excursions were held. On 9 June, a visit was made to the Tasmanian Herbarium. On 10 November, members visited the Risdon plant of the Electrolytic Zinc Company of Australasia Ltd.

Northern Branch

Chairman  Mr D.G. Hannan
Vice-Chairman  Mrs G.M. Morris
Past Chairman  Mr B.A. Pike
Council Members  Mr R.E. Ward  Mr J.H. Chambers  Dr D. Hamilton  Mrs R.M. Cameron
Honorary Secretary  Mr C.B. Tassell
Honorary Treasurer  Mr K.E.J. Robinson
Branch representatives on the Council  Mr D.G. Hannan  Mr C.B. Tassell

The Branch Council met six times during the year.
The following lectures were given at General Meetings:

March  His life as a musician  Mr Jan Sedivka,  University of Tasmania

April  Pensions in retirement  Mr Jamieson  Investment in retirement  Mr Macdonald  Launceston Bank for Savings

May  Aquaculture  Dr A. Osborne, Dr N. Forteith,  Tasmanian College of Advanced Education

June  Forum — Allergies  Dr R. Mecoy, Dr D. Hamilton,  Mr A. McLeod
A major symposium, organised jointly with ANZAAS, was presented in Launceston on Saturday 22 September. The topic, Bass Strait, covered the potential it offers Tasmania and the problems it has presented to the development of this state.

Ten guest speakers, with the Chairman Mr Jack Edwards discussed a number of subjects during the day-long symposium. Participating speakers were:

Dr S. Murray-Smith (University of Melbourne): Bass Strait Today — a Survey

Mr J.K. Davidson (Petrecon Australia Pty Ltd): The Geological Evolution and the Petroleum Industry of the Bass Basin

Dr C.B. Fandry (CSIRO Division of Oceanography): The Physical Oceanography of Bass Strait

Mr G.R. Stackhouse (President of the Australian Fishing Industry Council): Commercial Fisheries of Bass Strait

Mr B.J. Lynch (Premiers Department): Dimensions in Bass Strait Shipping — a Perspective

Mr R.T.J. Holymann and Mr O.J. Warren (Wm Holymann and Sons Pty Ltd): Bass Strait Transport: Development and Prospects

Mr K.V. Korofeeff (Proprietor of the King Island News): King Island’s Resources are yet to be Tested

Mr J.D. Duigan (‘Kronstadt’, Flinders Island): Agriculture and Other Occupations and the Special Problems Confronting Island Communities with an overview and summary given by Professor G.N. Blainey of the University of Melbourne.

Associated with the symposium were exhibitions on maritime archaeology presented at the Launceston Bank for Savings and the Northern Regional Library.

**Excursion**

The November meeting took the form of an excursion from 3 to 5 November to the Port Arthur historic site.

**Nominees to Other Bodies**

The Council re-elected Dr M.R. Banks and Mr A.R. Neilson to the Board of Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. They report on the year’s activities:

The 1984 State Budget provided $1 060 000 to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, an increase of only 6% on the previous year. The Trustees were gravely disappointed that the grant fell so far below their demonstrable needs. The amount able to be allocated for collection purchases was a very inadequate $50 000.

Funds have, however, enabled the permanent employment of three additional members of staff who were previously employed with Commonwealth funds under the Wage Pause Programme and the Australian Biological Resources Study.

The Wage Pause Programme and, later, the Community Employment Programme provided welcome sources of funds to employ otherwise unemployed people to assist with various projects. Under the Wage Pause Programme, eight people were employed for periods of up to 52 weeks. Grants under the Community Employment Programme enabled ten people to be employed for periods ranging from 14 to 52 weeks.
The Trustees continue to be disturbed at the lack of progress with building development for the Museum and Art Gallery in Hobart. They look forward, however, to resumption of work on the renovation of the buildings in 1985.

At Zeehan, the renovation of the first floor of the Post Office building has been completed and this will provide much-needed extra space for displays.

The Art Foundation of Tasmania, launched by His Excellency the Governor in July 1984, has encouraged support from the private sector for acquisitions for the collections of the Museum and Art Gallery. The Tasmanian Government has agreed to a dollar-for-dollar subsidy on donations up to a maximum subsidy of $225,000 over three years. The donations pledged by the 8 corporate and 16 individual members, together with the promised Government subsidy, totalled $190,850 at the end of 1984.

During the 1984 year, 156,651 people visited the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, compared with 144,877 in 1983. The America's Cup attracted record crowds when it was on show from 26 December 1983 to 8 January 1984.

The Tasmanian Government, in August 1984, announced that all Tasmanian Aboriginal human remains held in the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery and the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery were to be handed over to representatives of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community. Legislation to implement this decision, the Museums (Aboriginal Remains) Act 1984, was passed by Parliament in November 1984.

The Tasmanian State Service Act and other related Acts were passed by Parliament in May 1984. Amendments to the Tasmanian Museum Act 1950 drastically curtail the powers of the Trustees to employ staff. The new amendments also permit the Governor to dismiss the Chairman of Trustees if the Chairman refuses to comply with employment or administrative instructions issued under the Tasmanian State Service Act.

Dr. Banks was re-elected Chairman of Trustees for a period of three months at the beginning of 1984. Mr. Neilson was elected Chairman in May 1984. Dr. Banks declined to be nominated for re-election to the Trustees and at the end of 1984 finished a period of 11 years dedicated service on the Board.

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:

The Trustees wish to congratulate the Superintendent, Mr. A.P. May, on being awarded the Australian Nurserymen's Award of Merit 1984 for outstanding service to the industry. His dedicated work, coupled with the breaking of the seven year drought in spring this year, was reflected in the notably improved overall condition of the Gardens and the particularly good spring displays. Hopefully, the increased rains will result in a significantly lowered water rate compared with the $9,160 paid last financial year.

The total number of visitors to the Gardens was 228,506, a drop of 1% from the previous year. However, despite this drop, the number of visitors to the Museum and Education Centre rose by 30% to 24,674, the highest since its inception. This pleasing increase reflects the continued improvements in displays, the excellent work of Mr. Alan Gray, Information and Education officer, and the altered opening hours of 12 noon to 4 p.m. The new Museum exhibits included a fern display in the Native Plant Room and seven framed charts of mounted native wildflowers of the Freycinet Peninsula, presented by Mrs. Maureen Johnstone, Blubber Head Press.

The Tasmanian Government, in August 1984, announced that all Tasmanian Aboriginal human remains held in the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery and the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery were to be handed over to representatives of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community. Legislation to implement this decision, the Museums (Aboriginal Remains) Act 1984, was passed by Parliament in November 1984.

Completed Gardens projects include the new Cactus and Succulent House, with one of the largest collections in Australia totalling more than
2,500, and the planted Camellia and Rhododendron
Garden. The latter, designed and directed by
Landscape Architect Dr J. Vitesnik employed a
number of people funded under the Community
Employment Programme Scheme.
Following contact from the Mayor of Hobart
to the Mayor of Yaizu and reciprocal visits of staff
and representatives to Tasmania and Japan, plans
for a Japanese Garden in Hobart and an Australian
Garden in Yaizu have been exchanged. The Japanese
Garden will be sited in the Eastern Section beyond
the French Memorial and rockeries, and below the
new Erica and Proteaceae garden.
A Toyota Hortotherapy van, donated to the
Gardens by the Rotary Club of Hobart and staffed
by voluntary Friends of the Gardens and Probus
Club drivers, has been extensively used by growing
numbers of disabled and elderly people on conducted
tours of the Gardens. The glasshouse and work
area of the Easy Access Garden are now complete
and it is expected that a Hortotherapist will be
appointed in the New Year.

The Trustees have given close attention to
confirming the Gardens' ownership of the foreshore
area between the railway line and the River Der-
went, not including that section formerly owned by
the Gardens which was taken over by the Govern-
ment for construction of the floating bridge and
subsequently utilised for industrial purposes.

Acknowledgements

The Council is grateful for help generously
given by many individuals and organisations. In
particular, the lecturers, the Government of Tas-
mania, 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.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

Statement of Receipts and Payments
for the year ended 31 December 1984

General Account

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance</td>
<td>5,011.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subscriptions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>243 @ $12</td>
<td>2,920.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>109 @ $8</td>
<td>872.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 @ $5</td>
<td>80.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other years</td>
<td>186.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>344.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>18.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales of publications and</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papers and Proceedings</td>
<td>1,829.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University subvention</td>
<td>6,355.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>10,526.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>544.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>11,070.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance carried forward</td>
<td>11,070.69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Papers and Proceedings Account

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>1,038.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>544.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,583.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance carried forward</td>
<td>1,583.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$21,633.97

$21,633.97
Accumulation Account

Balance 1 January 1984

Add Increased cash at bank 7 332.09
Net decrease in advance subscriptions 81.00
Net increase in valuation of publications for sale 1 258.85
Deduct Net transfers to Trust Funds 65 035.61

Balance 31 December 1984

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 1984

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1983</th>
<th>1984</th>
<th>1983</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated Funds</td>
<td>56 363.67</td>
<td>63 263.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subscriptions in advance</td>
<td>210.00</td>
<td>33.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust Funds:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clive Lord Memorial Fund</td>
<td>1 724.59</td>
<td>5 011.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.N. Lewis Memorial Fund</td>
<td>2 894.51</td>
<td>1 038.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morton Allport Memorial</td>
<td>1 304.53</td>
<td>278.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.A. Clark Bequest</td>
<td>528.56</td>
<td>404.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Milligan Bequest</td>
<td>3 551.62</td>
<td>573.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R.M. Johnston Memorial Fund</td>
<td>1 914.07</td>
<td>3 904.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Oliver Bequest</td>
<td>838.68</td>
<td>2 081.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W.H. Hudspeth Memorial</td>
<td>1 923.94</td>
<td>925.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Membership Fund</td>
<td>3 121.79</td>
<td>2 121.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3 423.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>19 570.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>14 845.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>16 104.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>82 962.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>74 371.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>82 962.90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>