

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1979

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 Stanley Burbury

Vice-Presidents

Mr A. Dartnall	Mr J.D. Thomson
Mr G.E. Hale	Mr S.J. Thrower
Mr E.H. Norton	Mr R.E. Ward
Mr K.E.J. Robinson	Mr P.G. Webb

Honorary Secretary
Mr D.R. Gregg

Honorary Treasurer
Mr T.A.H. Knight

Honorary Auditor
Mr D.B. Churchill

Honorary Editor
Dr M.R. Banks

PRESIDENT

Sir Stanley Burbury took the Chair, as President of the Society, at the Annual General Meeting in March. He also took the Chair at the General Meeting of the Northern Branch in August.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

Mr G.E.A. Hale was elected an Honorary Life Member in recognition of the outstanding service he has given to the Society particularly as Honorary Treasurer from 1954 to 1977.

ANNUAL MEETING

At the Annual Meeting on 6 March, Mr G.E.A. Hale retired as Vice-President, and Mr R.J. Downie and Mr A.R. Neilson as Members of the Council. The following were elected -

Vice President	Mr R.J. Downie
Members of Council	Mr A.J. Dartnall
	Mr G.E.A. Hale
Honorary Secretary	Mr D.R. Gregg
Honorary Treasurer	Mr T.A.H. Knight
Honorary Auditor	Mr D.B. Churchill

REVIEW OF RULES

The committee set up in 1978 to carry out an overall review of the Society's function and to make recommendations on possible changes to the Rules has reported to the Council and the report is under consideration.

BICENTENNIAL OF FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALIA

The Council has discussed ways of appropriately marking the bicentennial of the European settlement of Australia in 1788.

LECTURES

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

March	'Alpine Landforms of the Colorado Rocky Mountains'	Professor Nelson Caine University of Colorado
April	'The Greek Arrival in Tasmania Architecture'	Dr E.V. Ratcliff Launceston
May	'Wildlife Conservation'	Dr I.B. Eberhard National Parks and Wildlife Service
June	'Requiem for the gum trees? Some problems old and new'	Dr Frank Podger CSIRO, Hobart
July	'Solar Heating'	Mr R.G. Sutton TCAE, Mt Nelson
August	'Tasmanian Shell Fisheries - lessons from the past and planning for the future'	Mr A.J. Harrison Tasmanian Fisheries Development Authority
September	'The City in an Era of Restricted Car Usage : potential responses to future energy shortages'	Dr Trevor Lee University of Tasmania
October	'Probing the interior of the inner planets'	Professor D. Green University of Tasmania
November	'Bureaucratic Reform - a bureaucrat's perspective'	Mr N.C.K. Evers Director of Energy

LIBRARY

The thorough reorganisation of the library, its procedures and records, which Mrs D.A. Lewis was charged to carry out when she was appointed Librarian in July 1977, continued throughout 1979 and was completed in all important respects by the end of the year when Mrs Lewis retired. During the year work continued on the re-arrangement and tidying up of the serials collection, which had been commenced in 1978, and this large undertaking was completed by August. The review of the Library's exchange arrangement was also completed and all records brought up-to-date.

At its February meeting Council agreed to reduce the very substantial stock of back issues of the *Papers and Proceedings* stored in the Library. It was decided that for all volumes up to and including 1969 a maximum stock of 50 copies of each should be

retained and that all surplus copies should be made available to members at 20¢ per issue. The sale was conducted from March to mid-May and proved very successful : takings exceeded \$1200 with many full priced publications being sold in addition to the bargain issues, and a considerable amount of much needed shelf space was freed in the Library.

Throughout the year the Library was given special priority in access to the University Library's bindery with the result that almost double the normal annual quota of binding was accepted. A total of 1194 volumes were bound.

In July work commenced on a revision of the Library's catalogue of serials holdings and this was completed by the end of November. The new catalogue, in addition to being a complete and up-to-date record of holdings, is easier to use than its predecessor because its entries are simpler. Future plans are for these records to be entered into the University Library's catalogue data base and for a separate microfiche listing of the Society's serials holdings to be produced.

Three additional pieces of equipment were provided early in the year. These were a wooden display rack for displaying current issues of journals, a microfiche reader primarily for use of the University Library's microfiche catalogue and a photocopying machine. The latter item has proved less useful than anticipated because of poor mechanical performance and it is planned to replace it with a new machine in 1980.

During the year 395 visits by members of the Society, University staff and students, and other users were recorded in the Register of Users. The Library supplied 198 items in response to interlibrary loan requests in the course of the year.

The Council is grateful to Mrs Lewis for her dedicated service to the Society and, in particular, for her reorganisation of the Library.

PUBLICATIONS

Volume 113 of the *Papers and Proceedings* was published in July 1979. It contained 15 papers by 16 authors and totalled 191 pages. Format was changed slightly to include a bibliographic identification ("biblid") with the abstract of each paper.

FINANCES

Despite rising costs of producing the *Papers and Proceedings*, the Society's contribution has been reduced in the current year by \$3,568 as a result of a smaller volume and the increased subsidies received from the Tasmanian Government and the University of Tasmania.

Recovery of outstanding subscriptions has helped to increase revenue by \$290 and this, together with the \$1,200 resulting from the sale of publications, has increased bank holdings by \$4,406 despite a generally lower return from investments.

It is disappointing to have to report that \$87 in cash has been mislaid and has not been found after an extensive search. Procedures have been tightened to prevent a similar occurrence in the future.

MEMBERSHIP

During the year the membership was 506, an increase of 3. The membership is made up as follows -

	Northern Branch	Total
Honorary Life Members	2	7
Life Members	8	37
Ordinary Members receiving the <i>Papers and Proceedings</i>	69	266
Ordinary Members not receiving the <i>Papers and Proceedings</i>	94	173
Associate Members	<u>15</u>	<u>23</u>
	188	506

NORTHERN BRANCH

The Northern Branch of the Society based in Launceston elected the following Council:

Chairman	Mr H.S. Payne
Vice-Chairman	Dr D.F. Smith
Honorary Secretary	Mr P.G. Webb
Honorary Treasurer	Mr J.D.A. Abey
Honorary Auditor	Mr H.C.A. Pitt
Council Members	Mr P.F.J. Leonard (elected 1978)
	Mr D. Walter (elected 1978)
	Mrs N.I. Hardy Wilson (elected 1978)
	Mr B. Pike
	Mrs B. Davies

The Council co-opted the following members:

Mr K.E.J. Robinson
Dr E.V.R. Ratcliffe

The Branch Council met four times; it was represented on the Society's Council by Messrs R. Ward and P.G. Webb, and two members of Council served on the Committee set up to review the Rules.

The following lectures were given:

March	'The Life and Ballads of A.B. Paterson'	Mr R. Ward
April	'Impressions of a visit to the People's Republic of China'	Mrs M. Smith & Mr P.G. Webb
May	'The Authority of Politics in Today's Society'	Senator J.O. Watson
June	'The Authority of Religion in Today's Society'	Mr M.H. Todd
July	'The Authority of Sport in Today's Society'	Mr R.S. Collins
August	'The Authority of Science in Today's Society'	Dr C. O'Flaherty

The May to August lectures comprised the third series by staff of the Tasmanian College of Advanced Education, Newnham.

September	'The World of Birds - a Scientific and Fun Study'	Mr David Henderson
October	'Indonesia'	Mr D. Walter

November	'The Work of the Museum, and its Role in the Community'	Messrs C.B. Tassell, M. Clark and D. Woods
December	Members Night - 'Impressions of Israel' 'The Uniqueness of the Seychelles'	Mr G.H. Stancombe Dr D.F. Smith

Excursions visited the Blue Tier - St Helens area at Easter, and Mathinna on 3 November.

The Branch assisted the Tasmanian Historical Research Association in presenting the 1979 Eldershaw Memorial Lecture by Professor K.S. Inglis.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Council met four times during the year with Mr R.E. Ward and Mr P.G. Webb representing the Northern Branch on the Council.

NOMINEES TO OTHER BODIES

The Council re-elected Dr M.R. Banks and Dr D. Martin to the Board of Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. They report on the year's activities:

The building at 40 Macquarie Street, built in 1808-10, has been renovated with funds provided by the Tasmanian Government and was opened by the Premier on 30 November 1979. It houses the administration, education, art and art conservation sections. The building is the first to be occupied of those purchased from the Commonwealth in 1977. Funds have been made available in the 1979 Budget to enable the renovations to continue and work will soon start on the ground floor of the Queen's Warehouse, built about 1869 behind the Macquarie Street Store.

The Trustees welcomed the decision of the Tasmanian Government to purchase the Zeehan Post Office from the Commonwealth and to make the first floor available for extensions to the West Coast Pioneers' Memorial Museum. The building will make a useful and appropriate addition to the display area of the Museum. The Trustees have decided to appoint a curator to take charge of the Museum at Zeehan.

During the 1978-79 financial year visitors to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery totalled 103,000. Visitors to the West Coast Pioneers' Memorial Museum were estimated at 124,000.

Dr Banks was re-elected Chairman of Trustees. There have been a number of changes in membership of the Board. Mr G.F. Davies resigned in February 1979 having served as a Trustee since 1957. Mr G.C. Cramp retired at the end of 1979 having served since 1955. Mr L.W. Miller resigned in June 1978 having served since 1951. Dr D.F. Smith served as a Trustee from August 1978 till October 1979.

Dr Jocelyn E.S. Townrow continued as the Council's nominee on the Board of Trustees of the Royal Tasmanian Botanic Gardens. She reports on the year's activities:

Continued upgrading of the Gardens over the past year has excited much public comment, particularly appreciation of the floral displays in the grounds and

the Conservatory. Completed projects include the gazebo and surrounding rockeries beside the playground, installation of the W.J. Syme Memorial Fountain, interior landscaping of the Fuschia House, and planting of an extensive herb garden. A shelter and viewing platform designed and donated by the Department of Environmental Design, Tasmanian College of Advanced Education, in collaboration with the Timber Promotion Board to promote Tasmanian timbers in reusable form will shortly appear in the northern Eucalypt section and will enhance and support present efforts to develop this area for native and endemic species.

Mr Brian Lumb, who was appointed 31 October as Assistant Superintendent, has taken over the field administration of the Gardens, freeing the Superintendent, Mr A.P. May, to concentrate on administration and advisory work.

The Gardens Museum was opened by the Minister, the Hon T.G. Aulich, on 6 September with four of the rooms of the Superintendent's Cottage devoted to special displays including a Gardens historical section, endemic and native species, 100 native and introduced grasses, Tasmanian orchids, Huon Pine section with dated growth rings, vases and bowls of turned Tasmanian timbers, aromatic oils from Tasmanian trees, a philatelic display with a botanical theme, and a propagating room and associated glasshouse for instruction of school children. About 25 members of the general public have volunteered as Friends of the Gardens and are rostered to assist Mr Marcus Hurburgh, the Education and Information Officer, in the daily supervision of the Museum.

The number of visitors to the Gardens was 157,000, an increase of approximately 6% over last year. Tourist buses now stay at least one hour at the Gardens reflecting the increased public interest in the general displays and increased educational facilities.

The State Government grant of \$500,000 is once again insufficient to allow rebuilding of the almost derelict depot area or replacement of No 4 glasshouse which is in a similarly dangerous condition.

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.

E.A. COLHOUN

Senior Vice-President

D.R. GREGG

Honorary Secretary

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 1979

	1978		1979		1979	
	60 676.30	Accumulated Funds	53 051.50	33.00	Cash on Hand	33.00
	36.00	Subscriptions in advance	65.00		Cash at bank:	
		Trust Funds:		1 103.65	- General Account	4 690.74
	1 273.09	-Clive Lord Memorial Fund	1 315.39	1 402.40	- Papers & Proceedings Account	2 224.70
X.	2 007.97	-A.N. Lewis Memorial Fund	2 102.90	803.99	- Clive Lord Memorial Fund	658.66
	869.83	-Morton Allport Memorial	925.07	907.97	- A.N. Lewis Memorial Fund	1 050.17
	371.27	-A.A. Clark Bequest	391.27	869.00	Mortgage loan	860.00
	2 494.39	-Joseph Milligan Bequest	2 622.80		Commonwealth Treasury Bonds	
	1 276.23	-R.M. Johnston Memorial Fd.	1 356.44	9 840.00	& Inscribed Stock (at cost)	10 440.00
	552.89	-Henry Oliver Bequest	590.12	7 000	Interest Bearing Deposits	7 000.00
	1 379.57	-W.H. Hudspeth Memorial	1 436.73	15 000.00	Library (at valuation for insce)	15 000.00
	1 477.07	-Life Membership Fund	2 176.70	35 463.60	Publications (at selling prices)	24 076.65
	<u>\$72 414.61</u>		<u>\$66 033.92</u>	<u>\$72 414.61</u>		<u>\$66 033.92</u>

GENERAL ACCOUNT TO 31 DECEMBER 1979

Balance brought forward	1 103.65	Stationery	176.16
Subscriptions -		Insurance	114.65
1 @ \$200	200.00	Attendants' fees	394.11
237 @ \$ 12	2 844.00	Presentations	22.50
150 @ \$ 8	1 200.00	Secretarial fees	200.00
18 @ \$ 5	90.00	Northern Branch	700.00
Other years	<u>561.00</u>	Petty Cash	60.00
Interest	888.69	Management fee University	1 450.00
Sales of publications &		Post box rental	102.00
<i>Papers & Proceedings</i>	3 165.82	Postage and freight	910.71
Government Grant	1 450.00	Investments	400.00
Rent	213.60	Photocopying	150.95
Miscellaneous	8.00	Subscriptions	694.39
University subsidy	<u>1 500.00</u>	Printing of <i>Papers &</i>	
	13 224.76	<i>Proceedings & Publications</i>	3 054.35
		Refund	4.00
Deduct Banking Deficiency	<u>87.00</u>	Bank fees	<u>13.20</u>
			8 447.02
		Balance carried forward	<u>4 690.74</u>
	<u>\$13 137.76</u>		<u>\$13 137.76</u>

PAPERS AND PROCEEDINGS ACCOUNT TO 31 DECEMBER 1979

Balance brought forward	1 402.40		
Interest	<u>822.30</u>	Balance carried forward	<u>2 224.70</u>
	<u>\$2 224.70</u>		<u>\$2 224.70</u>

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1979

ACCUMULATION ACCOUNT

Balance 1 January 1979			60 676.30
<u>Deduct</u>	Net decrease in valuation of publications		
	for sale	11 386.95	
	Net increase in advance subscriptions	29.00	
	Net transfers to Trust Funds		
	- current year	815.11	
	- Life Fund - 1978 adjustment	<u>400.00</u>	<u>12 631.06</u>
			48 045.24
<u>Add</u>	Increase in cash at banks	4 406.26	
	Increase in investments	<u>600.00</u>	<u>5 006.26</u>
Balance 31 December 1979			<u>\$53 051.50</u>