

# Royal Society of Tasmania

*Annual Report for the Year 1967*

The following report records in brief the activities of the Society during 1967.

The membership totalled 606 at the end of the year, including four Honorary Life Members.

The Council engaged in considerable discussion concerning the Society's Library which is very rich in Tasmaniana, as well as holding an excellent series of scientific publications.

Rising costs, lack of space and poor security relating to the Library greatly concern the Council which recognises the urgent need to improve the position. The Society, since its inception in 1843, has rendered great service to the development of the State, and has played an important role in preserving scientific records and archival material which is now of great value, particularly to the research worker. The question of space and security must find some real solution in the near future and the Council will continue its efforts to find a satisfactory solution. These are problems which should be of real concern to all members as the matter is one of real urgency.

During the year 425 volumes, books and journals, were added to the Library. Exchanges for the *Papers and Proceedings* of our Society accounted for the bulk of the journals.

The Annual Meeting was held in March and, as provided in the Rules of the Society, one Vice-President and two Council members were elected in place of those whose term of office had expired. Mr R. M. H. Garvie was elected Vice-President in place of Professor G. C. Wade, Mr E. C. Gifford was elected to Council in place of Mr E. R. Pretymann, and Dr E. R. Guiler was re-elected to Council having filled a casual vacancy for one year.

The positions of Honorary Auditor, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer were filled by Mr A. M. D. Hewer, Dr W. Bryden and Mr G. E. A. Hale respectively.

The following is a list of titles of talks given at the General Meetings held during the year:—

*March:* Mr V. C. Burley, State Chairman of the Advisory Council, C.S.I.R.O., on 'The Work of the C.S.I.R.O. in Australia with particular reference to Tasmania'.

*April:* Dr Campbell Duncan, Director of Pathology, Department of Health Services, on 'The Principles of Electron Microscopy'.

*May:* Illustrated lectures by members of the staff of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery—

'Marsupials from our South-West' by Mr A. P. Andrews.

'Reflections on Asteroids' by Mr A. J. Dartnall.

'Tasmania—An Island of Volcanoes' by F. L. Sutherland.

*June:* The Honourable Mr Justice Crawford, on 'The Early History of the Law in Launceston'.

*July:* Mr T. H. O. Phillips, on 'Life in Post-Glacial Times'.

*August:* Mr J. H. Hemsley, Curator of Wildlife, Animals and Birds Protection Board, on 'Wildlife Conservation'.

*September:* Professor W. A. Townsley, Professor of Political Science, University of Tasmania, on 'The October Revolution of 1917. An Essay in Interpretation'.

*October:* Mr H. Lourandos, Archeologist and Anthropologist at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, on 'Archaeology and the Tasmanian Aborigine'.

*November:* Mr Max Angus, on 'What's behind Modern Art'.

## NORTHERN BRANCH

The Northern Branch in Launceston continued to hold meetings and to organise excursions. The arrangement with the main Library of the Society has continued whereby certain periodicals and books are sent to Launceston each month where these are available to members living in the north.

## PAPERS AND PROCEEDINGS

Volume 101 was published and the copies forwarded to the 320 libraries on our exchange list.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Without the generous help and assistance given by various libraries and many organisations and individuals the Society would not be able to function as it does. The Society is particularly grateful to and acknowledges the assistance provided during the year by, the Government of Tasmania; the Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery; the Queen Victoria Museum, Launceston; the Press, Radio and Television stations; the State Library; and the many individuals who have assisted the Society so generously.

# Northern Branch

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Following upon the elections held at the Annual General Meeting on 17 March, the Branch Council was composed as follows:—

Chairman—Mr Justice G. H. Crawford  
Vice-Chairman—Dr J. C. H. Morris  
Past Chairman—Mr T. E. Burns  
Hon. Secretary/Treasurer—Mr W. F. Ellis  
Council Members—Mrs M. P. Cameron, Mrs I. J. Mead, Mr J. N. Gee, Mr T. W. W. Sharpe, Mr K. E. J. Robinson.

Mr Justice Crawford and Mr Ellis were the delegates to the General Council of the Society and Mr Justice Crawford continued his term as the nominee of the Northern Branch on the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park Board.

## MEMBERSHIP

The Branch membership at 31 December 1967 totalled 240.

## LECTURES

Eleven General Meetings and one Special Meeting were conducted at which the following lectures were given:—

- 24 *February*—‘The Castra Scheme’, by Mr G. T. Stilwell.
- 17 *March*—‘Early Tasmanian Medicine’ by Dr W. W. Wilson.
- 28 *April*—‘The Changing Tasmanian Scene’, by Mr J. B. Thwaites.
- 25 *May*—‘Problems in Tasmanian Archaeology’ by Mr Rhys Jones.
- 23 *June*—‘Wildlife Conservation’, by Mr J. H. Hemsley.
- 28 *July*—‘The Thread of Geology’, by Mr M. R. Banks.
- 24 *August*—‘Die-back in Eucalypt Forests’, by Mr R. E. Ellis.

22 *September*—‘The Principles of Electron Microscopy’, by Dr C. A. Duncan.

27 *October*—‘The Work of the C.S.I.R.O.’, by Mr V. G. Burley.

10 *November*—Special Meeting—‘Bee Research in the World Today’, by Dr Eva Crane.

24 *November*—‘Aspects of the Mineral Industry’, by Sir Henry Somerset.

7 *December*—Members’ Night:—

- ‘Aspects of the Geology of Central Australia’ by Mr Justice Crawford.
- ‘The Flora of Central Australia’, by Mrs R. E. Ward.
- ‘Croppies Point’, by Mr D. Walter.
- ‘Figures and Fantasies’, by Mr J. N. Gee.
- ‘Who was Captain H. S. Forth?’, by Mr R. S. Smith.

## EXCURSIONS

Four excursions were conducted, all of them being well attended:—

- 14 *May*—Fingal Valley.
- 30 *September*—Camden Forestry District.
- 21-22 *October*—St Helens-Seymour Area.
- 26 *November*—Isis River District.

## COUNCIL

The Northern Branch Council met five times and was represented at three meetings of the Council in Hobart and at one sub-committee meeting.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Branch Council records its appreciation of the Launceston City Council for the facilities at the Queen Victoria Museum which have been provided during the year.

