

Royal Society of Tasmania

Annual Report for the Year 1971

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

THE LIBRARY

The process of moving and settling in to the new quarters at the University was completed and members using the Library can now be catered for in pleasant and comfortable surroundings. The University has from time to time provided staff to assist in arranging the books and periodicals and in helping to catalogue the holdings. The arrangements whereby the Northern Branch and CSIRO have received new periodicals on loan (for a month in each instance), has continued. In place of the University, the Tasmanian Museum now receives the material.

MISS E. M. GEDDES

In June, Miss Geddes left the library after an association lasting for seventeen years. At a general meeting the Senior Vice-President referred to the work done by Miss Geddes which had been, in every way, quite outstanding. Members expressed their appreciation of the outstanding services rendered by Miss Geddes and in addition to making a small presentation on behalf of the members it was agreed to record a minute of appreciation in the records of the Society. It was further agreed that notices of meetings be sent to Miss Geddes and that she should have the right to attend without payment of subscription.

MRS J. BOWERMAN

The Council called applications to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Miss Geddes and Mrs J. Bowerman was appointed to fill the position.

ANNUAL MEETING

Early in March the Annual Meeting of the Society was held and the Annual Report and Statement of Receipts and Payments for the past year were presented and adopted. Mr Banks was elected Vice-President to fill the vacancy left by the retirement of Dr E. Guiler and the two positions of councillor were filled by the election of Dr E. R. Guiler and Mr H. L. Dodson. The Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Auditor were re-elected to those positions.

DR W. BRYDEN—LIFE MEMBERSHIP

During the year Dr Bryden, who has been Honorary Secretary of the Society since 1953, notified Council that, as he would be retiring from the Directorship of the Tasmanian Museum at the end of the year, he felt he should relinquish the office of Honorary Secretary. Members expressed appreciation of the work carried out by the Honorary Secretary over the years and

it was agreed that he should be nominated for Honorary Life Membership of the Society. At the General Meeting in November Dr Bryden was duly elected to be an Honorary Life Member of the Society.

CLIVE LORD MEMORIAL MEDAL

At the General Meeting in November, members also agreed to the suggestion made by Council, that Dr Bryden be asked to deliver the Clive Lord lecture and receive the Clive Lord Memorial Medal at a suitable time during 1972.

LECTURES

The following lectures were given to members during the year:—

April: 'From Cats-Whisker to Satellite. An Era of the Australian Broadcasting Commission', by Mr Arthur Winter, Tasmanian Manager of the Australian Broadcasting Commission.

May: 'Unrest in Universities', by Professor J. P. McAuley, Professor of English, University of Tasmania.

June: 'Cloud Seeding and Rain Making', by Dr E. J. Smith, Officer-in-Charge, Cloud Seeding Investigation, Division of Radio Physics, CSIRO.

July: 'Bacteria as Pollution Fighters', by Dr K. C. Marshall, Reader in Agricultural Microbiology at the University of Tasmania.

August: 'St John's Library, Launceston. A 19th Century Attempt to Improve the Common Man', by Mr P. G. Webb.

September: 'The Proposed National Parks and Wildlife Service', by Mr P. Murrill, Director of Wildlife and National Parks.

October: 'An Historical Survey of Australian Nationalisms', by Dr M. Roe, Reader in History, University of Tasmania.

November: 'Comparison of Sea Fisheries Research in Japan and Australia', by Mr A. J. Harrison, Secretary, Department of Sea Fisheries.

The Society is grateful to those who assist in this way. Lecturers spend a good deal of time preparing the material for their lectures and members receive great benefit from the information given.

NORTHERN BRANCH

The Branch in Launceston had another successful year and in addition to the lectures given, arrangements were made for excursions. Over the years these excursions have proved a great attraction for members and have helped to hold the interest of many members of the Branch.

PAPERS AND PROCEEDINGS

Volume 105 of the Papers and Proceedings was published and distributed. The production of this volume is causing the Society some concern. Rising costs will result in a smaller volume or alternatively a higher subscription will have to be charged to members requiring the journal.

As members know, our Library has been built up to its present excellent stage, largely by exchanging our journal for publications from scientific and historical institutions in various parts of the world. Many of these groups apparently are facing problems similar to our own and they can no longer offer their journals free of charge. If we are going to maintain the series in such publications additional finance will be required, some of this may well come from sale of our publications, but whatever else may happen, with many of our series of journals it is really imperative that they be kept going.

MEMBERSHIP

At the end of the year the total membership was 541, a decline of ten. Of these, Northern Branch membership totalled 226 and there were four honorary members.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Six meetings were held during the year, the Library being the venue for each.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Council wishes to record its gratitude for help so generously given to the Society by many individuals and organisations. To the lecturers, the staff, the Tasmanian Museum, Queen Victoria Museum, the Press and broadcasting organisations and to the many others who helped the Society during the year the Council extends its sincere thanks.

Royal Society of Tasmania—Northern Branch

Annual Report for the Year 1971

The Branch Council, after elections at the Annual General Meeting on 5 March 1971, comprised—

Chairman: Mr J. N. Gee.
Vice-Chairman: Mr D. Walter.
Honorary Secretary and Treasurer: Mr W. F. Ellis.

Past Chairman: Dr J. C. H. Morris.

Council Members: Mrs M. P. Cameron, Mr Justice G. H. Crawford, Mr K. E. J. Robinson, Dr E. V. R. Ratcliffe, Mr G. H. Stancombe.

Honorary Auditor: Mr H. C. A. Pitt.

Mr Gee and Mr Robinson represented the Northern Branch on the State Council.

MEMBERSHIP

At 31 December 1971 there were 226 members of the Northern Branch.

ACTIVITIES

Eleven General Meetings were held at which the following lectures were given:—

8 February 1971: 'The Centenary of Railways in Tasmania', by Mr C. G. Collins.

5 March 1971: 'St John's Library—A 19th Century Attempt to Improve the Common Man', by Mr P. G. Webb, B.A.

2 April 1971: 'The early development of the North-East Coast', by Hon. Mr Justice G. H. Crawford, LL.B.

7 May 1971: 'Research on the Sirex woodwasp, with particular reference to biological control', by Mr K. L. Taylor, B.Sc.

4 June 1971: 'The Organ: its development and its music', by Mr Lindsay O'Neill, F.C.O.

2 July 1971: 'Cloud seeding', by Dr E. J. Smith.

13 August 1971: 'Fisheries research in Tasmania', by Mr A. J. Harrison, B.Sc. (Hons.).

3 September 1971: 'Expanding horizons in astronomy' by Mr A. H. Nightingale, B.Sc., Dip.Ed.

8 October 1971: 'Andrew Inglis Clark Senior', by Hon. Mr Justice F. M. Neasey, LL.B.

5 November 1971: 'Louisa Anne Meredith', by Mrs V. R. Ellis.

3 December 1971:

'The Sandstone Cliffs of Maria Island', by Mr D. Walter.

'Views of Tasmania', by Miss I. K. Alcock.

'Poem', by Mr R. E. Ward.

'The Walls of Jerusalem', by Mr N. R. Harvey.

'Mathematical nonsense', by Mr D. McDonald.

'Little trains of Wales', by Hon. Mr Justice G. H. Crawford.

Two special meetings were arranged in addition to the General Meetings.

On 27 August 1971 Professor Serge A. Korff, Professor of Physics at New York University, spoke on 'The background to cosmic ray research today and a review of the Twelfth International Conference on Cosmic Rays'.

Later, on 8 December 1971 Professor H. Bloom, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Tasmania, gave an address on 'Pollution in the north of Tasmania'.

Excursions were arranged to the Hydro-Electric Commission installations on the Mersey-Forth Rivers on 29 May 1971 and to the Circular Head district and Arthur River on 20 and 21 November 1971. An excursion to Herrick by a restored vintage steam train was held on 1 May 1971 in conjunction with the Australian Railway History Association.

The Northern Branch Council met three times, with one additional meeting of a special committee on finances.

The finances of the Northern Branch deteriorated to a serious condition during the year and the Branch Council appointed a sub-committee to advise on urgent remedial action. Arising from their report, and subsequent representation to the Council of the Society, it was agreed to provide for each ordinary member of the Northern Branch a payment equivalent to 75% of the subscription charged to a member not receiving the journal, remitted quarterly to the Northern Branch as received. This procedure, which will be reviewed early in 1972, has been of great assistance to the Northern Branch.

The committee led by Mr G. H. Stancombe to survey burial grounds for historical information prior to 1900 has continued its valuable work. Catalogues of 1,000 headstones in the following cemeteries have been completed: Barton, General, Roman Catholic and St Lukes Church of England cemeteries at Campbell Town; Conara; Cressy; Darlington; George Town; Kirklands Presbyterian; General cemetery, Longford; Pisa; Military cemetery, Ross; Methodist and Church of England cemeteries, St Leonards; Streanshalh and Windermere.

The allocation of land and outline plans for the Flinders Memorial having been completed, detailed discussions on the specifications and construction methods have been undertaken with a view to commencing work in the near future.

The Branch Council record their appreciation of assistance provided by members at the meetings and excursions and by the Museum staff.