



## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1972

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

*Staff*

Mrs. J. Bowerman, Library Assistant, resigned in September 1972. This necessitated a redistribution of duties, and the clerical staff of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery have been authorised by the Trustees of the Museum to assist with secretarial work.

An agreement has been concluded with the University of Tasmania to make a Library Assistant, presently Mr. A. Salter, available from the University Library for not less than 5 hours per day. Mr. Salter is responsible for daily supervision of the library, as well as distribution of the Papers and Proceedings.

*The Library*

The Library is now well-established in its new accommodation at the University of Tasmania.

The exchange list for the Papers and Proceedings has been studied and the position is thought to be generally satisfactory. Almost all organisations on the list are providing generous exchanges for our publication.

*Annual Meeting*

At the Annual Meeting on 7th March, Mr. E.C. Gifford retired as Vice-President, and Mr. L.E. Wall and Mr. R.M.H. Garvie as Members of the Council. The following were elected:-

Vice-President	-	Dr. June Olley
Members of Council	-	Mr. K.D. Nicolls
	-	Mr. E.C. Gifford
Honorary Secretary	-	Dr. D. Martin
Honorary Treasurer	-	Mr. G.E.A. Hale
Honorary Auditor	-	Mr. A.M.D. Hewer

In September Dr. Martin submitted his resignation as Honorary Secretary, and Mr. D.R. Gregg was elected to this position.

*Clive Lord Memorial Medal*

Dr. W. Bryden, Honorary Secretary of the Society from 1953 to 1971, will be presented with the Clive Lord Memorial Medal at the April 1973 General Meeting when he will deliver the Clive Lord Lecture.

*Lectures*

The following lectures were given during the year:-

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|-------|---|--|
| March | - | "Mercury and other Pollutants in the Ocean" by Professor H. Olcott, University of California.  |
| April | - | "French Navigators to Terra Australis and Van Diemens Land" by M. Roger London, Consul for France in Melbourne. A combined meeting with the Alliance Francaise and the Tasmanian Historical Research Association held at the University of Tasmania. |

- May - "West Coast Railways" by Mr. L.S. Whitham.  
 June - "Museums - active, dormant and extinct" by Mr. D.R. Gregg,  
 Director of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery.  
 July - "Woodchips and the Future of Tasmanian Forests" by Dr. T.M.  
 Cunningham, Management Officer of the Tasmanian Forestry  
 Commission.  
 August - "Moon Rocks" by Dr. R. Varne, Senior Lecturer in Geology,  
 University of Tasmania.  
 September - "Wasps" by Dr. P. Spradbury, Senior Research Scientist,  
 Division of Entomology, C.S.I.R.O.  
 October - "Reflections on the History of the Royal Society" by Mr. J.  
 Reynolds.  
 November - "Pollution in Tasmania" by Mr. J.F. Pottinger, Director of  
 Environmental Control.

#### *Central Plateau Symposium*

A well-attended and highly successful symposium on the Central Plateau of Tasmania was held at Poatina on the weekend of 11-12 November. The 90 participants gathered for lunch on the Saturday at the Hydro-Electric Commission's Poatina Chalet. In the afternoon and evening they heard 14 papers on the general theme "Best Use of our Resources".

During the afternoon Dr. A.B. Costin delivered the keynote address "Characteristics and Use of Australian High Country", followed by Mr. M.R. Banks, Mr. M.J. Clarke and Mr. F.L. Sutherland on different aspects of the geology, Professor W.D. Jackson on the botany, Mr. B. Knott on aquatic crustacea, Professor G.C. Wade on aquatic insects and Mr. A.P. Andrews on native fishes. After an adjournment for dinner, the symposium resumed and Mr. D.D. Lynch spoke on introduced fishes, Mr. J. Griffith on the thylacine, Mr. I. Edwards on water yield, Mr. R.R. Shepherd on land use, Mr. W.F. Ellis on aborigines, Mr. G.H. Stancombe on history, and Mr. J.R. Ashton on hydro-electric developments.

On Sunday, there was an excursion on the Central Plateau starting at Poatina and concluding at Steppes. Despite snow storms in the afternoon it was an interesting day.

There seemed general agreement on the success of the Symposium, particularly in bringing into contact members of the Society from the north and south of Tasmania, and it is hoped to have another Symposium in 1974.

The proceedings of the Symposium, together with some invited contributions, are being published as a book.

#### *Northern Branch*

The Northern Branch of the Society based in Launceston had another successful year with several excursions as well as the monthly lectures.

#### *Papers and Proceedings*

Volume 106 of the Papers and Proceedings was published and distributed. This was a slim volume of only 68 pages owing to financial exigencies.

#### *Finance*

After the financial difficulties of last year it is pleasing to note that the Society has a substantial cash balance for the year resulting mainly from the staffing changes.

A Finance Committee of the Council met several times during the year to discuss

the finances generally and a different basis for the allocation of funds to the Northern Branch has been arranged with satisfactory results.

Estimating the cost of printing the Papers and Proceedings is still causing concern and as last year's costs were unexpectedly low there is a surplus in the Papers and Proceedings' Account. A smaller journal had been planned to ensure that the limited finances available last year would not be exceeded under any circumstances.

#### *Membership*

During the year the membership reached 583, an increase of 42.

The membership is made up as follows:-

	<u>Northern Branch</u>	<u>Total</u>
Honorary Life Members	-	4
Life Members	10	33
Ordinary Members, receiving Papers and Proceedings	108	300
Ordinary Members, not receiving Papers and Proceedings	121	221
Associate Members	16	25
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	255	583

#### *Council Meetings*

The Council met six times during the year, including two special meetings. The meetings are now held quarterly on the last Friday of February, May, August and November.

#### *Acknowledgements*

The Council is grateful for help generously given by many individuals and organisations, in particular, the lecturers, the staff, 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 co-operation.

### NORTHERN BRANCH

#### ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1972

#### *Annual Meeting*

After elections completed at the Annual General Meeting on 3rd March, 1972, the Branch Council comprised -

Chairman	- Mr. D. Walter
Vice-Chairman	- Mr. K. E. J. Robinson
Honorary Secretary and Treasurer	- Mr. W. F. Ellis
Past Chairman	- Mr. J. N. Gee
Council Members	- Dr. E. V. R. Ratcliffe
	- Messrs. H. W. Askeford
	J. Lord
	G. H. Stancombe
	P. G. Webb
Honorary Auditor	- Mr. H. C. A. Pitt

Mr. Walter and Mr. Ellis were appointed as representatives of the Branch on the State Council, Dr. Ratcliffe replacing Mr. Ellis from 22nd August, 1972.

### *Membership*

At 31st December, 1972 there were 255 members of the Northern Branch.

### *Activities*

General Meetings were held in 1972 at which the following lectures were presented:

- February 4 - "Bacteria as pollution Fighters" by Dr. K.C. Marshall.
- March 3 - "A Water Supply for Launceston," a Valedictory Address by Mr. J.N. Gee.
- April 7 - "French Navigators to Terra Australis and Van Diemen's Land" by M. Roger London.
- May 12 - "National Parks and Recreation" by Mr. P. Murrell.
- June 2 - "Hungry Tracks and Hard - the books of the Australian land Explorers" by Mr. T.D. Sprod.
- July 7 - "Australia's place in world Prehistory - the Tasmanians in the light of recent archaeological Discoveries" by Professor D.J. Mulvaney.
- August 4 - "The Law and the Rule of Law" by Mr. G.S.M. Green.
- September 1 - "The Overland Telegraph Line from Adelaide to Darwin" by Mr. K.G. Wilson.
- September 29 - "The Consequences of Today" by Mr. J. Newman.
- November 3 - "The Stockholm Conference on Human Environment" by Mr. J.F. Pottinger.
- December 1 - Members lecturettes
  - "Aspects of Nigeria" by Mr. D. Walter.
  - "George Peddle Chairs" by Mrs. V. Veale.
  - "Fossil Golden-haired Ferns and Pedder Pennies" by Mr. M.R. Banks.
  - "Brisbane Architecture" by Dr. E.V.R. Ratcliffe.
  - "Ecology of the Gorge" by Mr. H.W. Askeland.

An excursion to study the ecology and pollution of the North Esk River was held on 26th February. On 4th June, members followed the route of the early colonial water supply to Launceston.

In addition, the Branch participated with other members of the Society in an excursion to the Central Plateau on 11-12 November.

The Branch Council held nine meetings during the year.

The arrangements for the financing of the activities of the Branch occupied the attention of the Council over most of the year. On 19th September, it was agreed that the State Council establish a system of annual funding in accordance with a review of estimates of expenditure for the next year to be submitted by the Branch. This more flexible arrangement replaces the fixed allocations which have been made since 1947.

The project to erect a Memorial to Matthew Flinders failed to attract Government support and alternative means to advance it have not yet been successful. This matter is still receiving attention by the Branch Council.