

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1989

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
General Sir Phillip Bennett, AC, KBE, DSO

Vice-Presidents

Prof. O.M. Roe

Dr J.S. Rogers

Council

Mr P.M. Bennison

Prof. D.M. Stoddart

Mr G. Davis

Mr C.B. Tassell

Mr A. Orr

Dr V. Von Witt

Mr C.A.H. Payne

Mr M.J. Walsh

Dr P.G. Quilty

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, AM

Honorary Assistant Editor

Dr S.J. Smith

President

His Excellency General Sir Phillip Bennett took the chair as President of the Society, at the Annual General Meeting and at the Annual General Meeting of the Northern Branch. He also took the chair at the September General Meeting in Hobart and attended the June meeting of the Northern Branch at the Northern Regional Library. The publication on the Tasman Peninsula Symposium was launched by His Excellency on 27 July.

Clive Lord Memorial Medal

At the General Meeting in September, the President presented the Clive Lord Memorial Medal to Dr Lloyd Robson in recognition of his contribution to Tasmanian history.

The award was established in 1934 to honour the memory of Clive Lord (1889–1933) and previous recipients have been:

1936	L.F. Giblin
1939	J.B. Cleland
1947	H. Thompson
1951	J. Burke
1958	P.G. Law
1960	V.V. Hickman
1966	W.M. Curtis
1973	W. Bryden
1977	E.R. Guiler
1983	N.J.B. Plonley
1986	R.G.H. Green

Annual Meeting

At the Annual Meeting on 7 March, Mr C.A.H. Payne retired as Vice-President and Dr J.S. Rogers and Mr R.R. Shepherd as Members of the Council. The following were elected:

Vice-President	Dr J.S. Rogers
Members of Council	Dr P.G. Quilty
	Dr V. Von Witt
Honorary Secretary	Mr D.R. Gregg
Honorary Treasurer	Mr T.A.H. Knight
Honorary Auditor	Mr R.J. Dwyer

Membership

The membership is 481, an increase of 32, and is made up as follows:

	Northern Branch	Total
Honorary Life Members	2	7
Life Members	12	38
Ordinary Members receiving <i>Papers and Proceedings</i>	72	305
Ordinary Members not receiving <i>Papers and Proceedings</i>	52	106
Associate Members	16	25
	154	481

Council Meetings

The Council met four times during the year.

Library

The Library was under the direction of Mrs Mary-Anne Secker until her resignation on 1 September, Mrs Gaye Thavisin then returned as librarian on a fractional basis from 4 September until 8 December when she too resigned.

Mrs Thavisin was ably assisted by part-time clerical assistant Ms Julie Cariaga. New staffing arrangements are now in place for 1990.

During the year 393 visitors to the library signed the register, 126 journals were recorded as being consulted in the Library, and there were 151 loans from the serials section. The Library supplied 58 photocopied items in response to interlibrary loan requests. Binding of Royal Society Serials amounted to 188 volumes in 1989. This year, statistics of reference queries have been maintained for the first time — the librarian answered 147 short queries and 30 major enquiries from users.

As usual, the index for the 1988 volumes of the *Papers and Proceedings* was prepared and copies despatched to selected Tasmanian libraries. In December volume 123, 1989, was despatched to 292 exchange partners, 57 in Australia and the remainder overseas. During 1989, 7 new serial titles have been received (3 as a result of new exchanges initiated), and 8 titles have been cancelled, all as a result of exchange partners financially balancing exchanged publications and reducing the number of titles sent.

Special projects during the year included the installation of additional shelving to expand the crowded serial collection to accommodate five years growth: cataloguing of donated monographs (usually received from exchange partners) was initiated and the use of a new National Library on-line service was recommended. The compilation of a consolidated index to volumes 89–125 (1955–91) will commence in 1990.

Publications

Two volumes were published by the Society in 1989. The first of these, edited by Dr S.J. Smith, was the *Tasman Peninsula. Is history enough? Past, present and future use of the resources of the Tasman Peninsula*. This volume, a collection of papers presented at the Society Symposium in November 1986, was dedicated to the memory of Sir James Plimsoll (1917–87) and included a foreword by the President, His Excellency General Sir Phillip Bennett, AC, KBE, DSO. Eighteen papers, involving 25 authors, were included in the volume, published in July and launched by the President at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery on 27 July. The volume, with its index, occupied 156 pages.

The second publication was Volume 123 of the *Papers and Proceedings*, published on 21 November 1989, and edited by the Honorary Editor and the Honorary Assistant Editor. Volume 123 contained the Annual Report for 1988, together with 22 papers involving 39 authors and totalling 299 pages. Papers included the Banks Memorial Lecture by Sir David Smith, papers on industrial archaeology, botany, zoology, ecology, geology, palaeontology, history, oceanography, fisheries and parasitology.

Mrs Alison Jones sub-edited both volumes and Mrs June Pongratz prepared them for publication.

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

Lectures

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

- March — "Implications and changes in Australian Universities: challenges for higher education in Tasmania in the 1990's" Prof. Alec Lazenby, Vice-Chancellor, University of Tasmania
- April — "The human exploitation of short-tailed shearwaters" Mr I.I. Skira, Dept of Lands, Parks and Wildlife
- May — "The Menzies Centre for Population Health Research" Prof. T. Dwyer, University of Tasmania
- June — "Marine micro-algae: from ocean pasture to mariculture" Dr Shirley Jeffrey, Division of Fisheries Research, CSIRO
- July — "Science and technology — our future" Mr J.C.S. Bowler, Department of Science and Technology
- August — "Psychology and economics" Dr Peter Earl, University of Tasmania
- September — Clive Lord Memorial Lecture: "Tasmania and the imperial connection: outpost of Empire" Dr Lloyd Robson, University of Melbourne
- October — "Aphids, plants and other organisms" Dr Victor Eastop, formerly of the British Museum (Natural History) and President of the Royal Entomological Society
- November — "The development and export marketing of leading edge technologies from Tasmania's Technopark" Mr J.R. Gumley, Crittec Corporation Pty Ltd
- December — "Charles Darwin in Australia" (joint meeting with Tasmanian Historical Research Association, held at CSIRO Laboratories) Dr F.W. Nicholas, University of Sydney

Northern Branch

Chairman	Mr A.T. Orr
Vice-Chairman	Dr E.V.R. Ratcliff
Honorary Secretary	Mr C.B. Tassell
Honorary Treasurer	Mr B.A. Pike
Council Members	Dr D. McWilliam
	Mrs M.P. Little
	Dr D. Churton
Branch representatives on Council of Society	Mr A.T. Orr
	Mr C.B. Tassell

The Branch Council met four times during the year.

The following lectures were given at General Meetings:

- March — "His natural life --- 1926/1927" Prof. O.M. Roe, University of Tasmania
- April — "On aspects of forestry" Mr I. Whyte, Forest Products Division, APPM
- May — "Pain" Dr C.G. Meridew, Launceston General Hospital
- June — "Northern Regional Library, Local History Room" Mr D.W. Dunstan, State Library of Tasmania
- July — "Heritage in Antarctica" Ms E. Wishart and Mrs L. Clark, Queen Victoria Museum
- August — "The University of Tasmania after 100 years" Prof. Alec Lazenby, Vice-Chancellor, University of Tasmania
- September — "Tasmania and the imperial connection: outpost of empire" Dr Lloyd Robson, University of Melbourne
- October — Excursion and discussion of the Aquacentre, Tasmanian State Institute of Technology
- November — "The history of the streets of Launceston" Dr J.C.A. Morris
- December — Members' Night
- "Great Exhibitions 1851" Dr E.V.R. Ratcliff
- "An oration of an unusual hero" Mr J. Kolkert
- "Highlights of a medical career" Dr D. Churton

Excursions and special events:

- 2 June — Joint meeting with the Launceston Historical Society at the Northern Regional Library.
- 6 October — Visit to the Aquacentre, Tasmanian State Institute of Technology and general meeting.

Nominees to Other Bodies

The Council re-elected Mr A.R. Neilson and Dr P.G. Quilty to serve a further term on the Board of Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. They report on the year's activities:

The Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery continues to collect and safeguard the physical evidence of the natural and human heritage of Tasmania, together with relevant material from beyond the state and beyond Australia. Objects in the collections are preserved and studied, and are exhibited for the education and enjoyment of the public.

The 1989 State budget provided \$1 463 000 to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, an increase of 5.7% over the allocation in the 1988 Budget. Of this, 81% will be spent on salaries and related costs, about the same as in 1988-89.

The Taxation Incentives for the Arts Scheme, established by the Commonwealth Government in 1978, continued to give welcome encouragement to donors. In the 1988–89 financial year there were 11 donations under the scheme with a value exceeding \$85 000. Donations under the scheme since 1978 have had a value at the time of donation exceeding \$700 000.

The Art Foundation of Tasmania, established in 1984, continued to encourage support from the private sector for the Museum and Art Gallery. During the year 38 items, valued at over \$173 000 were purchased for the collections with funds provided by the Foundation.

The Friends of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery involved the community in the activities of the Museum and Art Gallery and provided \$4 487 for the purchase of Tasmanian furniture and Tasmanian medallions and tokens.

Mr Hendrik Kolenberg, Curator of Art since 1980, who resigned as from the end of 1988 to take up a new position at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, was replaced by Dr Christa Johannes.

During 1989, 101 168 people visited the Museum and Art Gallery, compared with 134 661 in 1988. During the second half of the year visitor numbers were lower than usual, due to the air pilots' dispute.

The number of visitors to the West Coast Pioneers' Memorial Museum at Zeehan was estimated at 110 000.

The Bicentennial year continued well into 1989 with the showing of *The Great Australian Art Exhibition, 1788–1988* (December 1988–February), seen by 13 500 people, and *First Impressions, The British Discovery of Australia* (April–June), seen by 7000 people.

Other exhibitions shown included: *The Changing Silhouette, Fashion 1888 to 1988* (October 1988–February), *What's New? Gifts to the history collections 1984–88* (April–November), *British watercolours from the collection* (July–August), *Oliffe Richmond drawings, the Australian years* (August–October), *Send me more paint! Australian art during the second world war* (October–November), *Moët and Chandon Australian Art Foundation* (November–January 1990) and *Vincent McGrath, Timeprints* (December–January 1990).

A new gallery *Convicts in Van Diemen's Land* was opened in October.

Temporary displays have covered a wide range from world shells to Tasmanian silver.

During the year 13 983 students in school groups visited the Museum and Art Gallery. The Musbus travelling museum project continued to take museum displays to country schools in the south of the state. During 1989, 18 schools were visited and displays were shown at the Primary Schools Science Fair at Campbell Street School.

All departments of the Museum and Art Gallery are involved in research during preparation of displays and

exhibitions, answering inquiries from the public, curation and documentation of the collection and the preparation of talks and articles.

The West Coast Pioneers' Memorial Museum at Zeehan, which is under the control of the Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum, is managed by a committee under the chairmanship of Mr R.G. Smith, OAM. During the year the committee, with the support of the Trustees, has put great enthusiasm and expertise into a proposal for the development of the West Coast Pioneers' Memorial Museum. This includes the establishment of an underground mine with displays for visitors illustrating the history of mining techniques on the West Coast as well as a working electric railway and aerial ropeway.

Dr J.E.S. Townrow was re-elected by the Council to a further term on the Board of Trustees of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, but retired from the Board in December after having served since 1978. She has been replaced by Dr A.E. Orchard. Dr Townrow reports on the year's activities:

Nineteen-eighty-nine has been a year full of interest and expansion in several facets of the Garden's activities.

Visitors numbered about 274 000, up 4% on last year's total, the best patronage since 1987 when the Japanese Garden was first a major attraction.

The Board of Trustees commissioned a review of management operations and staffing of the gardens in collaboration with the Business Management Division of the Department of Public Administration (DPA) in April.

This action was taken to meet the challenge of mounting pressure placed on the Gardens staff through shortage of labour personnel and further cuts in finance and the need to provide the highest level of service to the public. All staff were given the opportunity to contribute to the review made by an independent consultant from the DPA, Mr Charles Cook. The review, which identified several areas for improvement, was timely in view of the new Government's restructuring of the State Service. This resulted in the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens losing its independent status to become part of the new Department of Parks, Wildlife and Heritage, answerable to the Minister through the Department Secretary, Mr A.J. Pedder. The restructuring was designed to bring about efficiency gains and improved management practices maximising specialist skills available in both the Department and the Gardens. In practice the Gardens will, for all intents and purposes, continue unaffected although there will be changes in prescriptive terms of managing and superintendence and in arrangements under which the four Trustees are appointed by the Governor and their terms of office are carried out. One of these four will be nominated by the Secretary of the Department as Chairman instead of by election by the board members. As at this

time (January 1990) the legal implications are not completely clear and we await revised legislation.

The majority of Trustees from 1988 continued on the Board under the Chairmanship of Mr J.G.B. Hulton except that Dr R. Crowden, nominated by the University of Tasmania, succeeded Professor W.D. Jackson upon his retirement at the end of 1987. Alderman D. Plaister replaced Alderman G.A. Yeoland who retired due to ill-health in October and Dr Townrow (Royal Society nominee) retired in December after 11 years service to be succeeded by Dr A.E. Orchard.

Mr Andrew Smith, Information and Education Officer, has encouraged staff development and further training through attendance in part-time courses. Two of the staff have completed apprenticeships in stone masonry at Melbourne Technical College, one has completed the third year of an apprenticeship at Burnie Technical College, and four have completed the St Johns Ambulance first aid course. Nineteen students gained work experience at the Gardens in nursery practice, landscaping and general gardening. A highlight of the new education services offered by Mr Smith was *January in the Gardens*, a highly successful program of activities for the public which will be repeated. Approximately 200 people took part in a program of two activities each weekday in the month. Sessions included plant propagation classes, seed collecting and planting (native species), bird walks, nursery tours, craft sessions, garden tours, kitemaking, basketry and relaxation classes. All senior Gardens staff contributed to the program. Outside specialists invited to lead sessions included David Chandler (kite making), Heather Pearson (relaxation), Gwen Egg (basketry using natural materials found in the Gardens) and Mark Hurburgh, former Gardens Education and Information Officer (history walk). In August, 22 Friends of the Gardens attended a Volunteer Guide training course designed by the Education Officer.

Horticultural Therapist Mrs Pat Mavromatis was joined by Mrs Philomena van Ryswijk, Occupational Therapist, to share the work in the Easy Access Gardens project which has a steadily increased involvement with the

disabled and other special groups outside the Gardens. An Easy Access Garden Room erected beside the raised beds area by vocational students from the Carpentry Division of the Hobart Technical College will be of great use in accommodating classes this coming year.

The Trustees, in collaboration with Mrs Mavromatis, Mr Cane, Senior Foreman and advisors from Disabled Support Groups, have started the development of a policy of access for all, aimed at modifications which will increase the ease, enjoyment and safety of all visitors to the Gardens including the disabled.

Stage III of the Technical Support Services Centre started in April is largely complete with the erection of the building housing the Senior Foreman's office, workshop and store, and the third multi-span glasshouse.

Further upgrading in the Gardens during the year includes extensive maintenance inside and outside the Conservatory, re-landscaping of the Tropical House and continued activities of Plant Recording Officer Mrs Susan Wells to the point that the Gardens is now one of the best labelled in Australia. A bus turning circle has been completed in the former car park above the main Gardens entrance. Plant and bird walks have been extended to include both morning and evening events and continue to delight increasing numbers of the public.

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 co-operation.

We are grateful for the dedicated help given by members of the Council during the year.

O.M. Roe
Senior Vice-President

D.R. Gregg
Honorary Secretary

15 February 1990

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA
Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31 December 1989

General Account

Balance 1 January 1989	3 658.30	Stationery	1 636.46
		Postage	1 863.37
Subscriptions		Copying	516.96
262 @ \$20	5 236.00	Library books and subs	576.28
101 @ \$12	1 212.00	Postbox rental	120.00
3 @ \$8	176.00	<i>Papers and Proceedings</i> /publications	25 949.16
Other	<u>328.00</u>	Secretarial fees	3 565.23
	7 852.00	Bank duties/charges	82.85
Publication sales	5 104.21	Banks Medal and advertising	489.44
Curtis volume donations	1 000.00	Tasman Peninsula publication	10 456.73
Interest	3 051.42	<i>Papers and Proceedings</i> refund	52.00
Interest — other	122.71	Attendant fees	1 047.50
Rent	875.77	Northern Branch	1 500.00
Banks Medal sales	1 840.00	Insurance	343.74
Govt and University grants	5 000.00	Sundry	6.19
Banks Lecture refunds - postage	49.75	Computer equipment	3 436.53
Macquarie Island symposium	3 262.13	Travelling - lecturer	<u>641.00</u>
Investments redeemed	27 500.00		52 283.44
	<u>\$59 316.29</u>	Balance at 31 December 1989	<u>7 032.85</u>
			<u>\$59 316.29</u>

Accumulation Account

Balance 1 January 1989	61 292.17
Add	
Net increase in valuation of publications and medals for sale	10 938.05
Net transfer from Trust Funds	2 098.21
Increased cash at bank	3 984.96
Net decrease in advance subscriptions	<u>200.00</u>
	17 221.22
	78 513.39
Deduct	
Decreased investments	27 500.00
	<u>51 013.39</u>
Balance 31 December 1989	<u>\$51 013.39</u>

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 1989

64 292	Accumulated Funds	51 013.39
326	Subscriptions in advance	126.00
	Trust Funds:	
2 677	--- Clive Lord Memorial Fund	7 162.68
4 487	--- A.N. Lewis Memorial Fund	4 659.15
2 068	--- Morton Allport Memorial	2 160.83
789	--- A.A. Clark Bequest	823.54
5 436	--- Joseph Milligan Bequest	2 221.82
2 952	--- R.M. Johnston Memorial Fund	3 085.04
1 292	--- Henry Oliver Bequest	1 332.64
2 963	--- W.H. Hudspeth Memorial	3 068.51
5 509	--- Life Membership Fund	26 075.06
<u>\$89 791</u>		<u>\$77 214.45</u>

Represented by:

33	Cash on hand	33.00
	Cash at bank:	
3 658	--- General account	7 032.85
4 013	--- <i>Papers and Proceedings</i> account	4 418.30
931	--- Clive Lord Memorial Fund	1 016.85
1 296	--- A.N. Lewis Memorial Fund	1 415.30
860	Mortgage Loan	860.00
29 500	Commonwealth Treasury Bonds and Inscribed Stock (at cost)	2 000.00
7 000	Interest Bearing Deposits	7 000.00
15 000	Library (at valuation for insurance)	15 000.00
19 820	Publications (at selling prices)	32 598.15
7 680	Medals (at selling price)	5 840.00
<u>\$89 791</u>		<u>\$77 214.45</u>

The Society owns works of art which have been donated over the years and which do not appear on the Balance Sheet. They are all housed in the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery and are covered by that organisation's insurance. A catalogue is available to members listing these works of art.

D.R. Gregg
Honorary Secretary

T.A.H. Knight, B.Bus., A.A.S.A.
Honorary Treasurer