

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1973

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

*Annual Meeting*

At the Annual Meeting on 6 March, Mr. M.R. Banks retired as Vice-President, and Dr. D. Martin and Mr. A.R. Neilson as Members of the Council. The following were elected

|                    |   |                                    |
|--------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Vice-President     | - | Dr. W. Bryden                      |
| Members of Council | - | Mr. M.R. Banks<br>Mr. M.H. Bennett |
| Honorary Secretary | - | Mr. D.R. Gregg                     |
| Honorary Treasurer | - | Mr. G.E.A. Hale                    |
| Honorary Auditor   | - | Mr. A.M.D. Hewer                   |

*Lectures*

The following lectures were given in Hobart during the year:-

- |           |   |  |
|-----------|---|--|
| March     | - | "Charles Gould - First Government Geologist of Tasmania" by Mr. M.R. Banks, Retiring Vice-President.   |
| April     | - | "Tasmanian Science and Scientists in the 1840s" Clive Lord Memorial Lecture by Dr. W. Bryden.  |
| May       | - | "Recent Trends in Educational Research" by Professor R. Selby Smith, University of Tasmania.   |
| June      | - | "Fishing in Greenland" by Mr. D.G. James, C.S.I.R.O., Hobart.  |
| July      | - | "Was Macquarie Island under Ice?" by Dr. E.A. Colhoun, University of Tasmania.   |
| August    | - | "Changing Concepts of Cancer" by Dr. J.N. Lickiss, University of Tasmania.   |
| September | - | "The Endless, Boundless, Stable Universe - the new intellectual conception of the cosmos" by Dr. Grote Reber, Honorary Research Scientist, C.S.I.R.O., Hobart. |
| October   | - | "Tasmanian Biogeography - with particular reference to freshwater crustaceans" by Dr. W.D. Williams, Monash University.  |
| November  | - | "The Aquatic Eco-System of Tasmania" by Dr. P.A. Tyler, University of Tasmania.  |

In addition, members visited the Risdon plant of the Electrolytic Zinc Co. of Australasia Ltd. on Saturday morning, 24 March.

*Central Plateau Symposium*

The proceedings of the Symposium, held at Poatina, 11-12 November, 1972, together with some invited contributions, were published under the title "The Lake Country of Tasmania" in July 1973. The Council is grateful to Mr. M.R. Banks who edited the proceedings and was largely responsible for organising the Symposium.

*Resources of the Sea Symposium*

A Symposium with this title is planned for Bicheno, 2-4 November, 1974.

*Northern Branch*

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

- March - "Psyllidae (Lerp Insects)" by Dr. K.L. Taylor, C.S.I.R.O., Hobart.
- April - "A View of Psychiatry" by Dr. E.V.R. Ratcliff.  
"Discovering Tasmania" by Professor Manning Clark in conjunction with Tasmanian Historical Research Association.
- May - "Beach Community in Bass Strait in 19th Century" by Dr. Murray Smith in conjunction with Tasmanian Historical Research Association.
- June - "Special Collections and Archives" by Mr. G.T. Stilwell, Librarian Special Collections, State Library of Tasmania, and President, Tasmanian Historical Research Association.
- July - "Railways of the West Coast with Emphasis on Zeehan" by Mr. L.S. Whitham, Hobart.
- August - "Early Man in Tasmania - His Place in Human Evolution" by Dr. A. Wallace, University of Tasmania.
- September - "Museums - What are they for?" by Mr. D.R. Gregg, Tasmanian Museum.
- October - Special Meeting - "Tasmanian Biogeography with particular reference to Freshwater Crustaceans" by Dr. W.D. Williams, Monash University.  
"What, if anything, is an Echidna" by Professor G.B. Sharman, Macquarie University.
- November - "Science and Some Scientists of the 1840s" by Dr. W. Bryden, Vice-President of the Royal Society of Tasmania.
- December - Members' Night - "Newstead House" by June Williams  
"Selecting the Elite" by H.W. Askeland  
"A Matter of Words" by G.H. Stancombe  
"Lake Pedder....Lost and Found" by J.N. Gee  
"Some Occasions" by K.E.J. Robinson.

Excursions were made to the Westbury district guided by Mr. E.O.G. Scott, and to the Thomas Country, guided by Mr. Harold Thomas of North Down.

On the 17 November the Branch held a successful symposium on "The Forest Wealth of Tasmania". Lectures given were -

- "The Tasmanian Forests" by Mr. P.T. Unwin, Chief Commissioner, Forestry Commission.
- "The Future of Cellulose" by Dr. M.R. Jacobs, Canberra.
- "The Ecology of a Tasmanian Forest" by Dr. J. Kirkpatrick, University of Tasmania.
- "Woodchips and Paperpulp" by Mr. I. Swan, Northern Woodchips Pty. Ltd.
- "Timber" by Mr. Brendan A. Lyons, Manager, Tasmanian Timber Association.

"The Human Value" by Dr. D.A. Hutchinson, Launceston Walking Club.

Following the Symposium, there was an excursion to the Tamar forest lands under the guidance of Forestry Commission staff.

#### *Papers and Proceedings*

The Council decided in the interest of economy to change the printing method used in production of the Papers and Proceedings from "hot metal" to photo-offset. This involved considerable changes in editing procedures which, together with the size of the volume, delayed preparation and printing of Volume 107 greatly. However, a volume of 292 pages was published in February, 1974. It includes two series of papers on Bass Strait Islands held over from Volume 106. The backlog of papers in hand is now cleared, and Volume 108 is in preparation.

#### *Library*

The Library, housed at the University of Tasmania, continued under the supervision of Mr. A. Salter.

#### *Finance*

It is pleasing to report that the Society has again been able to carry out its budgeted programme of activities and retain a substantial cash balance at the end of the year. This results mainly from the staffing changes made in 1972. Administrative costs are likely to increase, but at the present we are in a position to carry out the programme budgeted for 1974 without increasing subscription.

#### *Membership*

During the year the membership was 547, a decrease of 36.

The membership is made up as follows -

|  | Northern Branch | Total |
|--|-----------------|-------|
| Honorary Life Members                                    | -               | 4     |
| Life Members   | 10              | 33    |
| Ordinary Members receiving<br>Papers and Proceedings     | 95              | 274   |
| Ordinary Members not receiving<br>Papers and Proceedings | 116             | 212   |
| Associate Members  | 17              | 24    |
|  | <hr/>           | <hr/> |
|  | 238             | 547   |

#### *Council Meetings*

The Council met four times during the year. Mr. D. Walter and Mr. K.E.J. Robinson represented the Northern Branch on the Council

#### *Maxwell Herbert Bennett*

Mr. Bennett, a member of the Council during the year and a member of the Society since 1942, died suddenly on 30 November 1973 shortly after the conclusion of a meeting of the Council. He was a loyal and enthusiastic member of the Council and only an hour before his death had agreed to his appointment as Assistant Honorary Secretary. He was re-organising the accounting procedures of the Society and his death left this partly completed.

*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 Electrolytic Zinc Co. of Australasia Ltd., the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, and the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery are specially thanked for their help and co-operation.