

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1974

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, Sir Stanley Burbury

Vice-Presidents

Dr W. Bryden

Mr A.R. Neilson

Council

Mr M.R. Banks

Dr E.V.R. Ratcliff

Mr A.J. Dartnall

Mr O.W. Reid

Mr E.C. Gifford

Mr K.E.J. Robinson

Mr K.D. Nicolls

Dr A.G. Wallace

Honorary Secretary

Mr D.R. Gregg

Honorary Treasurer

Mr G.E.A. Hale

Honorary Auditor

Mr A.M.D. Hewer

PRESIDENT

The Society was honoured when His Excellency the Governor, Sir Stanley Burbury, accepted the position of President of the Society thus following in the steps of all Governors of Tasmania since Sir Eardley Eardley-Wilmot became the first President in 1843.

His Excellency took the Chair at the Annual General Meeting.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

Mr W.F. Ellis was elected an Honorary Life Member in recognition of the outstanding service he has given the Society, in particular his 20 years as Honorary Secretary-Treasurer of the Northern Branch.

ANNUAL MEETING

At the Annual Meeting on 5 March, Dr June Olley retired as Vice-President, and Mr H.L. Dodson and Dr E.R. Guiler as Members of the Council. The following were elected -

Vice-President	-	Mr A.R. Neilson
Members of Council	-	Mr O.W. Reid
		Dr A.G. Wallace
Honorary Secretary	-	Mr D.R. Gregg
Honorary Treasurer	-	Mr G.E.A. Hale
Honorary Auditor	-	Mr A.M.D. Hewer

A casual vacancy on the Council resulting from the death of Mr M.H. Bennett was filled by the election of Mr A.J. Dartnall.

#### LECTURES

The following lectures were given in Hobart during the year -

March	"What happened in 1874?"	Dr W. Bryden.
	"Vineyards in England"	Dr D. Martin
	"Recent trends in administrative science"	Prof W.A. Townsley.
	"Meditations on Tasmanian prehistory"	Dr R.L. Vanderwal.
April	"Human evolution - a review of palaeoanthropology"	Dr A.G. Wallace, University of Tasmania.
May	"The plant ecology of the West Coast Range"	Dr J.B. Kirkpatrick, University of Tasmania.
June	"Sidelights on Tasmanian ornithology"	Mr Michael Sharland.
July	"Computer-assisted information services"	Mr T.D. Sprod, University of Tasmania.
August	"One man's food...intrinsic food hazards"	Mr M.V. Tracey, CSIRO, Sydney.
September	"A survey and census of the vegetation of Mt Wellington - a case history of survival after fire"	Dr D.A. Ratkowsky, CSIRO, Hobart.
October	"Population pressures in ancient Australia"	Prof Geoffrey Blainey, University of Melbourne.
November	"Community health - a changing pattern"	Prof I.C. Lewis, University of Tasmania.

#### RESOURCES OF THE SEA SYMPOSIUM

Following from a suggestion of the former President of the Society, Sir Edric Bastyan, a symposium on the "Resources of the Sea" was held at Bicheno on the weekend of 2-4 November. The attendance was disappointing with a total of only 58 including the speakers.

The symposium was opened on Saturday afternoon by His Excellency the Governor of Tasmania, Sir Stanley Burbury, President of the Society. During the remainder of the afternoon the keynote address was given by Mr A. Dunbavin Butcher, followed by addresses on "The Physical Setting" by Dr D. Rochford, "The Scenic Margin" by Dr J.G. Mosley, "Minerals from the Oceans" by Dr P.J. Cook, and "Oil from the Sea Floor" by Mr B.M. Hopkins. On Saturday evening films were shown. The main theme on Sunday morning was the living resources of the sea, the addresses being "Fisheries Management" by Mr A.J. Harrison, "Farming the Sea" by Dr T. Dix, "Utilisation of the Resources of the Sea" by Mr S.J. Thrower and Mr D. James and "The Sea and its Resources as an Ecosystem" by Dr. A.J. Gilmour.

On Sunday afternoon an excursion was made along the coast between Bicheno and Piccaninny Point. On Monday, Maria Island was visited.

The proceedings of the symposium will be published in 1975.

The Council is grateful to the many people involved in the organisation and presentation of the symposium and in particular to Mr Banks, Chairman of the organising committee.

## NORTHERN BRANCH

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

March	"The limits of growth"	Mr D. Walter, the retiring Chairman.
April	"What is a natural ecosystem?"	Dr David Smith, TCAE, Newnham.
May	"Self-sufficiency for poppy alkaloids in Australia"	Mr Stephen M. King.
June	"Archaeology of convict buildings on Maria Island"	Mr Ian Brand.
July	"The valley of lost footsteps" "Organs and organ music"	Dr Peter Tyler. Mr Lindsay O'Neill.
August	"Some contemporary concepts of cancer"	Dr J. Norelle Lickiss.
September	"The use of paintings for the diagnosis of mental illness" "The Australian League for an Undivided Ireland"  As guests of the Tasmanian Historical Research Association "Aboriginal issues of the twentieth century" In association with the National Trust and the Adult Education Board	Dr E. Cunningham Dax. Prof P.J. O'Farrell.  Prof A.T. Yarwood.
October	"Investigating the development of the Tasmanian landscape in the Quaternary"	Dr E.A. Colhoun.
November	"John Glover, the English Claude?"	Mr J.A. McPhee.
December	Members' night  "Meetings of the Royal Society" "Some experiences of drama in Japan" "A house in the forest" "Illnesses of people famous in history: the Emperor Frederick" "Days gone by"	Mr G.H. Stancombe. Mr H.S. Payne. Mr W.F. Ellis Dr J.C.H. Morris. Mr K.E.J. Robinson.

Members attended the opening of the restored Wybalenna Chapel on Flinders Island under the leadership of Dr E.V.R. Ratcliff. Mr Dennis Hodgkinson guided members on a tour of Launceston, and Mr S.M. King lead a tour of the poppy fields near Latrobe.

## PAPERS AND PROCEEDINGS

Volume 107 was published in February and Volume 108 in September. Volume 109 is in preparation.

## FINANCE

Despite some difficulties being experienced in the book-keeping resulting from staffing changes, the Society's finances are in a favourable condition, but with slightly lower cash balances for the year in the two main accounts. However, it does not seem necessary to alter either the subscription or budgets for the coming year because most of the difference is due to the carry over of payments from the previous year.

The special accounts are also in a satisfactory condition but of course our investments are not matching the current inflation despite the rise in interest rates on some of them.

#### MEMBERSHIP

During the year the membership was 540, a decrease of 7.

The membership is made up as follows -

	Northern Branch	Total
Honorary Life Members	-	4
Life Members	9	31
Ordinary Members receiving Papers and Proceedings	90	271
Ordinary Members, not receiving Papers and Proceedings	116	209
Associate Members	20	25
	<hr/> 235	<hr/> 540

#### COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Council met four times during the year, Dr E.V.R. Ratcliff and Mr K.E.J. Robinson represented the Northern Branch on the Council.

#### REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

Mr M.R. Banks and Dr D. Martin represented the Society on the Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. Dr M. Hurburgh was the representative of the Society on the Trustees of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens.

#### 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.