

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1987

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 James Plimsoll
succeeded by General Sir Phillip Bennett

Vice-Presidents

Dr P. G. Quilty

Mr C. A. H. Payne

Council.

Mr P. M. Bennison
Mrs R. M. Cameron
Mr G. Davis
Dr P. W. McCartney
Prof. O. M. Roe

Dr J. S. Rogers
Mr R. R. Shepherd
Mr C. B. Tassell
Mr M. J. Walsh

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

Assistant Honorary Editor
Dr S. J. Smith

**His Excellency Sir James Plimsoll,
A.C., C.B.E. (1917–1987)**

Sir James Plimsoll, Governor of Tasmania and President of the Society from 1982 to 1987, died on 8 May 1987.

Sir James served as President of the Society from his appointment as Governor of Tasmania in October 1982. He took a lively interest in the activities of the Society and frequently took the chair as President of the

Society at meetings of the Society, both in Hobart and Launceston. He did so at the Annual General Meetings in March 1987.

The Council valued his advice on various projects in which the Society was involved and, as recently as 29 April 1987, the Senior Vice-President and Honorary Secretary had consulted Sir James.

Sir James will be greatly missed but Council are grateful for his four and a half years of dedicated service as President of the Society.

Volume 121 of the Papers and Proceedings, published in July 1987, was dedicated to the memory of this outstanding Australian.

Deaths of Members

The deaths of the following members during the year are recorded with regret: Dr G.W. Johnstone, Dr T. H.G. Dick, Mr P.B. Walker, Mr G.F. Davies, A.O., C.M.G., Mr T.D. Raphael, and Professor G.H. Newstead, O.B.E.

Honours

Two former Vice-Presidents of the Society were admitted to Membership in the Order of Australia in the 1987 Queen's Birthday Honours. They were: Dr June Olley for service to science, particularly food science (Vice-President 1972-73) and Mr J.W.C. Wyatt for service to the health industry (Vice-President 1957-58).

Mr H.R. Burton of the Antarctic Division, Department of Science, was awarded the Antarctic Medal on 21 June 1987.

Royal Society of Tasmania Medal

At the 1987 Annual General Meeting it was resolved that the Royal Society of Tasmania Medal be awarded to Eric Oswald Gale Scott (1899-1986) for his distinguished research in zoology. This was the first posthumous award of the medal since its establishment in 1927.

The medal was presented to Dr D. L. Scott, Mr Scott's son, by the President, His Excellency Sir James Plimsoil, at the Annual Meeting of the Northern Branch in Launceston on 13 March 1987. Previous recipients have been:

1927	Mr L. Rodway	1970	Dr D.L. Serventy
1930	Mr C.E. Lord	1976	Dr D. Martin
1934	Mr H.H. Scott	1978	Dr M.R. Banks
1935	Dr A.N. Lewis	1982	Dr Grote Reber
1940	Dr W.L. Crowther and Prof. V.V. Hickman		

R.M. Johnston Memorial Medal

At the General Meeting in June, the R.M. Johnston Memorial Medal was presented to Dr Trevor Beard, O.B.E., in recognition of his work on hydatids in Tasmania. Previous recipients have been:

1923	Sir T.W. Edgeworth David
1925	Professor E. Wood-Jones
1929	Dr R.J. Tillyard
1934	Professor W.J. Dakin
1937	Sir David Rivett
1946	Professor L.M. Martin

1948	Prof T. Griffith-Taylor
1950	Professor J.T. Wilson
1957	Professor F. Walker
1959	Sir Edmund Hillary
1977	Professor S.W. Carey
1983	Dr A.G. Fenton

The R.M. Johnston Memorial Lecture, "Unhealthy Behaviour and the Ethics of Coercion", delivered by Dr Beard on 2 June 1987, has been published in *The Medical Journal of Australia* 142: 82-85 (18 January 1988).

Medals of the Royal Society

Mr Roger V. McNeice, Honorary Numismatist to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, has published an account of the four medals issued by the Society, entitled "Medals of the Royal Society of Tasmania" (*Journal of the Numismatic Association* 3: 27-30, 1987).

Annual Meeting

At the Annual Meeting on 3 March, Dr P.W. McCartney retired as Vice-President and Mr D. Hughes and Mr C.A.H. Payne as Members of the Council. The following were elected:

Vice-President	Mr C.A.H. Payne
Members of Council	Mr G. Davis
	Mr M.J. Walsh
	Mr P.M. Bennison
	(to fill casual vacancy)
Honorary Secretary	Mr D.R. Gregg
Honorary Treasurer	Mr T.A.H. Knight
Honorary Auditor	Mr R.J. Dwyer

Membership

The membership is 465, an increase of 34, and is made up as follows:

	Northern Branch	Total
Honorary Life Members	3	7
Life Members	12	35
Ordinary Members receiving Papers and Proceedings	67	291
Ordinary Members not receiving Papers and Proceedings	57	111
Associate Members	15	21
	<u>154</u>	<u>465</u>

Council Meetings

The Council met four times during the year with Mrs R. M. Cameron and Mr C. B. Tassell representing the Northern Branch on the Council.

Sir Joseph Banks Memorial Lecture

Planning is well advanced for the lecture series to be given in August–October 1988 in each Australian State capital, Canberra and London. The lecturer is Professor Sir David Smith, F.R.S., Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh, and his subject will be “Commemorating Sir Joseph Banks — symbiosis and the concept of mutual benefit”.

The lecture series has been sponsored by Qantas and Ansett who are providing free travel for Sir David. The Australian Bicentennial Authority has provided a grant towards the cost of a booklet.

A medal, designed by Stephen Walker, is being struck to commemorate the lecture series.

The inaugural lecture of the series will be delivered in Hobart on 25 August 1988.

Library

Mr Stefan Petrow resumed duty as Royal Society Librarian late in 1987 after having been on leave of absence since 1984. He reports on activities at the Library for the year:

This year the library operated with reduced staff. While the day-to-day running of the library was maintained during the year, initially under the supervision of Mrs B. Chalmers and in the latter half under Mrs P. Clennett, no major projects were possible. It is hoped that users experienced little or no inconvenience.

During the year 368 members, University staff and students and other users signed the visitors' book. A number of significant and sometimes lengthy reference queries were received from members and other researchers. Many (144) volumes were borrowed and a further 135 were consulted in the library. In addition, 125 inter-library loan requests were supplied to libraries in Australia and overseas.

Binding of Royal Society serials continued during the year and 215 volumes were bound.

In September 300 copies of volume 121 of the *Papers and Proceedings* were distributed to exchange partners.

Royal Society Room

From the June meeting, the new entrance to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery off Macquarie Street was used rather than that of the 1863 Henry Hunter building in Argyle Street. The entrance provides easy access for the disabled and toilets are available, including a toilet for the disabled, in the entrance building.

The Council records its appreciation to Sir Allan Knight who constructed a lectern for the room.

Publications

Volume 121 of the *Papers and Proceedings* was published on 22 July 1987. It comprised the Proceedings plus 170 pages, containing 18 papers. Thirty authors contributed papers on conchology, history, hydrology, mammalogy, palaeobotany, plant ecology, genetics, ecology and taxonomy, Quaternary history and shoreline processes.

The Tasman Peninsula Symposium proceedings are being edited and prepared for publication which is expected in the early part of the second half of the year.

By the time of the Annual Meeting it is anticipated that editorial work on the proceedings of the Macquarie Island Symposium (Volume 122, part 1) will be virtually complete and setting the volume up for printing well advanced. Publication in May is being aimed for.

Editing of Volume 122, part 2, is underway. Seven papers have been accepted and a further eight are being refereed or revised.

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

Lectures

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

- March — "Sea Level, Ice and the Greenhouse Effect" Dr P.G. Quilty, Antarctic Division, Department of Science (Vice-President)
- April — "Conservation and the New Ecology" Dr Graeme Harris, CSIRO
- May — "Sampling the Universe" Dr Mark Duldig, Antarctic Division, Department of Science
- June — R. M. Johnston Memorial Lecture — "Unhealthy Behaviour and the Ethics of Coercion" Dr T.C. Beard, O.B.E.
- July — "Malta: mid-way island" Prof. R. F. Cane
- August — "Temperature and Microbiological Growth" Dr T.A. McMeekin, University of Tas.
- September — "Scientific and Technological Development and the Future and the Need for Cultural Change" Ms Rhonda Galbally, Commission for the Future
- October — "Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy in Tasmania" Dr P.W. McCartney (immediate past Vice-President)
- November — "The Conservation of Living Marine Resources" Dr John Gulland, Imperial College, London

Northern Branch

Chairman	Mrs R. M. Cameron
Vice-Chairman	Mr A. T. Orr
Honorary Secretary	Mr C. B. Tassell
Honorary Treasurer	Mr K. E. J. Robinson
Council Members	Dr J. C. Standard
	Mr T. W. Archer
	Mrs M. Gardner
Branch Representatives	Mrs R. M. Cameron
on Council of Society	Mr C. B. Tassell

The Branch Council met twice during the year.

The following lectures were given at General Meetings:

- March — "Reactions of Tasmanian Fauna to Foreign Invasion" Dr R.G.H. Green, Queen Victoria Museum
- April — "Supernovae: Past and Present" Mr M. George, Queen Victoria Museum
- May — "The Moral Cycle of William Hogarth" Miss D. Dunbar, Queen Victoria Museum
- June — "Unhealthy Behaviour and the Ethics of Coercion" Dr T.C. Beard, O.B.E.
- July — "Australian Bicentennial Records Search" Mrs M. Morris-Nunn, Australian Bicentennial Records Search
— "Prehistoric Bones and Bunyips" Mr C.B. Tassell, Queen Victoria Museum
- August — "Fossil Birds and Environmental Reconstructions" Dr R. Baird, Queen Victoria Museum
- September — "Some Railway Experiences" Mr C. Smith
- October — "Settlements of Aborigines" Mr N.J.B. Plomley, Queen Victoria Museum
- November — "Early land settlements in Tasmania" Miss S. Morgan, Queen Victoria Museum
- December — Members' Night.

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 1987 State Budget provided a grant of \$1 262 000 to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, an increase of 5.5% over the allocation in the 1986 Budget. About 82% of the grant has been allocated to be spent on salaries and related costs, a proportion seen by the Trustees as unhealthily high.

The Queens Warehouse, constructed in 1870 and renovated over the period 1979 to 1986, has provided

improved working and storage facilities for the history and anthropology departments.

The new entrance building in Macquarie Street Hobart has provided a spacious foyer for the Museum and Art Gallery and easy access for the disabled. The entrance was opened by the Minister for the Arts, the Hon. Peter Rae, on 27 August.

The 1824 Commissariat Bond Store has been partially restored with a grant of \$100 000 from the Australian Bicentennial Authority and with the support of Laver Pty Ltd.

The new building for the Tasmanian Herbarium on the University of Tasmania Sandy Bay Campus was occupied in November. The building of 570 m² and costing about \$930 000 will be opened by the Hon. Peter Rae in February 1988. It is an innovative design, built partly underground, and will provide secure storage for the collection and pleasant working conditions for the staff.

During 1987, 107 364 people visited the Museum and Art Gallery, compared with 132 682 in 1986. In the second half of the year some of the galleries were closed in preparation for Bicentennial exhibitions.

Much work has been involved in preparation for *Tasmanian Vision*, an exhibition of the art of nineteenth-century Tasmania. The exhibition, sponsored by the SBT Bank, opened to the public on 1 January 1988 and was formally opened by the Governor-General of Australia on 14 January. The exhibition is to be shown in Hobart until 21 February 1988 and then will be on view at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Launceston, from 16 March until 1 May 1988. The exhibition has been indemnified by the Tasmanian and Australian Governments.

During the year there was an active programme of temporary exhibitions including: *Skinner Prout in Australia 1840-48* (December 1986–February), *Edvard Munch: Death and Desire* (February–April), *Design in Sweden Now* (April–May), *Western Australian Art* (April–May), *Moët and Chandon Touring Exhibition* (June–July), *Australian Built: Responding to the Place* (July–August), *David Chapman 1927-83: The Tasmanian Years* (July–August), *Claude Monet's "Haystack, Sun in the Haze"* (September–October), *Inuit: People of a White Land* (September–November), *Helge Larsen and Darani Lewers* (October–November), *Lloyd Rees, the Tasmanian Suite* (October–November), *Tasmanian Inventions and Innovations* (November–December), and *Captured Images: Photographs from the Collection* (December–).

A new display of medals, sponsored by the Equitable Building Society through the Art Foundation of Tasmania, was opened by H.E. General Sir Phillip Bennett, Governor of Tasmania, on 14 December. The

display includes three Victoria Crosses awarded to Tasmanians and the only George Cross awarded to a Tasmanian.

The Art Foundation of Tasmania continued to encourage support from the private sector for the Museum and Art Gallery. In addition to the medal display, the following works of art were purchased through the Foundation: *Dawn* by Arthur Fleischmann, 1963, bronze; *The Reverend Henry Dowling*, by Robert Dowling, 1850s, oil on canvas. The Friends of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery Incorporated provided funds to purchase a painting *Cressy landscape with a red cloud shadow*, by David Chapman, 1982.

Dr J. E. S. Townrow was re-elected by the Council to serve a further term on the Board of Trustees of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens. She reports on the year's activities:

"Despite continued stringent cuts in Government funding, members of the staff have succeeded in maintaining the Gardens at a standard sufficient to win the Tasmanian 1987 Tourism Award for "Outstanding Achievement in the Category of Tourist Attraction", with the State's highest visitor total of over 250 000 for the year. Our Minister, the Hon. Peter Hodgman's enthusiastic support is well justified and the Superintendent, Mr Tony May, and his workers are to be congratulated.

The actual number of visitors recorded was 285 418, an increase of 21% on 1986 figures, largely attributable to the popularity of the Japanese Garden opened 18 February and publicised world wide by the wedding of famous Japanese film stars Hiroshi Fujioka and Keiko Torri.

The Government allocation for 1987/88 was \$943 700, an increase of 2.3% over the 1986/87 grants, which was insufficient to cover wage and price cost variations resulting in the need to make considerable savings through cuts in services.

The Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens was granted registration in May as a Scientific Institution under the *Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1984*, enabling import/export of native plant material to other scientific institutions.

Stage I of the Technical Support Services Centre housing the Nursery and staff, commenced December 1986, and as yet without heating, was formally opened by the Minister on 17 November. Foreman Mr Don Harding retired in March after 18 years in charge of the Nursery. It is ironic that the Nursery staff so crowded and poorly accommodated for so many years is now under strength by three due to resignations and retirement.

The popularity of the Japanese Garden was reflected in declining visitors to the Museum and Education Centre in spite of the popularity of several very fine displays. These included "Acacias", the Tasmanian Bark Artists Association exhibition of bark paintings in March, and the successful reintroduction of the live beehive in November.

The Information and Education Officer, Mr Alan Gray resigned on 30 June after nearly five years with the Gardens to take up private consulting work. The position has not yet been filled because of financial stringencies, resulting in an extra load on the office staff answering public enquiries. The Museum was reopened in August with the help of Mr Gray working on contract to set up new displays, and the volunteer Friends of the Gardens on roster duty on weekdays.

The Horticultural Therapy unit has been extended by the completion (about 12 months behind schedule) of a new outdoor practical work area with seven demonstration raised beds. Two teak tables and garden benches have been donated by the Ex-Services Womens' Association. Horticultural Therapist, Mrs Pat Mavromatis (formerly Miss Hewitt), continues to expand her services to the disabled community with classes, workshops, home and hospital visits, classes in the Women's Gaol and talks to clubs and community groups. This year the Gardens were visited by 1250 frail and elderly people thanks to the volunteer-driven bus tours run in association with the Easy Access Garden. Mrs Mavromatis has been appointed as the Deputy Chairperson of the Home and Community Care Advisory Committee.

The Gardens Plant Recording Programme has been greatly assisted by continuing mapping of the Gardens by the staff and students of the Surveying and Cartographic Department of the Hobart Technical College with the first 10 sheets of maps completed. Mrs Sue Wells, Plant Recording Officer, has recorded about two-thirds of the existing planting on the Gardens card system, and over 8000 plant labels are now placed around the Gardens. An analysis of the renowned Conifer Collection revealed nearly 500 species with representatives of all eight conifer families in the three major orders.

The Conservatory continued to delight visitors with new additions to its splendid displays including liliiums and primulas. Other increasingly popular features in the year's programme were the Spring and Autumn Plant and Bird Walks followed by breakfast in the Restaurant, the Mini Tulip Festival and the Teddy Bears' Picnic.

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.

D.R. Gregg
Honorary Secretary
5 February 1988

P.G. Quilty
Senior Vice-President

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA
Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31 December 1987

General Account

Balance 1 January 1987	14 767.74	Stationery	1 183.00
Subscriptions		Insurance	316.01
253 @ \$12	3 036.00	Attendants' fees	821.22
96 @ \$ 8	768.00	Secretarial fees	1 968.59
15 @ \$ 5	75.00	Post box rental	115.00
2 @ \$200	400.00	Postage and freight	1 771.59
Other years	142.00	Photocopying	13.59
	4 421.00	Subscriptions	1 575.51
Interest	6 685.50	Repairs & maintenance	114.89
Rent	337.99	Federal & State duties	48.36
Donations	8.00	Telephone	6.66
Sales of publications and		Northern Branch	300.00
<i>Papers and Proceedings</i>	1 330.54	Banks Medal	524.43
Grants	4 800.00	Lecture expenses	450.40
Port Arthur symposium	(74.00)		<u>9 209.25</u>
Macquarie Is. symposium	19 500.00	<i>Papers & Proceedings</i>	7 787.00
		Macquarie Is. symposium	3 967.50
		Investments	17 000.00
			<u>37 963.75</u>
		Balance 31 December 1987	<u>13 813.02</u>
	<u>\$51 776.77</u>		<u>\$51 776.77</u>

Papers and Proceedings Account

Balance 1 January 1987	2 756.23	Federal duties	0.25
Interest	606.56	Balance 31 December 1987	3 362.54
	<u>\$3 362.79</u>		<u>\$3 362.79</u>

Accumulation Account

Balance 1 January 1987		64 465.07
Add	Net decrease in advance subscriptions	28.00
	Net increase in valuation of publications for sale	74.00
	Increase in Interest Bearing Deposits	<u>17 000.00</u>
		81 567.07
Deduct	Net transfer to Trust Funds	2 494.77
	Decreased cash at bank	<u>37.68</u>
		<u>2 532.45</u>
Balance 31 December 1987		<u>\$79 034.62</u>

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA
Balance Sheets as at 31 December 1987

1986		1987
64 465.07	Accumulated Funds	79 034.62
112.00	Subscriptions in advance	84.00
	Trust Funds:	
2 285.03	— Clive Lord Memorial Fund	2 489.88
3 831.34	— A.N. Lewis Memorial Fun	4 172.27
1 782.47	— Morton Allport Memorial	1 944.80
683.45	— A.A. Clark Bequest	741.79
4 676.37	— Joseph Milligan Bequest	5 092.02
2 543.08	— R.M. Johnston Memorial Fund	2 774.23
1 112.40	— Henry Oliver Bequest	1 211.35
2 547.66	— W.H. Hudspeth Memorial	2 775.44
4 274.15	— Life Membership Fund	<u>5 028.94</u>
<u>\$88 313.02</u>		<u>\$105 349.34</u>
	Represented by:	
33.00	Cash on hand	33.00
	Cash at bank:	
14 767.74	— General account	13 813.02
2 756.23	— Papers & Proceedings account	3 362.54
672.17	— Clive Lord Memorial Fund	803.17
934.28	— A.N. Lewis Memorial Fund	1 114.01
860.00	Mortgage Loan	860.00
29 000.00	Commonwealth Treasury Bonds and Inscribed Stock (at cost)	29 900.00
7 000.00	Interest Bearing Deposits	24 000.00
15 000.00	Library (at valuation for insurance)	15 000.00
16 389.60	Publications (at selling prices)	<u>16 463.60</u>
<u>\$88 313.02</u>		<u>\$105 349.34</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.

T.A.H. Knight, Hon. Treasurer