

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1985

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

Vice-Presidents

Mr I.D. Geard

Dr P.W. McCartney

Council

Mr D. Hughes  
Prof. J.V. Lovett  
Mrs G. Morris  
Mr C.A.H. Payne  
Dr P.G. Quilty

Prof. O.M. Roe  
Dr S.J. Smith  
Mr C.B. Tassell  
Dr J.E.S. Townrow

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

Honorary Assistant Editor  
Dr S.J. Smith

**President**

Sir James Plimsoll took the Chair, as President of the Society, at the Annual General Meeting in March.

**Annual Meeting**

At the Annual Meeting on 5th March, Dr J.E.S. Townrow retired as Vice-President and Mr A.V. Brown and Dr P.W. McCartney as Members of the Council. The following were elected:

Vice-President	Dr P.W. McCartney
Members of Council	Prof. J.V. Lovett Prof. O.M. Roe
Honorary Secretary	Mr D.R. Gregg
Honorary Treasurer	Mr T.A.H. Knight
Honorary Auditor	Mr R.J. Dwyer

**Membership**

The Membership is 438, a decrease of 26, and is made up as follows:

	Northern Branch	Total
Honorary Life Members	2	6
Life Members	10	34
Ordinary Members receiving the Papers and Proceedings	62	268
Ordinary Members not receiving the Papers and Proceedings	60	112
Associate Members	<u>14</u>	<u>18</u>
	148	438

### **Council Meetings**

The Council met five times during the year with Mrs G. Morris and Mr C.B. Tassell representing the Northern Branch on the Council.

### **Amendment to Rules**

At a Special Meeting on 2nd April 1985, Rule 56 was altered to read:

“The editing of the Papers and Proceedings shall be the responsibility of an Honorary Editor appointed by the Council. The Honorary Editor shall be *ex officio* a member of the Council.”

### **Committees**

The Council has set up four committees to assist with the administration of the Society. These are:

*Executive Committee*, consisting of the two Vice-Presidents, the Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer, to conduct the affairs of the Society between meetings of the Council.

*Programme and Planning Committee*, consisting of the Junior Vice-President, the Honorary Secretary and a member of the Council, to plan the activities of the Society except programmes of branches.

*Honours Committee*, consisting of the Executive Committee plus the Chairman of the Northern Branch, to make recommendations on recipients for medals, Honorary Life Members and Visiting Members.

*Promotion and Recruitment Committee*, to be established.

### **Tasman Peninsula Seminar**

Council is planning a seminar to be held on Tasman Peninsula on 1-3 November 1986.

### **Banks Memorial Lecture**

The Council continued to pursue the proposal that the bicentennial of the European settlement of Australia in 1888 be marked by a lecture, delivered in the various States of Australia, honouring Sir Joseph Banks. In November 1985, a major Australian organisation agreed to sponsor the Lecture.

### **Library**

This year the library has operated with a reduced staff owing to study leave and sickness. However, with library routines in place, it is hoped

that little or no inconvenience was experienced by users.

During the year 406 members, University staff members and students, and other users signed the visitor's book. A number of significant reference queries were received by the librarian from members and other researchers, both personal and by letter, sometimes requiring lengthy research. In addition, 183 interlibrary loan requests were filled from libraries in Australia and overseas, highlighting the library's valuable collection. Loans from the library number 175.

The binding of the large backlog of Royal Society serials is now almost complete. 988 volumes were bound this year, and from next year, significantly fewer titles will be done.

The year has been extremely busy, any many activities undertaken. A sample of these is described below:

A collection of surplus volumes from the library of the Northern Branch was priced by the librarian, and offered for sale to the membership. After some months, the remainder was sold to a local antiquarian bookshop.

The backlog of monograph and serials cataloguing was processed this year. These volumes are normally accumulated from exchange partners, duplicates lists and donations. In addition, this year, titles from the Northern Branch surplus not already held, were added to the collection. Serials cataloguing, done in-house, resulted in 14 new titles being added. Monograph cataloguing, using both original and purchased records, numbered 23, with some 26 further titles awaiting records.

In September, 294 copies of volume 119 of the Papers and Proceedings were distributed to exchange partners, 54 in Australia and 240 abroad. The author and subject index to volume 119 on cards was printed and circulated to 8 other libraries in Tasmania in October.

The Closed Access room, incorporating the Ernest Clark, History and Closed Access collections, has been carefully re-organised and reshelfed to provide more appropriate storage for the material, and easier access. A thorough shelf check is now being undertaken of all this material.

A leaflet entitled "Bibliography of John Gould's works and works about John Gould, held in the Royal Society of Tasmania Library, with some complementary holdings in the University of Tasmania Library and State Library of Tasmania" has been prepared this year to highlight the important collection of Gould's works held by the library. It will be catalogued and retained as part of the Pamphlet Collection.

### Publications

Volume 119 of the Papers and Proceedings was published in July 1985. It contained 14 papers involving 20 authors and covering agricultural, botanical, geological (including geochronological), historical and zoological topics. The papers occupied 107 pages.

The format of the papers was changed to double column, key words as a feature after the abstract were added and a wider variety of fonts used relative to preceding volumes. The changes were made possible by computerised type setting. The aims of making the changes, a more attractive, more legible volume, are thought to have been achieved.

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

### Lectures

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

March — “Fanny Cochrane Smith” Ms Julia Clark, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery

April — “Soil erosion in Tasmania — a perspective view” Mr L.R. Richley, Department of Agriculture

May — “Stone and a sense of place, the effect of building stone on regional architecture” Dr E.V.R. Ratcliff, Launceston

June — “Tasmania’s economic development after the dam” Dr B.S. Felmingham, University of Tasmania

July — “Tasmania’s building sandstones — properties, performance and preservation” Mr Peter Spratt, Consulting Engineer, Hobart

August — “Why worry about doing research in Antarctica?” Dr P.G. Quilty, Antarctic Division, Department of Science

September — “An overview of RSI in Australia” Dr Niki Ellis, Department of Health Services

October — “Astronomy in Tasmania and in space” Dr M.D. Waterworth, University of Tasmania

November — “Whale-strandings in Tasmania — how do they relate to theories on the aetiologies of this phenomenon?” Mr B.L. Munday, Department of Agriculture.

A visit was arranged to the Canopus Observatory, University of Tasmania, at Mount Rummy on the evening of 30 October.

### Northern Branch

Chairman	Mrs G. Morris
Vice-Chairman	Mr H.S. Payne
Past Chairman	Mr D.G. Hannan
Council Members	Mrs R.M. Cameron
	Mr E. Fist
	Mr B. Pike
Honorary Secretary	Mr C.B. Tassell
Honorary Treasurer	Mr K.E.J. Robinson
Branch Representatives on the Council	Mrs G. Morris
	Mr C.B. Tassell

The Branch Council met four times during the year.

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

March — “Australian rock wallabies” Prof. Emeritus G. B. Sharman, formerly of Macquarie University

April — “Aspects of life and education in Fiji” Mr Michael Dunphy, Tasmanian College of Advanced Education

May — “Balinese religion” Mr David Barratt, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery

June — “The Abt railway” Dr John Cannell

July — “Alzheimer’s Disease and related disorders” Dr Andrew MacLaine-Cross, Launceston General Hospital

August — “The potential for farming fur animals in Tasmania” Dr Michael Statham, Department of Agriculture

September — “Aquaculture in Australia” Dr Nigel Forteach

October — “Small water turbines for electric power generation” Mr John Lemon, Tamar Designs, Deviot

November — “Why investigate wildlife diseases?” Mr David Obendorf, Department of Agriculture

December — Members’ Night “Why laugh?” Mr H.S. Payne  
“Royal Society excursions from the late 1950’s onwards” Mrs E.M. Barratt

“Industrial archaeology of western Tasmania” Mr W.E. Badcock “Illuminated entertainment using an early lantern projector and numerous animated lantern slides” Mr A.T. Orr

#### Nominees to Other Bodies

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

The 1985 State Budget provided \$1 158 000 to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, an increase of 9.2% over the allocation in the 1984 Budget. However, all this increase is committed to pay higher salary and related costs resulting from a review of salaries by the Public Service Board. Expenditure, other than salaries, will have to remain at the same level as in 1984-85.

The Budget allocation has not permitted the employment of any extra staff. This will set problems in keeping some display areas open to the public as more staff are urgently needed to maintain adequate levels of security both at Hobart and at Zeehan. Extra curatorial staff are urgently needed to maintain and expand the service provided to the people of Tasmania and to people elsewhere.

The Community Employment Programme has provided funds to employ five otherwise unemployed people to assist with various projects, both at Hobart and Zeehan. An Aboriginal trainee, funded under the National Employment Strategy for Aboriginals has been employed in the Anthropology Department.

The Trustees, in November 1985, welcomed the start of building operations to complete the renovation of the Queens Warehouse and the construction of a new building to provide an entrance to the Museum and Art Gallery in Macquarie Street.

At Zeehan, the newly renovated first floor of the Zeehan Post Office building has provided much-needed extra exhibition space for the West Coast Pioneers' Memorial Museum. New displays in the George Smith Rooms were opened by the Premier on 27 April 1985.

The Art Foundation of Tasmania, established in 1984, has encouraged support from the private sector for acquisitions for the collections of the Museum and Art Gallery. The Foundation has enrolled 20 individuals and 14 organisations as Members and 3 individuals as Fellows. The Foundation made its first purchase in April 1985 with the acquisition of *Sunrise at Matlock*, an oil

painting by John Glover, 1840. Later in the year, two oils by Edith Holmes, *Summer* (1930's) and *Zinc Works* (1940's), and a set of bank notes, printed in 1881 for the Bank of Van Diemens Land Ltd, were purchased. The Art Foundation, together with the Friends of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery established in 1982, has involved the Museum and Art Gallery increasingly with the Tasmanian community. The Trustees are initiating moves to increase further this involvement with the corporate sector in particular.

During the 1985 year, 119 634 people visited the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, compared with 156 651 in 1984. The high figure for 1984 reflected the popularity of the Americas Cup shown in December and January 1983-84.

A selection of 55 works by Simpkinson De Wesselow (1819-1906) from the Royal Society of Tasmania collection, after its showing in Hobart in December 1984 to February 1985, was sent on tour to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Launceston (February-March), the S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney (May-June), and the Newcastle Region Art Gallery (October-November). The watercolours and drawings are now safely back in Hobart.

An active programme of temporary exhibitions has been maintained, and this has included *John Passmore Retrospective* (February-April), *Noel Counihan, Fifty Years of his Art* (April-May), *Six Contemporary Artists* (June), *Sengai, The Zen Master* (July-August), *New Works on Paper* (August-September), *G.T.W.B. Boyes, Drawings and Watercolours* (October-November), and *Sullivans Cove, Birthplace of a Colony* (November-).

An important bequest of some 6 500 Australian ceramic items, together with \$30 000 to purchase additional pots, was received from the late Brian Everard Easterbrook (1925-1985) of Gravelly Beach. Under the provisions of the *Museums (Aboriginal Remains) Act* 1984, the Tasmanian Aboriginal skeletal remains from Oyster Cove, known as the Crowther Collection, were cremated at Oyster Cove on 4 May 1985.

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:

An increase of 8.5% in the number of visitors to the Gardens (247 942) reflected the continuing efforts of Superintendent Tony May and his staff to upgrade the Gardens displays during the year. In the first two weeks of September alone, over 16 000 came to see the magnificent conservatory display

augmented with tulips for Fathers' Day. Some 2 500 came to the Teddy Bears Picnic in November. A State Government Grant of \$835 000, of which \$681 975 was for salaries etc., was augmented by special grants from the Hobart City Council of \$5 000 for the Japanese Garden, maintenance for the Gardens at Parliament House and the Supreme Court, CEP grants for the Japanese Garden construction and a driver for the Hortotherapy Bus, and National Trust Preservation Fund donations totalling \$13 000 for reroofing and repair of eaves of the Museum (formerly the Superintendent's Cottage). Cuts in funding have so far precluded publication of the history of the Gardens written by Marcus Hurburgh, former Trustee (Royal Society) and retired Information/Education Officer.

The Gardens' educational policies have been well served during the year by Alan Gray, Information/Education Officer, Pat Hewitt, Hortotherapist, and Sue Wells, Plant Recording Officer.

Mr Gray instructed 3 500 children from 86 schools, a 31% increase on 1984, coming from all over Tasmania, including Launceston, Queenstown, Strahan, Ulverstone, Kempton, Mathinna, Somerset, New Norfolk and Bruny Island. Many other school children came on a casual non-arranged basis. 520 adults participated in guided tours and talks and 70 teachers were given special training seminars. The Education Department has given enthusiastic support to the Gardens' Education Programme and has produced a Schools Garden Excursion brochure.

Some 23 000 people visited the Museum in spite of an enforced three months closure while the roof was replaced and a new display area was remodelled to feature plant evolution, structure and function. Over 1 100 viewed the two-day Bonsai display in October. A popular fern display was replaced in September with an equally interesting display of grasses and grass-like plants. Mr Gray has collected a further 30 native species to augment those already established in the Gardens.

Miss Hewitt was appointed as Hortotherapist in May with responsibility to organise and run programmes for disabled people. Since the opening of the Easy Access Tony Seddon Glasshouse by the Minister, the Hon. G.B. Davis, on 18 July, Miss Hewitt has supervised 250 individual visits for people from seven hospitals, community health centres and rest homes. She also arranged the Hortotherapy Bus tours which over the year conveyed some 1 350 people round the Gardens from over 28 homes, hospitals, rehabilitation centres, clubs and respite centres. Sadly the

Hortotherapy Van (donated by the Hobart Rotary Club) died of overwork on active service at the end of September. A replacement van is to be funded by Treasury.

Both Mr Gray and Miss Hewitt are severely hampered in their Gardens activities by the lack of an education building in which to house classes, and the Trustees are making continued efforts to find ways of providing such a facility.

Mrs Wells, Plant Recording Officer, has labelled well over 2 500 plants, and all plant accessions are now recorded. A three-year survey plan of the Gardens has been started by the Surveying and Cartography Department of the Hobart Technical College. This will enable each major plant to be located in the grounds.

There has been mixed progress in major construction project during 1985. The Japanese Garden, funded and supplied with labour substantially by the Commonwealth Community Employment Programme, is well advanced and should be finished early in 1986. Not so the No.4 glasshouse and old cactus glasshouse, both of which are in a very dangerous condition. Twelve years have elapsed since the Board first approached the Minister for funding, and plans were drawn up and approve only to be quashed due to financial restraints which will not permit the scale of the buildings planned. The Board has now to consider minor works of a temporary nature such as a "Cyclone" shed for tools and equipment. Replacement of worn pathways with "Unipave" is also progressing slowly because of budget cutbacks over the year. The Trustees congratulate Dr J. Vitesnik, the Gardens' Landscape Architect, on receiving the Pride of Workmanship Award from the Hobart Rotary Club.

Two of Dr Vitesnik's staff members have been granted Stonemasonry Apprenticeships by the Apprenticeship Commission. They will attend four two-week block release courses in Melbourne for three years. It is noteworthy that, of the total Gardens staff of 32, only seven gardeners are involved in the day-to-day maintenance of the displays.

Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mr Geoff Fader, resigned on 30 June after 15 years service as a Trustee; the new Chairman elected is Mr Gray J.B. Hulton. The new Board Member appointed by the Governor to replace Mr Fader is Mr Edward C. Chandler, horticulturalist. Thanks go to Professor W. Jackson, University of Tasmania representative, for his 25th year of service on the Board.



## NORTHERN BRANCH

Balance 1 January 1985	609.86	Subscriptions to Hobart	96.00
Subscriptions	84.00	Printing and stationery	65.54
Suppers	13.88	Theatre hire	110.00
Sale of publications	5.50	Postage	212.42
Grant (Royal Society)	800.00	P.O. Box	21.00
Bank interest	21.83	Batteries for amplifier	8.25
		Sundries	5.50
		Debit tax	3.00
		Balance 31 December 1985	<u>1 012.91</u>
	<u>\$1 534.62</u>		<u>\$1 534.62</u>

## ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

## Balance Sheet as at 31 December 1985

1984			1985
63 263.48	Accumulated Funds		66 736.73
129.00	Subscriptions in advance		143.00
	Trust Funds:		
1 901.95	— Clive Lord Memorial Fund	2 088.03	
3 191.57	— A.N. Lewis Memorial Fund	3 503.48	
1 447.39	— Morton Allport Memorial	1 592.74	
573.42	— A.A. Clark Bequest	627.36	
3 904.18	— Joseph Milligan Bequest	4 276.70	
2 081.29	— R.M. Johnston Memorial Fund	2 322.54	
925.78	— Henry Oliver Bequest	1 017.26	
2 121.41	— W.H. Hudspeth Memorial	2 328.64	
3 423.43	— Life Membership Fund	<u>3 740.70</u>	<u>21 497.45</u>
<u>\$82 962.90</u>			<u>\$88 377.18</u>
	Represented by:		
33.00	Cash on hand		33.00
	Cash at bank:		
11 506.76	— General account		15 987.94
1 583.25	— Papers & Proceedings Account		2 155.33
403.47	— Clive Lord Memorial Fund		534.54
572.37	— A.N. Lewis Memorial Fund		748.87
860.00	Mortgage Loan		860.00
	Commonwealth Treasury Bonds &		
29 900.00	Inscribed Stock (at cost)		29 900.00
7 000.00	Interest Bearing Deposits		7 000.00
15 000.00	Library (at valuation for insurance)		15 000.00
<u>16 104.05</u>	Publications (at selling price)		<u>16 157.50</u>
<u>\$82 962.90</u>			<u>\$88 377.18</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.