

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1984

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

Dr J.E.S. Townrow

Mr I.D. Geard

Council

Mr A.V. Brown  
Mr D.G. Hannan  
Mr D. Hughes  
Dr P.W. McCartney  
Mr C.A. Payne

Dr P.G. Quilty  
Mr C.B. Tassell  
Dr S.J. Smith  
Mr. L.E. Wall

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.

**Membership**

The membership is 464, the same as 1982 and 1983, and is made up as follows:

**Annual Meeting**

At the Annual Meeting on 6 March, Mr L.E. Wall retired as Vice President and Miss R.H. Barnett and Mr I.D. Geard as Members of the Council. The following were elected:

Vice-President	Mr I.D. Geard
Members of Council	Mr D. Hughes Mr C.A. Payne
Honorary Secretary	Mr D.R. Gregg
Honorary Treasurer	Mr T.A.H. Knight
Honorary Auditor	Mr R.J. Dwyer

	Northern Branch	Total
Honorary Life Members	2	5
Life Members	9	34
Ordinary Members receiving the Papers and Proceedings	70	284
Ordinary Members not receiving the Papers and Proceedings	67	123
Associate Members	14	18
	162	464

**Vernon Victor Hickman, OBE, (1894-1984)**

Professor Emeritus V.V. Hickman died in Hobart on 20 November 1984, aged 90.

Professor Hickman joined the Society in 1915 and gave dedicated service both as a member and office-holder. He was awarded the Royal Society of Tasmania medal in 1940 and the Clive Lord Memorial Medal in 1960. He was elected an Honorary Life Member in 1967.

The Council places on record its appreciation of his contributions both to the Society and to science and education during his long and active life.

**Council Meetings**

The Council met four times during the year with Mr D.G. Hannan and Mr C.B. Tassell representing the Northern Branch on the Council.

**Library**

The Library has continued to function smoothly during the year. The Librarian, Stefan Petrow, left in September on leave of absence to resume studies for a period, and he was replaced by Mrs Gaye Thavisin, working 65% of full-time. Mrs Jane Hutchison remains as part-time clerical assistant.

Visitors to the Library signing the register totalled 520 for 1984, a significant increase on last year's total of 380. Loans of material, chiefly from the Serials collection, numbered 290. The Library supplied 93 items, mainly photocopies, in response to interlibrary loan requests, both from within Australia and abroad, during the year.

Binding of periodicals remained a high priority, and during the year 889 volumes were bound.

In October 1984, 296 copies of Vol. 118 of the *Papers and Proceedings* were mailed to exchange partners, 54 volumes to partners in Australia, and 242 to partners elsewhere in the world. In the course of the year, our exchange agreement with the Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society was terminated.

Early in the year the Northern Branch of the Society sent its collection of surplus books to the

Librarian. 46 titles not already held by the Library were added to its collection, and the remaining 59 titles were valued. These were subsequently offered for sale to members of the Northern Branch.

The following books were donated to the Library in 1984:

- DALES, R.P., comp: *PRACTICAL INVERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY: A LABORATORY MANUAL FOR THE STUDY OF THE MAJOR GROUPS OF INVERTEBRATES, EXCLUDING PROTOCHORDATES*, University of Washington Press, 1970.
- MUSE, C. & S.: *THE BIRDS AND BIRDLORE OF SAMOA*, Pioneer Press, 1982.
- SCHOPF, T.J.M.: *PALEOCEANOGRAPHY*, Harvard University Press, 1980.

In addition two monographs were received from exchange partners:

- CSIRO Division of Fisheries Research: *SECOND DIVISIONAL RESEARCH SEMINAR, 19-23 March 1984*.
- RAOU Conservation Statement No. 1: *THE GROUND PARROT "PEZOPORUS WALLICUS KERR"*, prepared by C.W. Meredith, 1984.

During the year the Rare Book Collection was reshelfed more appropriately, the pamphlet collection thoroughly examined and stored correctly, and the Ernest Clark and history collections filed in one sequence for easier access.

**Publications**

Volume 118 of the *Papers and Proceedings* was published in August 1984. It contained 18 papers by 30 authors and totalled 248 pages.

A new method of production, involving the use of a word-processor, is to be employed for Volume 119.

The Society is once more 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	'The East Australian Current'	Dr George Cresswell, CSIRO Division of Oceanography
April	'Some aspects of self defence in plants'	Professor J.V. Lovett, University of Tasmania
May	'A gaggle of greenies: 200 years of taxonomic botany in Tasmania'	Dr A.E. Orchard, Tasmanian Herbarium

June	'The 'Pandora' re-discovered'	Ms Shirley Lester, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery
July	'The RAOU Bird Atlas 1977-1981: its objectives, organisation and achievements'	Dr O.M.G. Newman, Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union
August	'AIDS and other things that happen to some people'	Dr David Evans, Commonwealth Pathology Laboratory
September	'The Black War: a new look at an old story' Eldershaw Memorial Lecture. Joint meeting with Tasmanian Historical Research Association	Professor Henry Reynolds, James Cook University of Townsville
October	'Aquaculture: food, finance or fantasy?'	Dr T.G. Dix, Tasmanian Fisheries Development Authority
November	'EZ's role as a corporate citizen of Tasmania'	Mr W.T. Wise, Electrolytic Zinc Co. of Australasia Ltd
December	'Prehistoric archaeology in another Southern land'	Professor Hilary Deacon, University of Stellenbosch

Two excursions were held. On 9 June, a visit was made to the Tasmanian Herbarium. On 10 November, members visited the Risdon plant of the Electrolytic Zinc Company of Australasia Ltd.

### Northern Branch

Chairman	Mr D.G. Hannan
Vice-Chairman	Mrs G.M. Morris
Past Chairman	Mr B.A. Pike
Council Members	Mr R.E. Ward Mr J.H. Chambers Dr D. Hamilton Mrs R.M. Cameron
Honorary Secretary	Mr C.B. Tassell
Honorary Treasurer	Mr K.E.J. Robinson
Branch representatives on the Council	Mr D.G. Hannan Mr C.B. Tassell

The Branch Council met six times during the year.

The following lectures were given at General Meetings:

March	His life as a musician	Mr Jan Sedivka, University of Tasmania
April	Pensions in retirement Investment in retirement	Mr Jamieson Mr Macdonald Launceston Bank for Savings
May	Aquaculture	Dr A. Osborne, Dr N. Forteith, Tasmanian College of Advanced Education
June	Forum — Allergies	Dr R. Mecoy, Dr D. Hamilton, Mr A. McLeod

July	'Pandora' expedition	Ms Shirley Lester, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery
August	Macquarie Island	Ms Perviz Marker
September	Halley's Comet	Mr M. George, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery
October	What Happens Inside Classrooms	Dr D. Fisher, Tasmanian College of Advanced Education
December	Members night:  Geology and Land Use of Lees Paddocks North West Tasmania Excursion to Port Arthur Rev. George Eastman, Chaplain, Port Arthur	Mr D. Hannan   Mr D. Walter Mrs R. Ward

### Symposium

A major symposium, organised jointly with ANZAAS, was presented in Launceston on Saturday 22 September. The topic, Bass Strait, covered the potential it offers Tasmania and the problems it has presented to the development of this state.

Ten guest speakers, with the Chairman Mr Jack Edwards discussed a number of subjects during the day-long symposium. Participating speakers were:

- Dr S. Murray-Smith (University of Melbourne): Bass Strait Today — a Survey
- Mr J.K. Davidson (Petrecon Australia Pty Ltd): The Geological Evolution and the Petroleum Industry of the Bass Basin
- Dr C.B. Fandry (CSIRO Division of Oceanography): The Physical Oceanography of Bass Strait
- Mr G.R. Stackhouse (President of the Australian Fishing Industry Council): Commercial Fisheries of Bass Strait
- Mr B.J. Lynch (Premiers Department): Dimensions in Bass Strait Shipping — a Perspective
- Mr R.T.J. Holyman and Mr O.J. Warren (Wm Holyman and Sons Pty Ltd): Bass Strait Transport: Development and Prospects
- Mr K.V. Korofeeff (Proprietor of the King Island News): King Island's Resources are yet to be Tested
- Mr J.D. Duigan ('Kronstadt', Flinders Island): Agriculture and Other Occupations and the Special Problems Confronting Island Communities with an overview and summary given by Professor G.N. Blainey of the University of Melbourne.

Associated with the symposium were exhibitions on maritime archaeology presented at the Launceston Bank for Savings and the Northern Regional Library.

### Excursion

The November meeting took the form of an excursion from 3 to 5 November to the Port Arthur historic site.

### Nominees to Other Bodies

The Council re-elected Dr M.R. Banks and Mr A.R. Neilson to the Board of Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. They report on the year's activities:

The 1984 State Budget provided \$1 060 000 to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, an increase of only 6% on the previous year. The Trustees were gravely disappointed that the grant fell so far below their demonstrable needs. The amount able to be allocated for collection purchases was a very inadequate \$50 000.

Funds have, however, enabled the permanent employment of three additional members of staff who were previously employed with Commonwealth funds under the Wage Pause Programme and the Australian Biological Resources Study.

The Wage Pause Programme and, later, the Community Employment Programme provided welcome sources of funds to employ otherwise unemployed people to assist with various projects. Under the Wage Pause Programme, eight people were employed for periods of up to 52 weeks. Grants under the Community Employment Programme enabled ten people to be employed for periods ranging from 14 to 52 weeks.

The Trustees continue to be disturbed at the lack of progress with building development for the Museum and Art Gallery in Hobart. They look forward, however, to resumption of work on the renovation of the buildings in 1985.

At Zeehan, the renovation of the first floor of the Post Office building has been completed and this will provide much-needed extra space for displays.

The Art Foundation of Tasmania, launched by His Excellency the Governor in July 1984, has encouraged support from the private sector for acquisitions for the collections of the Museum and Art Gallery. The Tasmanian Government has agreed to a dollar-for-dollar subsidy on donations up to a maximum subsidy of \$225 000 over three years. The donations pledged by the 8 corporate and 16 individual members, together with the promised Government subsidy, totalled \$190, 850 at the end of 1984.

During the 1984 year, 156 651 people visited the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, compared with 144 877 in 1983. The America's Cup attracted record crowds when it was on show from 26 December 1983 to 8 January 1984.

Mr H.D. Barker, Preparator at the Museum and Art Gallery since 1971, died on 18 March 1984. During the last months of his life he completed a series of life-size models of the large mammals which lived in Tasmania towards the end of the Pleistocene, some 50 000 years ago. These were placed on display in December 1984.

A selection of 55 works by Simpkinson De Wesselow (1819-1906) from the Royal Society of Tasmania collection was placed on exhibition in December 1984 to mark the launching of the book on the artist by Mr Max Angus published by Blubber Head Press.

The Tasmanian Government, in August 1984, announced that all Tasmanian Aboriginal human remains held in the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery and the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery were to be handed over to representatives of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community. Legislation to implement this decision, the *Museums (Aboriginal Remains) Act* 1984, was passed by Parliament in November 1984.

The *Tasmanian State Service Act* and other related Acts were passed by Parliament in May 1984. Amendments to the *Tasmanian Museum Act* 1950 drastically curtail the powers of the Trustees to employ staff. The new amendments also permit the Governor to dismiss the Chairman of Trustees if the Chairman refuses to comply with employment or administrative instructions issued under the *Tasmanian State Service Act*.

Dr Banks was re-elected Chairman of Trustees for a period of three months at the beginning of 1984. Mr Neilson was elected Chairman in May 1984. Dr Banks declined to be nominated for re-election to the Trustees and at the end of 1984 finished a period of 11 years dedicated service on the Board.

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:

The Trustees wish to congratulate the Superintendent, Mr A.P. May, on being awarded the Australian Nurserymen's Award of Merit 1984 for outstanding service to the industry. His dedicated work, coupled with the breaking of the seven year drought in spring this year, was reflected in the notably improved overall condition of the Gardens and the particularly good spring displays. Hopefully, the increased rains will result in a significantly lowered water rate compared with the \$9 160 paid last financial year.

The total number of visitors to the Gardens was 228 506, a drop of 1% from the previous year. However, despite this drop, the number of visitors to the Museum and Education Centre rose by 30% to 24 674, the highest since its inception. This pleasing increase reflects the continued improvements in displays, the excellent work of Mr Alan Gray, Information and Education officer, and the altered opening hours of 12 noon to 4 p.m. The new Museum exhibits included a fern display in the Native Plant Room and seven framed charts of mounted native wildflowers of the Freycinet Peninsula, presented by Mrs Maureen Johnstone, replacing the previous set of SW Tasmania wildflowers in the Board Room. The Gardens' highly successful exhibit at the Royal Hobart Show 'Life Depends on Plants', designed by Mr Gray, will form the basis of a rotating display during 1985. A grant of \$6 000 was received from the National Estate for the renewal of the Museum's old chimneys.

In compliance with the Trustees' recognition of the Gardens' special obligation to preserve and present Tasmanian native flora, especially endemic species, Mr Gray took part in an expedition in co-operation with NPWS to Cox's Bight to collect *Lomatia tasmanica* for conservation. He has also established a collection of *Rubus gunnianus*, a species potentially endangered by the rust fungus *Phragmidium violaceum* recently introduced to Australia.

Completed Gardens projects include the new Cactus and Succulent House, with one of the largest collections in Australia totalling more than

2 500, and the planted Camellia and Rhododendron Garden. The latter, designed and directed by Landscape Architect Dr J. Vitesnik employed a number of people funded under the Community Employment Programme Scheme.

Following contact from the Mayor of Hobart to the Mayor of Yaizu and reciprocal visits of staff and representatives to Tasmania and Japan, plans for a Japanese Garden in Hobart and an Australian Garden in Yaizu have been exchanged. The Japanese Garden will be sited in the Eastern Section beyond the French Memorial and rockeries, and below the new Erica and Proteaceae garden.

A Toyota Hortotherapy van, donated to the Gardens by the Rotary Club of Hobart and staffed by voluntary Friends of the Gardens and Probus Club drivers, has been extensively used by growing numbers of disabled and elderly people on conducted tours of the Gardens. The glasshouse and work area of the Easy Access Garden are now complete

and it is expected that a Hortotherapist will be appointed in the New Year.

The Trustees have given close attention to confirming the Gardens' ownership of the foreshore area between the railway line and the River Derwent, not including that section formerly owned by the Gardens which was taken over by the Government for construction of the floating bridge and subsequently utilised for industrial purposes.

### 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 cooperation.

## ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31 December 1984

### General Account

Balance	5 011.82	Stationery	391.52
Subscriptions		Insurance	205.25
243 @ \$12	2 920.00	Attendant's fees	818.62
109 @ \$8	872.00	Secretarial fees	1 030.49
16 @ \$5	80.00	Post box rental	100.00
Other years	<u>186.00</u>	Postage and freight	2 205.97
Interest	4 058.00	Photocopying	136.36
Rent	4 016.62	Subscriptions	577.45
Donations	344.15	Repairs & maintenance	5.80
Sales of publications and Papers and Proceedings	18.52	Federal debit tax	23.30
University subvention	1 829.86	Telephone	6.45
	6 355.00	Honour board	<u>25.00</u>
			5 526.21
		Typing of Papers and Proceedings	<u>4 601.00</u>
			10 127.21
		Balance carried forward	<u>11 506.76</u>
	<u>\$21 633.97</u>		<u>\$21 633.97</u>

### Papers and Proceedings Account

Balance brought forward	1 038.77	Balance carried forward	1 583.25
Interest	<u>544.48</u>		
	<u>\$1 583.25</u>		<u>\$1 583.25</u>

### Accumulation Account

Balance 1 January 1984		56 363.67
<i>Add</i> Increased cash at bank	7 332.09	
Net decrease in advance subscriptions	81.00	
Net increase in valuation of publications for sale	1 258.85	8 671.94
		65 035.61
<i>Deduct</i> Net transfers to Trust Funds		1 772.13
Balance 31 December 1984		\$63 263.48

### ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA Balance Sheet as at 31 December 1984

1983	1984		1983	1984	
56 363.67	Accumulated Funds	63 263.48	33.00	Cash on hand	33.00
210.00	Subscriptions in advance	129.00		Cash at bank:	
	Trust Funds:		5 011.82	— General Account	11 506.76
1 724.59	— Clive Lord Memorial Fund	1 901.95	1 038.77	— Papers & Proceedings Account	1 583.25
2 894.51	— A.N. Lewis Memorial Fund	3 191.57	278.78	— Clive Lord Memorial Fund	403.47
1 304.53	— Morton Allport Memorial	1 447.39	404.39	— A.N. Lewis Memorial Fund	572.27
524.56	— A.A. Clark Bequest	573.42	860.00	Mortgage Loan	860.00
3 551.62	— Joseph Milligan Bequest	3 904.18		Commonwealth Treasury Bonds	
1 914.07	— R.M. Johnston Memorial Fund	2 081.29	29 900.00	& Inscribed Stock (at cost)	29 900.00
838.68	— Henry Oliver Bequest	925.78	7 000.00	Interest Bearing Deposits	7 000.00
1 923.94	— W.H. Hudspeth Memorial	2 121.41	15 000.00	Library (at valuation for insurance)	15 000.00
3 121.79	— Life Membership Fund	3 423.43	14 845.20	Publications (at selling prices)	16 104.05
<u>\$74 371.96</u>		<u>19 570.42</u>	<u>\$82 962.90</u>		<u>\$82 962.90</u>
		<u>\$82 962.90</u>	<u>\$74 371.96</u>		