

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1983

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 L.E. Wall

Dr J.E.S. Townrow

Council

Miss Roberta Barnett

Dr P.G. Quilty

Mr A.V. Brown

Dr S.J. Smith

Mr I.D. Geard

Mr P.G. Webb

Dr P.W. McCartney

Dr A.G. Wallace

Mr B.A. Pike

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

THOMAS EDGAR BURNS, OAM

Thomas Edgar Burns died in Launceston on 10 June 1983, aged 78. Mr Burns joined the Society in 1951 and was elected to the Northern Branch Council in 1959. He served the Northern Branch as Vice-Chairman, Chairman and Secretary. In 1978 he was elected an Honorary Life Member.

The Council places on record its appreciation of his long and dedicated service to the Society.

PRESIDENT

Sir James Plimsoll took the Chair, as President of the Society, at the Annual General Meeting in March and at the General Meeting in November. He also took the Chair at a General Meeting of the Northern Branch in July.

R.M. JOHNSTON MEMORIAL MEDAL

At the General Meeting in April, the R.M. Johnston Memorial Medal was presented to Dr A.G. Fenton. Previous recipients have been:

1923	Sir T.W. Edgeworth David	1948	Professor T. Griffith Taylor
1925	Professor F. Wood-Jones	1950	Professor J.T. Wilson
1929	Dr R.J. Tillyard	1957	Professor F. Walker
1934	Professor W.J. Dakin	1959	Sir Edmund Hillary
1937	Sir David Rivett	1977	Professor S.W. Carey
1946	Professor L.H. Martin		

CLIVE LORD MEMORIAL MEDAL

At the General Meeting in November, the President presented the Clive Lord Memorial Medal to Mr N.J.B. Plomley. Previous recipients have been:

1936	Professor L.F. Giblin	1960	Emeritus Professor V.V. Hickman
1939	Professor J.B. Cleland	1966	Dr Winifred Curtis
1947	Dr H. Thompson	1973	Dr W. Bryden
1951	Professor J. Burke	1977	Dr E.R. Guiler
1958	Mr P.G. Law		

ANNUAL MEETING

At the Annual Meeting on 1 March, Dr A.G. Wallace retired as Vice-President and Dr E.A. Colhoun and Dr J.E.S. Townrow as Members of the Council. The following were elected:

Vice President	Dr J.E.S. Townrow
Members of Council	Dr P.G. Quilty
	Dr S.J. Smith
Honorary Secretary	Mr D.R. Gregg
Honorary Treasurer	Mr T.A.H. Knight

REVISION OF RULES

The Rules, as amended at the 1981 Annual General Meeting, and further amended at a Special Meeting held on 7 September 1982, were distributed to members.

MEMBERSHIP

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

	Northern Branch	Total
Honorary Life Members	2	6
Life Members	9	34
Ordinary Members receiving the Papers and Proceedings	70	279
Ordinary Members not receiving the Papers and Proceedings	71	126
Associate Members	16	19
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	168	464

COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Council met four times during the year with Mr B.A. Pike and Mr P.G. Webb representing the Northern Branch on the Council.

BANKS MEMORIAL LECTURE

The Council continued to pursue the proposal that the bicentennial of the European settlement of Australia in 1988 be marked by a lecture honoring Sir Joseph Banks. The Royal Society, London, has supported the proposal.

ROYAL SOCIETY ART COLLECTION

The Council has discussed the responsibilities of the Society to its art collection which since 1965 has been on loan to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. The collection consists of 683 items, including 285 watercolours and 172 pencil drawings, most of which are of great importance to the heritage of Tasmania.

The Council has agreed to give its full support to the Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery in any application they may make for funds to conserve and maintain the collection.

PUBLICATIONS

Volume 117 of the Papers and Proceedings was published in August 1983. It contained 15 papers, by 26 authors and totalled 202 pages.

The Society is once more indebted to Dr Banks for his dedicated and expert work as Honorary Editor. Dr S.J. Smith continued as Honorary Assistant Editor.

LIBRARY

The continuing steady use of the Library underlines its importance as a reference source for Royal Society members, University staff and students, and researchers from the general community. During the year 380 visitors signed the users' register. Of special note was the increase in interlibrary loan requests to 230; these were sent to other libraries in Australia and overseas through the University's Interlibrary Loan Service.

The Library receives 686 journals currently, from its 291 exchange partners, and subscribes to 13 additional titles. During the year an exchange was established with the Rijksmuseum Van Natuurlijke Historie, Netherlands, for their Zoologische Medelingen.

During the year the Library received the following donations:

Bremner, J. (comp.): WELLINGTON'S NORTHERN SUBURBS, Onslow Historical Society, 1983.
Campbell, N. & Smellie, R.M.S.: THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH 1783-1983: THE FIRST TWO HUNDRED YEARS, Royal Society of Edinburgh, 1983.
Morton, J.: THE WHALE'S WAKE, University of Otago Press, 1982.
Simpson, R.P. & Holmes, J.H. (Eds): MAN AND THE ENVIRONMENT: REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES, 2nd ed., Longmans, 1983.

No changes were made to loan conditions. The monograph collection remains a reference collection, loans of one week's duration to be arranged only in special circumstances and at the Librarian's discretion. Bound periodicals continue to be available for one week's loan to Society members, University staff and Higher Degree and Honours students and during the year 174 items were borrowed.

The University Bindery's vigorous binding programme of past years meant that most of the very long and higher risk titles have been bound. Thus binding was conducted at a reduced level, 900 volumes being bound during the year.

No facilities existed in the Library to maintain the map collection and maps were starting to deteriorate. On 11 August the Council of the Royal Society approved of the transfer of the map collection to the Geography Department of the University and this was completed in December. The transfer of historical maps to the University Archives was also completed.

In February 1983 Stefan Petrow became Librarian. From July to the end of November, while Mr Petrow was temporarily seconded to another section of the University library, Mrs Gaye Thavisin was Acting Royal Society Librarian. Mr Petrow returned in December. Mrs Pam Wendell-Smith continued to be employed on a part-time basis for one and a half days each week.

LECTURES

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

March	"The University - Past, Present and Future."	Professor A. Lazenby, University of Tasmania
April	R.M. Johnston Memorial Lecture - "Cosmic Rays."	Dr A.G. Fenton, University of Tasmania
May	"Waste wood." - mini-symposium	Mr B. Graham, Tasmanian Conservation Trust and Dr M.L. Higgs, Forestry Commission of Tasmania
June	"Macquarie Island Wildlife Sanctuary."	Mr D. Rounsevell. Tasmanian National Parks and Wildlife Service
July	"Cape Grim Base Line Pollution Station."	Dr R. Francey, Base Line Air Pollution Station
August	"The Origin of the Australians."	Dr A. Thorne, Australian National University
September	"What about human ecology? New ideas on environmental causes of disease."	Dr V. Von Witt
October	"Port Arthur and the Burra Chapter. A new approach."	Dr B.J. Egloff, Tasmanian National Parks and Wildlife Service
November	Clive Lord Memorial Lecture - "Pre-Settlement Exploration of Tasmania and the Natural Sciences."	Mr N.J.B. Plomley

Two excursions were held. On 17 September, a tour of forests of the Triabunna district was organised by the Forestry Commission. On 12 November, Dr B.J. Egloff of the National Parks and Wildlife Service showed members something of the work being done by the Port Arthur Conservation Project.

NORTHERN BRANCH

Chairman	Mr B.A. Pike
Vice-Chairman	Mr D.G. Hannan
Past Chairman	Mr R.E. Ward
Council Members	Mrs G.M. Morris
	Mr A.T. Orr
	Mrs P. Ratcliff (resigned 17 November)
	Mr J.H. Chambers
	Dr D. Hamilton
Honorary Secretary	Mr P.G. Webb
Honorary Treasurer	Mr K.E.J. Robinson
Honorary Auditor	Mr J.D. Abey
Branch Representatives	Mr B.A. Pike
on Council	Mr P.G. Webb

The Branch Council met four times, the principal business being the celebration of the Centenary of Instrumental Seismology in Australia, and the provision of a speaker's lectern as a memorial to the late T.E. Burns.

The following lectures were given at General Meetings:

March	"Bishop Mercer in Tasmania 1906-1914."	Dr R.P. Davis, University of Tasmania
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April	"The importance of the wreck of the <i>Sydney Cove</i> ."	Mrs Shirley Lester, Queen Victoria Museum
May	"Reflections on Antarctica, or why are seals' kidneys like a bunch of grapes?"	Mr P. Vardy, Tasmanian College of Advanced Education
June	"Cosmic Rays" (repeat of the Johnston Mémorial Lecture).	Dr A.G. Fenton, University of Tasmania
July	"Stone and a sense of place."	Dr E.V.R. Ratcliff,
August	"The origin of the Australians."	Dr A. Thorne, Australian National University
September	"Conservation at the crossroads: new perspectives."	Dr A. Osborne, Tasmanian College of Advanced Education
October	"The emergence of federation architecture in Launceston."	Robert and Miranda Morris-Nunn
November	"The Beattie Collection."	Mrs M. Tassell, Queen Victoria Museum
December	Members' Night: "A little of Banjo Patterson." "A voyage with my father."	Mr R.E. Ward Mr P.G. Webb

The Branch also supported actively the presentation of three other important lectures:

March	The Mead-Smith-Von Stieglitz Lecture
August	The Eldershaw Memorial Lecture - presented by the Tasmanian Historical Association. "Restoration at Port Arthur" by Mr Peter Spratt - presented by the Australian Federation of University Women and the National Trust.

On 4 November a one-day seminar was held to commemorate the centenary of the first use in Australia, by Mr A.B. Biggs in Launceston, of instruments built specially to measure earth tremors. The seminar was entitled *The Centenary of Instrumental Seismology in Australia* and was first proposed by Dr R. Underwood. Three speakers, two from interstate and one Tasmanian, gave papers on Biggs' work in astronomy and on seismology in Australia, and a commemorative dinner was held. Although the attendance was small the seminar was accounted a success; and the Branch welcomed the opportunity to commemorate a Launceston pioneer in the field.

The papers read at the seminar were published under the title *Earth Tremors* and are available at \$5.00 from the Honorary Secretary of the Branch.

The Branch Council decided to commemorate the work of the late T.E. Burns by obtaining a speaker's lectern. Students in the course in Applied Design Skills (Wood) at the Tasmanian College of Advanced Education were invited to enter designs for a lectern, the winning design to be commissioned and two other prizes to be awarded. Members were asked to contribute funds to meet the costs involved.

The lectern was completed in time for use at Members' Night, when the designer/builder Mr C.J. Sly, spoke about his design and the Tasmanian timbers used in its construction. The whole cost of the project has been met by donations from more than fifty members.

As a result of discussion at the last Annual General Meeting, Council investigated other places available in the city for regular meetings, but has not been able to find a hall or room with comparable facilities better placed than the Museum theatre.

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 1983 State Budget provided \$1 000 000 to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, an increase of 30% on the previous year. The Trustees, while appreciative of the increase, were disappointed that the grant remains substantially below their needs. The increase will enable some progress to be made on essential maintenance and upgrading of the collections, facilities and displays.

Funds have not permitted any additions to the permanent staff. However, 13 temporary staff have been employed with funds provided through the Commonwealth Government as follows:

Australian Biological Resources Study (Dept Home Affairs and Environment)	4 persons
Wage Pause Programme	8 persons
National Employment Strategy for Aborigines	1 person

The development of the Museum and Art Gallery on its central site in Hobart was approved by Cabinet in February 1983. A submission is in preparation for the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works and it is hoped that work will restart on the renovation of the Commissariat Store Building at 40 Macquarie Street in 1984.

Tenders have been called by the Department of Construction for alterations to the West Coast Pioneers' Memorial Museum at Zeehan, including the renovation of the first floor of the Post Office building.

Welcome support during 1982-83 has come from various organisations in Tasmania. Substantial financial contributions totalled \$28 000, as follows:

\$14 000 from Tasmanian Teachers Credit Union for Money Room
\$5 000 from <i>The Mercury</i> for Fitzwilliam Exhibition
\$3 000 from Charles Davis Group for an Oliffe Richmond sculpture
\$3 000 from Comalco for an Oliffe Richmond sculpture
\$3 000 from Electrolytic Zonc Co. for Herbarium Library

These generous donations provided funds for special projects, exhibitions and acquisitions which otherwise would not have been possible.

The Money Room, displaying the numismatic collection, was opened by the Governor of Tasmania on 18 May 1983. Sponsorship by the Tasmanian Teachers Credit Union has enabled the coins to be displayed in a secure, safe and attractive setting.

The Art Bulletin of Tasmania 1983, the first of a projected series of annual volumes, was launched by the Governor on 26 July 1983. The Bulletin was initiated and edited by Mr Hendrik Kolenberg, Curator of Art.

A book, *The Aboriginal People of Tasmania* by Ms Julia Clark, Curator of Anthropology, was published by the Museum and Art Gallery and launched by Mr Roy Nichols, Chairman of the National Aboriginal Conference, on 20 December 1983. Mr Nichols also opened new displays dealing with the Tasmanian Aboriginal people.

During the 1983 year, 144 877 people were counted visiting the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, compared with 101 552 in 1982. The showing of the America's Cup attracted record crowds and over 99 000 people visited the Museum and Art Gallery during the 14 days it was on show from 26 December 1983 to 8 January 1984. The attendance at the West Coast Pioneers' Memorial Museum was estimated at 112 5000 for the 1982-83 financial year.

Dr Banks was re-elected Chairman of Trustees.

Dr Jocelyn E.S. Townrow continued as the Council's nominee on the Board of Trustees of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens. She reports on the year's activities:

1983 was a good year for the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, with progress visible in both completed and initiated projects, and with continued maintenance of the high standard of floral displays, despite difficulties associated with the unusually dry conditions of the continuing drought.

The Gardens retained their popularity with the public though the number of visitors (203 806) represented a drop of 9.7% on the previous year's total. This drop closely parallels the downturn in the tourist industry during the year.

State Government funding increased in line with inflation to \$740 000 of which \$454 000 was for wages and salaries. Over and above this funding, special grants were obtained for the sewerage scheme and for the toilet for the Easy Access Garden. The Trustees viewed with concern an excess Water Rate of \$15 000 and in an effort to cut water waste and costs, sought advice from the Mines Department regarding the possible availability of bore water in the Gardens and assistance from the Metropolitan Water Board in locating leaking pipes. From the results of these investigations, it is envisaged that the whole water reticulation system will have to be replaced in the near future. Indoor plant decorations loaned to Government Departments by the Gardens represent a further hidden drain on the budget of \$7 360.

The Museum and Education Centre which attracted about 11% of Garden's visitors was closed for 3½ months. It re-opened on 1 September after extensive reconstruction involving the Board Room, and the Economic Plants Room. The latter was remodelled from two rooms which are now joined through a brick archway. The new displays have received very favourable comment, and reflect the dedication and inspiration of the Information and Education Officer, Alan Gray. 1 200 children have visited these displays despite the bleak, cold winter and spring weather. In response to visitors' requests and with the invaluable cooperation and assistance of about 40 Friends of the Gardens, the Museum opening hours are to be changed in the new year to 12 noon - 4.00 p.m.

Visitors have appreciated the new Locality Map at the Gardens Entrance and much greater use has been made of the Let's Talk About the Gardens leaflet and the Huon Pine leaflet.

Completed projects include the new sewerage scheme, restoration of the Eardley Wilmot Wall, and the most attractive classical Herb Garden beside the Arthur Wall. An archaeological investigation of the Arthur Wall prior to restoration has been financed by the Office of the National Estate.

Further progress has been achieved with the Easy Access Garden. A disabled person has been in attendance working as a gardener for several months on a grant of \$1 120 from outside funds. Hobart Rotary are considering supplying a small transport bus for disabled people, and completion of the Glasshouse is now in hand.

The Restaurant has had a "face lift" with alterations both inside and outside with improved seating space and kiosk facilities. A new cactus house has been constructed on the northern face of the Tropical House and in cooperation with the Cactus Society of Tasmania, is being landscaped along with an outside Cactus Garden. Both will be most interesting additions to the Gardens' comprehensive floral displays.

The Gardens have benefited from the Government Wage Pause Programme with funding to support the employment of 11 people, two to help develop the Museum and Education Centre displays, four for outside gardening and five for the redevelopment of the Camelia and Rhododendron Garden. Thanks to this extra help in the Gardens, it has been possible to replace a retiring gardener with a part-time Plant Recording Officer, Mrs S. Wells. The Trustees are most pleased with this timely appointment, because the approaching retirement date of our Landscape Architect, Dr Vitesnik makes it imperative that the information he has about the plants in the Gardens be recorded.

The Trustees are also delighted to have Government permission and support to go ahead with planning for the new Depot Area and No.4 Glasshouse, both now in hand. The Department of Construction is to take over the reconstruction of the footpaths. The new toilets should be completed by May 1984.

The superintendent, Mr May, Dr Vitesnik and Mr Gray are to be commended on two excellent displays at the Hobart and Launceston Agricultural Shows, both of which gave the Gardens excellent publicity and occasioned much enthusiastic comment. At Launceston, culinary and medical herbs were featured, while at Hobart, the theme was

on economic plants. This display formed the basis for the ongoing display of economic plants in the Gardens' Museum.

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, the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, and the Forestry Commission of Tasmania are specially thanked for their help and cooperation.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

STATEMENTS OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1983

GENERAL ACCOUNT

Balance brought forward	2 666.53	Stationery	204.78
		Insurance	176.84
Subscriptions		Attendant's fees	485.15
1 @ \$200	200.00	Secretarial fees	1 343.73
262 @ \$12	3 144.00	Post box rental	88.00
124 @ \$8	992.00	Postage and freight	949.52
18 @ \$5	89.00	Photocopying	33.07
Other years	<u>287.00</u>	Subscriptions	465.17
		Northern Branch	800.00
	4 712.00	Repairs and maintenance	193.25
		Federal debit tax	7.55
Interest	4 046.23	Telephone	9.84
Rent	314.11	Lecture expenses	325.30
Donations	5.46	Subscription refund	10.00
Sales of publications and Papers and Proceedings	1 134.71	Symposiums	596.00
University subvention	1 600.00	Printing -rules and reports	656.58
Symposium	96.00	Honour Board	135.00
		Miscellaneous	64.74
			<u>6 544.52</u>
		Typing of Papers and Proceedings	3 018.70
			<u>9 563.22</u>
		Balance carried forward	<u>5 011.82</u>
	<u>\$14 575.04</u>		<u>\$14 575.04</u>

PAPERS AND PROCEEDINGS ACCOUNT

Balance brought forward	520.51	Balance carried forward	1 038.77
Interest	<u>518.26</u>		
	<u>\$1 038.77</u>		<u>\$1 038.77</u>

ACCUMULATION ACCOUNT

Balance 1 January 1983		56 164.83
Deduct: Net transfers to Trust Funds	1 925.58	
Net increase in advance subscriptions	122.00	
Net increase in valuation of publication for sale	<u>895.70</u>	
		<u>2 943.28</u>
		<u>53 221.55</u>
Add: Increased cash at bank		<u>3 142.12</u>
Balance 31 December 1983		<u>\$56 363.67</u>

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

AUDITED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1983

1982		1983	1982		1983
56 164.83	Accumulation Funds	56 363.67	33.00	Cash on hand	33.00
88.00	Subscriptions in advance	210.00		Cash at bank:	
	Trust Funds:		2 666.53	- General account	5 011.82
1 568.15	- Clive Lord Memorial Fund	1 724.59	520.51	- Papers & Proceedings Account	1 038.77
2 605.38	- A.N. Lewis Memorial Fund	2 894.51	160.09	- Clive Lord Memorial Fund	278.78
1 163.56	- Morton Allport Memorial	1 304.53	244.51	- A.N. Lewis Memorial Fund	404.39
477.36	- A.A. Clark Bequest	524.56	860.00	Mortgage Loan	860.00
3 210.99	- Joseph Milligan Bequest	3 551.62		Commonwealth Treasury Bonds &	
1 714.51	- R.M. Johnston Memorial Fund	1 914.07	29 900.00	Inscribed Stock (at cost)	29 900.00
754.53	- Henry Oliver Bequest	838.68	7 000.00	Interest Bearing Deposits	7 000.00
1 733.16	- W.H. Hudspeth Memorial	1 923.94	15 000.00	Library (at valuation for insurance)	15 000.00
2 645.07	- Life Membership Fund	<u>3 121.79</u>	15 740.90	Publications (at selling prices)	14 845.20
		<u>17 798.29</u>			
		<u>\$74 371.96</u>			<u>\$74 371.96</u>
			<u>\$72 125.54</u>		
					<u>\$72 125.54</u>