

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1982

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

succeeded by Sir James Plimsoll

Vice Presidents

Dr A.G. Wallace

Mr L.E. Wall

Council

Miss Roberta Barnett

Dr P.W. McCartney

Mr A.V. Brown

Dr Jocelyn Townrow

Dr E.A. Colhoun

Mr R.E. Ward

Mr I.D. Geard

Mr P.G. Webb

Mr D.R. Gregg

Honorary Secretary

Mr D.R. Gregg

Honorary Treasurer

Mr T.A.H. Knight

Honorary Auditor

Mr D.B. Churchill

Honorary Editor

Dr M.R. Banks

Assistant Honorary Editor

Dr S.J. Smith

PRESIDENT

Sir Stanley Burbury took the Chair, as President of the Society at the Annual General Meeting in March. A vote of thanks for his services to the Society was carried by acclamation. A bronze model of *Zygomaturus trilobus* sculptured by Mr H.D. Barker was presented to His Excellency.

The Society was honoured when Sir James Plimsoll accepted the position of President of the Society thus following in the steps of all Governors of Tasmania since Sir John Eardley-Wilmot became the President in 1843.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA MEDAL

At the General Meeting in November, the Royal Society of Tasmania Medal was presented to Dr Grote Reber in recognition of prolonged research of high merit.

Previous recipients of the Medal have been:

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

ANNUAL MEETING

At the Annual Meeting on 2 March, Mr D.R. Gregg retired as Vice-President and Mr G.E.A. Hale and Mr L.E. Wall as Members of the Council. The following were elected:

Vice President	Mr L.E. Wall
Members of Council	Mr A.V. Brown Dr P.W. McCartney
Honorary Secretary	Mr D.R. Gregg
Honorary Treasurer	Mr T.A.H. Knight
Honorary Auditor	Mr D.B. Churchill

REVISION OF RULES

The Rules, as amended at the 1981 Annual General Meeting, were further amended at a Special Meeting held on 7 September, 1982. The revised Rules have been reprinted and are being distributed to Members.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership is 464, a decrease of 6, and is made up as follows:

	Northern Branch	Total
Honorary Life Members	3	7
Life Members	8	35
Ordinary Members receiving the Papers and Proceedings	63	273
Ordinary Members not receiving the Papers and Proceedings	74	132
Associate Members	15	17
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	163	464

COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Council met four times during the year with Mr P.G. Webb and Mr R.E. Ward representing the Northern Branch on the Council.

BANKS MEMORIAL LECTURE

The Council has continued to pursue the proposal that the bicentennial of the European settlement of Australia in 1988 be marked by a lecture honouring Sir Joseph Banks.

PUBLICATIONS

Volume 116 of the Papers and Proceedings was published in August 1982. It contained 13 papers by 22 authors and totalled 219 pages. The Society is once more indebted to Dr Banks for his dedicated and expert work as Honorary Editor. Dr S.J. Smith has been appointed Assistant Honorary Editor.

LIBRARY

The Library has continued to function smoothly during the year under the direction of the Librarian, Mrs Mary Marshall, who reports as follows:

The continuing steady use of the Library emphasises its importance as a reference source for Royal Society members, University staff and students and researchers from the community at large. During the year 470 visitors signed the users' Register, and 176 items were lent to other libraries through the University's Interlibrary Loan Service.

The library receives 689 journals currently from its 293 exchange partners, and subscribes to 7 additional titles. During the year exchanges were established with two new partners, the Naturwissenschaftlicher Verein für Steiermark, Graz, Austria for their *Mitteilungen*, and the Goulandris Natural History Museum, Kifissia, Greece for their *Annales Musei Goulandris*. In October the Royal Dublin Society, an exchange partner since the 1880's, advised that its exchange of scientific journals would cease at the end of 1982, and its two journals - *Journal of Life Sciences* and *Journal of Earth Sciences* - would in future be available on subscription only.

During the year the Library purchased the biography of Baron Sir Ferdinand von Mueller, *A MAN ON EDGE* by Edward Kynaston, and received the following donations:

Oats, W.N.: *BACKHOUSE AND WALKER - A QUAKER VIEW OF THE AUSTRALIAN COLONIES*. Blubber Head Press, 1981.

Grundy, J.H.: *ARTHROPODS OF MEDICAL IMPORTANCE*. ed. N.R.H. Burgess. Noble Books, 1981.

Grundy, J.H.: *MEDICAL ZOOLOGY FOR TRAVELLERS*. Noble Books, 1979.

Pullman, E.E.F.: *THEY CAME FROM THE MALL, BEING AN ACCOUNT OF THE LIVES OF JAMES WENTWORTH AND SOPHIA LETITIA DAVIS*. Frankston City Press, 1982.

Following an assessment of the value of much of the Library's monograph collection it was decided at the Council's April meeting that in future the monograph collection be considered 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.

The University Bindery continued its excellent binding programme, and 2 330 volumes of Royal Society periodicals were bound during the year. This means that although there are still several thousand volumes waiting binding, most of the very long and higher risk titles have now been bound. Replacement of missing parts has been achieved by purchase from or donation by the exchange partner, or, in the case of out of print issues, by obtaining a photocopy from another library.

Mrs Marshall retired at the end of 1982 and Council has recorded its appreciation of her dedicated service to the Society since her appointment as Librarian in 1980.

LECTURES

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

March	"Simpkinson de Wesselow - a colonial painter extraordinary."	Mr Max Angus
April	"What are little things made of?"	Professor R. Delbourgo, University of Tasmania
May	"As man sows..."	Dr J. Goldsmid, University of Tasmania
June	"Burning issues - fire ecology and society."	Mr David Brown, University of Tasmania and Mr Tony Mount, Tasmanian Forestry Commission

July	"Aboriginal man and landscape in western Tasmania."	Mr Kevin Kiernan University of Tasmania
August	"Marine geoscience off Antarctica" and "Antarctic Division participation in the first International Biomass Experiment (Fibex) Programme."	Dr P.G. Quilty and Dr H. Marchant, Antarctic Division.
September	"The South Heemskirk Tin Field - sixty years of wasted effort."	Mr L.S. Whitham
October	"The present position and status of the Tasmanian Aborigines."	Dr Lyndall Ryan, Griffith University
November	"Procreation without pleasure."	Professor J.F. Correy University of Tasmania.

NORTHERN BRANCH

Chairman	Mr R.E. Ward
Vice-Chairman	Mr E.H. Fist
Past Chairman	Mr D. Walter
Council Members	Mr J.H. Chambers Mr D.G. Hannan Mrs G.M. Morris Mr A.T. Orr Mr B.A. Pike Mr T.M. Tatlock-Goodrick
Honorary Secretary	Mr P.G. Webb
Honorary Treasurer	Mr K.E.J. Robinson
Honorary Auditor	Mr J.D.A. Abey
Representatives of Branch on Council	Mr R.E. Ward Mr P.G. Webb

The Branch Council met four times, the principal business being publications, a discussion on membership, and the development of a set of Bylaws for conduct of the Branch. The latter, after being sighted by the Council, have been adopted and came into effect on 1 January 1983.

Ten General and two Special Meetings were held, at which the following lectures were given:

March	"Anachronisms." "Colonial architecture in Tasmania." (Special Meeting, for benefit of Royal Historical Society of Victoria)	Mr D. Walter Dr E.V. Ratcliff
April	"Edith Holmes, the artist."	Mrs Veda Veale
May	"The Byzantine Empire - its history and its contribution to Western civilization."	Mr P.G. Webb
June	"The communications revolution."	Mr John Ford
July	"The nature of scientific change in the natural sciences."	Mr J.H. Chambers
August	"The ceramics collection of the Queen Victoria Museum, Launceston."	Mr C.B. Tassell
September	"Dodging around Gippsland."	Dr Bess Deakin
October	Visit to the Australian Maritime College, Newnham campus, led by "The present position and status of the Tasmanian Aborigines." (Special Meeting)	Mr P. McGovern Dr Lyndall Ryan

November	"Recollections and reminiscences."	Mr Martyn Croft
December	Members' Night:	
	"The expansion of the Tasmanian Museum."	Mr D.R. Gregg
	"Rhinoceros unicorn."	Mr D. Walter
	"Ecumenism then and now."	Mrs P. Ratcliff
	"Tourism in New Zealand."	Mr G.H. Stancombe

With the approval of Council, the Branch undertook the publication of AUGURIES OF INNOCENCE, a small book containing the addresses given in November 1980, on the occasion of the presentation to the Queen Victoria Museum, Launceston, of Margaret Stone's botanical watercolours for THE ENDEMIC FLORA OF TASMANIA. The main address given by Sir Clive Fitts, was a tribute to the late Lord Talbot de Malahide, who was a member of the Society. Copies are available for sale at \$2.00 each.

The Branch also issued a quarterly Newsletter, and printed the following lectures:		
"Protection from floods - the Launceston story."		Mr G. Burrows
"The Byzantine Empire, its history and its contribution to Western Civilization."		Mr P.G. Webb
"The nature of scientific change in the natural sciences."		Mr J.H. Chambers
"The present position and status of the Tasmanian Aborigines."		Dr Lyndall Ryan

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1982
NORTHERN BRANCH

(1981)					(1981)
169.65	Balance brought forward	1 050.22	Subscriptions to Hobart	84.00	45.00
45.00	Subscriptions (a/c Hobart)	84.00	Printing and stationery	635.70	130.99
83.40	Sale of publications	122.17	Theatre hire	90.00	74.00
19.40	Suppers	21.54	Suppers	14.29	20.93
	Dinner (farewell Sir Stanley Burbury)	200.00	Postage	196.18	92.21
24.62	Bank interest	37.74	Post Office box	18.00	16.00
1 100.00	Grant - Royal Society, Hobart	700.00	Telephone and petty cash	10.15	5.22
	Postage	3.47	Attendance Council meetings	89.70	
			Dinner (farewell Sir Stanley Burbury)	340.00	
			Stamp Duty bank book	7.50	4.00
			Lectures	40.80	
			Delivery of Papers and Proceedings		3.50
			Bank balance	692.82	1 050.22
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\$1 442.07		\$2 219.14		\$2 219.14	\$1 442.07

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 Trustees continue to be seriously disturbed at the level of financial support from the Tasmanian Government. The State Government grant for 1982-83 was \$770 000. This was an increase of 10% on the 1981-82 grant but still below the expected rate of inflation. Over 86% of this grant has been allocated to cover salaries and related costs. The Trustees, have, however, decided not to retrench staff this financial year. They have considered it impossible to make any allocation from the Government grant to cover purchases for the collections or towards costs of exhibitions.

This decision will almost certainly mean that the people of Tasmania will not have the opportunity of seeing the wide variety of high quality touring exhibitions shown in recent years. The availability of future exhibitions will depend on attracting commercial sponsors.

The decision not to allocate any State Government funds for purchases for the collections, may mean that items of importance to the heritage of Tasmania will not be able to be acquired for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations of Tasmanians.

In 1981, the acquisition of a Tasmanian sketch-book by John Glover (1767-1849) was an event of national significance. The purchase of the sketch-book was made possible only through grants made by the Hobart City Council.

Lack of funding has also prevented any resumption of work on the renovation of the Commissariat Store buildings at 40 Macquarie Street. Work stopped on this partly completed project in August 1980. The completion of the renovation is urgently required to provide adequate working space and storage for the history and anthropology departments.

Non-government organisations in Tasmania have provided assistance: the Tasmanian Teachers Credit Union has promised funds of up to \$14 000 towards a new numismatic display, the Electrolytic Zinc Company has helped with the purchase of books on lichens for the library of the Herbarium, Davies Bros. sponsored the Tasmanian visit of the very successful exhibition of watercolours from the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, England, and Renison Ltd presented a very valuable collection of minerals for display at the West Coast Pioneers' Memorial Museum, Zeehan.

The establishment of the Friends of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery has led to an increased involvement of the community. There are now 285 members both family and individual involving an estimated 600 people.

During 1982 visitors to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery totalled 102 251, compared with 120 537 for 1981. The attendance at the West Coast Pioneers' Memorial Museum at Zeehan was estimated at 132 000 for the 1981-82 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:

The Gardens have been well maintained in spite of severe water restrictions imposed during the past difficult year. The conservatory with its summer display, the best for many years, was one of the most popular features. The total number of visitors was in excess of 204 500, much the same as last year despite drought and recession.

Messrs May (Superintendent), Gray (Information and Education Officer) and Dr Vitesnik (Landscape Designer) are to be complimented on their high standard of service and dedication. The staff compliment of 30, already 5 short, fell to 25 during April and May with 2 short in the labour-intensive nursery, in accord with Government policy regarding non-replacement of staff in Government instrumentalities.

State Government funding increased to \$685 000 in keeping with the inflation rate, and \$466 390 of this sum was for wages and salaries, leaving \$218 610 for up-keep of the Gardens and Museum. Again, because of financial stringency it has not been possible to replace the derelict depot area and No.4 glasshouse.

The Museum and Education Office has attracted about 12% of those visiting the Gardens (compared with about 9% last year) even though it has restricted opening hours to 11 am-1 pm and 2 pm-4 pm. This increase reflects the interest generated by new displays designed and implemented by Mr Gray. About 21 100 visitors have examined the displays of live ferns and water plants in the Botany room, the newly furnished History room featuring photographs and biographical notes of Tasmanian botanists with a central "free-standing" cabinet of living native plants named in their honour, the expanded Economic plants room with its display of grasses, tropical crops and essential oil plants, and the live beehive and silkworm section. A recent acquisition in the Board Room of 7 large wall charts displaying pressed native plants of S.W. Tasmania has stimulated much favourable comment. These were prepared and donated by Mesdames M. Johnstone and P. Hamilton, the wives of two National Parks and Wildlife Service rangers at Strathgordon. The Friends

of the Gardens, now some 40 in number, contributed greatly not only to the safe-keeping of the Museum, but also in answering visitors' questions. Mr Gray gave talks and conducted tours for about 3 800 school children on 102 school visits to the Gardens, and for 135 adults during his first, highly successful year of office. He also conducted a seminar for 25 teachers in Rural Science Studies.

The major part of the Easy Access Garden was officially opened after the completion in May, and the final finishing touches to the toilet facilities were in hand by mid-December. Fund raising for the glasshouse to complete the project received a boost of \$3 000 from a further plant sale run by the Superintendent and staff volunteers. Handicapped Persons Services have promised funding for a part-time handicapped person to be in charge of the Easy Access Garden for 8 hours per week for 6 months starting early in 1983.

A Government grant has enabled commencement of the first phase of reconstruction of the Gardens sewerage system. This will include installation of a pumping station and rising main to connect with the Hobart City Council's sewerage main at Cornelian Bay.

Thanks to a further grant of \$10 000 from the National Estate in December, final work is proceeding in restoration of the historic Eardley Wilmot Wall.

The Year of the Tree was celebrated in the Gardens when over 2 500 plants were given away to the public and 80 trees were planted in the northern end of the Gardens by various Clubs, Brownies, past and present Trustees, the Minister for the Environment, the Lord Mayor and the Chairman of the Year of the Tree Committee. A schools poster competition run by the Superintendent attracted over 100 entries with prizes of \$100 worth of plants.

Following liaison with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre in Hobart, consideration of the development of the Aboriginal Midden Site at the northern end of the Gardens as an Education display feature, has been postponed. It is hoped that a joint venture can be successfully developed in due course.

The design of the "Wombat One Shelter" was recognised by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects with the award of its Triennial Award of Merit for 1982.

The most outstanding of several new features designed and implemented by Dr Vitesnik is the traditional style raised herb garden situated next to the historic Arthur Wall which will display plants used in medicine, cooking, dyeing and perfumery.

Several outside displays have been provided by the Gardens staff, the most successful being that of Culinary and Medicinal Herbs which gained a Certificate of Merit at the Royal Hobart Show.

At its final meeting for the year the Board of Trustees expressed appreciation to Professor Jackson for his 21 years of service as the Trustee representing the University of Tasmania.

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

STATEMENTS OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1982

GENERAL ACCOUNT

Balance brought forward	4 727.80	Stationery	289.24
		Insurance	145.70
Subscriptions		Attendant's fees	508.01
263 @ \$12	3 154.00	Secretarial fees	1 262.25
131 @ \$8	1 048.00	Lecture expenses	181.60
19 @ \$5	94.00	Post box rental	88.00
Other years	148.00	Postage and freight	986.55
		Investments	9 560.00
		Photocopying	33.95
	4 444.00	Subscriptions	701.74
Interest	3 466.89	Northern Branch	700.00
Rent	294.59	Repairs and maintenance	545.88
Miscellaneous, including		Stamp duty	18.30
printing refund	1 057.45	Miscellaneous	19.65
Donation	15.00	Typing of Papers and	
Sales of publications and Papers		Proceedings	2 281.90
and Proceedings	2 138.57		<u>17 322.77</u>
University subvention	3 845.00	Balance carried forward	2 666.53
			<u>19 989.30</u>
	<u>\$19 989.30</u>		<u>\$19 989.30</u>

PAPERS AND PROCEEDINGS ACCOUNT

Balance brought forward	4 101.02	Investments	4 000.00
Interest	426.99	Stamp duty	7.50
		Balance carried forward	520.51
			<u>4 528.01</u>
	<u>\$4 528.01</u>		<u>\$4 528.01</u>

ACCUMULATION ACCOUNT

Balance 1 January 1982		49 439.48
Deduct: Net transfers to Trust Funds	1 441.75	
Net increase in advance		
subscriptions	39.00	
Decreased cash at bank	7 329.45	
		<u>8 810.20</u>
		40 629.28
Add: Net increase in valuation of		
publications for sale	75.00	
Increased investments at		
cost	15 460.00	
		<u>15 535.55</u>
Balance 31 December 1982		<u>\$56 164.83</u>