

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1981

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

Vice-Presidents

Mr D.R. Gregg                      Dr A.G. Wallace

Council

Miss Roberta Barnett	Mr G.E.A. Hale
Dr E.A. Colhoun	Dr Jocelyn Townrow
Mr R.J. Downie	Mr L.E. Wall
Mr E.H. Fist	Mr R.E. Ward
Mr I.D. Geard	

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

WILLIAM EDWARD LODEWYK HAMILTON CROWTHER

Sir William Crowther CBE, DSO, VC, MB, BS, FRACP died in Hobart on 31 May 1981, aged 94.

Sir William joined the Society in 1911 and was elected an Honorary Life Member in 1962. He received the Royal Society of Tasmania Medal in 1940 for his contributions to Tasmanian ethnology. He served as the Society's representative on the Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum from 1919 until 1939. He then continued on the Trustees as an appointee of the Governor until his retirement in 1973. His service as a Trustee ran continuously for over 54 years.

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

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

#### HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

Mr K.E.J. Robinson was elected an Honorary Life Member in recognition of his dedicated service to the Society since he joined in 1964. He has served on the Council of the Northern Branch almost continuously since 1967 and was Vice-President of the Society in 1976-77 and a member of the Council from 1971 to 1980.

#### ANNUAL MEETING

At the Annual Meeting on 3 March, Mr R.J. Downie retired as Vice-President and Mr K.E.J. Robinson as a Member of the Council. The following were elected:

Vice President	Dr A.G. Wallace
Members of Council	Miss Roberta Barnett
	Mr I.D. Geard
Honorary Secretary	Mr D.R. Gregg
Honorary Treasurer	Mr T.A.H. Knight
Honorary Auditor	Mr D.B. Churchill

#### REVIEW OF RULES

The changes to the Rules, proposed by the Council, were adopted at the 1981 Annual General Meeting.

#### MEMBERSHIP

The membership is 470, a decrease of 1, and is made up as follows:

	Northern Branch	Total
Honorary Life Members	2	8
Life Members	8	36
Ordinary Members receiving the Papers and Proceedings	63	260
Ordinary Members not receiving the Papers and Proceedings	80	146
Associate Members	17	20
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	170	470

#### COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Council met four times during the year, with Mr R.E. Ward and Mr E.H. Fist representing the Northern Branch on the Council. A meeting was held in Launceston on 11 December 1981.

#### 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 115 of the Papers and Proceedings was published in September 1981. It contained 18 papers by 31 authors and totalled 225 pages. The volume included a three-page "Instructions to Authors".

The Society is once more indebted to Dr Banks for his dedicated and skilled work as Honorary Editor.

## LIBRARY

The Library has continued to function smoothly during the year under the direction of the Librarian, Mrs Mary Marshall.

Steady use of the Library continues and during the year 430 visits by Society members, University staff and students and other users were recorded in the Register. The Library also supplied 214 items in response to interlibrary loan requests. The University Bindery maintained its high rate of output and approximately 1 750 volumes of Royal Society periodicals were bound during the year.

The reshelving of the serials collection was completed towards the end of the year and the interfiling of quarto and octavo volumes into one sequence has made location of individual titles easier without any reduction of shelf space. Monographs continue to be differentiated according to size.

A continuing surplus of back issues of Society publications necessitated another sale (the first sale was held during 1979) which was most successful. It was decided that stocks of Papers and Proceedings be reduced to 20 for pre-1970 issues and 50 for 1970-79 issues. Surplus issues of the earlier volumes were soon exhausted, and stocks of later volumes considerably reduced. In addition, many full-priced publications were sold and the congestion in storage areas somewhat relieved.

Council during the year decided that in future sales of Society publications and distribution of Papers and Proceedings to members will no longer be handled by the Librarian, but conducted from the Tasmanian Museum by a part-time clerical assistant. The Library will continue to handle the organisation and despatch of exchange copies of Papers and Proceedings for which it receives hundreds of publications gratis from institutions throughout the world. In October 236 copies of the latest volume of Papers and Proceedings were mailed to overseas partners and 55 copies to Australian partners.

Two new exchanges were finalized during the year. The new serial titles received are: Koedoe (National Parks, Pretoria, South Africa), and Willdenowia (Botanischer Garten u. Botanischer Museum, Berlin).

From 30 March 1981, the Librarian commenced fractional time employment, working four days per week - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. On Wednesdays the Library is staffed by a part-time clerical assistant, Mrs P. Wendell-Smith.

An agreement was concluded between the Tasmanian Library Board and the Council of the Society dealing with the housing at the Northern Regional Library of that part of the Library of the Society held in Launceston.

## LECTURES

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

March	"Sundown Creek: a case study in Tasmanian prehistory."	Mr Don Ransom, National Parks and Wildlife Service
April	"The mosses and liverworts of the Mount Wellington Range."	Dr D.A. Ratkowsky, C.S.I.R.O.
May	"Some history of Tasmanian road bridges."	Sir Allan Knight
June	"Small things amuse ... the big world of the microfossil."	Dr P.C. Quilty, Antarctic Division Department of Science and Technology

July	"The history of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens."	Mr Marcus Hurburgh, Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens
August	"The approach to 1984 - computing technology."	Professor A.H.J. Sale, University of Tasmania
September	"The weather map."	Mr E.F. Phillips, Bureau of Meteorology Department of Science and Technology
October	"Is cancer curable?"	Dr R.M. Lowenthal, University of Tasmania
November	"Tasmanian owls."	Mr L.E. Wall

NORTHERN BRANCH

Chairman	Mr D. Walter
Vice-Chairman	Mr B.A. Pike
Past Chairman	Mr H.S. Payne
Council Members	Mrs S.M. Dent
	Mr D.H. Fist
	Mr D.G. Hannan
	Mr T.M. Tatlock-Goodrick
	Mr R.E. Ward
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 E.H. Fist

The Branch Council met five times, the principal business other than routine matters being consideration of the proposed amendments to the Rules of the Society with a view to incorporating a set of rules for the operation of the Branch. Two proposals for publications were discussed, and one of these will be undertaken, the other is still under consideration.

The following lectures were given at General Meetings:

March	"Romania since World War II."	Mr T.R. McGlynn
April	"James MacLanachan, an early settler in Tasmania."	Mr Geoff O'Brien
May	"To plan, or not to plan - in politics and administration."	Mr J. Chambers
June	"The river edges of Launceston."	Mr D. Goldsworthy
July	"The background to hearing of impaired children, and some glimpses into the near future."	Mr J. Thorne
August	"Protection from floods - the Launceston story: from fear to confidence."	Mr G. Burrows
September	"The Senate Report on transport to and from Tasmania."	Senator P. Rae
October	"Architecture; where is it going?"	Mr B. Shelton
November	"Western Tasmania: a study in historical geography."	Mr C. Binks

December	Members' Night - "Liliums."	Mrs J. Ward
	"Treasures of the tip."	Mr P.F.J. Leonard
	"Britain by Britrail."	Mr P.G. Webb
	"Fanlights."	Mr A.T. Orr.

A one-day excursion to Campbelltown was led by Mr Geoff O'Brien. Members had the opportunity to examine many of Mr O'Brien's items of interest, and to explore the town.

Two bulletins were issued for sale to members: "Romania since World War II" and "To plan or not to plan, in politics and administration". A third, "West Coast explorers", will be available early in 1982.

#### NOMINEES TO OTHER BODIES

The Council elected Dr M.R. Banks and Mr A.R. Neilson to the Board of Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. Dr Donald Martin resigned from the Board in February 1981 having served as the Society's appointee since 1970. They report on the year's activities:

The 1981 State Budget was a little more generous to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery than that of the previous year. The Government grant of \$700 000 was an apparent increase of 11%, but, because of one extra pay day in the 1981-82 year, was an actual increase of only 8%. No grant was made for capital works, and renovations, which stopped in August 1980, on the partly completed Commissariat Store buildings at 40 Macquarie Street have not been resumed.

Very stringent control has been kept on expenditure during the year. The Trustees, with the full cooperation of the staff, have exercised strict economies which have ensured that the Museum and Art Gallery continued to provide a service to the public during the year, even if this was at a reduced level of activity. The Trustees are concerned that any further continuation of these economies may prejudice the viability of the Museum and Art Gallery as an active and developing institution.

It should be pointed out that the expenditure of the Tasmanian Government on museums and art galleries is significantly below the assessed needs as established by the Commonwealth Grants Commission in its "Report on State Tax Sharing Entitlements 1981".

During 1981, visitors to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery totalled 120 537, compared with 130 791 for 1980. The higher figure for 1980 was due to the popularity of the "Century of Modern Masters" exhibition. The attendance at the West Coast Pioneers' Memorial Museum at Zeehan was estimated at 130 000 for the 1980-81 financial year.

Dr Banks was re-elected Chairman of Trustees.

Dr Jocelyn 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 improved standards in the Gardens have been maintained with difficulty and replacement of the depot area and No.4 glasshouse has been deferred yet again, because of lack of Government funding. However, the State Government Budget allocation for 1981-82 of \$675 000 included a special grant of \$80 000 towards provision of new public toilet and sewerage facilities, to be funded over several years. A balanced budget was achieved by working on less than a full complement of employees and by deferring important work, such as maintenance of buildings, roads and paths, and construction of a retaining wall. Funding permitted the employment of 30 persons only, instead of a full complement of

35 persons and as a consequence, work at the Gardens, Parliament House and the Supreme Court was not undertaken as fully as Trustees would have liked.

Mr John Howell, appointed to the Board in 1965, and Chairman since 1969, resigned at the end of June. His dedicated service is acknowledged with gratitude by the Board; Mr Geoff Fader replaces him as Chairman. New members on the Board of Trustees are Mr J.B.G. Hulton, who replaces Commander G.B. Campbell, and Mr I.D. Geard replacing Mr Howell, both being ministerial appointees.

The Superintendent, Mr May, returned from his Churchill Fellowship tour of Europe, U.K. and U.S.A. with a wealth of new ideas for implementation in our Gardens.

Mr Marcus Hurburgh, at one time the Royal Society's representative on the Board and presently the Garden's Information and Education Officer, is resigning after three years service. He is being replaced by Mr Alan Gray whose appointment commences in January 1982.

Major developments in the Gardens include the "Easy Access Garden" (formerly referred to as the "Garden for the Disabled") next to the Museum and Education Centre, and the new fernery and waterfalls on the south side of the lily ponds. The Easy Access Garden, financed by the Lindisfarne Lions Club (\$6 000) and the State Government (\$8 000), is well advanced with foundations, beds and paths completed. Special toilet facilities, a glasshouse and shelter are in the planning stage. Funding for these additions is being sought through donations, which so far total \$2 700. A plant sale and raffle organised by the Superintendent raised a further \$6 000. The new fernery is a most attractive addition and is planted out largely with native and/or endemic species.

Further excavation work has been carried out on the Aboriginal midden site and methods for stabilising the excavated face are under investigation, prior to the development of the site as a valuable new feature at the northern end of the Gardens.

The Museum and Education Centre has attracted much favourable comment this year and has been visited by 19 652 persons representing 11.7% of total visitors to the Gardens. It has been a very popular venue for School excursions with visits by 1 449 children and 164 teachers from 40 schools. The Museum now houses the very valuable working herbarium of the Society for Growing Australian Plants.

Total visitors to the Gardens were some 7 000 down on 1980 (168 142) and this reflects the poor weather conditions experienced in January, February, June, July and August.

#### 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.

The Honorary Secretary and Senior Vice-President is especially grateful for the help given by other members of Council during the time he has held these two offices.



ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA  
STATEMENTS OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1981

GENERAL ACCOUNT

Balance brought forward	1 343.59	Stationery	352.87
Subscriptions		Insurance	137.03
240 @ \$12	2 880.00	Attendant's fees	444.24
141 @ \$8	1 128.00	Secretarial fees	416.50
18 @ \$5	90.00	Management fee	725.00
Other years	117.00	Post box rental	109.00
	<hr/>	Postage and freight	828.01
	4 215.00	Investments - Lewis	400.00
Interest	1 398.82	Photocopying	289.28
Government grant	1 450.00	Subscriptions	595.16
Rent	370.64	Northern Branch	1 100.00
Miscellaneous	42.50	Repairs and maintenance	35.00
Redeemed investments - Lewis	400.00	Stamp duty	10.00
Sales of publications and Papers and Proceedings	2 114.14	Miscellaneous	12.80
		Typing of Papers and Proceedings	1 152.00
			<hr/>
		Balance carried forward	6 606.89
			<hr/>
	<hr/>		4 727.80
	\$11 334.69		<hr/>
	<hr/>		\$11 334.69
			<hr/>

PAPERS AND PROCEEDINGS ACCOUNT

Balance brought forward	3 135.37	Balance carried forward	4 101.02
Interest	965.65		
	<hr/>		
	\$4 101.02		<hr/>
	<hr/>		\$4 101.02
			<hr/>

ACCUMULATION ACCOUNT

Balance 1 January 1981		54 490.94	
Deduct:	Net transfers to Trust Funds	887.65	
	Net decrease in valuation of publications for sale	8 724.65	9 612.30
		<hr/>	<hr/>
			\$44 878.64
Add:	Net decrease in advance subscriptions	51.00	
	Increased cash at bank	4 509.84	4 560.84
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance 31 December 1981			\$49 439.48
			<hr/>

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

AUDITED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1981

	<u>1980</u>		<u>1981</u>		<u>1980</u>		<u>1981</u>
	54 470.94	Accumulated funds	49 439.49		33.00	Cash on hand	33.00
	100.00	Subscriptions in advance	49.00			Cash at bank:	
		Trust Funds:			1 343.59	- General Account	4 727.80
	1 352.14	- Clive Lord Memorial Fund	1 429.68		3 135.37	- Papers & Proceedings Account	4 101.02
	2 208.70	- A.N. Lewis Memorial Fund	2 353.14		713.45	- Clive Lord Memorial Fund	773.49
	980.29	- Morton Allport Memorial	1 053.42		1 198.84	- A.N. Lewis Memorial Fund	1 318.78
	411.27	- A.A. Clark Bequest	438.73		860.00	Mortgage loan	860.00
	2 753.90	- Joseph Milligan Bequest	2 933.52			Commonwealth Treasury Bonds	
	1 435.86	- R.M. Johnston Memorial Fund	1 544.59		14 440.00	& Inscribed Stock (at cost)	14 440.00
	634.32	- Henry Oliver Bequest	683.26		7 000.00	Interest Bearing Deposits	7 000.00
px.	1 493.13	- W.H. Hudspeth Memorial	1 581.07		15 000.00	Library (at valuation for insurance)	15 000.00
	2 273.70	- Life Membership Fund	2 413.55	14 430.96	24 390.00	Publications (at selling prices)	15 665.35
	<u>\$68 114.25</u>		<u>\$63 919.44</u>		<u>\$68 114.25</u>		<u>\$63 919.44</u>