

Royal Society of Tasmania

Annual Report for the Year ended 31st December, 1959.

The Society was honoured when His Excellency the Governor of Tasmania, the Right Honourable the Lord Rowallan, signified his willingness to accept the office of President of the Society. In passing it is interesting to note that since 1843, when the Society was formed by the then Lieutenant-Governor of the State, the office of President has been filled by successive Governors.

The year under review can be considered satisfactory from the Society's point of view. The membership total reached 558, of whom 204 were listed on the Northern Branch centred at Launceston.

ANNUAL MEETING.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Society held on 3rd March, 1959, the following office-bearers were elected:—

Vice-President: Under the Society's Rules, Mr. J. W. C. Wyett retired from the Office of Vice-President and Dr. D. Martin was elected to the vacancy.

Honorary Secretary and Librarian: Dr. W. Bryden.

Honorary Treasurer: Mr. G. E. A. Hale.

Honorary Auditor: Mr. A. M. Hewer.

Council: Under Rule 21, Mr. C. Bisdee and Dr. W. E. L. H. Crowther retired from the Council and Mr. J. W. C. Wyett and Mr. M. S. R. Sharland were elected for a period of three years.

At the conclusion of the special business associated with the annual meeting Mr. K. R. von Stieglitz, O.B.E., delivered a lecture, illustrated with slides, on "Early Settlement on the Clyde".

R. M. JOHNSTON MEMORIAL MEDAL.

The Council invited Sir Edmund Hillary to deliver the R. M. Johnston Memorial Lecture and to receive the Memorial Medal. The function was held in the Town Hall, Hobart, on Wednesday, 24th June, 1959, and the presentation was made by His Excellency the Administrator, Sir Stanley Burbury. After the presentation Sir Edmund addressed the Society, his subject being "Crossing Antarctica".

GENERAL MEETINGS.

Other meetings were held during the year and lectures were given by the following:—

April: "The Eucalypts in Ireland" by Dr. D. Martin.

May: "Some Effects of Automation and Cybernetics on Leadership and Management" by Mr. V. G. Burley.

June: "Some Recorded Songs of the Tasmanian Aborigines" by Mr. M. Longman.

July: "The Engravings of Early Van Diemen's Land" by Dr. C. Craig.

August: "Some Aspects of Higher Education in the U.S.A." by Mr. A. H. Spry.

September: "Canoeing on the Franklin River" by Dr. J. G. Hawkins.

October: "Arboreta and Botanic Gardens in Southern California" by Dr. William S. Stewart of Los Angeles State and County Arboretum.

November: "The History of the Thylacine or Tasmanian Tiger" by Dr. E. R. Guiler.

COUNCIL.

The Council of the Society met at various times during the year, one of the meetings being held in Launceston when the Council of the Northern Branch acted as hosts.

COMMITTEES, &c.

The following appointments for the year were made by Council:—

Standing Committee: Mr. L. W. Miller, Dr. E. R. Guiler, Mr. G. H. Stancombe, and Dr. W. Bryden, Honorary Secretary.

Representatives on the Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery: Professor A. Burn and Mr. G. F. Davies.

Representative on the Trustees of the Botanical Gardens: Mr. Guy Barrett.

Representative on the Nomenclature Board: Mr. E. R. Pretyman.

Representative on the Mount Field National Park Board: Dr. D. Martin.

Representative to the Library Association of Tasmania: Dr. W. Bryden.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP.

Mr. S. Angel was elected to Honorary Membership at the March meeting of the Society. As mentioned in the last Annual Report, Mr. Angel served this Society with outstanding interest for twenty years.

LIBRARY.

Four hundred and sixty volumes (books and journals) were added to the Library during the year. There are now 32,194 volumes in the Library and the number of Institutions on the Exchange List is 315.

PAPERS AND PROCEEDINGS.

The ninety-third volume of the "Papers and Proceedings" was published during the year under review.

THANKS.

The thanks of the Society are extended to the Government of Tasmania and to the University of Tasmania, to the donors of books, prints, documents, &c., and to all who have assisted the Society during the year.

Northern Branch

Annual Report, 1959.

The Annual General Meeting of the Northern Branch of the Royal Society of Tasmania was held at the Queen Victoria Museum on 20th March, 1959, when the following were elected to the Branch Council:

Members of Council (1959-60): Mr. T. E. Burns, Mr. K. R. von Stieglitz, O. B. E.
Hon Secretary/Treasurer (1959): Mr. W. F. Ellis.

The following members of the Branch Council continued in their term of office for 1959:

Chairman: Mr. G. H. Stancombe.
Vice-Chairman: Dr. C. Craig.
Past Chairman: Mr. Justice G. H. Crawford.
Members of Council: Mr. R. S. Smith, Mr. R. H. Stewart, Mr. John Lord.

During the year under review, Mr. G. H. Stancombe and Mr. W. F. Ellis represented the Northern Branch on the General Council. In addition, Mr. Stancombe served as a member of the Standing Committee of the Society. Mr. Justice G. H. Crawford continued to act as the Northern Branch nominee on the Cradle Mountain-Lake St. Clair National Park Board.

ACTIVITIES DURING 1959.

Eleven General Meetings and one Special Meeting were held at which the following papers were presented:

General Meetings:

- 20th February: "The Eucalypts of Tasmania" by Mr. H. J. King.
20th March: "Some Incidents in the Lives of the Early Judges of Tasmania" by R. W. Baker Esq., B.C.L., B.Litt., LL.B.
17th April: "The Growth of Tasmania's Shore-line" by Mr. J. L. Davies, M.A.
25th May: "The Application of Waterpower in Tasmania since 1890" by Mr. K. M. Dallas, B.Com.
26th June: "The Essay in Australia", by Prof. L. A. Triebel, M.A., D.Litt.
31st July: "The Development of Australian Postal Services", by Mr. C. F. Perkins and Mr. K. Adams.
28th August: "The Life and Times of Church and Clergy in the Early Days of the Colony", by Rt. Rev. W. R. Barrett, M.A., Th.D.
28th September: "What's a Biophysicist" by Dr. B. I. H. Scott, B.Sc., Ph.D.
9th October: "The Role of Botanic Gardens and Arboreta in the Community" by Dr. W. S. Stewart, Ph.D.

27th November: "The Stability of Natural Slopes" by Dr. G. D. Aitchison, M.E., Ph.D.

11th December: Members Evening.

- (1) "The Significance of Decimal Currency", by Mr. S. V. Tilley, F.C.S., F.A.S.A.
- (2) "Majorca" by Miss J. Williams.
- (3) "An English and a Swiss Village", by Mr. Gordon Willing.
- (4) "The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew", by Mr. T. E. Burns.
- (5) "What happened to the Marsh Mallow" by Mrs. I. J. Mead.
- (6) "Some Excursions", by Mr. R. S. Smith.

Special Meeting:

1st June: "Early Tasmanian Architecture" by Mr. R. S. Smith, F.R.I.B.A., F.R.I.A.I. (Conducted with members of the School of Architecture of the University of Melbourne).

Excursions:

- Four excursions were held during the year:
20th February: Lisle Goldfields, led by Mrs. B. J. Edwards.
28th February-2nd March: Cradle Mountain National Park led by Messrs. T. E. Burns and I. Jennings.
19th April: "Kirklands", Campbell Town led by Mr. G. H. Stancombe.
15th November: Old Launceston Waterfront, led by Mrs. I. J. Mead.

The excursion to the Cradle Mountain Reserve was of particular note for it occupied three days during which the thirty-five members who attended were accommodated at the Waldheim Chalet. Geology and botany groups were led by Mr. I. Jennings and Mr. T. E. Burns respectively and an outline of the history of the reserve was given by Major R. E. Smith.

The Branch Council has maintained a close relationship with the General Council during the year and note with pleasure that the General Council held one of its meetings in Launceston.

The transcription of the diaries of John Helder Wedge was completed and, together with supplementary notes, have been submitted for publication in the Papers and Proceedings of the Society.

In conclusion, the Branch Council records with appreciation the services and facilities provided during the year by the Queen Victoria Museum.

G. H. STANCOMBE, Chairman.

W. F. ELLIS, Hon. Secretary.

