

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1980

The Council has the honour to present to members the following reports 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 R.J. Downie Mr D.R. Gregg

Council

Dr E.A. Colhoun	Dr Jocelyn Townrow
Mr A.J. Dartnall (to 6.5.1980)	Mr L.E. Wall (from 1.7.1980)
Mr G.E.A. Hale	Mr R.E. Ward
Mr E.H. Norton (to 31.5.1980)	Mr P.G. Webb
Mr K.E.J. Robinson	

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

PRESIDENT

Sir Stanley Burbury took the Chair, as President of the Society, at the Annual General Meeting in March. He also took the Chair at the Annual General Meeting of the Northern Branch in March.

ERNEST HARRY NORTON

Mr E.H. Norton died on 31 May 1980. He was an enthusiastic supporter of the Society since he joined in 1947 and was a member of the Council since 1978.

ANNUAL MEETING

At the Annual Meeting on 4 March, Dr E.A. Colhoun retired as Vice-President, and Mr S.J. Thrower and Mr J.D. Thomson as Members of the Council. The following were elected:

Vice President	Mr D.R. Gregg
Members of Council	Dr E.A. Colhoun
	Dr Jocelyn Townrow
Honorary Secretary	Mr D.R. Gregg
Honorary Treasurer	Mr T.A.H. Knight
Honorary Auditor	Mr D.B. Churchill

REVIEW OF RULES

The Council accepted the recommendations of the Committee set up in 1978 and the proposed changes to the Rules are to be placed before the 1981 Annual General Meeting.

BICENTENNIAL OF FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALIA

The Council has proposed that a lecture honouring Sir Joseph Banks mark the bi-centennial in 1988 of the European settlement of Australia. The proposal has the support of the Australian Academy of Science and the Royal Societies in other States. An approach has been made to the Australian Bicentennial Authority for funding of the project.

LECTURES

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

March	"The Rise and Fall of the Hobart Town Rivulet: a historic preservation study."	Mr John Button Howroyd & Forwood Architects
April	"Sudden Infant Death Syndrome."	Dr Neville Newman Royal Hobart Hospital
May	"Re-unite Gondwana - the role of Antarctic geology in piecing together the southern continents."	Professor James Collinson Ohio State University
June	"Ocean Waves for Power in Tasmania."	Dr R. Underwood Hydro-Electric Commission
July	"Environmental protection in the uranium mining province of the Northern Territory."	Dr David Thomas University of Tasmania
August	"Drugs of Plant Origin."	Dr B.K. Bhat University of Tasmania
September	"The use of nematodes for the biological control of insect pests."	Dr Robin Bedding CSIRO
October	"Landforms in the National Estate."	Professor J. Jennings Australian National University
November	"Plant diseases as allies: new prospects and old problems in biological control."	Mr Ian Geard Department of Agriculture

LIBRARY

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

Early in the year the current serials display rack was replaced by a more suitable one for the area, and this, positioned against the wall, leaves more free space in the library. The old photocopier has also been replaced, not by a new model, but by one in good working order. It is in constant use. A group of carrels was also removed and replaced by a table, more suitable for Royal Society readers.

During the year the Bindery has made a special effort to make inroads into the mass of Royal Society material awaiting binding. The result, 2015 volumes bound during 1980, is a record. Many long and dilapidated runs have thus been saved from further deterioration, and the serials collection as a whole looks much better. There are however still several thousand volumes in need of binding.

In August copies of the latest Papers and Proceedings were mailed to 233 exchange partners, and two new exchanges were established during the year, one with the Kansas Academy of Sciences and one with the Nanking Institute of Geology and Palaeontology. Two more exchanges are at present being arranged.

Towards the end of the year the takeover of the TCAE library necessitated considerable alterations to the University Library as a whole. University Archives has now been moved to the top floor next to the Royal Society Library, and has incorporated a small section of it. The resultant loss to the Royal Society Library of 36 metres of shelving will necessitate reshelving of the serials collection, a job which will be undertaken during the first few months of 1981. At the same time it is proposed to interfile quarto and octavo serials, making one sequence. Monographs will still be differentiated according to size.

During the year 498 visits by members of the Society, University Staff and students and other users were recorded in the Register of Users. The Library supplied 198 items in response to interlibrary loan requests in the course of the year.

Opening hours of the Library have now been amended to 9-1 and 2-5, Monday to Friday.

PUBLICATIONS

Volume 114 of the Papers and Proceedings was published in May 1980. It contained 16 papers by 18 authors and totalled 233 pages.

At the end of 1980, ten papers had reached proof stage and another seven were in varying stages of editorial processing.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership is 471, a decrease of 35, and is made up as follows:

	Northern Branch	Total
Honorary Life Members	2	7
Life Members	8	36
Ordinary Members receiving the Papers and Proceedings	61	250
Ordinary Members not receiving the Papers and Proceedings	87	158
Associate Members	17	20
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	175	471
	<hr/>	<hr/>

COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Council met three times during the year with Mr R.E. Ward and Mr P.G. Webb representing the Northern Branch on the Council. A meeting was held in Launceston on 5 September 1980 when the Council inspected the Northern Branch Library.

NOMINEES TO OTHER BODIES

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

The 1980 State Budget dealt a severe blow to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery with an increase in the Government grant on only \$10,000, bringing the 1980-81 grant to \$630,000. This is the lowest percentage increase in the grant since at least 1942. A small additional grant for capital works of \$25,000 has enabled the renovation of the ground floor of the Queen's Warehouse at 40 Macquarie Street to be completed but further renovation of the Commissariat Store buildings has had to be suspended.

No funds were made available by the State Government to enable the repair and renovation of the Zeehan Post Office building for extensions to the West Coast Pioneers' Memorial Museum. The Government did, however, provide funds for the purchase of a house at Zeehan for the use of the new Curator, Mr L.H. Procter.

The Trustees have instituted drastic reductions in discretionary expenditure to ensure that the Museum and Art Gallery will continue to provide a service to the people of Tasmania even if this is at a lower level than it has been in recent years.

During 1980, visitors to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery totalled 130,791, an increase of 14,522 over the figure for 1979. The attendance at the West Coast Pioneers' Memorial Museum at Zeehan was estimated at 126,000 for the 1979-80 financial year.

America and Europe: A century of Modern Masters from the *Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection* attracted record numbers of people to the Museum and Art Gallery and was seen by 28,208 visitors during the twenty days it was on view.

Dr Banks was re-elected Chairman of the Trustees. There have been further changes in the membership of the Board. Sir Peter Crisp resigned in 1980 and has been replaced by Mr M.R. Wright of Devonport. Mr Derek Holden of Launceston has replaced Dr D.F. Smith. Mr J.E. Tomlinson has replaced Mr G.C. Cramp. Mr A.D. Haigh, appointed by the Hobart City Council, has been replaced by Mr John Kennedy.

Mr Carl Andrew, Curator of Art since 1975, resigned and has been replaced by Mr Hendrik Kolenberg. Mr Peter Boyer, Curator of Museum Display, and a member of staff since 1973, has also resigned and has been replaced by Mr David Ellis. Ms Jane Burrell, Designer and a member of staff since 1972, resigned and has been replaced by Mr Adrian Spinks, appointed as Display Assistant.

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

The improvement in the Gardens evident since the present Superintendent's appointment has been maintained over the past year, and is reflected in a 6.5% increase in visitors (approximately 175,700 metered).

The Superintendent, Mr A.P. May, has been awarded a Churchill Fellowship and will be visiting botanical gardens in Europe, United Kingdom and U.S.A. in early 1981, particularly garden areas for the disabled and for the blind.

Mr B. Lumb, Assistant Superintendent since October 1979, resigned after eight months service.

Popular developments include completion of the "Wombat One" shelter, designed and built by a TCAE team led by Mr R. le Plastrier, redesign of the Conservatory fountain, installation of wrought iron fencing in keeping with the front entrance main gates, refurbishing of the Fuchsia House, Monel tiling of the road in the Rose Section, and most recently a new fernery on the south side of the Lily Pond. Plans are in hand for the development of the Aboriginal Midden Site at the northern end of the Gardens excavated by Tasmanian Museum archaeologist, Dr P. Murray. Rare endemic plants are being collected for conservation and future display. Two of the oldest and largest trees, the *Pinus longifolia* next to the Tea Room, and the *Salix babylonica* opposite the Rose Section, were severely storm damaged and had to be removed in November.

The Trustees are greatly concerned over the acute inadequacy of the main public toilet facilities both in size and disposal of sewage.

Vandalism continues to be a problem with the theft of choice plants, damage to buildings and defacement of plaques and labels.

The Museum and Education Centre has proved popular especially for school tours. 1,777 children and 198 teachers from 50 southern Tasmanian schools visited the Museum under the guidance of Education and Information Officer, Mr M. Hurburgh. A total of 15,000 persons, representing about 11.6% of Garden's visitors, have viewed the Museum exhibits and new displays.

The State Government budget allocation for 1980/81 was \$500,000 and capital expenditure once again suffered major consequences of insufficient funding, halting the continuing work on upgrading of roads, pathways and kerbing necessary for public safety especially of the handicapped, preventing the replacement of the nearly derelict depot area and No.4 glasshouse, and foreshadowing retrenchment of at least three employees. The appointment of a Senior Foreman to replace the Assistant Superintendent has been made possible through the resignation and non-replacement of four employees prior to Christmas.

Restoration of the historic Arthur and Eardley Wilmot walls is in progress and has been funded with \$6,500 from the National Trust Preservation Fund (Hobart), while a retaining wall around the Lower Domain Road boundary erected by the Hobart City Council was funded equally with \$6,000 each from the H.E.C. and the Gardens. At the end of December the State Government announced a grant of \$8,000 for the development of a garden for the disabled.

The Board of Trustees has learnt, with regret, of the resignation of Mr Max Angus after many years of valuable service and welcomes Commander G.B. Campbell in his place. A new sub-committee, chaired by Dr Townrow, has been formed to determine the long-term development, coordination and integration of the Gardens. It's chief goals are improvement of essentially botanical aspects of the Gardens and integration of projects; preliminary mapping of the Gardens is in hand.

NORTHERN BRANCH

Chairman	Mr D. Walter
Vice Chairman	Mr B.A. Pike
Past Chairman	Mr H.S. Payne
Council Members	Mrs B. Davies
	Mr D.G. Hannan
	Mrs S.M. Dent
	Mr R.E. Ward
	Mr E.H. Fist
Honorary Secretary	Mr P.G. Webb
Honorary Treasurer	Mr K.E.J. Robinson
Honorary Auditor	Mr H.C.A. Pitt
Representatives of Branch on Council:	Mr R.E. Ward
	Mr P.G. Webb

The Branch Council met three times, the principal business, other than routine matters, being to arrive at a firm policy for the library, housed in the Northern Regional Library. To consider this matter, a meeting of the Society's Council was held in Launceston in September 1980.

At the 1979 Members' Night meeting, a proposal to change the night of meeting was raised by Council. The meeting decided to seek the views of members, so a questionnaire was issued to all Northern Branch members. 23% responded and expressed overwhelming preference for retention of the first Friday for meetings.

The following lectures were given at General Meetings:

March	"Religious Groups in Tasmanian History."	Mr H.S. Payne
April	"Dean of Scotch."	Mr B.A. Pirkis
May	"Electricity Supply in Tasmania until the Twenty-first Century."	Mr W.A. Gaskell
June	"The Sky at Night" - given in association with a display at the Planetarium	Dr R.P. Rodgers
July	"Computers, Communities and Crystal Balls" - lecture followed by demonstration at the TCAE Computer Centre	Mr J.M. Rose
August	The Report of the Museums and Art Galleries Advisory Committee	Mr K.E.J. Robinson
September	"The City in an Era of Restricted Oil Usage."	Dr Trevor Lee
October	"Landforms in the National Estate."	Prof. J.N. Jennings
November	"The Social Significance of the Family Law Act."	HH Mr Justice E.G. Butler
December	Members' Night - "The Initial Teaching Alphabet." "Some Museums in Great Britain." "The Endangered Pheasant." "Guatemala."	Mrs P. Little Mr B.A. Pike Mr P. Manchester Mr T. McGlynn

Excursions: One meeting was held at the TCAE, where members were conducted around the Computer Centre and saw demonstrations of its operations, following a lecture by the Manager.

A very successful excursion to the Northwest Coast was held in the November long weekend. Attended by some 25 members, including the Secretary, Mr D.R. Gregg, and his family, the excursion was based at the Seaway Motel, Boat Harbour Beach. It consisted mainly of two full-day trips. The first, by bus, was under the guidance of Forestry Officers from Smithton, and members investigated the Arthur River State Forest; the second was a walking tour, under the guidance of the Burnie Field Naturalists Club, of the Rocky Cape National Park.

Two further Bulletins were issued for sale to members: "Religious Groups in Tasmanian History" and "Computers, Communities and Crystal Balls". An earlier bulletin, "Astronomy, the Oldest and Youngest Science" was re-issued; stocks of earlier bulletins were also released for sale to members.

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.

R.J. Downie
Senior Vice-President

D.R. Gregg
Honorary Secretary.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1980

<u>1979</u>		<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>		<u>1980</u>
53 051.50	Accumulated Funds	54 470.94	33.00	Cash on Hand	33.00
65.00	Subscriptions in advance	100.00		Cash at Bank:	
	Trust Funds:		4 690.74	- General Account	1 343.59
1 315.39	- Clive Lord Memorial Fund	1 352.14	2 224.70	- Papers & Proceedings Account	3 135.37
2 102.90	- A.N. Lewis Memorial Fund	2 208.70	658.66	- Clive Lord Memorial Fund	713.45
925.07	- Morton Allport Memorial	980.29	1 050.17	- A.N. Lewis Memorial Fund	1 198.84
391.27	- A.A. Clark Bequest	411.27	860.00	Mortgage Loan	860.00
2 622.80	- Joseph Milligan Bequest	2 753.90		Commonwealth Treasury Bonds	
1 356.44	- R.M. Johnston Memorial Fund	1 435.86	10 440.00	& Inscribed Stock (at cost)	14 440.00
590.12	- Henry Oliver Bequest	634.32	7 000.00	Interest Bearing Deposits	7 000.00
1 436.73	- W.H. Hudspeth Memorial	1 493.13	15 000.00	Library (at valuation for insurance)	15 000.00
2 176.70	- Life Membership Fund	2 273.70	13 543.31	Publications (at selling prices)	24 390.00
		<u>54 470.94</u>	<u>33.00</u>		
<u>\$66 033.92</u>		<u>\$68 114.25</u>	<u>\$66 033.92</u>		<u>\$68 114.25</u>

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GENERAL ACCOUNT TO 31 DECEMBER 1980

Balance brought forward	4 690.74	Stationery	307.80
Subscriptions -		Insurance	119.69
236 @ \$12	2 832.00	Attendants' fees	205.91
155 @ \$8	1 240.00	Secretarial fees	200.00
18 @ \$5	90.00	Lecturer's expenses	251.50
Other years	352.61	Management fee	1 450.00
		Post box rental	109.00
Interest	1 080.11	Postage and freight	680.51
Sales of publications and		Investments	4 000.00
Papers & Proceedings	1 948.73	Photocopying	119.45
Government Grant	1 450.00	Subscriptions	599.87
Rent	227.98	Printing of Papers & Proceedings	6 401.80
Miscellaneous	241.95		
University subsidy	1 635.00		
		Balance carried forward	14 445.53
			1 343.59
	<u>\$15 789.12</u>		<u>\$15 789.12</u>

PAPERS AND PROCEEDINGS ACCOUNT TO 31 DECEMBER 1980

Balance brought forward	2 224.70		
Interest	910.67	Balance carried forward	3 135.37
	<u>\$3 135.37</u>		<u>\$3 135.37</u>

ACCUMULATION ACCOUNT - YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1980

Balance	1 January 1980		53 051.50
<u>Deduct</u>	Net increase in advance subscriptions	35.00	
	Net transfers to Trust Funds	625.89	
	Decrease in cash at banks	2 233.02	2 893.91
			<u>50 157.59</u>
<u>Add</u>	Net increase in valuation of publications for sale	313.35	
	Increase in investments	4 000.00	4 313.35
Balance	31 December 1980		<u>\$54 470.94</u>