

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1978

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 G.E.A. Hale

Dr E.A. Colhoun

Council

Mr R.J. Downie

Mr K.E.J. Robinson

Mr P.S. Manchester

Mr J.D. Thomson

Mr A.R. Neilson

Mr S.J. Thrower

Mr E.H. Norton

Mr P.G. Webb

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 and at the June General Meeting. He also took the Chair at the Annual General Meeting of the Northern Branch in March.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA MEDAL

At the General Meeting in June, the President presented the Royal Society of Tasmania Medal to Dr M.R. Banks in recognition of prolonged research of high merit.

Previous recipients of the medal have been:

1976	Donald Martin
1970	D.L. Serventy
1940	W.E.L. Crowther and V.V. Hickman
1935	A.N. Lewis
1934	H.H. Scott
1930	Clive Lord
1927	L. Rodway

HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

Mr. T.E. Burns was elected an Honorary Life Member in recognition of the outstanding service he has given to the Society particularly to the Northern Branch.

ANNUAL MEETING

At the Annual Meeting on 7 March, Mr K.E.J. Robinson retired as Vice-President, and Dr E.A. Colhoun and Mr K.D. Nicolls as Members of the Council. The following were elected -

Vice President	-	Dr E.A. Colhoun
Members of Council	-	Mr E.H. Norton
	-	Mr K.E.J. Robinson
Honorary Secretary	-	Mr D.R. Gregg
Honorary Treasurer	-	Mr T.A.H. Knight
Honorary Auditor	-	Mr D.B. Churchill

LECTURES

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

March	'Biological Survey in Australia'	Dr W.D.L. Ride, CSIRO, Canberra
April	'China - an Ancient Culture, a Recent Perspective'	Mr H.S. Payne, TCAE, Launceston
May	'Supplying Tasmania's Future Energy Needs'	Mr J.R. Ashton, H.E.C.
June	'Readings from a Page of Earth History - Permian in Tasmania'	Dr M.R. Banks, University of Tasmania
July	'Land, a Diminishing Human Resource'	Dr D.F. Smith, TCAE, Launceston
August	'The Nature of Bush Logic'	Professor G.W. Boyd, University of Tasmania
September	'The Future of Private Forestry in Tasmania'	Mr P.T. Unwin, Forestry Commission
October	'Fossil Vertebrates from Antarctica'	Mr N.R. Kemp, Tasmanian Museum
November	'Tasmania's Rural Industry - the past, present and future'	Mr P.J. Fountain, Department of Agriculture

LIBRARY

Mrs D.A. Lewis, Librarian, reports on the year's activities:

The re-organisation of the library has proceeded steadily in 1978. The exchange programme has been reviewed, a new system of exchange records developed and addresses of our exchange partners up-dated. As well, a review of titles sent to us on exchange has been carried out. Work on this project is now almost complete with respect to non-English speaking partners and the remainder will be completed in 1979. The contact made with our partners in the course of this operation has resulted in the resuscitation of some languishing exchanges, and in the arrival of some titles not previously sent to us.

On the other hand, a few of our partners have complained that there is an imbalance in the exchange arrangements in that they send multiple titles and receive

only our annual *Papers and Proceedings*, and it seems likely that some partners may feel that they must prune their donations in the near future. However, it speaks well for the prestige of our *Papers and Proceedings* that it is so widely accepted. Indeed, we receive about two titles for every copy of our publication that we send away. This year 67 copies of Volume 112 were sent to Australian partners and another 256 to overseas partners in 48 countries.

A more efficient system for accessioning periodicals has been installed and titles checked for accuracy.

A card system has been set up for recording *Papers and Proceedings* sent to members so that confusion should be minimized.

The major re-organisation has been in the re-shelving of serials in alphabetical order by title as at time of publication. This procedure was decided upon after considerable investigation and the work is now well advanced. While it has been going on, there has been some slight inconvenience but the general consensus is that the new arrangement will be a considerable improvement in providing speedy service to our readers.

The binding programme has suffered somewhat because of staff cuts within the University Library and only 710 volumes have been bound this year, though many hundreds more have been prepared for binding as soon as possible. It may be some years before they can all be done, but while they are tied, labelled and in order, deterioration will be minimized.

During the year 167 visits by members of the Society have been recorded in the Register of Users. Including University staff and other visitors, some from overseas, the total number for the year was 492.

Inter-library loan requests have come from as far afield as New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. Total inter-library loans, or photo-copies, supplied have been 189.

PUBLICATIONS

A bumper volume, 356 pages, was published as Volume 112 of the *Papers and Proceedings* in August, 1978. The processing of manuscripts for publication was considerably eased by the use of the efficient typing services of Mrs Margaret Martyn by arrangement with Professor D.H. Green, University of Tasmania.

At the end of 1978, 6 papers totalling 55 pages had been prepared for publication as part of Volume 113.

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

FINANCES

The cost of producing the *Papers and Proceedings* has continued to rise and put publication into jeopardy in spite of the recent increase in subscriptions to members. The Council welcomes an increase in the Tasmanian Government grant for publications from \$1 400 to \$3 000 and an increase in the University of Tasmania grant from \$1 000 to \$1 500.

MEMBERSHIP

During the year the membership was 503, a decrease of 29.

The membership is made up as follows -

	Northern Branch	Total
Honorary Life Members	3	6
Life Members	9	38
Ordinary Members, receiving <i>Papers and Proceedings</i>	70	258
Ordinary Members, not receiving the <i>Papers and Proceedings</i>	103	175
Associate Members	17	26
	<hr/> 202	<hr/> 503

COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Council met four times during the year with Mr P.S. Manchester and Mr P.G. Webb representing the Northern Branch on the Council.

REVIEW OF RULES

The Council set up a committee to carry out an overall review of the Society's function and to make recommendations to the Council on possible changes to the Rules.

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:

All the buildings purchased by the State from the Commonwealth in 1977 have been made available to the Tasmanian Museum with the exception of the temporary weather-board building on the corner of Dunn and Macquarie Streets. Funds have been provided by the Tasmanian Government for the renovation of the building at 40 Macquarie Street formerly housing the Commonwealth Department of Transport. This building, part of the original Commissariat Stores, dates back to 1808 and is almost certainly the oldest surviving building in Tasmania. It will be used for offices and working areas and will free useful display space in the present buildings.

Dr A.E. Orchard took up duties as Curator of the Tasmanian Herbarium in March. Substantial collections have been donated to the Herbarium, including about 18 000 lichens, collected by the late Dr G.C. Bratt, and the herbarium of Dr Winifred Curtis.

Mr N.R. Kemp, Curator of Geology, spent part of the 1977-78 summer with an American expedition collecting Triassic fossil vertebrates in the Cumulus Hills, Antarctica.

A grant of \$20 000 from the Utah Foundation, enabled the purchase of a painting 'Tivoli' by John Glover.

Dr Banks was elected Chairman of the Trustees at the beginning of 1978.

Mr M.H. Hurburgh retired after serving as the Council's nominee on the Board of Trustees of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens since 1972 and was replaced by Dr Jocelyn E.S. Townrow. She reports on the year's activities:

1978, the Gardens' 160th year, was remarkable for the development of information and educational activities, for the increasing excellence of the spring and summer floral displays in the grounds and the conservatory, and extensive new landscaping in various parts of the gardens.

The State Government Grant for 1978/79 is \$460 000 which, although a further increase of \$40 000 on last year, will not permit any major capital work to be undertaken nor replacement of a senior gardener.

Mr Hurburgh was appointed Education and Information Officer in February and the Information Centre is now firmly established.

The rise of approximately 10% in numbers of visitors to the Gardens over the past 6 months (12 - 16 000 per month) compared with 1977 reflects increasing public interest in the Gardens and there has been considerable growth in inquiries.

Projects in hand include the establishment of a Gardens Museum to be housed in the Superintendent's Cottage, the development and display of a newly discovered Aboriginal midden in association with an endemic and native flora area at the northern end of the Gardens, and the planning of a "blind walk" near the Lily Pond which will be an educational experience for sighted (blindfolded) as well as blind visitors.

NORTHERN BRANCH

The Northern Branch of the Society based in Launceston elected the following Council -

Chairman	-	Mr H.S. Payne
Vice-Chairman	-	Dr D.F. Smith
Honorary Secretary	-	Mr P.G. Webb
Honorary Treasurer	-	Mr J.D. Abey
Honorary Auditor	-	Mr H.C.A. Pitt
Members	-	Miss J.S. Gardner (elected in 1977)
	-	Mr P.S. Manchester (elected in 1977)
	-	Mr P.J.F. Leonard
	-	Mr D. Walter
	-	Mrs N.I. Hardy Wilson

Dr E.V.R. Ratcliff and Mr K.E.J. Robinson were co-opted to the Council.

The following lectures were given:

March	'The Royal Society: its Past and Future'	Mr P.G. Webb
April	'Is there a Future in the Search for New Drugs?'	Professor R.H. Thorpe
May	'Incompatibility in Plants'	Dr David Hamilton
June	'Telecom, Australia Post, the H.E.C. - their Prices and their Profits'	Dr J.Y. Henderson
July	'What do we want from our School Teachers?'	Dr Geoffrey Haward

August	'Social Problems in Launceston'	Mr Peter Hanson
September	'Health Problems of Industrial Societies'	Dr John Powles
October	'The Greek Arrival in Tasmanian Architecture'	Dr E.V.R. Ratcliff
November	'Origins of and Administration of the Legal System in Tasmania'	Mr J.R. Rex
December	Members Night -	
	'Some Colonial Correspondence'	Mrs P. Ratcliff
	'Some Interesting Features of Early Tasmanian Architecture'	Mr A.T. Orr
	'Launceston's Sister City in Malaysia'	Mr H.S. Payne
	'Readings appropriate to Christmas'	Mr R.E. Ward

The four lectures from May to August were a second series by staff of the Newnham Campus of the Tasmanian College of Advanced Education.

Excursions visited the Launceston Gas Works in March and the Launceston law courts in November.

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 co-operation.

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 1978

In my opinion the attached Balance Sheet, Accumulation Account and Statements of Receipts and Payments for the General Account and Papers and Proceedings, are properly drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Royal Society of Tasmania as at 31 December 1978, according to the books and records produced to me. The asset values of the Library and Publications on hand is accepted at the valuation as stated in the Balance Sheet, having been submitted to me by the Royal Society of Tasmania.

D.B. Churchill, F.A.S.A.
Licensed Auditor

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

GENERAL ACCOUNT TO 31 DECEMBER 1978

Receipts		Payments	
Balance brought forward	3 267.85	Stationery	100.57
Subscriptions -		Insurance	182.22
2 @ \$200	400.00	Attendants' fees	369.11
218 @ \$ 12	2 615.29	Library expenses	253.00
159 @ \$ 8	1 270.00	Presentations	197.01
23 @ \$ 5	115.00	Secretarial fees	200.00
Other years	<u>266.02</u>	Northern Branch	1 146.00
Interest	1 126.96	Petty cash	90.00
Sales of publications & Papers		Management fee, University	1 450.00
and Proceedings	1 604.40	Post box rental	102.00
Government Grant	1 450.00	Postage and freight	1 165.05
Rent	103.45	Investments	10.00
Miscellaneous	108.24	Photocopying	86.67
University subsidy	1 250.00	Symposium expenses	(10.00)
		Subscriptions	509.73
		Printing of Papers & Proceedings	
		& publications	<u>6 622.20</u>
			12 473.56
		Balance carried forward	<u>1 103.65</u>
	<u>\$13 577.21</u>		<u>\$13 577.21</u>

PAPERS AND PROCEEDINGS ACCOUNT TO 31 DECEMBER 1978

Receipts		Payments	
Balance brought forward	337.16	Telephone and sundry expenses	13.40
Interest	678.64		
Redeemed investment	400.00		
			<u>13.40</u>
		Balance brought forward	<u>1 402.40</u>
	<u>\$1 415.80</u>		<u>\$1 415.80</u>