

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1977

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 K.E.J. Robinson Mr G.E.A. Hale

Council

Dr E.A. Colhoun	Mr K.D. Nicolls
Mr R.J. Downie	Mr J.D. Thomson
Mr P.S. Manchester	Mr S.J. Thrower
Mr A.R. Neilson	Mr P.G. Webb

Honorary Secretary
Mr D.R. Gregg

Honorary Treasurer
Dr W. Bryden

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 General Meetings in May and June.

R.M. JOHNSTON MEDAL

At the General Meeting in May, the President presented the R.M. Johnston Medal to Professor S.W. Carey.

Previous recipients of the medal have been:

1923	Sir T.W. Edgeworth David	1946	Professor L.H. Martin
1925	Professor F. Wood Jones	1948	Professor F. Griffiths-Taylor
1929	Dr R.J. Tillyard	1950	Professor J.T. Wilson
1934	Professor W.J. Dakin	1957	Professor F. Walker
1937	Sir David Rivett	1959	Sir Edmund Hilary

CLIVE LORD MEDAL

At the General Meeting in October, the Clive Lord Memorial Medal was presented to Dr E.R. Guiler.

Previous recipients have been:

1936	Professor L.F. Giblin	1958	Mr P.G. Law
1939	Professor J.B. Cleland	1960	Emeritus Professor V.V. Hickman
1947	Dr H. Thompson	1966	Dr Winifred Curtis
1951	Professor J. Burke	1973	Dr W. Bryden

ANNUAL MEETING

At the Annual Meeting on 1 March, Mr K.D. Nicolls retired as Vice-President, and Mr O.W. Reid and Dr A.G. Wallace as Members of the Council. The following were elected -

Vice-President	-	Mr G.E.A. Hale
Members of Council	-	Mr S.J. Thrower
	-	Mr J.D. Thomson
Honorary Secretary	-	Mr D.R. Gregg
Honorary Treasurer	-	Dr W. Bryden
Honorary Auditor	-	Mr D.B. Churchill

At the July General Meeting, Mr K.D. Nicolls was elected to the Council to fill the casual vacancy on the Council caused by Dr Bryden's resignation as an ordinary member of Council.

INCREASE OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

At the November General Meeting it was resolved that the following subscriptions apply from the beginning of 1978:

Members receiving the Papers and Proceedings	\$ 12.00 p.a.
Members not receiving the Papers and Proceedings	\$ 8.00 p.a.
Associate Members	\$ 5.00 p.a.
Life Members	\$ 200.00

LECTURES

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

March	"Mammals and Man in the Tasmanian Ice-Age"	Dr P.F. Murray, Tasmanian Museum
April	"Biological Control of <i>Sirex</i> Wood-wasp"	Mr K.L. Taylor, CSIRO
May	"A Philosophy of the Earth and Universe"	Professor S.W. Carey
June	"Intermediate Technology and the Future of Tasmania"	Dr D.F. Smith, TCAE, Launceston
July	"The Cell's Remarkable Skin"	Dr B. Scott, University of Tasmania
August	"Ophthalmic Fluorescein Angiography - diagnostic medical photography"	Mr K. Bell, Royal Hobart Hospital
September	"Aspirin: an old drug with some new tricks"	Dr L.J. McLeod, University of Tasmania

October	"Some new information on Cetacea and seals in Tasmania"	Dr E.R. Guiler University of Tasmania
	"The Library of the Royal Society of Tasmania - its nature and organisation"	Mrs D.A. Lewis, Royal Society of Tasmania
November	"Petroleum in Modern Life"	Mr A.B. Wilson

The June General Meeting was held in Launceston; the first time that a General Meeting of the Society has been held outside Hobart.

In October, a Special General Meeting was held in the Society's Library at the University of Tasmania where members were able to inspect the Library and also to hear Mrs D.A. Lewis, the Royal Society Librarian, speak about it. A group of members from the Northern Branch attended the meeting.

LIBRARY

The library continues to provide library services for members of the Society, University staff and Higher Degree students. Inquiries have also been answered from other Tasmanian libraries, from Tasmanian and interstate scholars and from one researcher in U.S.A.

In June 1977 the University of Tasmania, which has provided accommodation and part-time staff for the library since 1970, made a full-time senior librarian, Mrs D.A. Lewis, available with a view to re-organizing the library and clearing up problems which had accumulated. This work is now proceeding.

Loan procedures have been brought under stricter control and are now functioning satisfactorily.

During the year, 793 volumes were bound for us by the University Bindery.

The library has participated in inter-library loan activities, 83 requests from other institutions having been filled in the half-year ended 31 December 1977. In the same period, three requests were made to other libraries on behalf of our members and all were filled.

The exchange programme continues to be our main source of acquisition. We received 14 titles by subscription and 716 by exchange or donation. We sent out 65 copies of the 1977 issue (Vol 111) of the *Papers and Proceedings* to Australian exchange partners and 254 copies to overseas partners in 46 countries. As well, over fifty institutions have standing order subscriptions for the *Papers and Proceedings* and a few other copies have been sold on a one-year subscription basis. We also have occasional orders for single issues of back numbers.

However, sales of the Society's publications are slow and the large stocks of back numbers present a storage problem in the library, where they take up room urgently needed for library material. It is anticipated that the bulk of this stock will soon be transferred to cellar storage in the building. This will free some shelving and the position will be further improved by the removal of one of the large study tables and its replacement by additional shelving now on order.

The *Proceedings* of the 1976 Symposium "Landscape and man : the interaction between man and environment in Western Tasmania" appeared in June 1977 and this publication has been made available to the public through a commercial bookseller. The considerable stocks of *The Diaries of John Helder Wedge 1824-35* (published by the Society 1962) which were in storage unbound have now been bound and are available for sale.

A special meeting of the Society was held in the library on 18 October. Approximately fifty members and friends attended, including twelve from the Northern Branch. The librarian gave a talk on the nature and arrangement of the library's collections and the visitors inspected a display of valuable and unusual works. This exhibition remained on display in the University Library for a month and attracted widespread interest.

The University Librarian continues to be represented at meetings of the Council of the Society.

NORTHERN BRANCH

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

Chairman	-	Mr P.G. Webb
Vice-Chairman	-	Mr H.S. Payne
Past Chairman	-	Dr E.V.R. Ratcliff
Honorary Secretary	-	Mr T.E. Burns
Honorary Treasurer	-	Mr J.D. Abey
Members	-	Miss J.S. Gardner
	-	Mr P.S. Manchester
	-	Mr H.C.A. Pitt (who resigned during the year)
	-	Mr K.E.J. Robinson
	-	Dr D.F. Smith
	-	Mr D. Walter

Mr D. Walter was co-opted as Excursion Organiser, and Mr G.H. Stancombe member in charge of the library. Mr H.C.A. Pitt was appointed Auditor on the death of Mr J.N. Gee. Mr K.E.J. Robinson acted as relieving Treasurer.

The following lectures were given -

March	"The Geology of the Tamar Valley"	Mr P.S. Manchester
April	"Shells"	Mrs Zoe Stancombe
May	"A Philosophy of the Earth and Universe"	Professor S.W. Carey
June	"Intermediate Technology and the Future of Tasmania"	Dr D.F. Smith
July	"Mathematics - man's basic science"	Dr D. Blest
August	"China - an ancient culture : a recent perspective"	Mr H.S. Payne
September	"Astronomy - the oldest and the youngest science"	Dr R. Rogers
October	"Historic Highway"	Mr George Webb
November	"Early Horticulturists in Tasmania"	Dr D. Martin
December	Members' Night -	
	"Marble Bar and the Hammersley Range"	Mr J.W. Ikin
	"Queen Victoria's Most Unusual Funeral"	Commander E.J. Prevost
	"Long Marsh Dam"	Mr D. Walter

The four lectures from June to September were a series by staff of the Newnham Campus of the Tasmanian College of Advanced Education. The inaugural meeting of the series was a General Meeting of the Society held in association with the Northern

Branch and was chaired by Sir Stanley Burbury, as President of the Society.

Excursions visited the Tamar Valley in March and Long Marsh Dam in December.

PUBLICATIONS

Volume 111 of the Papers and Proceedings was published early in September. It contained 9 papers, totalling 189 pages, including papers on several aspects of zoology, geology and archaeology.

The proceedings of the Queenstown Symposium of November 1976, were published in August under the title 'Landscape and Man'.

The Society is indebted to Dr Banks for his continuing work as Honorary Editor. During Dr Banks' absence overseas Mr D.R. Gregg assisted with editing of the Papers and Proceedings and Dr J.B. Kirkpatrick with 'Landscape and Man'.

MEMBERSHIP

During the year the membership was 532, a decrease of 4.

The membership is made up as follows -

	Northern Branch	Total
Honorary Life Members	2	5
Life Members	10	36
Ordinary Members, receiving the Papers and Proceedings	82	280
Ordinary Members, not receiving the Papers and Proceedings	102	182
Associate Members	19	27
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	215	532

COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

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 as follows:

The Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery welcomed the decision of the State Government to purchase the Commonwealth buildings adjacent to the Museum. If all the buildings are made available to the Trustees together with adequate funds to make full use of them, the satisfactory development of the Museum and Art Gallery on its present site near the centre of Hobart will be assured.

Responsibility for the Tasmanian Herbarium has been accepted by the Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery and the State Government has provided funds for the appointment of a Curator and an assistant. Dr A.E. Orchard has been appointed

Curator and should start work in March 1978. The Herbarium will continue to be housed, for the present, at the University of Tasmania.

The Minister for Education, Recreation and the Arts has set up a Museums and Art Galleries Advisory Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr K.E.J. Robinson and with the following terms of reference:

- To advise the Minister on Government policy in relation to the funding of museums and art galleries.
- To advise the Minister on grants to individual museums and art galleries.
- To advise the Minister on the rationalisation and development of museum and art gallery activities within Tasmania.

The Council re-elected Dr M.H. Hurburgh to the Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanical Gardens. He reports on the year's activities as follows -

The year saw the completion of the automatic irrigation system for the Gardens.

A general improvement to the main entrance was carried out with the construction of a rockery.

Fifteen grass plots, each sown with a different species of grass for public viewing, were established.

The glasshouses, have received further attention, in particular with the installation of a polytherm heating system in the new building.

Particular emphasis has been placed on the planting of more natives and eucalypts in their respective sections of the Gardens.

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

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 1977

	1976		1977		1976		1977
81	208.01	Accumulated Funds	93 809.07		33.00	Cash on hand	33.00
	30.00	Subscriptions in advance	94.00		1 715.18	Cash at Bank - General Account	3 267.85
		Trust Funds -			5 752.42	- Papers and Proceedings Account	337.16
	1 176.61	Clive Lord Memorial Fund	1 252.87			- Clive Lord Memorial Fund	542.37
	1 760.81	A.N. Lewis Memorial Fund	1 880.39		476.61	- A.N. Lewis Memorial Fund	780.39
	765.98	Morton Allport Memorial Fund	814.52		660.81	Mortgage Loan	860.00
	329.27	A.A. Clark Bequest	351.27		860.00	Commonwealth Treasury Bond and Inscribed Stock (at cost)	10 430.00
	2 235.87	Joseph Milligan Bequest	2 361.97		10 430.00	Interest Bearing Deposits	7 000.00
	1 145.74	R.M. Johnston Memorial Fund	1 223.30		7 000.00	Library (at valuation for insurance)	15 000.00
	502.99	Henry Oliver Bequest	522.69		15 000.00	Publications (at selling prices)	66 758.15
	1 269.77	W.H. Hudspeth Memorial Fund	1 322.17		50 300.00		
	1 802.97	Life Membership Fund	1 376.67	11 105.85			
	<u>\$92 228.02</u>		<u>\$105 008.92</u>		<u>\$92 228.02</u>		<u>\$105 008.92</u>

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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 1977, 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.

27 February 1978

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

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA
GENERAL ACCOUNT TO 31 DECEMBER 1977

Receipts		Payments	
Balance brought forward	1 715.18	Stationery	228.90
Subscriptions -		Insurance	40.51
2 @ \$100	200.00	Attendants' fees	332.46
248 @ \$ 8	1 984.00	Library expenses	200.00
166 @ \$ 5	830.00	Accounting fees	96.00
22 @ \$ 3	66.00	Secretarial fees	400.00
Other years	<u>589.00</u>	Meetings	96.19
Interest	991.38	Petty Cash	120.00
Sales of publications & Papers and Proceedings	2 312.35	Management fee	1 450.00
Government Grant	1 450.00	Post box rental	102.00
Rent	224.77	Postage and freight	429.59
Symposium	4.25	Bank fees - overseas cheques	1.74
Miscellaneous	17.13	Photocopying	18.24
University subsidy	1 000.00	Papers and Proceedings Account	1 343.23
Donations	4.00	Symposium expenses	109.11
Premium on note conversion	12.00	Subscriptions	79.50
		Printing of Papers and Proceedings and publications	<u>3 084.74</u>
			8 132.21
		Balance carried forward	<u>3 267.85</u>
	<u>\$11 400.06</u>		<u>\$11 400.06</u>

PAPERS AND PROCEEDINGS ACCOUNT TO 31 DECEMBER 1977

Receipts		Payments	
Balance brought forward	5 752.42	Printing and binding -	
Interest	751.59	Volume 110	2 345.60
Transfer from General Account	1 343.23	Volume 111	4 428.80
		Equipment - projector	703.40
		Telephone and sundry expenses	32.28
			<u>7 510.08</u>
		Balance carried forward	337.16
	<u>\$7 847.24</u>		<u>\$7 847.24</u>