

Royal Society of Tasmania

Annual Report for the Year 1968

As mentioned in the Annual Report for the year 1967, the question of the future of the Society and the security of its library 'should be of real concern to all members, as the matter is one of real urgency.'

The Council of the Society gave a great deal of thought and time to this question during the year. It happened that in both the University and the State Libraries, extensions were being planned and each organisation offered to provide space and facilities to enable the headquarters of the Society and the Society's Library to transfer to fireproof and secure areas. After a good deal of consideration the Council of the Society decided to recommend to the members that the Society and its library move from the Tasmanian Museum to the University when the library extensions there are completed. The suggestion was considered by the Council of the University which body agreed to make the space available on the understanding that the Society retains its own identity and ownership of its assets.

The Annual Meeting of the Society was held in March and the usual elections were conducted. The Rules of the Society provide for the election of one Vice-President and two members of Council each year in addition to the election of an Honorary Secretary, an Honorary Treasurer, and an Honorary Auditor. This year Dr W. W. Wilson was elected a Vice-President, while the offices of Councillor were filled by the election of Dr J. L. Davies and Mr T. D. Sprod. Mr G. E. A. Hale was re-elected Honorary Treasurer, Dr W. Bryden was re-elected Honorary Secretary and Mr A. M. D. Hewer was re-elected Honorary Auditor.

The membership totalled 595 at the end of the year, and of these 236 belong to the Northern Branch. There are four Honorary Life Members.

A total of 640 volumes, books and journals was added to the Library. Volume 102 of the *Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania* was published and copies were circulated to many scientific institutions in Australia and abroad. This exchange system is the means by which many of the long and valuable sets of scientific periodicals have been built up over the years in the Society's Library.

The Northern Branch continued its programmes of scientific and historical addresses as well as arranging some excursions. Periodicals of particular interest continue to be forwarded to the Northern Branch from the main Library of the Society.

General meetings were held in the Society's Room from March to November and the following is a list of speakers and titles of these addresses:—

March: Mr T. G. Cashion, Senior Preparator, Natal Museum, on '*Game Conservation in Natal*'.

April: Dr G. N. Lance, Chief of the Division of Computing Research, CSIRO, on '*Computers—their present uses and future potential*'.

May: Mr John Moore, Supervisor of the Education Section, Australian Broadcasting Commission, Hobart, on '*Living and Working in Malawi*'.

June: Dame Mabel Miller, on '*Some Impressions of a Delegate to the United Nations*'.

July: Mr K. M. Dallas, on '*Water Power in Europe*'.

August: Sir Henry Somerset, on '*Certain Aspects of the Mineral Industry*'.

September: Dr J. L. Davies, Reader in Geography, University of Tasmania, on '*Shore Platforms*'.

October: Sir George Cartland, Vice-Chancellor, University of Tasmania, on '*African History*'.

November: Dr J. T. Wood, Technical Assistant to the General Superintendent, Electrolytic Zinc Company of Australasia Ltd, on '*The Story of the Electrolytic Zinc Company*'.

Sir Charles Gairdner, whose term as Governor of the State ended towards the close of the year under review, automatically ceased to be President of the Society.

An approach will be made early in 1969 to the new Governor, Sir Edric Bastyan, when an invitation will be issued for him to accept office as President of the Society. If he accepts, he will follow in the steps of all Governors of Tasmania since Sir Eardley Eardley-Wilmot became the first President in 1843.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Without the generous help and assistance given by various libraries and many organisations and individuals the Society would not be able to function as it does. The Society is particularly grateful to and acknowledges the assistance provided during the year by the Government of Tasmania, the Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, the Queen Victoria Museum in Launceston, the Press, Radio and Television stations, the State Library, the University of Tasmania, and the many individuals who have assisted the Society so generously.

Northern Branch

Annual Report, 1968

Arising from the Annual General Meeting of the Northern Branch which was held on 8 March 1968, the Branch Council was composed as follows:—

Chairman—Dr J. C. H. Morris.
 Vice-Chairman—Mr J. N. Gee
 Hon. Secretary and Treasurer—Mr W. F. Ellis.
 Past Chairman—Mr Justice G. H. Crawford.
 Council Members—Mrs I. J. Mead, Mr K. E. J. Robinson, Mr G. H. Stancombe, Mr N. R. Harvey, Mr D. Walter,
 Hon. Auditor—Mr H. C. A. Pitt.

Dr Morris and Mr Justice Crawford, with Mrs Mead and Mr Ellis as proxies, represented the Branch at Council Meetings in Hobart.

MEMBERSHIP

The Branch membership on 31 December 1968 was 236.

ACTIVITIES

Eleven meetings were arranged at which the following lectures were given:—

- 8 March 1968—'Mr Hawkes tutor goes to the goldfields' by Hon. Mr Justice Crawford.
- 22 March 1968—'Changes in the Tasmanian vegetation' by Dr J. M. Gilbert.
- 26 April 1968—'Some notes on the life of Captain James Kelly' by Mr E. R. Pretyman.
- 24 May 1968—'Multiple land use and conservation' by Mr David Steane.
- 28 June 1968—'Developments in South-West Tasmania' by Mr R. M. H. Garvie.
- 26 July 1968—'Resources Conservation' by Professor W. D. Jackson.
- 23 August 1968—'Tasmanian conifers—past and present' by Dr J. A. Townrow.

27 September 1968—'The Story of the Electrolytic Zinc Company' by Dr J. T. Wood.

25 October 1968—'Malawi' by Mr John Moore.

22 November 1968—Scientific films—

'Window into Space'.

'From Pelvoux to Viso'.

'Birth of the Red Kangaroo'.

6 December 1968—Members' lecturettes—

'Medieval brasses', by Mr D. Walter.

'Three children lost' by Miss J. Williams.

'The Flinders Memorial Project' by Mr

R. S. Smith and Mr K. E. J. Robinson.

'The smallest railway in the world' by

Mr T. B. Stancombe.

'History in our graveyards' by Mr N. R. Harvey.

EXCURSIONS

Three excursions were arranged to areas of scientific and historical interest—

26 May 1968—Forth and Don District.

30 June 1968—Supply River.

14-15 September 1968—Bicheno-Swansea, East Coast.

COUNCIL

The Council of the Northern Branch met eight times during 1968. In addition it was represented at six meetings of the General Council.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Branch Council records its appreciation of the Launceston City Council for the facilities at the Queen Victoria Museum which have been provided during the year.

