

# Royal Society of Tasmania

Annual Report for the Year 1963.

On behalf of the Council of the Royal Society of Tasmania I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1963.

LORD ROWALLAN.

While Lord Rowallan was Governor of Tasmania he occupied the position of President of the Society following the precedent established by Sir Eardley Wilmot in 1843 and followed by each Governor in turn since that date. During the years Lord Rowallan was in Tasmania he took a very special interest in the affairs of the Society and when he was due to leave he was elected an Honorary Life Member. This honour was conferred on him at the March meeting when he was presented with an address similar to that given in 1862 to Sir H. E. Fox Young, then Governor of Tasmania. When replying, Lord Rowallan mentioned the interest and pleasure he had received from the Society and offered good wishes for the future.

TASMANIAN MUSEUM.

In January, 1863, the Royal Society was able to open its new museum which was built on the site occupied now by the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. To commemorate this event the Trustees of the Museum arranged a series of four lectures. One was devoted more especially to the association of the Museum with the Royal Society and on that occasion the lecture was given by Professor J. Burke, O.B.E., of the University of Melbourne. At the first lecture, His Excellency the Governor, Lord Rowallan, President of the Royal Society of Tasmania, gave an address entitled, "The Museum and the Community".

GENERAL MEETINGS.

General meetings were well attended and addresses were given as follows:—

*March:* Sir Stanley Burbury, Chief Justice of Tasmania, on "*Law and Science*".

*April:* Professor J. Burke, Department of Fine Arts, University of Melbourne, on "*Some Aspects of the Early History of the Arts in Tasmania*".

*May:* Scientific Films.

*June:* Mr. D. F. Hobbs, Commissioner of Inland Fisheries, on "*New Concepts in Trout Fisheries Management*".

*July:* Professor Peter Scott, University of Tasmania, on "*Hobart's Population: a Demographic and Social Analysis*".

*August:* Dr. M. Cunningham, Forestry Department, on "*Today's and Tomorrow's Forests in Tasmania*".

*September:* Mr. G. K. Meldrum, Chief Veterinary Officer, Department of Agriculture, on "*The Threat of Exotic Diseases*".

*October:* Mr. J. Greenhill, University of Tasmania, on "*Some Aspects of Antarctic Research*".

*November:* Miss Ann Phillips, University of Tasmania, on "*Some Aspects of the Ecology of the Fairy Penguins*".

SPECIAL LECTURES.

Another series of scientific lectures was arranged and the following papers were read:—

*June:* Mr. J. L. Davies, University of Tasmania, on "*Periglacial Geomorphology in Tasmania*".

*July:* Dr. B. I. H. Scott, University of Tasmania, on "*The Role of Plant Membranes in Regulating Ion Movement*".

*August:* Dr. G. H. Cheesman, University of Tasmania, on "*The Investigation of the Sense of Smell*".

*September:* Mr. K. J. Taylor, C.S.I.R.O., on "*Sirex Problems*".

These meetings, held at 5.15 p.m., once again showed that there is a place for lectures by scientists dealing in greater detail with their particular subjects, and it is evident that a similar series should be given each year.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

This meeting was held on 5th March, 1963, when the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year 1962 were presented and adopted. The retiring office-bearers were thanked for their services and the following were elected to fill the vacancies arising through retirement:—

*Vice-President:* Mr. D. H. Borchardt.

*Members of Council:* Professor A. M. Clark and J. V. Cook.

The following were re-elected:—

*Honorary Secretary and Honorary Librarian:* Dr. W. Bryden.

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

*Honorary Auditor:* Mr. A. D. Hewer.

The address was given by Sir Stanley Burbury, K.B.E., Chief Justice of Tasmania, on "*Law and Science*".

PAPERS AND PROCEEDINGS.

Volume 97 of the "Papers and Proceedings" was printed and distributed in the usual way.

WEDGE DIARIES.

The Diaries of John Helder Wedge, 1824-1835, were edited by the Hon. Mr. Justice Crawford, Mr. W. F. Ellis and Mr. G. H. Stancombe, and published by the Society.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

It was with particular pleasure that members learned of the election of Professor N. H. Barber, who until recently occupied the Chair of Botany in the University of Tasmania, to Fellowship of the Royal Society of London. All members of the Society join in extending hearty congratulations to Professor Barber.

LIBRARY.

Many periodicals, in addition to those obtained by subscription, were received by the Library during the year in exchange for the "Papers and Proceedings". The practice of binding a number of the more important periodicals was continued.

The total number of volumes added during the year was 550.

MEMBERSHIP.

Membership of the Society this year reached a total of 616.

NORTHERN BRANCH.

Members of the Northern Branch of the Society have had another active year with a varied programme of lectures and a number of very informative excursions.

In September the Council of the Society held its meeting in Launceston.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

The Council wishes to record its appreciation of the work carried out by the various office-bearers and staff, to the Tasmanian Government, the University of Tasmania, the Press, the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, and to all who have helped during the year.

W. BRYDEN, Hon. Secretary.

# Northern Branch

*Annual Report, 1963.*

The Council of the Northern Branch was composed as follows during 1963:—

*Chairman:* Mrs. I. J. Mead.

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. T. E. Burns.

*Past Chairman:* Dr. C. Craig.

*Honorary Secretary and Treasurer:* Mr. W. F. Ellis.

*Members of Council:* Mr. Justice G. H. Crawford, Mr. J. M. Curtis, Mr. A. W. G. Powell, Mr. J. R. Skemp, Mr. K. R. von Stieglitz.

Mrs. Mead and Mr. Ellis represented the Branch on the General Council of the Society, Mrs. Mead also attending the Standing Committee. Mr. Justice Crawford acted as the Northern Branch nominee on the Cradle Mountain-Lake St. Clair National Park Board.

## MEMBERSHIP.

On 31st December, 1963, the Northern Branch had 254 members comprising 12 Life Members, 234 Ordinary Members and 8 Associate Members. During the year the following adjustments were made:—

New Members Elected	40
Transferred to Branch	2
Transferred from Branch	4
Resigned	10
Deceased	2
Removed	3

## ACTIVITIES.

Ten General Meetings and one Special Meeting were held during the year, at which the following addresses were given:—

*11th December, 1963:* "Timing as a factor in the emergence of distinctively human characteristics", by Professor A. A. Abbie, M.D., Ph.D., F.R.A.C.P.

*22nd March, 1963:* "Tasmania's secession—the history of the Bass Strait", by Professor S. W. Carey, D.Sc.

*24th May, 1963:* "The first convict period on Maria Island", by Mr. John Morris.

*28th June, 1963:* "A Physicist in the Antarctic" by Mr. John Phillips, B.Sc.

*26th July, 1963:* "Television studio technical facilities", by Mr. V. F. Kenna, S.M.I.R.E.

*15th August, 1963:* "Tasmanian eucalypts in the British Isles", by Dr. D. Martin, D.Sc.

*20th September, 1963:* "Economic and social aspects of forest management in Tasmania", by E. P. Johnston, Dip.For.

*25th October, 1963:* "The significance of the temperance movement in Australia (1830-1950)", by Dr. M. Roe.

*15th November, 1963:* "Mental health, past, present and future", by Dr. N. Gold, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.M.

*6th December, 1963 (Members' Night):*

"West Coast Scenes", by Mr. A. W. G. Powell, M.Sc., B.Ed., F.R.A.C.I.

"Campbell Town", by Miss N. King.

"Governor Franklin's trip to the West Coast", by Mr. K. R. von Stieglitz, O.B.E.

"An outline of insect structure", by Mr. J. Glennie.

"What a piece of work is man", by Mr. G. H. Stancombe.

"Our talented society", by Mr. R. S. Smith, F.R.I.B.A., F.R.A.I.A.

The Special Meeting was held in 3rd April, 1963, when Professor Joseph Burke, O.B.E., M.A., spoke on "Some aspects of the fine arts in early Tasmania".

The attendance at each meeting averaged 87 persons.

## EXCURSIONS.

Six day excursions were arranged:—

*17th February, 1963:* "Clairville" and "Glen-dessary", Western Junction.

*24th March, 1963:* Geology of the Launceston District (Part I).

*21st April, 1963:* Freshwater Point.

*9th August, 1963:* TNT 9 Television Studios.

*17th August, 1963:* Geology of the Launceston District (Part II).

*21st September, 1963:* Forestry plantations in North-Eastern Tasmania.

Two week-end excursions were also conducted. On the first, held on 18-19 May, 1963, members visited Queenstown and Strahan on the West Coast and H.E.C. and other places of interest on the Central Plateau. On 23-24 November, 1963, an excursion to Flinders Island was held.

## COUNCIL ACTIVITIES.

The Northern Branch Council met seven times during the year, and one meeting of the General Council of the Society was held in Launceston.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

The Branch Council acknowledges, with appreciation, the facilities provided during the year at the Queen Victoria Museum by the Launceston City Council.

I. J. MEAD, Chairman.

W. F. ELLIS, Honorary Secretary.

