

# Royal Society of Tasmania

## Annual Report, 1955

The Annual Meeting was held in the Society's Room, Tasmanian Museum, on 1st March, 1955.

The President, His Excellency the Governor (Sir Ronald Cross), presided.

The following Office-bearers were elected:—

*Vice-President*: Under the Society's Rules Mr. S. Angel retired from the office of Vice-President and Mr. F. C. Wolfhagen was appointed in his place (retiring 1957).

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

*Hon. Treasurer*: Mr. G. E. Hale.

*Hon. Auditor*: Mr. A. M. Hewer.

*Council*: Under Rule 21 Professor H. N. Barber and Mr. I. G. Anderson retired as members of the Council and Dr. D. Martin and Dr. W. V. Tenniswood were elected for a period of three years. Dr. W. L. Crowther was elected for one year in place of Mr. F. C. Wolfhagen, who was appointed a Vice-President.

The names of the full Council for 1955 are given on the previous page.

The Council made the following appointments at its first meeting:—

*Standing Committee*: Mr. J. W. C. Wyett, Dr. D. Martin, Dr. W. V. Tenniswood and the Hon. Secretary.

*Board of Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Board of Trustees of the Botanical Gardens*:

Tasmanian Museum: Professor A. Burn and Dr. C. Loftus-Hills.

Botanical Gardens: Mr. S. Angel.

Representative to the Library Association: Dr. W. Bryden.

In addition to the above, Mr. E. R. Pretyma has continued to represent the Society on the Nomenclature Board.

*Meetings*: Nine ordinary meetings and one special meeting were held during the year, when the following lectures were given:—

March: "The first phase of the Economic War, Sept. 1939-May 1940," by the President, His Excellency the Governor, Sir Ronald Cross.

April: "Some Observations on the potential for increased primary production in Australia," by Sir Ian Clunies-Ross, Chairman, C.S.I.R.O.

May: "Seals, Sea-lions and Walruses," by Mr. J. L. Davies, University of Tasmania.

June: "A Scientist in America," by Professor H. N. Barber, University of Tasmania.

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July: "Radio Astronomy," by Dr. Grote Reber, Research Corporation, New York.

August: "Desert Ecology," by Professor Went, Californian Institute of Technology, Pasadena, U.S.A.

September: "Glimpses of the Philippines," by Mr. C. A. Holland, Department of Agriculture, Hobart.

Special Meeting: in association with the Australian Chemical Institute—"Chromatography", by Dr. R. L. M. Synge, F.R.S.

October: "Development of Tasmanian Railways in the first great economic depression 1860-1875," by Mr. W. A. Townsley, University of Tasmania.

November: "Rabbit Control in Tasmania, with special reference to the Compound 1080," by Mr. G. K. Meldrum, Department of Agriculture, Hobart.

*Library:* During the year 440 volumes were added to the Library in addition to a number of reports and pamphlets from British and Foreign Institutions and learned Societies. The number of institutions on the exchange list is now 303. The Library now consists of 30,510 volumes.

*Membership:* The Society consists of the following members:—

Honorary Members .....	2	
Corresponding Members .....	1	
Ordinary Members:		
Class A .....	271	
Class B .....	168	
	—	439
Life Members .....		31
Associate Members .....		18
		—
TOTAL .....		491

During the year 33 names were removed from the list of Members owing to deaths, resignations, &c., and 51 new members were elected.

*Deaths:* The Council regrets having to record the deaths of the following members: Mrs. A. Dowling, Mr. F. X. de Bavay, Mr. F. W. Needham, Mr. D. M. Urquhart.

During the year the Council considered the whole question of membership of the Society. It was felt that many people in Tasmania who would enjoy the privilege of Royal Society membership were not listed among the members and an effort should be made to have them join.

At a General Meeting of the Society held during the year one of the members of the Council, Mr. J. W. C. Wyatt, made this position known and appealed to all members to assist in bringing interested and qualified persons into membership.

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The Council feels that this question is not one for any one year or for any one person. If members would notify the Hon. Secretary or members of the Council of people who would be acceptable as members of the Society, the necessary approach could be made.

*A. L. Meston Memorial:* Some time ago a group of interested persons approached the Royal Society of Tasmania concerning a fitting memorial to commemorate the life and work of the late Mr. A. L. Meston. The Council referred the matter to the Nomenclature Board and asked that the Board consider giving Mr. Meston's name to some topographical feature in Tasmania. This has now been done and the lake at the headwaters of the Mersey River has been named "Lake Meston".

*Papers and Proceedings:* The Council is grateful to the Tasmanian Government for the amount of £550 provided as portion of cost of printing the Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society.

The Council also would like to record its thanks for the help given by the University of Tasmania in providing a sum of money enabling the Society to publish certain works by members of the University staff in the Papers and Proceedings.

Rising costs have made it necessary for the Council to reconsider the whole question of printing the Papers. It is hoped that effective steps may be taken in the next twelve months to enable the Society to continue printing the Papers and Proceedings each year.

## Northern Branch

### Annual Report, 1955

At the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Society of Tasmania (Northern Branch), held at the Queen Victoria Museum on April 29th, 1955, the following were elected to the Council under the Rules of the Branch:

Council Members: Mr. G. H. Stancombe (1955, 1956); Dr. C. Craig (1955, 1956).

Hon. Secretary/Treasurer: Mr. W. F. Ellis (1955).

The following retained their offices for the following year:—

Chairman: Mr. R. Smith (1955).

Vice-Chairman: Mr. K. R. Von Stieglitz (1955).

Council Members: Mr. G. H. Crawford (1955); Mr. E. Padman (1955); Mr. B. H. Travers (1955).

The members present expressed their appreciation of the work done by the retiring members of Council, Mr. G. Willing and Mr. J. Rex.

*Meetings:* During the year seven General Meetings and one special Meeting were held at which the following papers were read:—

April 29th, 1955—"Sidelights and Sunlight on Nineteenth Century Buildings in Tasmania," by Mr. Roy Smith.

May 23rd, 1955—"The Evolution of English Furniture, with special reference to Historical Influences," by Dr. E. Graeme Robertson.

June 17th, 1955—"Some Results of Investigations into the Tasmanian Trout Fishery, with special reference to electrical fishing," by Dr. A. G. Nicholls.

July 29th, 1955—"An Outline of Tasmanian Natural History," by Mr. M. S. R. Sharland.

September 2nd, 1955—"A Scientist in America," by Professor H. N. Barber.

September 26th, 1955—"Tin Deposits in Tasmania, with special reference to Mt. Bischoff and Aberfoyle," by Mr. Wm. Hart.

November 28th, 1955—"The Growth of Local Government in Tasmania," by Mr. K. R. Von Stieglitz.

A special meeting in conjunction with the Adult Education Board was held on November 2nd, 1955, when Mr. Kenneth Townley spoke on "Dating the Past with radio-active isotopes".

*Excursions:* The Northern Branch conducted four excursions to the following places of historic interest:—

March 20th—"Everton" and "Harland Rise," led by Mr. K. R. Von Stieglitz.

May 1st—Christ Church, Illawarra; St. Marys Church, Hagley; and "Culzean" at Westbury, led by Mr. Roy Smith.

October 23rd—"Valleyfield," "Winton." and "St. Johnson," led by Mr. Hawley Stancombe.

November 13th—Mt. Direction Semaphore Station, led by Mr. Gordon Willing.

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*Membership:* Sixteen members were elected during the year, the total Branch Membership now being:—

13 life members  
139 ordinary members  
12 associate members

*Library:* Four books were added to the Branch Library.

*Publications:* The edition of the “Penal Settlements of V.D.L.”, by T. J. Lempriere, which was issued by the Branch, has been well received in Australia and a number of requests for copies have been received from institutions and retailers overseas. Although the wholesale and members' prices are almost at cost a substantial proportion of the initial expenditure has been recovered. It is hoped that Branch members will take advantage of the favourable price to distribute more copies locally.

The Council is at present considering the production of another similar publication.

*Public Relations:* The Branch has been represented by the Chairman or Hon. Secretary at a number of functions and active contact has been maintained with the General Council of the Society whose full co-operation and support we gratefully acknowledge.

Royal Society of Tasmania  
(Northern Branch)

*Statement of Accounts at December 31st, 1955*

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RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance at 1.1.1955 .....	69	17 9	Lectures .....	7	9 0
Subscriptions .....	120	16 8	Library .....	9	2 5
Bank interest .....	2	18 1	Printing and advertising .....	75	1 6
Sales of publications .....	41	12 2	Postage and petty cash .....	31	15 3
			Balance carried forward .....	111	16 6
	<u>£235</u>	<u>4 8</u>		<u>£235</u>	<u>4 8</u>

Examined and found correct.  
J. R. FORWARD, Auditor.  
Launceston, 10.1.56.

F. ELLIS, Hon. Secretary/Treasurer.

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