

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

Annual Report for the Year 1992

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
General Sir Phillip Bennett, AC, KBE, DSO

Vice-Presidents

Dr A.V. Brown

Mr J.T.W. Hayton

Council

Mr R. Kerrison

Mrs G. Lord

Dr P. McCartney

Dr R.A. Herr

Dr M.R. Banks

Mr P.C. Stevenson

Mr C.B. Tassell

Ms M. Cameron

Acting Honorary Secretary

Professor D.M. Stoddart

Honorary Treasurer

Mr T.A.H. Knight

Honorary Auditor

Mr T.O. Bayley, FCA

Honorary Editor

Dr M.R. Banks AM

Honorary Assistant Editor

Dr S.J. Smith

President

His Excellency General Sir Phillip Bennett took the chair as President of the Society at the Annual General Meeting and at the August Meeting of the Northern Branch. He also attended a meeting in August in the Town Hall held as a part of the City of Hobart's 150th Anniversary.

William Bryden, CBE, DSc, PhD, FRS Edin, FGA (1904–1992)

Dr William Bryden died at Buderim, Queensland on 16 December 1992 just two weeks before his 88th birthday.

Dr Bryden was Honorary Secretary, Honorary Librarian and Honorary Editor of the Society from 1953 to 1972. He was elected an Honorary Life member in 1971 and awarded the Clive Lord Memorial Medal in 1973. He served on the Council from 1953 to 1971 and from 1973 to 1977. He was Vice-President from 1973 to 1975 and Honorary Treasurer for 1977.

Dr Bryden was born in New Zealand and studied for his first degrees in botany and zoology at Canterbury University College (now the University of Canterbury) in Christchurch. His PhD on animal behaviour and genetics was from the University of Edinburgh, where he played rugby union for the University. He was on the staff of the University of Melbourne from 1935 to 1940. From 1940 to 1953 he was Headmaster of Knox Grammar School, Sydney.

Deaths

The deaths of the following members are recorded with regret:

Mr V. Walmsley

Mr C.H. Grant

Mr L.E. Couchman

Dr W. Bryden

Miss M.B. Record

In 1953 he was appointed Director of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. He retired from that position in early 1972, at which time he was awarded an honorary DSc by the University of Tasmania. He served in many positions in Tasmania, including Chairman of the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council, Trustee of the Van Diemen's Land Memorial Folk Museum and President of the Hobart Repertory Theatre. He was for 10 years a member of the University of Tasmania Council and for 12 years on the State Committee for CSIRO. In 1967 he tragically lost his home at Kingston, together with all his possessions, in the bush fires.

In 1983 Dr Bryden and his wife Muriel shifted from Tasmania to Buderim. He is survived by his wife and his sons Peter, Michael and John.

Membership

The membership is 411, a decrease of 11, and is made up as follows:

| | Northern | Total |
|---|----------|-----------|
| Honorary Life Members | 2 | 7 |
| Life Members | 11 | 34 |
| Ordinary members receiving <i>Papers and Proceedings</i> | 54 | 256 |
| Ordinary Members not receiving <i>Papers and Proceedings</i> | 41 | 97 |
| Associate Members | <u>9</u> | <u>17</u> |
| | 117 | 411 |

Council Meetings

The Council met four times during the year,

Sesquicentennial of the Society

The Society's sesquicentennial in 1993 will be marked in a number of ways, the most tangible being by the publication of James Backhouse Walker's *Walk to the West* (1887). Donations from learned Societies around the world, the Australian business community, the Federal and State Governments, the City of Hobart and the University of Tasmania, together with advance orders for over 300 copies have assured the financial viability of the project. The book will be launched in March 1993.

Grants to the Society

The Council received grants from the Tasmanian Government and from the University of Tasmania each of \$3000 as contributions to the publication of the *Papers and Proceedings*. A special grant of \$2570 towards the publication of *Walk to the West* was also received from the State Government.

Library

The year in review has been one of significance for the Society's Library with steady progress in the innovations

established during 1991 and some notable activities during the year.

In April the University Library and the Society established a revised agreement for the housing and maintenance of the library which, although not substantially different from the previous agreements, allows for some greater flexibility and variant treatment of the library's material. As a follow-up to this agreement, new cataloguing procedures were established later in the year which allow for the new accessions of the Library to be fully processed by the University's Cataloguing Department, and these appear as Royal Society items in the University Library catalogue. A small retrospective program will enable existing material to progressively appear in the computer catalogue, but a more comprehensive re-cataloguing program still lies in the future. Some physical rearrangement was necessary to allow for these new sequences of catalogued material and these now appear on the first ranges of permanent shelves inside the library.

The weeding program established in 1991 was continued during the year with a second batch of outdated and superseded titles being prepared for disposal. Lists of such items will be distributed to members who will have first claim on items being withdrawn.

Another feature for the year was the continuity in staffing, with Graeme Rayner continuing in the position of Collection Development Librarian, which incorporates Special Collections and hence the Royal Society Library. Clerical assistance was maintained by Mrs Carol Freeman who continued to spend the major part of her 20-hour week on Royal Society routines.

Two further issues of the Society's *Papers and Proceedings* were distributed to exchange partners during the year. Volumes 125 and 126 were both mailed without problems, in February and December respectively.

As stated in last year's report, user statistics remain a problem as a number of users omit to sign the visitors and usage registers. Whilst every attempt has been made to encourage such registration the recorded statistics are still somewhat lower than reality:

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Visitors | 384 |
| Serial Loans | 48 |
| Inter-Library Loans | 37 |
| In-house consultations | 141 |
| Volumes bound | 163 |

By far the most significant event for 1992 was the receipt of a substantial donation from the estate of the late Len Couchman, embracing, amongst some general material, a number of entomology titles (on lepidoptera especially). The donation, which involved over 200 titles and several serial runs, has been temporarily housed on additional shelving in the Library and, as of December, has been completely checked against the Library's existing holdings. Cataloguing of the titles has begun and a particularly suitable bookplate displaying one of four different Tasmanian butterflies will be inserted in each title added to the collection. Inevitably with such large donations of this nature, some titles will be duplicates or otherwise unsuitable for the Library and these will be listed for disposal to members of the Society in the first instance.

Overall, the year has been one of considerable achievement for the Library, one in which a number of significant changes took place and in which the Library's unique resources were of considerable help to a number of researchers who visited during the year. It is these unique and valuable resources

which should see greater exploitation, once they are listed in the more widely distributed catalogue of the University Library, and thus assist the promotion of the Society and its ideals.

Publications

Volume 126 of the *Papers and Proceedings* was published in November. It contained the Annual Report for 1991, 17 papers by 23 authors and an erratum. The Annual Report occupied five pages, the papers 125.

Publication of the papers given at the WHA Symposium proceeded and was approaching completion by the end of the year. Printing should occur in the first half of 1993.

Publication of Volume 126 was facilitated by receipt of financial grants from the State Government of Tasmania and the University of Tasmania.

Mrs Alison Jones provided expert sub-editing, Mrs J. Pongratz the quality typesetting and formatting. Drs M. Banks and S. Smith edited the volume.

Lectures

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

- March — "World Heritage Area management and wildlife conservation in North and South America" Dr Steven Smith, Department of Parks, Wildlife and Heritage
- April — "Conservation of the Southern Elephant Seal" Dr Mark Hindell, University of Tasmania
- May — "Harmony and discord: new buildings — old cities" Mr Neil Wade, Architect
- June — "The Dutch debate over Tasman" Dr Eric Ketelaar, General State Archivist of the Netherlands
- July — "Rewriting Tasmanian history — the archaeological evidence from Tasmania's forests" Anne McConnell, Forestry Commission
- August — "Changing attitudes in cultural resource management, with reference to the Hobart Town Hall" Mr R. Vincent, Hobart City Council
- September — "Aurora and the earth's magnetic field" Dr Gary Burns, Antarctic Division
- October — "Rare bird record verification" Mr Bob Patterson, Chairman of the Rarities Appraisal Committee of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union
- November — "The European context of Dutch exploration in Southeast Asia" Assistant Professor Michael Bennett, University of Tasmania and "Tasman's discoveries in Tasmania and some contemporary linkages" Mr Geoff Wood, Tourism Tasmania.

Northern Branch

Branch Council

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| Chairman | Mrs Mary Cameron |
| Past Chairman | Mr A. Orr |
| Honorary Secretary | Mr C. Tassell |
| Honorary Treasurer | Mr B. Pike |
| Council Members | Mr B. Chamberlain Mr J. Kolkert |

The Branch Council met four times during the year.

Meetings and Lectures

- March — Annual General Meeting and "History and the future of the HEC" Mr G.J. Longbottom
- April — "The telegraph semaphore signal system in the Tamar River valley" Mr W. Shipp
- June — "The history of the Lisle goldfields" Mr C. Cornoneos
- August — "United States then Australia" Professor J. Harvey Prince. This meeting was chaired by H.E. the Governor of Tasmania, General Sir Phillip Bennett.
- September — "What the community history collection is about" Mrs Rhonda Hamilton
- October — "Snakes on Mt Chappell Island" Mr I. Norton
- November — "Reminiscence of activities over 50 years" Mr B. Farquhar
- December — Members Night.
"Looking up" Mr A. Orr
"Children in Launceston in 1890s" Mrs G. Morris
"Tankers" Mr J. Kolkert.

Excursion

On 11 April an excursion to Mt Direction, Mt George and Low Head was led by Mr W. Shipp.

Nominees to Other Bodies

The Council elected Dr P.G. Quilty and Professor D.M. Stoddart to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. They report on the year's activities:

1992 was a year of consolidation for the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. Discussions with the Department of Education and the Arts on restructuring took place during much of the year, with an agreed plan being submitted to the Department in December. The Department of Construction continued its audit of space and of the whole Museum and Art gallery precinct. The Trustees took a number of opportunities to press the Federal Government for a clear decision on the fate of the Customs House but to date no clear progress has been made.

The 1991 State Budget provided a grant for recurrent services of \$1 564 000, an increase of 0.77% over the allocation in 1990. Of this, 79.9% will be expended on salaries.

During the year Dr Tony Orchard resigned his position as Curator of Botany and Head of the Herbarium. To date the post remains unfilled. Dr Gintaras Kantvilas was appointed Acting Head of the Herbarium.

In the early part of the year the Museum and Art Gallery took delivery of three personal computers and two printers and embarked on the computerisation of all its records.

Towards the end of 1992 the Tasmanian Museum and Gallery staged its most ambitious art exhibition, with a retrospective of over 100 of W.C. Piguenit's works. In opening the exhibition, the Lt Governor, Sir Guy Green, spoke with pride of the work of Tasmania's greatest landscape artist. This exhibition will be shown in Sydney and Perth in 1993.

Other exhibitions in 1992 included the *Moet and Chandon* touring exhibition (February–March); *Interpretations: The Woven language of the Victorian Tapestry Workshop* (March–April); *17th Century Dutch Etchings by Cornelius Bega and Adriaen van Ostade — an Abel Tasman Festival Exhibition*

(May–June); *Australian Watercolours 1802–1926* — from the collection of the National Gallery of Victoria (June–July); *Francis Lyburner Retrospective* (July–September); *Printworks by Japanese Contemporary Artists* (October–November); *The Work of Francis and Anna Maria Nixon* (October–November); and *W.C. Piguenit Retrospective* (December–February).

During 1992 a total of 97 952 people visited the Museum and Art Gallery, compared with 99 517 in 1991. The number of visitors to the West Coast Pioneers' Memorial Museum in Zeehan was estimated at about 96 000 for 1992, approximately the same as in 1991.

Mr J.E. Tomlinson AO was elected by the Council to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens. Mr Tomlinson reports on the year's activities:

The year was marred by the untimely death in February of Mr Tony May who had been superintendent of the gardens for 16 years. Many developments are a living memorial of his work.

In August, after many years as Chairman of Trustees, Mr Grey Hulton AM, decided it was time to "hang up the boots". He has been replaced by Mr Rod Moore.

Alderman G. Yeoland retired from the Trustees and was replaced by Ald. D. Haigh as the Hobart City Council's representative.

Finance has continued to be the major constraint and at the time of writing the 1992–93 allocation has not been finalised. However, the new irrigation system was opened in October by John Cleary MHA, Minister for Parks, Wildlife and Heritage, and during the year a new roof was put on the conservatory.

The Gardens were well used, with 324 000 visitors for the year to June, which was 40 000 up on the previous year.

The Tulip Festival attracted some 15 000 visitors. Zootango Theatre Company staged *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in the gardens in January and *Alice in Wonderland* in December. These events have been a success not only in bringing people to the Gardens but also assisting the Gardens financially.

The Friends of the Gardens have continued to assist both financially and by acting as volunteer guides and bus drivers for the elderly and incapacitated.

Two staff were able to travel overseas at no cost to the Gardens. Mr Andrew Smith, the Education Officer, was invited by the Botanic Gardens Conservation International to deliver a paper on *Conservation Education in Botanic Gardens* at a conference in Rio de Janeiro and Mr Jim Cane, the Acting Superintendent, went to China on a seed collection trip. Both of these will be of benefit to their work in 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.

We are grateful for the dedicated help given by members of the Council during the year.

A.V. Brown
Senior Vice-President

D.M. Stoddart
Acting Honorary Secretary

February 1993

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

Statement of receipts and payments for the year ending 31 December 1992

General Account

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Balance 1 January 1992 | 22 276.53 | Printing and stationery | 1 479.65 |
| Subscriptions | | Postage | 771.88 |
| 216 @ \$30 | 6465.00 | Post box rental | 180.00 |
| 80 @ \$18 | 1440.00 | Library books & subs | 1 480.18 |
| 16 @ \$12 | 192.00 | Telephone | 30.47 |
| Other years | <u>654.00</u> | Bank duties and charges | 55.62 |
| Publication sales | 4 130.48 | Attendant fees | 665.98 |
| Interest | 2 290.57 | Northern Branch | 750.00 |
| Interest - other | 75.75 | Insurance | 421.33 |
| Investments redeemed | 2 000.00 | Sundry | 40.70 |
| <i>Walk to the West</i> | | <i>Papers & Proceedings</i> | 6 341.75 |
| Donations | 12 157.03 | <i>Walk to the West</i> | |
| Advance sales | 23 435.00 | Flyers | 715.00 |
| Post & packing | <u>540.00</u> | Sundry | <u>440.68</u> |
| | <u>36 132.03</u> | Lecture fees | 567.20 |
| | | | 13 940.44 |
| | | Balance 31 December 92 | <u>61 715.92</u> |
| | <u>\$75 656.36</u> | | <u>\$75 656.36</u> |

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA
Statement of receipts and payments for the year ending 31 December 1992

Accumulation account

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------|
| Balance 1 January 1992 | | 59 699.76 |
| <i>Add</i> | Increased cash at bank | <u>39 638.39</u> |
| | | 99 338.15 |
| <i>Deduct</i> | Net increase in advance subscriptions | 74.00 |
| | Decreased valuation of publications | 562.90 |
| | Net transfer to Trust Funds | 537.57 |
| | Decreased investments in stocks and bonds | <u>2000.00</u> |
| | | <u>3 174.47</u> |
| Balance 31 December 1992 | | <u>\$96 163.68</u> |

Balance sheet as at 31 December 1992

| <i>1991</i> | | <i>1992</i> |
|-----------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 59 700 | Accumulated Funds | 96 163.68 |
| 52 | Subscriptions in advance | 126.00 |
| | Trust Funds: | |
| 2 250 | – Clive Lord Memorial Fund | 2 295.50 |
| 4 780 | –A.N. Lewis Memorial Fund | 4 875.83 |
| 2 270 | –Morton Allport Memorial | 2 315.64 |
| 869 | –A.A. Clark Bequest | 885.91 |
| 2 424 | –Joseph Milligan Bequest | 2 472.81 |
| 3 233 | –R.M. Johnston Memorial Fund | 3 298.04 |
| 1 333 | –Henry Oliver Bequest | 1 359.29 |
| 3 114 | –W.H. Hudspeth Memorial | 3 175.78 |
| <u>6 606</u> | –Life Membership Fund | <u>6 737.66</u> |
| <u>\$86 631</u> | | <u>27 416.46</u> |
| | | <u>\$123 706.14</u> |

Represented by:

| | | |
|-----------------|--|---------------------|
| 33 | Cash on hand | 33.00 |
| | Cash at bank: | |
| 22 276 | –General account | 61 715.92 |
| 4 743 | – <i>Papers and Proceedings</i> account | 4 888.51 |
| 1 060 | –Clive Lord Memorial Fund | 1 078.89 |
| 1 491 | –A.N. Lewis Memorial Fund | <u>1 525.12</u> |
| 860 | Mortgage Loan | 860.00 |
| 2 000 | Commonwealth Treasury Bonds and Inscribed Stock (at cost) | |
| 7 000 | Interest bearing deposits | 7 000.00 |
| 15 000 | Library (at valuation for insurance) | 15 000.00 |
| 26 568 | Publications (at selling prices) | 26 004.70 |
| <u>5 600</u> | Medals (at selling price) | <u>5 600.00</u> |
| <u>\$86 631</u> | | <u>\$123 706.14</u> |

The Society owns works of art which have been donated over the years and which do not appear on the Balance Sheet. They are all housed in the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery and are covered by that organisation's insurance. A catalogue is available to members listing these works of art.

D.M. Stoddart
A/Honorary Secretary

T.A.H. Knight, B.Bus. CPA
Honorary Treasurer