

Royal Society of Tasmania

Annual Report for the Year 1969

The Council submits to members the following report on the activities of the Society for the year 1969.

PRESIDENT

As mentioned in the last Annual Report, His Excellency the Governor, Sir Edric Bastyan was approached and asked to accept the office of President of the Society. It was with great pleasure that the members learned of Sir Edric's willingness to become President and so follow in the footsteps of all the Governors of the State since 1843.

THE SOCIETY AND ITS HEADQUARTERS

At the Annual Meeting held in March the question of the location of the Society and its library was considered by members. The Council of the Society had recommended that the offer of the University Council to provide appropriate accommodation in the library extensions at the University should be accepted under conditions drawn up and approved by the Honorary Solicitors of the Society. Members entered into a wide and useful discussion on the whole matter and finally agreed to adopt the Council's recommendation as far as housing the library was concerned, but on the express understanding that the Society will remain as an autonomous body. The matter of a meeting place was discussed further and points of view were put forward by members, some being in favour of retaining the present room for meetings, others feeling that the offer of the University to provide lecture rooms should be accepted, while yet others felt they would like the matter considered further. The Council was asked to review the whole matter of meeting places and report to the members at the Annual Meeting in 1970. It is expected the library move will be made about the middle of 1970.

ELECTION

Elections were held for the vacant positions of Vice-President and members of Council. Dr E. R. Guiler was elected a Vice-President and Mr R. M. H. Garvie and Mr L. E. Wall were elected to the Council. Later in the year Mr A. R. Nielson was appointed to a casual vacancy in the Council.

DR W. W. WILSON

The Society suffered a grievous loss late in the year through the death of the Senior Vice-President, Dr W. W. Wilson, who had been a member of the Society for many years. Dr Wilson had contributed to the Papers and Proceedings and had given lectures to the Society and was a member of Council for a number of years.

PAPERS AND PROCEEDINGS

Volume 103 of the Papers and Proceedings was printed and distributed and once again a large number of volumes were sent to research institutions overseas from which we receive, by exchange, so many of the scientific and historical journals which have helped to make our library such a valuable one in certain respects. Five hundred and seventy volumes (books and periodicals) were added to the library during the year.

LECTURES

Another interesting series of lectures was given during the year covering a wide range of topics. The Society is grateful to those specialists who made such a significant contribution to the Society through the lectures and discussions.

The following is a list of subjects and the speakers at the general meetings:—

April: Mr M. R. Banks, Geology Department, University of Tasmania, on 'The Geological History of Tasmanian National Parks'.

May: Dr Clifford Craig, on 'Old Tasmanian Pictures, Houses and Furniture'.

June: Professor A. G. Baikie, Department of Medicine, University of Tasmania, on 'Cytogenetic variation and the Natural History of Cancer'.

July: Dr Campbell Duncan, Pathology Department, Royal Hobart Hospital, on 'Hydatid Disease in Tasmania—Past, Present and Future'.

August: Dr E. R. Guiler, Zoology Department, University of Tasmania, on 'Tasmanian Devils'.

September: Dr June Cumberae-Stewart, Food Preservation Division, CSIRO, on 'From Smokies to Flour'.

October: Dr R. C. Menary, Senior Lecturer in Horticulture, University of Tasmania, on 'Phosphorus in Horticulture'.

November: Professor R. M. Mitchell, Department of Surgery, University of Tasmania, on 'Transplantation of Tissues and Organs'.

MEMBERSHIP

The total membership at the end of the year was 569. Of this number, four are Honorary Life Members and 231 are members of the Northern Branch.

NORTHERN BRANCH

The Branch again functioned with decided success and their general meetings and excursions proved popular and interesting.

FELLOWS

In the earlier years of the Society's history both Fellows and Members formed the membership. At a later date the term 'Fellow' was dropped since when all in the Society had been listed as 'Members'. This matter was raised at the last Annual Meeting and it was agreed that consideration should be given to re-introducing 'Fellows' of the Society.

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

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Following the Annual General Meeting of the Northern Branch, held on 28 March 1969, the Branch Council comprised:—

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—Mr G. H. Stancombe, Mr N. R. Harvey, Mr D. Walter, Mr H. W. Aske-land, Mr R. S. Smith
Hon. Auditor—Mr R. C. A. Pitt.

Dr Morris and Mr Justice Crawford were appointed representatives of the Branch on the Council of the Society in Hobart. Mr W. F. Ellis represented the Branch of the Council of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Northern Branch on 31 December 1969 totalled 231.

ACTIVITIES

Eleven general meetings were held at which the following lectures were delivered:—

- 28 February 1969: 'Tasmania Rejects New Education—the Role of W. L. Neale, 1904-1909', by Mr D. V. Selth.
- 28 March 1969: 'Rainmaking', 'Seals of Macquarie Island', 'Coaching Days' and 'Rock Art of the Cleland Range' (scientific films).
- 2 May 1969: 'Launceston's Twenty Theatres', by Mr M. C. Oldaker.
- 23 May 1969: 'Australians in Antarctica', by Mr L. G. Walkem.
- 20 June 1969: 'You were never taught geography . . .', by Mr K. M. Beaumont.
- 18 July 1969: 'Progress in the application of radioisotopes in Australia', by Dr J. N. Gregory.
- 22 August 1969: 'Geology of some Tasmanian National Parks', by Mr M. R. Banks.
- 25 September 1969: 'A Perspective of African History', by Sir George Cartland.
- 24 October 1969: 'The Future of Biological Survey in New South Wales', by Dr H. S. Recher.

21 November 1969: 'Timber — Tasmania's Happy Heritage', by Mr B. A. Lyons.

12 December 1969: Members' lecturettes—

- 'Beach Mining and Conservation', by Mr D. Steane.
- 'Historic Sites on the North-West Coast', by Mr H. V. Turner.
- 'Turn Back the Hands of Time', by Mr N. R. Harvey.
- 'Equi-angular Spiral in Nature', by Mr D. McDonald.
- 'Some Memorable Monuments', by Mr G. H. Stancombe.
- 'From Bus to Bedroom', by Mr Justice G. H. Crawford.

EXCURSIONS

An inspection of the Goliath Cement Company's installations at Railton was held on 20 July 1969.

A tour of the Triabunna-Orford district and Maria Island was held on 29-30 November 1969, and was an outstanding success.

An excursion to study the freshwater biology of the North Esk River, arranged for 21 May 1969, was cancelled owing to severe flooding.

COUNCIL

The Council of the Northern Branch met six times during the year. In addition to the normal business of the Branch, sub-committees have been inaugurated or continued for the following purposes:—

- The establishment of a memorial to Matthew Flinders;
- A survey of information from cemeteries in northern Tasmania;
- The arrangement of general meetings.

The Branch records with regret the decease of Mrs I. J. Mead, who contributed extensively to our activities and who had served on the Branch Council for many years as a member, Hon. Secretary and Chairwoman.

We note also with regret the decease of Dr W. Wilson, Senior Vice-President of the Society. Dr Wilson had shown interest and understanding toward this Branch, which will be missed greatly.