

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS

1923

26th FEBRUARY, 1923.

Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting was held at the Society's Rooms, the Tasmanian Museum, Hobart, on the 26th February, Mr. L. Rodway, C.M.G., Vice-President, presiding. The Annual Report and Statement of Accounts were read and adopted. The following were elected as members of the Council:— Messrs. W. H. Clemes, W. H. Cummins, Dr. W. L. Crowther, Major L. F. Giblin, The Right Reverend Dr. R. S. Hay, Messrs. J. A. Johnson, J. Moore-Robinson, L. Rodway, and Dr. Gregory Sprott. Mr. R. A. Black was appointed Hon. Auditor.

Mr. Rodway exhibited specimens of *Milligana lindoniana*.

Papers.

The following papers by Messrs. H. H. Scott and Clive Lord were read:—

1. Pleistocene Marsupials from King Island.
2. *Nototherium victoriæ*.
3. *Macropus anak*.

Illustrated Lecture.

Professor Sir T. W. Edgeworth David delivered an illustrated lecture on "Recent Observations of the Pleistocene Ice-Age and its Relation to the Coming of Man into Tasmania."

Conversazione.

At the conclusion of the meeting a conversazione was held in the Art Gallery.

16th APRIL, 1923.

The Monthly Meeting was held at the Society's Rooms on the 16th April, Mr. L. Rodway, C.M.G., presiding.

The following members were elected:—Drs. A. W. Green and A. L. McAulay, Messrs. J. C. Breaden, J. A. Gorringe, G. H. B. Rogers, and H. C. Webster.

Paper.

The following paper was read:—

“Notes on a Geological Reconnaissance of Mt. Anne and the Weld River Valley, South-Western Tasmania.” By A. N. Lewis, M.C., LL.B.

Illustrated Lecture.

Major L. F. Giblin delivered an illustrated lecture on the Mount Anne District.

14th MAY, 1923.

The Monthly Meeting was held at the Society's Rooms on the 14th May, Mr. L. Rodway, C.M.G., presiding.

The following members were elected:—Captain Bowerman and Mr. F. L. Gunn.

The matter of the Cradle Mountain-Lake St. Clair Reserve was referred to, and it was resolved to communicate with the Government in reference to the matter.

Mr. Rodway drew attention to the need for a Gun Act, and tabled the New South Wales Act.

Illustrated Lecture.

Mr. E. T. Emmett, Director of the Tasmanian Tourist Bureau, delivered a lecture on “The National Parks of the World.”

11th JUNE, 1923.

The Monthly Meeting was held at the Society's Rooms on the 11th June, Mr. L. Rodway presiding.

The following members were elected:—Messrs. R. Gibbings, G. A. Purcell, and R. Harley.

Illustrated Lecture.

Mr. L. Rodway delivered a lecture entitled “Studies in Tasmanian Flora,” the lecture being illustrated by a large number of lantern slides specially prepared by Mr. J. C. Breaden.

9th JULY, 1923.

The Monthly Meeting was held at the Society's Rooms on the 9th July, Mr. L. Rodway presiding.

The following members were elected:—Mrs. G. H. Butler and Dr. G. M. Parker.

Papers.

The following papers were read:—

1. *Vinculum scifasciatum*, an addition to the Fish Fauna of Tasmania. By Clive Lord, F.L.S.
2. A Note on the Burial Customs of the Tasmanian Aborigines. By Clive Lord, F.L.S.
3. Mollusca of King Island. By W. L. May.

Illustrated Lecture.

Mr. Clive Lord delivered an illustrated lecture on "The Economic Importance of the Tasmanian Fauna."

6th AUGUST, 1923.

The Monthly Meeting was held at the Society's Rooms on the 6th August, Mr. L. Rodway presiding.

Papers.

The following papers were read:—

1. Australian *Bombyliidæ*. By G. H. Hardy.
2. Australian *Dixidæ*. By A. Tonnoir.
3. Studies in Tasmanian Mammals, Living and Extinct, No. XI. By H. H. Scott and Clive Lord.
4. An Experimental Method for Determining the Properties of Optical Gratings. By Dr. A. L. McAulay.

Mr. J. Moore-Robinson presented a statement dealing with the history of the first clock placed in Old St. David's Church.

Illustrated Lecture.

His Lordship the Bishop of Tasmania, the Rt. Rev. Dr. R. S. Hay, delivered a lecture on "The Historical Associations of the County of Durham."

11th SEPTEMBER, 1923.

The Monthly Meeting was held at the Society's Rooms on the 11th September, Mr. L. Rodway presiding.

Reference was made to the death of Mr. Dudley Le Souef, Director of the Melbourne Zoological Gardens.

Mr. P. Thomas gave an interesting note of a graft hybrid apple which was placed on exhibition.

Lecture.

Mr. L. Rodway delivered a lecture entitled "Botanical Notes."

8th OCTOBER, 1923.

The Monthly Meeting was held at the Society's Rooms on the 8th October, Mr. L. Rodway presiding.

The following papers were read:—

1. Description of Two Underground Fungi. By L. Rodway.
2. Notes on the Tasmanian Emu. By H. H. Scott.

R. M. Johnston Memorial Lecture.

Professor Sir T. W. Edgeworth David delivered the first R. M. Johnston Memorial Lecture, and the Chairman presented Professor David with the R. M. Johnston Memorial Medal.

Conversazione.

At the conclusion of the meeting the members adjourned to the Art Gallery of the Museum, where a conversazione was held.

6th NOVEMBER, 1923.

The Monthly Meeting was held at the Society's Rooms on the 6th November, Mr. L. Rodway presiding.

The Chairman extended a welcome to the visiting delegates attending the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union Conference.

Paper.

The following paper was read:—

Tasmanian *Hymenogastraceæ*. By L. Rodway.

Mr. Clive Lord drew attention to the fact that a memorial to Tasman had recently been erected, but there existed no memorial to Furneaux, Bligh, Cook, D'Entrecasteaux, Baudin etc., all of whom had visited Adventure Bay, and suggested that the Society might take steps in order to have a memorial erected at Adventure Bay.

Illustrated Lecture.

Dr. J. A. Leach, President of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union, delivered an illustrated lecture on the Birds of Australia.

17th DECEMBER, 1923.

The Monthly Meeting of the Society was held at the Society's Rooms on Monday, 17th December, at 8 p.m., Mr. L. Rodway, C.M.G., presiding.

Mr. Lord reported that he had interviewed certain of the residents of Adventure Bay concerning the proposed memorial to the early navigators, and that the matter was under consideration.

The following members were elected:—Hon. F. B. Edwards, Messrs. E. E. Unwin, M.Sc., W. H. Hudspeth, H. T. Gould, S. E. Shoobridge, Charles Davis, Alfred Davis, Rev. H. B. Atkinson, and Misses A. Wherrett, B.A., Hurst, and Agnew.

A discussion took place with regard to the site of the landing place of Tasman's Carpenter. Mr. Moore-Robinson stated that a party which included himself, Captain Bowerman, Mr. John Kennedy, and others had visited the locality in January last, and, being furnished with certain data and maps, they formed the opinion that they had found the exact spot of the landing, including the four trees mentioned by Tasman. This was at the head of the inner cove of Prince of Wales Bay.

Mr. Clive Lord referred to the fact that the position had been investigated previously, namely by Gell (1845), Walker (1889). He considered the flag was planted on the north side of the bay, as Tasman's sketch definitely showed it there, and not at the head of the inner bay. Moreover, Tasman referred to the trees being on sloping ground, and the northern side of the bay had such ground, whereas the head of the inner cove was flat. Trees could be noted on this site also if need be, but no reliance could be placed on trees. Further, Tasman would never have ventured over the reef into the inner cove.

Mr. John Kennedy questioned whether the sketch referred to by Mr. Lord had been included in Tasman's original journal. He considered that the four trees mentioned were of considerable age—one of them could easily be from 800 to 1,000 years old.

Mr. G. H. Halligan, late Government Hydrographer of New South Wales, gave reasons for his opinion that Tasman's carpenter landed in the centre of North Bay and not in

Prince of Wales Bay. As far as the trees in Prince of Wales Bay were concerned, he was of the opinion that not one of them was 100 years old.

Mr. L. Rodway said that the trees in the locality were slow growing, the greater number would not be more than 70 years old, but there was one tree which might be a very considerable age. He considered the trees of no value at all to note the position.

Major L. F. Giblin said that the impression he got was that the problem could not be solved. He had not heard of anything which was in harmony with all the data. Possibly there were mistakes in the journal or the charts. As it stood the evidence before them was not conclusive as to the exact site of the landing.

Captain Bowerman said that Tasman's chart was not as vague as they thought. The anchor was positively shown, and the course could be followed, and any small error of bearings would not affect the result as far as the location of the bay was concerned. A detailed Admiralty chart of that section of the East Coast of Tasmania was badly needed.

Mr. John Reynolds (Honorary Secretary, Historical Section) dwelt upon the need for accuracy in historical matters and also stated his opinion that the bar across the inner cove was at any rate largely of natural formation. Mr. Reynolds moved that the Society alter the inscription on the monument from "At this spot, etc.," to "Near this spot, etc." The motion was carried.