# THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

# **NEWSLETTER**



# A Message from the President

Dear Members,

This month I extend a warm welcome to new members Janet Lane and Susan Steenbergen. This is an advantageous time of year to join the Society, as memberships received now carry over until the end of 2021. If you know someone you think would enjoy the Society's activities, please encourage them to join. Membership forms are available for download from our website or from the office.

Thank you to the members who responded to the recent survey conducted by our Membership Secretary, Roxanne Steenbergen, and the Membership Committee. It is very satisfying to know how much members value and support the activities of the Society. All feedback, comments and suggestions received are appreciated. I am grateful to Roxanne for the considerable amount of work she has put in both with this survey and with membership matters in general, and everything is running very efficiently. Council member Shasta Henry has been conducting successful student engagement tours of our Royal Society Library held at UTAS — a great initiative.

Very warm congratulations go to Dr Frances Sussmilch, who has been awarded the Peter Smith Medal 2020 for her research in plant science, focussing on the molecular biology and genetics of plants. This achievement is particularly notable as the field of nominations was large and very strong. Dr Sussmilch will be presented with the medal in 2021 when she delivers the Peter Smith Lecture. Nominations are now open for the Society's annual Doctoral Awards, for research that has been largely carried out in Tasmania or under the aegis of a Tasmanian-based organisation. If you know an outstanding young researcher in any field, please nominate them. Further details are available on our website, but nominations close on 15 November.

Remember that if you have missed any of our lectures this year, you can view the recorded videos on <u>our YouTube Channel</u>. Members have commented on how easy they have found this to use.

I do hope you will be able to join us for the Christmas dinner and lecture, which will take place on **Monday 30 November** at the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania in Marieville Esplanade, Sandy Bay. Lecture and dinner arrangements are compliant with all current COVID-19 restrictions. The speaker this year is Antarctic historian John Williamson. This much-anticipated event will start at 6 pm and guests are asked to be seated by 5:45 pm to enable dinner orders to be taken before the lecture. Members are welcome to invite family, friends and colleagues to join them for this event; the acceptance form is available on p. 4 below. Guests are very welcome to arrive from 5 pm to enjoy a pre-dinner drink on the new deck or in the club (- see information on p. 3).

Best wishes,

# Mary

November 2020

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Dear Royal Society of Tasmania members and supporters,

You are invited to a Zoom webinar on 8 November 2020 at 3:00 pm.

Antarctic krill: What do the Southern Ocean's charismatic "omega-fauna" eat, and how might they fare in a future high CO2 world?

# Register in advance for this webinar.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Webinar Speaker: **Dr Jessica Ericson** (Post-doctoral Research Scientist – Shellfish Ecophysiology and Aquaculture at Cawthron Aquaculture Park, New Zealand)

Antarctic krill (*Euphausia superba*) are fascinating invertebrates with an important role in the Southern Ocean, as the primary prey of Antarctic whales, seals, penguins, fish, squid and seabirds. Krill are lipid rich, making them a particularly nutritious food for their predators.

Jessica specialises in the study of ecologically and economically important marine invertebrates from temperate and polar regions. Her research primarily focuses on how climate change stressors (e.g. ocean acidification and warming) affect the physiology, biochemistry, immunology and behaviour of different invertebrate species. She has studied a wide range of 'charismatic micro-fauna' including limpets, mussels, oysters, sea urchins and krill. The

unique responses of these organisms to their environment always provide opportunities to learn something new.

Her studies have taken her to remote locations including Antarctica and she has spent many weeks at sea on research voyages. Jessica was born in New Zealand and comes from a long line of lighthouse keepers and scientists, so believes it is no coincidence that she chose marine science as a career path. She is also a keen mountain biker, ocean swimmer and printmaker. She lives

**Left**: Antarctic krill (*Euphausia superba*). in Nelson, New Zealand.



# Tips for joining a Zoom webinar

# This will be my first experience with Zoom. What do I do?

- A link will be provided so that you can register in advance.
- Once you have registered, you will be emailed a link to view the lecture.
- Click on that link a few minutes before the advertised start time and follow the prompts.

# What do I need to participate?

- You can join from any desktop computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone.
- You do not need to have a Zoom account.
- You can participate in the webinar from anywhere in the world as long as you have an internet connection.

# I've participated in small Zoom meetings where you can see and hear each person. Will it be like that?

- A lecture is a bit different. Attendees will be in 'view only' mode.
- You will be able to see and hear the host, and the speaker and their slides.

#### Will I be able to ask a question?

- Yes. At the end of the lecture, type your question using the Q&A button at the bottom of your screen.
- The host will ask the speaker a selection of these questions.
- Verbal questions are not available for this lecture.

#### What if I am late?

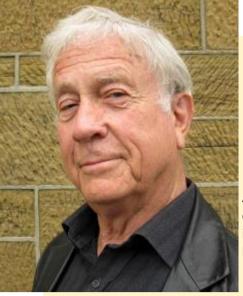
If you are late, you can still join the lecture.

#### Will the lecture be recorded?

Yes, the lecture will be recorded. After about a week, it will be available for viewing on the RST YouTube channel.

More questions? Find the answers at: https://zoom.us

How do I leave the meeting? The host will close the meeting at the end.



# **RST Northern Chapter**

invites you to

# **Patriotism and Place in 19th Century Tasmania**

a Zoom lecture by **Prof Henry Reynolds, FAHA, FASSA** at **1:30 pm on Sunday 27 November 2020** 

Andrew Inglis Clark was the one of the few republicans among the generation of colonial politicians who became the 'fathers' of Federation. His views are more interesting because they emerged from a long tradition of Tasmanian patriotism based on a powerful commitment to place, which was already apparent in the 1820s and reinforced in succeeding generations.

# **Register now**

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

# WHY WEREN'T WE TOLD? A personal search for the truth about our history HENRY REYNOLDS

# **Webinar Speaker**

**Professor Henry Reynolds, FAHA, FASSA** is an Honorary Research Professor, Aboriginal Studies, Global Cultures and Languages at the University of Tasmania. He grew up in Tasmania and was educated at Hobart High School and the University of Tasmania with a BA (Hons) and an MA.

With his wife, Margaret, Prof Reynolds spent several years teaching in London, returning to Australia in 1965 to take up a lectureship in the new Townsville University College. He spent most of his career in North Queensland.

Best known for his 14 books, many articles and documentaries about the relations between Aborigines and settlers, Prof Reynolds has published several articles about the Honourable Andrew Inglis Clark, including the entry on Clark in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*.

This webinar will be the last of the 2020 Launceston lecture series, with the 2021 series commencing on 28 February 2021.

Generously supported by



# Call for Nominations for the RST Doctoral (PhD) Awards 2020

Nominations are now open for the RST annual doctoral awards. Two awards are made for excellence in research by recent PhD graduates in any field within the purview of the Society. The value of each award is \$1000 (AUD). Each awardee will be invited to present a lecture to the Society.

**Conditions of the Doctoral Awards:** The awards shall be made to candidates no more than three years, or three years equivalent-full-time, after their PhD graduation.

The candidate's research can be in any field (sciences, medicine, arts or humanities) and others within the purview of the Society. The awards are intended to recognise significant advances based on the PhD research, as evidenced by published or in press peer-reviewed papers in national/international journals or equivalent outputs in fields where publications are not the norm.

The research must have been largely carried out in Tasmania or under the aegis of a Tasmanian-based organisation. Nominations must include an endorsement from the candidate's PhD supervisor or Department Manager.

Nominations may be made by anyone, although no self-nominations will be accepted.

Nominations will close on 15 November 2020.

# **Nomination guidelines**

Jocelyn McPhie, on behalf of the RST Honours and Awards Committee



# 2020 Christmas Function

Members and friends, please note that there has been a change of date advertised earlier this year for our Christmas lecture and dinner. The function will be held on **Monday 30 November** at the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania in Sandy Bay.

The timing this year allows for some mingling at the venue before the lecture. The RYCT has a new outdoor deck area and, if the weather is suitable, you may care to enjoy a relaxing drink there to begin the festivities.

The venue is available from 5:00 pm and guests are asked to be seated by 5:45 when orders for plated meals will be taken. At 6:00 pm, a short meeting will be held to ratify and welcome any new members for 2020.

At 6:15, Antarctic historian John Williamson will deliver his address (- see information below) and the meal will be served following that at around 7:00 pm.

We are very much looking forward to seeing old friends and meeting new members and friends at this our only social gathering for 2020. Our Patron, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AC, Governor of Tasmania, and Mr Richard Warner AM will be joining us for the evening.

We look forward to seeing you there. See below for the Acceptance Form.

# **Presentation abstract:**

# Hobart and Amundsen: An Antarctic gateway illusion?

In 1912 the Norwegian Antarctic Expedition stopped at Hobart on its way home from their successful journey to the South Pole. While the Amundsen expedition had immediate and substantial effects on Hobart as an Antarctic Gateway city, these impacts on Hobart's Antarctic life were not long lasting.

Within two years, governments around the world, and our own, dealt with both World War, economic depression and another war. When in 1947, the Australian government decided to renew its expeditions to the Antarctic, Hobart, once again and belatedly, began to play an important role as a south polar port.

It has always been tempting to assume that the success of the Amundsen Expedition's respite in Hobart was the key driver of making Hobart into an Antarctic Gateway. In fact, this does not seem to have been the case.

#### Biography: John Williamson (pictured above right)

John teaches senior History and Philosophy at Fahan School in Hobart where he is the Head of Humanities. John is also a Polar Historian who he has lectured in Antarctic History at the University of Tasmania's Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies and worked as a guide/historian in Antarctica for *Quark Expeditions*.

For many years, John carried out research for 'Antarctic Tasmania' and he has been instrumental, with Dr Lorne Kriwoken, in developing the *Polar Pathways Tours*.



**Above:** The Amundsen expedition.

Above right: Roald Amundsen Norwegian explorer.

**Left**: Amundsen reaches the South Pole 14 December 1911.

# INVITATION

The President and Council of The Royal Society of Tasmania warmly invite members and friends to the

# 2020 Christmas Function

to be held on Monday 30 November, 6pm

at the **Bruni Room**, Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Marieville Esplanade, Sandy Bay.

The address

# Hobart and Amundsen: An Antarctic gateway illusion?

will be presented by

# John Williamson

# Head of Humanities at Fahan School and lecturer in Antarctic history

and will be followed by a two-course plated meal (\$55 per person). Wine and beer will be available for purchase.

- \*If you have special dietary requirements, please contact the office.
- \*If attending only the lecture there is no charge, but please complete and return this acceptance form giving your name and address.

# The Royal Society of Tasmania Christmas Function 2020 Acceptance Form

IAIVIE(S):		
	Email:	
PAYMENT METHOD:		Cheque Credit Card Bank Deposit Commonwealth Bank BSB 067 000 Acc. 008007
Card number:		Expiry: /
Name on card:		Signature:

or post to: The Royal Society of Tasmania, GPO 1166, HOBART TAS 7001 to arrive by **16 November 2020** 



# Oral History Biennial Conference 2021: Call for Presentations

People interested in oral history are invited to submit a proposal for a presentation to a national <u>Oral History</u> <u>Conference</u>, planned to be held in Launceston 14–16 October 2021. The theme of the Conference will be:

Oral History in Troubling Times: Opportunities & Challenges.

The biennial Conference will be held at the Tramsheds Function Centre, Launceston and will be hosted jointly by Oral History Tasmania and Oral History Australia, with partners: the Queen Victoria Museum & Art Gallery and the College of Arts, Law and Education at the University of Tasmania. Should COVID-19 make a face-to-face conference impossible, it will be held virtually. The closing date for presentation proposals is 1 March 2021.

Click for more details.

# Women in STEM and Entrepreneurship | business.gov.au

The Women in STEM and Entrepreneurship Program supports investment in gender equity initiatives that aim for lasting systemic change by eliminating barriers for girls' and women's participation in STEM education and careers, and entrepreneurship.

Applications for grants to boost girls' and women's participation in STEM and entrepreneurship are open. Grants are between \$5000 and \$250 000 for projects that encourage the participation of girls and women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics leading to STEM education and careers.

Applications close 17 November 2020 - 5pm Aust Daylight Savings Time.



# **Royal Society 2021 Calendar**

Featuring 13 watercolours by Francis Guillemard Simpkinson de Wesselow

Retail price: \$19.95 plus postage and handling as applicable. Order from our website.

Members of the Royal Society can also order from the website or RST office at the discounted price of \$18.00.

For orders of 10 or more: \$15.00 per copy (plus postage and handling if applicable).

Purchase direct from the Royal Society Office on Wednesday mornings 9:00 to 12:00 noon or email <a href="mailto:royal.society@tmag.tas.gov.au">royal.society@tmag.tas.gov.au</a> or phone

Wednesday mornings on 03 6165 7014.

#### While stocks last – 2020 Calendar discounted

2020 Calendar discounted to \$8.50 if purchased directly from the Royal Society Office on Wednesday mornings.

Call in, phone or email. Order by post or from the website for \$12.00 per copy (including postage and handling within Australia).











# **Revised Society Office Arrangements**

It is now possible to visit the Royal Society office on Wednesday mornings 9:00 am to midday. It is necessary to enter the Custom House building from the Davey Street entrance and register at the Visitors' desk. TMAG's Safety Plan requires all visitors' details to be recorded.

Currently, up to three people may be present in the RST office at any one time; however, membership matters and book purchases can still be transacted. A phone call prior to your visit will help with arrangements.

Please phone between the hours of 9:00am - 12 noon on a Wednesday morning on 03 6165 7014.

Main contact: Northern Branch contact: **GPO Box 1166** Christine Beswick, Secretary:

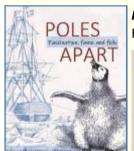
Hobart TAS 7001 0417 330 118

Email: royal.society@tmag.tas.gov.au PO Box 47 Perth TAS 7300

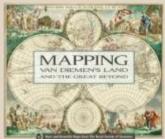
Membership forms and renewals can either be posted to the Post Box (see above) clearly marked 'Royal Society of Tasmania' or completed and emailed to the address above.

Book and calendar sales are still available either through the RST shop, on our web page, or by email and phone through the office.

# 10% discount on these books to Members:



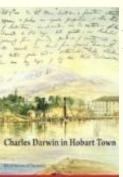
Poles Apart: Fascination, Fame and Folly Hardcover and Softcover



Mapping Van Diemen's Land and the Great Beyond Hardcover and Softcover



The Library at the End of the World Hardcover and Softcover



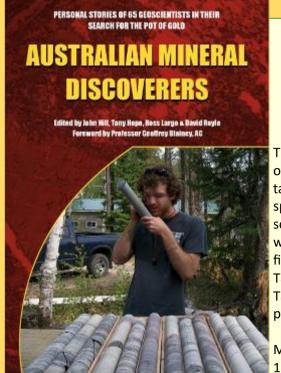
Charles Darwin in Hobart Softcover



**Calendars** 

2020 edition at right

David Wilson, Honorary Treasurer dwilson.tas@gmail.com



**Pre-Publication Offer** 

# **Australian Mineral Discoverers**

Edited by John Hill, Tony Hope, Ross Large & David Royle

The Royal Society of Tasmania is proud to announce the planned publication of a book about Australian mineral explorers. The Society has historically maintained a strong connection with exploration and discovery across a broad spectrum of natural sciences, including medical, biological and geological sciences. Geologists have played an important role in the Society, beginning with RM Johnston, a highly active and influential member, who authored the first book on the *Geology of Tasmania* which was commissioned by the Tasmania Government in 1884 to promote exploration and mining in Tasmania. His contributions were recognised by the Society with the production of the R M Johnston Medal.

Mineral discoveries in the 1950 to 2010 period have

been the backbone of wealth creation for all Australians and helped to maintain Australia's economic position as the "Lucky Country". However, as you will read in these 65 biographies of Australian explorers and educators, the discovery of buried minerals is an extremely complex science that requires knowledge, innovation, disciplined application of geological principles, teamwork, persistence and an ounce of luck.

65 exciting and sometimes unbelievable stories of the life and achievements of a cross-section of Australian mineral explorers.

"Outstanding geoscientists resemble a first-class poet, painter, architect, mechanical inventor, medical scientist; all have creative minds and are all explorers. They have to explore, with their mind, a subterranean world that was slowly taking shape long before human beings existed. They have to work out how fire and water, land and sea created or altered huge mineral deposits. They guide the expensive task of drilling deep holes to test whether their hypotheses are correct: often they are not. Failure is a memorable teacher."

**Prof Geoffrey Blainey AC** 



The stories told in these pages include the discovery of 150 mineral deposits, from the very largest (Olympic Dam of over 6 billion tonnes of copper gold and uranium ore) to the smallest (the gold rich Juno deposit in Tennant Creek). Collectively, these mineral discoveries amount to many 100's of billions of dollars in ground value that have supported many mines, towns and communities in outback Australia for 50 years and beyond.



#### **Prices:**

\$50 members of The Royal Society of Tasmania

\$55 + postage for non-members (pre 1st December order)

\$60 + postage for non-members (post 1st December order)

**Order now from The Royal Society of Tasmania** 

# Access to The Society's library to comply with COVID-19 restrictions



# The Library is open.

Special & Rare Collections (5th floor, Morris Miller Library at UTAS Sandy Bay campus) including TRST Library is open and asks that all visitors and researchers comply with the following COVID-safe practices:

- Please make appointments via <u>special.collections@utas.edu.au</u> to assist with managing maximum occupancy requirements.
- Opening hours are 10am to 5pm, Monday to Wednesday, closed for lunch 12:30 1:30 pm.
- Maximum occupancy of two visitors at any one time and must be adhered to.
- You are required to maintain the recommended 1.5m physical distance.
- Make sure you have had your temperature checked before entering the Library.
- Temperature checks will be undertaken at the entrance to Morris Miller Library.
- If you are not a staff member or student at UTAS, you will need to sign in on entry to Morris Miller Library to enable contact tracing.
- The Library is providing hand sanitiser, cleaning wipes and carrying out additional cleaning.
- If you are feeling unwell, please do **not** come to the Library.

Library staff will continue answering all email enquiries and can scan and email requests as needed, so if you don't wish to visit the Library in person, there is no need. We will also be quarantining material handled by researchers and other visitors for 72 hours, in line with UTAS Libraries' COVID-safe practice.

Any queries please contact special collections@utas.edu.au

Juliet Beale, Senior Librarian, Collections Library Services | Academic Division University of Tasmania



# Gold Digging, Victoria by Wendy Rimon, Librarian, Special and Rare Collections

The Royal Society of Tasmania has two interesting items donated by George Elliot: RS 70/1 (pictured left) Gold licence issued to George Elliot in October 1858 by PC Crespigny, Commissioner. To meet the expense of securing order and to restrain unauthorised mining on Crown Land, a local Act of January 1852 imposed on all diggers a licence fee of 30 shillings per month, the penalty for mining without a licence being £6 for the first offence and afterwards imprisonment for terms up to six months.

RS 70/2 (pictured right) Manuscript notes on gold digging, written c.1858,

author unknown, may have been George Elliot. Includes on the front page a coloured drawing of 'The

Diggings', designed and drawn by Wm. Strutt, and published by D. Urquhart, 66 Collins Street, Melbourne.

Gold was first discovered in March 1851 just outside the NSW town of Bathurst. By the end of the year, the rich deposits at Ballarat, Bendigo and Mount Alexander had been discovered – and the gold rush was on. Men from all over the country left their jobs, homes and families to flock to the Victorian diggings. Melbourne was in chaos as prices soared, newspapers closed, banks were stripped of cash to buy supplies, businesses closed as workers deserted en masse, and abandoned wives struggled to buy food and clothing. Melbourne's population in 1851 was 23 000. As news of the gold discoveries spread, immigrants poured in from Britain, Europe, China and New Zealand. Between 1852 and 1861 over 340 000 people arrived, often enduring appalling conditions on overcrowded ships.





Many artists were also inspired by the goldfields. Although photography first arrived in Melbourne in the 1840s, it was not widely practised on the goldfields – it was the painters and sketch artists who provided pictorial images of the diggings, and a record of the changing landscape and its inhabitants.

Artists like William Strutt, Samuel Thomas

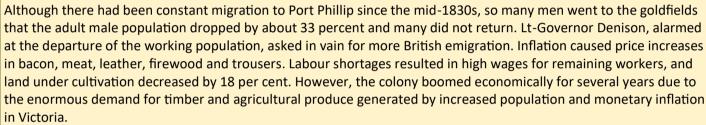
Artists, like <u>William Strutt</u>, Samuel Thomas Gill, and Eugene von Guerard, depicted the wide vistas of the frontier goldfields, the personal and the commonplace, as well as the death and destruction that was common.

**Right**: William Strutt (1825–1915) selfportrait, 1856, held in the National Library of Australia.



Excitement over the goldrush was expressed in many ways: readers pored over newspaper accounts, guidebooks, first-hand accounts from travellers and advice columns. Theatrical performances were held. There were even games for children. At left: *Race to the Gold Diggings*, made in London in 1855, is the earliest-known board game with Australia as its theme.

The Victorian gold rush also impacted on the population of Van Diemen's Land.





# Do you have secure, dry storage available for long-term use?

Several members mentioned in a recent survey that they would like to contribute to the Society but if they are not on Council, it is difficult to think of ways to do that. If you are one of those people, or if you have some additional space, here is a possibility.

Currently the Society is paying a hefty sum each year in storage fees for our book and stationary stock. These fees can be saved and used

Society purposes if an appropriate space can be located.

Do you have a secure and dry area that is a suitable space for storing our boxed goods? We would need occasional access to replace sold stock, but because we already have stores of books elsewhere, that would not be often. The space required would be approximately three cubic metres.

If you think you have such a space and you are willing to allow our Society the use of it, please contact our Hon Treasurer, David Wilson on <a href="mailto:dwilson.tas@gmail.com">dwilson.tas@gmail.com</a>





# Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery

Open Tuesday to Sunday, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm.

One important change is that whilst admission to TMAG remains free, all visitors are now required to make a free online booking via the TMAG website. Visitors can book an untimed ticket that is redeemable at any time during TMAG's

opening hours on the booking date, pending overall site capacity. For more information and to book, please click this link.

The Museum Shop is open.

TMAG has enjoyed being able to welcome and connect with visitors virtually during its closure period, and will continue to offer a range of online activities, resources and programs for visitors to enjoy as part of the <a href="https://docume.com/tmag/rmm/">TMAG from Home</a> initiative that is available from the TMAG website.

Visitors will be excited to learn about a new exhibition that is available to explore, *Exquisite Habits*, featuring the botanic art of Tasmanian artist Stephanie Dean.

TMAG from home

The evocative <u>This Too Shall Pass</u> exhibition which features portraiture and still-life works from TMAG's collection also remains on display. In addition, TMAG's major exhibition <u>West: Out on the Edge</u> has been extended and is now on show until 18 October 2020, giving the public more chances to explore Tasmania's unique West through this captivating multi-disciplinary exhibition.



#### Friends of TMAG

The Friends of TMAG have kindly extended an initiation to Royal Society of Tasmania members to attend a floor talk by Dr Cathy Byrne on *The Caterpillar Key*, on Thursday 5 November at 10:30 a.m. in the Central Gallery at TMAG — see more information on p. 10.

# Follow RST on:

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Please click and scroll way down to DONATE to our Society. Thank you for your kind support!

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