

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

NEWSLETTER



A Message from the President

Dear Members,

Welcome to the start of another year for The Royal Society of Tasmania – now in its 178th year! **Thank you** to all who have shown their support by renewing membership, introducing new members and making generous donations. This year marks the **centenary of our Northern Branch**, and exciting events are planned to mark this milestone in June. The Northern Branch begins its program on 28 February with a talk by Dr Jennifer Lavers, 'Impact of Plastics on Marine Wildlife', detailing sub-lethal and largely invisible consequences for aquatic and terrestrial species. [Click for more details](#) or see page 11 below.

I am very pleased to announce the winners of the Society's **Doctoral Awards** for 2020: Dr Adam Abersteiner (Earth Sciences) and Dr Alessandro Silvano (Oceanography). These awards are particularly notable as the field of nominations was large and very strong. Warm thanks go to Honours Committee Chair, Prof Jocelyn McPhie, for the very successful campaign to advertise the awards widely, and to all Committee members for the considerable amount of work in evaluating such a large number of nominations.

In December 2020, the Council held a **special planning meeting** to discuss future initiatives and directions for the Society, updating the *Strategic Plan* developed earlier in the year.

The Society's newest publication, ***Australian Mineral Discoverers*** edited by John Hill, Tony Hope, Prof Ross Large and David Royle was launched on 15 December 2020, and sales have been excellent. There are still some copies available, and these can be purchased through our online shop or by [emailing the Society](#). See page 7 about the Launch of this valuable text.

The Council and Aboriginal Engagement Committee members have devoted a great deal of time and thought to preparing for our Apology to Tasmanian Aboriginal people regarding past deeds of the Society. This will take place on 15 February 2021, in person at the Courtyard, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart and via livestream. See page 6 for the invitation.

We look forward to seeing you at our **Annual General Meeting** on Sunday 7 March 2021, when the Annual Report 2020 will be presented. You will also have the opportunity to hear noted scientist and Tasmanian of the Year, Dr Jess Melbourne-Thomas. Please check that your membership is up-to-date (membership card dated 'expiry Dec 2021') to enable you to vote at the AGM.

Members will receive an invitation to a **special event** at Government House in

February 2021

Contents:

2	Annual General Meeting and RST Council Nominations
3	RST Council Member Nomination Form page 1
4	RST Council Member Nomination Form page 2
5	AGM guest speaker: Dr Jess Melbourne-Thomas
6	RST and TMAG Apology to Tasmanian Aboriginal People invitation
7	Launch of <i>Australian Mineral Discoverers</i> – a new publication by the RST
8	RST books and papers with member discounts
9	Special Event for Science Week Viewing previous RST webinars on YouTube
	New contact details for RST Office
10	RST membership renewal information
	Proposed 2021 RST Events
11	RST Northern Branch 2021 Launceston Lecture Series dates and topics
12	Impact of Plastics on Marine Wildlife – a public lecture by Dr Jennifer Lavers
13	Charles Darwin in Hobart Town – A Review by John Hill
14	RST Library information
	The Salmon Ponds at Plenty
17	TMAG links and information
	Links to RST social media
	Donate to our Society
	General Society contact information

Hobart on 16 March; as the 2019 medal winners could not be presented with their awards in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions, **our Patron** Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AC, Governor of Tasmania has very kindly agreed to present these medals and deliver an address.

Warm regards,



Mary Koolhof, President
The Royal Society of Tasmania

AGM

Annual General Meeting

Dear Members,

The Annual General Meeting of The Royal Society of Tasmania will be held on **Sunday 7 March 2021 at 3:00 pm** at the new location of the **Stanley Burbury Theatre at UTAS**, Churchill Avenue, Sandy Bay.

Admission: free for financial members of the Royal Society of Tasmania*
\$6 general admission
\$4 for students and Friends of TMAG

Following the AGM, the noted Tasmanian marine, Antarctic and climate scientist Dr Jess Melbourne-Thomas, the 2020 Tasmanian Australian of the Year, will present a lecture. [Click for registration](#). The password is **RST**.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the number of places at this venue is limited to 91.

Nominations for positions on The Royal Society of Tasmania Council are now open for election at the Annual General Meeting.

The following positions are open for nomination:

- Three Council Members (two for 3 years, and one for 2 years)
- Honorary Secretary (1 year)
- Honorary Treasurer (1 year)
- President (1 year)
- Vice President (1 year)

Nominations must be received by the Returning Officer, Prof Ross Large AO by Saturday 27 February.

The nomination form can be printed from pp. 3–4 below or downloaded from the [RST webpage](#).

Copies may also be obtained from the RST Office, open Wednesdays 9:00 am through 12 noon.

The completed and signed form may be returned by mail to one of the following:

- ♦ The Returning Officer
c/- The Royal Society of Tasmania
GPO Box 1166
Hobart TAS 7001
- ♦ Or delivered to the RST office: 19 Davey Street, Hobart
- ♦ Or a signed and scanned copy may be emailed to admin@rst.org.au

For further information, please contact the Honorary Secretary, Marley Large on 0429 916 459.

VOTE
NOMINATE
STAND
ELECT

VOTE NOMINATE 2 STAND ELECT



THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA COUNCIL MEMBER NOMINATION FORM

ABN 65 889 598 100

Nominations for Election 2021

Office Bearers and Council Members for The Royal Society of Tasmania 2021 elections to be held on Sunday 7 March 2021 at 3 pm at the Stanley Burbury Theatre, University of Tasmania, Churchill Avenue, Sandy Bay.

The Royal Society of Tasmania would like to formally invite members to nominate for positions on the Society's Council and Executive.

Nominations close **midnight Saturday 27 February, 2021**

No self-nominations are accepted.

All nominees and nominators must be financial members at the time of nomination.

About nominations:

The Rules and By-laws stipulate that the office bearers (Rule 8) and ordinary members (Rules 21 & 22) of the Council be elected each year. Nominations will be received by the Returning Officer (Rule 10). The Immediate Past President is the Returning Officer. Rule 10 requires each nomination to be in writing. No person who is a candidate for any positions can propose or second the nomination of any other person for any position. No self-nominations are accepted.

*indicates required information

Do you (the nominator) accept and understand the above nominations rules and information? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

Please indicate for which position the nominee is proposed?

- ☐ Council member (3 years)
- ☐ Honorary Secretary (1 year)
- ☐ Honorary Treasurer (1 year)
- ☐ President (2 years maximum)
- ☐ Vice President (2 years maximum)

Please send this completed nomination form to:

The Returning Officer
c/- The Royal Society of Tasmania
GPO Box 1166
Hobart TAS 7001

or deliver it to the office, 19 Davey Street Hobart TAS 7001

Signed and scanned copies can be emailed to admin@rst.org.au

Nominations must be received by midnight Saturday 27 February, 2021

The Royal Society of Tasmania is registered with the Australian Charities and Not For Profits Commission, ACNC in order to maintain our entitlement to Deductible Gift Recipient status in respect of donations to maintaining a library or art collection.

RST is required to take reasonable steps to be satisfied that its Responsible Persons (its Council members) are not disqualified from:

- managing a corporation under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) (the Corporations Act), or
- being a Responsible Person by the ACNC Commissioner, within the previous 12 months.

Council Members are be required to complete a Declaration for Responsible Persons form.

RST therefore ask that you answer the following questions:

If you answered YES to any of these questions, the ACNC is likely to determine that you should not be on the board of any organisation it regulates, including the Council of The Royal Society of Tasmania.

Are you disqualified from managing a corporation within the meaning of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)? That would occur if you: ◇ have been convicted of certain offences, such as serious offences, dishonesty offences or other offences that can affect a corporation, ◇ are an undischarged bankrupt or are subject to a 'personal insolvency agreement' you have not followed, or ◇ have been disqualified by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC), the Office of the Registrar of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporations (ORIC), or an Australian or New Zealand court.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No*
Have you been disqualified by the Australian Charities and Not-for-	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No*

Nomination

Proposed by

(Proposer's full name)

Signature of proposer Date:

Seconded by

(Seconder's full name)

Signature of seconder Date:

I accept the nomination for the position of and have answered the questions above.

Nominee

(full name of nominee)

Signature of nominee Date:

Returning Officer's use only:

- ☐ All persons are financial
- ☐ Not proposed or seconded by another candidate for election
- ☐ Not excluded by Rules 12 or 21 (consecutive terms)

Presentation at the Society's AGM

Dr Jessica Melbourne-Thomas "Engagement, diversity and interdisciplinarity to tackle future challenges"



The Royal Society of Tasmania invites you to attend this lecture by
Dr Jess Melbourne-Thomas on Sunday 7 March, 2021 at 3 pm,
at the Stanley Burbury Theatre, University of Tasmania.

Dr Melbourne-Thomas was the Tasmanian Australian of the Year in 2020. Her lecture follows the Annual General Meeting of the Society. Attendance in person is limited by current pandemic restrictions and it is necessary for all attendees to register for this event. The registration site will remain open until Friday 5 March 2021.

[RST members can click to register.](#) The password is **RST**.

Please print and bring your ticket on the day or else have it available for viewing on your mobile phone.

Please also arrive a few minutes early to facilitate entry and COVID-safe seating arrangements.

Dr Jess Melbourne-Thomas is a Transdisciplinary Researcher and Knowledge Broker with CSIRO Oceans & Atmosphere. Her research background is in mathematical modelling and Antarctic climate change science; and she was a Lead Author for the recent IPCC Special Report on the Oceans & Cryosphere in a Changing Climate.

Jess co-founded the Homeward Bound project, which took the largest ever all-female expedition on a leadership journey to Antarctica in 2016. She was one of Australia's first 30 Superstars of STEM and was named Tasmania's Young Tall Poppy of the Year in 2015 for her excellence in research, science communication and policy engagement.

Abstract

The future of the Earth and its global population holds significant challenges, particularly with respect to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Indeed, in 2020 we experienced a taste of many of the impacts to come.

Engaging people with science and tackling misinformation will be a key part of finding solutions to the challenges ahead. In this presentation, Jess will discuss approaches to engagement with policy-makers, industry and the general public, including increasing needs for co-design, translation, communication and interpretation of science to tackle complex problems.

She will give examples of how inter- and transdisciplinary research approaches can support robust decision-making; and will discuss the importance of increased diversity and equity in STEM to bring novel solutions for addressing future challenges.

Jess will also reflect on her own learnings about challenges and solutions through her year as 2020 Tasmanian Australian of the Year.



Apology to Tasmanian Aboriginal People

Your Invitation

Dear Member of the Royal Society of Tasmania

You are invited to witness by livestream the Apology to Tasmanian Aboriginal People on **Monday, 15 February 2021** to be delivered by the Royal Society of Tasmania (RST) and the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG).

The Royal Society of Tasmania (RST) and the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG) recognise that their past actions and practices have resulted in immense hurt and suffering to Tasmanian Aboriginal people and we wish to sincerely apologise for these actions. There is a genuine commitment on behalf of both organisations to build a strong and respectful relationship with Tasmanian Aboriginal people. We recognise for this to occur there must be public acknowledgement of damaging past practices, and formal Apologies are an integral part of this process.

The RST and TMAG will offer paired Apologies, in recognition of the shared history of the two organisations.

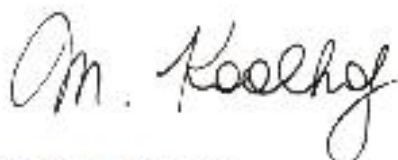
The event starts at **12:00 pm** and will last approximately an hour.

You are invited to witness this event via the private livestream video link at <http://vimeo.com/event/647159/e11cf20235>

You do not need to RSVP to view the livestream.

If you have any queries in relation to this event, please contact Mary Koolhof, President of RST at admin@rst.org.au or Janet Carding, Director of TMAG at director@tmag.tas.gov.au.

We hope that you will join us on 15 February.

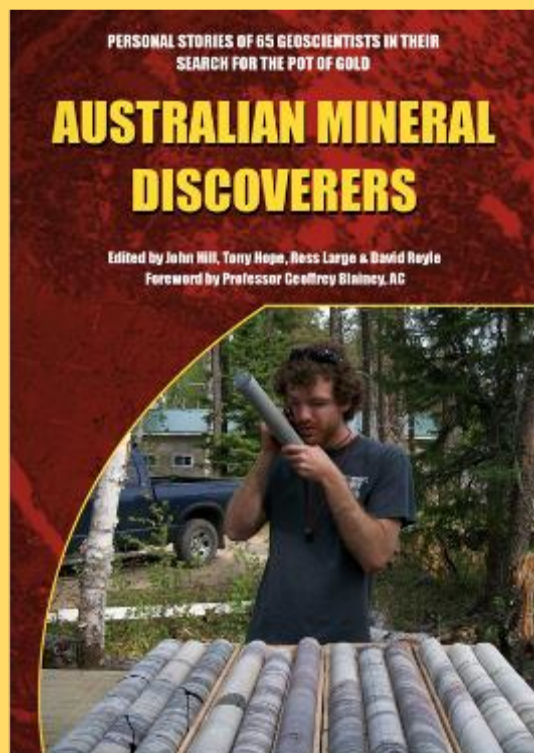


Mrs Mary Koolhof
President
The Royal Society of Tasmania



Ms Brett Torossi
Chair, Board of Trustees
Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery





Successful Launch of latest RST Publication: *Australian Mineral Discoverers*

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

On December 15, Professor Geoffrey Blainey AC, launched The Royal Society of Tasmania book *Australian Mineral Discoverers*, which contains 65 personal stories by successful geoscientists about the search for and discovery of mineral deposits in the Australian region from 1950 to 2000.

There were 45 people present in person at the University Club presentation and 30 of the biographers who contributed to the book were present via Zoom on a large screen in the room. Mary Koolhof, our President, and Dr Sally Bryant, the Hon Editor, described the role of the Royal Society in the publication emphasising the Society's history and strong connection with exploration and discovery across a broad spectrum of natural sciences including medical, biological and geological.



Above, from left: John Hill, Tony Hope, Mary Koolhof (President), David Royle and Prof Ross Large AO.

Professor Blainey started his address with the words: "In the past 70 years, the discovery of new mining fields has transformed this nation. Ranging from copper and bauxite to diamonds. The discoveries have raised the standard of living of nearly every Australian. They have created, on remote stretches of the coast, several of the biggest cargo ports in the world. Whereas wool, even in 1970, was the nation's main export, it has since been far surpassed by iron ore, coal and several other minerals, and yet the name of even one of these mineral discoverers is unfamiliar to the typical citizen of Sydney and Melbourne. This book is one step towards recognising the achievements of Australian geologists and geoscientists".

On behalf of his co-editors (John Hill, David Royle and Tony Hope), Ross Large thanked Professor Blainey for his superb introduction and launch speech which deeply impressed all those present.

The event finished with some brief words from three of the biographers via Zoom, on the value of the book, especially for the educational potential to the general public and as an inspiration to the future generation of geoscientists.

The print run was 1000 copies of which over 900 had been sold at the time of writing. Thanks to all involved in the preparation of the publication and launch event: the editors, the biographers, Prof Geoffrey Blainey AC, The Royal Society of Tasmania, Franklin Direct, The AusIMM, June Pongratz, Caroline Mordaunt, Indrani Mukherjee, Peter Manchester, Jill Terry, the companies that placed pre-publication orders and all those who have purchased the book.

Prof Ross Large AO

Royal Society Office

The Royal Society office is open on Wednesday mornings 9:00 am to midday. 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.

A phone call prior to your visit will help with more speedy arrangements.

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

Main contact:

GPO Box 1166

Hobart TAS 7001

Email: admin@rst.org.au

Northern Branch contact:

Christine Beswick, Secretary:

0417 330 118

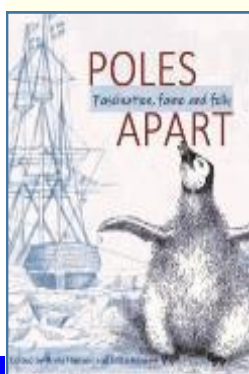
PO Box 47 Perth TAS 7300

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 available either through the RST shop, on our [website](http://www.rst.org.au), by email or by phone through the office.

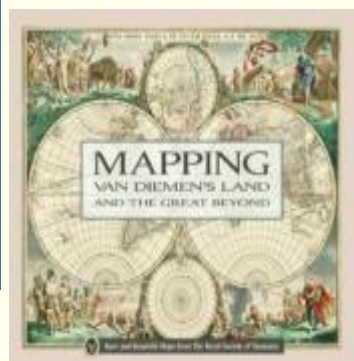
10% discount for Members on these books.

Discounted prices are shown beside each book:



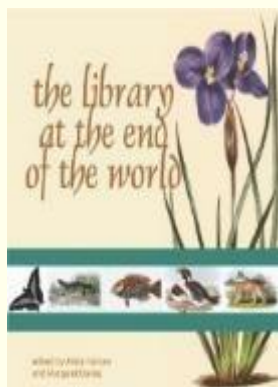
Poles Apart: Fascination, Fame and Folly

Hardcover (\$22) and Softcover (\$18)



Mapping Van Diemen's Land and the Great Beyond

Hardcover (\$54) and Softcover (\$36)



The Library at the End of the World

Hardcover (\$54) and Softcover (\$36)



Charles Darwin in Hobart

Softcover (\$27)



Papers and Proceedings

Since 1849, the Society has published annual volumes of refereed scholarly papers. The *Papers and Proceedings* publishes research that focuses on Tasmania or is particularly relevant to Tasmanians.

Personal subscription to the *Papers and Proceedings* are made through membership of The Royal Society of Tasmania. Prices for back editions of *Papers and Proceedings* range from \$10 – \$40 per volume. Members of the Society are eligible for a

10% discount, please contact the **Honorary Editor** at editor@rst.org.au

Royal Society 2021 Calendar

Features 13 lovely watercolours by Francis Guillemard Simpkinson de Wesselow. Retail price: \$19.95 plus postage and handling as applicable.

Members of the Royal Society can also order from the [website](http://www.rst.org.au) or the 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 admin@rst.org.au or phone Wednesday mornings on 03 6165 7014.





RST Webinars

Missed one of the RST webinars or would like to view one again? [Click here to view the full range in YouTube.](#)



We are moving!

Well, not moving our location but we will now be using a new email address for the Royal Society. From this month forward, our email address will be aligned with our web address.

admin@rst.org.au

We will be monitoring our old email address for some time to come but please address all general RST correspondence to the new address.

You can also reach the Secretary at:

secretary@rst.org.au

and our Editor, Sally Bryant, at:

editor@rst.org.au

Special Event

Planned for National Science Week 2021

In 2021, The Royal Society of Tasmania is partnering with Beer Aquatic to bring you a special event for National Science Week in August.

Beer Aquatic is an informal, monthly, free public event that celebrates the diverse and fascinating range of research related to the ocean and aquatic environment, and the people who do that research. Most of the presenters are scientists, but Beer Aquatic has also showcased research on marine and Antarctic policy, and even an icebreaker captain.

The focus is very much on 'storytelling', so although the presenters can use props, there are no Power-Point slides. All the events are held on the final Thursday of every month at the Hobart Brewing Company. Due to COVID-19 restrictions the events are currently 'ticketed' (although tickets are free).

For details of the 2021 program and ticketing, please [check the Facebook page.](#)



2021 Membership Renewal

Welcome to 2021. It has been pleasing to see so many members renew their membership. All renewing members receive an updated membership card.

When buying the Royal Society's publications, don't forget to ask for the 10% members' discount.

If you haven't yet renewed your membership, please do so now so that you can fully participate in the Society's AGM on March 7. You can renew online through the [Society's website](#).

We look forward to seeing you at an event soon.

Membership Committee



Proposed 2021 RST Events

At present, the following dates and information have not been confirmed, so perhaps you might **pencil** them into your diary rather than use pen, but they should whet your appetite for more intellectual pursuits with the RST.

Date	Event
7 March	AGM, Tasmanian Australian of the Year for 2020, Jessica Melbourne-Thomas
16 March	2019 Medal award presentation by Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AC, Governor of Tasmania at Government House
4 April	Peter Smith Medal Lecture, Frances Sussmilch
2 May	Susannah Fullerton OAM, FRSN (TBC)
6 June	ATSE Joint Lecture (TBC)
4 July	TMAG Curator (TBC)
8 August	(TBC)
27 August	Joint Beer Aquatic Event for National Science Week at Hobart Brewing Company
5 September	Doctoral Award Winner/s (TBC)
Mid-September	Herbarium Guided Tour
3 October	Maybe a history lecture (TBC)
7 November	Maybe a medical sciences/Menzies lecture (TBC)
7 December	Christmas lecture (TBC)

RST Northern Branch 2021 Launceston Lecture Series

Lectures commence at **1:30* pm**

– online or at QVMAG @ Inveresk (to be advised)

* Start time varies as shown below

Preliminary Program (– an update will be issued later)		
Date	Presenter/Event	Topic
28 February	Dr Jennifer Lavers	'Impact of Plastics on Marine Wildlife' – previously unknown sub-lethal and largely invisible consequences for aquatic and even terrestrial species. Click for details.
28 March	Annual General Meeting**	Starting at 1:15pm
28 March	Dr Katie Flanagan	'Global and Australian Perspectives for COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout' – hear from our local infectious disease physician, leader of the group advising the government on the Australian COVID-19 vaccine program.
25 April	Annual QVMAG Staff Lecture** Dr Christine Hansen	'Telling the stories of kanamaluka' – the fascinating kanamaluka/Tamar estuary will be the first subject of QVMAG's new gallery of environmental history.
23 May	Prof David Bowman	'Pyrogeographic thinking' – the key to tackling the global fire crisis.
27 June	Northern Branch Centenary Lecture** Mr Ralph Bottrill	'What made Tasmania?' – 140 years of geological mapping and research – what have we done and what is left to do?
25 July	Prof John Whittington	'Growing Australia's Blue Economy' – meeting the challenges of operating in high energy offshore marine environments provides enormous potential to increase seafood and renewable energy production.
22 August	2021 Science Week Forum** UTAS PhD Candidates: Kate Edwards plus two others TBA	'Breaking New Ground': <i>Exercise induced gut damage and the estrobolome: does periodisation matter?</i> (plus two others TBA)
12 September	Joint Meeting with the Geological Society of Australia** A/Prof Sebastien Meffre	'East Meets West' – the geological development of northern Tasmania.
26 September	TBA	TBA
24 October	TBA	TBA
28 November	TBA	TBA

** Joint meeting with the Geological Society of Australia


City of LAUNCESTON
QUEEN VICTORIA
MUSEUM & ART GALLERY
 proudly supports the Launceston Lecture Series





The Northern Branch of The Royal Society of Tasmania

invites you to

Impact of Plastics on Marine Wildlife

a public lecture by

Dr Jennifer Lavers



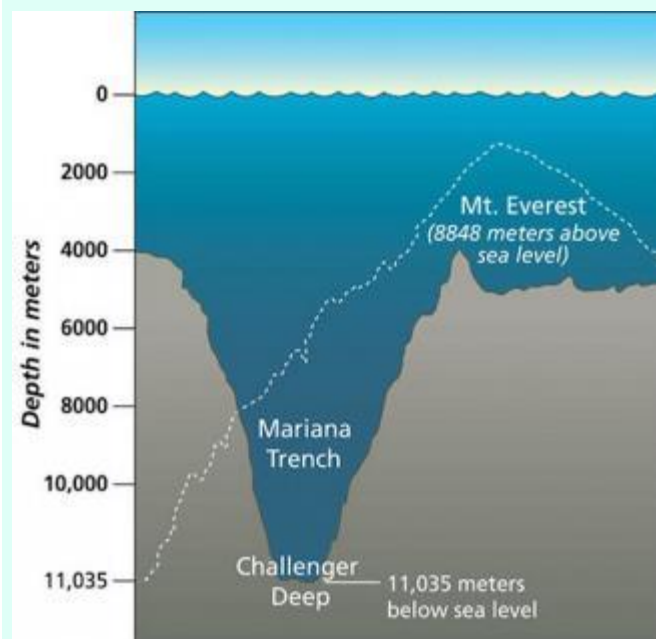
Where: To be advised, depending on current health advice

(either Meeting Room, QVMAG at Inveresk or via Zoom webinar)

Please check for details in the week before the lecture [at this link](#) or phone 0417 330 118

Registration will be required for either face-to-face lecture or webinar

When: 1.30 pm Sunday 28 February 2021



Plastic has only been mass produced since approximately the 1950s, yet debris is now ubiquitous in aquatic and terrestrial environments, from the Arctic to the Antarctic and from the top of Mount Everest to the bottom of the Mariana Trench.

Remarkably, our understanding of the impact all this debris is having on species, habitats and the ecosystem as a whole is poorly understood. Much of what we do know has been documented for seabirds and remote islands.

The presentation will highlight Australia's contributions to this emerging and important field of research.

Dr Lavers is a lecturer in marine science at the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS), University of Tasmania. Her research focuses on understanding how remote islands and seabirds can act as bio-indicators of ocean health, particularly in relation to plastic pollution. She teaches a number of ecology-focused courses and

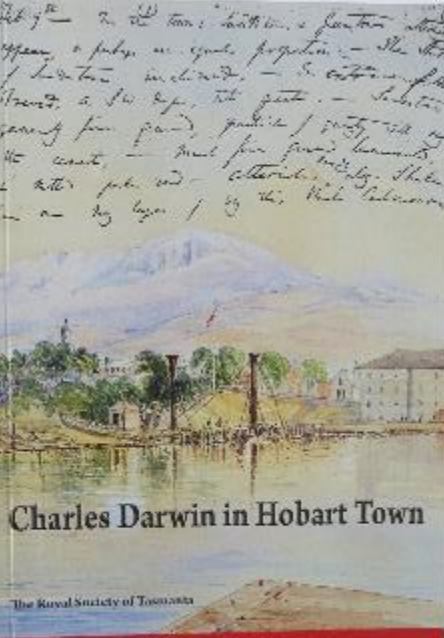
Above: Image courtesy of youngzine.org

coordinates the Adrift Lab, a team of scientists who mentor graduate students through the research process.

Generously supported by



Left: Image courtesy of Christophe Launay.



Charles Darwin in Hobart Town edited by Margaret Davies

A Review by John Hill

Charles Darwin in Hobart Town is an intensely interesting and informative book that deserves to be read with concentration and reflection. The contributors to this volume have related Darwin's observations and inferences to the current state of knowledge in the 21st century and this approach illustrates the true genius of Darwin's deductive thinking as a scientist and a social anthropologist.

To place Darwin's Hobart visit into context, the time is the first quarter of 1836. *HMS Beagle*, on a five-year round-the-world voyage of scientific discovery, had arrived in Sydney. Charles Darwin was on board as the expedition's naturalist and as gentleman companion to Captain Fitzroy, commander of the *Beagle*.

Right: *HMS Beagle*, B. Mearns.



The Australian itinerary for the *Beagle* comprised nineteen days in Sydney, ten days in Hobart and eight days in Albany. At each port-of-call, Darwin completed forays into the Australian countryside. It has been mooted that the most important legacy of his Australian visit was derived from his experience of its flora and fauna: this was the disturbing thought that 'Two distinct Creators must have been at work'. Darwin realised that similar ecological niches in different parts of the world tend to be occupied by very different species. His Australian experience was probably the catalyst that generated *The Origin of Species* published in 1859. ('Charles Darwin's evolutionary revelation in Australia'. *The Conversation*. 12 January 2016)

***Charles Darwin in Hobart Town* is a well-researched book** that brings to life Darwin's ten days in Hobart in early 1836. It was published in 2009 by The Royal Society of Tasmania to commemorate the two hundredth anniversary of Darwin's birth. The contributors have provided valuable background information that compliments Darwin's field observations. One cannot enter Darwin's mind on his objectives while visiting Hobart, but it may be that the species he had observed in the Blue Mountains and Bathurst, namely the kangaroo and platypus, were on his mind. His subsequent excursions in Hobart resulted in fundamental conclusions on geological principles, thoughts on anthropology and on environmental trends already apparent in the early years of the colony.

Darwin's ideas on the concept of 'civilisation' were crystallising in tandem with his impression on different cultures that he had encountered at *Beagle's* ports-of-call and now in Tasmania with conflicting concepts relevant to the embryonic *Origin of Species*. By the time Darwin arrived in Hobart, he had observed volcanoes, active glacial moraines and land mass rise and fall due to seismic activity. He had also encountered an extensive variety of flora and fauna as well as racial and ethnic variation in human society. His powers of observation, deduction and subsequent reservations on his developing anthropological theories came to the fore in Hobart.

Darwin was extremely active while in Tasmania. His notes indicate extraordinary powers of observation and deduction. These are enhanced by the contributors' explanatory notes that provide relevant current information on the feature or the matter at hand. Darwin considered some of his deductions so

challenged current orthodoxy that he did not publish them in order to protect his reputation. Darwin's work and principal conclusions emanating from his Hobart visit are summarised under geology, fauna, flora and environmental issues and human evolution.

[Click to read the full review.](#)

Right: Charles Darwin portrait.
(Photo courtesy *The Mercury*)
Left: Charles Darwin's study.
(Photo courtesy UTAS.edu.au)



The Society's 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 special.collections@utas.edu.au to assist with managing maximum occupancy requirements.
- Opening hours are 10:00am 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



The Salmon Ponds at Plenty

The Salmon Ponds at Plenty combines two unique national 'firsts'. In 1864, the first salmon and trout fry in the southern hemisphere were hatched from imported ova after several failed attempts to transport them from England. Once released, the salmon disappeared but the acclimatisation of the small number of trout proved spectacularly successful. These trout became the foundation of the state's current valuable recreational fisheries, as well as the base stock of streams and lakes in Australia and New Zealand.

A public nineteenth-century 'pleasure garden' was also created, with 3276 plants sent from the Royal Society's Garden in Hobart. This English-style public open space was made possible by the generosity of Robert Cartwright Read of Redlands, who leased a portion of his land and shared the gravity-fed system taking water from the Plenty River to irrigate his hop fields. The site was also one of the earliest uses of grassed areas in garden design and the original hawthorn hedge still forms the boundary of the ponds and is the backdrop to the river walk. A significant number of the original trees from China, Japan and Mediterranean countries are still present.

With its hatchery, rills, ponds and running water, grassy swathes and unusual trees astride water channels, the Salmon Ponds was an instant success - and continues to attract interest. Visitors can view fish breeding in all its stages, from fingerlings to full-grown Brown, Rainbow, Albino, Tiger and Brook Trout and Atlantic Salmon; anglers are drawn to the Museum of Trout Fishing located in the first superintendent's 1865 cottage; and children enjoy feeding the fish.

RST P&P and monographs – Salmon

<https://eprints.utas.edu.au/11159/>

RS159 - Salmon commissioners, *Salmoniana*, June 1866. Humorous verse and sketches concerning the arrival of salmon ova. The names of the commissioners and others have been noted on the sketches (contemporary pencil ms. note). (pamphlet 24 pp. plus adverts, printed by J. Walch & Sons)

<https://eprints.utas.edu.au/17733/>

Denison, William Thomas, Hawes, B, Earl Grey, Burnett, James L and Young, A **1852**, 'Correspondence on the introduction of salmon from Scotland into the rivers of Tasmania'

<https://eprints.utas.edu.au/20032/>

Denison, William Thomas and Boccus, Gottlieb 1854, 'On the introduction of Salmon into the rivers of Tasmania,



1854', *Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania*, vol. 2, no. 3, pp. 437-445

<https://eprints.utas.edu.au/19374/>

Bedford, Edward Samuel Pickard, Agnew, James W, Allport, Morton and Milligan, Joseph 1859, 'On the introduction of Salmon into Tasmania', *Papers & Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania*, vol. 3, no. 2, pp. 283-290

<https://eprints.utas.edu.au/14933/>

Allport, Morton 1864, 'Account of the recent successful introduction of the salmon ova to Tasmania', *Monthly Notices of Papers & Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania*, pp. 44-47

<https://eprints.utas.edu.au/14931/>

Allport, Morton 1864, 'On the natural enemies of the salmon in Tasmania', *Monthly Notices of Papers & Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania*, pp. 62-65

<https://eprints.utas.edu.au/14932/>

Allport, Morton 1864, 'On the food of the salmon in Tasmanian rivers and seas', *Monthly Notices of Papers & Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania*, pp. 72-74

<https://eprints.utas.edu.au/14964/>

Royal Society of Tasmania, **1864**, 'The attempt to introduce Salmon ova by the "Beautiful Star"', *Monthly Notices of Papers & Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania*, pp. 110-114

<https://eprints.utas.edu.au/15232/>

Allport, Morton **1866**, 'Report of the late successful experiment for the introduction of Salmon ova and Sea Trout ova to Tasmania', *Monthly Notices of Papers & Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania*, pp. 39-42

<https://eprints.utas.edu.au/15238/>

Allport, Morton **1866**, 'Report on the present state of the fry of the Salmon and Salmon Trout at the Plenty; and of the taking of the first spawn from the Brown Trout', *Monthly Notices of Papers & Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania*, pp. 61-64

<https://eprints.utas.edu.au/15146/>

Allport, Morton **1871**, 'Observations on the progress of the salmon experiment', *Monthly Notices of Papers & Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania*, pp. 14-16

<https://eprints.utas.edu.au/15134/>

Allport, Morton **1871**, 'The salmon trout', *Monthly Notices of Papers & Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania*, pp. 43-45

<https://eprints.utas.edu.au/15158/>

Allport, Morton **1872**, 'Irregularity in the growth of the salmon', *Monthly Notices of Papers & Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania*, pp. 55-56

<https://eprints.utas.edu.au/15273/>

Allport, Morton **1874**, 'Some further notes on the introduction of the salmon into Tasmanian waters', *Monthly Notices of Papers & Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania*, pp. 12-18

<https://eprints.utas.edu.au/15275/>

Allport, Morton **1874**, 'Further notes on the salmon experiment', *Monthly Notices of Papers & Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania*, pp. 69-71

<https://eprints.utas.edu.au/15324/>

Allport, Morton **1875**, 'Further notes on the salmon experiment', *Papers & Proceedings and Report of the Royal Society of Tasmania*, pp. 51-55

<https://eprints.utas.edu.au/15408/>

Allport, Morton **1877**, 'Present stage of the salmon experiment', *Papers & Proceedings and Report of the Royal Society of Tasmania*, pp. 109-114

<https://eprints.utas.edu.au/15662/>

Saville-Kent, William **1887**, 'Observations on the acclimatisation of the true salmon (*Salmo salar*), in Tasmanian waters, and upon the reported salmon disease at the breeding establishment on the River Plenty.', *Papers & Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania*, pp. 54-66

Books:

Tasmanian fisheries reports, Tasmania, Parliament, 1882

A collection of 22 reports relating to fisheries in Tasmania for the period 1881-1925. Authors include: Royal Commission on the Fisheries of Tasmania. Salmon Commissioners, Fisheries Department, Fisheries Board, William Saville-Kent, Philip S. Seager, H.C. Dannevig.

Morris Miller-Royal Society-Folio SH 318.T377 1882 vol.1 & 2

http://encore.lib.utas.edu.au/iii/encore/record/C__Rb1440171

Report of the commissioners: together with general and critical observations on the fisheries of the colony; classified catalogue of all the known species; abstract of the minutes of proceedings of the commission; evidence taken before commission; statistics, &c .

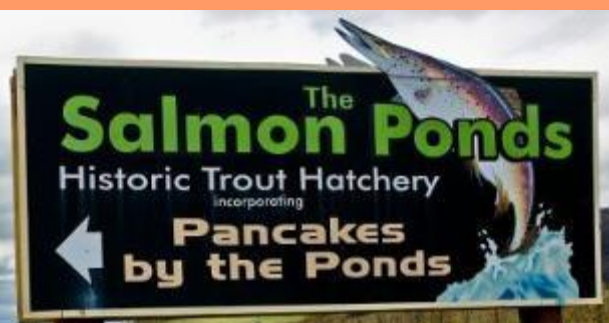
Tasmania. Royal Commission on Fisheries. 1883

Morris Miller-Royal Society-Folio SH 318.T3 T37 1883

http://encore.lib.utas.edu.au/iii/encore/record/C__Rb1440154



Above, right and below: The Salmon Ponds at Plenty as they are seen in autumn.



We are open!

Untimed ticket bookings now available

www.tmag.tas.gov.au

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 over-all site capacity. [For more information and to book, please click this link.](#)

The Museum Shop is open.

[TMAG from Home](#) initiative is available from the TMAG website.

**TMAG
from
home**



Visitors will be excited to learn about a new exhibition by renowned Tasmanian artist David Keeling called **David Keeling: Stranger**, which is on show at TMAG until 14 February 2021.

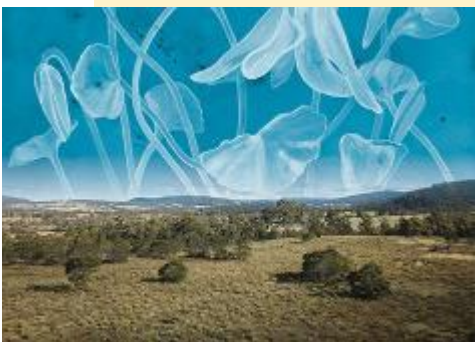
Free tours for small groups are available on Saturdays and Sundays, and run for approximately 40 minutes.

Tour times are subject to change and availability and can be checked by phoning (03) 6165 7000. For guided tours for clubs,

tourist groups or other organisations, please [click here](#).

Exquisite Habits and This Too Shall Pass Exhibition Tour, 11:00 am on Saturdays and Sundays

Come along with the TMAG Art Guides as they share their love and enthusiasm for the wonderful works in the art collection. The tour will visit the *Exquisite Habits* and *This Too Shall Pass* exhibitions.



TMAG Highlights Tour, 1:30 pm on Saturdays and Sundays

[Discovering the Flora of Wind Song: Botanical Art and Science](#) (- see left)

Closing date: 28-02-2021

Works by artists from the group Botaniko, inspired by their time accompanying TMAG botanists on the 2017 *Expedition of Discovery* to Wind Song on Tasmania's East Coast.



Follow RST on:

Twitter



Facebook



Visit the website



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

Copyright © 2021 The Royal Society of Tasmania.

All rights reserved.

ABN 65 889 598 100

Our mailing address is:

GPO Box 1166
Hobart TAS 7001

Our Office location is:

19 Davey Street
Hobart TAS 7000

Office hours: Wednesdays 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
+61 3 6165 7014