



### A Message from the President

Dear Members,

Part of the last Council meeting was devoted to a review the strategic plan. Our efforts to “advance knowledge” are being achieved through our core activities - the regular lectures, publications, awards to outstanding scholars, and sponsoring events run by other like-minded organisations. Member numbers are healthy and being maintained but two matters

of importance are: whether we are meeting members’ expectations; and how best to engage those members who want to be involved. Please feel free to contact any Council member if you have feedback or a special request or want to be involved in one of the Committees or upcoming events.

Over the past month or so, we have put in place an **Art Fund** designed for donations to help defray the cost of conserving and restoring items in the RST Art Collection – see p. 7. [The Art Fund is accessible](#) on the RST website. Webmaster Eddy Steenbergen has posted new webpages featuring [the RST Art Collection](#). Donors of amounts over \$5000 are recognised as **Patrons of the RST Art Collection**. The first two Patrons of the RST Art Collection have recently been recognised.

The RST collaborated with the Academy of Technology and Engineering to present a public lecture and forum on 7 July. The topic was the “Blue biotechnology revolution”, dealing with recent innovations in developing diverse bioproducts from naturally occurring organisms in the ocean. The four speakers, John Gunn, Dr Justin Coombs, Professor Catriona Macleod and Paul Garrott are members of a large Co-operative Research Centre dedicated to sustainable blue bioproduction.

The much-anticipated **Midwinter Dinner** on 14 July is almost here. Please arrive at 5:30 pm for a welcoming drink. The Organising Committee ask that you be seated in the dining room by 5:50 pm. Speakers Dr Anita Hansen and Marley Large will be showcasing the RST Art Collection and high resolution reproductions of some of the most famous paintings will be on display.

Later in the month (24 July), the Northern Branch will host a lecture by Professor Raj Eri exploring the complex area of personalised medicine – see p. 4.

Every year, the **RST offers medals** to outstanding scholars and the medals on offer change from one year to the next. In 2022, we are seeking nominees for the Clive Lord Memorial Medal and the Peter Smith Medal. More details are given in this Newsletter on p. 2 [and on the RST website](#).

We have signed up five **new RST members** in the past month: Dr Charles Connor, Dr Marie Heitz, Miss Laura Leworthy, Associate Professor Elizabeth Tegg and Ms Catherine Wren. Welcome and we hope you make the most of all that the RST has to offer.

I want to draw your attention to a call for Expressions of Interest in **Executive Positions** that will be open next year. Our current Vice President, Tony Webster, Treasurer David Wilson and Secretary Marley Large have all indicated that they

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will not accept nomination for these positions next year. Although some time off, potential replacements should be identified as soon as possible so they can become familiar with what is expected. We need your assistance with the search for nominees for these Executive positions—see p. 6.

Best regards,

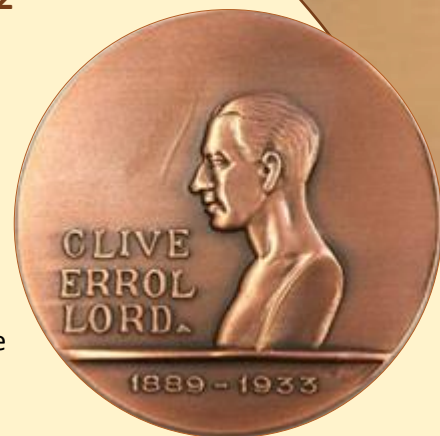


Prof Jocelyn McPhie,  
President

### RST Medals for Outstanding Scholars 2022

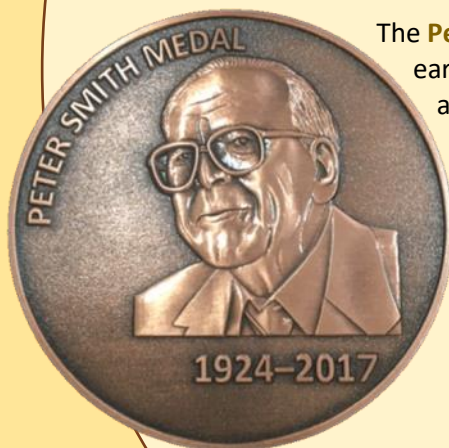
The RST will offer two medals in 2022, the Clive Lord Memorial Medal and Peter Smith Medal. The Call for Nominations is now open and will close on 31 August.

The **Clive Lord Memorial Medal** is alternately awarded to a scholar distinguished for research in Tasmanian science or Tasmanian history. This year, the award will be for Tasmanian history. The awardee will be invited to deliver the “Clive Lord Memorial Lecture”. If not a member of the Society, the awardee will be offered free membership for one year.



The **Peter Smith Medal** is awarded biennially to an outstanding early career researcher in any field. The recipient will receive a medal and be invited to deliver “The Peter Smith Lecture” to the Society. To be eligible for nomination, the research and/or works must be largely carried out in Tasmania or under the aegis of a Tasmania-based organisation and within the Society’s purview.

For the purpose of the medal, “early career” means between three and a maximum of eight years or eight equivalent full-time years since the award of a PhD, at the time of the nomination deadline.



The Call for Nominations is available at [rst.org.au](http://rst.org.au)  
Nomination guidelines can be reviewed at [Guide for Medal Nominations](#).

Jocelyn McPhie, Chair, RST Honours Committee



## 2021 RST Doctoral Award Winners – Webinar Sunday 7 August 2022

This webinar will feature talks by the two RST Doctoral Award winners in 2021, Dr Pratiksha Srivastava (engineer) and Dr Rhondra Waterworth (psychologist and lawyer).

Dr Srivastava is now based in Spain and Dr Waterworth is based in France, so these presentations will be online only.

**PLEASE NOTE THE WEBINAR START TIME IS 5:00 PM, Sunday 7 August 2022**

Follow [this link to register](#) for the Zoom webinar. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

### Dr Pratiksha Srivastava

Dr Srivastava (pictured right) is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at Rey Juan Carlos University, Madrid, Spain. She completed her PhD at the National Centre for Maritime Engineering and Hydrodynamics, Australian Maritime College, University of Tasmania, Australia. Her research focus is on microbe-electrode interaction for the development of sustainable technologies. She has made a major contribution to the development of electrode-dependent anaerobic ammonium oxidation in constructed wetlands coupled with microbial electrochemical technology. This research gained considerable attention among scientists. Her sustainability research led to the prestigious Green Talent Award from the German Federal Ministry in 2017. She has also been awarded a Nuffic Fellowship from the Netherlands, and many other competitive national and international grants. She has published more than 20 peer-reviewed articles.



#### **Topic: “Electron exchange between living and non-living things for developing sustainability in the environment”**

**Abstract:** The energy for all life forms comes from the flow of electrons in energetically favourable pairings of oxidation and reduction reactions. Although most living organisms use soluble oxidants and reductants, some microbes can access solid-phase materials as electron-acceptors or donors via extracellular microbial electron transfer. A better understanding of extracellular microbial electron transfer can lead us to further technological applications such as an efficient wastewater treatment, electricity generation, bioelectronics, biochemical production, detoxification of harmful compounds, and biofuels generation for achieving sustainability in the environment.

### Dr Rhondra Waterworth

Dr Waterworth (pictured below) is an Australian lawyer and psychologist. She has 14 years’ experience working with families, teenagers and children, in government funded health services, and in private practice. She has spent at least five years working with dangerous offenders.

Rhondra completed a PhD in the Schools of Psychology and Social Sciences at the University of Tasmania in therapeutic jurisprudence and ways in which the courts and magistrates can be more effective therapeutically within courtrooms to prevent reoffending.

She is the author of several articles on magistrate interventions and the use of health and legal systems to intervene for offending behaviour for those with mental health problems, trauma. She has also published articles on opportunities and techniques for applying therapeutic jurisprudence in criminal courts. One of these has been incorporated into a handbook for magistrates.

Rhondra is currently resident in France and works in private practice as well as lecturing at the Catholic University of Lyon.

#### **Topic: “The therapeutic potential of magistrates and court systems”**

**Abstract:** The complex interface between health and legal systems is constantly on display in courtrooms. Magistrate behaviour and courtroom interactions have the potential to significantly affect outcomes for offenders and the wider community. This influence is especially strong for offenders experiencing mental illness, social disadvantage, drug addiction, or other endemic social problems. Insightful court-craft can transform magistrate roles so they become drivers for therapeutic change. This approach requires identifying desirable magistrate behaviours and incorporating those behaviours in magistrate training.



**RST Northern Branch**  
invites you to a public lecture by

**Associate Professor Raj Eri**

## **Personalised Medicine: Are we there yet?**

**Where:** Meeting Room, QVMAG at Inveresk

**When:** 1:30 pm Sunday 24 July 2022.

Full COVID-19 vaccination and the wearing of face masks are highly desirable.

**Admission:** Free for RST members, \$6 general admission, \$4 students, QVMAG or TMAG Friends and members of Launceston Historical Society.

[Register for Zoom webinar.](#)

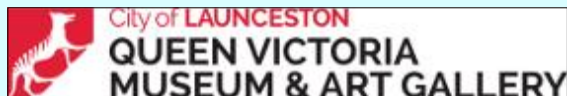
### **Abstract:**

Personalised medicine uses very specific and unique health information from an individual to make informed therapy choices. To that end, the latest advances in human genomics, microbiome analysis and other advanced biomarker tools will assist in individualising therapy. A/Prof Raj Eri will describe in detail with examples how such advanced research will shape personalised medicine.

### **Biography:**

A/Prof Eri is a passionate scientist who leads a research team investigating gut diseases, such as Inflammatory Bowel Disease and colorectal cancer. He has published over 125 peer-reviewed research papers, received research grants from NHMRC and multiple philanthropic sources, He has also been commended by the Australian Government for excellence and innovation in teaching.

*Generously supported by*



**Left:** Personalised medicine.  
(Photo courtesy Astridbio Technologies)





THE ROYAL  
SOCIETY OF  
TASMANIA

THE ADVANCEMENT  
OF KNOWLEDGE

## RST Northern Branch and the Geological Society of Australia invite you to a public lecture by

**Dr Peter McGoldrick**

### Tasmania's Oldest Fossils



**Where:** Meeting Room, QVMAG at Inveresk

**When:** 1:30 pm Sunday 14 August 2022.

Full COVID-19 vaccination and the wearing of face masks are highly desirable.

**Admission:** Free for members of RST and Geological Society of Australia, \$6 general admission, \$4 students, QVMAG or TMAG Friends and members of Launceston Historical Society.

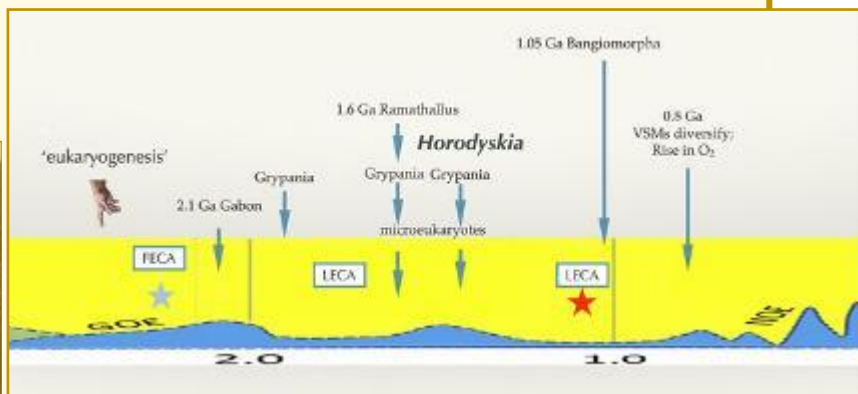
[Register for Zoom webinar.](#)

#### Abstract:

Darwin was puzzled by the paucity of fossils in Precambrian rocks. Twelve years ago, a new occurrence of an enigmatic Precambrian macrofossil (*Horodyskia* – 'string of beads') was described from a quarry near Balfour. The first *Horodyskia* fossils were found in Montana, and the Tasmanian occurrence is now known to be of similar age. This talk will describe the Tasmanian *Horodyskia* discovery and geological (and historical) links between Tasmania and Montana. Some results from recent Balfour fieldwork will be presented, emphasising the importance of the site for, perhaps, solving 'Darwin's dilemma'.

**Right:** Eukaryote timeline.

**Below:** *Horodyskia* quarry.



#### Biography:

Dr Peter McGoldrick (pictured right) is an Adjunct Senior Research Fellow in Earth Sciences/CODES at the University of Tasmania. He taught undergraduate earth science and led research teams investigating super-giant sediment-hosted zinc-lead and copper deposits found in Precambrian rocks in Australia and Zambia. He now helps lead the 'FrOTHies' research group at UTAS.



**Left:** *Horodyskia williamsii* fossil slab clearly displaying the 'string of beads' formation. (Photo courtesy [www.fossilera.com](http://www.fossilera.com))

Generously supported by



## **RST Executive Positions:** **Vice President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer** **Expressions of Interest**

Expressions of Interest are invited for three Executive positions that will be open at the next AGM (March 2023). Our current Vice President Tony Webster, Honorary Secretary Marley Large and Honorary Treasurer David Wilson have all indicated that they will not accept nomination for these positions next year.

Although the next AGM may seem long in the future, potential replacements will benefit from time to become familiar with what is expected. Summaries of the duties involved in each position follow:

The **Vice President** is charged with supporting and, when necessary, delegating for the President and is expected to participate in RST Council committees. The Vice President may serve for a maximum of two years but is elected annually, and usually succeeds the President to that position.

### **The Honorary Secretary:**

- arranges the meetings of the Society, the Council and the Foundation
- ensures that Minutes of all meetings are kept and entered in Minute Books
- has responsibility for the preparation and compilation of documents relating to RST Council meetings and the RST Foundation
- has primary responsibility for correspondence to and from the Society
- liaises with the Newsletter Editor regarding Newsletter production
- provides a report on activities at each meeting of Council.

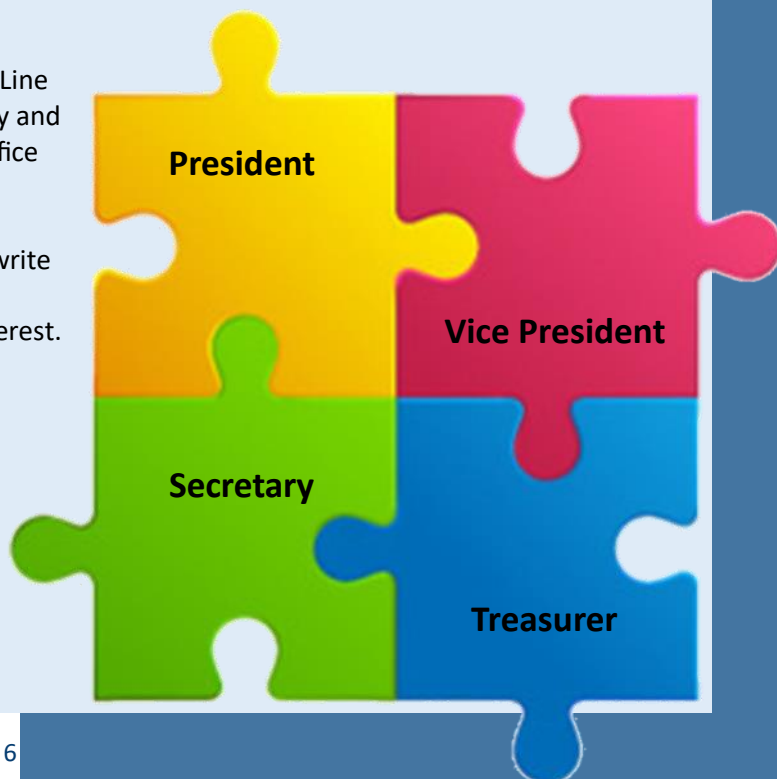
### **The Honorary Treasurer:**

- has general financial oversight of the Society's affairs
- keeps accurate records of all money received and expended
- prepares and presents reports at each Council meeting on the Society's financial position and obtains Council approval for expenditure
- produces an annual Statement of Income and Expenditure and a Balance Sheet, and arranges the auditing of the Society's accounts
- issues receipts for all money received and oversees the Society's accounts with banks and other financial institutions
- is responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Society, ensuring proper financial records are kept and ensuring adequate insurance is in place.

The Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer are the Line Managers of the Office Manager. The Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer are elected annually and hold office for one year but are eligible for re-election.

If you have an interest in one of these positions, please write to President Jocelyn McPhie at [j.mcphie@utas.edu.au](mailto:j.mcphie@utas.edu.au) by **Friday 12 August 2022**, outlining the basis of your interest. Feel free also to contact our current Honorary Secretary ([marleyl@bigpond.net.au](mailto:marleyl@bigpond.net.au)) and Honorary Treasurer ([dwilson.tas@gmail.com](mailto:dwilson.tas@gmail.com)) for details of the positions.

Jocelyn McPhie  
President





## Launch of the Society's Art Fund

Since its formation in March this year, the RST Art Fundraising Committee has been very active. With the aim of raising substantial funds for the conservation and exhibition of the Society's large Art Collection. A five-year plan has been developed covering a variety of strategies.

Plans are in hand for a Significance Assessment of the Collection, a Preservation Needs Assessment, and the purchase of cataloguing software needed by our Honorary Curator.

The Art Fund campaign will be officially launched at the Midwinter Dinner on 14 July with the release of the Art Fund Donations Flyer. If you are not able to attend the dinner and would like to receive the flyer, please email the office at [admin@rst.org.au](mailto:admin@rst.org.au) and a copy will be posted to you.

Donations of any size are very welcome and are tax deductible. All donations to the Art Fund will be accounted for separately from the Society's other funds. Donors of \$5000 or more will be recognised as **Patrons of the Royal Society of Tasmania Art Collection**. Donations can be made directly through the special button on the RST website: [rst.org.au](http://rst.org.au)

The Midwinter Dinner will feature a Winter Warmers raffle with all proceeds going to the Art Fund. Warm thanks go to members who have very generously donated raffle prizes. The evening will also feature the auction of a stunning reproduction of one of Louisa Anne Meredith's works owned by the Society, a marvellous depiction of Cape Raoul as it looked in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

We have a special event coming up on 6 September, a gala fundraising event at Government House very kindly hosted by our Patron, Her Excellency the Hon. Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania. See page 9 for more information. We do hope that you and your friends can join us for this very special evening.

Mary Koolhof  
Chair,  
Art Fundraising Committee

**Below:** *HMS 'Beagle' off Fort Macquarie, Sydney Harbour* by Owen Stanley.





# Gala Fundraising Event

## A Celebration of the Royal Society of Tasmania Art Collection

**Tuesday 6 September, 6:00 pm.  
Government House, Hobart.**

Hosted by Her Excellency the Hon. Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania

This event will feature artworks from The Royal Society of Tasmania Art Collection. Most of these works have never before been seen by the public and we are privileged to present them for your enjoyment.

**The evening will include the premiere performance of a commissioned musical work, *Echoes from Van Diemen's Land*, by noted composer Thomas Rimes and performed by ensemble members from the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra. This musical piece is inspired by artworks from The Royal Society of Tasmania Art Collection. We thank Thomas Rimes and the TSO for their generous support of this event.**



The musical performance will be followed by a reception generously hosted by our RST Patron, Her Excellency the Hon. Barbara Baker AC and Emeritus Professor Don Chalmers AO.

The evening will conclude with a silent auction of a stunning, limited edition reproduction of an artwork from the Collection.

**All proceeds from the event will go directly to the conservation and exhibition of artworks in The Royal Society of Tasmania Art Collection.**

The ticket price is \$200. Dress code: cocktail attire.

We extend very grateful thanks to the Governor for providing the reception on the evening.

Tickets will be available closer to the event and members will be notified.

Mary Koolhof  
Chair,  
Art Fundraising Committee





**Above:** A pocket damp detector made in England for WJNO Maker of Sydney for determining the wetness of the sheep to be shorn. Found in a drawer in “Ellengowan”, the home of Jacobina Burn near Hamilton – now a shearing shed. Donated to Peter Manchester.

## September 2022 proposed coach trip to the Derwent Valley region telling participants about interesting aspects of the history, human geography and geology.

RST Councillor Peter Manchester, who spent many years in the Hamilton, Ouse and Gretna region (mainly for geological studies), will be conducting a day coach trip on Sunday 18 September (if numbers warrant) for RST members and friends to the New Norfolk and upper Derwent Valley. Finer details will be given in the newsletter and on the website as time gets closer in August. Details were given in the May and June newsletters as to where the trip will go.

**This trip will be of real interest to members, especially the human and settlement history of the area north of New Norfolk.**

If members and friends would like to express their interest in being part of the trip, please contact Peter by email at: [milingandi@vision.net.au](mailto:milingandi@vision.net.au) as soon as possible so that organisational details can be made.

### Some very interesting readings about the district are:

Mr Provost Marshal John Beaumont lost hold of his cantankerous horse after drinking on his stomach out of a stream. He could not catch it and it galloped off, leaving Beaumont to his own devices.

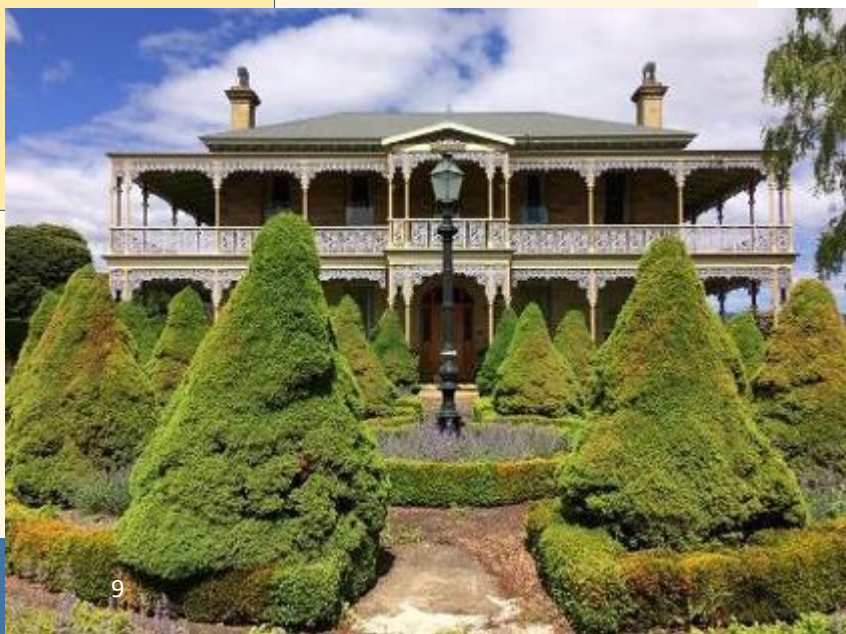
He was still many miles from home and, if he had ever learnt any swear words, he used them now, for his saddle bags with pistols and everything else had gone with the horse.

G T Lloyd lived at “Lawrenny” (pictured below), now a 400-acre property in Tasmania’s Central Highlands. Lloyd and his friend tell of the cattle around “Lawrenny” brought up from Hobart that were “wilder if possible than the kangaroos”. The moment they saw a man on horseback, even from a mile’s distance, they would take to flight into the scrubby hills among the rocks.

They lived in an old house (little better than a hut) which was used as a shed behind the present magnificent homestead now on the bank of the Derwent. A few years ago, it was demolished. It had a large kitchen with three fireplaces, flagged stone floor and a huge brick-baking oven beside one of the chimneys, capable of holding 50 loaves of bread at a time. The size of the kitchen was unique and often was used to sleep the wet-clothed men.



**Above:** Coalminer’s lamp that ran on calcium carbide with water producing acetylene gas which burns with a clean, white flame. Found in the slag heaps by Peter Manchester at the Langlosh Coal Mine just north of Hamilton.





## Recent RST Publications

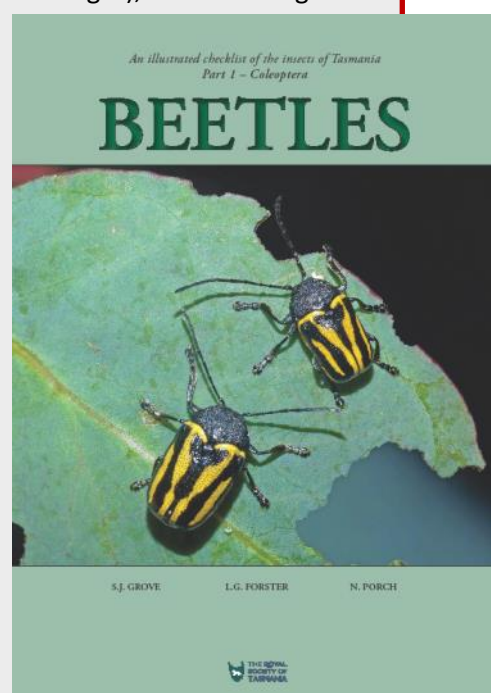
Three new publications are available to add to your reading list:

All items below are available for purchase online via the [RST Shop with some offering a membership discount](#).



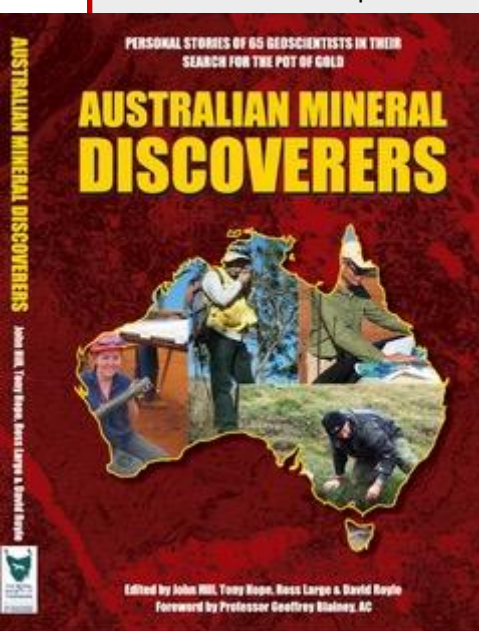
**RST Notebooks** featuring a choice of three cover images from the Society's Art Collection and the Special and Rare Book Collection are available (- see left). Beautifully bound and presented, these prestigious notebooks are ideal for meeting notes or creative writing, so why not buy yourself a couple or as gifts for others? \$25 each or \$22.50 member discount. [Purchase now](#).

**An Illustrated Checklist of Tasmanian Beetles**, prepared by experts Simon Grove, Lynne Forster and Nick Porch (- see cover at right), is an exciting new taxonomic guide to Tasmanian beetles with diagnostic information on



nearly 3000 species, including over 600 endemics and seven species found only on Macquarie Island. Featuring thumbnail images of every group and 16 full colour plates, this fantastic new resource will help you identify and learn more about Tasmania's enigmatic beetle fauna. \$46 [Purchase now](#).

Following Volume 155(1) celebrating the RST Northern Branch centenary in June 2021, the RST Journal **Papers and Proceedings Volume 155(2)** features the transcripts of speakers at the historic *Apology to Tasmanian Aboriginal people*, as well as a diverse range of scientific and review papers of wide interest. Contact the Office to purchase a copy [admin@rst.org.au](mailto:admin@rst.org.au)



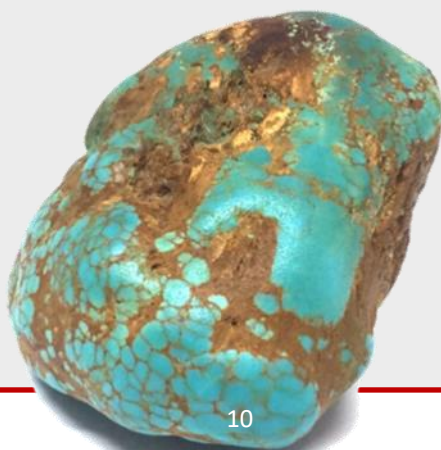
### **Australian Mineral Discoverers: 1950-2010**

first published in December 2020 has now been reprinted. Edited by John Hill, Tony Hope, Ross Large and David Royle, this book features the biographies of 65 Australian mineral explorers and educators. Their stories show that the discovery of buried minerals is an extremely complex science, requiring knowledge, innovation, disciplined application of geological principles, teamwork, persistence and luck. \$60.00 non-member

**RST members' discount on this item @ \$50.00 [Purchase now](#)**.

**For overseas orders, please contact the Society directly to calculate postage and place the order: [admin@rst.org.au](mailto:admin@rst.org.au)**

For orders of more than one copy, please contact the Society direct: [admin@rst.org.au](mailto:admin@rst.org.au)





## The Royal Society of Tasmania Office

The Society office is open on Thursday mornings 9:00 am to midday. Enter the Custom House building from the Davey Street entrance and register at the Visitors' Desk.

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 THURSDAY morning on 03 6165 7014.

### Main Society contact:

GPO Box 1166

Hobart TAS 7001

Email: [admin@rst.org.au](mailto:admin@rst.org.au)

### Northern Branch contact:

Christine Beswick, Secretary:

0417 330 118

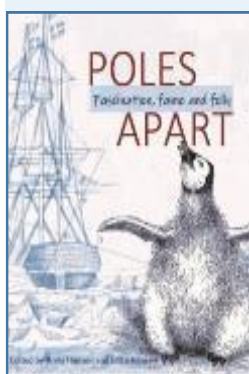
PO Box 47 Perth TAS 7300

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

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

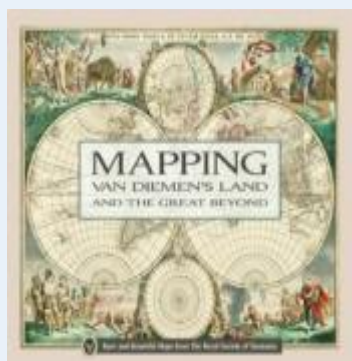
## 10% discount for Members on these books.

### Discounted prices for members are shown beside each book:



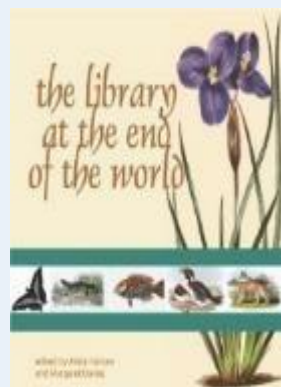
#### Poles Apart: Fascination, Fame and Folly

Hardcover (\$22.50) and Softcover (\$13.50)



#### Mapping Van Diemen's Land and the Great Beyond

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



#### The Library at the End of the World

Hardcover (\$60) and Softcover (\$36)



#### Charles Darwin in Hobart Town

Softcover (\$32 member or \$35 non-member)



#### **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](mailto:editor@rst.org.au)



#### Special publications still available:

*The Sub-Antarctic* (21 papers on various aspects of the Sub-Antarctic islands).

*Aspects of Tasmanian Botany* (– a collection of botanical papers given at a symposium honouring the work of Dr Winifred Curtis AM); *Tasmanian Wilderness – World Heritage Values*.

Purchase direct from the Royal Society Office on Thursday mornings 9:00 to 12:00 noon or email [admin@rst.org.au](mailto:admin@rst.org.au) or phone Thursday mornings on 03 6165 7014.

## The Royal Society of Tasmania's Art Collection

The Royal Society of Tasmania's Art collection is housed at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart. Any queries please contact the Honorary Curator, Dr Anita Hansen: [anita.hansen@utas.edu.au](mailto:anita.hansen@utas.edu.au)

### Louisa Anne Meredith (1812–1895)

**Right:** Portrait of Louisa Anne Meredith by JW Beattie.

Louisa Anne Meredith was quite a remarkable woman; a prolific artist, writer and social commentator. The Society has a large number of her sketches and watercolours in its Art Collection, as well as a number of her books in its library. I won't attempt to write her complete biography here as it would soon turn into a whole book, and Vienne Ellis has already written the excellent *A Tigress in Exile: Louisa Anne Meredith* if you want to find out more about her. I will however, tell you a little something of her life and work in the articles I write for this newsletter over time.

#### **Some of My Bush Friends in Tasmania**

In May, I wrote about the collaboration between Louisa Anne Meredith and Edward Bateman on her book *Some of My Bush Friends in Tasmania*. The first volume of this book was published in 1860, and the second in 1891. It is the second volume that I will concentrate on here as this is the one she worked personally on with Bateman.

More importantly, the Royal Society of Tasmania has the original watercolours for this volume in its Art Collection. A set of exquisite illustrations featuring of some of Tasmania's most iconic wildflowers.

#### **Sailing to England**

Louisa writes in the *Preface* to the volume, that she had sent the illustrations and text of her first volume to England to be printed. This time she decided to accompany the artworks and travel to England herself – no small undertaking as she was seventy-nine years old at the time.

She wrote, 'For a woman of nearly eighty years of age to make the voyage from Tasmania to London, bringing a book to publish, was doubtless an exploit of less wisdom than valour; but my purpose is achieved, and I now hope to return and end my days among my children, in the pleasant colony to whose service my best efforts have been so long devoted.'

Louisa also wrote in the *Preface*, 'Now, in the late evening of life, when the work of author and artist is usually considered done, I am thankful still to retain some power for the practice of my old pursuits ...'

Her work was certainly highly regarded by the leading scientists of the time. Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker, Director of Kew Gardens, checked the proofs of the book to ensure that they were botanically correct, and Professor John Westwood, entomologist, checked the insects.

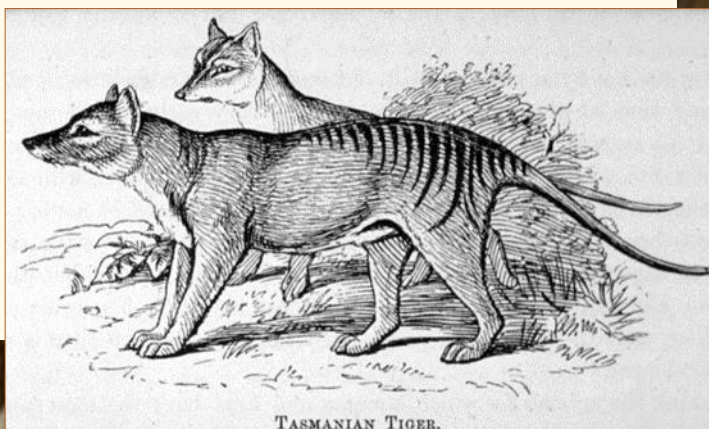
In the past, John Gould had allowed her to copy illustrations from his books for her children's books. She also had the help of her friend Edward Bateman. *Bush Friends in Tasmania: Native flowers, fruits and insects, drawn from nature* was lithographed by arguably the best chromolithographers in England, Vincent Brooks, Day and Son. Quite an impressive list for a female artist from the colonies!

#### **The Illustrations**

The Society has in its Art Collection thirty-nine of the original watercolours that were used in the book. They are beautiful examples of her detailed – and accurate – representations of the Tasmanian wildflowers she came to so love during her life in the colony.

I'll only look at a couple of examples for this article. I've picked these two for a number of reasons; they feature just one or two species (most of the other watercolours are of a number of different species), the three plants illustrated are all endemic to Tasmania, and last, to compare Louisa's

**Right:** *Tasmanian Tiger*, Louisa Anne Meredith, from *Tasmanian friends and foes: feathered, furred and finned*, from the Society's library.







original watercolour with the printed chromolithograph that appears in the book.

**Left:** *Richea dracophylla* (White Flowering Grass Tree). Watercolour left, chromolithograph right, Louisa Anne Meredith.



**Left:** *Anopterus glandulosus* (Tasmanian Laurel) and *Prionotes cerinthoides* (Climbing epacris) Watercolour left, chromolithograph right, Louisa Anne Meredith.

One thing that is immediately obvious is the strength of the colours in the chromolithograph. There are two main reasons for this: the processes themselves and the fading of the watercolours. A chromolithograph will nearly always appear much stronger, more vibrant, in colour; the inks are opaque, while watercolours are transparent.

The *Richea* watercolour shows the most damage due to fading. This is one of the greatest problems that occurs when exposing a painting to

light when hanging or exhibiting watercolours.

The other thing that is evident in comparing the images is the skills of the people involved in reproducing the images. The image needs to be redrawn onto the stone. For each colour used, a different image needs to be drawn, and each image needs to be registered accurately when being printed. These images show the exceptional chromolithographic skill of Vincent Brooks Day and Son.

These are remarkable natural history illustrations by a remarkable woman.

#### Last word

The Royal Society of Tasmania has a large collection of Louisa Anne Meredith's artworks which I'll continue to write about in these articles to showcase her skills in natural history illustration, landscapes and architectural art.



# Membership Reminder

If you are unsure whether you have renewed your membership for 2022, please check your membership card. The expiry date appears at the bottom of the card. See sample at right.

RST membership can be [renewed by clicking here](#).

Roxanne Steenberg  
Membership Officer



## The Society's Library



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

- Please make appointments via [special.collections@utas.edu.au](mailto:special.collections@utas.edu.au) to assist with managing maximum occupancy requirements.
- Opening hours are 10:00 am to 5 pm, 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.

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](mailto:special.collections@utas.edu.au)

Janette Burke, University Librarian, Collections,  
Library Services | Academic Division, University of Tasmania





**Above:** SY *Aurora* at berth in Hobart harbour. (Photo coolantarctica.com)

## Sir Douglas Mawson, The Royal Society of Tasmania and Changing Perceptions of Science

One of the many benefits of being a polar researcher in Hobart is that our 'Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office' (State Library of Tasmania) and also the 'Special Collections' and Royal Society Library at the University of Tasmania are all wonderful institutions. Their collections are first rate and the staff are particularly helpful and well versed in the materials. A recent

search has turned up an interesting issue that will be examined, briefly, here. This is a snapshot of two moments in time that reflect on a larger question, "What connections has The Royal Society of Tasmania had with visiting Antarctic explorers?"

Douglas Mawson has become, over the last century, one of Australia's great heroes. His extraordinary tale of courage during the Australasian Antarctic Expedition (AAE), 1911–1914, make him perhaps our first national hero prior to Gallipoli. The AAE was particularly important in terms of the science conducted during the expedition and has been hailed as a key moment in the development of Australian intellectual life. What is often not discussed is Mawson's time in Hobart prior to the expedition and the fact that there was little or no interaction with The Royal Society of Tasmania (RST) during those weeks. In 1930, Mawson was in Hobart again, this time preparing for voyage two of BANZARE. On that visit he was invited to a meeting of the RST. What made the difference?

During 1910 and early 1911, Douglas Mawson had sought to garner support from the prestigious Australian Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) for an Australasian expedition to Antarctica. The AAAS gave their stamp of approval to Mawson's plans and pledged a significant sum of money towards the cost of the expedition. Mawson arrived in Hobart in early November 1911 to prepare for the expedition, dealing with logistics, packing stores onto the expedition vessel, *Aurora*, and making public speeches to enthuse Tasmanians about Antarctica. On Wednesday 15 November 1911, *The Mercury* reported on the Proceedings of the meeting of the RST the previous night and noted that JW Beattie opened discussion of Duterrau's painting *The Conciliation*, and that there had also been conversation about gigantic marsupials that existed in Tasmania many thousands of years ago.

It was also reported that, at the end of the meeting, "His Excellency referred to the lecture to be given by Dr Mawson at the Town Hall, and asked members present to attend. It would deal with Antarctica and the expedition." So, there was some vice-regal knowledge about the expedition but no real engagement with the RST: there was no other discussion about the Antarctic Expedition nor any mention in the minutes of the meeting about the science that might be accomplished in Antarctica.

There were in fact other venues in Hobart at which Mawson spoke during his time here. Sir Harry Barron, the Governor, presided at a lecture by Mawson at the Town Hall (Monday 27 November 1911) at which Mawson showed slides of his past expedition to Antarctica. There was a large audience and many important guests including Lady Barron, Comte de Fleurieu, the Chief Secretary, Dr Butler and the Surveyor General, Mr EA Counsell. Mawson showed many fine illustrations including a map of Antarctica indicating its vast size. He told stories of the *Nimrod* Expedition with Shackleton and discussed the possibility of developing Tasmanian penguin and seal oil industry based at Macquarie Island.

This lecture was very informative. But Dr Mawson talked about the courage of the expeditioners in Antarctica and also about the extraordinary beauty of Antarctica. This was not really about science. Why not? Perhaps Antarctic science was so recent that the expedition – despite being the first wholly Australasian scientific voyage to the icy continent – was not yet widely known by the general public and still not well understood by many in academic and scientific circles? Perhaps most importantly, Mawson was going to Antarctica and little was known about what he might, yet, achieve.

Nonetheless, only a few months later, on Monday 18 March 1912, Roald Amundsen the Norwegian polar explorer **was** invited to attend a meeting of the RST. At that Royal Society meeting, Captain Amundsen spoke about both the former Lieutenant Governor of Van Diemen's Land, Sir John Franklin, and also Captain James Clark Ross, the British explorer of the Antarctic, as two who had inspired him. Referring to Hobart, he noted that "...the harbour of Hobart

is an almost perfect one, large and remarkably well protected.” (The Royal Society of Tasmania, *Papers and Proceedings*, 18 March 1912; *The Mercury*, 19 December 1912). Amundsen announced to the world from Hobart that he had reached the South Pole and the excitement in Hobart was considerable – the explorer was immediately acknowledged as a star of the Heroic Era. Amundsen had been successful and was on his way home – this is a fundamental difference between the situations of the two explorers and perhaps why the latter was given so much more attention.

In November 1930, Mawson was again in Hobart preparing for the second voyage of the British Australian and New Zealand Antarctic Research Expedition (BANZARE). This time there was greater interest in his work and the Antarctic. Mawson spoke to various groups, including the *Remembrance Club* and Lady Mawson spoke at the Lyceum Club. *The Mercury* reported that on Monday 17 November 1930 there was also a RST meeting of which one part was focused on Antarctic Biology. This was led by Professor T Harvey Johnston, Adelaide University (the senior biologist on the BANZAR expedition) who spoke of the animal and plant life of Southern Ocean and the many difficulties of trawling.

The other part of the meeting was a reception for Sir Douglas Mawson (who had been knighted in 1914). The Governor, Sir James O’Grady, said in introduction that “Sir Douglas was not only an Australian and a Britisher, but also a world figure, and His Excellency wished him and his colleagues god-speed and a happy return.” This reflects the dual allegiance of Australians and New Zealanders with Britain prior to WWII.

Mawson (by this time an honorary member of both the Royal Societies of London and Tasmania) gave an illustrated lecture entitled “Life in the Antarctic”. Both the topic – focused mostly on science – and the event, indicated that attitudes in Hobart towards science and Antarctic research, had changed since 1911. The BANZAR expedition was specifically about charting the Antarctic coastline south of Australia, making sovereign claims over a large slice of that territory, exploring the depths of the Southern Ocean and researching the possibilities for financial gain from whaling, sealing or fishing. This activity matched well with federal and state government ambitions in the region and Mawson, now recognised as an important international scientific figure, was appropriately lauded at the meeting in Hobart.

By the 1930s, the Heroic Era of Antarctic exploration was over and the era of modern cooperative science had begun. Mawson’s AAE was not able to stimulate much scientific interest in Hobart – perhaps because we were more interested in the romantic vision of exploration of Antarctica: Mawson’s BANZARE received more attention because the ‘Race to the Pole’ was over and Mawson had already achieved much in Antarctic Science - a field of knowledge that was considerably better understood by 1930.

#### References:

- The Royal Society of Tasmania, *Papers and Proceedings*, 14 November 1911
- The Royal Society of Tasmania, *Papers and Proceedings*, 18 March 1912
- The Royal Society of Tasmania, *Papers and Proceedings*, 17 November 1930
- *The Mercury*, Wednesday 15 November 1911
- *The Mercury*, Thursday 19 December 1912
- *The Mercury*, Tuesday 18 November 1930.

**John Williamson**



**Above:** Sailing Yacht *Aurora* entering Hobart harbour. (Photo Xavier Mertz)



**Left:** SY *Aurora* seen from within a cavern of the Mertz Glacier Tongue, Commonwealth Bay, Adelie Land. Mawson named Commonwealth Bay on January 7 1912. Mawson's base camp was established at Commonwealth Bay, on the Antarctic coast almost due south of Hobart, to where the *Aurora* returned. She left in order not to be frozen in and subjected to the damaging winter winds and sea-ice and also to be able to bring fresh supplies the following spring. (Photo Xavier Mertz, coolantarctica.com)



# Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery

Open Tuesday to Sunday, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm 1 April to 24 December 2022.



## Tours

Free tours for small groups are available on Fridays, 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](#).

## TMAG Highlights Tour

1:30 pm on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Join the TMAG guides for a highlights tour of the treasures of the Central and Henry Hunter galleries, and the historic Commissariat Complex and Bond Store

exhibitions.

## Gay Hawkes: The House of Longing Tour

11:00 am on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Join an enthusiastic art guide for a tour of the temporary exhibition *Gay Hawkes: The House of Longing* to hear stories about loss and the resilience of celebrated Tasmanian artist, Gay Hawkes.

**Right:** *Heweria kempji*, Fossil fern stem (cross-section), Early Jurassic (Liassic) from the Lune River, south-eastern Tasmania. Photo courtesy TMAG.

Don Squires, TMAG's Honorary Curator of Palaeontology, has recently compiled a catalogue documenting the museum's Palaeontological Specimens. Click the link below to read a PDF version of the catalogue.

[Type and Figured Palaeontological Specimens](#) - PDF 4.4 MB



The TMAG Cultural Heritage team cares for and develops, on behalf of Tasmania, almost 200,000 items covering the state's history (including Antarctica and Southern Ocean). These collections document events, life, and personalities that are of significance to Tasmania from the

past to contemporary life and issues. They encompass material that tells stories both familiar and unique, used and produced, individuals and communities both in their everyday lives and under extraordinary circumstances.

Cultural Heritage staff make these collections, stories and associated knowledge accessible through research, exhibitions, and public programs working in association with others across TMAG.

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