



THE ROYAL
SOCIETY OF
TASMANIA

THE ADVANCEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE

NEWSLETTER

June/July 2024

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President's Message



Dear RST members,

From time to time, I am asked by outsiders exactly what it is that The Royal Society of Tasmania does. I usually respond with **our mission 'to advance knowledge'** before going on to talk about some of our ongoing concerns and projects. But this type of question inevitably leads me to reflections of the dedication and passion displayed by so many of our members. This is revealed in so many ways, probably too numerous to enumerate in any substantial way, but consider some of these:

- ◆ **Our monthly lectures**, both in the North and South of the State, are often delivered by members who spend considerable time and effort on preparing and delivering their presentations. And there is considerable background preparation and on-the-ground support from member volunteers to successfully stage each event. This crucial part of our services to the full membership is a core part of our mission.
- ◆ **Membership of our Council** might well be considered a 'full time job' for many volunteers within this group. The Council members' specialised expertise and collaborative spirit drives the myriads of initiatives that define our work. Each meeting, report and project reflects the dedication to advancing knowledge and strengthening the Society.
- ◆ Every one of our activities requires some degree of funding. Membership fees cover some of our costs, but **fundraising is another vital element** in sustaining our work. Let me first say a hearty thank you to all those members who frequently donate to the Society but thank you also to those members who often 'round up' their membership fee or their dinner payment. These smaller donations are much appreciated, and they all add up to form a much greater whole. The Art Fundraising Committee have contributed considerably through providing events and entertainments for members' enjoyment and, in so doing, have been able to make a worthy start on the restoration of our extraordinary Art Collection. Fundraising efforts are the lifeblood of our financial health and, through creativity and persistence, have secured the resources to enable us to reinvest in maintaining and growing our services.
- ◆ And to **all those who contribute** in countless other ways – attending our events, leading and contributing to services, promoting us to new and potential members, thank you. Together, I am confident in saying that we have created a vibrant and supportive network which enriches the professional and personal lives of all our members.

In the last few months, we have received a series of strong applications from **secondary and senior secondary students** from around the State to attend national and international forums, conferences and symposiums. It has been a pleasure to be able to support these students and we look forward to sharing their reports with you on their return.

The conservation and preservation of the RST Art Collection has received a boost with a recent collaboration between the RST and Wagner Framemakers in Hobart. Through an initiative of Prof Ross Large AO, **Wagner Framemakers** have created a carefully selected, limited print series of many popular artworks from the Art Collection. These works have been framed in museum standard materials and are available for viewing and for sale at Wagner Framemakers in Hobart. The gallery is open on weekdays between 10 am to 5 pm. The available works include those by prominent artists such as William Charles Piquenit, John Skinner Prout, Louisa Anne Meredith, Francis Simpkinson de Wesselow and Thomas Evans Chapman. For further information, consult the brochure using [this link](#).

The works will be on exhibition for the next few weeks, and thereafter 'on demand' for viewing and purchase. We are grateful to Jemima and Felix Wagner for their generous contribution to our fundraising through this initiative.

Left: (from left) RST Art Committee Chair Prof Ross Large AO with RST President Assoc Prof Julie Rimes, Jemima Wagner and Felix Wagner from Wagner Framemakers.

Please put the **RST Winterfest** date (18 August) into your diary. This is going to be an especially fun event. See further information on pp. 6–7 below.



The second initiative, spearheaded by RST Honorary Art Curator Dr Anita Hansen is the **eHive project**. eHive is an online platform tailored for the management and dissemination of art and cultural heritage collections, enabling institutions to catalogue their items and share them with a global audience. Thanks to our volunteer team working at full productivity, we expect to be able to launch our collection globally in September. This is a groundbreaking project allowing us to share our collection online, making it accessible to the public, researchers and the public for the first time.

I send **all members a thank you**. Thank you for your membership, thank you for your support, and for getting in touch with us over a variety of matters. Your feedback is always welcome and helpful.

Finally, I welcome **new members** to the Society: Ms Bronwyn Fuller, Mr Harrison Lunn, Dr Philip Reid, Dr William Sutherland, and Dr Robert Walker. May you have a long and satisfying association with The Royal Society of Tasmania.

With best wishes,



Julie Rimes
President

Upcoming Events – RST Northern Branch

The Northern Branch of The Royal Society of Tasmania invites you to attend the following public lectures.

Where: Meeting Room, QVMAG at Inveresk, Launceston.

When: 1:30 pm **Sunday 23 June 2024.**

Topic: Dr Hannah Fair (pictured right) will speak on **“Modifying Health and Lifestyle Factors to Reduce Dementia Risk”**. There is strong evidence that a series of modifiable health and lifestyle factors contribute to dementia risk. The presentation will discuss these risk factors, and outline Tasmania’s world-leading dementia risk reduction research, including the Preventing Dementia Massive Open Online Course and the ISLAND project.

Dr Hannah Fair is a passionate lecturer and researcher who focuses on understanding and improving equity in health promotion, particularly in dementia prevention.

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



July Lecture:

Where: Meeting Room, QVMAG at Inveresk, Launceston.

When: 1:30 pm **Sunday 28 July 2024.**

Topic: Annual QVMAG Staff Lecture by Ashley Bird (pictured left) on **“Bush Carpentry and the Jimmy Possum Tradition”**. The history of this tradition is a narrative of chairs made within a small area of Northern Tasmania that is a story of mystery, unique craftsmanship and family connection.

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



Generously supported by



Upcoming Events

RST MIDWINTER DINNER

Thursday 4 July 2024

Susannah Fullerton OAM, FRSN

10 Novels that Changed the World

Venue: The Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Marieville Parade, Sandy Bay.

Time: 5:30 pm arrival for 6 pm lecture and dinner.



Authors have given us new modes of writing and hence new modes of thinking. There is no doubt that fiction brings change by giving us the chance to walk in the shoes of another person, to empathise with those who are different from us in some way.

There are books that have changed attitudes to women like *The Women's Room*; attitudes to animals like Anna Sewell's *Black Beauty* which argued for better treatment of working horses. There are books that have argued for change in the treatment of the poor, such as Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables*.

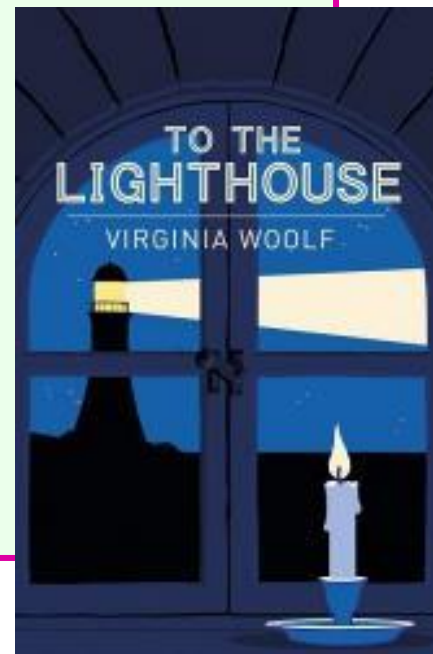
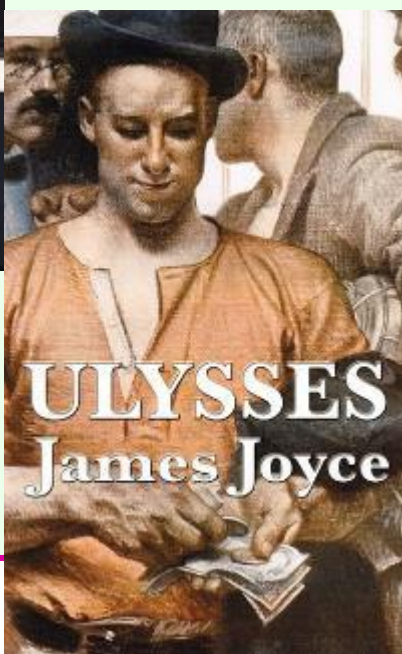
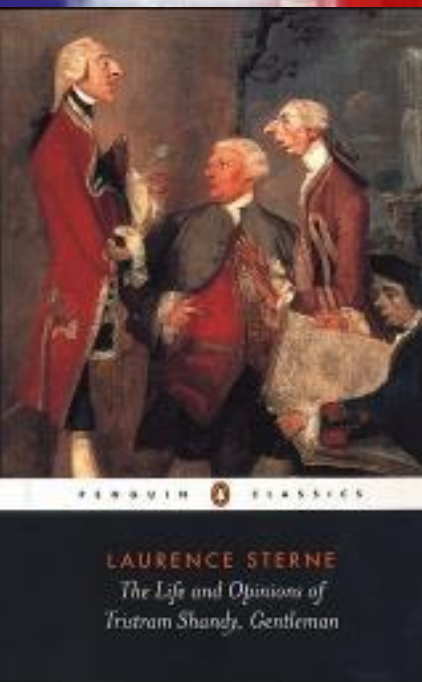
There are books that have made us think about violence, poverty, drugs, such as *Go Ask Alice*; about nature versus nurture, such as William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*. There are books that have done wonderfully creative things in fiction, such as Laurence Sterne's *Tristram Shandy* which was incredibly modern when it was published in the 18th century. It can be seen as leading a direct path to James Joyce's *Ulysses*, and Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse*.

To understand history because we enter it through a story, to speculate on the future if we read science fiction. To make us travel to lands we might never get to in real life and to experience other cultures. Fiction lets us try on another life for size.

Reading novels can change each of us and change our world. And if enough people read fiction and experience it in different ways, then there is no doubt that novels can change our world.

This event is a 'must' for your social calendar.

Cost \$75 per person which includes a welcome drink, the lecture and a two-course meal. Please **RSVP to admin@rst.org.au by Thursday 27 June.**





Glasses of warming glühwein. Image wowitsveggie.com



Above: German biscuits. Image recipeler.com

Winterfest

News from the Art Fundraising Committee

Save the Date RST Winterfest 2024

18 August, 3 – 5 pm
96 King St, Sandy Bay

Have you ever tasted Glühwein (German mulled wine)? Or German eggnog (Eierpunsch)? This is your chance!

Members and friends are very warmly invited to attend our first Winterfest, with all proceeds going to the RST Art Fund. Now that professional conservation of selected artworks is underway, we would appreciate your support more than ever.



Glasses of delicious Eierpunsch. Image rezept2020.blogspot.com



Above: Rye bread with salmon and cream cheese. Image pearl-catering.com

We are planning a very enjoyable social event for you, with Glühwein, Eierpunsch and a range of delicious European fingerfood prepared and baked by the Committee, all included in the ticket price of \$45 per person.

The afternoon will include a raffle, silent auction and live auction. Some framed prints of RST artworks will be offered. Do you have something you would like to contribute to the auction? Perhaps an interesting bottle of wine, or a special item of interest? We would be delighted if any members can help by donating auction or raffle items.

We are planning musical entertainment for your enjoyment during the afternoon too.

Please **SAVE THE DATE** in your calendar.

We will email members an invitation closer to the event.

Your chance to acquire a special item:

A very kind RST member has generously donated several items to be sold, with the proceeds going to the conservation of some of the wonderful Louisa Anne Meredith artworks in the RST Art Collection.

Members and supporters are being given the first chance to acquire these special items before they are placed elsewhere for sale.

Please contact Mary Koolhof via admin@rst.org.au or Ross Large on 0418 352 501 if you are interested.

Item 1: *Some of My Bush Friends in Tasmania: Native Flowers, Berries and Insects* by Louisa Anne Meredith (cover shown left and one of the many artworks at right). 38 cm x 28 cm, 1860 First Edition, cloth bound, decorative gilt over bevelled boards, 107 pp text, 11 chromolithographic



plates. **\$700 firm.**

In very good condition, and this item has had some conservation work on the spine. Bears a handwritten inscription: *A token of love from Mrs Charles Bayley to Eliza Isabelle Fisher on her Wedding Day, 14 June 1866.*

Louisa Anne Meredith was an early Tasmanian author, artist and botanist. Her love of flora and fauna was clearly illustrated in many of her publications. In 1860, she published *Some of My Bush Friends* in Tasmania which contains elaborate full-colour plates printed by the new chromolithography process. The illustrations were drawn by herself and simple descriptions of characteristic native flowers were given. Chromolithography

replaced colouring prints by hand and served as a replica of a real painting.

Item 2: Last Series of Bush Friends in Tasmania: Native Flowers, Fruits and Insects. Drawn from Nature by Louisa Anne Meredith (cover shown left and one of the many artworks at right). **\$800 firm** 38 cm x 28 cm, **1879 First Edition**, hardcover, decorative gilt over bevelled boards, 76 leaves, 15 chromolithographic plates. Very good condition. The plates are widely prized for their quality, which were lithographed in twelve colours.

Item 3: Lalique clear crystal bowl with frosted geranium design. (engraved 'Lalique France' on base, oval form, 6 cm H x 31.5 cm W, c. 1930. See far right) **\$400 firm.**

The name Lalique evokes the wonder of transparency and the brilliance of quality crystal. Lalique is a French luxury glassmaker, founded by renowned glassmaker and jeweller René Jules Lalique in 1888. Lalique bowls are highly captivating and play host to the maker's powerful blend of organic motifs rendered with an Art Deco sensibility.

Grants and Donations News

The Art Fundraising Committee, in close consultation with the Art Committee, is applying for two grants this year, with more planned for 2025.

The Art Fund has received a donation of \$1000 from the Chrysanthemum Foundation for conservation of artworks. We are very grateful for such community support.

As artworks are progressively conserved, we will update you and provide images.

Mary Koolhof

Chair, Art Fundraising Committee



RST Membership

Thank you to everyone who has renewed for 2024. A reminder that if you need any information about membership, you can [find it on the website](https://rst.org.au) or email the Membership Secretary at admin@rst.org.au

Communicating with its members is an important function of the RST. It is therefore vital that the information on the database is up to date. If your email or postal address changes, please notify the RST on admin@rst.org.au as soon as possible so that the database can be updated.

Roxanne Steenbergen, RST Membership Officer

Opportunity to purchase a museum-quality print from the RST Art Collection



Above: Attendees at the May 17 launch of the prints (from left) Lorraine Polglase, RST President Assoc Prof Julie Rimes, Marley Large and RST Art Committee Chair Prof Ross Large AO.

Below: (from left) 2023 co-recipient of the RM Johnston Memorial medal Em Dist Prof Paul Haddad with RST Publications Chair Dr Sally Bryant and John Williamson.



Below: RST member Grady Koolhof discusses art and the impact of professional framing with Jemima Wagner of Wagner Framemakers, Hobart.



A recent collaboration between the RST and Wagner Framemakers has resulted in a carefully selected, limited print series exhibition of many popular artworks from the RST Art Collection. The works have been framed in museum-standard materials and are available for viewing and for sale now at **Wagner Framemakers** new premises at **65 Argyle Street, Hobart**. The gallery is open to view the works between 10 am and 5 pm weekdays with onsite parking.

The available works include those by prominent artists such as William Charles Piguenit, John Skinner Prout, Louisa Anne Meredith, FG Simpkinson de Wesselow and Thomas Evans Chapman. For further information, [consult the brochure using this link](#).

We extend very warm thanks to Wagner Framemakers for their most generous support for this venture, with proceeds from the sale of prints going to the RST Art Fund. To date, \$3307 has been raised in this successful initiative.

For more information, please contact Prof Ross Large AO on 0418 352 501.

Photos throughout are from the launch event held on 17 May.



Above: Peter Tracey, Prof Sean Tracey and Malcom Short.



Left: Art Fundraising Committee Chair Mary Koolhof with the RST Honorary Art Curator Dr Anita Hansen (right).

Below: Jandy Godfrey, Chair of Arts National, Hobart.



Tasmanian Historical Research Association

Each year, the THRA presents a series of lectures based on research about Tasmanian history. The lectures are held at 7:30—8:30 pm in the Legacy function room near 159 Macquarie Street. [Click for further information](#) about these lectures.

There are two, especially, this year that might be of interest to RST members. The first is entitled *Keeping Identity: the loss of Tasmania's identity after Federation* by the **RST Honorary Art Curator, Dr Anita Hansen** and is to be held on 13 August. Anita will discuss what the RST's Art Collection can tell us about Tasmanian identity.

The other one of interest will be presented by Zoe Rimmer, a member of the TMAG's Aboriginal Advisory Council: *Repatriation of Aboriginal cultural material* on 10 September.

PAPERS AND PROCEEDINGS
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Beer Aquatic 2024

Each year in August, The Royal Society of Tasmania collaborates with the Beer Aquatic which is a lively and entertaining way to engage in marine science at the pub. The event is held every last Thursday of the month at the Hobart Brewing Company. The event this year is at **6 pm on Thursday 29 August, 2024 at the Hobart Brewing Company, Evans Street, Hobart.**

The speaker at this event is Dr Jemina Stuart-Smith, a 2021 National Geographic Explorer and marine biologist at the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (University of Tasmania) and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), where she coordinates the Handfish Conservation Project. This is a great story of local interest, so a large turnout is expected.



Above: Dr Jemina Stuart-Smith.
Image: imas.utas.edu.au

There are hot food and cool drinks on sale; and a warm jacket is recommended.



Left: A red handfish which possesses two large fins resembling 'hands', a toad-like head that sports a grumpy-looking upturned mouth, and a punk-style dorsal fin reminiscent of a mohawk. Their idiosyncrasies are coupled with a preference for walking on the seafloor using their over-sized 'hands' rather than swimming, and they have a fluffy 'lure' on their head, characteristic of Anglerfish, which they wave around as bait.
Image: www.facebook.com/photo



The Royal Society of Tasmania Medals on Offer in 2024

The RST will offer two medals in 2024: the **Louisa Anne Meredith Medal** and the **Peter Smith Medal**.

The Call for Medal Nominations **opens on 30 June** and information will be posted on the RST homepage and advertised via the RST Facebook and social media pages. Nominations for these two medals **close at c.o.b. on 31 August**.

Note: Nominations may be made by anyone, although self-nominations are not accepted.

The **Louisa Anne Meredith Medal** is awarded every four years to a person who excels in the field of arts or humanities or both, with outstanding contributions evidenced by creative outputs. The Medal honours Louisa Anne Meredith's contributions to the areas of natural history art, scientific art, literature, history and to The Royal Society of Tasmania. The medal will be **awarded in 2024 for the first time** having been established by the Society in August 2023.



Louisa Anne Meredith (née Twamley) was a remarkable woman, a prolific artist, writer and social commentator. She was the first woman to be granted Honorary membership of The Royal Society of Tasmania in 1881. The RST has a large number of her sketches and watercolours in its Art Collection, as well as a number of her books in its Library.

Meredith contributed a great deal to the work of The Royal Society of Tasmania. Over several decades, she sent interesting specimens to the Royal Society Museum and presented beautiful and accurate watercolours of many specimens to the RST. These artworks were much admired at Society meetings as being 'beautifully executed'. The Royal Society of Tasmania also purchased a number of her illustrations at the time.

More details and [nomination guidelines are available at this link](#).



The **Peter Smith Medal** is awarded biennially to an outstanding early career researcher in any field. The awardee receives a medal and will be invited to deliver "The Peter Smith Lecture" to the Society.

For the purpose of the medal, "early career" means within the first seven years since the award of a PhD, at the time of the nomination deadline. Extensions to the seven years post-PhD eligibility requirement will be offered to applicants whose career has been interrupted to accommodate carer responsibilities, illness or other circumstances.

More details and [nomination guidelines are available at this link](#).



Previous winners of The Royal Society of Tasmania medals [are listed at this link](#).

Richard Coleman (Chair)

on behalf of the RST Honours and Awards Committee.



The two 2022 Peter Smith Medal Awardees:

Left: Dr Rachel Climie. (Photo examiner.com.au)

Right: Dr Vipul Gupta. (Photo utas.edu.au)



Australian Laureate Fellowship: Professor Nathan Bindoff

Sincere congratulations to The Royal Society of Tasmania member Professor Nathan Bindoff whose world-leading research has been recognised recently with the awarding of an Australian Research Council Australian Laureate Fellowship to develop precision tracking of changes in the Earth's climate system as it responds to emission reductions. Click to read the Australian Antarctic Program Partnership article: [University wins \\$3.4 million for precision climate tracking project.](#)

Professor Bindoff's project will develop near real-time indicators of the oceans' response to human efforts to reduce emissions, thus providing governments with the evidence that reductions in emissions are working.

Professor Bindoff stated, "Precision climate tracking is new, very demanding of our existing observing and modelling systems, yet central to monitoring the health of the planet." and "The oceans are critical because they store more than 91% of the excess energy from human activity and are central to the Earth's water cycle."



Above: Physical oceanographer Professor Nathan Bindoff.
Image: utas.edu.au

Lynne Uptin OAM Achievements

The Royal Horticultural Society in London is currently staging its annual Botanical Art and Photography Show from 14 June to 7 July 2024. The exhibition hosts exquisite botanical art and photography featuring a rich variety of subjects from medicinal desert flowers to ornamental bananas, and from images of forest slime moulds to urban street plants. It showcases the work of 23 leading global botanical artists and 18 photographers, representing countries including the UK, Italy, Portugal, Romania, USA, South Africa, Taiwan, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Japan and Australia. The exhibition is held at the Saatchi Gallery in London.

Congratulations to our RST member **Lynne Uptin OAM** who was awarded the 2024 Best Botanical Art Exhibit and the Gold Medal award for 2024. Lynne's works occupy the end wall of Gallery One and are the first works seen as you enter the exhibition.

All entries are reviewed by an expert judging panel during the pre-selection process, prior to the show opening in June, and are assessed on aesthetic appeal, scientific accuracy and technical skill. **The judges noted that this exhibition contains the best quality of artworks ever received.**

In 2024, a diverse range of subjects and themes is presented. Several explore the impact of climate change and extreme weather conditions on native species such as *Sarracenia oreophila* var. *ornata* in the USA, Australia's *Banksia serrata*, and the endangered *Aster danyangensis* of Korea.

The Show contributes to a long legacy of botanical art collecting and display by the RHS, and complements the work of the RHS Lindley Collections, which holds more than 30,000 botanical paintings and heritage photographs.

We congratulate Lynne on her outstanding success.

Lynne was Director of Arts Tasmania, the State's arts funding body, for 20 years and was awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in 2010 for services to arts administration.

Right: Best Botanical Art Exhibit awarded to Lynne Uptin OAM for *The Genus Richea: A Relic of Gondwana*. At right is a detail of *Richea alpina*. © Lynne Uptin



RST Regular Lecture: Microbes that Shaped our World

by Professor Gustaaf Hallegraeff

Sunday 5 May 2024, Geology Lecture Theatre, UTAS

We were privileged to hear Emeritus Professor Gustaaf Hallegraeff, a world-renowned expert on algal blooms, talk to us about “Microbes that Shaped our World”. Gustaaf reminded us of the many recent books on microbes, including those by Raina McIntyre and Jared Diamond, that explain the importance of microbes and their role in shaping humanity. It was this theme that Gustaaf developed so successfully.

Gustaaf was born in the Netherlands very near the home of the 17th century Dutch microbiologist, Antonie van Leeuwenhoek (1632–1723) who was amongst the first to construct a small microscope and who then used his research to develop many stimulating academic papers, several of which he sent as letters to *the* Royal Society in London. He is, for many modern scientists, including Gustaaf, a scientist of the highest calibre.

Professor Hallegraeff explained the complex grouping of microbes into various Families (plants, animals, protista, monera) and the way in which the microscopic world evolved out of symbiosis and horizontal gene transfer. His examination of RNA viruses was intriguing, as these replicate very quickly but they often do so with a significant number of mutations. Hence, it is difficult to find anti-virals that match each new strain – as we have seen with the recent waves of COVID.



Above: Cyanobacteria or Blue-green Algae. Image: Thespruce.com

Gustaaf then explained examples of particularly important microbes: Cyanobacteria; Prochlorococcus; those that fix nitrogen; the microalgae of the oceans, those that cause bioluminescence; those that accumulated on the seafloor after death and now form land such as those found in the White Cliffs of Dover; Protists such as the protozoan that causes malaria, phytophthora that caused the potato blight; Fungi such as Baker’s Yeast that is so vital for the making of bread, wine and cheese, and penicillin, antibiotics, etc.; those that are also beneficial for terrestrial biofuels and for high-value pharmaceuticals; Bacteria that caused the plague, cholera; Small Pox and those that inhabit the human gut biome; Viruses such as those that cause Foot and Mouth Disease, HIV Aids and, of course, COVID. So many of these microbes are useful to humans and, actually, very few (about 1: 1,000) cause disease.

Gustaaf suggested that some of the more serious problems with microbes are due to modern human behaviour: our widespread travel, our planting of monocultural crops, human activity that has changed the climate, our encroachment on animal habitats and our overuse of antibiotics. Some of these problems could be prevented or mitigated by improving the microbial literacy of human populations. This lecture was fascinating and enlightening and given by a pre-eminent researcher on a topic of vital importance.

John Williamson
Council Member



Above: Prof Gustaaf Hallegraeff.
Image: *The Mercury* newspaper.

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2024

**NON MORE
THAN EVER**

nipaluna/Hobart Breakfast 2024

**NATIONAL
RECONCILIATION
WEEK BREAKFAST**

SPEAKERS:

SHANE HOWARD FORMER GOANNA BAND FRONTMAN, MUSICIAN, & LONG-TIME RECONCILIATION ACTIVIST.

GEO WATTS 20-YEAR-OLD PALAWA MAN, SPEAKER & MUZO FROM GEORGETOWN.

FRIDAY 31ST MAY,
7:00 AM - 9:00 AM
MYSTATE BANK ARENA

Ged Watts

Shane Howard

Tickets

Reconciliation Breakfast Tasmanian Event 31 May 2024

By 7 am, RST President Prof Julie Rimes and I were seated at MyState Bank Arena, Glenorchy, with approximately 800 guests at the National Reconciliation Week Breakfast 2024. Guests included dignitaries such as Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania and her husband, Emeritus Professor Don Chalmers AO, and representatives from political parties, state and local government, Aboriginal groups, emergency services, education, religious and sporting

Right: An impressive mass of attendees at the Tasmanian breakfast event.

groups, and many others.

Master of Ceremonies UTAS Law Student and young palawa woman **Aria Ritz**, outlined the proceedings and invited Trish Hodge to deliver the 'welcome to country'. Fully cloaked in wallaby fur, and speaking in language, Trish warmly welcomed us to come together under Reconciliation Tasmania's theme for 2024 'Now More Than Ever'. A menu of seasonal fruits, grilled corn cakes and Tasmanian inspired extras were served as we followed the proceedings on big screens around the arena.

The first speaker was 20-year-old palawa man **Ged Watts** from George Town. Ged reflected on the divisiveness of the Referendum 'No' Campaign, the pain it had caused, and what 'reconciliation' really means. He spoke of the dangers of racism and legacy of Aboriginal people feeling powerless to make change. Ged's message that you 'can't navigate the new world with old ways' left little doubt that he is a rising new advocate demanding change, justice and a voice for First Nations people.

A short break in proceedings enabled us to sing 'Happy Birthday' to **Auntie Brenda** and for Reconciliation Tasmania to announce its new scholarship honouring the life and contributions of education and social justice advocate, Chris Crerar. **The Chris Crerar Reconciliation Scholarship** offers \$25,000 to a Tasmanian Aboriginal Student at UTAS over a five-year period. So few scholarships like this exist and their hope is, with the support of partners, for it to grow into a permanent legacy.

The second speaker was renowned musician and 'Goanna' frontman **Shane Howard**. Shane humbly and eloquently narrated the devastating impact of colonial invasion not just in Van Diemen's Land but on mainland Australia, when the gun ruled. He spoke of the betrayal of Mannalargenna by George Augustus Robinson but also mentioned that, in rare instances, there were some with conscience and character that chose to help Aboriginal people. He reflected on his lasting friendships with first nations people, including musician Archie Roach with whom he had experienced transformative moments of culture and dance including one ceremony at Uluru. Shane concluded with 'Once you know – you cannot un-know', truth-telling includes truth-listening and as 'white-fellas' we need to do the hard yards now and step out of our comfort zone.

This important event finished with Shane and Ged both on guitar performing a stirring rendition of 'Solid Rock'. They sang the last verse in *palawa kani*, interpreted by Theresa Sainty, and it not only demonstrated the power of words but their amplification when delivered in this amazing anthem.

Dr Sally Bryant

RST Aboriginal Engagement Committee



Above: Shane and Ged's performance shown on the huge screen at the Tasmanian Reconciliation Breakfast.



RST Lecture by John K Davidson: *Tasmania and the Revival of Continental Drift*

John Davidson graduated in 1969 with a first-class Honours degree in Geology. He joined Esso Australia, attended Exxon's structural geology course in 1972 and accompanied Prof SW Carey (1911–2002) to the second global conference on continental drift at Princeton. He had four years in London and a year as project leader of Exmouth Plateau where he had the Scarborough gas field drilled. He left Exxon in 1980 and commenced what has been a 40-year career of worldwide consulting on the detailed practical application of his structural geology studies under Prof Carey.

John presented a wonderful lecture to a large and receptive audience, at our regular series on 2 June 2024, in the Geology Theatre at UTAS. He explained that the Earth was formed over four billion years ago and has evolved by three principal evolutions. He described continental drift using the analogy of 'boats' with plants and animals as

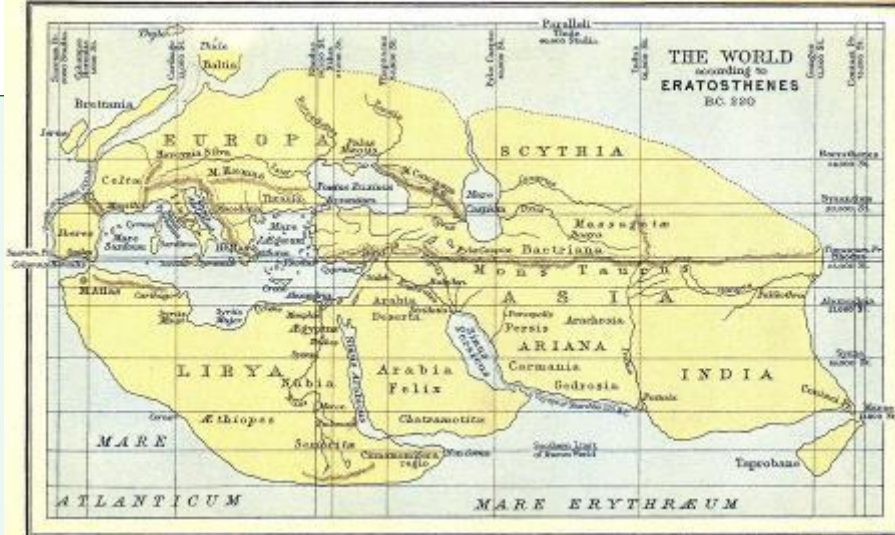
the 'passengers' that travelled through the climatic zones and evolved under the influence of glaciations.

Right: A reproduction of Eratosthenes' map of c.220 BCE. Image: vividmaps.com

Most geologists assign the discovery of continental drift to Alfred Wegener in the early twentieth century, but as John showed, the Minoans could 'map' the stars, and sail from Crete to the mouth of the Nile River, 4000 years ago and the ancient Greeks had mapped the known world by the 6th century BCE. Indeed, the first detailed movement of the continents is seen in the reproduction of Eratosthenes' map of c.220 BCE, followed later by Ortelius' 1596 map. Understanding of how continents moved, then advanced slowly until Prof Carey's cartographically accurate map, presented in Hobart in 1956, put continental drift beyond doubt.

John noted that on this path to an understanding of continental drift there have been a disproportionate number of important visitors to Tasmania who further developed ideas about this topic – these have included the botanist Labillardiere in 1793, the geologist Charles Darwin in 1831 and the botanist Joseph Dalton Hooker from 1839. John Davidson proposes, contrary to the current paradigm of Plate Tectonics, a pulsing Earth with a low but significant rate of expansion which is a development derived from Carey's 1956, *New Global Tectonics*. All of this was explained clearly and displayed the impressive substance of a lifetime's research and fieldwork.

John Williamson



The Royal Society of Tasmania 2024 Medal Ceremony

The RST Medal Presentations at Government House in Hobart on Monday 22 April 2024 was an opportunity for members and other guests to recognise Distinguished Emeritus Professor Paul Haddad and Emeritus Professor John A Church as joint recipients of the 2023 **RM Johnston Memorial Medal**. The well attended event also allowed us to acknowledge Associate Professor Alex Bissember with the **M R Banks Medal**, and to present the 2023 **Doctoral (PhD) Award** to Dr Tobias Staal.

Above: Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania with Dist Em Prof Paul Haddad and Em Prof John Church, co-recipients of The Royal Society of Tasmania 2023 **RM Johnston Memorial Medal**.

The generous and warm reception provided by Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania and her husband, Emeritus Professor Don Chalmers AO, was greatly appreciated.

Right: Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania with Prof Alex Bissember, the 2023 winner of the 2023 **M R Banks Medal**.





Left: Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania with Dr Tobias Staal, the RST 2023 **Doctoral (PhD) Award** winner.

Below left: Dr Tobias Staal with his wife, Alberte, and friends at the ceremony.

Below: Dr Tony Sprent with his brother, Prof Jonathan Sprent of Battery Point.



Above: RST Council member Dr John Thorne AM with his wife, Shirley.

Below left: (from left) Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Prof Anthony Koutoulis with RST Past President Prof Jim Reid and his wife, Patricia.

Below: RST Committee members Mary Koolhof with Marley Large and Em Prof Ross Large AO.

Above: Prof Barbara Nowak, Australian Academy of Science Tasmanian President with Em Prof Gustaaf Hallegraeff and Em Prof John Church.

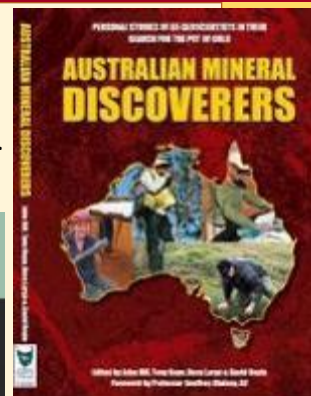
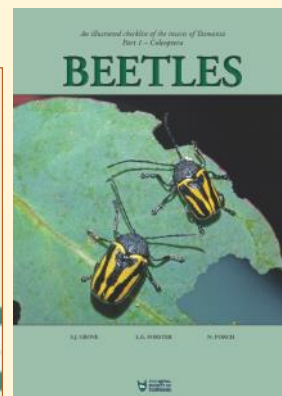
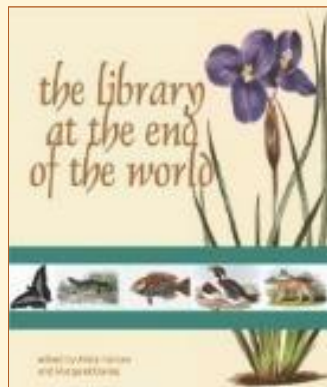
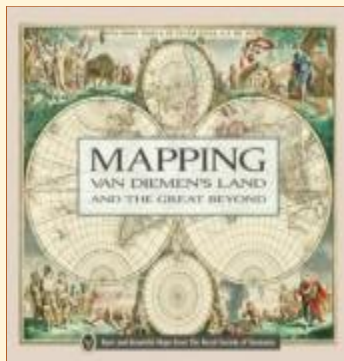
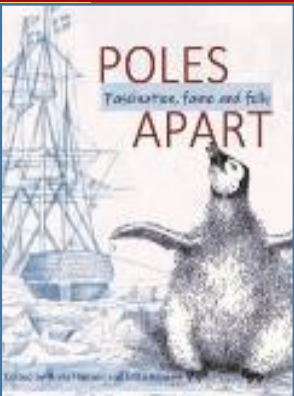


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Please email RSTLibrary.Collections@utas.edu.au for appointments and enquiries about the collection.

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