

# THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INCORPORATED

ABN 62 145 872 773

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2009

Council has the honour to present its report to Members upon the activities of the Society during its 155<sup>th</sup> year.

### **PATRON**

Professor David de Kretser AC Governor of Victoria

### **COUNCIL**

#### **OFFICE BEARERS**

President	Prof. G.D. Burrows AO KCSJ, BSc, MB, ChB, DPM, MD,FRANZCP, FRCPsych, MRACMA, DipMHIthSc(ClinHyp), FACHam, DSc
Vice-President	Dr P.G. Thorne, BSc, PhD, DipPubPol, HonDEng(Melb), FACS
Immediate Past President	Assoc. Prof. B.G. Livett, BSc(Hons), PhD
Honorary Secretary	Prof. T.F. Smith AM, BSc(Hons), PhD, FTSE, FAIP, FInstPhys
Honorary Treasurer	Prof. L. Selwood, MSc, PhD
Honorary Librarian	Mr W.B.J. Lowden
Honorary Editor	Dr A.L. Yen, BSc(Hons), PhD
Honorary Archivist	Dr D.A. McCann, DipAppChem, DipEd, GradDipLib, MEnvSc, PhD
Honorary Research Secretary	Assoc. Prof. R.L. Hughes, BE, MEngSc, PhD

#### **Members**

Dr M.J. Ackland, MBBS,MPH FAFPHM  
Dr T. Beer, DSc, PhD (resigned September 2009)  
Dr D.M. Churchill, BSc, MA, AIIIM, PhD  
Dr M. Familiar, BSc(Hons), PhD  
Mr N.P. Kennedy, BEng(Commun), MSc(Comp)  
Prof. A.P. Kershaw, BSc(Hons), MSc, PhD  
Prof. P.Y. Ladiges AO, FAA, PhD, MSc, DipEd  
Lt Col. R.M. Lightfoot, LLB, LLM, DipCivEng, DipElecEng, DipMechEng, BEMining (Hons), RFD, FIEAust  
Adjunct Prof. J. Long, BSc(Hons), PhD (resigned July 2009)  
Mr W.J.W. McAuley, BSc, MScp, KCStJ, JP, FAIE, RAE  
Prof. S.M. Rees, BSc(Hons), MSc, MPhil, PhD

#### **Resignations**

Adjunct Prof. J. Long, BSc(Hons), PhD due to his appointment as Vice-President of Research and Collections at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History  
Dr T. Beer, DSc, PhD

**TRUSTEES**

Dr D.M. Churchill, BSc, MA, AAIM, PhD  
 Em. Prof. J.W. Warren, MA, PhD  
 The Hon. Sir Edward Woodward, KT OBE, LLM, QC

**FELLOWS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA**

1995	David H. Ashton*
	Herbert H. Bolotin
	Phillip G. Law*
	Dewar W. Goode*
1996	Jerry M. Adams
	Clive K. Coogan*
	Suzanne Cory
	Sir Gustav Nossal
	Sir Arvi Parbo
	Graeme I. Pearman
	John A. Talent
1999	James M. Bowler
	Nancy F. Millis
2001	Yvonne Aitken*
	Martin R. Harris
	Barry O. Jones
	John F. Lovering
2004	Thomas A. Darragh
	Joyce R. Richardson
2005	Hilary J. Harrington
	Murray J. Littlejohn
2008	David V. Boger

\* Deceased

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

This has been a very important year for the Royal Society of Victoria with a generally very productive and active Council; an exciting activities program; the completion of the exterior repairs to the building and the finalisation of the financial reforms to ensure financial transparency.

The Society started 2009 with the hugely successful "Young Science Ambassadors Program" with 55 young people, 35 from Australia, including rural and outback schools and 17 from overseas (Finland, Canada, Scotland and New Zealand) participating. The program was centered on some of Melbourne's science "Centres of Excellence" and the South Magnetic Pole Commemorative flight. The South Magnetic Pole overflight provided the opportunity to involve the students not only in commemorating the centenary of a major Australian scientific event on 1909 but also to develop their understanding of the

magnetic field and its importance in understanding contemporary geophysics and in the contemporary uses of magnetic fields in such medical techniques as functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI). The Society is indebted for the success of this venture to the hard work of Richard Lightfoot, David Dodd and their team of volunteers.

The Society organised three excellent symposia in 2009, the Nancy Millis AC Symposium (attended by 70); the von Neumeyer Symposium (attended by 30) and the North Central Catchment Symposium in Bendigo (attended by 105). I extend my personal thanks to the organizers of these meetings in particular to Nancy Millis, John Zillman, Rod Home, Patrick Quilty, Mark Williams, Brian Greig, Alan Yen, Robb Stanley and David Dodd.

The "Blandowski" Proceedings were finally published thanks to the Honorary Editor, Alan Yen and the Guest Editors Harry Allen and Elizabeth Weldon. We moved towards publishing the Proceedings on

CD form given the cost of hard copy publishing – the Proceedings have been distributed to members. I thank Elizabeth Weldon who has done a tremendous job assisting the Honorary Editor Alan Yen in her role as the Managing Editor of the Proceedings.

The Executive Officer, Robb Stanley raised the funds from the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust and has overseen the first stage of digitisation of the Society's Proceedings from 1854 to 2005. The first 25 years have been scanned and are expected to be publicly available on the State Library website in a few months. The information will be sent to members when they are available. The process of indexing the Proceedings to facilitate search capacity is the last step, to be completed in the next few months. I thank the Executive Officer and our Archivist Doug McCann who have made sure that in the process of digitisation our valuable historic collection is not damaged.

As is known to members the Council moved to simplify the working of the Royal Society Foundation. It is now a Committee of Council and will report to the Council. This process was strongly supported by the previous Chairman Sir Laurence Muir and is progressing well under the Chairmanship of John Evans with David Dodd as the Project Officer.

I think you will agree the other momentous change in 2009 was the completion of the extensive building repairs. Robb Stanley, Executive Officer acted as the Project Manager and along with our Builder, Alan Lugton and our Architect, Greg Corbin made sure the project "came in on time and on budget". We owe a great deal to the Vera Moore Trust which contributed by far the majority of the funds to complete this urgent project. The Federal Government Grant of approximately 30% of the costs was also very welcome. In accordance with the requirements of the Federal Government Grant the building works were separately audited and reported to Canberra. The significant contribution of the Vera Moore Trust will be marked by a plaque in the building, the details of which are currently being finalized.

We have received many compliments on the restoration of the building. The environmentally friendly lighting, security cameras, humidity controlled air conditioning for the heritage library and the extensive restoration of the external masonry prior to painting. The restoration has lead to a significant increase in rental bookings, a prime source of funding for the operations of the Society. We are now planning internal renovations to the building including a

disability access toilet on the ground floor and ramp at the Victoria Street entrance. Funding for this is currently being sought.

I wish to acknowledge the tremendous energy of Peter Thorne, assisted by his wife Helen Vorrath a member of the Society, and the Burke and Wills Advisory Committee in bringing to the community's attention the science of the Burke and Wills Expedition in this 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. The next "Young Science Ambassadors Program" is expected to focus particularly on environmental and geological sciences and may include a trip out to Menindee (via Broken Hill). We look forward to a very successful Young Science Ambassadors Program in 2011.

My sincere thanks to all the speakers; it has been a very good year. The meetings are always interesting and in 2009 have been particularly well attended. We are planning to move to podcast the lectures in the near future.

I wish to especially thank our Executive Officer, Robb Stanley who has helped steer the Society through the last twelve months and met the considerable demands placed on him with good humour. Behind him have been the exceptional and remember, part-time staff to whom we owe a great deal. My special thanks to Janet Jackson for maintaining the administrative functions of the Society, to Alex Tsakmakis for his diligence in assisting with the financial reforms while maintaining the regular on-going financial processes of the Society. Thanks also go to James McArthur whose many roles as Property and Functions Manager allow the Society to continue to attract functions that fund many Society activities. As Project Officer, David Dodd has moved across the range of projects before him with great flexibility. Again I acknowledge the Executive Officer Robb Stanley, as leader of this part-time team who have dealt with the multitude of demands that have been placed before them.

It has been a tremendous honour and pleasure to serve as President (2007-2010) and I look forward to continuing on as a member of Council and Executive in my role as the Immediate Past President. Finally I wish to sincerely acknowledge the commitment and support of Peter Thorne, as Vice-President, Fred Smith in the important role as Honorary Secretary, Lynne Selwood in her successful role as Honorary Treasurer and Bruce Livett who as Past-President bought both corporate knowledge and personal support to assist.

I believe the RSV is now in a much better position than it was when I began my term of office and this is due to the hard work of many. I convey my best wishes to the incoming Council and wish them a successful year ahead.

GRAHAM D. BURROWS AO KCSJ  
President

#### 2009 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 154<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting was convened 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2009 prior to the Ordinary Meeting.

. The Officers and Councillors elected at the Ordinary Meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2008 were inducted for 2009.

. The Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2008 were received and adopted.

. Mr David Hindle, ACA, was appointed Honorary Auditor.

#### FUNDRAISING

The Society acknowledges the following Members for their generosity (post-nominals omitted): (See list on next page)

A \$4,400.00 donation was received from Microsoft and a \$50,000.00 Bequest was received from the Estate of Mary Elizabeth McComas. Joan and John Santamaria donated \$10,000.00 to Burke and Wills Commemoration activities. The Norman Wettenhall Foundation donated \$2,500.00 to the North Central Catchment Symposium and the Australian Meteorological & Oceanographic Society donated \$500.00 to the von Neumeyer Symposium.

#### FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

The former Foundation Company was formally de-registered during the year and its role and function, which has basically remained the same, is now being met by the Foundation Committee established as a standing Committee of Council, which held its first meeting in September 2009 under the chairmanship of Mr John R. Evans.

The members of the Committee are:

Mr J.R. Evans, Chairman  
Prof G.D.Burrows AO KCSJ  
Assoc Prof B.G. Livett

Prof L. Selwood  
Prof T.F.Smith AM  
Dr P.G. Thorne  
Corresponding members  
Laureate Prof Peter Doherty AC FAA  
FRS  
The Hon Dr Barry Jones AO FAA FAHA  
FTSE FRSA FRSV  
Mrs C. McGlashan

DAVID DODD  
Secretary

#### ACTIVITIES AND SYMPOSIA COMMITTEE

Prof R. Hughes (Chair), Dr M. Familiari, Prof S. Rees.

#### 2009 PROGRAM

The Society continued its program of free evening lectures held on the second Thursday of each month, March to December. The lectures were of very high quality with speakers recognised as experts in their field and we are very grateful to all of the speakers.

#### LECTURE SERIES

The Royal Society of Victoria and Geological Society of Australia Inc. (Victoria Division) A. W. Howitt Lecture The sixth lecture entitled "Why Are Islands Arcs Where They Are?" was given by Professor Roger Powell, School of Earth Sciences, The University of Melbourne on 26<sup>th</sup> June.

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria and The Royal Society of Victoria Dr David Day, History of the Bureau of Meteorology on 27<sup>th</sup> August

#### EMERITUS PROFESSOR NANCY MILLIS AC SYMPOSIUM

This symposium was held at Melbourne University on 18 April. 70 registrations; sponsorship was received from La Trobe University. Invited addresses were made by Professor Peter Doherty AC, Nobel Laureate (University of Melbourne) "Challenged by Complexity", Professor Don Bursill AM (University

*Table 1.* The Society acknowledges the following Members for their generosity.

Dr Leonard R Allen	Ms Carol R Ely	Mr John A S Link	Mr James N Rowan
Ms J Ambikapathy	Mr G Farmer	Dr Murray J Littlejohn	Mr Trevor E Rowe
Dr Neil Avery	Mr William G Fenner	Assoc. Prof. Bruce G Livett	Mr R G Seecamp
Dr Lawrence Bartak	Mr John E Ferguson	Dr Andrew W Lovett	Prof. Lynne Selwood
Mr Alan J Berry	Mr Leonard E Fielding	Dr Richard Manasseh	Mr Ivan F Smith
Dr W D Birch	Dr Donald F Gaff	Mr James McConville	Mr Anthony C Stokes
Mr Michael G Bourne	Dr Lucian Gruner	Mrs Susan M McLean	Emeritus Prof. John M Swan
Mr David T Bowd	Mr Roy T Hardcastle	Miss Nancy H McNeill	Mr Michael E Tarrant
Mr Kenneth W Bradley	Mrs Margaret C Harris	Mr Wallace W Mobilia	Dr Richard Thwaites
Prof. Graham Burrows	Dr Jane Hendtlass	Dr Thomas Mole	Prof. Bruce Tonge
The Hon. Frank Callaway	Dr Walter Hesse	Mr Simon R Molesworth	Mrs Lyn Treadwell
Dr Jane Canestra	Mr Peter W Holbeach	Ms Marilyn E Moore	Ms Snezana Trkulja
Mr Ken R Clayton	Mr Henry R Holmes	Mr John W Nairn	Dr Michael Troy
Prof. Emeritus Harold Trevor Clifford	Mr John B Jack	Mr Duke W M Paine	Ms Helen Vorrath
Mr Leon F Costermans	Dr J Vaughan Johnson	Sir Arvi H Parbo	Mr Norm J West
Dr Robert W Day	Dr Melinda Kemp	Mr Nigel Hugh Peck	Dr William I Whittton
Mr J Keith Dempster	Mr Norman P Kennedy	Dr David A Petch	Mr Mark Williams
Dr Wm T Denholm	Dr Arnold Peter Kershaw	Lady Primrose C Potter	Mrs Voi M Williams
Mr Gregory C Eccleston	Dr Judith F Kinnear	Dr F James Reid	Mr Maurice Edward Wills

of South Australia) “The Collaborative Research Centre as a Model for a Diverse Industry”, Emeritus Professor Michael Osborne (University of Melbourne) “The Idea of a University Revisited” and Professor Jim Pittard (University of Melbourne), “A Short History of the Regulation of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) in Australia”. The After Dinner Speaker was The Hon Dr Barry Jones AO.

It was a good symposium and received a half page write-up in Melbourne University’s “Voice”.

#### GEORG VON NEUMEYER ANNIVERSARY SYMPOSIUM

The Georg von Neumayer Anniversary Symposium with Dr John Zillman AO in the Chair, was held from 27-30<sup>th</sup> May at the Society. The meeting was formally opened by the Governor of Victoria, Professor David de Kretser AC with welcome addresses from the President, Professor Graham Burrows AO, the German Consul General for Victoria, Dr Anne-Marie Schleich, the President of the German Weather Service, Mr Wolfgang Kusch and the newly appointed Australian Director of Meteorology, Dr Greg Ayers. On the evening prior to the opening, delegates attended a Welcome Reception at the Bureau of Meteorology’s Victorian Regional Office, Docklands. The Symposium ended, ‘in the footsteps of Neumayer’,

with a historic tour on 30<sup>th</sup> May of Melbourne locations associated with the life and times of George von Neumayer.

A series of papers of international standing were delivered during the sessions held at the Society covering Neumayer’s life in both Australia and Germany and his achievements and legacies in the scientific disciplines of Magnetism, Meteorology, Oceanography and Polar Science.

The Symposium was characterised by a number of highlights, notably the historic satellite ‘phone call to Neumayer Station II, Antarctica with the German Consul General in attendance and the inspection at the Victorian Public Records Office, of the Neumayer ‘scrolls’ (the 1864 presentation cedar cabinet from George Neumayer to the then Melbourne Chamber of Commerce recording the noonday observations of some 300 ships during their voyages from Europe to Victoria).

#### NORTH CENTRAL CATCHMENT SYMPOSIUM - VICTORIA:

##### A Golden Era, a Changed Ecosystem Forever?

The Society held this very successful symposium on 2-3 December at La Trobe University, Bendigo Campus. The symposium recognised the environmental history and the scientific significance of the North

Central region, concentrating on the management and sustainability of the region and examined priorities and options for future management. 106 registrations; sponsorship was received. The Bendigo community was impressed with the program being taken to their region

The science was outstanding and sessions covered Pre-European Settlement; Discovery of Gold; Geological History and Changes; Water - the Diminishing Resource; Plants - Threatened Communities and Species; Animals - Adaptation to a Simplified Environment; Land Use and Management; Climate Change Implications and The Future.

#### MEMBERSHIP, FELLOWS, MEDALS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Prof. G. Burrows AO (Chair), Prof. F. Smith AM, Dr P. Thorne, Dr M. Ackland, Dr D. Churchill, Prof. P. Kershaw and Lt Col R. Lightfoot.

The Postgraduate Student Prize was held as part of the Society's contribution to Science Week on 20<sup>th</sup> August. From a very impressive line-up the Committee recommended six excellent presentations to present their work to compete in the three categories of Physical, Biological and Earth Sciences.

The prizes are supported by the E.D. Gill and Neil W. Archbold bequests and by generous donations from current Society Members; the Society supported the cost of the evening. The awards were judged by Prof. Fred Smith and Dr Robb Stanley (Physical Sciences), Prof. Pauline Ladiges and Prof. Sandra Rees (Biological Sciences), Em. Prof. John Lovering and Dr Bernard Joyce (Earth Sciences). Dr Peter Thorne acted as Moderator/Adjudicator. The Prize winners were:

**Ms Caroline D. Skene, Biological Sciences prize** for her research in "**Helicobacter Pylori Vaccines Development**".

**Mrs Michelle V. O'Rourke, Earth Sciences prize** for her research in "**The Use of Polymer Inclusion Membranes for Passive Sampling of Organochlorine and Ionic Compounds**".

**Ms Lila Warszawski, Physical Sciences prize** for her research in "**Collective Vortex Motion in Pulsar Glitches**".

Prof. Graham Burrows AO, President, presented the winners in each category with a prize of \$500.00, a certificate, and membership of the Society for 2010.

This successful function can be further supported by Members if they wish to make a donation to the Postgraduate Student Prize Fund.

#### THE RESEARCH MEDAL FOR 2009

The 45<sup>th</sup> Award of the Society's Medal for Scientific Research (The Royal Society of Victoria Research Medal) was awarded to Professor Geoffrey McFadden. The presentation to Prof. McFadden was made by Professor Burrows on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2009.

#### MEMBERSHIP

The Committee met in person or by email on eight occasions.

It considered and recommended to Council 76 applications for membership with two remaining to be completed. This was a healthy number of new membership applications and following their advertising in the Newsletters all were elected to membership in accordance with the Rules, there being no call for a ballot.

There were no nominations received for Fellows in 2009.

The Committee was pleased to recommend to Council that Professor Geoffrey McFadden, ARC Federation Fellow and Howard Hughes International Scholar from the School of Botany, The University of Melbourne, be awarded the Royal Society of Victoria 2009 Research Medal.

PROF. GRAHAM BURROWS AO KSCJ  
Chair

#### MEMBERSHIP 2009

Elected	76
Transfer to Life Membership	0
Transfer to Life Membership (Honoris Causa)	0
Resignations	79
Deaths	3
Removals (failure to pay subscription)	60
Total Membership	742

#### *Corporate Members*

Australian Delphi User Group Inc.  
Davies Collison Cave  
Melbourne Grammar School  
School of Philosophy (Melb) Inc.  
Woodleigh School



## VALE

The following deaths are recorded with deep sympathy

Mr Michael N. Grimwade

Dr Donald G. MacPhee

Mr Henry R. Holmes

## PROCEEDINGS AND PUBLICATIONS

The two parts of Volume 121 were published within the 2009 calendar year (in printed and CD format), primarily due to the hard work of the Technical Editor, Dr Elizabeth Weldon. The first issue was the Proceedings of the Blandowski Symposium and the second issue was a regular one with submitted manuscripts.

*Volcanoes in Victoria* was reprinted.

ALAN YEN

Honorary Editor

## PROCEEDINGS

The papers included in Volume 121 (Numbers 1 and 2) are listed below.

## NUMBER 1

ALLEN, HARRY

Introduction: Looking again at William Blandowski (129)

DARRAGH, THOMAS A

William Blandowski: A frustrated life (11)

MENKHORST, PETER W.

Blandowski's mammals: Clues to a lost world (61)

HUMPHRIES, PAUL

Wilhelm Blandowski's contribution to ichthyology of the Murray-Darling Basin, Australia (90)

KEAN, JOHN

Observing Mondellimin, or when Gerard Krefft '*saved once more the honour of the exploring expedition*' (109)

ALLEN, HARRY

Native companions: Blandowski, Krefft and the Aborigines on the Murray River expedition (129)

NANCARROW, JENNY

Gerard Krefft: A singular man (146)

JODLINSKI, LESZEK

'*And I still see their faces ...*': Wilhelm von Blandowski's photographs from the collection of the Museum in Gliwice (155)

LANDSBERG, HANNELORE AND LANDSBERG, MARIE

Wilhelm von Blandowski's inheritance in Berlin (172)

HOPE, JEANNETTE AND HERCUS, LUISE

The surveys of F.P. MacCabe and his records of Aboriginal placenames at the Junction of the Murray and Darling Rivers (193)

## TRANSACTIONS

MILLER, GLENN

Mildura at the time of the Blandowski expedition (i)

## NUMBER 2

TWIDALE, C.R. & BOURNE, J.A.

Course of the lower River Murray in South Australia: effects of underprinting and neotectonics? (207)

YEN, ALAN L. & KOBELT, AMANDA J.

The composition and seasonal changes in the beetle (Coleoptera) fauna of the western Victorian basalt plains native grasslands (228)

## TRANSACTIONS

RICH, THOMAS H., LI XIAO-BO & VICKERS-RICH, PATRICIA.

A potential Gondwanan polar Jehol Biota lookalike in Victoria, Australia (v)

COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Annual report for the twelve months ending 31 December 2008 (xv)

Volume 122 will be published in early 2010.

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

*Spiders and Scorpions Commonly Found in Victoria* by Ken L. Walker, Alan L. Yen and Graham A. Milledge.

*The Yarra: A Natural Treasure* by David Beardsell and Cam Beardsell.

*Volcanoes in Victoria* by William D. Birch.

*Education, Antarctica, Marine Science and Australia's Future*, Proceedings of the Phillip Law 80th Birthday Symposium.

*The Royal Society of Victoria from Then, 1854 to Now, 1959* by R.T.M. Prescott (reprinted).

*Facsimile edition of the Inaugural Addresses of the First Presidents*, Mr Justice Redmond Barry, President of The Victorian Institute for the Advancement of Science, and Captain Andrew Clarke, R.E., Surveyor General, President of The Philosophical Society.

*Facsimile edition of The Transit of Venus 1874* by R.L.J. Ellery

#### LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Mr J. Lowden (Chair), Dr D. McCann, Prof. P. Kershaw, Prof. F. Smith.

The process of having a new Library Agreement for the Society's collection held at Deakin University – Burwood Campus finalised is ongoing with a draft agreement being presently reviewed by Deakin University.

To enable a greater awareness of and access to the Society's library and records, including archives, collections made on explorations, and meteorological data collected on the Society's reserve, a draft information leaflet was prepared. This was then circulated for comment and has been sent to the Society's office for production and distribution.

As previously reported, in April 2008 a large collection of books and papers was shipped from Society Fellow, Professor Larry Harrington's New South Wales home to Deakin University's Waterfront Campus at Geelong. This substantial donation was made possible through the Department of Water, Environment and Heritage Cultural Gifts Program.

In January 2009 a visit to Deakin University Waterfront Campus was arranged through Deakin's Special Collection Librarian Kirsten Thornton. Two people on laptops with a third feeder person spent the whole day until 6 pm inputting titles with author and publication date to complete the listing of the collection.

There were many pamphlets and these were contained in numbered file boxes. The monographs were largely geology and polar related and comprised a sprinkling of foreign language material including French, German, Japanese and Russian.

There were some significant runs of journals mostly polar related, with an emphasis on glaciology and geological studies. A near complete set of the Geological Survey of New Zealand and Royal Society of New Zealand Proceedings were interesting items. There were also significant numbers of the Geological Survey of Victoria with several relating to the exploration for oil and related geology. There appeared to be some rare reports in typescript from the early 1900s. In addition there was a near complete set of US Survey Office maps of Antarctica along with various other polar related maps.

Given the unique and rare nature of many of the items, the Harrington Collection certainly meshes well with the Law, mostly polar related Collection and the geology of the Archbold and Foster Collections. It also has New Zealand niche interest. We are grateful that Professor Harrington favoured the Society with this collection.

The listing was then ordered alphabetically into monographs, serials, maps, etc. and sent to Professor Harrington, to valuers and to Deakin for their information and action and I understand the cultural donation has now been endorsed by the relevant agencies.

In the meantime listing of titles in the Society's Lecture Hall bookcase has been completed, thanks to assistance of Professor Peter Kershaw who spent an afternoon listing titles with his laptop.

The Society's map collection was also the subject of attention during the year and Mr Jock Murphy of Collections, University of Melbourne did an investigative inspection of the map cabinet in the Library. In the top drawer was found a handwritten list and this has since been typed up by Janet Jackson. Preliminary findings were reported back to Council and a more detailed inspection was suggested. That has been subsequently planned for early 2010.

During the year an initial grant from the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust will enable the start of digitising of the early volumes of the Society's Proceedings. Two sets of the hardbound edition of the Society's *Proceedings* and occasional *Transactions* are now behind glass in the Library.

Again we thank Janet Jackson for her able assembling of exchange periodicals for on forwarding



to Deakin University for processing and to James McArthur for co-ordinating openings for working bees and inspections.

JIM LOWDEN  
Honorary Librarian

### THE HALL

It is pleasing to note that numerous organisations conducted over 468 meetings during the year.

### METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVING SITE

The Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology continues its lease of the La Trobe and Victoria Streets area adjoining the Society's Caretaker's cottage.

### CITY OF MELBOURNE

The Council wishes to acknowledge with gratitude the continued maintenance and refurbishment of the grounds of the Society as part of The City of Melbourne's open space system.

### FINANCE AND INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE

Prof. Lynne Selwood (Chair), Dr M. Ackland, Prof. Graham Burrows AO, Mr N. Kennedy, Prof. P. Ladiges, Lt Col Richard Lightfoot.

#### *Staff Salaries*

Staff salaries had not been reviewed for many years and the minimum requirement of adjusting salaries with changes in the CPI had not been done since 2006. The Committee implemented a series of performance development reviews of all staff salaries using university and state public service guidelines as the models and recommended that reviews be held every two years and the salaries be adjusted with the CPI annually.

Salary commitments (e.g. leave allowances) of each staff member, which previously had not been included in the accounts are now recorded, allowing easy viewing of each record of allowances and when the debt is reaching an unacceptable level.

#### *Internal Audit*

An internal audit of income and expenditure was conducted monthly. Expenditure and Reconciliations during the previous month were reviewed and cross checked against receipts and the newly created stock book. Once the Committee familiarised themselves with the accounts the audit was conducted on randomly chosen and larger expenses.

#### *Building renovations \$414,012*

All invoices and receipts were checked against the work done as the renovations progressed. Part of the funding for the building renovations came from the Federal Government so the building works were separately audited for and approved by the Department of Environment and Heritage. Despite the re-appearance of a long standing and serious structural crack above the door on the Victoria Street side, the renovations were done within the budget, which is something of a record for the Society.

#### *Projects and Symposia*

The Nancy Millis AC, von Neumayer, and North Central Victoria Symposia were held and the Burke and Wills Project was being set up. For all projects and symposia the Committee developed a budget module, which the Committee required to show either a small profit or no deficit. Regular review of the budgets by the Committee meant that some symposia, planned without a suitable budget in 2008 and showed in early 2009 they would run at a loss if run as originally proposed, were run at little or no expense to the Society.

#### *Asset Register*

During the year the asset register has been compiled in various Word format documents and includes furniture and fittings, books and maps in the Library and office equipment. The asset register of the Library journals was not completed. A full inventory, excluding the journals, books and maps in the Library, was taken at the end of 2008 and a spot check inventory was taken in February 2010 and found that no further items were missing. An item found missing in the 2008 inventory, the corner cupboard, has been returned.

The Honorary Librarian made an inventory of books and maps during late 2009, but could not identify if any were missing because the original list of books and maps, prepared by an earlier Council, was not available.

The Committee recommends that the full asset register, including books and maps, be completed in an Excel file format and that the assets be valued and those greater than \$1,000 in value be bar coded by an outside firm within the first six months of 2010.

#### *Financial restructure*

The financial restructure of the Society will be dealt within the Treasurer's Report.

I would like to thank the very helpful and active Committee, the Bookkeeper, Alex Tsakmakis, and the Executive Officer, Robb Stanley, for their contributions to building up a new a more financially transparent Royal Society of Victoria.

LYNNE SELWOOD  
Honorary Treasurer

### FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

The Society's accounts as at 31st December 2009 have been audited and confirmed by Mr Hindle, as the Society's Honorary Auditor.

Despite many foolish and incorrect statements to the contrary, the Royal Society of Victoria Inc. is in a stronger financial position than it has been for many years. It has a surplus of \$102,514 and should move from strength to strength financially, provided the regime established during 2008-2009 is followed.

The Financial Reports from the Auditor are submitted in the format required for Incorporated Associations (Non reporting). This means that some categories of income (Other Income) and expenditure (Office, Sundry Expenses) are grouped together. For these large items I have included a further breakdown at the end of the report. For Non Current Assets, the Auditor has provided a breakdown of these in his Note 7, pages 5 and 6 of his report.

After the independent examination of the Society's 2005-2007 accounts by the Review Accountant in 2008 he found serious financial irregularities, unjustified expenditure and excessive spending, the 2009 Council concentrated on a major revision of the Society's finances using the new Financial Pro-

cedures drafted by the Audit Committee and adopted by the Council in 2008. This whole process has been overseen by the extremely hard working Finance and Investment Committee whose goal has been to produce transparent financial statements and an economic management that operates within budget. In addition, the Bookkeeper, Mr Alex Tsakmakis, has worked closely with the new Auditor, Mr David Hindle, and the new Executive Officer, Dr Robb Stanley to overhaul the entire financial structure of the Society. We owe a great debt to them for their efforts. The following has been achieved:-

- Progressive conversion from a cash to an accrual system of accounting. This will remove the apparent large surpluses or large losses in years where large grants for the building are obtained in one year and spent in the next, respectively. The graph shown in the Newsletter in 2009 illustrates this very well.
- Development of a budget system that was applied to current and any new projects. Under this system all projects must have a budget developed at initiation of the project, which is designed to cover losses and which is adhered to.
- Total revision of the Chart of Accounts so that the 14 pages of the previous Chart of Accounts were reduced to two pages. Expenditure / Income is reported by type e.g. salaries, postage etc. and then reported in sub categories such as particular activities. This allows easy examination of the total cost of any expenditure such as salaries in addition to a breakdown of salaries across all projects. Because this is such a major revision of the accounts I have attached an explanatory sheet to accompany the Society Statements that clarifies which items of expenditure are now handled in a different way in the new Chart of Accounts. Members should note that in the 2011 Annual General Meeting the accounts will be even simpler because many items that appear as a zero in the 2009 accounts will disappear in the 2010 financial statements.
- Preparation of an Asset Register to make it easier to check, value, identify and locate assets is in progress. Annual inventory of assets using the Asset Register in combination with the new security cameras should prevent the loss of assets that occurred before 2009.
- The renovations to the building, despite the additional cost because of a large crack reappearing, came in according to budget, was fully separately

audited as required by the Federal Government, has caused renewed interest in the Society and is expected to increase revenue from rental of Society rooms.

A number of anomalies have been addressed. The main one is the Lynette Young Bequest (1991, 1992) to support publication of valuable scientific manuscripts that might otherwise not be published. It was used to support some publications, but was directed mainly into expenditure on repairs for the building by previous Councils and was spent by 1997 as documented in the Council Minutes of that year. When this was discovered in 2009, the Council accepted the recommendation of the Finance and Investments Committee that the spirit of the Lynette Young Bequest be noted when suitable publications are available. This has been done for the re-issue of the book *Volcanoes in Victoria* and will be done for the book on *The Science of Burke and Wills* and for future books. From 1997 onwards, the bequest should have disappeared from the Society's accounts, and was removed in 2009.

Some suggestions that the Society has greatly increased its expenditure on wages are not sustained by an examination of the accounts. The wages totals were \$156,127 (2008) and \$238,941 (2009) but this does not take into account that in 2008 a large proportion of the expenses related to projects were wages (\$43,215) but not reported as such, and the payout to the previous Executive Officer was around \$63,000 making the total wages for 2008 \$262,342. In addition, the wages in 2009 are inflated by debts incurred in previous years because the CPI was not paid since 2006 (\$6,306), leave debts had to be paid out (\$9,143) and the wage of the Project Officer (\$42,337) was paid for by a donations. If these items are taken into account 2009 salaries (\$181,155) are less than 2008 wages (\$262,342). The Society is running more economically with respect to wages.

The Society has three major sources of income: rentals, membership subscriptions and donations. The income from donations has been maintained, with further donations promised in 2009 but not yet received. Rental income was down in 2009 due to the building renovations and the general lessening of rental income in the city area due to the economic climate. I would like to thank Mr James McArthur, Functions and Property Manager, for his efforts that resulted in high levels of rental income despite the problems of 2009.

2009 has been a year of major revision of Society finances and general office management that will be of enormous benefit to the Society in the future. It is desirable to build up reserves to deal with the continuous cost of the building and to further support science. I look forward to future years when the Society's accounts are more transparent and the Society continues to improve its financial position as it has done in 2009.

#### *Explanatory Notes Finances RSV 2009*

Mainly due to changes caused by 86% reduction in size of Chart of Accounts

#### *Income and Expenditure*

See facing page.

NB: Many accounts types not used in 2009 will disappear from statements in 2010 making them simpler to read.

Discretionary share portfolio: Market value recovered loss made during financial downturn

LYNNE SELWOOD  
Honorary Treasurer

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Society's thanks and appreciation are due to those people and organisations that contributed their valuable assistance during the year. Notably:

- Mr Andrew Blogg, Honorary Solicitor
- Lt Col Richard Lightfoot, Honorary Engineer, Sponsor of South Magnetic Pole Overflight. Commemoration and Co-Leader of the 2009 Young Science Ambassadors Program
- Dr Elizabeth Weldon, Honorary Managing Editor
- Mr David Hindle, Honorary Auditor
- The Ralton Group Ltd., Honorary Financial Investment Advisors
- Mr Greg Corbin, Architect
- Mr David Hogg, Consulting Engineer
- Mr Alan Lugton, Caral Building Services Pty. Ltd.
- Mr David Dodd
- Volunteer assistance with the Newsletter - Ms Wendy Coates, Mr Leon Costermans, Mrs Barbara Day, Mr Ian Farnsworth,

## ADMINISTRATION

Mr Bill Fenner, Mr Richard Franklin, Ms Maretta Frolley, Mr Rob Glenie, Mr. Jim Lowden, Dr Tom Mole and Mrs Elaine Muir.	Dr Robb Stanley	Executive Officer (part time)
- Volunteer assistance with the 2009 Young Science Ambassadors Program –	Mr Alex Tsakmakis	Administration Officer - Finance (part time)
Ms Claire Baxter, Ms Fay Clarke, Ms Wendy Coates, Mrs Elizabeth Lightfoot and Mr Roger Morgan.	Mrs Janet Jackson	Administration Officer - Secretariat (part time)
	Mr David Dodd	Project Officer (part time)
	Mr James McArthur	Functions and Property Manager

This Report is approved by Council for presentation  
to Members at the Annual General Meeting to be  
conducted Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2010.

GRAHAM D. BURROWS AO KCSJ  
President

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>\$</b>	
Interest	16,818	Down in 2009 due to changes in interest rates and spending on building renovations
Coin and Stamp Sales	60,292	New Account set up in 2009 to deal with sales for Young Ambassadors (YSA)
Sponsorships and grants	35,000	(digitizing grant), \$19,854 (grants for B&W, Society)
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Accommodation and travel	34,435	Janet Clarke Hall YSA (30,345), BSW (4090)
Accounting	540	Audit fee for renovation, Federal Govt. requirements
Bank charges	2,270	not a separate account in 2008
Catering, hall hire, etc.	27,208	also grouped in rentals 2008
Publications, coins, etc	25,183	not an account category 2008
Depreciation	2,698	needed overhaul for last few years
Equipment repair etc.	5,718	software, security, microwave
Fringe Benefit Tax	(930)	Different salary structure in 2009
Insurance	25,765	Increased in 2009 re building valuation, will increase in 2010/2011 with Asset valuation
Legal	7,894	Liquidation of Foundation Company (2,850), OHS investigation (5,044)
Long service Leave	-11,510	LSL in excess paid back into account
Meetings	12,579	not an account category in 2009, costs divided into expenditure types
Office	37,723	costs divided into expenditure types not strictly comparable with 2008
Proceedings	21,797	2nd volume out but not paid for in 2009
Publications, coins and stamps	25,183	Volcanoes reprinted (10,095), printing costs reported as stock in hand
Rental	0	costs now reported by expenditure types mainly wages
Sundry expenses	37,108	see breakdown in notes
Wages	238,941	see text

*The Royal Society of Victoria Inc (a Non-reporting Association)*

## INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

	Note	2009 \$	2008 \$
INCOME			
Members' subscriptions		82,884	86,124
Rental Income		211,898	234,329
Coin and stamp sales		60,292	
Donations		121,939	141,165
Sponsorships and Grants		54,854	
Other Income		51,682	31,421
Interest		16,818	37,782
Building Works Grant			127,273
RSV Intrepid Project			17,489
Young Science Ambassadors			109,955
		<u>600,367</u>	<u>785,538</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Accommodation and Travel		34,435	
Accounting		540	
Advertising and Promotion		837	829
Audit – Honoraria		2,000	2,000
Bank charges		2,270	
Catering		27,208	12,579
Depreciation		2,698	1,465
Donations		1,200	1,750
Electricity and gas		6,814	6,094
Equipment Repairs and Replacements		5,718	
Fringe Benefits Tax		( 930)	10,504
Insurance		25,765	16,795
Legal Expenses		7,894	
Long Service Leave		(11,510)	37,261
Office expenses		41,982	37,723
Proceedings		21,797	49,551
Publications Coins & Stamps		25,183	4,245
Rental			30,759
Repairs and Maintenance		12,218	38,575
Sundry Expenses		37,108	23,275
Superannuation		15,685	14,985
Wages		238,941	156,127
Building Works			24,777
RSV Intrepid Project			7,342
Young Science Ambassadors			93,339
		<u>497,853</u>	<u>569,975</u>
Net Income		<u>102,514</u>	<u>215,563</u>
Profits after income tax			
RETAINED EARNINGS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR		<u>1,083,081</u>	<u>867,518</u>
RETAINED PROFITS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR		<u>1,185,595</u>	<u>1,083,081</u>