



# The Royal Society OF VICTORIA

Promoting science since 1854

PATRON: The Hon Linda Dessau AC  
Governor of Victoria

PRESIDENT: Dr William Birch AM

## 2016 Annual Report



# THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INCORPORATED

ABN 62 145 872 663

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2016

Council has the honour to present its report to Members upon the activities of the Society during its 159<sup>th</sup> year of operation.

### PATRON

**The Hon Linda Dessau AC**  
Governor of Victoria

### COUNCIL

#### OFFICE BEARERS

President	<b>Dr W. D. Birch</b> AM, BSc (Hons), PhD
Vice-President	<b>Mr D. Zerman</b> , MPH, FFIA, CFRM, FAIM
Immediate Past President	<b>Prof. L. Selwood</b> , MSc, PhD
Honorary Secretary	<b>Mrs N. H. Williams</b> , BSc, DipEd, MSc, FRACI
Honorary Treasurer	<b>Mr N. P. Kennedy</b> , BEng (ComEng), MSc (Comp)

#### MEMBERS

**Dr P. G. Baines** BA (Hons), BSc, PhD  
**Dr M. Williams**, BSc, MSc, PhD  
**Ms S. Frentz**, BSc (Hons)  
**Ms H. J. Gardiner**, BA, Cert IV Workplace Training  
**Prof. S. M. Rees**, BSc(Hons), MSc, MPhil, PhD, DSc  
**Mr V. Perunicic**, BSc (Hons)  
**A/Prof. R. Day**, BSc (Hons), PhD  
**A/Prof. G. Smith**, BPS, GradDip, MEH, PhD  
**Mr A. Davison**, BSc, BComp (Hons)  
**Dr K. Orrman-Rossiter**, BAppPhys, MAppSci, PostgradDip, PhD

#### RETURNING OFFICER

**Em. Prof. J. W. Warren**, MA, PhD

#### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**Mr M. Flattley**, BA, GCert (University Management), GradCertDes (Multimedia Design)

#### TRUSTEES

**Dr D. M. Churchill**, BSc, MA, IPPA, PhD  
**Dr A. S. Finkel** AM, PhD, FTSE  
**Prof. L. Selwood**, MSc, PhD  
**Em. Prof. J. W. Warren**, MA, PhD

*Cover: RSV President William D. Birch AM (left) with 2016 RSV Medal for Excellence in Scientific Research winner Professor Lloyd Hollenberg (centre) and Victoria's Lead Scientist, Dr Amanda Caples (right).*

## FELLOWS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

<b>1995</b>	David H. Ashton* Herbert H. Bolotin Phillip G. Law* Dewar W. Goode*	<b>2001</b>	Nancy F. Millis* Yvonne Aitken* Martin R. Harris Barry O. Jones John F. Lovering
<b>1996</b>	Jerry M. Adams Clive K. Coogan* Suzanne Cory Sir Gustav Nossal Sir Arvi Parbo Graeme I. Pearman John A. Talent	<b>2004</b>	Thomas A. Darragh Joyce R. Richardson
		<b>2005</b>	Hilary J. Harrington Murray J. Littlejohn
		<b>2008</b>	David V. Boger
<b>1999</b>	James M. Bowler	<b>2010</b>	Milton T. W. Hearn

\* Deceased



### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*Dr W. Birch AM*

The past year seems to have raced away more quickly than ever, although that may just be an observation commonly made by people above 'a certain age'. On balance, it was a year when the Society built on its strengths and took on some exciting new initiatives, but continued to battle valiantly to balance the books financially. Our strengths continue to be the excellent programme of twice-monthly lectures, which are now regularly booked out, and our outreach programme focussed on supporting and inspiring young scientists across the age group spectrum. These areas must remain core functions for the Society if we are to continue to build our public profile as a legitimate promoter of science and technology in the Victorian community. Several noteworthy features of the 2016 programme were the series of mid-day excursions to organisations involved in science and technology, including a memorable visit to the John Monash Science School, and the Eucalypt Symposium run in conjunction with Eucalypt Australia (formerly the Bjarne K Dahl Trust). That symposium not only provided valuable insight into the conservation and classification of eucalypts, but also generated an outstanding issue of the Society's Proceedings. Thanks are owed to Bram Mason and Pauline Ladiges for their roles in running this symposium.

The Council's committees continue to increase their profiles and activities and I encourage everyone to read the accompanying reports. CEO Mike Flattley has begun the process of developing strategic plans for all the committees in order to guide future actions. While councillors chair these committees, they are open to any member with a particular interest, so I urge you to get involved.

The Society's membership remains strong, quite an achievement considering the challenge faced by many organisations experiencing declines. There has been an encouraging increase in the proportion of younger members (I hesitate to define younger in strict age terms), due to the efforts of Mike Flattley and our more youthful councillors. The use of social media has been very effective in getting our scientific message out to young science enthusiasts, helped by a more engaging website and a lively and colourful newsletter. It's also playing a part in slowly increasing the use of the building's facilities by paying customers. As is customary, those occasions when we present awards to young academic researchers, welcome our science talent quest winners, and of course honour our Research Medallist— this year Professor Lloyd Hollenberg — are always memorable, and 2016 was no exception.

After a term of four years as President, this will be my last report to members. Needless to say, I've been immensely honoured to have served for what has been the equal third longest period in our history; Robert Ellery did 19 years (1866-1884), William Kernot did 16 (1885-1900) and Sir Henry Barkly did four (1860-1863). When I was elected back at the end of 2012, following in the historic footsteps of Lynne Selwood, I prepared a few notes on what I saw as some of the things I'd like the Society to

achieve. It wasn't exactly a vision statement, but a rather more practical set of goals we could attain. Amongst those that have been put in place are:

- the establishment of a policy and communications committee to prepare public position statements on scientific issues, in particular a formal position on climate change/global warming.
- modernising our historic scientific journal, Proceedings of the Royal Society of Victoria, by publishing it online and open access via an agreement with CSIRO.
- settling the future of the heritage library (this came late in 2016 and through circumstances we really had no control over).
- revising the Rules to make Council trimmer and more efficient, by encouraging greater turnover of councillors and office-bearers.
- suggesting Q&As be added to our science programme, having our rooms named for illustrious RSV members (I'm happy to say these are now widely used and understood), and improvements to our website.

Of course, it goes without saying that none of these could have been achieved without the diligence and enthusiasm of the Council and our administrative staff over that period. We've had some challenges, including the sad loss of much-admired former president and councillor Graham Burrows in January, but overall it's been a period of great cohesion, cooperation and loyalty. With my retirement comes the resulting departure from the Executive of Lynne Selwood, who as President and Immediate Past President has provided us with worldly, wise advice and encouragement for some seven years. Under the new rules, our Treasurer, Norman Kennedy, is also retiring after an eight-year stint, during which time he has driven the modernising of the management and reporting of our finances. Three other retiring councillors, Sandra Rees in the Science Program, Helen Gardiner in Science Outreach, and Mark Williams in Publications and Records, have also made excellent contributions. As you can see, we are losing three talented women from Council, who have been indispensable in getting us where we are now, so it is unfortunate that, at this stage, we are taking a step backwards in terms of our governance body's gender balance. Having more women elected as councillors must be sustained as an immediate goal for the Society; underpinning this is the gender balance and diversity in membership of the Society as a whole.

The Society has been extremely fortunate to have a great team of people working hard to keep us running smoothly. In Mike Flattley, we have a tirelessly energetic and entrepreneurial CEO, whose enthusiasm for our outreach programme, capacity to network, and knowledge of social media and IT has really transformed the Society's role in this space and set us up for the future. Malourie Crawford has put her heart and soul into the business of hospitality, so that all our visitors feel warmly welcomed, while James MacArthur has adjusted his skill set to manage the membership, business processes and facilities of the Society, while our consulting accountant Linda Baird has modernised our financial reporting. Of course, we've also depended on a dedicated team of volunteers and casual staff to help out when required.

There's no doubt that science in this part of the 21st century, the so-called 'post-truth times' is being challenged from some quarters. Do we have reason to be alarmed? Probably not too much, because inevitably science and technology underpin every advancement in society, so scientists should put their heads down and do their research, then promote the outcomes and benefits to the public in the myriad ways now available to them. This is where the Society has a key role, and I look forward to working with the new Council to see us take even bigger steps into that world of science communication in 2017.

***Bill Birch, President***

## **THE HALL & GROUNDS**

Numerous organisations conducted over 358 meetings during the year. Federation University continues their lease of the two first floor offices and the Von Mueller Room. The Bjarne K Dahl Trust continues their lease of the Nancy Millis Room. GoGet Carshare continued leasing spaces in the Hall's car park, with

Flexicar also taking up a lease. The Environmental Protection Authority has indicated they will start a lease on the former Bureau of Meteorology site commencing in 2017 to undertake pollution monitoring activities.

## 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 and Ms Sandra McColl, Honorary Solicitors
- ◇ Mr Clive Wilmot for his generous donation of off-site storage
- ◇ Mr Jonathan D. Madgwick, BBus ACA, Honorary Auditor
- ◇ The many RSV Members assisting with management of our Library collection, distributing the Newsletter, providing building tours during Melbourne Open House, and fundraising during the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show

## CITY OF MELBOURNE

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

## ADMINISTRATION



*James, Mike & Malourie*

Mr Mike Flattley, Chief Executive Officer  
Mr James McArthur, Business and Facilities Manager  
Ms Malourie Crawford, Events Manager

*This Report is approved by Council for presentation to Members at the Annual General Meeting to be conducted Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2017.*

**Bill Birch, President**

## 2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 159<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting was convened on 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2016.

- Councillors Ms Sophia Frentz, Dr Kevin Orrman-Rossiter, Associate Professor Robert Day, Associate Professor Gavin Smith and Mr Andrew Davison were declared elected at the Ordinary Meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016, and were inducted for a two-year term as Ordinary Members of Council at the AGM.
- The Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2015 were received and adopted.
- Mr Jonathan D. Madgwick, BBus, ACA, was reappointed as Honorary Auditor.



## SCIENCE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

**Prof. S. Rees (Chair), Mrs N. H. Williams, Ms Karen Fenton**

### 2016 Lecture Series

A core activity of the RSV is to present a program of engaging, accessible lectures on a wide range of scientific topics of interest and relevance to RSV members and the general public. During the year we heard excellent lectures on topics including "From the Beginning to the



End of HIV" (Professor **Sharon Lewin**), "Threatened species: Fighting extinction" (Dr **Marissa Parrott**); "Continental Loss- the quest to determine Antarctica's contribution to sea level rise" (Professor **Matthew King**); "Researchers Behaving Badly" (Professor **David Vaux**); "Alzheimer's disease: is the brain destroyed by the pulse?" (Professor **Jonathan Stone**); "Imaging the living brain in health and disease: MRI and PET scanning" (Professor **Gary Egan**); "Dark Matter: a Southern Hemisphere Perspective" (Professor **Elisabetta Barberio**); "How does nature do it? Unlocking high-performance natural composites and inspiring new materials using computers" (Professor **Tiffany Walsh**). Successful Joint lectures were held with ATSE (Professor **Maria Forsyth** on the future of baseload energy storage with battery systems); The Geological Society of Australia Inc (Victoria Division) (Dr **Erin Matchan** on Victoria's active Newer Volcanic Province in the Western District) and The Royal Historical Society of Victoria (Dr **James Waghorne** on the Victorian precedents to CSIRO). Two lunchtime lectures were enjoyed by an appreciative audience: Professor **Max Lay** and Emeritus Professor **Ian Polmear** described their lives in science and Dr **Linzi Wilson-Wilde** introduced us to the incredible new techniques employed in police forensic DNA profiling.

An inaugural lecture on science communication featured Melbourne science broadcaster Dr **Andi Horvath** on "Content is King' and other Myths around Science Communication." We were also grateful to welcome former Premier of Victoria, the Hon **Ted Baillieu** to address our AGM on the opportunities ahead for Victoria's science community.

A highlight was the panel forum titled "Keeping Melbourne Marvellous: people, place and environment" chaired by the City of Melbourne's Chief Resilience Officer **Toby Kent**, who addressed the question of how Melbourne is to maintain its liveability status into the future, with outstanding panellists **Michel Masson** (CEO, Infrastructure Victoria), Dr **Jerril Rechter** (CEO, VicHealth), Dr **Rachel Carey** (Research Fellow, Victorian Eco-Innovation Lab) and **Dylan Brady** (Conductor, Decibel Architects).



*A far-ranging discussion took us to some unexpected corners of the debate over the future of food, infrastructure, public health and the built environment in a fast-growing Melbourne. From left: Toby Kent, Bill Birch, Michel Masson, Jerril Rechter, Dylan Brady, Rachel Carey.*

Lecture attendances throughout the year were excellent, ranging from 60- 110 (a full house), with an average audience registration of 105; 11 of our 18 public lectures were at full capacity!

We thank all our speakers for the time and effort that they put into their presentations in 2016 and the opportunity that it affords us to stay informed of the state-of-the-art research being undertaken in Australia.

## Conferences & Symposia

### *Conserving Eucalypts: the Why and the How*



A wonderful collaboration with the Bjarne K Dahl Trust (relaunched as Eucalypt Australia later in 2016) bore fruit with an excellent symposium examining the conservation of Australia's iconic eucalypt species in a time of climate change, industrialisation and biodiversity loss. Titled "Conserving Eucalypts: the Why and the How," the symposium was convened on 18 March at the Royal Society of Victoria's Hall.

A full house heard outstanding presentations from leading scientists in the biosciences, including genetics, taxonomy, ecology, forestry, environmental and resource management. Speakers included Associate Professor **Peter Vesk**, Associate Professor **Patrick Baker**, Professor **David Lindenmayer** AO, Dr **Suzanne Prober**, Professor **Andrew Bennett**, Professor **Brad Potts**, Dr **Michael Bayly**, Professor **Michael McCarthy** and Associate Professor **Kevin Tolhurst**.

A further highlight was the presentation of the 2016 Bjarne K Dahl Medal to the legendary botanist and geologist **Leon Costermans** for his lifetime contribution to the field identification and appreciation of south east Australian eucalypts.

The symposium was filmed, with footage available online from both the RSV and Eucalypt Australia's

websites. The meeting also prompted papers from the speakers for an outstanding issue of the Proceedings (Vol 128, No. 1), now available in open access online from CSIRO Publishing. Our grateful thanks to our chief collaborator, Eucalypt Australia CEO Dr **Bram Mason** for his considerable energies in organising and delivering the symposium, and to the Board of the Bjarne K Dahl Trust - Ms **Alison Teese OAM**, Mr **Ken King**, Professor **Pauline Ladiges AO**, Professor **Leon Bren**, Dr **John Miller**, Mr **Adam Fennessy** and Mr **Sebastian Chapman** – for their support and patronage of the event.

### *Our Changing Landscapes: Acting on Climate Impacts*

Organised by the Victorian National Parks Association, the Bio21 Institute at the University of Melbourne and the Royal Society of Victoria, this 7 June symposium was the second in the VicNature 2050 series, examining one of the most contentious outcomes of the 2015 proceedings: how, when, where and whether we should intervene in landscapes as they are challenged and transformed by the influences of our rapidly changing climate. The day looked at possibilities and problems involved in increasing the genetic diversity of vulnerable species, or introducing new ‘climate ready’ species, particularly in areas where increased landscape connectivity is needed to facilitate adaptation.

Featuring speakers Dr **Ian Lunt**, Professor **Michael Clarke**, Professor **Paul Sannucks**, Dr **Graeme Newell**, **Jarod Lyon**, **Dan Jamieson**, Professor **Andrew Bennett**, Dr **Jim Radford** and **Elisa Rawlings**, discussions were led by **Fern Hames**, Professor **Ary Hoffman**, Dr **Peter Green** and the RSV’s Professor **Lynne Selwood**, to whom we extend particular thanks for her energies in working with our partners.



*Bjarne K Dahl Medallist Leon Costermans (right) with Eucalypt Australia Chair, Ms Alison Teese OAM.*



*Dr Bill Birch with Dr Samintha Perera.*

### **The Phillip Law Postdoctoral Award for the Physical Sciences**

The award (\$3000), for postdoctoral candidates within the first seven years of the conferring of their PhD, is made possible by the generous bequest of Dr Law. Seven candidates were judged by a panel including Professor Doug Macfarlane, Dr Kevin Orrman-Rossiter and Mr Norman Kennedy convened by Professor Sandra Rees. We are most grateful for the work of the panel. The winner, **Dr Samintha Perera** (pictured left with President Bill Birch) delivered a lecture to the Society on 27<sup>th</sup> October entitled “Carbon Sequestration: are Deep Coal Seams the Answer?” to an engaged audience of engineers, geologists and very supportive colleagues from Monash University.

### **The Young Scientist Research Prizes**

These awards are open to students in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year of their PhD candidature. This year there were 100 entries in four categories: Earth Sciences, Biological Sciences (non- human); Physical Sciences and Biomedical and Health sciences. We are most grateful to the assessors and judging panel: Professor Lynne Selwood, Dr Bill Birch, Dr Mike Ackland, Professor David Walker, A /Prof Gavin Smith, Mr Norman Kennedy, A/Prof Rob Day, Dr Peter Thorne, Professor John Lovering, Dr Kevin Orrman-Rossiter, Mrs Nicola Williams, Professor Sandra Rees (Convenor)

Two finalists from each category presented 10 minute talks on 11<sup>th</sup> August to an enthusiastic audience of family, peers, supervisors and RSV members.

The winners were each presented with a cheque (\$1000) and certificate by the President, Dr Bill Birch:

- Physical Sciences: **Rebecca Leane** (The University of Melbourne)
- Biological Sciences (non-human): **Yang Chen** (Monash University)
- Biomedical and Health Sciences: **Chi Hai Ly** (The University of Melbourne)
- Earth Sciences: **Matthias Eglseder** (Monash University)



*RSV judges weigh the merits of presentations in the Cudmore Library: from left, Dr Bill Birch, Dr Kevin Orrman-Rossiter, Dr Gavin Smith, Professor Lynne Selwood, Professor David Watson, Professor Lynne Selwood and Norman Kennedy.*

The runners up each received a cheque (\$250) and a certificate: congratulations to **Dene Murphy** (The University of Melbourne), **Rebecca Hull** (The University of Melbourne), **Thanh Kha** (La Trobe University), and **Georgia Roberts** (La Trobe University).

The success of the awards in attracting ever increasing numbers of applicants has made the judging and administration of the awards challenging. We have decided that in 2017, entry will be restricted to candidates who have completed 3 years of their PhD candidature. This has the advantage of ensuring that candidates have had the opportunity to complete the scientific project on which they had embarked and thus can fully address the aims of their project.



*YSRP Finalists Dene Murphy, Chi Hai Ly, Rebecca Leane, Thanh Kha Phan, Matthias Egglseeder, Rebecca Hull and Georgia Roberts.*

I would like to thank the Committee members for their support and input and the CEO and staff for their considerable work in administering the Awards and bringing our lecture program to fruition.

**Sandra Rees, Chair**

## FELLOWS and RESEARCH MEDAL

**Dr W. D. Birch AM (Chair), Mr D. Zerman, Mr N. P. Kennedy, Mrs N. Williams, Prof L. Selwood**



Following the input from of an independent panel of assessors on submissions, the Executive Committee was pleased to recommend to Council that **Professor Lloyd Hollenberg** receive the 52<sup>nd</sup> award of the Royal Society of Victoria's Medal for Excellence in Scientific Research in **Category IV: Physical Sciences**. The presentation to Professor Hollenberg was made by Dr Amanda Caples, Victoria's Lead Scientist, at the Society's meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2016, where Lloyd presented his lecture "Quantum Information Technology: From the Spooky World of Quantum Physics."



*2016 Medallist Professor Lloyd Hollenberg (centre) with daughter Olivia (left), wife Lisa Pacillo (right), Victoria's Lead Scientist Dr Amanda Caples (far left) and RSV President Dr Bill Birch (far right).*

No Fellowships were awarded in 2016.

**Bill Birch, Chair**



## MEMBERSHIP & FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

**Mr D. Zerman (Chair), Brigadier R. Slater, Dr Ray Shaw, Dr Richard Olive, Dr John Torriero, Mrs Manju Mohandoss**

Retaining current members and encouraging new members has been one of the main tasks of the Membership Committee.

Our 2016 Members' Forum was held on the afternoon of 24 March to review the status and refine the direction of our strategy, "Concord and Progress." A broad ranging discussion helped us to sharpen our focus on key areas of concern for our members, in particular our focus on helping early career scientists find their way to fruitful and rewarding placements in industry, academic, government and community sectors following attainment of advanced qualifications in science. Our revised strategy is now online at <https://rsv.org.au/about-us/aim/concord-progress/> , providing the high-level aspirations of our Society, while strategic planning continues with each of our portfolios to set targets and match resources to our activities. This work is particularly important, as it provides the coherence needed when approaching grant bodies and philanthropy for much-needed support without losing sight of our priorities and core purpose.



## Field Trip Program

Following the deliberations of the 2015 Forum, we embarked on a vibrant re-activation of a 'field trip' program in 2016, wherein members enjoy each other's fellowship while learning about contemporary projects and initiatives currently blossoming in and around Victoria. Four highly enjoyable trips were organised:

### Mt Rothwell Biodiversity Discovery Centre

A 19 March visit to this wonderful "rewilding" project one hour to the west of Melbourne was a



*Dr Bill Birch with Mt Rothwell's excitable dingoes, Nelly and Chilli. Bill has been involved as a volunteer for and supporter of Mt Rothwell's conservation program for many years.*

great way to spend a day together. This privately owned and operated endeavour is achieving remarkable things for Victoria's endangered indigenous species, nestled in the northern slopes of the You Yangs. Eradication and exclusion of pest species is key to success of the program, alongside the careful reintroduction of mesopredators like the Eastern Quoll and the managed presence of apex predator dingos to preserve the ecological balance of the property. The trip was organised with the involvement and partnership of Eucalypt Australia, exploring some unique expressions of *melliodora* and *polyanthemos* species of the Eucalyptus genus on the properties remnant, old-growth woodland landscape. Our thanks again to **Annette Rypalski** and her team for making us all so welcome. You can read Mike Flattley's full write up on our website.



*A brush-tailed rock-wallaby takes in Mt Rothwell's stunning views from the northern You Yangs. This critically endangered species has blossomed thanks to the staff and conservation volunteers, joining the Eastern Barred Bandicoot, Eastern Quolls, Southern Brown Bandicoot, Rufous Bettong and Long-nosed Potoroos in making a strong comeback.*

### RMIT Advanced Manufacturing Precinct

20 April featured a quick walk around the corner from the RSV to encounter the hidden gem that is the RMIT's Advanced Manufacturing Precinct! Led by Professor **Milan Brandt** and team, our group was

introduced to the latest in additive manufacturing techniques, along with insight to a range of applications from bespoke structural and mechanical components through to repairs to the human body! In a time of transition to a service industry, it was heartening to encounter a glimpse of new generation manufacturing and its potential for driving local industries. Grateful thanks to Milan, Dr **Darpan Shadid** and Dr **Maciej Mazur** for their patient explanations and opening the facility to us.



*RMIT Biomedical Engineer Dr Darpan Shadid demonstrates how 3D-printed titanium lattice can provide bespoke structural infill for bone, allowing the natural colonisation of the lattice with regenerative bone tissue post-surgery.*

### Peter Doherty Institute for Infection & Immunity



*Clever people in various states of science, examining some pretty terrifying samples of pathogenic bacteria at the Peter Doherty Institute. The facility holds and extends the research legacy of the former Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital.*

Preceded by a wonderful 10 March lecture from the Institute's dynamic Director, Professor **Sharon Lewin**, on 13 May the Society had the privilege of touring this state of the art facility, the only one of its kind in the southern hemisphere, bringing together leading biomedical scientists, public health specialists and educators focussed on infectious diseases and immunity. Located in the heart of the enormous Parkville biomedical precinct (10,000 researchers, 25 research institutes – indisputably one of the nation's research powerhouses) the tour began with a wonderful introduction to the Institute's Nobel Prize-winning namesake, Laureate Professor **Peter Doherty** AC, then took us through the many specialised laboratory spaces to gain insight to the various research activities underway.

Grateful thanks to Professor Doherty and in particular to Executive Officer **Andrea Fischer** for making us so welcome.

### Monash Earth Sciences Garden and the John Monash Science School

An exceptionally memorable outing to Australia’s largest university on 9 August began with a tour of the Monash Earth Sciences Garden, put together by Drs **Jim Driscoll** and **Julie Boyce** to represent a “map” of Victoria’s diverse and fascinating geology. Wandering from the basalt “Western Plains” to the granitic Highlands, we were treated to insights to geological techniques, the rich Indigenous oral tradition of this active volcanic region, and the long geological history of this turbulent corner of our continent. The garden is amazing, featuring ephemeral water features and plants indigenous to the various terrains represented. Grateful thanks to Jim Driscoll, RSV member Julie Boyce and outreach staff Prue, Andrew and Nick from the Monash School of Earth, Atmosphere & Environment for a great tour.



*Our group examines the granite of Victoria’s highlands with Prue from the Monash School of Earth, Atmosphere & Environment’s outreach team.*

A quick walk across campus brought us to the John Monash Science School (JMSS), where award-winning principal **Peter Corkill**, partnership manager **Ashley Van Krieken** and staff provided a briefing on this dynamic, progressive initiative that brings middle school students with a passion (and a talent) for science together for a focussed interaction with both theory and meaningful practicum, exposure



to Monash undergraduate programs and researchers and a solid grounding in career navigation. A tour followed of the impressive, purpose-built facility, with the highlight being an opportunity to talk to some of the senior students (pictured left), who were plainly thriving, and in the midst of a pollutant runoff study for the EPA! Any scientist needing hope for the future need only spend an hour or two with the JMSS – an uplifting experience of an excellent educational initiative. Grateful thanks to the students, Peter, Ashley and JMSS colleagues for a wonderful visit.

My thanks in particular go to RSV members Brigadier **Bob Slater**, Dr **Ray Shaw**, Dr **Richard Olive**, Dr **Julie Boyce**, Dr **John Torriero** and **Manju Mohandoss** for their time and effort put into organising our various and successful outings.

### MEMBERSHIP 2016

Members of the Council have discussed membership issues at many meetings. Despite regular applications to join the Society during the year, our membership remains fairly static with a correlating turnover, particularly from earlier years’ applicants for the Young Scientist Research Prizes. Establishing and maintaining relevance for our younger members remains a key priority, as the table below will attest.

I would like to thank the Committee Members and the Chief Executive Officer for their active planning and participation in our activities during the year.

#### **David Zerman, Chair**

Changes to Membership	2014	2015	2016
Elected	46	102	124
Transfer to Life Membership	0	0	0
Resignations	8	24	4
Deaths	10	4	1

Removals (lapsed subscriptions)	11	97	93
<b>Total individual Membership</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>587</b>
<b>2016 Gender Ratio:</b> 30% Women, 70% Men			
<b>2016 Average Age:</b> 57.1			

## VALE

The passing of the following Member during 2016 is recorded with sadness and deep sympathy to his family:

*Professor Graham Burrows AO KCSJ, Council Member and past RSV President (2007 – 2009).*

## FUNDRAISING 2016

In 2016 we began seeking donations to the Society assigned to specific programs, while maintaining an option to direct funds to general purposes to support our organisation's priorities. The Society acknowledges the following Members for their generosity (titles and post-nominals omitted)

### General Purposes:

William D Birch  
Ken Bradley  
Noel Constantine  
J. K. Dempster  
Suzanne Daniel-Dreyfus  
William Denholm  
Marjory-Dore Martin  
Alan Finkel  
Peter Holbeach  
John Jack  
Barry Jones  
Ian Jones  
Norman Kennedy  
A Kershaw  
Pauline Ladiges  
John Link  
Murray Littlejohn  
Phillip Macumber  
Anwyn Martin  
Annie McAuley  
James McConville  
K McNicol  
Thomas Mole  
Duke Paine  
Geoffrey Paterson

Marinis PirpirisPeter

Simpson  
James Warren  
Graeme Weber  
Pera Wells  
Voi Williams  
David Zerman

### Library Upkeep:

Nancy McNeill

### Outreach Program:

Keith Boundy  
Peter Hogan  
Wallace Mobilia  
Patricia Rich  
Ivan Smith

### RSV Building Fund:

Warwick Anderson  
Lawrence Bartak  
Robert Day  
Gregory Eccleston  
Alan Evered  
John Harrison  
Melinda Kemp  
Mark Williams

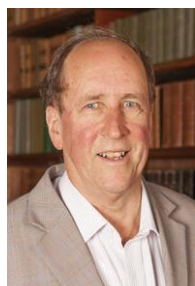
### Science Program:

Leslie Dale  
Carol Ely  
Donald Gaff  
Trevor Morton  
William Thompson  
Ewen Tyler

### Young Scientists:

David Ciceri  
Terence Corbett  
Patricia Conwell  
Leon Costermans  
Rupert Dalley  
Patricia Illing  
Robert Joy  
Terrence Kelly  
Keith Long  
William McMaster  
Jozua van Otterloo  
Antonio Pagnin  
Maurice Pagnin  
April Philpott  
James Rowan  
Bruce Tonge

Funds raised from members in 2016 totalled **\$6246**, with a further **\$5742** raised through thoughtful contributions by the general public on admission to lectures and during the Melbourne Garden and Flower Show. Thanks to all for the generous support of our endeavours.



## PUBLICATIONS, RECORDS & COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE

**Dr M. Williams (Chair)**, Dr W. Birch, Dr K. Orrman-Rossiter

The year 2016 saw a consolidation of the substantial changes that were made during 2015.

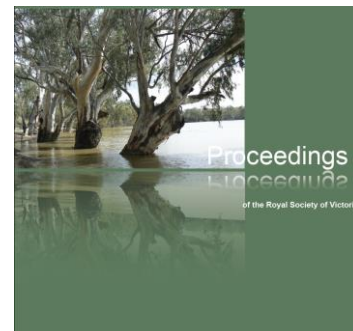
### Proceedings of the Royal Society of Victoria

The Proceedings were published online through CSIRO Publishing. A small number of hard copy prints are still being produced for those members who require the Proceedings in that



format and for RSV records. The proceedings are also listed on the Web of Science and indexed through ProQuest, which should provide our authors with added exposure.

There were two issues of the Proceedings published for the 2016 calendar year. The first was Volume 128 No 1 which featured papers from the 2016 symposium *Conserving Eucalypts: the Why and the How* conducted on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2016, and also included an additional paper on the forgotten shellfish reefs of coastal Victoria. The second was Volume 128 No 2, which included contributions on a range of topics concerned with the hydrology of the lower Snowy River, an incredible illustrated inventory of NSW sea slugs and a reassessment of late Neogene Sandringham Sandstone.

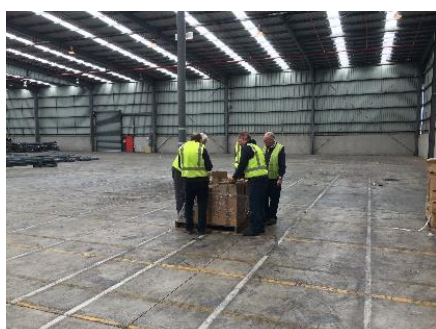


The range of topics confirms the Proceedings' contribution to the natural history of South Eastern Australia and value as a regional journal.

The quality of the contributions continues to be high, but it is still a challenge to get enough forward contributions for each year, especially when there is no symposium to drive papers. To address this problem it will be necessary to "market" the Proceedings better to ensure a continuation of high quality contributions.

### RSV Collections

For some time the RSV has held a large collection of books and journals which were either accumulated over the years through subscription or donated to the Society. This collection was housed by Deakin University for years and then by RSV member Clive Wilmot in his commercial storage facility in Laverton. However, when Clive's circumstances changed in early 2016, it became necessary to store



*One of 20 pallets of assorted science literature assessed at the Laverton warehouse and sorted by RSV volunteers, including Tom Darragh, Mark Williams, Bill Birch, Doug McCann and Craig Robertson.*

the collection at commercial rates at considerable ongoing cost to the Society. This was not sustainable and it became clear that a review of the contents of the collection needed to be carried out with a view to identifying items of value for retention, and to dispose of books and journals that were of little value because they were duplicates, of low physical quality or were widely available elsewhere.

To ensure that, as far as possible, items of value found good homes a complete listing of items was sent to Museum Victoria, the State Library of Victoria, the Baillieu Library at the University of Melbourne and other centres of learning with an offer for these institutions to take any volumes of interest to them. Subsequently, all members of the RSV were provided the listings and offered material of interest.

A working party consisting of Committee members plus other members of the RSV with deep knowledge of publications was established. This

working party had the difficult job of separating out the items of value from items for disposal. This was a painful but necessary job, which was carried out in the second half of 2016. My thanks in particular to Craig Robertson, Doug McCann, Bill Birch, Mike Flattley, James McArthur, Rory Henry and erstwhile RSV Librarian Tom Darragh for their hard work over two days at Laverton.

### Strategy and Future Directions

Finally, Mike Flattley kindly developed a strategy for the Committee, which aligns with similar strategies for other RSV Committees. This will be a valuable guiding document for the future work of the Committee.

I would like to thank Dr Bill Birch for taking on the role of Editor of the Proceedings again and making sure that the Proceedings continues to be a high quality production. Also thanks to Dr Kevin Orrman-Rossiter who had valuable contacts in the academic world and Mike Flattley who, as always, did so much of the leg work.

**Dr Mark Williams, Chair**





## SCIENCE POLICY & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

**Dr P. G. Baines (Chair)**, Dr W. D. Birch, Mr D. O'Neill, A/Prof. R. Day, Prof. R. M. Gleadow, Mr B. R. Mace.

The January announcement by the new head of CSIRO of **an intention to substantially reduce its research into Australia's climate** to inform robust projections puzzled our members and gave great cause for concern. Future predictions on the regional impacts of climate change based on static, pre-2017 data will severely compromise their efficacy, placing at risk our agricultural, fishery and forestry industries, which join our biodiversity heritage in facing significant danger from drought, fire, flood and storm damage according to highly variable local conditions. We maintain our concern, and published "Climate research and application is big business" online on 11 February.

Broad consultation with suitably insightful RSV members, along with helpful colleagues from Zoos Victoria and the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research, formed the basis of two key submissions

*"We recommend the key objective of the Recovery Plan be rephrased to focus on "recovery and increase" rather than merely "persistence." "Thinning" practices in state forests are not beneficial to Leadbeater's possum. Where industrial activity is still considered necessary, it should follow ecological models; sustaining canopies, understorey integrity and dispersal routes for fauna involving contiguous forest structure across the landscape."*

- **20 June 2016**

the valuable outcomes published in February from our 2015 joint symposium with the **VicNature 2050** partners, the Victorian National Parks Association and Bio21 at the University of Melbourne. Titled "10 things we can all do to help nature adapt to a new climate," the release focusses on positive actions for climate adaptation and the preservation of biodiversity.

In response to continued debate over "**wind turbine syndrome**," an item was posted to the website with the title "What is the evidence for potential health impacts from wind power", providing the substance of a 2014 RSV symposium paper by **Marion Carey** (Monash).

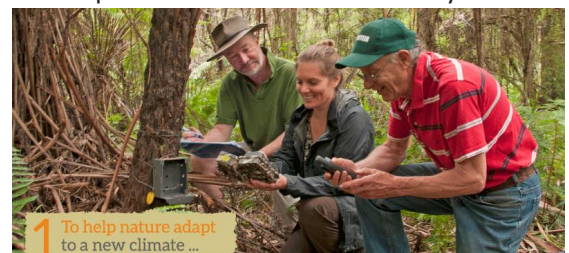
Following Professor **David Vaux's** remarkable presentation to the ordinary meeting on 9th June - "**Researchers Behaving Badly**" - there was some discussion about the Society issuing a policy statement around the principle that "whistle-blowers" should have a body to which they could report, and which would have the authority to investigate claims that could be classified as "possible scientific fraud". The Australian Academy of Science was suggested as a possible body that could act in this role

*"Given the concern generated by CSIRO's recent announcement, the Royal Society of Victoria would appreciate a response from the Federal Government as to how these important scientific activities will be sustained in the national interest, and which agencies will guarantee their continuity."*

- **11 February 2016**

in May 2016; one to the federal government's *Draft National Recovery Plan for Leadbeater's Possum* and another to inform the Victorian Government's *Forest Industries Taskforce* deliberative process. Both submissions offered the **scientific argument and rationale for the establishment of a new National Park in Victoria's Central Highlands** to protect, conserve and recover the threatened biodiversity assets of this remarkable region. Further exploration is underway with foresters and forest industries to investigate the challenges for establishing a sustainable timber industry in Victoria that balances ecological and commercial needs. Meanwhile, a press release titled "Action needed to ensure the recovery of Leadbeater's possum" was published on 20 June on our website. Our thanks to RSV member and forestry researcher **Dr Leon Bren** for representing the Society's position with the Forest Industries Taskforce.

Following member consultation on a draft, the Society posted its position on **anthropogenic climate change**. While the science is rightly settled for many, it was deemed important to make the Society's position beyond doubt as a voice for Victoria's science community. The statement is available online, along with



(with possible funding from the Federal Government). After some discussion, however, this topic was dropped as a public campaign, as being too open to improper exploitation by those increasingly vocal individuals keen to discredit robust science to suit ideological and commercial agendas. We elected to focus on **support for Victorian Offices of Research Integrity** based at each university.

**Dr Peter G. Baines, Chair**

## Publicity, Media & Public Relations

While it is difficult to quantify the profile and standing of an organisation, the digital age is providing many valuable tools for measuring the impact of promotions, events and news in the public realm. Both traditional ‘print’ media and new social media channels offer opportunities for quantifying impact.

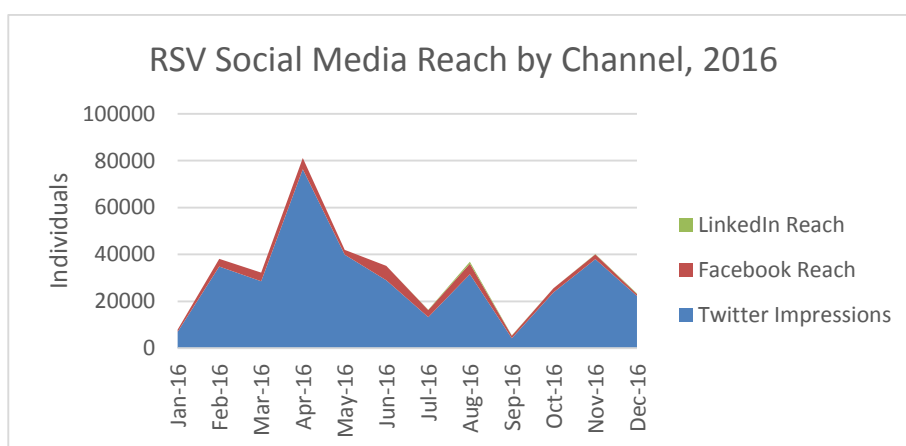
### Social Media

Interaction with Victoria’s science community and the broader public continued through social media channels **Twitter** and **Facebook**, consolidating our presence on professional networking channel **LinkedIn**.

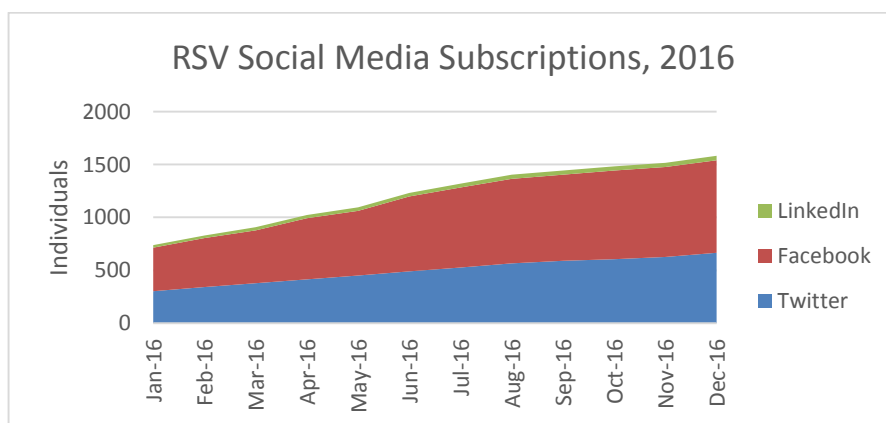
*According to Social Media Statistics Australia, approximately 15,000,000 Australians were subscribed to Facebook as of December 2016, making it a clear standout channel for potential audience engagement.*

These channels have helped the RSV reach audiences without recourse to expensive print advertising or reliance on “newsworthiness” through traditional media channels. This has been particularly helpful in communicating our news, awards, award winners and significant position statements on current affairs in Victorian science.

The charts below tell something of the story.



The chart above represents the number of individuals to whom an RSV news item was delivered over the course of the year.



The chart above represents growth in the RSV’s subscriptions, or **active followers** of our social media

feeds over the course of the year. Our followers are the main source of impact for our stories and news items, as these are people who “like” or “share” our content to a broader network of friends, family and colleagues.

While local audience share is significantly less than Facebook’s, with flat growth in 2016 on the previous two years, **Twitter’s** 2.8M active Australian users include many scientists and science proponents, providing a terrific platform for communication and alignment with the science community at home and abroad. The “reach” of Twitter has certainly eclipsed that of Facebook in 2016. Regardless, the relative positive growth of **Instagram’s** platform (5M active Australian users, plus integration with other platforms) recommends this as a new channel to focus on. Meanwhile, a minimal engagement with our news and programs through **LinkedIn** suggests the best policy is to maintain an active presence on this platform without overcommitting scarce staff time and resources.



### Traditional & Digital Media

In 2016 the public call for applications for our joint “Migrant Science Communication” program with partners Cultural Infusion and the Australian Science Communicators produced particular interest from multiple agencies late in the year (and on into 2017), particularly from SBS. This led to a number of SBS Radio pieces, and featured interviews with RSV members with fluency in languages other than English for some of SBS Radio’s programs relating to specific language and ethnic groups, essentially the target communities for our program. Grateful thanks are due to RSV members **Wendy and Colin Hue, Erica Chan** (and her lovely dad **Arthur**), **Milosh Lee** and **Manju Mohandoss** for their advice, assistance and willingness to advocate for the program as spokespeople.

Drawing on 2016 circulation metrics published by each media outlet and ethnic population data published by the ABS, we are able to approximate the impact of traditional journalism concerned with the Royal Society of Victoria.

Outlet	Dates	Audience Reach/Circulation
SBS World News Radio	December 7, 2016	5,000,000 (radio) 1,500,000 (online)
SBS Community Radio	December 9, 2016	319,000 (broadcast & online)
	<b>Total 2016 Audience Reach:</b>	<b>6,819,000</b>

Naturally this figure reflects some audience overlap. In terms of qualitative measures, this coverage purposefully conveyed the role and mission of the Royal Society of Victoria to a broad audience and sought engagement with the Society’s immediate goals, providing an excellent springboard for further interaction with members of government, industry and the Victorian community. There were no negative media stories in 2016 impacting the Society’s reputation and standing.

Further progress was made through our email subscription base (**mailing list**) with MailChimp, which enables the RSV to target both “friends” and core members of the Society according to the matter at hand. Response to RSV newsletter emails was excellent for the non-government sector, averaging a 44.7% open rate (19.9% for the sector) and an 11.4% click rate (2.2% for the sector). There were 1025 mailing list subscribers as of December 2015, up from 870 as of December 2015.

Further, use of **Eventbrite** as an online ticketing tool for RSV events provided not only a streamlining of office procedures and workloads, but also a valuable channel for cross-promotion of events and metrics to better understand how audience members are discovering and attending our lectures, symposia and other activities.

**Mike Flattley, Chief Executive Officer**



## SCIENCE OUTREACH & PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

**Ms Helen Gardiner (Chair)**, Mr Martin Harris, Mr Peter Hogan, Dr Amy Nisselle, Ms Pam Borger, Dr Renee Beale, Dr Caitlin Gionfriddo, Dr Julie Boyce, Ms Sophia Frentz

Refreshed with some new members, the Committee enthusiastically drove, supported and had oversight over several exciting activities this year.

### CoderDojo Victoria

The growth of the CoderDojo program in Victoria has been very encouraging. Committee member Martin Harris has driven this from the early days of one small group meeting at Wooranna Park Primary School at the end of 2014. Committee member Peter Hogan visited Wooranna Park one Sunday this year and reported: "I was interested to find some students travelling from distant suburbs to attend, one coming from Pt Cook." Obviously, the demand is there. We just need to find the resources to fill it."



*Committee members (from left) Peter Hogan, Pam Borger, Sophia Frentz, Renee Beale, Helen Gardiner (Chair) and Caitlin Gionfriddo*



*CoderDojo Bendigo, underway!*

Two grant applications through LaunchVic rounds to fund a statewide rollout of CoderDojo sadly met with no success, despite the impressive efforts of RSV member **Teresa Mitchell**, who has extended her Gippsland network to move beyond her CoderDojo in Warragul to establish a further centre in Moe.

Meanwhile, a fruitful connection with the Bendigo campus of La Trobe University and the Bendigo Discovery Centre has led to a new Dojo established in the Goldfields region, to be attached to the forthcoming Technical School based at La Trobe. Our thanks to La Trobe Bendigo campus head **Rob Stephenson**, **Marc Blanks** from the new Bendigo Tech School, **Jonathan Ridnell** from the Bendigo Discovery Centre, and local Bendigo Dojo champion Dr **Nick Carrigan** for their efforts and support for the initiative. Our particular thanks to RSV members **Alan Finkel** and **John Harrison** for his generous support of the CoderDojo initiative in 2014 and 2015. It goes to show how much can be achieved with a little resourcing!

*"We're quite excited by the enthusiasm and momentum that is being created by CoderDojo and see it as being an important community asset - in particular adding to the tapestry of Bendigo's Smart City Bid and as a lead in to the establishment of the Tech School to be located at La Trobe in the new Engineering building - where CoderDojo might migrate to in 2018."*

- **Marc Blanks, Regional Project Leader, Bendigo Tech School**

### Gender Equity & Cultural Diversity

#### *Cultural Infusion Partnership and the Migrant Science Communication Program*

Fruitful collaboration with arts-based school incursion providers **Cultural Infusion** has been a highlight of the year, as we work to introduce science content to their program through the craft of theatre making and storytelling techniques, enriching students' interest and engagement with science. Having agreed on five preliminary concepts, these are now in the development stage, with a release of Professor Lloyd Hollenberg's wonderful "Physics of the Didgeridoo" demonstration repackaged and set to launch in 2017 as a school incursion module.

One of the benefits of collaboration is bright new ideas, leading us to develop the concept for a "Migrant Science Communication Accelerator" project and jointly submit successful grants to the **Inner Northern Community Foundation** and the **Scanlon Foundation**. This exciting new pilot program seeks to engage migrants with unrecognised or underutilised science skills and qualifications in developing a school incursion module that does two important things: relates an experience of migration to enhance students' intercultural awareness, and conveys a lesson in a scientific principle



in an engaging and meaningful way. This will set our participants up as sole traders, “science communicators” who will help Victorian schools meet two new curriculum requirements in 2017: “intercultural understanding” and “science as a human endeavour.” The program is generating a great deal of interest (and work), and we’re very excited to be working with the Australian Science Communicators network in Melbourne to help develop and mentor our participants. Thanks to our grant bodies, our colleagues at Cultural Infusion – **Ann Woelk, Alex Pryor** and **Gurm Sekhon** – and to our ASC colleagues – **Toni Stevens, Amy Nisselle, Errol Hunt** and **Christina Hall** – for their dedication to the project thus far.

### **Ada Lovelace Day – 12<sup>th</sup> October 2016**



*Participants programming and then racing robots in the Burke & Wills Room*

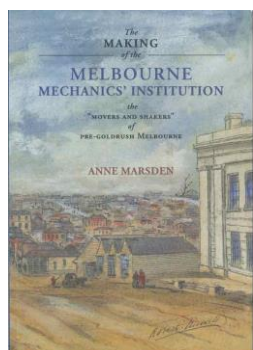
Partnership and collaboration with other agencies proved to be a successful strategy, particularly in the case of celebrating Ada Lovelace Day with two Local Learning & Employment Network partners (Inner East and City LLENs) who reached out to girls and young women in the inner suburban region to learn about the career opportunities available for students of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). With program input from Swinburne University, BrainSTEM, DataSAM, Lateral Magazine, RoboGals and Code Like a Girl, the RSV building was abuzz with activity and excitement. An amazing night that we aim to repeat!

Ada Lovelace Day celebrates the achievements of women in science, named for the legacy of **Augusta Ada King-Noel**, Countess of Lovelace (1815 – 1852), an English mathematician who collaborated with **Charles Babbage** on his proposed, mechanical computer, the Analytical Engine. She is credited as the creator of the first algorithm, having recognised the machine’s applications beyond pure calculation.

Our thanks go out to all presenters and participants, but especially to **Edward Dunstan** from the Inner Eastern LLEN and **Celia Tran** from the City LLEN for their remarkable event management efforts.

### **Women in Science Australia 2016 Symposium – Connecting Women in STEMM**

The Society continued its support for this networking and leadership promotion initiative for women in underrepresented science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medical (STEMM) industries and research fields. Convened at RMIT’s Storey Hall by Dr Marguerite Evans-Galea and Michelle Gallaher, the symposium explored best practice and policies, as well as ground-breaking initiatives to provide women with the best environment to lead and excel in their fields. Programs focussed on girls interested in STEMM careers were showcased. The Society was pleased to host the symposium dinner at St Kilda Town Hall, capably represented by RSV Councillor (and STEMM gender equity campaigner) **Sophia Frentz**.



### **Cultural Program**

#### ***The Making of the Melbourne Mechanics’ Institution***

On August 26 we were delighted to host a launch for local historian **Anne Marsden’s** new history, *The Making of the Melbourne Mechanics’ Institution: the “movers and shakers” of pre-gold rush Melbourne* in partnership with the Melbourne Athenaeum



*The symposium featured Sharon Bell’s case study of **Ruby Payne-Scott**, an Australian pioneer in radiophysics and radio astronomy, and the world’s first female radio astronomer. One of the few female scientists working for CSIR (CSIRO) in the 1940s and 50s, Ruby battled an infamous Commonwealth marriage bar specifying that married women could not hold a permanent position within public service, which ultimately ended an outstanding career.*

Library. The book traces the origin of the mechanics' institute movement in Britain and studies links between the Melbourne Institution (1839), the Van Diemen's Land Mechanics' Institute (1827) and the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts (1833). Anne's analysis of the fifty men elected to the Melbourne Institution's first committee reveals their pioneering roles in the settlement of Port Phillip and the broad social platform leading to the establishment of institutions like the Melbourne Athenaeum and the Royal Society of Victoria, and laying the foundations for the cultural identity of present-day Melbourne. Our thanks to RSV member Dr **Douglas McCann** for his energies in supporting the launch.

### ***The Invisible War: a tale on two scales***

A productive collaboration with arts-science collective **Scale Free Network** this year led us to hosting two unique events. First, on 20 August we were delighted to launch a unique graphic novel titled "*The Invisible War: a Tale on Two Scales*," an ANZAC Centenary project with a difference! Focussed on the microbial battle against dysentery taking place within the digestive tract of a battlefield nurse at Flanders in 1916, the graphic novel features a window into microscopic worlds, outstanding artwork, a compelling view into history and that special "gross out" factor to cater to an adolescent audience! Launched by former Premier **Ted Baillieu** as Chair of the Victorian ANZAC Centenary Committee and featuring ABC Radio National's **Robyn Williams** as MC of an interdisciplinary panel of microbiologists, writers and artists, the launch was a great success, firing further interest in the project and funding for distribution to approximately 50% of Australian state school libraries.



## **Kids' Programs**

### ***School Holiday Science***



We continued our collaboration with Scale Free Network leaders Dr **Gregory Crocetti** and **Briony Barr** in September to deliver a positively gold-plated school holiday program over two days in September, featuring life drawing from microscope observations, collecting specimens for examination from the Carlton Gardens, role playing and story-telling referencing the Network's "Small Friends" microbiology children's storybooks, and various related game play.

Gregory and Briony looked so exhausted, and the kids were absolutely captivated, so it was a clear success! Grateful thanks to Dr **Ann Bohte** from the University of Melbourne's School of BioSciences for making 12 stereo microscopes available to the Society to run the program – the support was crucial and very much appreciated!



### ***The Field Trip***



This year we explored a youth leadership development initiative by taking on a "science themed" chapter of The Field Trip, a weekly program put together by founder **Paul Kooperman**. Run by young people for younger people, the program presented an opportunity to engage our partners from the Young Scientists of Australia (Melbourne Chapter) as "drivers" to develop and deliver the program. Paul's program offered mentorship and leadership training to our drivers, who subsequently delivered a science "Field Trip" at the RSV each Sunday during Term 3.

While the program was very well received by children and families, it proved onerous for parents and carers to keep up the weekly Sunday afternoon commitment, particularly where travel time was involved. Feedback suggested a more overt science focus was required to disambiguate the RSV chapter from other Field Trip initiatives in the region. Valuable learnings from a worthwhile pilot – we will further explore options for a more science-focussed youth leadership program in the year ahead. Our thanks go to our YSA colleagues **Ricardo Cannizzaro**, **Timothy**



**Newport, Genevieve Lacey** and **Melina Jablonka** for their outstanding work and willingness to embark on the adventure!

### **Very Young Scientists**

Each year the Society funds bursaries for entrants in the Science Talent Search convened by the Science Teacher's Association of Victoria, then celebrates the achievements of our bursary winners



*Hilarious "Con Man" Nicholas J Johnson demonstrates how our minds can fool us.*

at a special night with their families and teachers. It's always a wonderful evening, and this year featured presentations from graduating vice-captains **Anna Musgrave** and **Rory McNab** from the John Monash Science School on their trajectory from secondary to tertiary education and the hilarious yet horrifying **Nicholas J Johnson**, presenting the "neuroscience of magic." All our bursary winners were introduced to the Young Scientists of Australia (Melbourne Chapter) and encouraged to get involved with Melbourne's youth-based science community.



*JMSS vice-captains Rory McNab and Anna Musgrave with Outreach Chair Helen Gardiner and RSV President Bill Birch.*

### **Growing Tall Poppies**

Our partnership with and support for the Growing Tall Poppies Partnership Program continued in 2016, once again collaborating with program leader Dr **Eroia Barone-Nugent** and facilitating the involvement of our friends from the Young Scientists of Australia (Melbourne Chapter). The program focusses on the retention of middle school students through to senior secondary and tertiary studies in STEM disciplines, with a particular focus on retaining girls in Physics.



*Junior and Teacher Tall Poppies – 2016 award winners joining program leader Eroia Barone-Nugent and RSV Councillor Sophia Frentz.*

A feature of the Program is its annual awards program, which recognises outstanding "Junior Tall Poppies" for their demonstrated potential for studies in science, with a parallel "Teacher Tall Poppy" award recognising the particular energies of secondary science teachers who have gone beyond the remit of their classroom role to take on school community development and leadership work through their local STEM programs. Junior participants have been provided with a year's membership of the YSA and ongoing coaching and mentoring from their senior team, while the outstanding teachers have joined the Royal Society of Victoria, with an aim of providing a base of expertise for future curriculum and pedagogy-focused outreach from the Society. Grateful thanks to Dr Barone-Nugent, to **Tim Newport** from the YSA, and to RSV Councillor **Sophia Frentz** for their work on and involvement with the initiative.

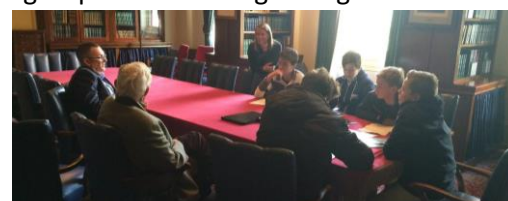
### **Science Program**



*RSV member William McMaster discusses the field of physical chemistry and materials science.*

science, but also to meet RSV members with particular expertise in marine biology, physical chemistry and materials science. Our thanks to Linzi, and to members **William McMaster, David Petch** and **Bob Ivesen** for being so generous with their time and insights.

The move to host midwinter lunchtime lectures has proved to be valuable to secondary students and teachers, who have taken the opportunity to incorporate attendance as part of broader school excursions. A particular example was on 25<sup>th</sup> August with Dr **Linzi Wilson-Wilde** OAM's excellent lecture on Forensic DNA Profiling, enthusiastically attended by a group from Geelong College who took the opportunity not just to learn more about Linzi's popular field of



*Geelong College students with RSV members David Petch and Bob Ivesen discussing marine science.*

## Media & Communications Training

One of the best ways to fulfil our brief in promoting science and scientific literacy is to facilitate better communication by scientists and science advocates. A productive relationship with public relations agency **Science in Public** provided opportunities to bring science educators and scholars together with journalists and media professionals to explore and decode the interactions between scientists and the press. Through a series of “Media & Communication Training Workshops” hosted by the RSV throughout the year, the Science in Public team introduced scientists and science proponents to working journalists to talk about what makes science newsworthy in the mainstream media, how to distil your story to its essence through a pitch, understanding the different needs of different audiences and training in presentation to camera and radio.



Meet Science’s Social Media Stars! From left: Dr Alan Duffy, Dr Euan Ritchie, Dr Katie Mack and Science in Public’s Chief of Staff Toni Stevens (MC).

We also partnered with the Science in Public team to convene two media-focused forums, starting with a panel of science journalists on 27 June and followed by a panel on 11 November to “Meet Science’s Social Media Stars” to discuss how new media platforms can win profile for scientific work and public engagement with scientists. Thanks to our colleagues Toni Stevens, Tanya Ha, Ellie Michaelides, Sarah Brooker and Niall Byrne for their expertise and drive for a very fruitful collaboration!

Finally, we offered an outstanding two-day “science writing and outreach training workshop” with veteran science journalist **Peter Spinks** over two days in late September, receiving excellent feedback from participants.

## Science in my World & Primary Connections

My thanks to Committee Member **Pam Borger**, a Biology teacher with years of experience in curriculum development and the administration of the Victorian Department of Education, who helped us identify primary schools in lower socio-economic regions for targeted, impactful support from our limited resources. Pam made direct approaches to schools in several of those regions and had some positive results.

One of the schools Pam approached was Chum Creek Primary School (total 62 students) in the Yarra Ranges region.

Despite several failed attempts to bring the weather into alignment with astronomical events, a school astronomy night with volunteers and telescopes from **Mt Burnett Observatory** (pictured below) ended up being a fantastic success. **James Murray**, President, Mt Burnett Observatory reported back:

*“It was a GREAT night. The whole school community turned out in force – a there are about 50 kids (about 30+ families) plus parents, a clear night and a BBQ. One of the teachers got behind the project so the children, even at grade four level, knew the order of planets in the Solar system, the rocky nature of Mars, the toxic atmosphere of Venus, the nature of Saturn’s rings and that Pluto was a dwarf planet.”*

*Student: “It looks like a big flat ring, but it’s really lots of rings”*

*Student: “Mars has the hugest volcano. It’s really huge.”*

*Student: “Venus is just so bright.”*

*Quote from one mother: “I grew up in the town where Copernicus was born. Not many people know about Copernicus, which is such a shame ...”*

*“Awesome ...” “Cool ...” “Amazing ...”*

Our thanks to those generous RSV members who have since answered the call to donate towards Mt Burnett’s campaign to crowdfund a new telescope. It is a great way support James and his team of volunteers.

We have followed up with a number of other contacts and Pam has assisted one teacher with



development of her new curriculum materials and Caitlin Gionfriddo has been a guest at Noble Park/Silverton Primary School where she shared her understanding of climate, renewable energy, our environment and health with year 5 & 6 students. She makes a great role model for our young female scientists.

The region governed by the City of Hume has since been selected for targeting by the Committee in 2017. Meanwhile, we have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with **Primary Connections**, a teacher-training program targeting the science curriculum in primary schools, operating from the Australian Academy of Science, to provide training facilities for the Melbourne operations in exchange for places in their programs for teachers from our target schools.

In addition to the many partners and collaborators who helped make the year such a success, may I thank my enthusiastic, resourceful and talented Committee and the very helpful Executive team for a great year's work in 2016. I look forward to continuing to work with the incoming Chair to help to maintain our momentum throughout 2017.

**Helen Gardiner, Chair**



## **HONORARY TREASURER**

**Mr Norman Kennedy.**

It is my duty to report to the Royal Society's membership on the financial activities and financial performance of the Royal Society over the last year. The auditor's statement and annual financial report with extensive notes are included in the RSV annual report.

I will be pleased to answer any questions put by members at the AGM.

This is my last report as Treasurer, as I am unable to stand for another term due of the eight-year maximum membership of Council rule. I wish my successor Andrew Davison every success and will be available to provide whatever assistance he requires.

I have had great satisfaction in being part of the stabilisation of the RSV. When I was elected Treasurer, it was not a happy time for the RSV.

Approximately 79% of our income comes from two sources. The income received from hiring our building is approximately 58% of our income with an additional approximately 21% from membership dues. Direct staffing costs are approximately 69% of our expenses, this does not include the components used for cleaning and catering functions.

This shows that our current structure of income and expenses is highly constrained. Council is committed to the ongoing strategic review of costs and income sources to improve this situation.

The Royal Society of Victoria Science Foundation was formed from the bequest of Dr Phillip Law and other RSV funds as a perpetual fund. The healthy size of the fund means that the RSV is financially sound and has assets to cover its immediate and longer term requirements.

The drawdown specified in the investment mandate allows for the proceeds of the fund to be used to support the Phillip Law Postdoctoral Award, RSV Research Medal, Young Scientist Research Prizes and sponsorship of the Science Talent Search and Australian Natural History Medallion with a small amount allocated to offset the operating deficit.

To increase the attractiveness of our facilities to renters, Council has agreed to upgrade the Audio-Visual Facilities in the theatre, to updating of the capacity of our internet connection and completing the front steps. These improvements have been funded by drawing from the Science Foundation.

Council decided to review the operation of the Foundation, initially releasing funds for these necessary improvements. A further review process is underway which may change the investment mandate adopted by Council when it created the fund. The results of this review will be reported later.

Expenses remain at levels well in excess of our income and reducing them must continue to be a major focus of the Executive and the Council in the coming year.

To increase income, The Executive is analysing rental activities on a weekly and monthly basis to

identify future opportunities.

Council spent some time this year exploring ways of increasing funding sources without success to this point. It was resolved to further develop and support a bequest program and to seek grants to support our activities.

To assist with this task Council has decided to employ a part time staff member to write grant applications and assist the CEO with other fundraising activities. The success of this approach will be measured and the approach reviewed regularly.

We continue to maintain a strong focus on fiscal prudence. Each year a budget is prepared and closely monitored, and the result in 2016 was close to budget. Internal audit activities have included verification of expenses, verification of the asset register and monitoring of the risk register.

I have enjoyed my eight years contributing to the development and governance of the RSV as a member of the Executive and Council and look forward to a continuing involvement in other ways in future years.

I would like to thank the Executive Committee and the Council for their support throughout the last year and the previous seven years that I have been Treasurer and acknowledge the support I receive from our CEO and his staff.

***Norman Kennedy, Honorary Treasurer***

**The Royal Society of Victoria Inc.**  
**ABN 62 145 872 663**

**Financial Report for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016**

Your council members submit the financial report of The Royal Society of Victoria Inc. (a Non-reporting Association) ("the Society") for the financial year ended 31 December 2016.

**Principal Activities**

The principal activities of the Society during the financial year were the promotion and advancement of pure and applied science and technology.

**Significant Changes**

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

**Operating Result**

The Gross deficit of the Society was \$40,264 before depreciation. After charging depreciation the Net deficit was \$176,359.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Council.



---

Dr William D Birch AM



---

Mr Norman Kennedy

Dated this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2017

**INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION TO THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.**

To the Council of The Royal Society of Victoria Inc.

In accordance with the requirements of section 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012, as reviewer for the The Royal Society of Victoria Inc. for the year ended 301 December 2016, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

1. No contraventions of the reviewer independence requirements of the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the review; and
2. No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the review.

Name of Firm : J D Madgwick Chartered Accountant



Name of Principal : JONATHAN DAVID MADGWICK CA

Dated this 26th day of April 2017

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

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PO BOX 1100, SOUTH MELBOURNE VIC 3205 ABN 60 282 890 645  
TELEPHONE (03) 9690 2766 FACSIMILE (03) 9690 2925 E-MAIL info@jdmadgwick.com.au



**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.**

**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016**

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>OPERATING INCOME</b>			
Members' Subscriptions		66,976	76,558
Rental Income		189,147	164,546
Sales – Memorabilia, Publications & Proceedings		4,041	3,951
Event & Symposia Income		39,358	-
Donations, Bequests, Sponsorship & Fundraising	12	11,988	29,762
Other Income		-	2,142
Interest Received		55	1,876
		<b>311,565</b>	<b>278,835</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURE</b>			
Advertising, Promotion and Website		9,504	1,962
Awards and Prizes		9,317	-
Accountancy & Auditor's Remuneration		2,775	2,126
Bank Charges		1,076	4,481
Catering		19,299	18,423
Cleaning		33,922	27,671
Computer and Internet		2,991	-
Depreciation	13	136,095	135,264
Donations, Prizes and Sponsorships		4,650	12,637
Honorariums		99	-
Insurance		14,603	16,773
Legal Costs		112	-
Office Expenses		5,160	30,574
Postage and Courier		3,667	-
Publications, Coins & Stamps		22,071	14,036
Professional Services		18,188	10,069
Repairs & Maintenance		8,454	25,174
Salaries, Longs Service Leave and Superannuation		231,016	267,151
Stock Obsolescence Provision	5	191	10,985
Telephone		2,499	-
Travelling Expenses		2,097	-
Utilities		13,136	7,629
		<b>540,922</b>	<b>584,955</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE</b>			
<b>NET RESULT (DEFICIT) FROM OPERATIONS</b>		<b>(229,357)</b>	<b>(306,120)</b>

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.**

**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016**

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>INVESTMENT INCOME RSV SCIENCE FOUNDATION</b>			
Dividends, Distributions and Interest		51,951	54,593
Franking Credits		8,433	11,419
Less Investment Manager Charges & Rebates		(7,386)	(6,323)
<b>NET RESULT FROM RSV SCIENCE FOUNDATION</b>		<b>52,998</b>	<b>59,689</b>
<b>NET RESULT (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>(176,359)</b>	<b>(246,431)</b>
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>			
<i>Items that will not be reclassified to the profit and loss</i>			
Unrealised Gains (Losses) RSV Science Foundation		20,305	(20,896)
Unrealised Gains (Losses) Direct Shares & Investments		1,419	230
Revaluation of Buildings and Improvements		455,530	-
<b>TOTAL OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>		<b>477,254</b>	<b>(20,666)</b>
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (DEFICIT)</b>		<b>300,895</b>	<b>(267,097)</b>

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2016**

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	34,136	49,796
Trade and other receivables	4	23,969	21,835
Inventories	5	27,743	27,934
Prepayments		200	200
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>86,048</u>	<u>99,765</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Financial assets	6	1,076,126	1,086,027
Property, plant and equipment	7	7,086,185	6,766,750
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>8,162,311</u>	<u>7,852,777</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u>8,248,359</u>	<u>7,952,542</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and Other Payables	8	16,050	24,170
Employee benefits	9	14,275	11,253
Income Received in Advance		22,694	27,191
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>53,019</u>	<u>62,614</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Employee benefits	9	7,595	3,078
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>7,595</u>	<u>3,078</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<u>60,614</u>	<u>65,692</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>8,187,745</u>	<u>7,886,850</u>
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>			
Reserves	10	7,533,399	7,056,145
Retained earnings	11	654,346	830,705
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>		<u>8,187,745</u>	<u>7,886,850</u>

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.**

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2016**

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	Reserves	Retained earnings	Total
		\$	\$
	_____	_____	_____
<b>Balance at 1 January 2014</b>	7,046,511	1,209,294	8,255,805
Deficit attributable to members		(132,158)	(132,158)
Movement in Reserves	26,053		26,053
<b>Balance at 31 December 2014</b>	7,072,564	1,077,136	8,149,700
Deficit attributable to members		(246,431)	(246,431)
Movement in reserves	(16,419)		(16,419)
<b>Balance at 31 December 2015</b>	7,056,145	830,705	7,886,850
Deficit attributable to members		(176,359)	(176,359)
Movement in reserves	477,254		477,254
<b>Balance at 31 December 2016</b>	7,533,399	654,346	8,187,745



**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.**

**STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016**

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Cash receipts from Customers		317,864	303,644
Cash paid to Suppliers and Employees		(417,099)	(446,552)
<b>NET CASH GENERATED (USED) IN OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		<u>(99,235)</u>	<u>(142,908)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		-	(17,476)
Dividends received		51,951	59,689
Interest received		-	1,876
Proceeds from Sale of financial assets		31,625	67,875
<b>NET CASH GENERATED FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		<u>83,576</u>	<u>111,964</u>
<b>NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>		<b>(15,659)</b>	<b>(30,944)</b>
CASH AND EQUIVALENTS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR		49,796	80,740
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF YEAR</b>		<u><b>34,137</b></u>	<u><b>49,796</b></u>

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016**

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**1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial statements cover The Royal Society of Victoria Inc. as an individual entity. The Royal Society of Victoria Inc. is a not for profit Association incorporated in Victoria under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

Comparatives are consistent with prior years, unless otherwise stated.

**Basis of Preparation**

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

The Council has determined that the association is not a reporting entity since there are unlikely to exist users of the financial report who are not able to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards and Accounting Interpretations, and the disclosure requirements of AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements, AASB 107 Statement of Cash Flows, AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors and AASB 1054 Australian Additional Disclosures.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

**Income Tax**

The Society is an income tax exempt entity.

**Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

**Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when the Society has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at reporting date.

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016**

---

**Employee Provisions**

Provision for employee benefits represents amounts accrued for annual leave, personal leave and long service leave.

The current portion for this provision includes the total amount accrued for annual leave entitlements and personal leave entitlements. The Society may not pay the full amount of annual leave or personal leave balances classified as current liabilities within the next 12 months. However, these amounts must be classified as current liabilities since the Society does not have an unconditional right to defer the settlement of these amounts in the event employees wish to use their leave entitlement.

The non-current portion of this provision includes amounts accrued for long service leave entitlements that have not yet vested in relation to those employees who have not yet completed the required period of service. Long service leave is accrued once an employee commences employment.

**Fixed Assets**

The building and improvements have been paid for by the Society over its lifetime. However, it should be noted that the building is constructed on land which is not owned by the Society but which is held by Trustees pursuant to statute. In view of this, neither the building nor the land is regarded by the Society as realisable assets. There are however, still economic benefits associated with the buildings and improvements and the value of the Building and Improvements is recognised as a result of this.

An inventory of fixed assets was undertaken during the 2011 year and values established for assets physically in existence. The values reported reflect a realisable or replacement cost. Depreciation has been applied to these assets from 1st January 2011.

In 2016, the Society commissioned an Insurance Valuation for the Buildings which the Council considers to be at Fair Value and have therefore revalued the carrying amount to align with this valuation. The revaluation increment has been charged to reserves.

Building and improvements are being amortised over forty years in accordance with accounting practices with the amortisation written off to the income statement. This amortisation initially commenced 1st January 2010 when the restoration works were completed. This time frame has continued to be applied post revaluation as the revaluation did not impact of the perceived useful life of the building.

**Revenue and Other Income**

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. Interest revenue is recognised when received. All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

**Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of GST. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included as part of receivables or payables in the balance sheet.

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016**

---

**Investments**

Investments held are originally recognised at cost, which includes transaction costs. The investments are then revalued to market value.

**Impairment**

At each reporting date, the Society reviews the carrying values of its assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the income statement.

Impairment testing is performed annually for goodwill and intangible assets with indefinite lives. Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the company estimates the recoverable amount of the cash generating unit to which the asset belongs.



**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016**

		2016	2015
		\$	\$
<b>3</b>	<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>		
	Petty Cash	170	376
	Cash at Bank	33,966	49,420
		<u>34,136</u>	<u>49,796</u>
<b>4</b>	<b>Trade and Other Receivables</b>		
	<b>Current</b>		
	Sundry Debtors	23,969	21,835
		<u>23,969</u>	<u>21,835</u>
<b>5</b>	<b>Inventories</b>		
	<b>Current</b>		
	Publications	48,001	48,001
	Coins & Stamps	2,955	2,955
	Less Provision for Stock Obsolescence	(23,213)	(23,022)
		<u>27,743</u>	<u>27,934</u>
<b>6</b>	<b>Financial Assets</b>		
	<b>Non-Current</b>		
	Science Foundation Investment Portfolio (Equity Trustees)	1,074,029	1,085,349
	Shares and Other Direct Investments (Computershare)	2,097	678
		<u>1,076,126</u>	<u>1,086,027</u>

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016**

	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>7 Property, Plant and Equipment</b>		
<b>Buildings</b>		
Buildings, Improvements & Restoration Costs – All – At Valuation		5,169,961
Less Accumulated Depreciation		(749,325)
Buildings - Main & Carpark - At Valuation	4,310,000	
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(43,100)	
Buildings - Cottage - At Valuation	480,000	
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(4,800)	
	4,742,100	4,420,636
<b>Total Buildings</b>	<b>4,742,100</b>	<b>4,420,636</b>
Computers and Other Equipment - At Cost	80,838	80,838
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(67,188)	(65,357)
	13,650	15,481
Fixtures & Fittings - At Cost	--	379,909
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	--	(379,909)
	-	-
Paintings - At Valuation	19,818	19,818
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(1,188)	(990)
	18,630	18,828
Burke and Wills Collection - At Valuation	2,225,000	2,225,000
Library - At Valuation	86,805	86,805
<b>Total Plant, Equipment &amp; Collections</b>	<b>2,344,085</b>	<b>2,346,114</b>
<b>Total Property, Equipment &amp; Collections</b>	<b>7,086,185</b>	<b>6,766,750</b>
Note, the Library collection was independently valued in 2010. There is no documentation to support this historical figure		
<b>8 Accounts Payable and Other Payables</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Sundry Creditors	16,050	24,170
	16,050	24,170
<b>9 Employee Benefits</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Provision for Annual Leave and Personal Leave	14,275	11,253
	14,275	11,253
<b>Non-Current</b>		
Provision for Long Service Leave	7,595	3,078
	7,595	3,078

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016**

		2016	2015
		\$	\$
<b>10 Reserves</b>			
	<b>Building Revaluation Reserve</b>		
	Opening Balance for the year	4,540,000	4,540,000
	Increase (Decrease) in Valuation	455,530	-
		4,995,530	4,540,000
	<b>Burke and Wills Collection Reserve</b>		
	Opening Balance for the year	2,225,000	2,225,000
	 The Burke and Wills Collection owned by the Society and held by the State Library of Victoria, was independently valued during 2011. This valuation was provided by Director Collections & Access, State Library Victoria.		
	<b>Investment Revaluation Reserve</b>		
	Opening Balance for the year	331,581	348,000
	Increase (Decrease) in Market Value of Science Foundation Investment Portfolio	20,305	(20,896)
	Increase (Decrease) in Market Value of Direct Shares	1,419-	230
	Adjustment for prior years and change of accounting practice	-	4,247
		353,305	331,581
	<b>Library Revaluation Reserve</b>		
	Opening Balance for the year	86,805	86,805
	 An independent valuation was obtained in 2010. There is no documentation to support this historical figure.		
	<b>Revaluation of Fixtures and Fittings</b>		
	Opening Balance	(127,241)	(127,241)
		7,533,399	7,056,145
<b>11 Retained Earnings</b>			
	Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year	830,705	1,077,136
	Net loss attributable to the association	(176,359)	(246,431)
	Retained earnings at the end of the financial year	654,346	830,705

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016**

		2016	2015
		\$	\$
<b>12</b>	<b>Donations, Bequests, Sponsorships and Fundraising</b>		
	Flower Show Parking	1,880	3,295
	Member donations to replace curtains	-	9,000
	Member donations sponsoring outreach	-	3,000
	Other donations from members and fundraisings	10,108	14,467
		<u>11,988</u>	<u>29,762</u>
<b>13</b>	<b>Depreciation</b>		
	Depreciation of Plant & Equipment	2,029	7,579
	Depreciation of Buildings	134,066	127,685
		<u>136,095</u>	<u>135,264</u>

Depreciation is calculated using a mixture of diminishing value and prime cost methodologies, consistently applied to asset classes each year in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards

**14 Net Deficit**

The net deficit of \$176,359 is after charging as an expense provision for stock obsolescence of \$191, depreciation of plant and equipment of \$2,029 and depreciation of buildings \$134,066. All of these items are non-cash items. The Society had a Net Deficit before depreciation and stock obsolescence of \$40,073.

**15 Dividends and Movements in the Science Foundation**

This amount includes dividends, distributions, interest and franking credits received of \$60,384 from the RSV Science Foundation (investment portfolio). These realised gains were offset by Investment Manager fees, charges and rebates of \$7,386 resulting in a net realised gain of \$52,998.

\$75,000 was withdrawn from the RSV Science Foundation during the 2016 year.

This fund transfer was allocated to the Phillip Law Postdoctoral Award, RSV Research Medal, Young Scientist Research Prizes and sponsorship of the Science Talent Search and Australian Natural History Medallion, with the balance allocated to offset the operating deficit.

The withdrawal of \$75,000 (2015 \$112,345) from the RSV Science Foundation is consistent with the financial management plan adopted by Council. The Council-approved withdrawals commenced in the 2014 year.

The unrealised gain (market movement) for the RSV Science Foundation after taking into account realised gains, investment manager fees, charges and rebates and withdrawals to the Society's operating bank account during the 2016 year was \$20,305 compared to an unrealised loss in 2015 of \$20,896.



**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC**

**RESOLUTION BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

The Council has determined that the Society is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Council the financial report as set out on pages 21 to 32 of the Annual Report:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of The Royal Society of Victoria Inc. (a Non-reporting Association) as at 31 December 2016 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that The Royal Society of Victoria Inc. (a Non-reporting Association) will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.
3. We authorise Council members David Zerman and Nicola Williams to certify the financial report following the Annual General Meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2017.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Council and is signed for and on behalf of the Council by:



President .....  
Dr William D Birch AM



Treasurer .....  
Mr Norman Kennedy

Dated this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March 2017

## INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE PRACTITIONER'S REVIEW REPORT TO THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

### Report on the Financial Report

I have reviewed the accompanying annual financial report of The Royal Society of Victoria Inc., which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2016, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the Council's resolution.

### Council's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Council of the registered entity is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent noted in Note 1, Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic), Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

### Assurance Practitioner's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express a conclusion on the financial report based on my review. I conducted my review in accordance with Auditing Standard on Review Engagements ASRE 2400 Review of a Financial Report Performed by an Assurance Practitioner Who is Not the Auditor of the Entity in order to state whether, on the basis of the procedures described, anything has come to my attention that causes me to believe that the financial report taken as a whole, is not presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. This standard also requires me to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with ASRE 2400 is a limited assurance engagement. The assurance practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making enquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less than those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

### Conclusion

Based on my review, which is not an audit, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that the financial report of The Royal Society of Victoria Inc. for the year ended 31st December 2016 does not present fairly in all material respects, giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 31 December 2016 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards to the extent noted in Note 1, Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic), Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Name of Firm : J D Madgwick Chartered Accountant



Name of Principal : JONATHAN DAVID MADGWICK CA

Dated this 26th day of April 2017

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

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**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC**

**CERTIFICATE BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

I, David Zerman of 21 Oakleigh Road, Carnegie, Victoria 3163 and Nicola Williams of 16 Viewmount Road, Glen Waverley, Victoria 3150 certify that:

- a. We are members of the Council of The Royal Society of Victoria Inc. (a Non-reporting Association).
- b. We attended the Annual General Meeting of the Association held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017
- c. We are authorised by the attached resolution of the Council to sign this certificate.
- d. The Financial Statements were submitted to the members of the Society at its Annual General Meeting.
- e. The statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial performance and position of the above name association during and at the end of the financial year of the association ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.

**Dated this 27<sup>th</sup> Day of April, 2017**

.....  
Mr David Zerman

.....  
Mrs Nicola Williams

