

## The Royal Society of Victoria

**Promoting Science.**

PATRON: The Hon Linda Dessau AM  
Governor of Victoria

PRESIDENT: Dr William Birch AM

## 2015 Annual Report



# THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INCORPORATED

ABN 62 145 872 663

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2015

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 AM**  
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

**Prof. G. D. Burrows** AO, CJCJ, BSc, MB, ChB, DPM, MD GradDipMHIthSc(Clinical Hypnosis), DSc, FRANZCP, FRCPSych, MRACMA, FACHAM  
**Dr M. Williams**, BSc, MSc, PhD  
**Prof. T. J. Entwisle**, BSc(Hons), PhD  
**Mrs H. J. Gardiner**, BA, Cert IV Workplace Training  
**Prof. S. M. Rees**, BSc(Hons), MSc, MPhil, PhD, DSc

#### RETURNING OFFICER

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

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

### TRUSTEES

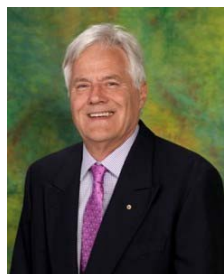
**Dr D. M. Churchill**, BSc, MA, IPPA, PhD  
**Dr A. S. Finkel** AM, PhD, FTSE  
**Prof. L. Selwood**, MSc, PhD  
**Em. Prof. J. W. Warren**, MA, PhD

## FELLOWS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

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

\* Deceased

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



As 2015 draws to a close, what springs to my mind is how significant the year has been for the Society establishing new connections across all our fields of activity. The catalyst has undoubtedly been Mike Flattley, our new Executive Director, who commenced in mid-January and has brought an incredible level of enthusiasm, engagement and professionalism to the Society's affairs. It's probably fair to say that Mike has helped accelerate activities that were already moving in the right direction, albeit at different speeds, through changes adopted by Council over the past few years. However, Mike has used his considerable experience and networking skills to take us in some new directions.

These were, and still are, inspired by the need to increase our connections with you, the members, the Victorian scientific community, and perhaps just as importantly, the general public.

The Society's **committee structure** has been invigorated through the recruitment of enthusiastic members, who now have greater opportunities to make a direct contribution to our programmes. This is especially evident in the **Science Outreach committee**, chaired by Helen Gardiner, where relationships have been established with organisations such as the CSIRO Scientists in Schools program, Cultural Infusion, Growing Tall Poppies, Wonderment Walk Victoria, Young Scientists Australia (Melbourne) and a number of organisations dedicated to improving the status and participation of Australian women in science. Building on our pilot at Wooranna Park Primary School, our push to build a CoderDojo network across the state to reach and develop future scientists across metropolitan and regional Victoria has fostered a dynamic collaboration with the Council of Small Business of Australia and an alliance of our northern region Local Learning and Employment Networks. A significant new relationship has also developed with the **Bjarne K Dahl Trust**, which now leases our Nancy Millis room for its operations and will co-host 2016's timely symposium on the conservation of eucalypts.

The work of the Membership committee has largely been subsumed into a new grouping under the title of **Membership & Fundraising Committee**, tasked with both stimulating membership activity and identifying potential sources of new revenue for the Society. The responses to a membership survey developed by Mike later in the year were crystallised in the form of a **members' forum** in September and a subsequent Strategic Prospectus titled "**Concord and Progress**" circulated in December for consultation and feedback. The outcomes of these consultative processes will help define and guide the Society's purpose, activities and strategic planning for the next five years or so.



*Victoria's Lead Scientist, Leonie Walsh canvassed the complex and challenging role of governing the diverse and fragmentary community, research and industrial sectors in Victorian science and technology.*

Greater connections have undoubtedly been made with the public through Mike's use of **social media** channels Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, combined with an enhanced website and content-rich newsletter. While these are yet to see a marked increase in membership, there is no doubt the Society is now gaining more traction in the public arena, perhaps best illustrated by healthy attendances at our bimonthly lectures, where visitors usually form a significant proportion of the audience. These social media channels have also been crucial to putting out word of our suite of awards and prizes for outstanding contributions to science in Victoria, as reflected by the

quality and quantity of applicants in 2015.

The **lecture programme** has been an outstanding success, thanks to the hard work of Sandra Rees and her committee. So too were events such as the **Young Scientists Research Prizes** and the **Very Young Scientists** evening, where we rehearse the important function of inspiring and rewarding scientific endeavour by our next generation of science practitioners. Our annual **symposium on Biodiversity and Climate Change**, inspired by Lynne Selwood and organised jointly with the VNPA and the Bio21 Institute, was well attended and its outcomes have since gained considerable exposure and impact through both traditional and social media channels with Ian Lunt's work on the "VicNature 2050" website, offering practical advice through "10 things we can all do to help nature adapt to a new climate."



Another great illustration of the Society's increased public profile in 2015 was the media response to our seeking expressions of interest over what to do with the 'grassy triangle', **the former Bureau of Meteorology measuring site**. What eventuates on our unique and significant Melbourne site could

well determine the long-term financial security and capacity of the Society, so it is important that we get it right and proceed with broad support from all levels of government and the Victorian community with any proposal. Much of this challenging but important work has been conducted in 2015 and will continue in the year ahead.



*Neil Mitchell broadcast his 3AW morning program from the BoM Site on a chilly 18 June morning as the Lord Mayor opened fire on passing traffic with a speed gun.*

The connection with **CSIRO Publishing** was consolidated in 2015 through the online, open access publication of the first, full, two-issue volume of the *Proceedings*, augmenting the journal as an attractive platform for Victorian scientists to reach a broad readership. The new publisher means only peer-reviewed pieces can be included with the *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Victoria*, so contributions better suited to our historical *Transactions* component of the journal will in future be published on a new, online 'magazine' linked from our website.

Of course, **financial security** is a key factor in ensuring the Society's continued existence. It's true to say that 2015 was not a great year for the finances, as a number of factors have led to us returning a significant loss on our operational outcome, as will be explained in the Treasurer's report. However, with staffing matters settling down and early signs of an increase in rental of our facilities, it's my hope



that 2016 will see an improvement in our financial situation. Council is well aware that drawing down income from our investment portfolio to cover operational losses is not sustainable in the medium to long-term, and we must continue to secure ways to turn that situation around.

Just as new connections can be made, old ones can be broken, and 2015 saw the retirement of two long-time and greatly valued staff members, **Alex Tsakmakis** and **Janet Jackson**. Alex and Janet had shown great loyalty, diligence and, at times, resilience over the years and a grateful Society was sorry to see them leave. However, that has opened up an opportunity for **Malourie Crawford** to join us as Events Manager to run the hospitality side of our operations and she has done a wonderful job. It's also great to see **James McArthur** back to full health and embarking with gusto on a substantial change in his duties, taking up much of Alex's former duties as our new Business Manager with the assistance of our external accountant **Linda Baird**. These changes will ensure the Society can continue to adapt to the changing needs of a non-government organisation's administration while constraining our staffing budget.

In closing, I would like to sincerely thank my fellow Executive and Council members for the enthusiastic support they have provided to me over the past three years, in particular:

- our retiring Councillor, **Professor Tim Entwisle**, who has provided sage input and guidance during his tenure with the Society's Council. We look forward to continuing our fond and productive association with Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.
- the late, great **Professor Graham Burrows**, who we lost in the early days of 2016. Vale, Graham, thank you for your distinguished service to the Society as a President and Council member, and your long contribution to the Victorian medical community.

**Bill Birch, President**

## THE HALL

Numerous organisations conducted over 362 meetings during the year. Federation University continues the lease of the two first floor offices and the Von Mueller Room. The Bjarne K Dahl Trust commenced leasing the Nancy Millis Room. GoGet Carshare commenced leasing six spaces in the Hall's car park.

The front steps, half-installed then abandoned as a City of Melbourne project in 2001, have finally been completed through funds drawn from the RSV Science Foundation, creating a much-improved presentation to our La Trobe Street entrance.



*Principals of international Science Schools joined the RSV for lunch as part of the **2015 International Science Fair** convened by the John Monash Science School in December 2015.*



*A project 14 years in the making, finally completed thanks to the RSV Science Foundation after an earlier heritage grant application failed to attract funding. Master paver Andrea Tomaselli utilised Melbourne bluestone to clad the concrete footings and rendered brick retaining walls to hold back the surrounding soils.*

## CITY OF MELBOURNE

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

## 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 in kind of off-site storage
- ◇ Mr Jonathan D. Madgwick, BBus ACA, Honorary Auditor
- ◇ Volunteer assistance with archiving the Society's records and cataloguing the Library – Mr Malcolm Carkeek
- ◇ Mr Dodge Phoenix, Gardener
- ◇ RSV Member assistance with distributing the Newsletter, providing building tours during Melbourne Open House, and fundraising during the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show and manning stalls at the Mental Health Foundation Australia "Family Day" at Cruden Farm

## ADMINISTRATION



*James, Malourie & Mike, December 2015*

Mr Mike Flattley, Executive Director  
Mr Alex Tsakmakis, Administration Officer - Finance  
Mrs Janet Jackson, Administration Officer - Secretariat  
Mr James McArthur, Business and Property Manager  
Ms Malourie Crawford, Events and Membership Manager

*This Report is approved by Council for presentation to Members at the Annual General Meeting to be conducted Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2016.*

**Bill Birch, President**

## 2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 158<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting was convened on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2015.

- Councillor Dr Peter Baines, elected at the Ordinary Meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> March 2015, was inducted for a two-year term as Ordinary Member of Council.
- The Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2014 were received and adopted.
- Mr Jonathan D. Madgwick, BBus, ACA, was appointed Honorary Auditor.

## FUNDRAISING

The Society acknowledges the following Members for their generosity (post-nominals omitted).

Alan J Berry  
William D Birch  
Kenneth W Bradley  
Davide Ciceri

Charles G Clark  
Patricia M Conwell  
Leon F Costermans  
Leslie Grey Dale

Rupert M Dalley  
Suzanne Daniel-Dreyfus  
Robert W de Gille  
J Keith Dempster

Gregory C Eccleston  
 Carol R Ely  
 William G Fenner  
 Alan Finkel  
 Donald F Gaff  
 Judy Gordon  
 Phillip Hamilton  
 John E Harrison  
 Roy T A Hardcastle  
 Milton T Hearn  
 Peter W Holbeach  
 Patricia Illing  
 Melinda Kemp  
 Bruce E Kemp  
 Norman P Kennedy  
 A Peter Kershaw  
 Pauline Y Ladiges

Diane Lightfoot  
 John A S Link  
 Murray J Littlejohn  
 Phillip G Macumber  
 Marjory-Dore Martin  
 Anwyn M Martin  
 James W McConville  
 William A McMaster  
 Nancy H McNeill  
 Wallace W Mobilia  
 Trevor C Morton  
 Maurice Pagnin  
 George A Pinches  
 Lady Primrose Potter  
 James N Rowan  
 Robert B Sandie  
 Robert K Shepherd

John E Sherwood  
 Christopher R Simpson  
 Peter G Simpson  
 Robert A Slater  
 Ivan F Smith  
 Paul Ter  
 William J Thompson  
 Richard Thwaites  
 Ewan W Tyler  
 Jozua van Otterloo  
 James Warren  
 Norman J West  
 Mark Williams  
 Donald R Williams  
 Voi M Williams  
 Roger G Woodhouse

### Bequests

No bequests were received.



## SCIENCE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Prof. S. Rees (Chair), Mrs N. H. Williams, Ms K. Fenton (co-opted)

### 2015 Lecture Series

The twice-monthly lecture program ran from 12<sup>th</sup> February to the 14<sup>th</sup> November with the RSV Medal presentation to Professor David Karoly concluding the year on 10<sup>th</sup> December. The lectures were very well attended with audiences of between 50 and 110 (average 70) members of the RSV and general public. Excellent lectures covered a wide range of scientific topics including: Youth mental health (Professor Patrick McGorry); The complex ecological roles of Australia's predators (Dr Euan Ritchie); Celebrating Maxwell - and scientific curiosity (Dr Robyn Arianrhod); Weird animals and sex (Professor Jenny Graves); Crystallography: Australia's Bragging rights (Professor Jenny Martin); Extinct megafauna, camels and the Australian desert (Dr Jillian Garvey) and Victoria's gemstones: much more than history (Dr Bill Birch).



*Phillip Law Postdoctoral Award winner Dr Marcus Doherty patiently explains quantum mechanics to the RSV audience – worthy of a further award!*



*Prof Jenny Graves was great fun, exploring the evolutionary processes in mammalian sex selection, here pondering what will determine "maleness" in humans of the future as the SRY gene continues to dwindle.*

In response to members' requests a new initiative in 2015 was to hold lunch-time meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month in June, July and August. This proved moderately successful in terms of audience interest and will continue in 2016.

### Dr Philip Law Postdoctoral Award for Physical Sciences

The Award was organized by the Committee and won by **Dr Marcus Doherty**, who delivered his presentation to the Society "The quantum age of diamond," on October 22nd. The award (\$3,000 prize money) attracted 7 excellent entries. We are grateful to the



judging panel, which included Professor Stephen Prawer, Professor Paul Mulvaney and Mrs Nicola Williams.



2015 Young Scientist Research Prize Finalists, (back row, from left) Stefan Vollgger, April Philpott, Bill Birch, Eamonn Fahy, Kelly Stanger, Edward Nagul (front row) Catherine de Burgh-Day, Caitlin Gionfriddo, Anna Flanagan-Moodie

## Young Scientist Research Prizes

These Prizes were awarded as part of the Society's contribution to Science Week on 24<sup>th</sup> September. The Committee organized the judging panel, which included Professors Sandra Rees, Pauline Ladiges and Lynne Selwood; Drs Tom Darragh, Bill Birch, Diane Lightfoot and Mark Williams; Mrs Nick Williams and Mr Norman Kennedy. There were 64 entries in four categories: Physical Sciences, Earth Sciences, Biomedical & Health Sciences and Biological Sciences (Non-human).

The Committee recommended eight young scientists to present their work on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September. The presentations were excellent and

the night was very well attended by their colleagues, supervisors and RSV members. The prizes are supported by the E. D. Gill and Neil W. Archbold bequests and by generous donations from current Society Members. Donations to the Young Scientists Research Prizes fund are always welcome.

Dr Bill Birch presented prize monies, a certificate and membership of the Society for 2016 to the winners:

**Biological Sciences (Non-human):** Anna Flanagan-Moodie

**Biomedical & Health Sciences:** Dr Eamonn Fahy

**Physical Sciences:** Catherine De Burgh-Day and Edward Nagul (joint winners)

**Earth Sciences:** Stephen Vollgger

The runners-up each received a certificate and prize: April Philpott, Kelly Stanger, Caitlin Gionfriddo.



A Science Talent Search bursary winner presents his work to the Royal Society of Victoria.

## Very Young Scientists

Junior school winners of RSV-sponsored Science Talent Search bursaries (administered by the Science Teachers Association of Victoria) were invited to the RSV on 28<sup>th</sup> November to hear short presentations from two of the finalists of the Young Scientists Award, **Catherine De Burgh- Day** and **Caitlin Gionfriddo** and to enjoy a science show from "Con Man" **Nicholas Johnson**. The event was attended by about 90 students, their teachers and families and was judged a great success. The aim of the event is to further encourage the students to pursue their interest in science and participate with the science community.

**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, the Committee was pleased to recommend to Council that **Professor David Karoly** receive the 51<sup>st</sup> award of the Royal Society of Victoria's Medal for Research Excellence in Category III: Earth Sciences. The presentation to Professor Karoly was made by The Hon Linda Dessau AM, Governor of Victoria and Patron of the Society, at the Society's meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2015, where David presented his lecture "Using climate science to inform decision making."

No Fellowships were awarded in 2015.

**Bill Birch, Chair**



2015 RSV Research Medallist Professor David Karoly (right) with RSV President Dr William Birch AM and Her Excellency the Hon Linda Dessau AM, Governor of Victoria



## MEMBERSHIP & FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Mr D. Zerman (Chair), Brigadier R. Slater, Dr R. Shaw

Retaining current members and encouraging new members has been one of the main tasks of the Membership Committee. In 2015 a separate initiative to revive the RSV Foundation as a working group under Brigadier Robert Slater swiftly recognised the key resource for actioning the Society's initiatives and objectives is the skill-base and capacity of its membership to champion the cause. Accordingly, Council has now merged the portfolios of membership and fundraising to govern the work of the RSV Foundation.

Following on from the inaugural Members' Forum in August 2014, the 2015 Forum was held in November 2015 to reflect on the response to the group's member survey and determine short-term actions to activate the Society. Deliberations revealed a re-activation of a 'field trip' program, wherein members can enjoy one another's fellowship while learning about contemporary projects and initiatives in Victorian science, would offer the kind of insight that allows the RSV to make a genuine contribution to the status and role of science in society. The Forum also revealed a particular need to target our younger members, particularly prospective and recent graduates from studies in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine, with programs that assist our early career members gain a foothold in their chosen fields and/or industries.



Welcoming RSV members provided tours of the Hall for hundreds of visitors during Melbourne Open House on 25 July 2015



RSV President Dr William Birch AM convenes the 2015 annual Members' Forum in the Burke & Wills Room

Most importantly, our discussions have maintained a focus on the purpose of membership, as well as the benefits. Our strategic work in 2015 reminded us we are convened to achieve productive outcomes for Victoria through the promotion and advancement of science, and to bring our considerable pool of knowledge and experience to bear on this aim.

Certainly, government policy at both state and federal levels is increasingly geared towards alignment with our goals and seeks trusted partners in the community to assist in delivery.

Members of the Council have discussed membership issues at many meetings. Despite regular increases in applications to join the Society during the year there has been a drop in our membership, particularly from applicants for the 2014 Young Scientist Research Prizes. Establishing and maintaining relevance for our younger members is plainly a key priority.

In 2016 I will be working with the Committee to look at a range of benefits for members across the professional and personal life cycle and provide meaningful engagement with all who join or remain with the Society in the coming year. This will be a high priority of the Committee if we are to develop and improve our financial sustainability in future years, not just through membership subscriptions, but through the partnerships, grants and philanthropic support our efforts can sustain.

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

**David Zerman, Chair**

## MEMBERSHIP 2015

Changes to Membership	2014	2015
Elected	46	102
Transfer to Life Membership	0	0
Resignations	8	24
Deaths	10	4
Removals (failure to pay subscription)	11	97

<b>Total individual Membership 2015</b>	604	561
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### Corporate Members 2015

Australian Delphi User Group Inc.  
School of Philosophy (Melb) Inc.

## VALE

The passing of the following Members during 2015 is recorded with deep sympathy to their families:

John Dawson AM  
Ian Young  
George Farmer  
Professor Don Jefferys AM



## PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

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

2015 saw a major change in the appearance and format of the Proceedings of the Royal Society of Victoria. An agreement was made with CSIRO Publishing to publish the Proceedings online as an open access publication. This means that Volume 127, Numbers 1 and 2 are available for all to read using the internet without charge. This is a major change for the RSV, which has always published in hard copy, but with CDs being the preferred format in recent years. From 2015 onwards all members and the public can read

the Proceedings online, but members do have the option of receiving hard copy versions by paying an extra fee per annum to cover printing costs. The production of CDs finished in 2014.

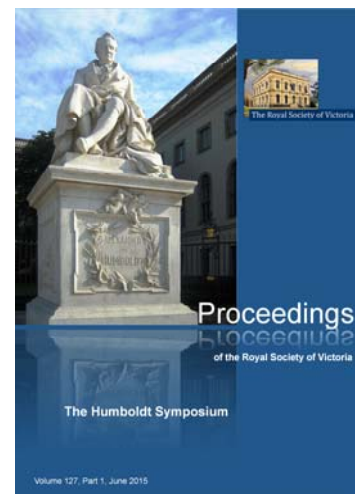
Papers for the Proceedings are required to be peer-reviewed before acceptance as in the past, and must be original research articles, review articles, or short communications in all areas of science. Manuscripts which have been accepted are carefully edited by a professional editor prior to

publication. Back issues to 2009 have now also been put online and are available at the CSIRO Publishing web site. The Proceedings of the Royal Society of Victoria from 1854 to 2006 are also available online free of cost for personal use at the State Library of Victoria website in their 'Digitised Collections'. The RSV believes making the Proceedings available to a much wider audience through open access is a big step forward, and should hopefully help promote the RSV through its publications.

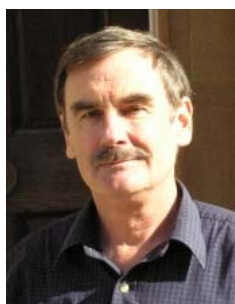
The Transactions will continue to be published online. These are articles of general interest and are not required to be peer-reviewed but are subject to light editorial review before acceptance. There will be no hard copy version.

Thanks to Bill Birch who has acted as Editor for the year. Also a very big thanks to Barbara Vaughan who undertook the painstaking task of the technical editing and layout, which was done to a very high standard indeed.

**Dr Mark Williams, Chair**



*The new-look Proceedings, published online with CSIRO Publishing in June 2015.*



## SCIENCE POLICY & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Dr P. G. Baines (Chair), Dr W. D. Birch, Dr M. Williams, Prof. T. Entwisle, Prof. R. M. Gleadow, Mr B. R. Mace.

One of the ways in which the RSV can serve the Victorian community is to publicly present informed opinion on important public issues that can benefit from the scientific expertise contained within the Society membership. To this effect, in early 2015, at the suggestion of the President Dr W. Birch, the RSV formed a Policy Committee with the role of being a body that could recommend positions the Society could/should formally

adopt on any particular issue. Inaugural members of this Committee were: Dr Peter Baines (Chairman), Dr William Birch, Mr Dennis O'Neill, Professor Roslyn Gleadow, and Mr Bernard Mace. A/Professor Robert Day joined the Committee late in 2015. Much of the progress in the past year has been in establishing a modus operandi, but some specific issues have been considered.

In 2015, the following issues were considered by the Committee.

1. The formation of an enlarged Southern Ranges National Park in Central Victoria. The Committee made a positive recommendation which was presented to Council and put out for discussion. After some comments from the membership, the statement was modified, and placed on the website. The main focus is that the preservation of a sustainable environment for the critically endangered Leadbeater's Possum is very important.
2. The protection of the fossil site at Beaumaris Bay, one of the most significant paleontological sites in the Southern Hemisphere for revealing the evolutionary development of mammals, was discussed and supported by the Society via the website, media release and social media.
3. Should the Society publicly oppose the formation of a stingray feeding centre at Queenscliff? The issue was considered, and the Committee decided that the feeding of stingrays was a local issue and should not have significant adverse effects, and that no position by the Society was required. However, the issue could be re-examined if there were further developments.
4. A statement on the possible adverse health effects of wind power (or lack of evidence therefore) from Assoc. Prof. Marion Carey was placed on the web site.

Older statements about National Science Policy remain on the Society web site.

**Dr Peter G. Baines, Chair**

### Royal Society of Victoria Supports Action to Protect the Beaumaris Fossil Site

The Royal Society of Victoria is an independent, apolitical body which has been promoting science and science education since 1854. Its members have made significant contributions to our knowledge of Victoria's natural environment, particularly in paleontology, reflecting the abundance of fossil sites in the State.

Unique amongst these sites is a short stretch of the coast at Beaumaris, a seaside suburb of Melbourne, where sedimentary rocks containing fossils of marine megafauna from the Cenozoic era (0-66 million years ago) are exposed. The locality is recognized as the most important of its type in Australia and



Beaumaris Bay Photo: Penny Stephens @ The Age

*The RSV position paper on Beaumaris Bay lent valuable support to community efforts to preserve the site's integrity on the grounds of its scientific significance.*



## 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.

### Traditional & Digital Media

In 2015 the public call for "expressions of interest" in the former Bureau of Meteorology site produced a great deal of media and public interest across all outlets. Led by a piece from The Age newspaper, the process attracted a great deal of positive attention and productive conversations with the people of Melbourne, not least with an entire morning of 3AW broadcasting Neil Mitchell's show live from the site. Concurrent interest from Channel 31's "Sacred Spaces" program, concerned with exploring heritage architecture around Melbourne, provided further opportunity to reach a broad Melbourne audience.

Drawing on 2015 circulation metrics published by each media outlet, we are able to approximate the impact of traditional journalism concerned with the Royal Society of Victoria.

## THE AGE Victoria

Victoria News Traffic Conditions Melbourne Liveability Quizzes

You are here: Home » Victoria »

### Royal Society open to offers for its city site, but only in the best possible taste

June 9, 2015

Carolyn Webb

Read later

556 1 1 submit



Mike Flattley, Royal Society of Victoria executive director, and the vacant patch of land. Photo: Eddie Jim

The Royal Society of Victoria has a small, grassed, impeccably positioned triangle of land in the CBD that it doesn't know what to do with, but wants it to be known that it is open to suggestions.

The only proviso being that any suggestion must be useful, tasteful and in keeping with the land's heritage status.

*An Age article published on 9 June 2016 by Carolyn Webb created a brief media frenzy concerning the fate of the former "BoM" site and kicked off a "crowdsourcing" exercise in determining interest in the site's future use as a source of revenue for the RSV.*

Outlet	Dates	Audience Reach/Circulation
The Age Newspaper	June 9, 2015	3,226,000 (print & online)
3AW News	June 10, 2015	3,043,012 (broadcast & online)
3AW Neil Mitchell	June 17, 2015	3,043,012 (broadcast & online)
774 ABC Red Symons	June 10, 2015	508,400 (broadcast only)
Channel Ten Eyewitness News	June 10, 2015	580,000 (broadcast only)
Channel 31 "Sacred Spaces"	June 2015	1,400,000 (broadcast & online)
The Age Newspaper	October 8, 2015	3,226,000 (print & online)
774 ABC Red Symons	October 9, 2015	508,400 (broadcast only)
	<b>Total 2015 Audience Reach:</b>	<b>15,534,824</b>

Naturally this figure reflects significant audience overlap. In terms of qualitative measures, these stories 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 2015 impacting the Society's reputation and standing.

## Social Media

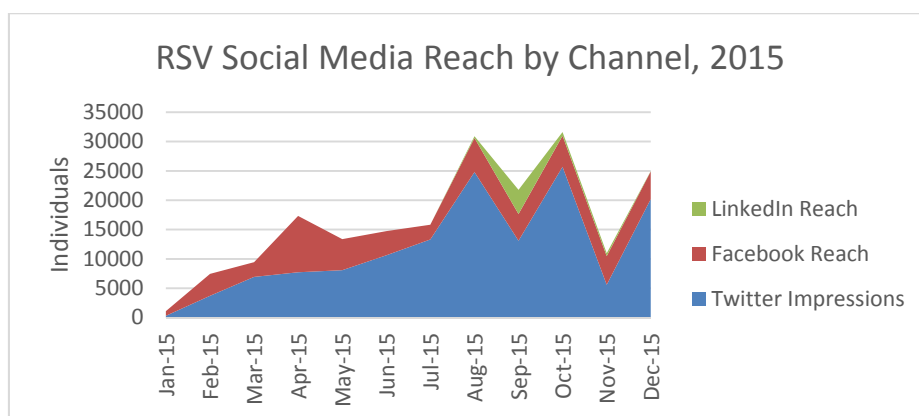
Efforts to communicate with the science community and the broader public were redoubled in 2015 through social media channels **Twitter** and **Facebook**, with a nascent presence on professional networking channel **LinkedIn**.

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 awards, award winners and significant position statements on current affairs in Victorian science.

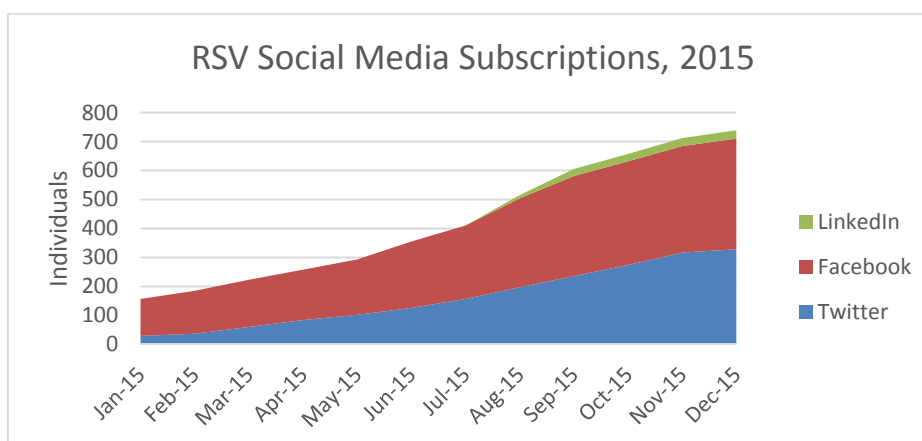
The charts below tell something of the story.



*According to Social Media Australia, approximately 14,000,000 Australians were subscribed to **Facebook** as of June 2015, making it a clear standout channel for audience engagement.*



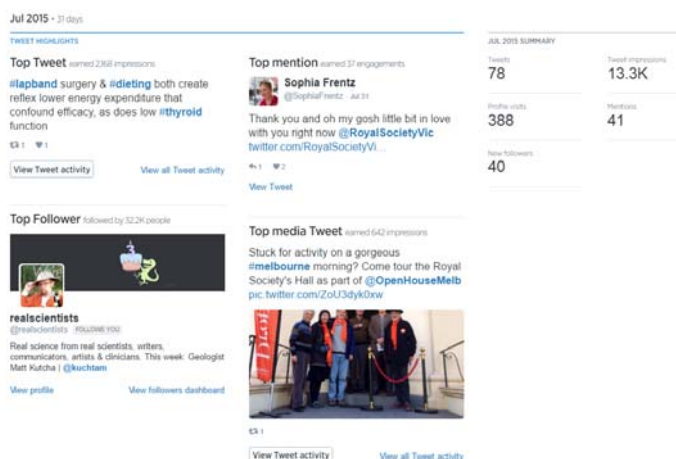
This chart represents the number of individuals to whom an RSV news item was delivered over the course of the year.



This chart 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.

Further progress was made through our email subscription base (**mailing list**), which enables the RSV to target both “friends” and core members of the Society according to the matter at hand. Response to RSV emails was excellent for the non-government sector, averaging a 37.7% open rate (20.2% for the sector) and a 5.0% click rate (2.2% for the sector). There were 870 mailing list subscribers as of December 2015, up from an RSV membership core of 500 at the list’s inception in May. Further, use of **Eventbrite** as an online ticketing tool for RSV events provided not just a streamlining of office workloads, but valuable cross-promotion and metrics to better understand how audience members are discovering and attending our lectures, symposia and other activities.

**Mike Flattley, Executive Director**



While local audience share is significantly less than Facebook’s, **Twitter’s** 2.8 million 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.



## SCIENCE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Mrs Helen Gardiner (Chair), Mr Martin Harris, Mr Peter Hogan, Mr Rick Tudor, Dr Madelaine Willcock

This Committee was created in 2014 to oversee and direct the following activities of the Society:

### Science in My World

Members continued to visit schools and help out in the classroom in response to general enquiries. To formalise this aspect of the service, a collaboration was established with the CSIRO’s Scientists and Mathematicians in Schools (now including ICT). At an information session run in May several Society members signed up to this program, which matches scientists with particular skills and interests with schools who have requested help in their science teaching.

The Committee has spent time this year researching schools which are in regions of lower socio-economic status with the aim of identifying schools within these regions to target for offers of support. This has informed planning for 2016 and we look forward to seeing more outcomes from this strategy throughout the coming year.



*Sally Ip, Project Officer with CSIRO’s Scientists in Schools, outlines the goals & methodology of the program.*



*A CoderDojo session underway at Wooranna Park Primary School, led by RSV member Kieran Nolan.*

### CoderDojo

The pilot CoderDojo at Wooranna Park Primary School continued to sustain interest and participation from local families through the energies of Dojo leader Kieran Nolan and Wooranna Park Principal Ray Trotter. With seed funding from **Dr Alan Finkel, AO FTSE** and with the sustained commitment of Dojo champions **Martin Harris** and **Doug McCann** (members) Melbourne’s first Coderdojo started on Sunday 7 December 2014 at Wooranna Park Primary School in Dandenong North and continued throughout 2015. Regular attendance figures have been averaging between 20 to 26 participants. The student ages range from 8 to 16 and they come with their equally enthusiastic

parents. Approximately half the students are doing formal coding and simple program writing and others are occupied with various games. Some of these projects are: Oculus Rift, Leap Motion, Drone Technology, Java, HTML5, Python and C++ Coding and Networking Technologies. Some of the funds for the program have contributed to the purchase of some extra equipment for such programs both for the Coderdojo and for the school's broader use.

We have been working on building from the Wooranna Park pilot to establish a CoderDojo Victoria network, particularly in regional Victoria where kids with a natural affinity for digital literacy can struggle to establish a positive childhood cohort experience. Fruitful collaboration with Warragul CoderDojo champion **Teresa Mitchell**, Deputy Chair of the Council of Small Businesses of Australia (COSBOA) and RSV member **Trent McCarthy**, CEO of the Central Ranges Local Learning & Employment Network (LLEN) has opened some intriguing opportunities for impact. We will be seeking funding in 2016 to sustain a three year Network Officer position and provide seed funds for local Dojos, with the assistance from the 31 LLENs across Victoria, COSBOA's vibrant network of local businesses and partnership with the regional campuses of Latrobe and Federation Universities.

### Cultural Infusion collaboration

Cultural Infusion is a social enterprise that raises funds through the sale of school incursion modules in Australia to resource resilience programs in developing nations. We were approached to help them develop science school incursion modules with particular 'cultural' twists to align with AusVELS and the National Curriculum's requirements for intercultural understanding development to be incorporated into late primary subjects. Helen Gardiner and Alex Pryor have been instrumental in sourcing IP from established science 'performers' to contribute to a vibrant suite of science incursion modules, starting with Professor Lloyd Hollenberg's "Physics of the Didgeridoo" show. In 2016 a further four modules are anticipated to follow.

### Science Talent Search Presentation Evening

Following our regular annual sponsorship of bursaries for winners of the Science Teachers Association of Victoria's Science Talent Search, we brought our bursary winners, their teachers and their families together to celebrate their achievement in 2015. The Committee supported an entertaining local science communicator, **Nicholas Johnson** ([www.conman.com.au](http://www.conman.com.au)) to present at this event, held on 28 November 2015, making it a fun and lively occasion, along with engaging presentation from two of our Young Scientist Research Prize finalists, **Catherine de Burgh-Day** and **Caitlin Gionfriddo**.



*Hilarious "conman" science performer Nicholas Johnson delighted and horrified our audience, pictured here with (from left) Caitlin Gionfriddo, Catherine de Burgh-Day, Science Programme Chair Sandra Rees and Outreach Programme Chair Helen Gardiner.*

At the final meeting for 2015, the Committee officially thanked **Maddy Willcock** for her contribution to the Committee and congratulated her on her new role in CSIRO which has taken her to New South Wales to work. The Committee also welcomed two new members, experienced science communicators, **Dr Amy Nisselle** and **Dr Renee Beale**, and together we outlined our plans for 2016.

We look forward to making more connections and helping more teachers, students and their families to engage with great science in 2016.

**Helen Gardiner, Chair**



## HONORARY TREASURER

Mr Norman Kennedy.

The function of the Finance & Audit Committee has been assumed by the Executive Committee, comprising the Treasurer, President, Immediate Past President, Vice-President and Secretary.

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

The Royal Society of Victoria Science Foundation (previously the "Science Fund") 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 medium term requirements. Proceeds of the fund are used to support the Phillip Law Postdoctoral Award for the Physical Sciences, The RSV Medal for Research Excellence, The Young Scientist Research Prizes and sponsorship of the Science Talent Search and Australian Natural History Medallion. The balance is allocated to offset the operating deficit as required.

Expenses this year were inflated by unavoidable and unforeseen staff expenses, including costs associated with covering for James while he undertook medical treatment (we are pleased to report his continuing recovery to full health). The resignations of our two long-term office staff resulted in significant payments of entitlements.

The income received from hiring our building is approximately 47% of our income with an additional approximately 22% from membership dues. Staffing costs are approximately 46% of our expenses.

Increasing funding sources and reducing expenses will be a major focus of the Executive and the Council in the coming year. We are analysing rental activities on a weekly and monthly basis to identify future opportunities. To increase the attractiveness of the RSV for renting we completed the front steps and made provision to update the internet connection.

We implemented a new cloud-based financial system and over the next year will restructure the accounts to improve efficiency and enable better management reporting.

We continue to maintain a strong focus on fiscal prudence. Internal audit activities have included: verification of expenses; verification of the asset register, and; monitoring of the risk register.

I would like to thank the Executive Committee and the Council for their support throughout the year and also acknowledge the support I receive from our Executive Director and his staff.

***Norman Kennedy, Honorary Treasurer***



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

## **Financial Report for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015**

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 2015.

### **PATRON**

The Hon Linda Dessau AM, Governor of Victoria

### **COUNCIL OFFICE BEARERS**

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

### **MEMBERS**

Prof G D Burrows AO, CJCJ, BSc, MB, ChB, DPM, MD, GradDipMHLthSc(Clinical Hypnosis), DSc  
FRANZCP, FRCPsych, MRACMA, FACHAM  
Prof T J Entwisle, BSc(Hons), PhD  
Mrs H J Gardiner, BA, CertIV Workplace Training  
Mrs N H Williams, BSc, DipEd, MSc, FRACI  
Dr M Williams, BSc, MSc, PhD  
Prof S M Rees, BSc (Hons), MSc, MPhil, PhD, DSc

### **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

### **RETURNING OFFICER**

Em Prof J W Warren, MA, PhD

### 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 operating deficit of the Society was (\$159,871) and after charging depreciation and adding the net result of the Science Foundation the net deficit was (\$246,431).

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



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Dr William D Birch AM



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Mr Norman Kennedy

Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2016

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC (A Non-reporting Association)**

**STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER  
2015**

	Notes	2015 \$	2014 \$
<b>OPERATING INCOME</b>			
Members' subscriptions		76,558	75,212
Rental Income		164,546	184,571
Sales - Memorabilia, Publications & Proceedings		3,951	8,837
Donations, Bequests, Sponsorships & Fundraising	10	29,762	20,903
Other Income		2,142	38,584
Interest		1,876	2,306
<b>TOTAL OPERATING INCOME</b>		<b>278,835</b>	<b>330,413</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURE</b>			
Advertising and Promotion		1,962	917
Audit - Honoraria		2,126	2,000
Bank charges		4,481	1,884
Catering		18,423	22,665
Cleaning & Consumables		27,671	5,262
Donations & Science Prizes		12,637	9,447
Electricity and Gas		7,629	6,759
Insurance		16,773	20,678
Office expenses		30,574	24,801
Professional Services		10,069	0
Publications		14,036	4,781
Repairs and Maintenance		25,174	10,702
Salaries and Wages		259,940	238,098
Salaries and Wages – Long Service Leave		7,211	3,751
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>438,706</b>	<b>351,745</b>
<b>NET RESULT FROM OPERATIONS</b>		<b>(159,871)</b>	<b>(21,332)</b>
<b>NON-OPERATING EXPENDITURE</b>			
Provision for Stock Obsolescence	4	10,985	12,037
Depreciation of Property, Plant and Equipment		7,579	36,221
Depreciation of Buildings	14	127,685	123,850
<b>TOTAL NON-OPERATING EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>146,249</b>	<b>172,108</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>584,955</b>	<b>523,853</b>
<b>NET RESULT BEFORE INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>(306,120)</b>	<b>(193,440)</b>
<b>RSV SCIENCE FOUNDATION</b>			
Dividends, Distributions and Interest	16	54,593	47,293
Franking Credits		11,419	11,282
Less Investment manager charges & rebates	16	(6,323)	(8,876)
Variation due to change in accounting policy			11,583
<b>NET RESULT FROM RSV SCIENCE FOUNDATION</b>		<b>59,689</b>	<b>61,282</b>
<b>NET DEFICIT</b>	15	<b>(246,431)</b>	<b>(132,158)</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	16	(20,896)	34,889
Unrealised Gains / Losses: Direct Shares		230	416
<b>TOTAL OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>		<b>(20,666)</b>	<b>35,305</b>
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>		<b>(267,097)</b>	<b>(96,853)</b>

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC (A Non-reporting Association)**

**STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER  
2015**

	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2015</b> <b>\$</b>	<b>2014</b> <b>\$</b>
Retained earnings at the beginning of the Financial Year		1,077,136	1,209,294
Net Deficit		(246,431)	(132,158)
Retained earnings at the end of the Financial Year		<b>830,705</b>	<b>1,077,136</b>



**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC (A Non-reporting Association)**

**BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2015**

	Notes	2015 \$	2014 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	49,796	80,740
Trade and other receivables	3	21,835	34,754
Stock - Publications, Coins and Stamps	4	27,934	41,764
Prepayments and Security Deposits		200	150
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>99,765</b>	<b>157,408</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Financial Assets	5/16	1,086,027	1,170,321
Building and Improvements	6	4,420,636	4,535,755
Property, plant and equipment	7	2,259,309	2,261,978
Library	8	86,805	86,805
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>7,852,777</b>	<b>8,054,859</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>7,952,542</b>	<b>8,212,267</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables		24,170	16,800
Membership Subscriptions in Advance		27,190	16,269
Other provisions	9	14,332	29,498
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>65,692</b>	<b>62,567</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>65,692</b>	<b>62,567</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>7,886,850</b>	<b>8,149,700</b>
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>			
Retained profits		830,705	1,077,136
<b>RESERVES:</b>			
Investment Revaluation Reserve	11	331,581	348,000
Library Revaluation Reserve		86,805	86,805
Burkes & Wills Collection Revaluation	12	2,225,000	2,225,000
Building and Improvements Reval Reserve	13	4,540,000	4,540,000
Write down Fixtures, Fittings		(127,241)	(127,241)
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>		<b>7,886,850</b>	<b>8,149,700</b>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2015**

**NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting standards in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Victoria). The Council has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity.

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

- a. **Income Tax**  
The Society is a tax exempt body.

- b. **Fixed Assets**  
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.

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.

Building and improvements are being amortised over forty years, in accordance with accounting practices. This period has been deemed to commence from 1st January 2010 on the basis that at this time, the restoration works had been completed. The amortisation is to be written off to the income statement.

- c. **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.
- d. **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.
- e. **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).
- f. **Goods and Services Tax (GST)**  
Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.
- g. **Investments**  
Investments held are originally recognised at cost, which includes transaction costs. The investments are now reported at market value.

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC (A Non-reporting Association)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2015**

**NOTE 2: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	\$	\$
Cash at Bank	49,420	76,448
Petty Cash	376	82
Undeposited Cheques	0	4,210
	<b>49,796</b>	<b>80,740</b>

**NOTE 3: TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES**

	\$	\$
Sundry Debtors	<b>21,835</b>	<b>34,754</b>

**NOTE 4: STOCK PUBLICATIONS, COINS and STAMPS**

	\$	\$
Publications	48,001	50,846
Coins and Stamps	2,955	2,955
Less Provision for Stock Obsolescence	(23,022)	(12,037)
	<b>27,934</b>	<b>41,764</b>

**NOTE 5: FINANCIAL ASSETS**

	\$	\$
RSV Science Foundation – Equity Trustees	1,085,350	1,169,873
Direct shares (Computershare Portfolio)	677	448
	<b>1,086,027</b>	<b>1,170,321</b>

**NOTE 6: BUILDING AND IMPROVEMENTS**

	\$	\$
Building and Improvements – at Valuation	4,552,566	4,540,000
Building Restoration Costs	617,395	617,395
	<b>5,169,961</b>	<b>5,157,395</b>
Less Amortisation	(749,325)	(621,640)
	<b>4,420,636</b>	<b>4,535,755</b>

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC (A Non-reporting Association)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2015**

**NOTE 7: PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	\$	\$
Fixtures and Fittings	379,909	379,909
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(379,909)	(379,909)
Net value of Fixtures and Fittings	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Paintings at Valuation	19,818	19,818
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(990)	(792)
Net Value of Paintings	<u>18,828</u>	<u>19,026</u>
Office Equipment at Cost	59,721	54,814
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(59,178)	(53,088)
Net Value of Office Equipment	<u>543</u>	<u>1,726</u>
Cottage Assets at Cost	18,795	18,795
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(4,469)	(3,529)
Net Value of Cottage Assets	<u>14,326</u>	<u>15,266</u>
Catering Equipment at Cost	2,322	2,322
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(1,710)	(1,362)
Net Value of Catering Equipment	<u>612</u>	<u>960</u>
Burke and Wills Collection at Valuation 2011	2,225,000	2,225,000
Total Net Value Property, Plant & Equipment	<u><b>2,259,309</b></u>	<u><b>2,261,978</b></u>

**NOTE 8: LIBRARY**

\$	\$
<u><b>86,805</b></u>	<u><b>86,805</b></u>

An Independent Valuation 2010 – there is no documentation to support this historical figure.

**NOTE 9: OTHER PROVISIONS**

	\$	\$
Long Service Leave	3,078	29,498
Annual and Carers / Personal Leave	11,254	
	<u><b>14,332</b></u>	<u><b>29,498</b></u>

**NOTE 10: DONATIONS, BEQUESTS, SPONSORSHIPS AND FUNDRAISING**

	\$	\$
Flower Show parking	3,295	4,621
Member donation to replace curtains	9,000	
Member donations sponsoring outreach	3,000	3,000
Other donations from members and fundraising	14,467	13,282
	<u><b>29,762</b></u>	<u><b>20,903</b></u>



**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC (A Non-reporting Association)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2015**

**NOTE 11: INVESTMENT REVALUATION RESERVE**

	\$
Balance as at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2014	348,000
Increase/(Decrease) in market value of RSV Science Foundation	(20,896)
Increase/(Decrease) in market value of Direct Shares	230
Adjustment for prior years and change of accounting practice	4,247
Balance as at 31 December 2015	<u><b>331,581</b></u>

**NOTE 12: BURKE AND WILLS COLLECTION REVALUATION**

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, SLV.

**NOTE 13: BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS RESERVE**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	\$	\$
This comprises		
Revaluation Increment	4,540,000	4,540,000

**NOTE 14: DEPRECIATION**

\$	\$
135,264	160,071

Depreciation for the building and improvements is calculated using a straight line methodology over 40 years (2.5% depreciation per annum).

Depreciation for all other assets is calculated using a mixture of diminishing value and prime cost methodologies consistently each year of between 10% and 25% in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and Australian Tax Office guidelines.

**NOTE 15: NET DEFICIT**

The net deficit of (\$246,431) is after charging as an expense provision for stock obsolescence of \$10,985, depreciation of plant and equipment of \$7,579 and depreciation of buildings \$127,685. All of these items are non-cash items. The Society had a Net Deficit from operations before depreciation of (\$159,871). Offsetting this was a realised gain in the RSV Science Foundation of \$59,689.

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC (A Non-reporting Association)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2015**

**NOTE 16: MOVEMENTS IN THE SCIENCE FOUNDATION**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	\$	\$
<b>Science Foundation balance at start</b>	1,170,321	1,147,015
Plus dividends, distributions and interest received	54,593	47,293
Plus unrealised gains (losses) (market movements)	(20,896)	34,889
Less Foundation manager fees and charges	(6,323)	(8,876)
Less withdrawals sent to the NAB bank accounts	(112,345)	(50,000)
<b>Science Foundation balance at end</b>	<b>1,085,350</b>	<b>1,170,321</b>

\$112,345 was withdrawn from the RSV Science Foundation during the 2015 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 \$112,345 (2014 \$50,000) from the RSV Science Foundation is consistent with the financial management plan adopted by Council. The Council-approved withdrawals commenced in the 2014 year.

Franking credits refunded as a result of dividends received by the RSV Science Foundation were deposited to the NAB bank accounts. Amounts still to be refunded have been raised as an accrual to Sundry debtors. Total amount for franking credits for 2015 amounts to \$11,419 (2014: \$11,212).

A small error in 2014 of \$448 for the Computershare portfolio brought the reported amount of the Foundation down to \$1,169,873.

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC (A Non-reporting Association)**

**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 17 to 26 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 2015 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 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2016.

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 14<sup>th</sup> day of April 2016

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REVIEW REPORT

## THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

## Report on the Financial Report

I have reviewed the accompanying financial report of The Royal Society of Victoria, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2015, 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 responsible entities declaration.

*Responsible Entities' Responsibility for the Financial Report*

The responsible entities of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act) and for such internal control as the responsible entities determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

*Auditor'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 2415 *Review of a Financial Report: Company Limited by Guarantee or an Entity Reporting under the ACNC Act or Other Applicable Legislation or Regulation*, 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 does not satisfy the requirements of Division 60 of the ACNC Act including: giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 31 December 2015 and its performance for the year ended on that date; and complying with the Australian Accounting Standards and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013* (ACNC Regulation). ASRE 2415 requires that I comply with the ethical requirements relevant to the review of the financial report.

A review of a financial report consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and consequently does not enable me to obtain assurance that I would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, I do not express an audit opinion.

*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 does not satisfy the requirements of Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 31 December 2015 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards and Division 60 of 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

Address : 94 Moray Street, Southbank , Victoria, 3006

Dated : day of March 2016

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

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## **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 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016
- c. We are authorised by the attached resolution of the Council to sign this certificate.
- d. This annual statement was submitted to the members of the Society at its Annual General Meeting.

.....  
Mr David Zerman

.....  
Mrs Nicola Williams

Dated this 28<sup>th</sup> Day of April, 2016