



The Royal Society OF VICTORIA

Promoting science since 1854

PATRON: The Hon Linda Dessau AC
Governor of Victoria

PRESIDENT: Mr David Zerman

2017 Annual Report



THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INCORPORATED

ABN 62 145 872 663

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2017

Council has the honour to present its report to Members upon the activities of the Society during its 163rd year of operation.

PATRON

The Hon Linda Dessau AC
Governor of Victoria

COUNCIL

OFFICE BEARERS

President	Mr D. Zerman , MPH, FFIA, CFRM, FAIM
Vice-President	Mrs N. H. Williams , BSc, DipEd, MSc, FRACI
Immediate Past President	Dr W. D. Birch AM, BSc (Hons), PhD
Honorary Secretary	Dr P. G. Baines BA (Hons), BSc, PhD
Honorary Treasurer	Mr A. Davison , BSc, BComp (Hons)

MEMBERS

Ms S. Frentz, BSc (Hons)
Mr V. Perunicic, BSc (Hons), MSc
A/Prof. R. Day, BSc (Hons), PhD
A/Prof. G. Smith, BPS, GradDip, MEH, PhD
Dr K. Orrman-Rossiter, BAppPhys, MAppSci, PostgradDip, PhD
Dr T. Beer, DSc PhD
Ms P. Borger, BSc (Hons), DipEd, Med
Mr J. Link, BEng
Prof. D. Walker, BSc, PhD, DSc

RETURNING OFFICER

Em. Prof. J. W. Warren, MA, PhD
Mr. I. Endersby, BSc (Deputy)

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 AO, MSc, PhD
Em. Prof. J. W. Warren, MA, PhD

Cover: Audience for the lecture by Professor Trevor Lithgow, 2017 RSV Medallist for Excellence in Scientific Research, 14th December 2017

FELLOWS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

1995	David H. Ashton*			Nancy F. Millis*
	Herbert H. Bolotin	2001		Yvonne Aitken*
	Phillip G. Law*			Martin R. Harris
	Dewar W. Goode*			Barry O. Jones
1996	Jerry M. Adams			John F. Lovering
	Clive K. Coogan*	2004		Thomas A. Darragh
	Suzanne Cory			Joyce R. Richardson
	Sir Gustav Nossal	2005		Hilary J. Harrington
	Sir Arvi Parbo			Murray J. Littlejohn
	Graeme I. Pearman	2008		David V. Boger
	John A. Talent	2010		Milton T. W. Hearn
1999	James M. Bowler	2016		Peter C. Doherty

* Deceased



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr D Zerman

The honour and privilege of being the 71st President of the Royal Society of Victoria is something I think about most days as I work with a Council of 14 very engaged and supportive members, the CEO, Mike Flattley and his talented staff, including James McArthur, Malourie Crawford, Ann Woelk and a wonderfully committed pool of casual hospitality staff to support our events and functions.

Most Members probably perceive the RSV as the place they go to lectures maybe once or twice a month, and may also read our monthly newsletter. From my perspective, the RSV is continuing the trust that the membership gave me and the Council to continue the work that all elected office-bearers have undertaken since our establishment in 1854.

As you read this report that highlights all the activities we have undertaken in 2017 I hope you will understand that the single motive of all the volunteer office-bearers is to continue our 163-year mission of promoting science in Victoria.

Each Council develops a program to achieve this aim. In 2017 we met this mission of promoting science by:

- Conducting 20 public lectures
- Arranging 3 site visits and excursions
- Facilitating and hosting 15 partner programs concerned with engagement, literacy, career development and diversity in the sciences
- Awarded 1 RSV Fellowship
- Presented 1 RSV Medal for Excellence in Scientific Research
- Awarded 4 RSV Young Scientist Awards (with 4 runners-up awards)
- Awarded 1 Postdoctoral Award for the Physical Sciences
- Launched and delivered a science communication skills development program for recent migrants to Australia with a science background, with the support of a \$22,000 grant from the Scanlon Foundation, and
- most significantly, secured the rights to manage the **Inspiring Australia** program for Victoria in 2018, promoting science in special programs across the state, with focal “hubs” in Whittlesea, Monash and Ballarat as well as being the base for the 2018 Victorian Science Week activities.

Full details of these and the myriad of other activities that we support are found in this report.

All of this couldn't happen without your support – but we need your support not only to continue what we are doing but also to further develop our mission of promoting science in Victoria.

We are looking at ways to increase our revenue to help meet the demand of our Member services. We are supported by our valued tenants and partners, **Eucalypt Australia** and **Scientell** and the many organisations who rent out our facilities – but we need to develop further income streams to secure and sustain our programs.

Income generation is one of the topics for discussion at the 2017 Annual General Meeting, which I hope you will attend on the evening of Thursday, 26th April 2018.

My overview is just one perspective of the 2017 year's activities. I look forward to meeting you at the AGM, where you will have the opportunity to discuss the past year and hear of some future plans.

David Zerman, President

FUNDRAISING 2017

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. In 2017 we held a fundraiser within our community to raise resources for the upgrade of our Ellery Theatre's capacities and the associated fibre-optic network installation required. The Society acknowledges the following Members for their generosity (titles and post-nominals omitted)

General Purposes:

W. McMaster
K. Bradley
Suzanne Daniel-Dreyfus
John Jack
John Link
Robert Day
Peter Holbeach
Pauline Ladiges
Maxwell Lay
Murray Littlejohn
Kerrie McNicol
A. Kershaw
Ivan Smith
Donald Gaff
Patricia Conwell
James Warren
J. Keith Dempster
Voi Williams
Thomas Mole

Science Policy & Advocacy:

Bruce Kemp
Ian Jones
Geoffrey Wescott
Carol Ely
Barry Jones
W. Mobilia
Robert Sandie

Outreach Program:

Walter Hesse
James Rowan
Richard Thwaites
Elaine Muir
Roy Hardcastle
John Sherwood
Pera Wells
Bill Birch
Melinda Kemp
Jozua Van Otterloo
Robert Joy
Colleen Morris
Catherine de Burgh-Day

Science History & Heritage:

Leslie Dale
William Denholm
Milton Hearn
Terrence Corbett
Gregory Eccleston
Peter Simpson
Rupert Dalley
Murray Johns

Ellery Theatre Project:

Greg Eccleston
Adam Ford
Bruce Livett
Nicola and Mike Williams
Craig Roberston
Norman Kennedy
Peter Hogan

David Walker
Nick Lomb
Ennio Rebellato
David Zerman
Sheridan Mayo
Tiffany Walsh
Kathryn Morris
Maxwell Lay
Christopher Simpson
Suzanne Daniel-Dreyfus
William Jackson
Murray Johns
Pera Wells
Snezana Trkulja
Kerrie McNicol
William Denholm
John Lovering
Ian Farnsworth
Ivan Smith
John Harrison
Peter Baines
James McConville
John Tiller
Richard Thwaites
Gregory Noonan
Christopher Avram
Phillip Macumber
J. Keith Dempster
Murray Littlejohn
Phillip Hamilton
Andrew Habets
Peter Leigh-Jones
Carol Ely
Suzanne Daniel-Dreyfus

Pauline Ladiges
Australian Skeptics
Kenneth Greateorex
Anne Miller
Tom Beer
William Birch
Marinis Pirpiris
Alfred Lazer
H Clifford
Leon Costermans
David Rees
Sandra Rees

Ian Polmear
Albert Pagnin
Robert Iversen
Gwynne Thomas
Fred Chalupa
Frank Lee
Peter Grossman
Susan Humphries
Robert Day
Lynne Selwood
Robert Joy
Elaine Muir

Science Program:
William Thompson
David Ciceri
Judith Gordon
Dylan Brady
Norman Kennedy

Young Scientists:
Maxwell & Margaret
Richards
Bettina Terry

Funds raised from members in 2017 totalled **\$19,029**, with a further **\$3350** raised through thoughtful contributions by the general public during the Melbourne Garden and Flower Show, which was directed to our Young Scientist Research Prizes. Total funding received through donations, fundraising, bequests and grants totalled **\$90,576**. Thanks to all for the generous support of our endeavours.

THE HALL & GROUNDS

Numerous organisations conducted over 358 meetings during the year. **Federation University** ceased their lease of the two first floor offices and the Von Mueller Room as of September 2017 to take up residence at their new central campus at Berwick. The **Bjarne K Dahl Trust** continues their lease of the Nancy Millis Room, rebranded as **Eucalypt Australia**. **GoGet Carshare** continued leasing spaces in the Hall's car park, with **Flexicar** also sustaining a lease. The **Environmental Protection Authority Victoria** has started a lease on the former Bureau of Meteorology site to undertake pollution monitoring activities. Science communication agency **Scientell** have taken up a tenancy in the small upstairs office.

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
- ◇ 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

Mr Mike Flattley, Chief Executive Officer
Mr James McArthur, Business and Facilities Manager
Ms Malourie Crawford, Events Manager
Ms Ann Woelk, Community Engagement & Partnerships Officer

This Report is approved by Council for presentation to Members at the Annual General Meeting to be conducted Thursday 26th April, 2018.

David Zerman, President

2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 160th Annual General Meeting was convened on 27th April, 2017.

Councillors Dr Tom Beer, Professor David Walker, Ms Pamela Borger, Mr John Link and Mr Viktor Perunicic were declared elected at the Ordinary Meeting held 9th March 2017, and were inducted for a two-year term as Ordinary Members of Council at the AGM.

The Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2016 were received and adopted.

FELLOWS



Laureate Professor Peter Doherty AC (centre left with David Zerman and Nicola Williams) was inducted as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Victoria at the Annual General Meeting held on 27th April, delivering a warmly-received lecture to follow titled “The Challenges Facing Us.”

RESEARCH MEDAL

Mr D. Zerman (Chair), Mrs N. Williams, Dr W. Birch, Dr P. Baines, Mr A. Davison

Following the input from of an independent panel of assessors on submissions received, the

Executive Committee was pleased to recommend to Council that **Professor Trevor Lithgow** receive the 53rd award of the Royal Society of Victoria’s Medal for Excellence in Scientific Research in **Category I: Biological Sciences**. The presentation to Professor Lithgow was made by Dr Amanda Caples, Victoria’s Lead Scientist, at the Society’s meeting on 14th December, 2017, where Trevor presented his lecture “The Bacteria Inside Us: Compadres, Passengers & Pests.”

David Zerman, Chair



2017 Medallist Professor Trevor Lithgow (centre left) with Victoria’s Lead Scientist Dr Amanda Caples (centre right) and family.



SCIENCE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Dr K. Orrman-Rossiter (Chair), Prof S. Rees

2017 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. Thanks to the outstanding efforts of Professor Sandra Rees, we had a wonderful line-up of speakers and topics to enjoy throughout the year.

Talks included “LiDAR: Bringing Heritage Places into the Digital Age” (Mr **Tim Smith**, Executive Director of Heritage Victoria), “Accounting for Carbon Storage in Trees” (Professor **Ian Woodrow** & A/Professor **Brad Potter**, University of Melbourne); “Under the Microscope: Milk, Cheese & Dairy Products” (A/Professor **Sally Gras**, ARC Dairy Innovation Hub for the **Cummins Oration**); “A Moonshot Approach to Cancer” (Professor **Miles Prince AM**, Peter Mac Cancer Centre & Epworth HealthCare); “The Challenges Facing Us” (Professor **Peter Doherty AC**, University of Melbourne); “Challenges of a Changing World: Conservation & Park Management” (Dr **Mark Norman**, Parks Victoria); “Engaging Young Audiences with Science” (Ms **Rose Hiscock**, Science Gallery Melbourne); “Neural Interfaces: a New World of Brain Augmentation” (Dr **Thomas Oxley**, The University of Melbourne); “Understanding the Persistence & Adaptation of Wildlife” (Professor **Paul Sunnucks**, Monash University); and of course our Research Medallist Professor **Trevor Lithgow**’s talk on “The Bacteria Inside Us: Compadres, Passengers & Pests.”

Successful Joint lectures included our collaboration with ATSE to hear from Professor **Gordon G**



On a visit from Oregon Health & Science University, neuroscientist Prof Larry Sherman (far right, with RSV Vice-President Nicola Williams and Councillor Prof David Walker) delighted our audience with an exploration of music and its integrating effect on the human brain.

Wallace AO (University of Wollongong) on “3D Bioprinting Parts for Bodies”); the annual **Howitt Lecture** with the Geological Society of Australia Inc (Victoria Division) featured A/Professor **Andrew Tomkins** (Monash University) on “Meteorites & Cosmic Dust: the Early Solar System & Earth”); and RMIT University brought us the gift of neuroscientist Dr **Larry Sherman (Oregon Health & Science University)** and his piano keyboard to present “Every Brain Needs Music: Healthy Brain Development & Ageing.” We had the further opportunity to hear from an outstanding international guest via the University of Melbourne, with **Professor Mark Boyce** joining us from the University of Alberta to present the wonderful “Predator-Prey Systems: the Wolves in Yellowstone,” a first-person tour of this iconic “rewilding” project that demonstrates the theory of trophic cascades in action.

Two lunchtime lectures were enjoyed by an appreciative audience: Professor **Lynne Selwood AO**



Our “Exoplanets & Life in Space” panel took in everything from where life might be supported elsewhere in our galactic neighbourhood and the immense challenges of “getting there,” a dip into astrobiology and the socio-political challenges of a space-faring species. From left: Dr Alan Duffy, Ms Uplie Divisekera, Dr Katie Mack, and Dr Morgan Saletta

(University of Melbourne) and Emeritus Professor **James Warren** (Monash University) recounted their lives in the fields of zoology and palaeontology, and Professor **Kate Smith-Miles** (University of Melbourne) engaged us with the key impact factors the field of mathematics brings to just about everything we’re doing.

Our second annual lecture on science communication featured Melbourne-based science journalist Ms **Tanya Ha** on “The Spock and Kirk of Science Communication,” demonstrating how important it is to get the balance right between head and heart in engaging non-scientists with scientific concepts.

A highlight was the panel forum titled “Exoplanets and Life in Space” chaired by senior University of Melbourne astrophysicist **Professor Rachel Webster**, leading a panel of outstanding thinkers and science communicators through the question of life existing in space – can we live there, and is there life already

out there? Our panellists (above) included A/Professor **Alan Duffy** (Swinburne University), Ms **Uplie Divisekera** (University of Melbourne), Dr **Katie Mack** (University of Melbourne) and Dr **Morgan Saletta** (University of Melbourne). A really fun discussion!

Outcomes:

Lecture attendances throughout the year were excellent, ranging from 70 - 120 (a very full house), with an average audience registration of 116; 12 of our 20 public lectures were at full capacity, and waiting lists have become a feature of many of our talks. Great to see this vigorous engagement with our program – we field a high number of requests to record these talks to reach a wider audience, illustrating the importance of seeing through our Ellery Theatre refurbishment program.

We thank all our speakers for the time and effort that they put into their presentations in 2017 and the opportunity that it affords us to stay informed of the state-of-the-art research being undertaken in Australia and around the world.

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 Phillip Garth Law, a former President of the



David Zerman with the talented Dr Kaye Morgan.

Society and Director of the Australian Antarctic Division. Nine candidates were judged by a panel convened by Professor Sandra Rees including Professor Lloyd Hollenberg, Professor Douglas Macfarlane, Dr Kevin Orrman-Rossiter and Mrs Nicola Williams. We are most grateful for the work of the panel. The winner, **Dr Kaye Morgan** (Monash University) delivered a wonderful lecture to the Society on 28th October entitled “Playing with Light: Dynamic Soft-tissue X-ray Imaging at the Synchrotron” to an engaged audience of RSV members and colleagues.

The Young Scientist Research Prizes

Our awards were presented on 17th August as part of **National Science Week** in 2017. They are open to students in the final 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 those who joined me as assessors and on the judging panel. Judges are listed and pictured overleaf, while colleagues with requisite disciplinary expertise undertook the shortlisting of the many applications. Our grateful thanks go to Mark Green, Robert Day, Eric Trembl, Andrew Bennett, Bill Birch, Fons VandenBerg, Tom Darragh, David Walker, Stacey Ellery, Mary Tolcos, Richard Harding, Tom Beer and Viktor Perunicic for helping us with this challenging work.



YSRP Finalists: Back row from left, Nicolas Molnar, Bryant Gagliardi, Perran Ross. Front row from left, Justine Corso, Joshua Newson, Sarah Larcombe, Alexander Norton and Guoping Hu.

Two finalists from each category presented 10-minute talks to an enthusiastic audience of family, peers, supervisors and RSV members. The winners were each presented with two years' membership of the RSV, a cheque (\$1000) and prize certificate by the President, Mr David Zerman:

Physical Sciences:

Guoping Hu (Melbourne)

Runner Up: **Justine Corso** (Melbourne)

Biological Sciences (non-human):

Perran Ross (Melbourne)

Runner Up: **Bryant Gagliardi** (Melbourne)

Biomedical and Health Sciences:

Sarah Larcombe (Monash)

Runner Up: **Joshua Newson** (Melbourne)

Earth Sciences:

Alexander Norton (Melbourne)

Runner Up: **Nicolas Molnar** (Monash)



RSV judges weigh the merits of presentations in the Cudmore Library: from left, Dr Bill Birch, Dr Stacey Ellery, Mr David Zerman, A/Prof Robert Day, Dr Kevin Orrman-Rossiter (convenor), Mrs Nicola Williams, Dr Peter Baines, Prof David Walker and Dr Mary Tolcos.

The runners up each received a cheque (\$250), a prize certificate and a year's membership of the Society. I would like to thank the Committee members,

assessors and judges 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.

Dr Kevin Orrman-Rossiter, Chair



MEMBERSHIP & MENTORING COMMITTEE

Ms S. Frentz & A/Prof G. Smith (Co-Chairs)

In 2017 the Membership and Mentoring program was launched to focus on ensuring the sustainable growth of the RSV and support for particularly younger members of the society. The combination of growth in numbers and a minor contraction in subscription revenue shows clearly that our demographics are changing, with a notable increase in student members.

More specifically, our average age appears stable at 57 years in the past two years. We have responded to this by placing an emphasis on mentoring for early career researchers (ECRs) via partnering with ATSE's Industry Mentoring & Networking in STEM (IMNiS) and the veski Kickstarter programs. Meanwhile, we address the needs of younger science enthusiasts through supporting the efforts of the Young Scientists of Australia (Melbourne Chapter), including this youth-focussed organisation that supports members in the 16 to 26 year old age group in our events and excursions wherever possible. This year we brokered tours and provided facility access for an event in the national Youth ANZAAS conference as a feature of this relationship.



***STEM Careers in Industry: Postdoc Destinations.** IMNiS program participants and RSV PhD Student members joined an industry networking function on 2nd December. The session followed a panel discussion led by Dr Richard Huysmans, featuring Dr Catherine de Burgh-Day (Bureau of Meteorology), Dr Michael Wilson (CSL Ltd), Dr Jennifer Henry (Advancement, University of Melbourne) and Dr Krystal Evans (CEO, BioMelbourne Network), reflecting on the pathway from doctoral studies to industry-based roles drawing on a foundation of STEM and research skills.*

Moving forward, ensuring the ongoing diversity of our member base is key to keep the RSV relevant and engaged in the community. This means not only diversity in age, something which increased notably over the past two years, but also engaging with Culturally And Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities, the LGBTQ+ community, and ensuring we maintain a good mix of genders and



The Society published a statement of support for marriage equality on 18 September during 2017's historic national plebiscite.

abilities. We do this by having visible diversity within our speakers, membership, and programs, and vigilance in supporting and engaging people who might not be the same as us.

I am comfortable saying that 2017 improved on previous years in this respect. On a personal level, the statement of the RSV in support of marriage equality in 2017 was incredibly meaningful, and I know other people who are members of both the RSV and the LGBTQ+ community felt similarly. These kinds of public actions show that we take the idea of "Concord and Progress" seriously. As a scientific society, it is easy to assume that Progress simply refers to scientific progress and to ignore any issues that fall outside that jurisdiction. However, we as a community are made up of people who can be deeply and personally

affected by the social issues that buffet our 159-year- old building.

Additionally, the membership of the 10 new science communicators that resulted from the RSV's migrant science communication project with partners Cultural Infusion is an excellent addition of passionate, culturally diverse new members of the RSV, along with the many members from diverse backgrounds who have joined us independently.

With all of the plans percolating in the Membership and Mentoring committee for 2018 and beyond we are keeping Concord and Progress close to our hearts, as that is how we do right by both the RSV as an abstract ideal and by you, our members.

- Ms Sophia Frentz, Co-Chair

Field Trip Program

Following the deliberations of the 2015 Members' Forum, we sustained our vibrant re-activation of a 'field trip' program in 2017, wherein members and friends can enjoy each other's fellowship while learning about contemporary projects and initiatives currently blossoming in and around Victoria. Two highly enjoyable trips were organised, along with the Melbourne **March for Science** effort (covered in the Policy report):

Discovering the Eucalypts of the Brisbane Ranges



Leon Costermans in the field at Djerriwarrh Creek.

and teacher par excellence in the field, where he was truly in his element. He had us working hard in no time, and while the brain cells were certainly getting a vigorous workout, we found ourselves becoming more and more familiar with both the characteristics of the different trees and Leon's methodology for identification.

The day featured a memorable lunch in the gorgeous, historic gold rush boom town of Steiglitz (pictured right), now largely abandoned yet preserved in authentic 19th century condition by Parks Victoria and local volunteers for all to enjoy.

Terrific to "go bush" with real insight. Our grateful thanks are to Leon Costermans for his time and wonderful teaching, but also to colleagues **Dr Mike Bayly** and **Kurt Petersen** for coming along to support and coach our large group in the field, and especially **Dr Bram Mason** and the Board of **Eucalypt Australia** for helping organise, convene and subsidising the trip. A great day out!

Undertaken as a part of **National Eucalypt Day** in 2017, this was a wonderful trip to the Brisbane Ranges, just outside Melbourne, an area of concentrated plant diversity in Victoria. Aside from introducing us to the variety and characteristics of different species and their expressions in different settings, **Leon Costermans** illustrated how the enormous diversity of species found in the nearby Brisbane Ranges are a product of the area's unique geology.

Leon has a meticulous nature and demonstrated his prowess as a demonstrator



RSV Members Julie Boyce, Nicola Williams and Maddy Willcock with a friend at Steiglitz.



A terrific group from the Young Scientists of Australia, Melbourne Chapter joining us for a tour of the Museum's science collections.

Exploring the Hidden Collections of the Melbourne Museum

A brisk stride across the Carlton Gardens brought us to our friends at the Melbourne Museum, where we were treated to a wonderful tour of some of the Museum's vast science collections, pretty much just "the tip of the iceberg." Deputy Director of Science **Dermot Henry**, Collections Managers **Jo Taylor** and **Tim Ziegler** and Senior Entomology Curator **Ken Walker** treated us to a fascinating insight to the insect, palaeontology and marine invertebrate collections that drive globally significant research. There was much that couldn't be photographed due to its unfolding research significance, but suffice to say these scientists are doing game changing work thanks to the digitisation of artefacts

for collaboration with the wider community of researchers and valuable interactions with citizen scientists out in the field.

Enormous thanks to Dermot and colleagues for being so generous with their time and insights, and to our friends from the Young Scientists of Australia, Melbourne Chapter for joining our behind-the-scenes romp through the collections.

Membership 2017

Council has discussed membership issues at many meetings. Our membership continues to experience a high turnover, particularly from earlier years' applicants for the Young Scientist Research Prizes, however it's pleasing to see our numbers are experiencing overall growth in 2017, reflecting efforts to engage a broader spectrum of ages, genders and ethnicities in recent years. Establishing and maintaining relevance for our younger members remains a key priority, as the table below will attest.

I would like to thank my Co-Chair, Councillors and the Chief Executive Officer for their active planning and participation in our activities during the year.

A/Prof Gavin Smith, Co-Chair

Changes to Membership	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total individual Membership	604	561	587	639
Gender Ratio (Women : Men)			30 : 70	33 : 67
Average Age			57.1	57



Dermot Henry introduces us to collection managers and curators at the Melbourne Museum ahead of leading us into the 'backstage' research collection areas for a wonderful tour.

Valete

The passing of the following Members during 2017 are recorded with sadness and deep sympathy to surviving family, friends and colleagues:

Frank Lee

Graeme Miller

William Fenner

Alan Louey Yen



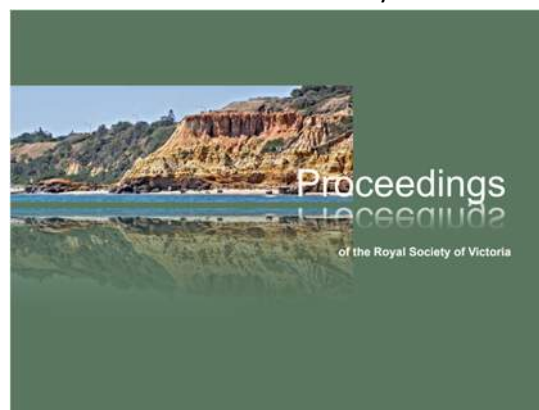
PUBLICATIONS, RECORDS & COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE

Dr W. Birch AM (Chair), Dr T. Darragh, Dr D. McCann

In the absence of a fully-fledged committee in 2017, and with some inertia that was beyond our control, progress has been somewhat limited.

Proceedings of the Royal Society of Victoria

Our core function remains the production of the Society's journal and while we have successfully published two issues (volume 129, parts 1 and 2) of the Proceedings, we are still struggling to get page numbers anywhere near our goal of 100 per issue. This is despite the journal offering open access, unlimited colour, rapid turn-around of papers, and being indexed in Scopus and Citescore, without charge to authors. Nevertheless, we published several highly significant papers, in particular the revision of Lancefieldian-Bendigonian graptolites in Victoria by Alfons VandenBerg, and a reappraisal of Mesozoic fish fossils from eastern Australia by Lynne Bean.



RSV Collections

What to do with our archives continued as an open question during the year. While previous honorary archivist Malcolm Carkeek and his successor Doug McCann have made great strides in prioritising, sorting and cataloguing their contents, the long-term future of the archives, particularly their storage, has not been resolved. A meeting with the State Librarian early in the year resulted in a visit from a collections manager to assess our holdings for possible transfer to the Library of some components.

We have resolved a duty of care issue for storage for our materials relating to the making of Graeme Clifford's Burke & Wills movie of 1985 through depositing these documents and other media with the National Film and Sound Archive in Canberra, completing their holdings relating to the film.

Another matter that remains unresolved is the storage of parts of our heritage library, along with some recently donated holdings, off-site in open warehouse facilities. While the material is safe and protected, this situation is not ideal. The intention is to bring all these holdings back to the Cudmore Library and the Von Mueller Room, but this requires the construction of new bookcases in the Phillip Law Room to house a specialist Antarctic Library, thereby creating overflow space for the off-site material. For the present, we literally don't have 'room to move'. Some of the excess material from several personal libraries donated over the past few decades was made available to members following careful assessment of its relevance to the main library.

It's to be hoped that progress will be made on all these matters by the time of the next report.

Dr Bill Birch, 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.

Over the past year, deliberations and communications within the Committee have mainly been by email, though a meeting of the Committee was held on Society Premises on 17th August 2017.

The focus of this meeting was to hear a report from Kevin Ormann-Rossiter on the Annual "Science Meets Policymakers" meeting in Canberra, organised by Science & Technology Australia (STA, aka Federation of Australian Science and Technology Societies (FASTS)).

Considerable thought and discussion between members has been focussed on the extent to which the Society/Committee should attend and participate in these annual meetings – notably "Science Meets Parliament", and Science Meets Policymakers. [This year's *Science Meets Parliament* meeting was held in February, and RSV was not represented]. These meetings mostly involve Societies that are based on particular branches of science, for which they can contribute particular expertise, and represent their interests. To this extent, they act on a national basis. We differ in that we cover a broad range of science, and have a state-wise basis. This raises the question as to whether and to what extent can we assist or advise the Victorian State Government on scientific issues, and by what process might we aim to do this? The Society exists to promote science, but is not directly involved in it, and does not necessarily embody expertise, other than what is represented by the members and our fellows.

The prevailing view is that we should aim to promote and support issues and programmes that are clearly important for Victoria, and these would include the following:

1. **Global warming.** There are sections of the political and business world that continuously argue that the science that stresses the need for global action on this issue is unreliable, and programmes opposing export and burning of fossil fuels are misguided. One influential national newspaper in particular continuously promotes this view, and we could conceivably aim to issue statements as appropriate that address particular articles.

2. **Preserving threatened species of native wildlife.** Here we should promote, and possibly participate in, programmes by the Melbourne Zoo and Rylah Institute that aim to prevent the extinction of 20 (at least) threatened forms of Victorian wild life. This would include advocating limitations on logging native forests that threaten certain species.

Our collective opinion has recognition and value, and we could play a useful role by publicly expressing it in appropriate areas.

Dr Peter G. Baines, Chair

Support for the Finkel Review into the Future of the National Electricity Market

On 20 July, the Society issued a statement recognising the significance of the Independent Review prepared for the Federal Government by Chief Scientist Dr Alan Finkel and his expert panel on the future security of Australia's electricity market.

The Review's report recommendations provide a blueprint for introducing security, reliability and emission abatement into a policy area that has been recognised Australia-wide as lacking national direction. The urgency of dealing with energy supply issues in the face of human-induced climate change has now been recognised by virtually all other countries.



"The Finkel Review is a means of breaking a political deadlock which has reduced investment & stifled development."



March for Science Melbourne

The Society was closely involved in the organisation of the inaugural March for Science Melbourne, in particular through approaching and organising the speakers, publicising the day and lending some legitimacy through a public statement of support. Amid the various concerns expressed for 'politicising science' and potentially alienating 'displays of scholarly hubris,' the Society pressed ahead with its involvement in the March for Science on 22 April. The weather forecast was dire and, resplendent in a new batch of RSV T- Shirts, we risked being mistaken for a curiously science-enthused cricket team.

Undaunted, we took up our tongue-in-cheek placards, donned the RSV whites, met our colleagues from the Rationalist Society of Australia and headed for the State Library, unmolested by the elements.



It was a terrific turnout by the science community, with numbers estimated between three and four thousand. The atmosphere was celebratory, convivial and even euphoric at times – for many who have felt embattled in their practice, or isolated in their dismay at recent world events, it was empowering to be joined by so many who shared a passion for science and a commitment to its vital place in guiding our species/society/economy/environment/planet (circle one, several or all) to a bright future.

Principled and impassioned speeches were delivered by some of our tribal elders: RSV Fellows Laureate Professor Peter Doherty and Dr Barry Jones, along with the inspiring Professor Fiona Stanley, Professor Penny Whetton and science communication star Ms Upulie Divisekera.

Ultimately, the March was a positive show of unity, a happy moment of grass-roots advocacy and an important community development activity for the science tribes, particularly young adults and families. For the wider public, the March displayed scientists and supporters as living, breathing human beings who value the scientific method and care about the world we will leave behind for our successors and descendants.



Speakers Professor Fiona Stanley, Upulie Divisekera, Professor Peter Doherty, Dr Barry Jones.

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.

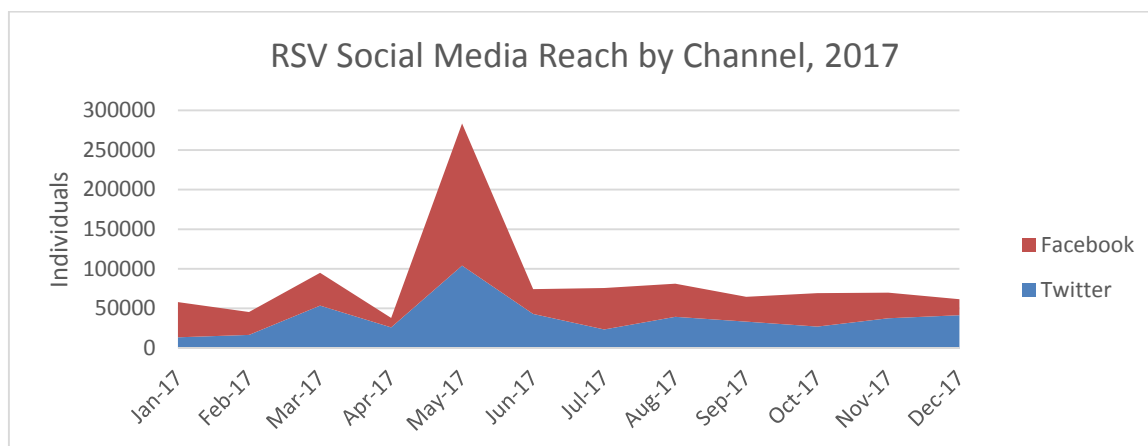
Social Media

Interaction with Victoria’s science community and the broader public continued through social media channels **Twitter** and **Facebook**.

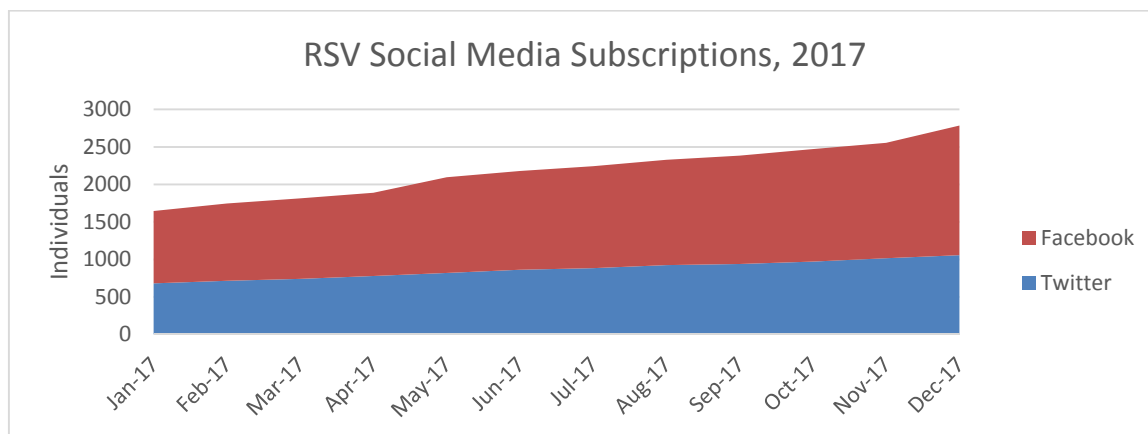
These channels have helped the RSV reach “organic” audiences without recourse to expensive print advertising or reliance on “newsworthiness” through traditional media channels. This has been particularly helpful in communicating our news, awards, award winners and significant position statements on current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

According to Social Media Statistics Australia, approximately 15,000,000 Australians were subscribed to Facebook as of December 2017. While this is static growth on 2016, the high figure reflects market saturation, making it a clear standout channel for audience engagement.

The charts that follow 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. Compared to 2016 results, the impact of Facebook has increased considerably; it’s hard to know exactly why, but multiple sources suggest a change in Facebook’s audience-tracking algorithms could be the main cause.



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. The trend over three years from just over 100 total subscribers to almost 3,000 is very positive, but not meteoric, which is a feature of our small NGO's very limited capacities for time-intensive public relations work and marketing spend.

While local audience share is significantly less than Facebook's, **Twitter's** 3M active Australian users represents a 7% growth over 2017, and 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 Facebook has significantly increased to match Twitter's in 2017. Meanwhile, the continued rapid growth of **Instagram's** platform (at 9M active Australian users, up from 5M in 2016) confirms this as a priority channel to focus on for the Society's programs in 2018, subject to available staff resource. Following assessment in 2016, we have ceased tracking impact through **LinkedIn**, although we maintain our presence.



Traditional & Digital Media

In late 2016 the public call for applications for our joint "Migrant Science Communication" outreach program with partners Cultural Infusion and the Australian Science Communicators produced particular interest and support from SBS, which fuelled further media interest into 2017. Two of our "star recruits," new RSV Members Marija Pavela (featured right) and Carolina Zuluaga, were the focus of particular attention by The Australian and ABC Online.

Drawing on 2017 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
The Weekend Australian	22 February, 2017	560,000 (print) 1,214,000 (online)
ABC Online	18 August, 2017	7,600,000 (online)
	Total 2017 Audience Reach:	9,374,000

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 2017 impacting the Society's reputation and standing.

Direct Mail & Online Event Registration

With postage costs continuing to rise, and the impact of physical mail-outs on staff resources, we continue to emphasise communications to members and friends through email. Further progress was made through our email subscription base (**mailing list**) with MailChimp, which enables the RSV to segment our mailing list, targeting different audiences according to the matter at hand. There were 1569 mailing list subscribers as of December 2017, up from 1025 as of December 2016. Response to RSV newsletter emails continued to be excellent for the non-government sector, averaging a 35.2% open rate (19.9% for the sector) and a 7.9% click rate (2.2% for the sector) – however these numbers were significantly down on 2016's result, meaning our audience response rate has diluted with the added volume, and that the most vigorous audience response can be found with our wonderful, committed members!

Further, use of **Eventbrite** as an online ticketing tool for RSV events has provided not only a streamlining of office procedures and workloads, but also a valuable channel for cross-promotion of events and provision of metrics to better understand how audience members are discovering and attending our lectures, symposia and other activities. The integration of Eventbrite tools with Facebook and Twitter has noticeably brought a more vigorous engagement with our science engagement and promotion efforts.

Mike Flattley, Chief Executive Officer



SCIENCE OUTREACH & PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

Ms Pamela Berger (Chair), Ms Helen Van De Pol, Mr Martin Harris, Mr Peter Hogan, Dr Amy Nisselle, Dr Renee Beale, Dr Caitlin Gionfriddo, Dr Julie Boyce, Ms Sophia Frentz

It was a big year for the Outreach Program, with a challenging pilot project to deliver and a flurry of grant proposals written, with applications for approximately \$500,000 in funding made over the course of the year to extend the Society's capacity to deliver on its mission.

Thanks to all the Society's partners who came with us for these small yet work-intensive forays into new ideas for collaboration. While only one of these applications was ultimately successful, it was a big one.

Representing the Society, I attended a highly stimulating and informative 4th Annual STEM Education Conference in Sydney 26 – 27 July. Jan Owen, CEO Foundation for Young Australians talked about the new work order, what work will like in the future. The top four skills needed will be foundational, technical, enterprise (digital literacy, critical thinking, bilingual skills and creativity) and career management.

This was a common theme throughout the conference. Young people will be working in many different careers and require the skills to allow them to adapt and traverse through them.

Various panels and presenters spoke on successful ways to engage students and encourage them into taking up STEM subjects at school. Partnerships with industry and professionals were highlighted in many of the discussions. Citizen science was also a popular way of engaging students.

Immersion and hands-on experience in STEM was particularly successful as an engagement approach. Challenges for students to participate in STEM education were highlighted and much of the emphasis was on encouraging women in STEM. Cross-disciplinary projects, building teacher confidence and effective STEM leadership can be used to overcome some of the many challenges to student engagement.

Many of these themes are touchstones of the Society's developing Outreach and Partnerships

program. Here are the highlights of our 2017 program.

Pamela Borger, Chair

Kids' Programs

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 at a special night with their families and teachers. It's always a wonderful evening, and once again we featured the hilarious yet horrifying **Nicholas J Johnson**, presenting his wonderful show "Bad Science," demonstrating the value of the scientific method in putting questions before answers.

CoderDojo Victoria

The focus on the CoderDojo Victoria initiative wandered a little in 2017 as we expanded the Society's vision to bid for the Inspiring Australia initiative, which incorporates kids' science clubs in the program. Regardless, we were pleased to administer a grant via RSV Fellow Martin Harris to support a Maker Space initiative for the Dojo at Wooranna Park Primary School.

Partner Programs

Cultural and Gender Diversity in STEM

Cultural Infusion & the Australian Science Communicators – "The Migrant Science Communication Accelerator"

Schools in Victoria were required to deliver two new curriculum components in 2017, which provided an opportunity to combine learning about science and learning about other cultures in a single session. Our Migrant Science Communication Accelerator project aimed to activate and channel latent science expertise in our migrant community toward this end. Following the earlier support provided by the Inner North Community Foundation, news of a further grant from the **Scanlon Foundation** to scale up our project was a welcome development that injected considerable energy, scaling the participants up from three to ten.

Following a thorough application process undertaken with our partners from **Cultural Infusion** and the **Australian Science Communicators** in January, the ten chosen participants in the Migrant Science Communication project completed their training and

development at the Royal Society of Victoria with coaching from our partners in early July. Participants each developed a unique presentation on the migrant experience and a perspective on science as an activity that pervades human cultures around the world over a period of three months. They developed valuable incursion modules for Victorian schools and an opportunity for workforce development and



Hilarious "Con Man" Nicholas J Johnson demonstrates how our minds (and others) can fool us if we fail to observe the scientific method.



A joint RSV/Cultural Infusion/Australian Science Communicators panel for selecting Migrant Science Communicators (clockwise from left): Doug Montgomery, Alex Prior, Toni Stevens, Ann Woelk and Christina Hall.



Origin stories – participants presented their migrant story as a platform for communicating their scientific expertise.

participation in a new niche education activity.

Outcomes were ultimately of varying standard, reflecting the challenges of language barriers, personal capacities and the teething issues of a pilot project. Regardless, many of the modules were sufficiently polished to be offered through Cultural Infusion's school incursion program, while in other cases the experience enabled participants to extend their professional capacity to take on new roles in the Australian STEM workforce or in their immediate community, with all now registered as Sole Traders.

The program is generated a great deal of interest (and work), and we're very grateful to the Scanlon Foundation, our colleagues at Cultural Infusion – **Alex Pryor, Doug Montgomery, Eyal Chippkiewicz** and **Gurm Sekhon** – to our ASC colleagues – **Toni Stevens, Amy Nisselle, Errol Hunt** and **Christina Hall** – and to our own **Ann Woelk** for their considerable dedication to a challenging project.

Congratulations to our very courageous participants, and new members of the Royal Society of Victoria:

Mrs Arjumand Khan

Mr Biruh Shimekit

Mrs Marija Pavela

Mrs Imen Saidi

Mrs Carolina Zuluaga

Mrs Shanuki Disanayake

Mr Yves Nininahazwe

Mr Milosh Lee

Mr Sandeep Singh Chauhan

Mr Aruna Hewa

It was an honour to share your stories, and a learning experience for all of us! Welcome to the Society.

The Afro-Australian Student Organisation & City LLEN – “Afro-X: the New Conventional”

The 12 April brought a wonderful, positive evening of motivational talks at the Society for the African-Australian community, focussed on five early career African Australians and their career trajectories



presenting "The New Conventional" to African-Australian students., encouraging the audience to think beyond their cultural boundaries and use their ethnic differences to the mainstream as a point of positive differentiation in a competitive workforce. In addition to the amazing talks given by a range of dynamic speakers, we were fortunate to have the Victorian Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Hon **Robin Scott MP** (above right) address the audience. Grateful thanks to RSV member **Dr George Williams Mbogo** (above left) for flying the banner for the sciences, with an amazing “rags to relative riches” story charting his journey from



Uganda to Melbourne with wife (and fellow RSV member) **Dr Sheila Nankoberanyi**, alongside the charismatic mechanical engineer and ABC presenter **Yassmin Abdel-Magied** (right). Congratulations to **Amelia Forson** and the whole AASO team on organising a stunning event from start to finish!



The Australian African Women's Advocacy Group – “African-Australian Women's Leadership Forum”

On 27 September we were delighted to host the Australian African Women's Advocacy Group's Leadership Forum, focussed on the behavioural and cultural change that can empower women with an African heritage to speak up and step up to leadership roles in our community. It was a pleasure to welcome the State Member for Melbourne, The Hon **Ellen Sandell MP** (left),

who delivered a wonderful motivational address. Among the panellists (right) was Ms **Morley Muse**, a PhD candidate from Victoria University undertaking a research degree as a “sustainable engineer” following her experiences with the oil exploration industry in Nigeria, her country of origin.

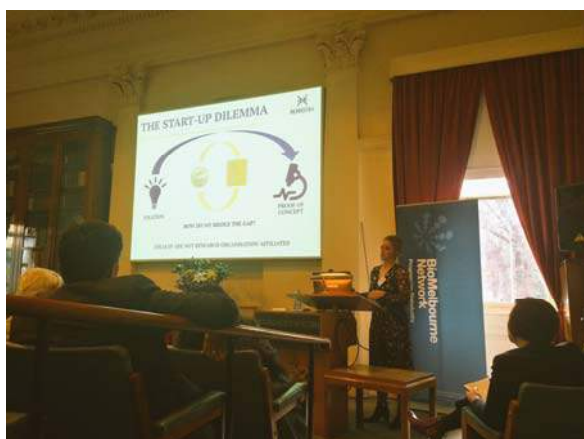
STEM Industry Development and Engagement

The BioMelbourne Network – “BioBreakfast: Leading Collaborations to Commercialisation”

Our involvement with the BioMelbourne Network as a Community Partner continued in 2017 as we hosted a



“BioBreakfast” for the biotech, medtech and pharmaceuticals sector addressing the collaboration with patients and colleagues that underpins commercial success. Held on the morning of 27 July, winners of the 2017 Women in Leadership Awards discussed how they approach the commercialisation of technology through careful selection of the “right” collaborative relationships. Speakers included **Sue MacLeman**, **Dr Kerry Hegarty** and **Dr Elizabeth Williams**. As a community member of the Network, our members were entitled to membership rates to attend this dynamic gathering of commercial STEM enterprises and entrepreneurs. Thanks to Network CEO **Dr Krystal Evans** and her team for a much-valued partnership.



The BioMelbourne Network & the Australian Science & Innovation Forum – “The Future of Healthcare is Digital: Innovation Week Launch 2017”

Our support for ASIF’s Innovation Week once again in 2017. A major theme dominating the week and featured at the 13th November launch event hosted by BioMelbourne Network and the Royal Society of Victoria, was “The Future of Healthcare is Digital”. BioMelbourne Network CEO **Dr Krystal Evans** and ATSE CEO **Dr Margaret Hartley** welcomed over 120 registrants to hear esteemed speakers such as **Dr Alan Finkel** (Australia’s Chief Scientist), **Dr Charlie Day** (CEO, Office of Innovation and Science Australia), **Ms Bronwyn Le Grice** (Co-Founder and Managing Director, ANDHealth), **Dr Dean Freestone** (Co-Founder and Managing Director, Seer Medical) and **Mr Sanji Kanagalingam** (Director, Curve Tomorrow).



From left: Dr Dean Freestone, Ms Bronwyn Le Grice, Mr Sanji Kanagalingam, Dr Charlie Day.

STEM Media & Communications Training

Science in Public

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 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.

We also partnered with the Science in Public team and the Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute to convene a media-focussed forum with a panel of science journalists on 16 February titled “Breaking News: an insider’s guide to the new media climate,” convened as part of the Sustainable Living Festival. The panel discussed what they do in a working day, and what they look for in a story, pitched at environmental advocates and researchers who want to know how to work with the media we have, rather than an idealised version they might hope for. Thanks to our colleagues Toni Stevens, Tanya Ha, Sarah Brooker and Niall Byrne for their expertise and drive for a very fruitful collaboration!



Breaking News journalist panel: ABC News Victoria Senior Reporter Ben Knight, former ABC RN Broadcaster Alison Caldwell, The Age/SMH senior writer Adam Morton and former Crikey/AAP journalist Cathy Alexander

STEM Literacy & Communication in Schools

Primary Connections – Australian Academy of Science

We continued the “Science in my World” initiative in 2017, redefined as providing targeted support to teachers delivering STEM curriculum to primary schools in regions identified by the Department of Education and Training as experiencing economic disadvantage. Teachers servicing children and families in challenging circumstances can struggle to move beyond the basic needs of pastoral care and curriculum delivery, and we find these schools are so occupied with the needs of their communities that it’s hard for agencies like the Society to cut through to extend a hand to help with STEM education.



A partnership with the Academy of Science’s **Primary Connections** program was thus a great way to structure our capacity to assist. Primary Connections has a wonderful, innovative approach to science education at the primary level, focussed on enhancing the confidence of teachers for teaching science, with a specific focus on linking scientific knowledge with general literacy. We supported Primary Connections in 2017 with facility support for their teacher training sessions in Melbourne, in return for which our colleagues offered free places to teachers from our target schools. We found additional resources where possible to help schools back-fill teachers who took the time out from their challenging workplaces to undertake training at the RSV.

We supported two teachers to attend a one-day workshop at the Society titled ‘Teaching technology through science inquiry’ on August 25. Designed to build efficacy with teaching science inquiry with a STEM perspective, this workshop visited the key principles underpinning the Primary Connections teaching and learning approach. Participants engaged in first-hand experiences that exemplified best practice in supporting students to develop science understanding and skills that build capability in STEM, and walked away with a re-imagined perspective and a toolkit of practical strategies to implement directly into classroom practice. Thanks to our partners, led by **Angela Gigliotti**, for a very positive collaboration.

Kids' Conference – Australian Catholic University



In 2017 the Society was honoured to inaugurate and auspice a STEM stream in the annual Kids' Conference hosted by the Australian Catholic University. Led by Stephen Spain through association with the History Teachers Association of Victoria, the Geography Teachers Association of Victoria and the Royal Society of Victoria, the Conference celebrated its fifth year of advancing student voice through new approaches to digital technology in the History, Geography, Science and English Classrooms

Leader Teachers, Early Career Teachers, Pre-service Teachers and students were invited to register and attend sessions in this year's Kids' Conference, with pre-conference workshops held at the Society to prepare students for the task of communicating science projects to a conference audience.



RSV CEO Mike Flattley convenes the Kids Conference STEM Stream



It was a fantastic day hearing about the incredible investigations and inventions undertaken by student teams with the support and mentorship of their amazing teachers. A great opportunity to focus on communication and scientific literacy as a feature of leadership development.

A Major Grant, a Major Program

Following a lengthy process of proposal writing and grant submissions, the RSV is delighted to be partnering with the Commonwealth (DIIS) and Victorian (DEDJTR) Governments to deliver a new Inspiring Australia program, engaging our state's communities in the excitement and opportunities of advances in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). The Victorian Inspiring Australia program will bring together organisations concerned with STEM engagement, citizen science, education and pathways to industry and higher education.

The Royal Society of Victoria will receive total grant funding of \$275,000 in 2018 to connect Victorians across the state with science. The partnership will connect everyday Victorians with STEM by demonstrating how these skills improve our knowledge of the world around us, inform better decision making, business efficiency and solve some of our greatest everyday challenges in local, national and global contexts. Program development and delivery will foster collaborations with science-focused organisations to connect Victorians with cutting edge technologies and methodologies. Chaired by Victoria's Lead Scientist, **Dr Amanda Caples**, the Victorian Inspiring Australia program will bring together organisations concerned with STEM engagement, citizen science, education and pathways to industry and higher education. The Victorian Government and the RSV have resourced the Victorian program with a new Inspiring Australia Manager and two Officers to support the state's efforts and events across Victoria.



Victoria's Inspiring Australia Program complements the Victorian Government's remarkable \$128 million Tech Schools initiative to establish 10 state-of-the art Tech Schools across the state, delivering

the advanced education and training that Victorian school students will need to flourish in the rapidly changing global economy. The Whittlesea, Ballarat and Monash Tech Schools are the inaugural partners for the Victorian Inspiring Australia program and will help convene the pilot “Science and Innovation Hubs” for local communities to convene and engage with key scientific discoveries, issues and emerging skills, such as new health technologies and advanced manufacturing. A program of annual talks, forums, industry and careers nights, citizen science activities, kids’ science clubs and Science Week events are all within scope at each Hub.

The work of the new Victorian Inspiring Australia Board began in December, and the program will be underway by February – we will share plans, grant programs and other initiatives as they develop.

HONORARY TREASURER

Mr Andrew Davison



As Honorary Treasurer 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.

Under the auspices of the immediate past Executive Committee and the guidance provided by the immediate past Treasurer, Mr. Norman Kennedy, the Royal Society of Victoria has continued to see a trend of financial stabilisation. The current management team, under the leadership of our CEO Mike Flattley, has maintained this position on stabilisation and a continual focus to ensure that all expenses are essential to the continued operation of the Society. Furthermore, under their leadership the Society has been successful in obtaining key grants, which demonstrate our ongoing commitment to championing the cause of science within our community.

To this end, there are two significant expenses arising in the current, 2018 financial year:

Firstly, the Council has seen fit to raise the remuneration for the role of CEO by 7.8%, representing an adjustment to meet market value of the position, and tenured staff salary increases of 3%. This is reflective of the significant effort that has been involved in running the Society so that we can maintain a stable base. Secondly, the Council has elected to commit approximately \$55K to the upgrading of the communications infrastructure for the Society. There will be more on this later in my report.

Financial stability for the Society is largely an exercise in managing costs as our income channels are limited to facilities rental and income from our portfolio. While we have been successful in grants, these (largely by definition) do not result in additional income for the Society, as we are required to report on our expenses as they directly contribute to servicing those grants (which do not come with funds for staffing).

As noted in last year’s financial report to the AGM, our expenses remain higher than our income. 2017 has seen a continued rise in expenses due largely to increased staffing to assist in bidding for grants, as well as several key initiatives underway. Changing this position is essential to our continued existence and has triggered an exercise in scenario planning for the Society.

The ability of the Society to operate in liquidity in recent years is largely due to an injection of funds known as the Royal Society of Victoria Science Foundation. This was a large bequest from Dr Phillip Law in 2011. The healthy size of the fund means that the RSV is financially sound and has assets to cover its immediate and medium-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.

If we assume an ongoing expense budget of around \$200K, then all things remaining equal this fund will be exhausted in around 6 years. At \$150K p.a. this is extended by 2 years. Neither represents a successful, ongoing Society able to deliver on its mission.

Our initial and most obvious avenue to change this position is to improve our tenancy and event

income. To do this requires two immediate expenses, which are presently under way:

- 1) To remain attractive and competitive in the events market, a significant upgrade is underway to the Ellery Theatre (for which the Council have allocated funding and our membership has been most generous in further sponsoring). This should give rise to an increased income from events and sponsorships. This represents a significant proportion of our growth income and so this upgrade is seen as critical to the continuation of our mission to promote science in the community.
- 2) The Council has, as noted earlier, seen fit to upgrade our communications infrastructure. This includes a new business grade optical fibre connection into our building, a new IP PBX solution to allow multiple phone services to run on premises, and a WiFi network which will provide coverage throughout the building and allow our management team to control access to this for members, tenants, clients and events.

It is important for me to note that the successful provider for these services was Telstra through a business partner. As a continuing employee of Telstra, I recused myself from all decisions related to the selection of a vendor. I did, however, provide advice to the Council of a technical nature related to our requirements for infrastructure to see us through the next decade.

This will improve our position, but not enough to guarantee our longevity. To achieve an ongoing positive position from here would require either:

- 1) That operating expenses be reduced to around \$50K p.a. This does not seem to be possible whilst still maintaining a staff capable of realising the mission of the RSV.
- 2) That revenue be increased to approx. \$600K. That represents a \$240K increase on today's income, either as a direct income stream or alternatively achieved by increasing the Science Foundation to \$3.5M via bequests or some other mechanism.

We will continue to monitor the financial position of the Society closely, and in coming months will be reviewing our options to establish an ongoing position of longevity for the Society.

Andrew Davison, Honorary Treasurer

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

ABN 62 145 872 663

FINANCIAL REPORT

**for the
YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2017**

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.
ABN 62 145 872 663
FINANCIAL REPORT for the
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

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General Information

The financial statements cover the Royal Society of Victoria Inc. ("the Society") as an individual entity. The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is the Society's functional and presentation currency.

Registered Office and Principal Place of Business

8 La Trobe st,
Melbourne Vic 3000

A description of the nature of the Society's operations and its principal activities are included in the President's report which is not part of the financial statements.

The financial statements were authorised for issue on 26th April 2018

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.
ABN 62 145 872 663
FINANCIAL REPORT for the
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

Council has the honour to present its financial report of the activities of The Royal Society of Victoria Inc. (a non Reporting Association) for its 160th year of operation: the financial year ended 31 December 2017.

PATRON

The Hon Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria

COUNCIL

OFFICE BEARERS

President	Mr David Zerman , MPH, FFIA, CFRM, FAIM
Vice President	Mrs Nicola Williams , BSc, DipEd, MSc, FRACI
Immediate Past President	Dr William Birch , BSc(Hons), PhD
Honorary Secretary	Dr Peter G Baines , BA(Hon), BSc(Melb), PhD(Cantab)
Honorary Treasurer	Mr Andrew Davison , BSc, BComp(Hons)

MEMBERS

Ms Sophia Frentz, BSc(Hons)
A/Prof Robert Day, BSc(Hons), PhD
A/Prof Gavin Smith, BPS, GradDip, MEH, PhD
Dr Kevin Orrman-Rossiter, BAppPhys, MAppSci, PostgradDip, PhD
Dr Tom Beer, DSc, PhDMs,
Pamela Borger, BSc(Hons), DipEd, Med
Mr John Link, BEng
Mr Viktor Perunicic, BSc, MSc
Professor David Walker, BSc, PhD, DSc

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 (Hons1), MA, IPPA, PhD
Dr A S Finkel, AO, PhD, FTSE
Prof L Selwood, AO, BSc, MSc, PhD
Em Prof J W Warren, MA, PhD

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.
ABN 62 145 872 663
FINANCIAL REPORT for the
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

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 Deficit of the Society was \$70,401 before depreciation. After charging depreciation the Net deficit was \$216,809

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



Signed by : David Zerman, President



Signed by : Andrew Davison, Treasurer

Dated this 12th day of April 2018

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.
ABN 62 145 872 663

**REVIEWER'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNDER
SECTION 60-40 OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT FOR PROFITS
COMMISSION ACT 2012**

TO THE COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, in relation to the review for the year ended 31 December 2017 there has been:

- (i) No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the review; and
- (ii) No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the review.

**Hall Chadwick Melbourne Audit
Chartered Accountants
Level 14, 440 Collins Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000**



Partner: David Lissauer

Dated this 24th day of May 2018

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.
STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
for the YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
OPERATING INCOME			
Members' Subscriptions		65,846	66,976
Venue Hire Income		190,388	189,147
Sales – Memorabilia, Publications & Proceedings		2,168	4,041
Event & Symposia Income		14,720	39,358
Donations, Bequests, Sponsorship & Fundraising	12	90,576	11,988
Other Income		666	-
Interest Received		159	55
		364,523	311,565
OPERATING EXPENDITURE			
Advertising, Promotion and Website		14,058	9,504
Awards and Prizes		9,350	9,317
Accountancy & Auditor's Remuneration		6,656	2,775
Bank Charges		956	1,076
Catering		25,225	19,299
Cleaning		25,520	33,922
Computer and Internet		4,822	2,991
Donations, Prizes and Sponsorships		3,592	4,650
Honorariums		1,438	99
Insurance		20,066	14,603
Legal Costs		3,465	112
Office Expenses		12,511	5,160
Postage and Courier		3,969	3,667
Printing & Publishing		18,306	22,071
Professional Services		26,678	18,188
Repairs & Maintenance		11,729	8,454
Salaries, Long Service Leave and Superannuation		285,715	231,016
Telephone		1,198	2,499
Travelling Expenses		2,335	2,097
Utilities		13,706	13,136
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE		491,295	404,636
NET RESULT (DEFICIT) FROM OPERATIONS		(126,772)	(93,071)
NON-OPERATING EXPENDITURE			
Provision for Stock Obsolescence	5	3,364	191
Depreciation of Property Plant & Equipment	13	1,402	134,066
Depreciation of Buildings	13	145,006	2,029
TOTAL NON OPERATING EXPENDITURE		149,772	136,286
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		641,067	540,922
NET RESULT (DEFICIT) BEFORE INVESTING ACTIVITIES		(276,544)	(229,357)

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.
STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
for the YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
RSV SCIENCE FOUNDATION			
Dividends, Distributions and Interest		56,767	51,951
Franking Credits		11,139	8,433
Less Investment Manager Charges & Rebates		(8,171)	(7,386)
NET RESULT FROM RSV SCIENCE FOUNDATION		59,735	52,998
NET RESULT (DEFICIT)	14	(216,809)	(176,359)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
<i>Items that will not be reclassified to the profit and loss</i>			
Unrealised Gains (Losses) RSV Science Foundation		18,326	20,305
Unrealised Gains (Losses) Direct Shares & Investments		(802)	1,419
Revaluation of Buildings and Improvements		0	455,530
TOTAL OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		17,524	477,254
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (DEFICIT)		(199,285)	300,895

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
as at 31 DECEMBER 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	29,728	34,136
Trade and other receivables	4	19,241	23,969
Inventories	5	24,379	27,743
Prepayments		200	200
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		73,548	86,048
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Financial assets	6	1,031,232	1,076,126
Buildings, equipment and collections	7	6,939,777	7,086,185
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		7,971,009	8,162,311
TOTAL ASSETS		8,044,557	8,248,359
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and Other Payables	8	17,917	16,050
Employee benefits	9	16,537	14,275
Income Received in Advance		8,705	22,694
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		43,159	53,019
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee benefits	9	12,938	7,595
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		12,938	7,595
TOTAL LIABILITIES		56,097	60,614
NET ASSETS		7,988,460	8,187,745
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Reserves	10	7,550,923	7,533,399
Retained earnings	11	437,537	654,346
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		7,988,460	8,187,745

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.
STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN EQUITY
for the YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
	Reserves \$	Retained earnings \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2013	7,046,511	1,209,294	8,255,805,
Deficit attributable to members		(132,158)	(132,158)
Movement in Reserves	26,053		26,053
Balance at 30 June 2014	7,072,564	1,077,136	8,149,700
Deficit attributable to members		(246,431)	(246,431)
Movement in reserves	(16,419)		(16,419)
Balance at 30 June 2015	7,056,145	830,705	7,886,850
Deficit attributable to members		(176,359)	(176,359)
Movement in reserves	477,254		477,254
Balance at 30 June 2016	7,533,399	654,346	8,187,745
Deficit attributable to members		(216,809)	(216,809)
Movement in reserves	17,524		17,523
4Balance at 30 June 2017	7,550,923	437,537	7,988,460

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
for the YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash receipts from Customers		362,283	317,864
Cash paid to Suppliers and Employees		(494,525)	(417,099)
NET CASH GENERATED (USED) IN OPERATING ACTIVITIES		(132,242)	(99,235)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		-	-
Dividends received		68065	51,951
Interest received		159	-
Proceeds from Sale of financial assets		59,609	31,625
NET CASH GENERATED FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		127,833	83,576
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		(4,409)	(15,659)
CASH AND EQUIVALENTS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR		34,137	49,796
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF YEAR		29,728	34,137

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated.

New or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations adopted

The Society has adopted all of the new or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ('AASB') that are mandatory for the current reporting period.

Any new or amended Accounting Standards or Interpretations that are not yet mandatory have not been early adopted.

Basis of Preparation

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to comply with the financial reporting requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. The Council has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that the accounting policies adopted are appropriate to meet the needs of the members of the Society.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement requirements specified by the Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ('AASB') 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', AASB 1048 'Interpretation of Standards' and AASB 1054 'Australian Additional Disclosures', as appropriate for not-for-profit entities.

Historical cost convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Critical accounting estimates

The preparation of the financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the incorporated association's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements, are disclosed in note 2.

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 that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk to changes in value.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

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.

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, personal leave entitlements, and the amounts accrued for long service leave entitlements that have vested due to employees having completed the required period of service. The Society may not pay the full amount of 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 was 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 on the perceived useful life of the building.

Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is recognised when it is probable that the economic benefit will flow to the Society and the revenue can be reliably measured. 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).

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

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.

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.

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

		2017 \$	2016 \$
3	Cash and Cash Equivalents		
	Petty Cash	114	170
	Cash at Bank	29,614	33,966
		<u>29,728</u>	<u>34,136</u>
4	Trade and Other Receivables		
	Current		
	Sundry Debtors	19,241	23,969
		<u>19,241</u>	<u>23,969</u>
5	Inventories		
	Current		
	Publications	48,001	48,001
	Coins & Stamps	2,955	2,955
	Less Provision for Stock Obsolescence	(26,577)	(23,213)
		<u>24,379</u>	<u>27,743</u>
6	Financial Assets		
	Non-Current		
	Science Foundation Investment Portfolio (Equity Trustees)	1,029,937	1,074,029
	Shares and Other Direct Investments (Computershare)	1,295	2,097
		<u>1,031,232</u>	<u>1,076,126</u>

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

	2017 \$	2016 \$
7 Buildings, Equipment and Collections		
Buildings		
Buildings - Main & Carpark - At Valuation	4,310,000	4,310,000
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(173,706)	(43,100)
Buildings - Cottage - At Valuation	480,000	480,000
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(19,200)	(4,800)
Total Buildings	4,597,094	4,742,100
 Computers and Other Equipment - At Cost	 80,838	 80,838
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(68,392)	(67,188)
	12,446	13,650
 Fixtures & Fittings - At Cost	 --	 --
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	--	--
	-	-
 Paintings - At Valuation	 19,818	 19,818
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(1,386)	(1,188)
	18,432	18,630
 Burke and Wills Collection - At Valuation	 2,225,000	 2,225,000
Library - At Valuation	86,805	86,805
Total Equipment, Fixtures & Collections	2,342,683	2,344,085
 Total Buildings, Equipment & Collections	 6,939,777	 7,086,185

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

		2017 \$	2016 \$
8	Accounts Payable and Other Payables		
	Current		
	Sundry Creditors	17,917	16,050
		<u>17,917</u>	<u>16,050</u>
9	Employee Benefits		
	Current		
	Provision for Annual Leave and Personal Leave	<u>16,537</u>	<u>14,275</u>
	Non-Current		
	Provision for Long Service Leave	<u>12,938</u>	<u>7,595</u>

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

	2017 \$	2016 \$
10 Reserves		
Building Revaluation Reserve		
Opening Balance for the year	4,995,530	4,540,000
Increase (Decrease) in Valuation	<u>0</u>	<u>455,530</u>
	4,995,530	4,995,530
Burke and Wills Collection Reserve		
Opening Balance for the year	2,225,000	2,225,000
<p>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.</p>		
Investment Revaluation Reserve		
Opening Balance for the year	353,305	331,581
Increase (Decrease) in Market Value of Science Foundation Investment Portfolio	18,326	20,305
Increase (Decrease) in Market Value of Direct Shares	(802)	1,419
Adjustment for prior years and change of accounting practice	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	370,829	353,305
Library Revaluation Reserve		
Opening Balance for the year	86,805	86,805
<p>An independent valuation was obtained in 2010. There is no documentation to support this historical figure.</p>		
Revaluation of Fixtures and Fittings		
Opening Balance	<u>(127,241)</u>	<u>(127,241)</u>
	<u>7,550,923</u>	<u>7,533,399</u>
11 Retained Earnings		
Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year	654,346	830,705
Net loss attributable to the association	<u>(216,809)</u>	<u>(176,359)</u>
Retained earnings at the end of the financial year	<u><u>437,537</u></u>	<u><u>654,346</u></u>

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
12 Donations, Bequests, Sponsorships and Fundraising		
Member Bequest Lynette Young	29,164	
Migrant Science Communication Grant	22,000	
Flower Show Parking	3,350	1,880
Member donation Richards	10,000	-
Member donation Lee	5,000	-
Other donations from members and fundraisings	21,062	10,108
	<u>90,576</u>	<u>11,988</u>
13 Depreciation		
Depreciation	<u>146,408</u>	<u>136,095</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 \$216,809 is after charging as an expense provision for stock obsolescence of \$3,364, depreciation of equipment and paintings of \$1,402 and depreciation of buildings \$145,006. All of these items are non-cash items. The Society had a Net Deficit before depreciation and stock obsolescence of \$67,037.

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

	2017	2016
	\$	\$

15 Dividends and Movements in the Science Foundation

This amount includes dividends, distributions, interest and franking credits received of \$67,906 from the RSV Science Foundation (investment portfolio). These realised gains were offset by Investment Manager fees charges and rebates of \$8,171 resulting in a net realised gain of \$59,735.

\$110,000 was withdrawn from the RSV Science Foundation during the 2017 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 \$110,000 (2016 \$75,000) from the RSV Science Foundation is consistent with the financial management plan adopted by Council. The Council-approved withdrawals commenced in the 2014 year.

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 2017 year was \$18,325 compared to an unrealised gain in 2016 of \$20,305.

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.
STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL
for the YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

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 1 to 18

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of The Royal Society of Victoria Inc. as at 31 December 2017 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. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

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

President: _____

Mr David Zerman



Treasurer: _____

Mr Andrew Davison



Dated this 12th day April of 2018

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.
ABN 62 145 872 663

**INDEPENDENT REVIEWER'S REPORT
TO THE COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.**

Report on the Financial Report

We have reviewed the accompanying financial report of The Royal Society of Victoria Inc., which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2017, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Council's Responsibility for the Report

The Council is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial report 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, and for such internal control as the Council determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial report that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Assurance Practitioner's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial report. We conducted our review in accordance with Standard on Review Engagements ASRE 2400, Review of a Financial Report Performed by an Assurance Practitioner Who is not the Auditor of the Entity. ASRE 2400 requires us to conclude whether anything has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial report, taken as a whole, are not prepared in all material respects in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. This Standard also requires us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

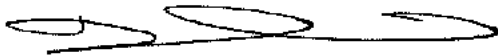
A review of financial report in accordance with ASRE 2400 is a limited assurance engagement. The assurance practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making enquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence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

Conclusion

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial report do not present fairly, in all material respects, or do not give a true and fair view of the financial position of The Royal Society of Victoria Inc. as at 31 December 2017, and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended, 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.

**Hall Chadwick Melbourne Audit
Chartered Accountants
Level 14, 440 Collins Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000**



Partner: David Lissauer

Dated this 9th day of May 2018

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.
CERTIFICATE BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL
for the YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

Annual Statements Give True and Fair View of Financial Position of Incorporated Association

We, 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 Society held on 26th April 2018.
- c. We are authorised by 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 Society during and at the end of the financial year ended 31 December 2017

Dated this 26th day of April 2018

Council Member:

Mr David Zerman



Council Member:

Mrs Nicola Williams



