



## ***ANNUAL REPORT OF COUNCIL FOR 2009-2010***

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19<sup>th</sup> July, 2010

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The objective of the Society is to advance and promote science. During 2009-2010 Council has continued to raise the profile of the Society and bring to its members and the community, through Monthly Meetings, Public Forums, the monthly Proceedings and quarterly Journal, scientific insights into the major issues facing us locally and globally. We celebrate the role of scientific exchange in making the world a better place.

#### ***Eureka Prize***

Subject to annual review, the Society continues to support the Eureka Prize for Interdisciplinary Scientific Research. The major contribution to the Prize comes from the Royal Societies of Victoria and New South Wales.

#### ***Joint Royal Societies Meeting***

The 6<sup>th</sup> Convention of The Royal Societies of Australia was held in Tasmania in November, 2009, and attended by Dr Philip O'Brien. The Royal Societies of Australia Inc. present a united front federally, and provide a forum for the exchange of ideas for the '*Promotion and Advancement of Science in Society for Society*'. The independence and separate identity of each of the State Societies remains unchanged.

#### ***Evolutionary Biology Symposium***

A one-day symposium on Evolutionary Biology was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2009 at the University of Western Australia to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin, the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*, and the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of Jean-Baptiste Lamarck's *Philosophie Zoologique*. This was a resounding success with some 120 RSWA members, guests and other registrants attending the Symposium at which invited speakers covered topics ranging from palaeontology to modern concepts in evolution.. Professor Ken McNamara, from Cambridge University, gave the Keynote Address – *Shapes of Time: Fossils, Development and Evolution*.

#### ***Postgraduate Symposium***

The Society's annual Postgraduate Symposia provide a forum for students to share their work and network with students from other disciplines and universities. The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual RSWA Postgraduate Symposium was held at Curtin University of Technology on the 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2009. The event was exceptionally well supported with 16 oral presentations and 8 posters being presented by students from The University of Western Australia, Murdoch University, Curtin University of Technology and Edith Cowan University. Professor Jo Ward, Dean of Science at Curtin University, welcomed participants and chaired a morning session.

#### ***Council Retreat and Moving Forward***

In early 2010 Council held a one day facilitated Retreat to look at the current status and direction of the Society, and discuss where we want to take it in the future to fulfil the aims and objects stated in the Constitution. These can be found on our current website and can be summarised as - *To*

*promote and assist in the advancement of science.* The recommendations that evolved from the Retreat, and that are currently being attended to, include the establishment of a new interactive website, electronic delivery of the monthly Proceedings where possible, raising of the membership dues from \$60 for Ordinary members to \$75, with similar increases for other types of memberships, and indexing of the Journal on JSTOR or similar international indexing systems.

### **Appreciation**

Finally, I wish to thank all RSWA Councillors for their hard work during what has been a very successful year. I especially acknowledge our hard-working editor Kathy Meney and Assistant Editor Margaret Brocx, and Vic Semeniuk and all other councillors involved in the organisation and running of the Societies events. I am grateful to Prof Lyn Beazley for agreeing to officiate at many of our special functions. I also wish to thank family and friends of Councillors who attend meetings and help out, and my own family and friends for support in catering for events.

## **MEETINGS**

### **Annual General Meeting**

The 2008/2009 Annual General Meeting was held on Monday 20th July, 2009 in the Woolnough Lecture Theatre at The University of Western Australia. The meeting was preceded by social drinks and refreshments. The RSWA Council for 2009-2010 was announced and all nominations were accepted. Following the business meeting, Professor Lyn Beazley, Chief Scientist of Western Australia and Vice-Patron of the Society, presented the Society's University Science Medals for 2008. Medals were awarded to Ravi Brundavanam (Murdoch University), Nicole Sabatino (Edith Cowan University), Peta Sanderson (The University of Notre Dame), Claire Foster (The University of Western Australia) and Erin Gray (Curtin University of Technology).

The outgoing President, Dr Philip O'Brien, delivered the Presidential Address titled *Food Biosecurity: Feeding the World in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, after which Professor Lyn Beazley installed the incoming President, Dr Lynne Milne. The meeting was followed by further drinks and supper.

### **Monthly meetings and forums**

Monthly ordinary meetings, commencing at 7:00 pm, were preceded by a full Council Meeting and included a presentation from an invited speaker. Monthly presentations were provided by Professor Simon Wilde (Zircons of Jack Hills) and Professor Patrick Quilty (The global significance of the Antarctic). Two events were held to launch special issues of the RSWA Journal. Dr Patrick Armstrong launched the Evolutionary Biology Symposium Special Issue at Horizon, the Planetarium and gave a presentation titled *Darwin, Australia and Luck*. The Leeuwin Current Symposium Special Issue was launched at Kings Park Administration Centre with presentations by Dr Steve Blake of the Western Australian Marine Science Institution (WAMSI), and Dr Karen Hillman, President of the Western Australian Marine Science Association.

Highlights of the year included public-oriented events during National Science Week in August 2009. Being the International Year of Astronomy, the events had an astronomy bent and included a public forum – *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy and Beyond* - at Scitech's Horizon, The Planetarium, *Mangroves of Leschenault Inlet* held in Bunbury and the *Night Sky in the Pilbara* held in Karratha and Port Hedland. In April, a joint RSWA and Naturalist Club Excursion was held that examined and explained the modern rocky shore fauna, algae and geology. This was a popular event and well attended by a range of RSWA and Naturalist Club members, their families, interested scientists and the public.

Council thanks all the invited speakers for their contributions this past year to the Monthly and special meetings. Thanks are also due Dr Vic Semeniuk for his publicity, organisation of ordinary meetings, special meetings, Science Week events and the annual field trip.

### **Christmas function**

The 2009 RSWA Christmas function was hosted by Scitech. Alan Brien, CEO of Scitech, explained the role and activities of Scitech and, with attending staff, provided a tour behind the scenes explaining the development of exhibits and other roles Scitech plays in helping to raise the profile of science in WA.

## **OTHER REPORTS**

### **Membership:**

The Society currently has approximately 460 members, with a major recruitment of new members (89) over the past year

### **Journal:**

The quality of papers in the Journal of the Royal Society of Western Australia remains at an international standard, reflecting the high quality of articles that are submitted for publication.

During the year 2009/2010, 33 papers were received as manuscripts for consideration for publication. In total, 27 papers were published in the issues 92(3) to 93(2). Papers from the Leeuwin Current Symposium, containing 14 papers, were published as a Special Issue 92(2), appearing in September 2009. Papers from the Evolutionary Biology Symposium, containing 15 papers, were published as a Special Issue 92(4). Currently, the Journal is received by over 335 financial subscribers consisting of some 301 local subscribers, 28 from the Eastern States and 6 overseas, and over 249 libraries and organisations, consisting of 27 locally, 59 from the Eastern States, and 163 overseas.

The Journal has negotiated, and is currently planning, two symposia for 2011, one on the Kimberley Coast and the other on the Blackwood Estuary, both to be published as thematic special issues. This provides an indication of the importance of the Journal of the Royal Society of Western Australia as a means of advancing a wide range of Western Australian Research.

The Journal has been bought up-to date, and is currently being indexed by ProQuest, an international indexing organisation.

The Journal Editor, Kathy Meney, expresses her personal thanks to Margaret Brocx for her continued assistance and contribution as sub-editor, and Council thanks both Kathy and Margaret for their time and dedication to producing the Journal.

### **Proceedings:**

The Proceedings are published every month and posted on the Royal Society Website. Aside from advertising and reporting future and past events run by the Society, the Proceedings are also used as a vehicle for notices of interest to the Membership. From August 2010, the Proceedings will be delivered via an electronic link to Members for whom RSWA has an email address unless a Member indicates that they wish to continue receiving hard copies.

### **Library:**

The Society's Library continues to be incorporated within the Library of the Western Australian Museum, and is located in the Museum's 'Collections and Research Centre' at Welshpool. In the past 12 months five new donated monographs were added to the collection and 412 scientific

journal issues were received on exchange for the 'Journal of the Royal Society of Western Australia'. The library is used by Museum staff and during opening hours (9.00-5.00 Mon.-Fri.) is open to Society members and can also be used by other researchers. Items held are available to users of other libraries, both within Australia and overseas, via the inter-library loans system. The Library's online catalogue is accessible via the Royal Society's webpages and has recently been upgraded.

**Website:**

The RSWA Webpage has been an invaluable source of information for members and the public, providing access to current and past Proceedings, news of up-coming events, and general information about the Society. A Website sub-committee has been formed to develop a new interactive website that will offer a range of additional services to Members including the ability to access and download articles from recent journal issues and the facility to pay membership fees, register for RSWA events and purchase publications. The website will also contain science news items and articles on new developments in science. The website subcommittee is in the process of designing the new website and applying for a Lotterywest grant for its development.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS .**

The Society thanks the Western Australian Museum for their housing of the Society's library and storing additional copies of the Journal. The Board of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority is thanked for allowing the Society to hold meetings on the Kings Park premises under their jurisdiction and for providing support for Society activities. Council acknowledges the support of The University of Western Australia for providing the venue for the Evolutionary Biology Symposium; The School of Earth and Environment at UWA for sponsoring venues and facilities for the 2009 and 2010 Annual General Meetings; Curtin University and the Dept of Applied Geology in providing the venue and facilities for the Postgraduate Symposium; and Scitech for the venue for the Public Forums and meetings. The Society acknowledges the support of the State Government in providing a subsidy through the Library and Information Service for publication of the Journal.

<p>Royal Society of Western Australia  Statement of Receipts &amp; Expenses  1/6/2009-31/5/2010</p>
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**EXPENSES**

Journal	\$38,573
Proceedings	\$6,711
Stationery	\$42
Bank Fees	\$486
Workshops	\$4,307
Misc	\$1,293
Advertising	\$1,121
Meeting	\$452
Royal Societies of Australia	\$1,507
Insurance	\$330
Auditor	\$732
Secretarial	\$3,645
Events	\$199
Symposia	\$4,786
Student Medals	\$1,450
Database Management	\$150
Journal Sales	\$43
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$65,827</b>

**INCOME**

Membership	\$15,790
State Gov Subsidy	\$17,600
Symposia	\$3,554
Workshops	\$959
Journal Sales	\$43
Institutional Journal Sales	\$4,309
Publication Sales	\$953
Misc	\$389
Bank Fees	\$118
Share Dividend	\$104
Credit notes	\$3,509
Page Charges JRSWA	\$1,500
Nat Sci Week	\$1,509
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$50,336</b>
Balance	-\$15,490
Current Bank Balance	<b>\$24,986</b>

## Nominations for Council 2010 – 2011

<b>President:</b>	Lynne Milne
<b>Immediate Past President:</b>	Phil O'Brien
<b>Senior Vice-President:</b>	Vic Semeniuk
<b>Junior Vice-President:</b>	Alex Bevan
<b>Council Secretary:</b>	Penelope Clifford
<b>Membership Secretary:</b>	Jane Rosser
<b>Proceedings Secretary:</b>	Margaret Brocx
<b>Hon Treasurer:</b>	Phil O'Brien
<b>Hon Editor:</b>	Kathy Meney
<b>Hon Librarian:</b>	Margaret Triffitt
<b>Publicity Officer:</b>	Vic Semeniuk
<b>RSWA Archivist:</b>	Alan Pearce
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Geoff Deacon
<b>Councillor:</b>	Jan Dook
<b>Councillor:</b>	Keith Oliver
<b>Councillor:</b>	Mike Van Keulen
<b>Councillor:</b>	Juliet Wege
<b>Councillor:</b>	Kate Wright
<b>Councillor:</b>	Chris Dunne
<b>Councillor:</b>	Hugo Bekle