



## ***ANNUAL REPORT OF COUNCIL FOR 2010-2011***

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18<sup>th</sup> July, 2011

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The objective of the Society is to advance and promote science. During 2010-2011 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 7<sup>th</sup> Convention of The Royal Societies of Australia was held in Brisbane in November, 2010, and attended by Dr Lynne Milne. 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.

#### ***Medal of the Royal Society of Australia***

Often known as the Kelvin Medal, the RSWA Medal is an occasional award made to a scientist or scientists who have made an outstanding achievement to science in Western Australia. In recent times it has been awarded every four years. In 2010 it was awarded to Emeritus Professor Don Bradshaw for his outstanding and prolific research on Australian animals, in particular reptiles, amphibians, birds and marsupials.

#### ***Vice Patrons***

Professor Lyn Beazley continues as one of our Vice-Patrons, and the new Governor of Western Australia, His Excellency Mr Malcolm McCusker, has accepted RSWA's invitation to continue the tradition of the Governor of Western Australia being a Vice-Patron of the Society.

#### ***Kimberley Marine and Coastal Science Symposium***

A one-day symposium on the Kimberley Coast, jointly hosted by WAMSI, the Western Australian Marine Science Institution, and RSWA was held on the 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2011 at the Western Australian Maritime Museum Fremantle was a resounding success, with over 220 participants and attendees. This Symposium and the Proceedings, published as the RSWA June 2011 Volume, brought to fruition nearly two years of planning. Ambitiously, and very successfully, the RSWA Journal group had this special issue published and available for distribution at the Symposium.

#### ***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 13<sup>th</sup> Annual RSWA Postgraduate Symposium was held at Murdoch University on Curtin University of Technology on the 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2010 was a resounding success with over 50 students, university staff and members of

the Royal Society attending. The event was well supported with 10 oral presentations and 5 posters being presented by students from The University of Western Australia, Murdoch University, Curtin University of Technology and Edith Cowan University. Topics ranged from *'The Changing Landscape of Cemeteries in Perth, Western Australia'* to *'A petrological, chemical and isotopic study of some early Solar System HED basaltic igneous meteorites'*. This interest in being associated with the Royal Society from such a wide range of scientific disciplines, augurs well for broadening the scientific reach of the Society in the future.

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

In early 2011 the RSWA Council held its third one-day Retreat to look at the current status and direction of the Society, review the progress made since the last Retreat, and discuss how to take the Society forward. Recommendations from the previous Retreat that have come to fruition during 2010-2011 include a new website with funding from a Lottery West Grant and an RSWA Brochure, both of which are launched tonight, an increase in membership dues, and more accountable procedures in Council. The recommendations that evolved from the 2011 Retreat include a review of the Journal, the development of a membership card with benefits, including reciprocal rights with other Australian Royal Societies and discounts from bookshops and science based venues, and a commitment to broadening the scientific base of our Journal, Membership and Events.

### **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 editor Kathy Meney, assisted by Margaret Brocx, and all other councillors involved in the organisation and running of the Society's 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 2010/2011 Annual General Meeting was held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2010 in the Webb Lecture Theatre at The University of Western Australia. The meeting was preceded by social drinks and refreshments. The RSWA Council for 2010-2011 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 2009. Medals were awarded to Emily Lette (Edith Cowan University), Erin Gray (Curtin University of Technology); Bryony Palmer (Murdoch University), James Dornan (The University of Notre Dame), and Rachel Loh (The University of Western Australia).

Following the Student Medal presentations, Prof Lyn Beazley presented a summary of the many achievements of the Medal of RSWA recipient Emeritus Professor Don Bradshaw, and introduced his Medallists Address titled *"Ecophysiology and conservation of wildlife in Western Australia"*. 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 Dr Alec Coles, the new CEO of the WA Museum (*A new Museum for WA*), Dr Tony Cockbain for Dr Phil Playford (*The Devonian Reef Complex*), Winthrop Professor John Watling (*Forensic Chemistry and Food Provenancing*) and Emeritus Professor Ian Ritchie (*Isn't Chemistry Wonderful*). The Inaugural John de Laeter Memorial Lecture was given by Dr Ross Edwards (*New Frontiers in Polar Ice Core research*), and attended by John's wife Robin and son Rob. During Science Week, a public

presentation by four presenters was held on Biodiversity and Climate Change, past present and future and popular regional events run were Biodiversity of the Leschenault Peninsula and Leschenault Inlet, Biodiversity of the Pilbara region and Mangroves of Port Hedland.

Council thanks all the invited speakers for their contributions this past year to the Monthly and special meetings.

### ***Christmas function***

RSWA joined that WA Naturalists Society (WANATS) Christmas Party held at Hersdman's Lake Wildlife Centre. WANANTS provided a guided walk for those interested in a bit of bordwatching prior to bring a plate meal and a demonstration by Raptors WA. David Pettet, assisted by Michelle Vannereau, from Birds of Prey Conservation WA, provided a demonstration with some of the birds being rehabilitated. Despite an unexpected watering down by the sprinklers, a great night was had by all.

## **OTHER REPORTS**

### ***Membership:***

The Society currently has approximately 271 financial members, and a further 137 who are no more than 2 years in arrears.

### ***Journal:***

The quality of papers in the Journal of the Royal Society of Western Australia remains at a high standard, reflecting the high quality of articles that are submitted for publication. 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. Council agreed that from August 2010, the Proceedings would be delivered electronically to Members for whom RSWA has an email address unless a Member indicated that they wished to continue receiving hard copies. We apologise for this not yet being fully implements.

### ***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 on appointment 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 old RSWA Webpage has served the Society well for several decades, but with advances in technology it was decided to upgrade to a website more suitable to the times. The Website sub-committee, formed in early 2010 to develop a new interactive website, was successful in obtaining the Society a Lottery West Grant to fund the design and hosting of the website for the first three years of its operation. The website will eventually 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.

**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 School of Earth and Environment at UWA for sponsoring venues and facilities for the 2010; Murdoch University for providing the venue and facilities for the Postgraduate Symposium; and Scitech for the venue for the Science Week event. 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