



The Bulletin 355

of

The Royal Society of New South Wales

ABN 76 470 896 415

ISSN 1039-1843

May 2012

Future Events

Lectures in Sydney are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm.

June

Wednesday 6 June 2012 at 6:30pm
Sydney Observatory, Watson Road, Observatory Hill, The Rocks, Sydney
The Transit of Venus

The Transit of Venus – Special event to coincide with this important natural phenomenon – in conjunction with Sydney Observatory.

Southern Highlands Branch

Thursday 21 June 2012 at 6:25pm
AGM followed by a talk
“Serial Sexual Homicide”
Performance Arts Centre, Chevalier College, Bowral

The AGM will be followed by a talk at 6.30pm by Dr. Stephen Allnutt

Dr. Stephen Allnutt is a Forensic Psychiatrist and Clinical Director of the NSW Community Forensic Mental Health Services.

Advance Notice

Saturday 20 October 2012
Where Art and Science Meet
Delivered by Dr Thomas H. Rich, Senior Curator, Museum Victoria.

Transit of Venus 2012: What We and Others Saw

Wednesday 6 June 2012 6:30pm

Sydney Observatory, The Rocks

Delivered by Dr Andrew Jacob



Transits of Venus generally occur in pairs at intervals of 8 and then more than 120 years. Amazingly, the 2012 transit of Venus will be only the 8th transit of Venus ever possibly witnessed by humans – and probably only the 7th as nobody is known to have witnessed the 1631 transit.

Join Dr Andrew Jacob at this special event, for members and guests of the Society, for a discussion on the Transit of Venus.

Andrew's astronomy career began somewhere between reading Arthur C. Clarke novels and receiving a telescope as a present for his 12th birthday. Following a detour to a degree in engineering he was awarded a doctorate from the University of Sydney for determining the distance to three Cepheid stars using the SUSI interferometer - the aim being to help calibrate the cosmological distance scale.

He has been a guide at Sydney Observatory for twenty years and has run the viewing component of the University of Sydney first year astronomy course for a decade. For the last couple of years he has been working as a curator of astronomy at Sydney Observatory. He is a member of the Education and Public Outreach Chapter of the Astronomical Society of Australia. You may have heard him occasionally on TV or radio when astronomical events catch the public's attention.

Booking essential. Contact the Society's office by telephone or email to reserve your place.

t: 02 9036 5282 e: royalsoc@royalsoc.org.au w: www.royalsoc.org.au

Patrons of The Royal Society of NSW

Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC CVO, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia
Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO Governor of NSW

Vale Peter Tyler



Peter Tyler 1934 – 2012

The Society has lost one of its greatest advocates in historian Dr Peter Tyler who passed away on Saturday 5 May after a brief illness.

Peter became interested in the Society through the work we were doing on our historical collection and was successful in being selected to work on the Community Heritage Grant projects that the Society was successful in attracting through the National Library of Australia. Following this detailed work, in conjunction with geologist Dr David Branagan, Peter became very interested in the whole history of the Society and applied successfully for the first Merewether Scholarship offered by the State Library of NSW. His research topic was 'The Royal Society of NSW' and the aim was to research the Society's archives held in the Mitchell Library. This led to him extending this work to write a complete history of the Society in two volumes. Sadly, this work was left incomplete but we hope to be able to engage another historian to finish Peter's work. Peter was also intending to write, in conjunction

with others, an account of the life of Alexander Berry, one of the members of the Society's first incarnation, the Philosophical Society of Australasia.

Peter took great pride in talking about his work on the Society and has spoken widely in a variety of fora about its early days. His erudition will be sadly missed.

John Hardie

From the President



A rare and important astronomical event, the transit of Venus, will take place on Wednesday 6 June, which also

happens to be the date of the Society's next general meeting.

The Society is planning an event at 6:30 pm at the Sydney Observatory on the transit, together with material collected during the transit itself which takes place earlier in the day. It promises to be a very interesting evening – I hope to see you there.

I encourage members to attend all our monthly general meetings. The speakers are always interesting and our speakers programme is designed to appeal to a wide variety of interests. One of the difficulties has been securing a satisfactory venue and we are aware that the current arrangements generally at the Law School or in the Eastern Avenue symposium rooms Sydney University are far from ideal. The

Council is exploring a number of ideas to secure a different venue, perhaps in the city, which is easier to get to and would provide the opportunity to socialise before the meeting. Also, we are also considering a range of ideas to invigorate our events programme and expect to be able to give further details soon.

As I mentioned in my column last month, societies such as ours are in an increasingly competitive environment for membership. I encourage everyone to do it they can to attract new members of Society. It is vital that we have a growing membership body if we are to maintain a vigorous programme. We would be also interested to learn of any of the Society's members who would be interested in participating in committees or on the Council.

I note with sadness the death on Saturday 5 May of Peter Tyler, the Society's historian. Peter was a great supporter of the Society and had written a number of articles both for Society publications and elsewhere on the interesting aspects of our history. He was in midst of compiling a set of papers from the seminar held last year on Governor Brisbane and also was well advanced in writing a formal history of the Society. Peter will be greatly missed.

Donald Hector



Find us on Facebook

Visit the page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/RoyalSoc>

Southern Highlands Branch

The AGM of the Southern Highlands Branch will be held on Thursday 21 June 2012 at 6.25pm in the **Performance Arts Centre, Chevalier College, Bowral**.

The AGM will be followed by a talk at 6.30pm by Dr. Stephen Allnutt. Dr. Allnutt is a Forensic Psychiatrist and Clinical Director of the NSW Community Forensic Mental Health Services. His topic is "Serial Sexual Homicide".

Details of this talk will be sent by flyer in the next week.

Copies of the Minutes of last year's AGM, along with the Secretary's, Treasurer's and Auditor's report, can be obtained from the Branch Hon. Secretary Anne Wood at wood.anne@gmail.com or 0422 346 947.

Call for nominations

Nomination forms for Southern Highland Branch committee membership for 2012-2013 can also be obtained from Anne Wood.

The present committee welcomes new members to join the committee, to distribute some of the work load and to have an active participation in the future direction of the RSSHB.

Nominations must be received by Anne by **Tuesday 12 June**.

New Members of the Society

We welcome the following new members to the Society:

- Georges **Grau**

For information about membership please contact the Society's office or visit the Society's website at

<http://royalsoc.org.au/membership/membership.htm>

Did you miss the Royal Society Forum on the radio?

Don't worry, you can listen to the podcast any time you like, just click on the link and listen at your leisure.

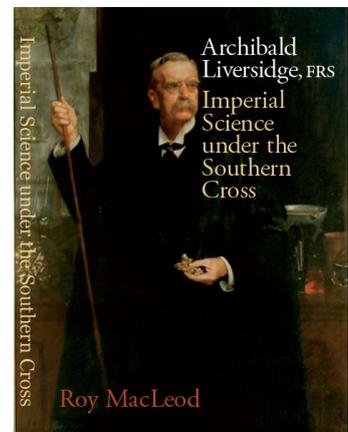
<http://tinyurl.com/cxsyem9>



Find us on Facebook

Visit the page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/RoyalSoc>



Copies of Roy MacLeod's wonderful book about Archibald Liversidge are available from the Society's office.

Contact the office to order your copy at the special price of just \$39.95.

Contact your office bearers

Dr Donald Hector President	02 9484 9007	Prof. Heinrich Hora Vice President	02 4627 7769
Mr John R Hardie Vice President	02 9363 9630	Prof. D. Brynn Hibbert Vice President	02 9398 9134
Mr David Beale Hon. Treasurer	02 9498 1503	Dr Donald Hector Hon Secretary (Editorial)	02 9484 9007
Mr Tony Nolan OAM Hon. Librarian	0417 270 664	Brendon Hyde	02 9498 3520
Mr Clive Wilmot (SHB rep)	02 4886 4199	Dr Frederick Osman	0418 444 477
Professor Richard Banati	0408 121 362	A/Prof Maree Simpson (C/W Branch)	02 6365 7818
Dr William Kneprath	02 9581 6000		

The Bulletin is issued monthly by the Royal Society of New South Wales
121 Darlington Rd, Building H47, UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY NSW 2006 Australia

Office hours: 11:00am - 4:00pm Mon - Wed and Fridays.

Executive Officer: Emma Dallas t: 02 9036 5282 e: royalsoc@royalsoc.org.au

w: www.royalsoc.org.au