

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN CHEMICAL INSTITUTE INCORPORATED

FOUNDED 1917. INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER 1932

TASMANIAN BRANCH,



2023 RACI Tasmanian Branch Annual Branch Meeting and Dinner

**Friday 10th November 2023, 6:00 pm
New Sydney Hotel
Hobart**

Agenda

1. Formal apologies
2. Minutes of Annual Branch Meeting 2022
3. Annual Report for 2023
4. Financial Report for 2023
5. Office Bearers for 2024
6. General Business

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TASMANIAN BRANCH,



Minutes of the RACI Tasmanian Branch Annual Meeting Held on Thursday 3rd November 2022, 6:00 pm New Sydney Hotel, Hobart

Meeting opened at 18:15, Branch President Dr Thomas Rodemann as Chair, A/Prof Ashley Townsend acting as Secretary (via recording).

1. Welcome and apologies

Thomas commenced the meeting with an acknowledgement of country.

He welcomed all members attending, new and longstanding.

Those present were: Allan and Carolyn Canty, Ryan Condie, Noel Davies, Kurt Debrulle, Theo Ellingsen, Matilda Evans, Alison Featherstone, Brendon Gourlay, Renate Griffith, Nina Gunawen, Jane-Victoria Hecquet, Curtis Ho, Sam Karpiniec, Nathan Kilah, Mingxia Lai, Yonglin Mai, Scott Meyerink, Alex Mole, Rile Murtagh-Linnell, David Nichols, Eve Poland, Thomas Rodemann, Alyce Scanlon-Batt, Jason and Frances Smith, Scott Stark, Kate Tanner, Ashley Townsend, Brian Yates.

No formal apologies were noted.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

No minutes were tabled as unfortunately no Annual Branch Meeting was held in 2021.

3. President's report

Thomas invited members to peruse his President's Report in the distributed meeting papers.

Highlights noted from the year were involvement with Festival of Bright Ideas (in partnership with Discipline of Chemistry, UTAS), Quiz Night (again in partnership with Discipline of Chemistry, UTAS), continued strong participation in Crystal Growing and Titration Competitions, and popular member social/networking events.

Member milestones were recognised for Ron Beckett (50 years), Tony Ciffo and Ricky Gelston (both 40 years), and Anthony Ferguson (25 years).

4. Financial report

Renate Griffith (Branch Treasurer) presented an overview of branch finances. She referred to the summary information presented in the meeting report, and noted that the TAS Branch currently has a “healthy balance”. No questions from the floor were received concerning the branch financial position.

5. Office bearers for 2023

Thomas thanked all committee members for their service to the Branch in 2022, and those standing down.

He welcomed new members to the committee, and announced that the TAS Branch Committee in 2023 will comprise:

President	Dr Thomas Rodemann
President Elect	
Past President	Ms Tayla Chick
Honorary Secretary	A/Prof Ashley Townsend
Treasurer	A/Prof Renate Griffith
Committee	Mr Ryan Condie
	Dr Alison Featherstone
	Dr Brendon Gourlay
	Miss Harjot Kaur
	Dr Scott Meyerink
	Miss Alex Mole
	Mrs Fran Smith
	A/Prof Jason Smith
	Dr Melissa Stanfield
Regional Coordinator (VIC/TAS)	Miss Alyce Scanlon-Batt

6. General business

Thomas noted that one area for committee consideration in 2023 would be to hold an activity for members in the north.

On behalf of all members present Jason Smith passed a sincere motion of thanks to Thomas for serving as President in 2022 after a challenging period for the Branch.

The meeting was formally closed at 18:25.

Later in the evening, but noted here for minutes completeness, Thomas welcomed the VIC/TAS Regional Coordinator Alyce Scanlon-Batt who was present.

He also recognised two TAS members who were to receive national awards in Melbourne later in Nov, namely:

Eve Gowen/Poland – Masson Memorial Medal, for 2022, and

Nathan Kilah – Chemical Service Award – Citation, for 2022.

All members present warmly congratulated both recipients.

President's Annual Report

As I reflect on the activities of our Tasmanian Branch for the year 2023, it also marks the end of my term as Branch President and I would like to highlight the fantastic efforts of our Tasmanian Branch committee. Every year, our committee members volunteer their time to facilitate many events for our local members and other members of the public, giving the RACI a presence in our state. This helps promote Chemistry in times where there has been an underappreciation of chemistry's foundational role in advances in technology and health science and its crucial contributions to fields like materials science and drug development. I would like to extend a special thank you to our Branch Secretary, A/Prof Ashley Townsend, who has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to help promote our events and ensure that we had another successful year for our Tasmanian RACI Branch.

This year saw the return of our Youth Lecture series and we coordinated the event alongside the Victoria Branch, which organises the Victorian Hartung Youth Lecture Series. A/Prof Rajesh Ramanathan, who is also the current Victorian Branch President, presented the Hartung Youth Lecture to Year 11 and 12 students, hosted by Elizabeth College. My sincere thanks to Dr Jason Hoare and Karen Drysdale for hosting and helping to organise this event. It was exciting to see students from several schools learning about chemical sensors and conducting some experiments on making nanoparticles to create colour-based sensors.

This year's Titration Competition built on the strength from last year and we had 128 teams participating across Tasmania, of which 15 teams went through to the National Finals. Congratulations to the Hutchins Team that came 3rd overall, which is a great achievement for Tasmania. A big thank you to Dr Brendon Gourlay and Prof Jason Smith who took on most of the organisational and promotional work for this important engagement and outreach activity.

Our Tasmanian RACI members, together with staff and students from the Discipline of Chemistry at the University of Tasmania, ran interactive activities at the Festival of Bright Ideas (FoBI) event under the motto "What's the matter?". These hands-on activities involved identifying unknown white substances by measuring their near-infrared spectrum and visually matching the spectral profile with the spectral database that had been printed out. In addition, we had a great time building structures of molecules and other abstract objects using molecular modelling kits. It was a great opportunity to engage with many students and teachers and raise awareness of our regular RACI Youth activities, such as Crystal Growing and the ever-popular Titration Competition. Thanks to all who helped to make the two-day festival a success - Thinly Gyeltshen, Rachael Stitz, Nina Guanawan, Dr Christian Dietz, Harjot Kaur, A/Prof Renate Griffith, Frances Smith, Dr Nathan Kilah and Prof Jason Smith.

In 2023 we also organised an industry visit in the north of the state, to the Launceston Distillery. It was a very informative visit where we were shown the process and science behind whisky making. Sampling the produce in the heritage-rich aviation building was a bonus. A social BBQ lunch following the industry visit was a great opportunity for Tasmanian members from the south, north and north-west to interact.

Our first Chemistry Innovation Showcase + Canapés event was a huge success with over 40 scientists in attendance. The event was co-organised with UTAS InVent, and we had a great panel of scientists discussing their work and answering questions. Thanks to Sophie Stevens from the Circa Group, Bernard Schoeman from HIF Global and Dr Melissa

Stanfield from UTAS for participating, and thanks to Prof Jason Smith for helping to organise the event.

We continued to organise social networking events throughout the year. In total we had four networking morning teas and late afternoon pub events, including one in the north-west of the state, which were well attended and a great opportunity to meet other chemists and scientists. Please keep a lookout for upcoming events in 2024. I would like to thank Ryan Condie, Dr Alison Featherstone and Frances Smith who organised these events throughout the year.

The RACI Tasmanian Branch also co-sponsored the Annual Chemistry Quiz night, which was organized by our committee member Alexandra Mole and the Tasmanian University Chemistry Club (TUCC). 70 enthusiastic chemists (students, university staff and professional scientists) participated in the battle for ultimate bragging rights, and it was a great fun evening!

Every year our local branch supports and rewards academic achievements at the University of Tasmania by awarding prizes to the best first year Chemistry student and the best third year graduating student. Congratulations to Julia Mountain and Heath Dimsey, respectively, for winning the awards in 2022. I wish you both all the best for your future studies and your engagement as future scientists in the community.

This year also marks the 25-year membership anniversary for some of our branch members. We would like to congratulate Dr Andrea Gerson (FRACI CChem), Mr Ross Coad (MRACI CChem), and Dr John O'Reilly (MRACI CChem) for achieving this milestone and thank them for their continued support for the Institution.

The National Award Night 2022, which took place after our Tasmanian Branch ABM in 2022, included two Tasmanian National Award winners that I would like to note in this report. It is my pleasure to congratulate Mrs Eve Poland on the Masson Memorial Award 2022, which is presented to an undergraduate chemistry student who continues studies at BSc Honours level. In addition, Dr Nathan Kilah, our former Branch President, received a Citation award in recognition of his substantial contributions to chemistry over many years. This year National Awards are presented at the local Branch level, and we are excited to announce that we have yet another Tasmanian National Award winner. Theo Ellingson has been awarded the Masson Memorial Award for 2023, and he will receive the award as part of our Annual Branch Meeting and Dinner tonight. Congratulations Theo!

As my two-year term as Branch President comes to an end, I would like to make a special mention to Prof Jason Smith, who will be leaving our Branch Committee at the end of this year. Jason helped revitalise the Tasmanian Branch after a one-year hiatus in 2021 and was our strong link between our Branch activities and the Discipline of Chemistry at the University of Tasmania. Thank you for your hard work Jason, and we know you will remain active behind the scenes in the future. We also welcome three new members to our team, Dr Fernando Maya Alejandro, Dr Alexandra Mutch, and Dr Curtis Ho. Finally, I would like to wish all the best to our incoming president, Frances Smith, for her term as Branch President. I am looking forward to serving the committee as Past President under Fran's leadership and helping to make 2024 another great year for the RACI in Tasmania.

Dr Thomas Rodemann
(Tasmanian Branch President)
Thomas.Rodemann@utas.edu.au

Activities and Events

March 8 th	After work networking and meeting with RACI National President Pali Thordarson and CEO Shenal Basnayake
March 23 rd	Hobart Youth Lecture in partnership with RACI VIC Branch
May 26 th	Members and friends networking breakfast
July 29 th	Launceston Distillery visit
Aug 4 th	UTAS Quiz Night (RACI sponsored)
Aug 18 th & 19 th	Festival of Bright Ideas (RACI participation)
Sept 23 rd	North West Brunch
Sept 27 th	Tasmanian Chemistry Innovation showcase (in partnership with UTAS InVent)
Oct 5 ^h	Nobel Laureate breakfast
November 10 th	Annual Dinner and ABM
Throughout year	Crystal Growing Competition
Throughout year	Titration Competition

Schools Titration Competition

128 Teams competed in the Titration Competition across Tasmania this year, with many excellent results. There was a good spread of entries across both the High School (Yr 9-10) and Senior (Yr 11-12) competitions, and across all three jurisdictions (Department, Catholic and Independent schools).

In the High School competition Taroona High School swept the podium, taking out first (Team 2), second (Team 5) and third places (Team 6). The senior division continues to represent the majority of entries, with Hellyer College (Team 9) coming first. Not far behind were Team 1 from Taroona High (Y11) and Team 5 from Hobart College who came 2nd and 3rd, respectively. Congratulations to Taroona and Hellyer for having the best teams in each division for the second year in a row. Also well done to Taroona High Team 2 for being the best overall team in the State.

This year 15 teams went through to the National Finals and those who were successful are listed below. The top three team results for the two divisions (Years 9-10 and 11-12) were:

Years 9-10

1st Taroona High School, Team 2 (score 4)
2nd Taroona High School, Team 5 (score 24)
3rd Taroona High School, Team 6 (score 40)

Years 11-12

1st Hellyer College, Team 9 (score 11)
2nd Taroona High (Y11), Team 1 (score 28)
3rd Hobart College, Team 5 (score 37)

130 teams from around Australia qualified for the National Final. 27 teams achieved excellent status (21%) while 12 were highly commended (9%). There were 15 entrants from TAS:

Hellyer College, Team 9
Taroona High Y11, Team 1
Hobart College Team 5
Hobart College, Team 2
Guilford Young College, Team 3
Hellyer College, Team 4
Guilford Young College, Team 1
Hutchins, Team 12

Elizabeth College, Team 7
Hobart College, Team 7
Taroona High School, Team 2
Taroona High School, Team 1
Taroona High School, Team 5
Taroona High School, Team 6
Taroona High School, Team 7

6 teams achieved excellent results, while a further 3 others were highly commended - Tasmanian teams did very well overall.

A special mention to Hutchins, Team 12 as they came 3rd overall – a very impressive result. Also, congratulations to Wendy Clear for finishing 6th in the teacher challenge, an excellent result against tough competition.

Dr Brendon Gourlay and Prof Jason Smith
(Tasmanian Branch Titration Competition Coordinators)

2022/23 Financial Summary

Total income for the financial year 2022/23 was \$4086, total expenditure was \$3302, resulting in an overall revenue balance of \$784. National Office provided an interesting value of what the Branch spent per member - \$29, which is in the middle of the field across RACI Branches (ACT \$30, NSW \$43, NT \$96, QLD \$29, SA \$39, VIC \$23, WA \$18).

Income came from the Titration Competition (\$2750), Annual Dinner (\$955) and Rowe Scientific newsletter advertising (\$382). Expenses arose from the Crystal Growing Competition (\$215), Titration Competition (\$1260), annual UTAS student awards (\$600), and the Annual Dinner (\$1227). Additionally, we provided \$250 in sponsorship for the Chemistry Quiz Night.

We received balance sheets for the Titration and Crystal Growing Competitions as separate documents. No further financial documents were received from the National Office.

A/Prof Renate Griffith
(Tasmanian Branch Treasurer)

2023 Tasmanian Branch Committee and Representatives

Branch Committee

President	Dr Thomas Rodemann
President Elect	
Past President	Ms Tayla Chick
Secretary	A/Prof Ashley Townsend
Treasurer	A/Prof Renate Griffith
Committee	Mr Ryan Condie Dr Alison Featherstone Dr Brendon Gourlay Miss Harjot Kaur Dr Scott Meyerink Miss Alex Mole Mrs Fran Smith Prof Jason Smith Dr Melissa Stanfield
Regional Coordinator (VIC/TAS)	Ms Melissa Johnson

Youth Activities

Youth Lecture liaison/FOBI	Dr Thomas Rodemann
Titration Competition	Dr Brendon Gourlay, Prof Jason Smith

Tasmanian Divisional/National Committee Representatives

Analytical/Env Chemistry	Prof Michael Breadmore
Inorganic Chemistry	Dr Becky Fuller/Dr Curtis Ho
Medicinal Chem & Chem Biology	A/Prof Renate Griffith
Organic Chemistry	A/Prof Alex Bissember
Polymer Chemistry	A/Prof Stuart Thickett
Young Chemists Committee	Miss Alex Mole

2024 Tasmanian Branch Committee

President	Mrs Fran Smith
President Elect	
Past President	Dr Thomas Rodemann
Secretary	A/Prof Ashley Townsend
Treasurer	A/Prof Renate Griffith
Committee	Mr Ryan Condie Dr Alison Featherstone Dr Brendon Gourlay Dr Curtis Ho Miss Harjot Kaur Dr Fernando Maya Alejandro Dr Scott Meyerink Dr Alex Mutch Miss Alex Mole Dr Melissa Stanfield
Regional Coordinator (VIC/TAS)	Ms Melissa Johnson