

The Story of Science House and the History of the Linnean Society of New South Wales

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Science House was built in 1930-31 by its co-owners, the Linnean Society of New South Wales, the Royal Society of New South Wales and the Institute of Engineers Australia, with assistance from the State Government, as “a centre for the Learned Societies”. Office space was rented to scientific and professional societies and halls were hired out for meetings. Profits were divided equally between the three co-owners and the venture was successful. In 1968, the State Government gave notice that Science House would be compulsorily acquired for demolition as part of Sydney Cove Redevelopment Authority Scheme. Compensation was paid and the Societies moved out, but the redevelopment did not go ahead. Science House as a physical entity survived, but the Societies had lost ownership. The Linnean Society of New South Wales and the Royal Society of New South Wales attempted a similar venture in a new Science Centre, but this was not successful.

Throughout this time and to the present day, the Linnean Society of New South Wales has successfully maintained its core function of promoting natural history. It publishes a journal of original research papers each year and occasionally, other books. It holds regular members meetings, presents public lectures, sponsors symposia and field trips, and actively supports scientific research. The Society has managed to adapt to the changing circumstances throughout this time.

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Note: the original monetary figure is quoted, followed by the value it would be in 2013 (in brackets), when adjusted for inflation.

The Linnean Society of NSW celebrated its Jubilee in 1925 with a publication, *Historical Notes of its First Fifty Years (Jubilee Publication)* by A.B. Walkom (1925). From its inception in 1874, the Society moved around between various rented premises in the city, but as a library was being built up, a permanent home became more attractive. However even at that time, city property prices were high and the Society’s “resources were unequal to the strain of the contemplated purchase”. Sir William Macleay came to the rescue with an offer of land and a house at Elizabeth Bay and The Linnean Hall was opened in 1885 (see Walkom, 1925). Access to The Hall for monthly meetings was difficult, so when the opportunity arose, the Society purchased 16 College St Sydney, a more accessible location. In 1924, the Society moved in and the building was named Macleay House. Some of the space was rented out to tenants.

Post-Jubilee, Science House and the pre-World War Two Period

In 1925, the Elizabeth Bay property was being subdivided and sold off. By 1927, the premises were entirely evacuated. The library went to the Macleay Museum, University of Sydney and the Herbarium to the Botanic Gardens. The laboratories were removed.

In the late 1920s, publishing the *Proceedings* and exchange of the Society’s publications for those of other societies and institutions from around the world was a major activity. The library was built up almost entirely from exchanges. The Society supported up to four Linnean Macleay Fellows to undertake original research, according to the bequest from Sir William Macleay’s will (see Walkom, 1925). Conservation was a major interest of the Society. Community groups trying to preserve some local bushland or wildflower

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reserve would write to the Linnean Society requesting its support.

Ordinary members' meetings were held monthly and members were kept abreast of the Society's affairs. Donations and exchanges received since the previous meeting were tabled. About 1,700 to 1,900 items each year were received for the library, most of them numbers or parts of journals. Notes and exhibits were on display at meetings. There were occasional lectures, such as the Fletcher Memorial Lectures. The President usually chaired both the Council and Members' meetings. A full list of Presidents since 1925 is given in Appendix 1.

Sir William Macleay recognised the importance of new discoveries in bacteriology and was keen to encourage its study in Australia. He left a bequest to Sydney University for a chair or lectureship in bacteriology. Sir William stipulated a number of strict conditions and as they were not met, the money was transferred to the Linnean Society to provide a salary for a Bacteriologist to conduct original research. In 1928, the Society advertised widely for a Bacteriologist, preferably other than a medical pathologist, at a salary of £600 (\$44,379) per annum. Mr H.L. Jensen was appointed Macleay Bacteriologist, and arrived in Sydney from Europe in late 1929. Sydney University agreed to house him in the Department of Agriculture until the new Department of Bacteriology was set up.

In 1925 the Institute of Engineers Australia, a tenant on the top floor of Macleay House started discussions with the Royal Society of New South Wales about a proposal for a Professional Societies' House in Sydney. The Institute of Engineers could not finance such a building, so they approached the Linnean Society. The initial proposal was to build an addition to Macleay House but the Linnean Society decided that this proposal was not in its best interests, though future proposals would be considered.

In 1928 the State Government was approached in an attempt to find another site. The Government viewed a Science House favourably and proposed that the Government Architect would sign off on the building, to a value of at least £30,000 (\$2,218,949) and there would be an architectural design competition for the new building. The winners of the competition were Messrs Peddle Thorp and Walker who were awarded a prize of £250 (\$18,491). There was a second prize of £150 (\$11,295) and a third prize of £100 (\$7,396). Peddle Thorp and Walker won the Sir John Sulman Medal in 1932 for their design of Science House.

In 1929, the NSW Government granted land at the intersection of Essex and Gloucester Streets (now 157 Gloucester St) to enable the Royal Society of

New South Wales, the Linnean Society of New South Wales and the Institute of Engineers Australia to build Science House "as a centre for learned Societies". There were conditions attached to this grant: it could only be used for accommodation of scientific and professional organisations and could not be sold, mortgaged or leased, and the money used for any other purpose, without the consent of the Governor (State Government).

A Joint Management Committee, the Science House Management Committee (SHMC) was set up, with two representatives from each of the three parties to supervise the erection and management of the building, and to let or lease parts of Science House for rent. Each party initially contributed £15,000 (about \$1.35 million).

The Director of Public Works proposed to evict the tenants of the Science House site and clear the land as soon as tenders were called. There were fourteen tenders and the lowest of £30,500 (\$2,206,940), with £250 (\$18,085) for contingencies was accepted. The Linnean Society moved into Science House in January 1931. The College Street property was put up for sale, but when a buyer could not be found, it was leased out.

The SHMC ran the day-to-day affairs of the building and the lettings to scientific and professional societies. The Linnean Society paid rent and received a one third share of the surplus. In 1931, rent was £48-15-6 (\$3,528) per quarter. Initially, profits were absorbed by the final building costs, but £8-16-8 (\$797) profit was paid for the second half of 1932. There had been a reduction in rents of 20% in late 1931, in accordance with Government's Rent Reduction Act (1931). Rents were adjusted in 1934 since the introduction of the Landlord and Tenants Act (amended) (1932) superseded the rent reduction act. Some reduction of rent was maintained if paid on time. Nevertheless, profits for the second half of 1933 and the first half of 1934 were £640 (\$59,338) and £319 (\$28,766) respectively.

The Council of the Linnean Society was involved in all of the scientific undertakings carried out in the Society's name. The Linnean Macleay Fellows submitted quarterly reports that had to meet the approval of their supervisory committee. Each Fellow would write and request permission to take annual leave or go on field trips or do anything out of the ordinary. Such requests were rarely if ever refused. A list of Linnean Macleay Fellows since 1925 is given in Appendix 2

An indication of the Council's close involvement is seen in the case of Mr Jensen the Macleay Bacteriologist who was conducting research into the

decomposition of cellulose with different organisms. The Bacteriology Committee instructed him to wind up that work and concentrate on nitrification in soils. The Committee was considering further work on legumes and *Azotobacter* and their importance in fallow stubble. Arrangements were made for Mr Jensen to visit agricultural field stations and observe soils from different agricultural systems. In 1938, Mr Jensen requested permission to submit his work as a thesis to the Royal Agricultural and Veterinarian College in Copenhagen.

Funds for the expanded bacteriology research were insufficient and the banks were approached for donations in 1939. The Rural Bank agreed to give £200 (\$16,055) for a greenhouse and £100 (\$8,028) per annum towards the salary of a chemist to work with the Bacteriologist. Mr Jensen was in demand to give lectures on nitrification in soils to the agricultural students and to review books. Permission was granted for these activities.

World War Two and its effects on the Linnean Society

The challengers of the war years required the Linnean Society to adapt to the circumstances. Late in 1939, the Fisher Library of Sydney University compiled a list of scientific literature it wished to import from enemy countries and sought the Linnean Society's assistance. This list was ultimately submitted to the relevant minister in the Commonwealth Government. The Prime Minister warned about sending publications that might have information useful to the enemy to places other than British and Allied countries.

The Society was concerned about the effects that the "small problems" of the war might have on the Linnean Macleay Fellows. Petrol rationing was in force and extra fuel for field work was initially refused, although relaxed at times. Miss Ilma Pidgeon investigated problems of fruit transport and the physiology of water loss from oranges. Miss Valerie May assisted in the problems associated with the preparation of sphagnum moss surgical dressings. Mr John Dulhunty worked on the coalfields, and this project was supported by BHP. Dr Germaine Joplin was also working on the coalfields and extra petrol was allotted for their field work.

The Bacteriologist was in demand to solve special problems. Dr Jensen investigated the microbiology of retting of flax. Growing flax had been urgently increased since supplies from Europe were cut off. He found certain fungi were active in dew retting of flax and this had commercial possibilities. Dr Jensen and colleagues worked on the prevention of mould

in connection with blood transfusions. Australian made agar had to be tested for bacteria. Dr Jensen was approached to work on rot proofing of paper for wrappings of ammunition and spare parts, and of canvas and electrical parts. The Society gave its permission, on condition that assistance was arranged.

Problems kept on coming. An air raid shelter had to be built in Science House at a cost of £316 (\$21,445). Blackout material, a first aid kit and fire fighting equipment in case of incendiary bombs were required and personnel had to be trained for fire fighting. Paper rationing was in force, requiring "rigid economy" in the use of paper. At times, publication of the Proceedings was held up while waiting for a shipment of paper to arrive. Mr N.C. Betty who was assistant to the Bacteriologist was offered a position elsewhere, but had to request release by the Linnean Society under manpower restrictions.

The Halls were in demand for meetings of organisations set up to deal with some aspect of the war and were in use almost every night. This resulted in increased income for Science House that recorded the highest ever profits in 1944 and 1945 of £350 (\$23,040) and £450 (\$29,623) respectively. Demand for the Halls continued after the war. No action could be taken on rents without the permission of the Fair Rents courts and the Society was advised to make out a case comparing rents in 1949 with those in 1939. As income from rents was satisfactory, no action was taken.

The College Street property was put up for auction again but was passed in at £7,500 (\$493,714). It was leased again and the Fair Rents Board determined the rent at £16 (\$1,053) per week. The tenant was prepared to pay an extra £2-10-0 (\$167) for a three year lease..

By 1945, the ever-expanding libraries of the Royal Society of New South Wales and the Linnean Society were a cause for concern. The possibility of combining the libraries was canvassed as there were approximately 160 duplications and storage space was limited. This notion was ultimately rejected. An extension to Science House was proposed and the Government was amenable to granting extra land "after the war". However, the Linnean Society was not in a position to contribute to any extension. Storage cubicles on the roof were built to alleviate the problem.

From time to time, the Government would seek input to scientific matters from the Society. A key to the eucalypts was constructed at Government request (1935). Advice from the Society was sought for the review of the Birds and Animals Protection Act (1940).

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The Government invited input from the Society to the Wildflowers and Native Vegetation Protection Act (amended) (1945). The Kosciusko State Park Trust requested the Linnean Society's views about the primitive area (1944). Society members conducted a survey of the Kosciusko area.

The Society also proffered advice unasked. The introduction of the Great Mexican Toad (cane toad) into Queensland to destroy the sugar cane beetle was proposed. The Society wrote to the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (1935) drawing attention to the experience in Hawaii where the toad has no natural enemies. Similar disastrous results in Australia could be expected since it also had no natural enemies here either. The information was forwarded to Dr J.N.L. Cumpston with whom the final decision to release the toads rested.

The Linnean Society has had interest in conservation issues prior to and continuing as awareness has growing in the community at large. Attempts to prevent summer grazing on the alpine pastures in the Snowy Mountains and the formation of the Kosciusko State Park and the designated primitive area were foremost amongst the issues it supported in 1957. Limestone mining in the Colong region became the conservation issue in 1967.

The immediate post-war period

During the post-war period, the Society became concerned about the low salary offered to the Linnean Macleay Fellows. What had originally been a generous salary in Sir William Macleay's will had been whittled away by inflation. In 1947, the Society went to the Equity Court and requested a variation to Sir William Macleay's will that would allow a salary of £400 (\$24,841), for not more than four Fellows. This request was successful, though legal costs to the Society amounted to £123-10-9 (\$5,954).

Dr Jensen, Macleay Microbiologist since 1929, resigned in 1947 to take up a position of Chief of the Division of Bacteriology in the State Laboratories of Plant Culture, Denmark and he left Sydney in September. The Bacteriology Account was then only earning £520 (\$32,292), insufficient for a salary to attract a first class applicant. Once again, the banks were asked to donate. In 1948, the Rural Bank donated £200 (\$11,252) per annum for five years, later to be extended for another three years. In 1949, the Commonwealth Bank made £1,750 (\$90,000) available from its Rural Development Fund in instalments of £250 (\$12,857) per annum for five years. The Bank of New South Wales and the Commercial Banking Company also forwarded donations to the Bacteriology account (1949). Requests to commercial

companies with rural interests for donations were unsuccessful.

A buyer for the College Street property was finally found in 1948. The Society's asking price was £13,000 (\$731,428) but Treasury disallowed it and set the price at £11,900 (\$669,538). The Society did not accept this and argued with Treasury. Some months later, Treasury relented and allowed the original asking price to stand.

The Society advertised widely for a Bacteriologist to work on topics associated with soil fertility, at a salary of \$600 to \$900 (\$30,119 to \$46,285), depending in qualifications. In 1949, the position was offered to Dr Yao-Tseng Tchan, then working in Paris. Being Chinese, entry into Australia was difficult, for the White Australia Policy was in force. Tchan, his wife and child were eventually given permission to reside in Australia for five years and they arrived in Sydney in 1950. His residency permit was renewed at intervals and he eventually stayed for the rest of his life. Dr Tchan soon discovered hitherto unsuspected nitrogen fixing bacteria in Sydney soils.

The library remained an issue with the Society and attention was once again focused it when John Metcalfe of the Library Board of NSW reported on the libraries of the two Societies (19-12-50). Once again, amalgamation of the Royal Society library and that of the Linnean Society's was proposed. At that time, the Linnean Society library had an author catalogue but did not index periodicals. Exchanges and donations accounted for about 90% of library. The report noted that the libraries were not open at night when members were likely to be in Science House and few members used the libraries. Enquiries and loans were considered routine and most could be done elsewhere. It also noted that very little was not duplicated in other libraries in Sydney: older textbooks and travel books had historical values but were little used: the collections did not have any defined scope or purpose and subject indexing would be costly. The principle function of libraries was exchange. The position of the libraries had changed considerably since the foundation of the Society. Members now working in research were mainly in institutions that had their own libraries that were better resourced. Persons trained in librarianship were required to service the libraries and keep them functioning. In spite of the report, amalgamation did not go ahead.

Dr Tchan was in demand to teach bacteriology at the University of Sydney so a joint Linnean Society of New South Wales/University of Sydney lectureship was negotiated with Sydney University. In mid 1953, Dr Tchan was appointed Senior Lecturer/Linnean Macleay Lecturer in Bacteriology in the University

of Sydney, pending an expected favourable outcome in the Equity Court that finally approved it in October 1956. This arrangement, with Sydney University part funding the position, alleviated the increasing difficulty of full funding from the Linnean Society.

The Society made a request to the Commissioner of Taxation for tax exemption of donations to the Society. In 1952, the Deputy Commissioner of Taxation approved the Society as a scientific research institution and would allow donations to be exempt from income tax, subject to conditions. A Mr Armstrong of Nyngan saw an article in the journal of the Graziers Association about this tax-deductible fund and made a donation of £10 (\$338) to support research. The Commissioner also ruled that there was no income tax on the Fellow's stipend as long as the Fellow did not have a PhD.

By the 1950s, necessary repairs and maintenance of Science House was becoming a costly item and Sydney Council rates were increased substantially. Science House Management Committee (SHMC) went to the Fair Rents Tribunal in 1953 to request an increase. On advice of a valuer, the SHMC believed the Fair Rents Tribunal would approve a 100% increase in rents, taking into account cost increases since 1939. However, SHMC thought this was excessive and not in keeping with the terms of the land grant, and an increase of 60% was requested. The application was made through a Fair Rents Advocate (fee 10%) to the Fair Rents Board that eventually went to a hearing in a Fair Rents Court, and approval was given. Afterwards, applications for increases in rents were made at approximately three-yearly intervals until the early 1960's.

In the late 1960s, extensions to Science House were proposed once again as a possible solution to the library problem. The Institute of Engineers had heard that the State Government was considering development of the area immediately to the north and west of Science House. The Government had indicated (in July 1945) that it was prepared to make the land adjoining Science House available for extensions after the war. The Linnean Society advised SHMC (in 1956) that it did not have the funds available for it to enter into any project to extend Science House and as no action was taken, the problem remained. The library was still expanding at a considerable rate: over a five-year period, from 1953 to 1957, the Society received an average of 1,745 items per year. Ten years later, for the period 1963 to 1967, an average of 2,116 items per year was added to the library, a 17.5% increase.

Again in the post war period, the low attendance at ordinary meetings was a concern to the Council and

a committee was set up to look into the matter. The committee recommended that meetings start at 6 pm instead of 7.30 pm and this was adopted, beginning in 1957. The change in starting time seemed to make little difference to the number of members attending the meetings and starting time reverted to 7.30 pm a couple of years later.

Once again, relentless inflation had made the stipend being paid to the Linnean Macleay Fellows quite inadequate. A petition to the Equity court to increase the stipend to £1,600 (\$44,908) was granted in December 1959. Henceforth, only one Fellow per year was appointed.

Dr Tchan was appointed Reader in Agricultural Microbiology at the University of Sydney and was still the Linnean Macleay Lecturer in Bacteriology. The Society became concerned that teaching and administration was taking over much of his time. In 1967, he was appointed to the Chair of Microbiology. A joint committee of Sydney University and the Linnean Society selected a replacement and Dr Y.K. Cho was appointed the Linnean Macleay Lecturer in Microbiology in 1969. Dr Cho worked on growing exotic mushrooms commercially and remained the Linnean Macleay Lecturer in Microbiology until his retirement. By that time, the income from the Bacteriology Account could only support a small supplementary research grant.

By the late 1960s, the Linnean Society and its library occupied the third floor of Science House and it maintained its own meeting room and office. Council meetings and lectures were held in its rooms and there was an auditorium on the ground floor for larger meetings. The office and library were open to members during the week. Publication of the Proceedings, members' meetings and public lectures were still the main activities of the society. The Society also organised occasional symposia and field trips. The Society had an honorary secretary and honorary treasurer, and employed an assistant secretary.

A survey of members in the late 1960s early 1970s indicated that they considered the services of the library and scientific publication to be the most valuable functions of the Society. The library was used regularly in those days before photocopiers were common and affordable. The President reported in March 1971 that there were 290 borrowings of books and journals (the only record found) in the preceding year. A report by R. McGreal (29-3-1974) found that the Linnean Society held in its collection some 1,700 serials, 600 of which were still being received. The collection was fully catalogued but services were small scale. The Society published a volume of the Proceedings each year. From 1966 to 1970, 19 to 29

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papers per year were published in volumes that had from 252 to 500 pages. There were far fewer journals available for intending authors in those times than there are today

The Science House Management Committee (SHMC) ran the day-to-day affairs of the building and the lettings. The Society paid rent and received a one third share of the surplus. In 1967 and 1968, the Society received \$2,724 (\$31,689) and \$3,859 (\$43,628), respectively. But this state of affairs would not remain this way for long.

The 1970s and Science House Pty Ltd

In 1968, the State Government had given control of the Rocks to the Sydney Cove Redevelopment Authority (SCRA) with the intention to demolish the original buildings and replace them with high-rise residential buildings. In June 1970, the Linnean Society of NSW was given notice that SCRA planned to acquire Science House as part of its redevelopment scheme for the Rocks and in November 1970 the Society was given notice of resumption of the site. As work on Science House would not commence for some years, the occupiers would be allowed stay, on much the same terms as had existed but as tenants of the SCRA.

The SHMC sought legal opinion and was advised that if the owner bodies were not prepared to sell voluntarily, they might be forced to sell at a later stage. Each of the owner bodies held an undivided one-third interest in Science House under the terms of the Land Grant. "One of the terms of the Land Grant was that the property shall not be sold except with the consent of the Governor of NSW nor shall the purchase money be applied save as the Governor shall have previously directed. It will therefore be necessary to obtain the Governor's consent not only to the sale, but also to the way to which it is proposed to apply the proceeds of the sale" (letter, Stephen, Jaques and Stephen, Solicitors, 22-6-70).

The solicitors also recommended that a company be set up, with two \$1 shares, one for each owner body: the Royal Society of NSW and the Linnean Society of NSW. The Institute of Engineers had indicated that it was not interested in a joint venture. Science House Pty. Ltd (SHPL) was set up and the limited propriety would limit liability of the Societies and their members. SHPL would oversee the reinvestment of the compensation moneys in a Science Centre, as was the legal obligation of the original land grant. Each of the Societies would be entitled to appoint one half of the directors of the Board with the proviso that there shall be not less than two and not more than eight Board Members. A Science Centre Planning

Committee was set up.

A claim for compensation was made to the Crown Solicitor in March 1971. The property was valued at \$1,800,000 (\$17,956,626) by Property Consultants Jones, Lang and Wooten. With compensation, the one-third claim for the Linnean Society was \$637,800 (\$6,254,650)

The Linnean Society of NSW sought a new Act of Incorporation to allow wider investment powers, including shares and property, of Sir William Macleay's bequest. The President Prof Neville Stephenson and the Honorary Treasurer Dr Joyce Vickery explained the proposed changes to a Special General Meeting (Nov 1971) and the meeting endorsed the actions of the Council. The solicitors drew up draft legislation in 1972 for approval by the Minister for Cultural Affairs. The Government eventually (in 1974) declined to change the provisions of the Trustee's Act, hence disallowing any wider powers of investment. Dr Vickery reminded the Board of SHPL that the Act stipulated that Trustees (of Macleay's Will) must act with prudence and the Board would have to make the most of its resources, viz. only the compensation money (minutes of the Board of SHPL meeting, 28-6-74)

In 1972, the first instalment of compensation of \$15,500 (\$145,841) was received from the SCRA. Some of the Linnean Society Council members were taken aback at the changes to the Science Centre planning from a year ago and were concerned that the Society would endanger its own goals by subsidising other societies.

Then followed an intense period of planning and negotiation with the Government for another site in the Rocks. Science Centres elsewhere in the world were studied. When the Government refused to consider a site in the Rocks, there was a search for a suitable site elsewhere. The Government was asked to guarantee a loan, similar to the guarantee it had given to the Labour Council of NSW, a trade union, for purposes connected with a new Trades Hall, but it refused. However, the Government was sympathetic to the cause, and other requests for help were met with limited success.

The company Science House Pty Ltd was registered in 1973 and the directors for the Linnean Society at this time were Prof Derek J. Anderson, Dr Harold G. Cogger, Prof Neville G. Stephenson and Dr Joyce Vickery. There were also four directors nominated by the Royal Society. Prof Stephenson was elected Chairman and Mrs Ruth Inall was the company Secretary

The compensation offered to the Linnean Society was \$438,000 (\$6,121,181), less than that requested

of \$637,800, but the society was advised to take it. As it would take some time, a year or two before the building was required for redevelopment, the Societies could remain there as tenants.

Meantime, in February 1971, a group of local residents felt that the new dwellings would result in increased rents, which would force out the traditional residents of the area and formed the Rocks Residents Group to oppose the plans. The residents' group requested a Green Ban from the Builders Labourers Federation, who had become increasingly active in preventing controversial developments over the previous four years.

By 1973, the Union had imposed the ban, and after discussions with the Sydney Cove Redevelopment Authority, a 'People's Plan' was developed. By October 1973, it appeared that the redevelopment would proceed as originally planned, using non-union labour. For two weeks, demonstrations by local residents and unionists followed, with numerous arrests being made. Liberal Premier Robert Askin was in the midst of an election campaign, and used the protests as a means of conveying his law and order message to voters. However, the green ban stayed in place until 1975, when the state union leadership was overthrown. The bans were ultimately successful, as can be seen in the buildings that survive today. Instead of demolishing The Rocks, they were renovated and Science House was spared the wrecker's ball. But there was no turning back for the Societies as compensation had been paid, they were tenants in Science House and the Science Centre project had commenced.

In August-September of 1973, a suitable site was found at 35-43 Clarence St: the 6-storey F.T. Wimble building, the last building in Clarence St before the approach to the Harbour Bridge. It had been used as a warehouse and was described as "of sound construction, but not pretty". It would need renovation and even required a new roof and lift. SHPL had an option to buy that expired in December. The Commonwealth Bank had notified SHPL that finance was available. In November, the Board was told it was necessary to make a decision, as three other buyers were interested. Only the Secretary of SHPL, Ruth Inall had been inside the building and preliminary plans for its redevelopment had been hastily drawn up.

The Linnean Society director Dr Cogger "expressed grave doubts about the viability of the proposition and his authority to make a decision of such magnitude on behalf of his Society. He suggested asking his Society for guidance. Dr Vickery pointed out that it was the responsibility of the directors to

deal with situations rather than expect their Council that was much less informed of the development, to make a decision. Dr Cogger replied that it was a matter of conscience. Prof Anderson (also a Linnean Society Director) agreed with Dr Cogger's sentiment". Mrs Inall reminded the meeting of the conditions of the 1928 Land Grant and an understanding that Science House would continue its function at another location. Prof Stephenson "drew attention to the Council's resolution giving him the necessary authority". The motion to purchase the building was carried, with Dr Cogger's dissent recorded (Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of SHPL, 14 Nov 1973). Both Anderson and Cogger resigned from the Board after this meeting. (Note: This was a time of a property boom with few thoughts that it could end.)

The Wimble Building was bought in January 1974 for \$1,248,600 (\$9,330,693) and contracts were signed in June: the Commonwealth Bank loan was \$1.25 million. Building works were estimated to cost \$920,000 (\$6,875,090) and by August-September of that year, the Development Application had been approved. F.T. Wimble donated \$75,000 (\$560,469) to the tax-deductible library funds of each of the Societies. These library funds had been set up to defray the not inconsiderable costs of moving the libraries. The Government also gave a donation of \$5,000 (\$37,365) to each of the library funds. H.B. Selby Australia donated \$4,000 (\$29,892) for shelving in the libraries. About a year later, Wimble donated an additional \$100,000 (\$648,903) to SHPL.

A report on the future of libraries by R. McGreal (29-3-74) recognised that each of the Societies' libraries had a valuable collection, much of it unique. The libraries had a valuable contribution to make to research facilities, but more modern and sophisticated reference and information service techniques were required, particularly the services of a fully professional librarian.

After extensive planning and design, tenders for renovations were called in May 1975 and closed in June 1975. Interest rates were now 11% and building costs had escalated to \$1,215,797 (\$7,889,341), an increase of 36.9%. A further loan of \$300,000 was sought from the Bank to cover the shortfall in building costs. The Bank granted the extra loan and pointed out that it expected half-yearly repayment of \$77,925 on the \$1.25 m loan and \$19,945 on the \$300,000 loan, for twenty years each, making a total repayment of \$97,370 (\$631,836) per half year.

Science House was leased from the SCRA. SHPL took over the running of Science House from the Science House Management Committee that was disbanded. SHPL had set up a secretarial and editorial

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service for the scientific societies. A quote given to the Linnean Society in late 1976 for the coming year was rent, \$4,445, editorial \$4,160 and secretarial service \$2,250, making a total of \$10,855 (\$62,157).

SHPL was treated as a non-profit making charitable organisation and did not have to pay tax on investments and profits, and was exempt from land rates and council rates. They considered a small profit from services was fair, but should not be seen to be profiteering. Ample office space in Sydney was available at this time and attracting tenants was not easy. The State Government gave notice that it was prepared to rent the whole of the fourth floor. A restaurant and other shops on the ground floor were being rented. SHPL hoped to develop Science Centre as a conference centre and the restaurant would do the catering.

Building costs had increased again, the main reason being the more rigid interpretation of the fire safety laws after a disastrous hotel fire. SHPL asked the Bank for an additional \$100,000 loan and it was approved, at 12% interest, with half yearly repayments of \$6,650. The total of loans was now \$1,650,000 (\$2,554,600). Repayment of interest on the loans was set down to commence in March 1977, subject to building work being finished.

The Institute of Engineers left Science House in mid 1976 and this made renting Science House from the SCRA unviable. It was planned to move out by the end of the year. Moving the libraries was a major task. Mr Selby of Selby Australia Pty Ltd arranged considerable help. There had been a number of donations to the Library fund and the University of Sydney and University of NSW lent book boxes. The move cost the Linnean Society \$4,142 (\$23,718) for labour and hire of a truck. The October 1976 Council meeting of the Linnean Society was the first in Science Centre, and in December, the lease on Science House was terminated.

The Governor, Sir Roden Cutler officially opened Science Centre on the 23rd of March 1977. The Premier, Neville Wran opened a fund raising campaign on behalf of Science House Pty. Ltd. There were other distinguished official guests. The Band of the Eastern Australian Area, Royal Australian Navy provided the Vice-Regal salute to the Governor and musical background during the refreshments period after the ceremony (Linnean Society newsletter, April 1977).

Necessary expenses continued unabated. Staff wages were up. The builder submitted his final account of \$106,000 (\$540,433), but SHPL could not pay the full amount immediately. Unsatisfactory door locks, handles etc. would cost \$1,936 (\$9,871)

and the law required a lift maintenance contract. An air conditioning maintenance contract would cost \$4,584 (\$23,372) pa. Changes to the wiring of lights and office partitions were required. Lettings of office space were slow: there was an oversupply at this time. Trade at the restaurant was slow as the foreshadowed conferences had no yet started. A chemist was due to open in a shop on street level. Lettings and the secretariat improved, but SHPL was struggling to pay the day-to-day costs of running the building.

By the end of 1976, Ruth Inall had resigned as part time Secretary of the Linnean Society to become full time Secretary and later General Manager then Company Secretary of Science House Pty Ltd. The Linnean Society had a part time secretary for the first half of 1977 then in July, Mrs Barbara Stoddard was appointed Secretary. There was a part time librarian and the library reopened in September for three days a week.

At that stage, the Linnean Society was struggling to meet the costs of the Science Centre. It could not pay commercial rent of \$4,041 (\$20,603) per annum for the space the library occupied. Rent for the office was about \$443 (\$2,259). There was no charge for Council meetings but other meetings, e.g. the Annual General Meeting and a library committee meeting were charged \$30 or \$40. The quote from the Secretariat was \$4,000 for editing the Proceedings and \$5,850 for secretarial services, making it a total of \$9,850 (\$50,220) for an estimated 20 hours a week. The restaurant supplied afternoon tea, at a cost of 35c per cup. The Society was soon looking for ways to reduce expenses. Prof Tom Vallance volunteered to become Honorary Editor of the Proceedings at the end of the year. Mrs Stoddard would take the minutes and the Secretariat would only type a draft for \$247 (\$1,259) per year (3 hours per meeting) and the Council would arrange its own afternoon tea.

In March 1978, a letter from the loans manager of the Commonwealth Bank to the Society pointed out that the debt was escalating, from \$1.65 million of approved loans to \$2.16 million (\$10.20 million). No payment of interest or repayment of capital had been made. It urged the Societies to do more, for the bank could not allow this situation to continue. This letter alarmed the Council. A joint meeting with the Royal Society in July drew a full revelation of the financial state of SHPL. Income covered expenses with a small surplus. Interest required by the bank on the loans was \$19,000 (\$89,692) per month but repayments made were \$2,000 (\$9,441) per month, "constantly under review". After much discussion, a motion to set up a joint committee to examine fund raising options was passed.

An open letter (17 August 1978) by Dr Don Adamson and signed by 12 Council Members explained the situation to members. The letter acknowledged that those involved had worked long and hard to make Science Centre a success. Any moral obligation that the Societies had to use the compensation money for a Science Centre was discharged when it put those monies into Science Centre. Council objected to a role of fund-raiser as a detraction from the core activities of the Society and SHPL was increasingly viewed as a commercial operation. They called for independent financial advice as to whether the company was viable and if it could trade itself out of debt.

A response to the open letter, written by Dr Joyce Vickery and signed by Prof Neville Stephenson (25 August 1978) viewed the concerns raised by the Society as attacks on SHPL. It reiterated the moral and legal obligation of the Societies to Science Centre. It claimed the services of the Science Centre were much needed and the functional operations were a success with income increasingly exceeding expenditure. It acknowledged the problem was paying full interest rate and the capitalisation of the unpaid interest. It exhorted the Society to do more fund raising: the fund-raising effort launched at the opening over a year ago had only realised \$43,000 (\$202,989). It claimed the Societies would eventually benefit from the surplus, just as it had under the old Science House Management before takeover of the building.

In August, six ordinary members requested a special general meeting so that the membership could discuss the future of the Society. Dr Vickery resigned as Honorary Treasurer of the Society and Dr Don Adamson was elected Honorary Treasurer.

At the Special General Meeting (13 Sept 1978), a full account of the Society's assets was presented. There was some \$287,000 (\$1,352,823) in four accounts, not in any way involved in the Science Centre project, plus the \$400,000 (\$1,888,252) compensation that was loaned to SHPL for the Science Centre project. Much discussion centred on the cost of the library to the Society. There were the librarian's wages and the cost of photocopying for interlibrary loans was considerable, and users did not want to pay. The new Treasurer summed it up: the library was a drain on the Society's finances. The meeting voted to relocate the library if rent-free accommodation could be found.

The meeting rejected major fund-raising activities and it reaffirmed its dedication to the promotion of the natural sciences. A motion requesting "full moral support" for the board of SHPL and its efforts to overcome the financial problems was lost but the

meeting acknowledged that the Society and SHPL "had different priorities and both should work with mutual support and encouragement as each can afford the other".

Relations between the Linnean Society and SHPL were summed up by Dr L.A.S. Johnson (report to Council, 21 February 1979) thus: the viewpoint of the spokesperson for the Directors of the Board was considerably different to that of the Society and a strong emotional attachment and pressure to keep Science Centre alive had led to optimistic reports of trading. "The Directors, clearly strongly supported and influenced by Mrs Inall, nevertheless pressed the Society to continue with a project, despite frequently, if sporadically, voiced doubts from some of the members of Council, including Directors who have since resigned. The bona fides or probity of the Directors were not questioned, simply the appropriateness of their attitudes in the light of the Council's present and future policies and priorities".

Mr Selby, a businessman and director of SHPL gave a frank appraisal of the situation: ".....in his opinion the debt was quite beyond any trading capacity of SHPL. In normal business practice, a bank would be most unlikely to allow a Company to continue its activities with this debt structure, so he could only presume that the nature of the Commonwealth Savings Bank and the character of the two shareholders in the Company allowed the Bank to adopt some special attitude. Mr Selby thought the Company could service a debt of \$1,000,000 and he and his co-directors were continually looking for ways and means of reducing the debt to this level. He thought the tolerant attitude of the Bank also resulted from the fact that the Bank could not improve its own position by bringing about a winding-up position: it was therefore better to allow trading to continue in the style of services provided by Science Centre.

"Although there were certainly some shortcomings in the location and appointments of the building as a Science Centre, we have to live with them as a legacy of history and should adopt a positive attitude to the future in spite of them. If as suggested, scientific societies were not using the Centre to any great extent, it was obvious that professional associations were." He pointed out that the Societies had no financial liability arising from the circumstances of SHPL and said the directors, whoever they were, should be given encouragement and freedom to go about solving the problems of the Company for the Societies' benefit. In the commercial world it was neither practicable or usual for shareholders to tell directors what to do. Mr Selby considered the various Directors had put a lot of effort into looking after the

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Societies' interests in SHPL. He also urged Council "to avoid taking any action that might have the effect of destroying any equity or interest of the Society in SHPL, or of nullifying the efforts of the Board of Directors to overcome the Company's undoubted problems" (Minutes of the Council meeting 21 March 1979).

The Council greatly appreciated a realistic assessment of SHPL. Mr Selby also reminded Council that the duties and obligations of Directors were as laid down in the Companies Act. Mr Selby found it necessary to resign from the Board because of limitations of his time. In December 1979, the businessman Mr Harry Wallace of F.T. Wimble and Co Ltd replaced Mr Selby as one of the Society's directors on the Board of SHPL.

On the 29 May 1979, Dr Joyce Vickery died after a short illness. She had been a Council Member for ten years and was Honorary Treasurer for eight years. During this time, she donated \$1,000 anonymously and repeatedly to the Scientific Research Fund, usually giving twice a year. The Scientific Research Fund was re-named the Joyce W. Vickery Scientific Research Fund in honour of her generosity and foresight. Her estate paid almost \$34,000 (\$140,085) into the research fund. The first award from the Fund was made in 1980. By 1982, there were twenty applications for funds, requests far exceeding money available for disbursement: nine awards were made.

By 1981, trading of SHPL showed a satisfactory profit, but there was no improvement in the ability to repay the debt on the loans from the bank. Fund raising activities were not successful and donations barely covered expenses. By October 1983, Science House Pty Ltd was in the hands of the Liquidator. This step was taken on the solicitor's advice after a review of the finances of SHPL when an attempt to auction the building failed. The Liquidator advised the Societies that the secretarial services had no goodwill value so it was not possible to sell the business.

The building was put up for auction again. It was valued at \$3.7 million, and an approach to the Bank to delay the sale as property values were rising was rejected. The building was sold for \$3.775 (\$12.162) million. Indebtedness to the Bank was \$3.9 (\$12.564) million, leaving nothing for the Societies who each lost their compensation of \$400,000 for resumption of Science House. When the wind-up was finished (in 1985), the Liquidator declared a dividend of 5 cents in the dollar from the debt in Science House Pty Ltd and sent a cheque for \$20,849.50 (\$55,013) to the Linnean Society.

Post Science House Pty Ltd

Since the Society had been given notice to vacate Science Centre following the financial collapse of SHPL, a decision had to be made about the library. The library was open for only a few hours a week, was rarely visited by members and had become only a provider of outgoing interlibrary loans. The Society did not have the means of improving services. Since no one institution could take the library in its entirety, it was decided to disperse the holdings. The Australian Museum and National Herbarium were given first selection, then the universities and then the State Library. If a current title came on exchange, the recipient library would maintain the arrangement. The remainder went to the Department of Agriculture at Wagga Wagga from where they would be distributed to the then Colleges of Advanced Education, later to become Charles Sturt University. Any books of value to collectors and only of marginal scientific value, such as Gould's humming bird books, were sold on the open market.

In November 1983, the Society's office moved to rented premises in Milsons Point. Since then, the office has remained in rented premises, but has at times changed location, as was necessary under the circumstances.

The collapse of SHPL made little difference to the activities of the Society. Thanks to the limited propriety, the Company could not touch the other assets of the Society. The loss was thus the \$400,000 compensation for Science House, plus the \$1 share. The assets from Sir William Macleay's will were being administered in accordance with the Society's Act of Incorporation that, thankfully, the Government had refused to alter, as had been requested in 1972. The Royal Society did not fare so well, for it had few assets other than the compensation money.

The core activities of the Linnean Society, promoting the Natural Sciences had continued unabated the whole time of the Science House/Science Centre debacle. The Proceedings were published each year, regular lectures were delivered and occasional symposia and field trips were organised throughout. The newsletter was started and the first grants from the Joyce Vickery Scientific Research Fund were awarded during this time. Without the problems of Science Centre, the Council could give its undivided attention to the promotion of the Natural Sciences.

The Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales has continued to publish original research papers dealing with any topic of the natural sciences. All papers are fully refereed. The number

of original research papers submitted for publication has dwindled somewhat as the number of scientific journals available to authors has increased. Moreover, academics are given more credit for publishing in international journals, a further disincentive to submit papers to the Proceedings. Nonetheless, the Society remains committed to providing an outlet for papers of local and regional interest.

In 2012, the Council agreed to the Honorary Editor, Dr Mike Augee and Mr Bruce Welch adopting electronic publishing of the Proceedings. When papers are accepted for publication, they can be published on line immediately. At the end of the year, the papers are collected together in a volume. Access to papers is available to anyone, free of charge at <http://escholarship.library.usyd.edu.au/journals/index.php/LIN> Paper copies are available on request, at cost. This change has allowed a more rapid publication, easier access via the internet and has reduced costs considerably.

Papers from symposia are also published and are a collection of the latest research on one topic. The symposia and collection of papers published since 1980 are as follows:

- Vol. 136, 2014. Section 1. Papers arising from a symposium held by the Linnean Society of NSW at Jenolan Caves (22-23 May 2013). 6 papers
- Vol. 134, 2012. Symposium - Wildlife Conservancy's sanctuary at Scotia, far western New South Wales (13 July 2011). 7 papers
- Vol. 134, 2012. Symposium held by the Linnean Society on the Natural History of Royal National Park (October 2011). 16 papers
- Vol. 132, 2011. Papers from a symposium held by the Linnean Society on Geodiversity, Geological Heritage and Geotourism (6-10 September 2010). 10 papers.
- Vol. 126, 2006. The biology and ecology of Gibraltar National Park. 12 papers
- Vol. 125, 2004, A collection of papers on monotremes. 11 papers,
- Vol. 117, 1997. Australian Quaternary Vertebrates. 13 papers
- Vol. 116, 1996. *Living in a Fire Prone Environment: Proceedings of a Linnean Society symposium* (4 March 1995). 11 papers
- Vol. 115, 1995. Papers on Plant Ecology in honour of Dr Peter Myerscough. 12 papers
- Vol. 107(3), 1984. Papers from a symposium on the Evolution and Biogeography of Early Vertebrates (February 1983), 14 papers
- 1984. P. Huchings (ed). *Proceedings of the First International Polychaete Conference*. Linnean Society of New South Wales.

The newsletter, Linn SOC News has been published quarterly since its inception in 1976. It keeps members informed of the Society's current activities.

Some books have been published also: the *Freshwater Crayfishes of New South Wales* by John R. Merrick (1993) and the very popular *Field Guide to the Royal National Park*, edited by Robert J. King (2013)

The Society follows conservation issues and subscribes to the Nature Conservation Council and sends delegates to the annual conference. On occasions, the Society makes submissions regarding the scientific aspects of a conservation issue, but it does not get involved in the politics.

The website was set up in 1998 by Mr Stefan Rose and is currently maintained by Mr Bruce Welch. It contains up to date information on all aspects of the Society's activities.

The awards of research grants continue to be a major activity of the Society. The first award from the Joyce W. Vickery Scientific Research Fund was made in 1980 and grants from it have continued to be awarded every year since. In practically every year, requests for money far exceed that available for disbursement. The value of the Fund has been maintained, thanks to the Treasurer's prudent capitalisation of half the interest earned on the relevant investments.

The Betty Mayne Scientific Research Fund for the Earth Sciences was set up in 1998 with money received by the Society from the closure of the Earth Exchange in 1995. Betty Mayne had been a keen member of the Friends of the Geological and Mining Museum and more recently the Earth Exchange Museum Society (TEEMS). She had left a bequest to TEEMS that was eventually wound up and the TEEMS Council donated the funds to Linnean Society of NSW to assist students in the Earth Sciences. The first award from the Betty Mayne Scientific Research Fund was made in 1998.

Applications for grants from the Research Funds are invited from almost anyone with a demonstrated capability of carrying out the proposed research project. In fact, most grants go to post graduate research students. The grants do more than supplement meagre research funds: they give students practice at the art of applying for research grants, a necessary skill in these modern times and if successful, it is something they can add to their CVs. Recipients of grants and a summary of their projects are published each year in the Newsletter.

Donations to both the Joyce Vickery and Betty Mayne Research Funds are fully tax deductible. Each year, Members make donations to the funds and some

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make quite large donations. There have also been some large bequests, as listed below:

2010. From the estate of the late H.J. Hewson, \$23,526. Helen Hewson was a botanist who taught Botany at the Australian National University. She made a major contribution to the Flora of Australia and became Director, Flora at ABRIS, and later Director of Botany at the Australian National Botanic Gardens.

2012 From the estate of John Noble, \$50,120. John Noble was a mechanical engineer and dedicated conservationist. He was a keen photographer with a special interest in spiders. The best invertebrate project in the applications for the Joyce Vickery Scientific Research Fund is awarded the John Noble Scientific Research Grant.

2013 A gift from Mrs Betty Jacobs in memory of her late husband Dr Surrey Jacobs. Dr Jacobs was a botanist at the National Herbarium of New South Wales and a grass specialist. He took experiments into the field and showed that the behaviour of plants in the field bore little resemblance to their behaviour under controlled laboratory conditions. A Surrey Jacobs Award will be made to the best field work research application.

All donations and bequests are much very much appreciated and are acknowledged in the Newsletter. For more information about the research funds, visit the website, <http://linneansocietynsw.org.au>

Money from Sir William Macleay's will (1890) set up an account to fund four Linnean Macleay Fellowships to encourage and promote research in the Natural Sciences. Initially, the salary of each Fellow was £400 pa (~\$56-57,000). The candidate must reside in New South Wales and have a science degree from the University of Sydney, the only university in New South Wales when Sir William wrote his will. Over the years, inflation has whittled away the value of the Fellowships, and requests to the Supreme Court of New South Wales in Equity allowed an increase in salary with a decrease in the number of Fellowships, eventually to only one grant of \$3,200. The Society must adhere to all the other conditions of the will. Inflation has diminished the value of the bequest for Microbiology and is now used to fund amount one or two research grants in Microbiology. Visit the website for further information.

The Society organises lectures on topical subjects in the Natural Sciences. These lectures are free of charge and open to the public. A report of the lecture is published in the Newsletter and posted on

the website. Coming lectures are advertised in the Newsletter and on the website.

Through all the changing circumstances of the times, some of them quite tumultuous, the Linnean Society of New South Wales has managed to adapt and continue in its core activities of the promotion of natural history and has made a considerable contribution to Science.

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H.A. MARTIN

Appendix 1. Presidents of the Linnean Society of New South Wales, 1925-2015

1925	Mr H.J. Carter	1971	Dr L.A.S. Johnson
1926	Dr E.W. Ferguson	1972	Dr H.G. Coggar
1927	Prof L. Harrison	1973	Dr P.J. Stanbury
1928	Dr W.R. Browne	1974	Prof T.G. Vallance
1929	Dr W.S.R. Wardlow	1975	Mr D.W. Edwards
1930	Mr E. Cheal	1976	Dr Barbara Briggs
1931	Prof T.G.B. Osborne	1977	Prof Barry Webby
1932	Dr C. Anderson	1978	Mr John Waterhouse
1933	Prof A.N. Burkitt	1989	Dr Alex Richie
1934	Prof W.J. Dakin	1980	Dr Frank Rowe
1935	Dr W.L. Waterhouse	1981	Dr Helene Martin
1936	Mr C.A. Sussmilch	1982	Dr Tony Wright
1937	Mr E.C. Andrews	1983	Dr Courtney Smithers
1938	Mr T.C. Roughley	1984	Mr G.R. Phipps
1939	Prof J. MacDonald Holmes	1985	Dr Peter Martin
1940	Mr R.N. Anderson	1986	Dr Peter Martin
1941	Dr A.R. Walkom	1987	Dr Peter Martin
1942	Mr F.N. Taylor	1988	Prof T.G. Vallance
1943	Dr E. Le G. Troughton	1989	Dr Peter Myerscough
1944	Dr L.E. Browne	1990	Dr D.S. Horning
1945	Dr Ida A. Brown	1991	Dr D.S. Horning
1946	Mr A.R. Woodfill	1992	Prof Robert King
1947	Dr G.D. Osborne	1993	Prof Robert King
1948	Dr Lilian Fraser	1994	Mrs Karen Wilson
1949	Dr R.N. Robertson	1995	Mrs Karen Wilson
1950	Mr D.J. Lee	1996	Dr Alex Ritchie
1951	Mr A.N. Colefax	1997	Dr Alex Ritchie
1952	Mr S.J. Copland	1998	Dr R.A. L. Osborne
1953	Mr J.M. Vincent	1999	Dr R.A. L. Osborne
1954	Dr F.V. Mercer	2000	Dr John Barkas
1955	Dr F.V. Mercer	2001	Dr John Barkas
1956	Mr S.J. Copland	2002	Dr Ian Percival
1957	Dr Lilian Fraser	2003	Dr Ian Percival
1958	Dr S. Smith White	2004	Dr M.L. Augée
1959	Dr T.G. Vallance	2005	Dr M.L. Augée
1960	Dr I.V. Newman	2006	Dr David Murray
1961	Prof J.M. Vincent.	2007	Dr David Murray
1962	Prof B.J.F. Ralph	2008	Ms Michelle Cotton
1963	Mr G.P. Whitley	2009	Ms Michelle Cotton
1964	Miss Elizabeth Pope	2010	Prof David Keith
1965	Dr D.T. Anderson	2011	Prof David Keith
1966	Dr R.C. Carolin	2012	Dr Michael Gray
1967	Mr L.A.S. Johnson	2013	Dr Michael Gray
1968	Prof T.G. Vallance	2014	Prof Robert King
1069	Prof F.V. Mercer	2015	Prof Robert King
1970	Dr N.G. Stephenson		

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Appendix 2. Linnean Macleay Fellows since 1925

1924-1926	Murray, Patrick Desmond F.	Zoology
1924-1927	Williams, May Marston	Botany
1925	Osborne, George Davenport	Geology
1925-1927	Mackerras, Ian Murray	Zoology
1927-1932	Brown, Ida	Geology
1927-1929	Weekes, Hazel Claire	Zoology
1930-1934	Craft, Frank Alfred	Geology
1931-1936	Fraser, Lilian	Botany
1932-1934	Weekes, Hazel Claire	Zoology
1933-1936	Newman, Ivor Vickery	Botany
1934	Burges, Norman Alan	Botany
1935-1936	Robertson, Rutherford Ness	Botany
1936-1939	Pope, Elizabeth Carington	Zoology
1937-1938	Voisey, Alan Heywood	Geology
1937-1938	Consett Davis, Harrold Fosbery	Zoology
1937-1941	Pidgeon, Ilma Mary	Botany
1939-1940	May, Valerie Margaret B.	Botany
1939-1940	Cumpston, Dora Margaret	Zoology
1940-1944	Dulhunty, John Allan	Geology
1941-1942	Griffiths, Mervyn Edward	Physiology
1941-1945	Joplin, Germaine Anne	Geology
1942-1946	Hackney, Frances Marie Veda	Plant physiology
1943-1945	Crockford, Joan Marion	Palaeontology
1946-1948	Lascelles, June	Biochemistry
1948-1950	Morris, Muriel Catherine	Zoology
1948	Tindale, Mary Douglas	Botany
1949-1953	Hindmarsh, Mary	Botany
1949-1950	Millerd, Adele	Biochemistry
1949	Bakmain, Judith	Biochemistry
1951	Stevens, N. C.	Geology
1951-1953	Valance, T. G.	Geology
1954-1958	Hannon, Nola	Botany
1954	Simons, Ruth	Botany
1955	Macdonald, Mary B.	Botany
1954	McCusker, Alison	Botany
1961-1962	Peacock, W. J.	Botany
1963-1964	Dart, P. J.	Plant physiology
1965-1968	Wright, Anthony J	Geology
1967-1969	Dandie, Alison K	Botany
1970-1971	Howie, Anne	Geology
1971-1972	Moffatt, Lynnette A.	Biology
1974	McLean, R. A.	Geology
1976-1979	Anderson, Jennifer M.	Entomology
1979-1980	Porter, Barbara D.	Zoology
1984-1986	Johnstone, Ron W.	Zoology
1987-1990	Hush, Julia	Botany
1991-1993	Krauss, Siegfried L.	Botany
2005-2007	Wright, Anthony J.	Palaeontology
2015	Mackay, K. David	Plant ecology