

*Nomination for Twelvvetrees Medal.*

Nominee: Maxwell R. Banks AM BSc. Hons. (Syd.) D.Sc. (Tas.)

*Citation :*

This nomination for the Twelvvetrees medal recognises the pioneering contributions to the understanding of the geology, and in particular the stratigraphy and palaeontology of Tasmania, and meritorious service to the earth sciences through education and participation in learned societies, over a 43 year period, by Maxwell R. Banks.

After graduating with a BSc (Hons.) from the University of Sydney in 1947, Max Banks was recruited to the Geology Department at the University of Tasmania by Professor SW Carey, where he remained until he retired in 1990. In this period Max authored, or was co-author on, more than 70 publications, on aspects of the Precambrian to the Pleistocene geology of Tasmania, but with a particular emphasis on the Late Carboniferous to Late Triassic Parmeener Supergroup. The breadth of geological time covered by his publications was matched by the range of topics, from palaeomagnetism to palaeontology and the history of geological studies in Tasmania, and in the journals, ranging from ‘Nature’ to the ‘Tasmanian Naturalist,’ in which Max published. Max also made significant contributions to both the 1962 and 1988 Geology of Tasmania Volumes published by the GSA.

In terms of service to the geological community, Max was a member of the provisional committee which formed the GSA, in 1951, and convened the meeting in 1952 which led to the formation of the Tasmanian Division of the GSA (the first Division formed). He was divisional chairman from 1957-1959 and in 1964-65 and also served as Secretary and Vice-Chairman, and was National GSA President from 1965-67. Max served on the steering committee for formation of the Specialist Group in Palaeontology and Biostratigraphy in 1968. In addition to his commitments to the GSA, Max was also involved with the ANZAAS and with the Royal Society of Tasmania, of which he was President, secretary and Editor of the “Papers and Proceedings.”

Max has always had an enthusiastic interest in the strata and fossil fauna of Tasmania, and a love of field work, which he communicated to many many students over the years, including his 3 PhD students, Pat Quilty, Keith Corbett, and John Laurie. He has always provided, and continues to provide (typically with the able support of his wife Doris), a ready ear and a critical eye for nearly every fossil discovery made in Tasmania.

Nominators:

Andrew McNeill

Pat Quilty