



ABN 76 470 896 415

# The Royal Society of New South Wales

*Enriching lives through knowledge and inquiry since 1821*

Annual Report of Council and Annual Financial Statements  
for the year ending 31 December 2020

## ABOUT THE SOCIETY

The Society is the oldest learned society in the Southern Hemisphere, tracing its origin to the *Philosophical Society of Australasia*, founded in Sydney in 1821. It became *the Royal Society of New South Wales* by Royal Assent in 1866 and was incorporated by an Act of the New South Wales Parliament in 1881. The Society aims to advance studies and investigations in all dimensions of learning, including Science, Art, Literature and Philosophy, to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas amongst the Members and Fellows of the Society and others, and to disseminate knowledge to the people of New South Wales and beyond.

The Society's purpose is to *enrich lives through knowledge and inquiry*. It does so by mobilising the multidisciplinary expertise of its members to provide authentic and authoritative information, to address national and global challenges, to facilitate debate on contentious issues, to disseminate the results of research and inquiry through public events and meetings, and through traditional and online publications, to recognise and celebrate excellence through its awards program, and to engage with other learned societies within Australia and internationally.

## PATRON

Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC Governor of New South Wales

## COUNCIL

The members of the Council of the Society were elected at the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 22 April 2020. They hold office until the Annual General Meeting in April 2021.

President	Emeritus Professor Ian Sloan AO FRSN FAA
Vice-Presidents	Emeritus Professor D Brynn Hibbert AM FRSN Dr Susan Pond AM FRSN FTSE FAHMS Ms Judith Wheeldon AM FRSN
Hon. Secretary (General)	Mr Bruce Ramage MRSN
Hon. Secretary (Editorial)	Emeritus Professor Robert Marks FRSN
Hon. Treasurer	Mr Richard Wilmott MRSN
Hon. Librarian	Mr John Hardie FRSN
Hon. Webmaster	Emeritus Professor Lindsay Botten FRSN
Councillors	Mr Ian Bryce MRSN Emeritus Professor Robert Clancy AM FRSN Ms Virginia Judge FRSN Mr Stuart Midgley MRSN Emeritus Professor Bruce Milthorpe FRSN Ms Nyrie Palmer MRSN Emeritus Professor Christina Slade FRSN Adjunct Professor Robert Whittaker AM FRSN
Southern Highlands Branch	Ms Anne Wood FRSN (until 18 November 2020) Mr Michael Jonas MRSN (from 19 November 2020)
Hunter Branch	Emeritus Scientia Professor Eugenie Lumbers AM DistFRSN FAA (until 23 September 2020) Professor George Willis FRSN FAA (from 24 September 2020)

The Council met six times during the reporting period. The January meeting was held at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS). The remaining five meetings were held virtually using Zoom online meeting technology, while meetings of Council committees were held at various locations but mostly using Zoom or Microsoft Teams. All Council committees, except for the Community Engagement Committee, were active during the reporting period.

## **OFFICE LOCATION AND SERVICES**

Council appointed a part-time Executive Officer, Ms Wendy Enevoldsen in January 2020. Ms Enevoldsen has carried out her duties exceptionally well and has added great value to the Society's work and its future planning. Her contract has been renewed for 2021.

The Society has premises at 121 Darlington Road, Darlington. The Society is most grateful to the University of Sydney for making this accommodation available to the Society. The Society also uses facilities provided by the State Library of New South Wales, for which it is very appreciative.

Professional services are provided under contract by The Association Specialists (TAS), 33-35 Atchison Street, Crows Nest, NSW.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The past year, the year of the global pandemic, has been one of extraordinary challenge for the Society. The Council took the view that it was essential to continue an active events program, since without a continuing program the Society could not be said to be meeting its mission and providing the promised intellectual stimulus and enjoyment for its members, in a year in which the need was even greater than usual. But that meant learning how to conduct events online. I am proud of the online program that we have been able to put together, its conduct via Zoom webinars, and its subsequent availability on our new YouTube channel, over the past year.

In November, following some easing of restrictions, the annual Forum of the Royal Society of NSW and the Four Learned Academies, was held as usual at Government House Sydney. For the first time, however, it was conducted in a hybrid manner, with the speakers and a small number of face-to-face participants (including the Governor, our Patron) present in person, and a much larger number of others participating online via YouTube livestreaming. On the theme, "After COVID-19: Creating the Best of Times from the Worst of Times", the Forum was considered by most to be a resounding success. The Forum presentations, like all our events in 2020, were recorded, and are now available through our continually improving website and YouTube channel that was established in early 2020.

The year also saw the first *Ideas@TheHouse*. This innovation, proposed by the Governor herself, saw the Society cooperating with Government House to put on a (necessarily online) successful presentation, with the Governor providing a superb Introduction.

Another necessary innovation was the moving online of the Society's annual elections. While this was achieved with flair, the elections exposed weaknesses in the Society's Rules. That was part of the motivation for a thorough revision of the Society's Rules and By-laws. The new Rules are now in place, having been accepted by the membership. The Society also undertook the development of a new Strategic Plan 2021—2023, one that positions the Society well for the future.

Many members of Council have given extraordinary service in this most difficult of years. I have to mention especially our Webmaster, Lindsay Botten; our master of Zoom events, Stuart Midgley; Vice Presidents Susan Pond and Judith Wheeldon; our Secretary and Treasurer, Bruce Ramage and Richard Wilmott ; the new Chair of the Events Committee, Christina Slade, and the new Chair of the

Awards Committee, Eugenie Lumbers; our new Bulletin Editor, Jason Antony; and for sustained professional service to the Society, our Executive Officer Wendy Enevoldsen. To these, other members of Council, and all members of our Committees, I give my sincere thanks.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The audited accounts for the 12 months to 31 December 2020 record an operating deficit of \$26,342, compared to an operating surplus of \$36,688 in the previous year.

The deficit was expected and compares favourably to the budgeted deficit for the year of \$29,807.

Our membership numbers continue to grow steadily and at 8 March 2021 there were 617 financial members, a net increase of 58 from the previous year's figure of 559. These membership figures exclude those members who, at the time of reporting, had not paid their current year's annual fees. Our administrators, The Association Specialists, advise that there are 108 members in this category at the time of reporting. It is expected that at least some of these non-financial members will renew.

As of 31 December 2020, the cash assets of the Society stood at \$271,936; a decrease of \$33,083 from the previous year.

The Council is critically aware of the need to return to surplus and are considering various proposals to address this matter, updating Society members as plans are rolled out.

### **ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS REPORT**

Traditionally, this section of the Annual Report has been titled "The Website". However, because of the pandemic, with the Society's way of doing business, both externally and internally, transitioning rapidly, and almost entirely, to one in which all communication was conducted online, it seems appropriate to adopt a revised title. From March 2020, a small group (Stuart Midgley, Don Hector, and Lindsay Botten) investigated how the Society could effectively maintain its internal business functions and its public event profile. The Society pivoted immediately into a regime of Zoom meetings for internal functions, Zoom webinars for events, the use of YouTube for the retention and curation of event recordings, and the implementation of online elections, which is ongoing under the revised Rules of the Society.

More than ever, the website is at the heart of the society's public communications and outreach, providing a substantial repository of (current and legacy) information about the Society and its workings, its events programs, and publications—all of which are now routinely linked from email correspondence, other publications, and our social media channels, YouTube, and Facebook.

The increasing reliance on online communications, together with a need to support the implementation of the 2021–23 Strategic Plan, has led the Society to invest in a generational upgrade of its information technology (IT) infrastructure. This includes: (a) the replacement of the somewhat dated, back-end email and collaboration services by the contemporary Microsoft 365 environment—which includes Exchange email and personal information management, Teams and SharePoint to support the work of Council and its Committees, and access to larger and more secure storage; (b) the replacement of the Currinda membership management system by Membes (with the assistance of the TAS); and (c) the eventual replacement of the website. At the time of writing, (a) and (b) are being implemented, while (c) will be delayed until later—a consequence of financial and human resource constraints.

This past year, there have been several incremental improvements to the website, including:

- Restyling for a more attractive and modern appearance—with a new colour palette and fonts, and improvements that make the site more friendly to mobile devices
- Additional and improved content, including a Branch menu and landing pages for the branches, together with an updated Publishing menu which points to all the Society's publishing, both traditional print and online, including event video recordings;
- A revitalised Fellows page in which information (including post-nominals, i.e., honours, qualifications, professional affiliations, and laudations) is now available
- Contracted maintenance and monitoring of the website, for better reliability and security, from the Society's IT provider, Ezerus.

In preparation for the Bicentenary celebrations in 2021–22, a new corporate style, involving contemporary imagery, new letterheads, event templates, and email signature blocks, etc. have been designed.

Another key aspect of the Society's transition to an online existence has been the adoption of electronic balloting. This enabled the Council elections to be held on time in April 2020 using the Election Buddy—a service which has proven to be flexible, easy to use, and cost effective. An added benefit has been the increase in the participation of the membership in the Society's democratic processes, with the proportion of those who voted at the 2020 Council election doubling to 30%, relative to the previous year. This success led to the provision for electronic balloting being written into the Society's new Rules and being continued as a matter of routine.

The Society's events program for 2020 was rescued from oblivion by our ability to translate the entire program into a Zoom webinar format. An added benefit has been the opportunity to capture, edit and curate the entire program on our [YouTube channel](#), initiated early in 2020 with the content of the 2019 Royal Society and Four Academies Forum. The 2020 program included all events run from Sydney (from April onwards), four of five events from the Hunter Branch and one event from the Southern Highlands Branch.

Despite the substantial effort required to edit and curate the video collection, this now forms a significant asset for the Society. In its first year of existence, our YouTube channel has grown to include 51 separate videos (from meeting events, the *Ideas@theHouse* series, and the 2019 and 2020 Royal Society and Four Academies Forums), which in total have been viewed nearly 6,000 times (for an aggregate of 1,000 hours of viewing time) and which have attracted more than 80 subscribers. While the 2019 Forum had been recorded, the 2020 Forum was made available via YouTube live-streaming, the need for which was imposed by severe social-distancing requirements which reduced the face-to-face audience at Government House by a factor of four. The uptake of the YouTube channel is mutually supported by our Facebook page, which, over the past year, has seen its "followers" increase by one-third to 450, and by the website, which promotes content and provides multiple channels for access.

The challenge for the future, as and when the Society can return to face-to-face meetings, is to maintain the momentum of our online presence by recording and curating live lectures. The Society looks forward to this challenge, with the ongoing support of our membership.

## EVENTS

Committee membership:

Emeritus Professor Christina Slade (Chair)  
Dr Elizabeth Deane (Secretary)  
Emeritus Professor Lindsay Botten  
Emeritus Professor Robert Clancy  
Mr Stuart Midgley  
Ms Judith Wheeldon  
President (*ex officio*)  
Secretary (*ex officio*)

### Ordinary General Meeting Open Lectures

The Society held a full program of ten monthly open lectures as part of its Ordinary General Meetings and Annual General Meeting. Because of the pandemic, only the February meeting was held face-to-face. The meetings between March and December were held virtually using Zoom technology, with their recording being available on the Society's YouTube channel.

The [2020 OGM lecture program](#) is provided in table form below, with links to event summaries which, in turn, reference the YouTube recording (for online events).

<b>OGM/Date/Mode</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Title</b>
<a href="#">1280<sup>th</sup> OGM</a> 12 February Face-to-Face	Emma Austin, Shyam Balaji, Michael Papanicolao, and Thomas Pettit	Presentations by the 2019 Royal Society of NSW Scholarship Recipients
<a href="#">1281<sup>st</sup> OGM</a> 4 March Face-to-face	Professor Robin J Batterham AO FTSE	Soils: the least understood part of science, yet vital for all of us
<a href="#">1282<sup>nd</sup> OGM</a> 22 April Webinar	Emeritus Professor Ian Sloan AO FRSN FAA	Presidential reflections—science stuff and the President's random path
<a href="#">1283<sup>rd</sup> OGM</a> 3 June Webinar	Distinguished Professor Elizabeth Elliott AM FRSN FAHMS	Drinking for three: Mother, baby and society
<a href="#">1284<sup>th</sup> OGM</a> 8 July Webinar	Elizabeth Ann Macgregor OBE FRSN	Why art matters in times of crisis
<a href="#">1285<sup>th</sup> OGM</a> 5 August Webinar	Professor Peter Radoll FRSN	Growing black tall poppies
<a href="#">1286<sup>th</sup> OGM</a> 2 September Webinar	Professor John Rasko AO FRSN	The dawn of molecular medicine—gene therapy: past, present, and future

OGM/Date/Mode	Speaker	Title
<u>1287<sup>th</sup> OGM</u> 7 October Webinar	Professor Huw Price FRSN FBA FAHA	Where now for the study of time?
<u>1288<sup>th</sup> OGM</u> 11 November Webinar	Professors Adrian Lee FRSN and Thomas Borody FRSN	Where have all the ulcers gone — long time passing?
<u>1289<sup>th</sup> OGM</u> 9 December Webinar	Scientia Professor Matthew England FRSN FAA	Dispelling climate change myths—how ocean physics can help explain surprises in the modern-day climate record

### **Ideas@theHouse**

The first in the *Ideas@theHouse* series took place on 21 May 2020, in a somewhat different format, i.e., as a Zoom webinar, to the face-to-face event at Government House that had been originally envisaged. In this presentation, Emeritus Professor Robert Clancy AM FRSN spoke on “Ten: the Mapping of Colonial Australia”, addressing the colonial period from 1788 to 1901 through a cartographic record of change events—covering a century where a “gaul of 1000 souls would become an independent nation with the highest standard of living in the world”, and told in the context of the colonial governors of the day, with ten from the date of colonisation in 1788 through to responsible government in 1855, and ten from 1855 up to Australian Federation in 1901.

Further events in the *Ideas@theHouse* series are envisaged for 2021 and subsequent years.

### **Annual Dinner**

The 2020 Annual Dinner, which marked the 199<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Society, was held virtually on 22 June. The Distinguished Fellow’s lecture was given by Professor Brian Schmidt AC FRS DistFRSN FAA on the topic “Evidence and Education in a Post truth Post-COVID World”.

### **RSNSW and Four Academies Forum**

The Royal Society of New South Wales and Four Academies Forum was held on 5 November 2020 at Government House, Sydney with the theme “After COVID-19: Creating the Best of Times from the Worst of Times”. Although COVID-19 physical distancing restrictions were in force, this did not dampen spirits, with the sentiment in the room being that the Forum was engaging, state-of-the-art, and topical.

It was attended in person by an audience of thirty and by a larger national audience via live streaming. The Society and the Four Academies were pleased to acknowledge the generous support of the Governor and her staff, the Office of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer, and the NSW Smart Sensing Network.

Charles Dickens’ opening sentence in *A Tale of Two Cities* “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times ...” was germane to the Forum’s theme, its goal being to examine how the COVID-19 moment provides an opportunity to drive wide ranging reforms towards a more resilient, self-sufficient, and prosperous Australia. The speakers addressed the question “how we can build back better” from the point of view of the State, the community, and the individual. Within these three were two streams—the economic and medical crises. Given that the event was held on the day that the results of the US election were being reported, comparisons between the Australian and US responses were front of mind.

The Forum certainly embodied the Society's motto "question everything", with the rich content of the day being made available for viewing on YouTube via the Society's website. Written articles by the speakers are to be published in the RSNSW Journal & Proceedings in mid-2021.

### **Speaking of Music**

"Speaking of Music... The Magic of Solo Violin" was a joint presentation the Royal Society of NSW and the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, held at SMSA on 27 February. Interspersed with live performances of two complete works for the violin, composer David Hush and violinist Anna da Silva Chen discussed the historical reasons that the unaccompanied violin recital is more the exception than the rule today, exploring the ways composers who came before Bach influenced his music, and how Bach, in turn, influenced later composers.

### **Other Lectures**

The Annual Meeting of the Four Societies was held on 12 March in conjunction with Engineers Australia, Sydney Division, the Australian Institute of Energy and Australian Nuclear Association. This year, it was hosted by the Royal Society of NSW, with Professor Thomas Maschmeyer FRSN FAA FTSE FMAE of the University of Sydney speaking on "Challenges for the Future: Energy Storage and Waste Plastic — Two Australian Solutions Going Global" .

The Society's Liversidge Lecture for 2018 was delivered on 20 February 2020 by Scientia Professor Martina Stenzel FAA of UNSW Sydney. She discussed "The journey from simple polymers to nano-football: opportunities for better cancer treatment".

Two talks were delivered during Science Week 2020 with Emeritus Professor Robert Clancy AM FRSN speaking on "The COVID Curve in Context: or Back to the Future—something old and something new" (18 August), and Emeritus Professor Brynn Hibbert AM FRSN speaking on "The Periodic Table: '... a medley of haphazard facts falling into line and order' (C. P. Snow)" (20 August).

### **FELLOWS AND MEMBERS**

Committee membership:

Emeritus Professor D Brynn Hibbert (Chair)  
Dr Erik Aslaksen (Secretary)  
Emeritus Professor Peter Baume  
Ms Pamela Griffith  
Dr Donald Hector  
Emeritus Professor Heinz Hora  
Payne-Scott Professor Nalini Joshi  
Dr Susan Pond  
Ms Judith Wheeldon  
President (*ex officio*)  
Secretary (*ex officio*)

Since the 2020 Annual General Meeting, the Fellows and Members Assessment Committee conducted six meetings, and recommended 64 Fellowships to the Council. In November 2020, Sir James Fraser Stoddart KBE FRS DistFRSN was recommended to Council as a Distinguished Fellow.

New Fellows and Distinguished Fellows elected in 2020 were published in the NSW Government Gazette 12 February 2021.



As of the 2021 AGM, the Society has 403 Fellows, approximately 22% of whom are women), 17 Distinguished Fellows (with 30 % women), and one Honorary Fellow (a woman).

## AWARDS

Committee membership:

Emerita Scientia Professor Eugenie Lumbers (Chair until 4 January 2021)  
Professor Jon Hirst  
Dr Jessica Milner Davis  
Emeritus Professor Bruce Milthorpe  
Professor Andrew Robson  
President (*ex officio*)  
Secretary (*ex officio*)

As is customary, the Chief Scientist and Engineer of NSW, Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte, and the Deans of Science and Engineering and other experts at ACT and NSW universities were invited to form an Advisory Panel to assist the Committee. The panel ranked the candidates and provided advice on the merits of applications for each of the awards. This advice was communicated to the Awards Committee, that formed final recommendations to Council, which, in turn, acted on this advice at its November 2020 meeting.

The table below summarises the [Society's Awards for 2020](#). The links, associated with the individual awards, access additional detail about the awards and their recipients.

### The Cook Medal

<a href="#">James Cook Medal</a>	Scientia Professor Richard Bryant AC FASSA FAA FAHMS UNSW Sydney
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### Awards for Research Excellence

<a href="#">Clarke Medal and Lecture (Botany)</a>	Distinguished Professor Michelle Leishman Macquarie University
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<a href="#">Edgeworth David Medal</a>	Associate Professor Brett Hallam, UNSW Sydney
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<a href="#">History and Philosophy of Science Medal</a>	Professor Alison Bashford FRSN FAHA FBA FRHistS UNSW Sydney
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<a href="#">Archibald Ollé Prize</a>	The Late Ann Moyal (for the for the paper “P.A.M. Dirac and the Maverick Mathematician”, <i>Journal &amp; Proceedings of the Royal Society of New South Wales</i> , vol. 150, part 2, 2017, pp. 188–194
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<a href="#">Liversidge Lecture</a>	Professor Richard Payne FRSN FRACI FRSC University of Sydney
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<a href="#">Poggendorff Lectureship</a>	Professor Angela Moles FRSN UNSW Sydney
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<a href="#">Jak Kelly Award</a>	Matthew Donnelly, UNSW Sydney
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Royal Society of NSW  
Scholarships

Sajad Razavi Bazaz, University of Technology Sydney  
Daniel Fox, Australian National University  
Philippa Specker, UNSW Sydney

**Awards for Service to the Society**

Royal Society of NSW Medal Emerita Professor Mary O’Kane AC FRSN FTSE Hon FIEAust

Royal Society of NSW Citation Emeritus Professor Heinrich Hora FRSN FAIP FInstP

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Committee membership:

Ms Judith Wheeldon (Chair)  
Emeritus Professor Robert Clancy  
Professor Arthur Conigrave  
Dr Len Fisher  
Dr Donald Hector  
Emeritus Professor Graham Hellestrand  
Emeritus Professor Stephen Hill  
Ms Helen Jones  
Mr Rory McGuire  
Ms Nyrie Palmer  
Emeritus Professor Christina Slade  
President (*ex officio*)  
Secretary (*ex officio*)

In 2020, the former Outreach Committee was reconstituted as the Community Engagement Committee. The Committee was inactive during the year.

**PUBLISHING**

Committee membership:

Mr John Hardie (Chair)  
Emeritus Professor Lindsay Botten  
Emeritus Professor Heather Goodall  
Mr Jason Antony  
Emeritus Professor Robert Marks  
Mr Matthew Richardson  
President (*ex officio*)  
Secretary (*ex officio*)

The Publishing Committee met three times during the year. Its remit covers all aspects of publishing in the Society including the *Journal and Proceedings*, the *Bulletin*, the website, monographs, brochures, and its social media channels including Facebook and YouTube.

During the year it began work on developing a consistent style and branding principles for the Society’s publications. It considered strategies for the sale of the book by Roy MacLeod on Archibald Liversidge, as well as providing members with the opportunity to acquire other related publications at significant discounts, especially publications by Members and Fellows.

One of its main concerns was the detail surrounding publication of Volume 1 of the Society's history, 1821 to 1914. The manuscript has been completed and illustrations have been selected. As of the end of 2020, the Society was pursuing several funding sources for this initiative, including grants.

### **The Journal and Proceedings**

During 2020, the Journal published three issues, partnering with the Australian and New Zealand Humboldt Associations to publish an extra (third) edition of the proceedings of their 2019 conference, held at Macquarie University in November 2019. This was Volume 152, Number 3, March 2020, and was online only.

The June issue (Vol. 153, Number 1, 2020) documented presentations made at the November 2019 Royal Society of NSW and Four Academies Forum, the theme of which was "Making SPACE for Australia". It also included the Distinguished Fellow's Address to the 2020 (virtual) Annual Dinner by Professor Brian Schmidt.

The December issue (Vol. 153, Number 2, 2020) included submitted papers, invited papers, reprinted papers and abstracts of recent PhD dissertations. It also included a new section, Point Counterpoint, which presented arguments by eminent scientists on a current contentious topic – in this case, the role for natural gas in our transition to a low-carbon, renewable energy future. This debate was put online before the issue was finalised, given its topicality.

The print run for June 2020 was 300, including 211 paying subscribers and 71 exchange institutions—a jump from the previous issue. However, December 2020 saw a reduction of 61 in paying subscribers.

### **The Bulletin**

The Society's Bulletin is published monthly, just prior to each Ordinary General Meeting. It is now only published online, on the Society's website, with the membership accessing it via an emailed link. Contributions from the Branches and from each Committee are sought each month. The Bulletin advertises all forthcoming events of the Society, provides reports on those that have recently occurred, collates news which has appeared on the website during the previous month, and includes reports from branches. It also provides information about the activities of kindred societies.

### **LIBRARY AND ASSETS**

Committee membership:

Mr John Hardie (chair)  
Dr Ragbir Bhathal  
Mr Ian Bryce  
Ms Hannah Hibbert  
President (*ex officio*)  
Secretary (*ex officio*)

Due to the pandemic, work by the Society's volunteers to catalog and order the Society's collection, now housed in the State Library of NSW, was put on hold. However, the rehabilitation of individual volumes by the Society's bookbinder continued and this work is almost complete. The Committee has contributed significantly to the planning for the bicentennial exhibition to be held in the Jean Garling Room of the State Library of NSW. This room has been refurbished by the Library and will be ready for the opening of the exhibition in June 2021.

The Society has taken delivery of some of the collection of former President Dr David Branagan to augment the more recent aspects of its collection. The Society is very grateful to Dr Branagan for his donation.

At the 18 November meeting of Council, Committee member Hannah Hibbert was appointed as the Honorary Archivist of the Society. She will develop draft policy relating to the retention, storage, and documentation of the Society's extensive archives, including the material held on its behalf in the State Library of NSW and all future archival material, and has begun to assist with the planning for the Society's Bicentennial Exhibition.

### **BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE**

Committee membership:

Professor Ian Sloan (Chair)  
Dr Ragbir Bhathal  
Professor Sean Brawley  
Emeritus Professor Barbara Gillam  
Mr John Hardie  
Dr Susan Pond  
Mr Bruce Ramage

The Committee was formed in 2019 to make recommendations to the Council about events and activities to mark the Society's bicentenary in 2021. Because of the uncertainty caused by the pandemic, it was decided to adjust the dates of the celebration, instead marking the bicentenary from June 2021 to June 2022, in alignment with the first meeting of the Society's antecedent, the Philosophical Society of Australasia, held on 27 June 1821.

Planning for the Bicentennial Dinner, to be held on Friday 24 June 2022 in The Great Hall, University of Sydney continues. Other events being planned include an exhibition at the State Library of NSW, and private visits to several museums and galleries.

### **BUSINESS CONTINUITY COMMITTEE**

Committee membership:

Dr Susan Pond (Chair)  
Dr Donald Hector (Secretary)  
Emeritus Professor Lindsay Botten  
Mr Stuart Midgley  
Professor George Willis  
Mr Richard Wilmott  
President (*ex officio*)  
Secretary (*ex officio*)

With the pandemic pending the Society's well-laid plans for events (including the celebration of its bicentenary) and its budget from March 2020 onwards, the Council and its existing Committees acted quickly to respond to the immediate impact. Following the transformation of the event program, almost overnight, from live to virtual, the Council established the Business Continuity Committee (BCC) to analyse threats to the Society's business, and to expedite the adaptation of business models and processes to the rapidly changing circumstances.

The BCC met for the first time on 26 March 2020 and frequently thereafter, developing plans for maintaining critical services and resources as the Society entered this period of profound disruption. In collaboration with The Association Specialists, the Society's service contract was revised to reflect the reduced requirement relating to live events. The BCC undertook significant work on the systems required to provide the Society with the IT capacity to stream events via the internet. A major, year-long program was begun to upgrade the Society's IT systems that will give enhanced protection against cyber-attack, a better collaboration environment to support the work of the Society, more secure data storage, and a more user-friendly membership database and event-management system.

## **FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE**

Committee Membership:

Professor Ian Sloan (Chair)  
Ms Nyrie Palmer (Secretary)  
Mr Paul Jeans  
Dr Susan Pond  
Ms Judith Wheeldon  
Adjunct Professor Robert Whittaker  
Mr Richard Wilmott  
Secretary (*ex officio*)

In July 2020, the Council established a Fundraising Committee. Fundraising guidelines are being developed and the Committee has met regularly to put in place a fundraising strategy for implementation in 2021. To support these activities, the Society has obtained the necessary NSW Government Charitable Fundraising Authority.

## **HUNTER BRANCH**

Branch Committee membership:

Mr Paul Jeans (Chair)  
Laureate Professor John Aitken (Deputy Chair)  
Scientia Professor Emeritus Eugenie Lumbers (Secretary)  
Professor George Willis (Treasurer)  
Emeritus Professor John Boulton  
Father Andrew Doohan  
Mr John Dunnet  
Professor Brett Ninness / Professor Steve Weller  
Professor Natalie Thamwattana  
Adjunct Professor Robert Whittaker

## **Event Program**

The Hunter Branch conducted five events during 2020, four of which had to be held online because of restrictions on face-to-face meetings arising from the pandemic.

The [Branch lecture program for 2020](#) is provided in table form—with links to event summaries that, in turn, reference YouTube recordings (for online events).

<b>Meeting/Date/Mode</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Title</b>
<u>HBM 2020-1</u> 31 January Face-to-face	Professor Ryan Loxton	Optimisation in Action — Unlocking value in the mining, energy, and agriculture industries
<u>HBM 2020-2</u> 27 May Webinar	Emeritus Professor Eugenie Lumbers AM FAA DistFRSN	COVID-19 and confusion: the story of a nasty but nice viral receptor
<u>HBM 2020-3</u> 29 July Webinar	Professor Pia Ednie-Brown	Architecture and the cultivation of vitality
<u>HBM 2020-4</u> 27 October Webinar	Professor Janet Nelson	The engaged university: advancing research and innovation through powerful partnerships
<u>HBM 2020-5</u> 2 December Webinar	Professor Tony Capon	Planetary health—safeguarding health in the anthropocene epoch

Of these, the first event (in January) was co-badged with the Mathematics in Industry Workshop of the Australian Mathematics Society, organised by Professor Natalie Thamwattana, while the fourth event (in October) was co-badged with the University of Newcastle’s Looking Forward series.

### **Committee Meetings**

During 2020, Branch Committee meetings were held in January, April, May, August, September, October, and December. Activities have been focused mainly on rearranging events, due to limitations imposed by the pandemic, and the need to raise the profile of the Branch through the active involvement of local media, the University, and the Society.

The Branch Committee is actively pursuing the establishment of a *Hunter Medal*, conceived as an award to an individual who has made a novel and ground-breaking contribution to research in any area of Science, Art, Literature, and Philosophy, and which has significance for the cultural, economic and social development of the Hunter region or the health and wellbeing of its communities. Sponsorship for the award is being sought.

### **SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BRANCH**

Branch Committee membership:

- Mr Hubert Regtop (Chair)
- Mr John Wright (Deputy Chair)
- Ms Anne Wood (Secretary)
- Mr Mike Jonas (Treasurer)
- Mr Peter Eustace
- Ms Andrea Talbot
- Mr Ted Smith

## Event Program

Like other parts of the Society, the pandemic's effect on the Branch was profound, leading to the suspension of all face-to-face events until late in the year. In fact, only three of the nine scheduled events for the year could be conducted face-to-face. To replace talks, which typically are well-received by attendees of the Branch's lecture program, the Committee adopted new modes of communications, including the circulation of scientific emails/newsletters/YouTube videos and Zoom webinars. Despite these substitutes being appreciated by the Branch's audience, there was a clear desire to return-to-face lectures — with this being realised for the final event of the year.

The [Branch event program for 2020](#) is provided in table form below—with links to event summaries that, in turn, reference YouTube recordings (for online events).

<b>Meeting/Date/Mode</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Title</b>
<a href="#">SHBM 2020-1</a> 20 February Face-to-face	Professor John Thompson AO	Controlling the Australian melanoma epidemic
<a href="#">SHBM 2020-2</a> 19 March Circulation	Professor John Williams FTSE	The Murray-Darling Basin Scheme: a challenge in complexity in balancing social, economic, and environmental perspectives
<a href="#">SHBM 2020-3</a> 21 May Circulation	Associate Professor Andrew Holmes	The microbiome and gut-brain Axis
<a href="#">SHBM 2020-4</a> 18 June 2020 Circulation	Professor Geordie Williamson FRS FAA	Light, sound, and the magic of the Fourier Transform
<a href="#">SHBM 2020-5</a> 20 July Circulation	Dr Brad Tucker	Exploding stars, dark energy, and the end of the Universe
<a href="#">SHBM 2020-6</a> 20 August Circulation	Professor Toby Walsh	2062—The year that Artificial Intelligence (AI) made
<a href="#">SHBM 2020-7</a> 17 September Webinar	Adjunct Professor Sandra Lynch	Philosophical ethics in schools: plan and paradox
<a href="#">SHBM 2020-8</a> 15 October Circulation	Susannah Fullerton OAM FRSN	Literary England: Susannah's top ten places
<a href="#">SHBM 2020-9</a> 18 November Face-to-face	Mr Ian Bryce	Relativity revealed: Einstein's discoveries, the origin and shape of the universe

## Chair's Report

With the suspension of the face-to-face event program, the modest income stream from event entry charges ceased, leading to the Branch's first recorded loss. While the income flow is expected to resume following the easing of restrictions, challenges remain because of increased venue hire

costs—a consequence of social distancing requirements. Further, the maintenance of a vibrant event program in the Southern Highlands incurs significant support costs in attracting quality speakers (e.g., accommodation) from outside an area that does not host a local university.

Despite these difficulties, the Branch maintained its involvement with local schools (Bowral High and Mittagong High), sponsoring an essay competition, in conjunction with the Philosophy discipline of UNSW Sydney, and presenting perpetual trophies at each school and awards to the winning students. Such activities continue to be important in raising awareness of the Society and its charter in this community. The Society also invested in an upgrade to its website, providing a fresh new appearance.

Thanks are due to the Committee for their support throughout a difficult year, to Stuart Midgley and Lindsay Botten for their support of the Branch in relation to IT matters, and to ABC Illawarra radio and local newspapers which publicise our lecture series.

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on Wednesday 7 April 2020 at 6pm by Zoom webinar.



Ian H. Sloan AO FRSN FAA  
President

On behalf of the Council of the Royal Society of NSW



**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

**A.B.N. 76 470 896 415**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

# THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

A.B.N. 76 470 896 415

## COUNCIL'S REPORT

The Council presents their report on the Society for the year ended 31 December 2020.

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

The names of the councillors throughout the year and at the date of this report unless stated otherwise are:

President	Emeritus Professor Ian Sloan AO FRSN FAA
Vice Presidents	Emeritus Professor D Brynn Hibbert AM FRSN Dr Susan Pond AM FRSN FTSE Ms Judith Wheeldon AM FRSN
Hon Secretary (General)	Mr Bruce Ramage MRSN
Hon Secretary (Editorial)	Emeritus Professor Robert Marks FRSN
Hon Treasurer	Mr Richard Wilmott MRSN
Hon Librarian	Mr John Hardie FRSN
Hon Webmaster	Emeritus Professor Lindsay Botten FRSN
Councillors	Mr Ian Bryce MRSN Emeritus Professor Robert Clancy AM FRSN Ms Virginia Judge FRSN Mr Stuart Midgley MRSN Emeritus Professor Bruce Milthorpe FRSN Ms Nyrie Palmer MRSN Emeritus Professor Christina Slade FRSN Adjunct Professor Robert Whittaker AM FRSN
Branch representatives	
Southern Highlands	Ms Anne Wood FRSN (until 18 November 2020) Mr Michael Jonas MRSN (from 19 November 2020)
Hunter Branch	Emeritus Scientia Professor Eugenie Lumbers FRSN (until 23 September 2020) Professor George Willis FRSN (from 24 September 2020)

### PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activities of the Society during the financial year were to encourage studies and investigations in Science, Art, Literature and Philosophy.

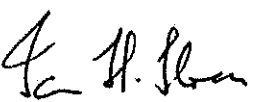
### SIGNIFICANT CHANGES


No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

### OPERATING RESULT

The Society produced a profit (loss) from ordinary activities for the financial year amounting to \$ (26,342) (2019: profit of \$36,688). There was no requirement to provide for income tax.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the council members of the Society.

  
Councillor: I. H. SLOAN

  
R. J. WILMOTT

Dated this 6th day of March 2021 2021

# TINWORTH & Co

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS and BUSINESS ADVISORS

## INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

### Opinion

We have audited the attached financial report of The Royal Society of New South Wales ("the entity") which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2020, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of recognised income and expenditure, cash flow statement for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement by members of the Executive Committee.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of The Royal Society of New South Wales is in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012, including:

1. giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 31 December 2020 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
2. complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations), and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act 2012).

### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Executive Committee in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the ACNC Act 2012 and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standard Board's APES 110: *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Responsibilities of the Executive Committee for the financial report

The executive committee members are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the ACNC Act 2012 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The executive committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the members determine in necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the committee are responsible for assessing the Society's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the members either intend to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### Auditor's responsibility

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

[WWW.TINWORTH.COM](http://WWW.TINWORTH.COM)

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Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatements of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis of our opinion. The risk of not detecting material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Committee's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by members.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the members' use of going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Society's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Society to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieved fair representation.

We communicate with the committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



**MARK TINWORTH**  
**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT**  
North Sydney 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES  
A.B.N. 76 470 896 415

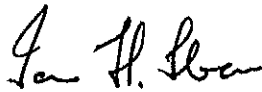
STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

The Councillors have determined that the Society is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in note 1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the ACNC Act 2012

In the opinion of the Councillors of the Society the financial report, as set out on pages 5 to 13:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Royal Society of New South Wales as at 31 December 2020 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Royal Society of New South Wales will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Council and Subs 60.15(2) of the ACNC Act 2012 and is signed for and on behalf of the Council by:



Councillor: I. H. SLOAN



R. J. WILCOTT

Dated this 6th day of March 2021

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES**  
**A.B.N. 76 470 896 415**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	Note	2020	2019
<b>INCOME</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Members subscriptions		85,181	80,329
Social event income		23,696	63,147
Donations		-	3,280
Journal subscriptions		14,430	6,964
Sale of publications/ties		73	219
Copyright		752	30
Interest received		635	2,899
Library group income		-	9,080
Academies Forum		-	15,000
Royalties income		478	-
Tour group rebate		-	15,759
Sundry income		-	1,000
		<u>125,245</u>	<u>197,707</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Social events		28,246	77,324
Awards		-	1,456
Audit fees		2,560	2,560
Bank charges		725	1,449
Contractor		47,921	-
Council meetings		352	1,577
Insurance		2,765	2,892
Secretariat		36,341	40,399
Database		3,769	5,990
Depreciation		254	-
Postage, stationery & copying		3,144	1,009
General expenses		7,138	2,680
Journal printing & distribution		12,592	13,013
Storage		255	250
Library		-	8,430
Website		4,874	1,124
Telephone & facsimile		651	866
		<u>151,587</u>	<u>161,019</u>
<b>Profit (loss) from ordinary activities before income tax</b>		<b>(26,342)</b>	<b>36,688</b>
Income tax expense	1	-	-
<b>Profit (loss) from ordinary activities after income tax</b>		<b><u>(26,342)</u></b>	<b><u>36,688</u></b>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES**  
**A.B.N. 76 470 896 415**

**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash assets	2	271,936	305,019
Receivables	3	2,269	14,234
Inventory	4	694	739
Other assets	5	1,868	1,453
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>276,767</u>	<u>321,445</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, Plant & Equipment	6	<u>228,586</u>	<u>222,940</u>
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>228,586</u>	<u>222,940</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u>505,353</u>	<u>544,385</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Creditors & accruals	7	<u>77,261</u>	<u>89,876</u>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>77,261</u>	<u>89,876</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<u>77,261</u>	<u>89,876</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>428,092</u>	<u>454,509</u>
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>			
Asset Revaluation Reserve		209,340	209,340
Reserves	8	109,243	146,822
Retained profits		109,509	98,347
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>		<u>428,092</u>	<u>454,509</u>

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES**  
**A.B.N. 76 470 896 415**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Royal Society of New South Wales and the ACNC Act 2012. The council has determined that the Society is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (NSW) 2009:

AASB 112	Income Taxes
AASB 1031	Materiality
AASB 110	Events after the Balance Sheet Date

No other applicable Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values, or except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous year unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report:

**Limitation of Liability**

The rules of the Society provide that the liability of the members of the Society to contribute to the payment of the debts and expenses of the Society or the cost, charges and expenses of the winding up of the Society is limited to the amount of the shortfall in addition to the current year subscription..

**Income Tax**

The Society is exempt from income tax under Section 50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act, 1997, as a non-profit association established for the encouragement of science.

**Fixed Assets**

Office furniture and equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation. The depreciable amount of all fixed assets are depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the Society commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Depreciation rates using the reducing balance method are as follows:

Office Furniture and Equipment	10-25%
--------------------------------	--------

**Library**

The library at 121 Darlington Road has been independently valued at fair value as at 31 December 2016.

**Financial Instruments**

**Initial recognition and measurement**

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the Association becomes a party to the contractual provisions to the instrument. For financial assets, this is the date that the Association commits itself to either the purchase or sale of an asset.



**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES  
A.B.N. 76 470 896 415**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont'd)**  
**Financial Instruments (Cont'd)**

Financial instruments (except for trade receivables) are initially measured at fair value plus transaction costs, except where the instrument is classified 'fair value through profit or loss', in which case the transaction costs are expensed to profit or loss immediately. Where available, quoted prices in an active market are used to determine fair value. In other circumstances, valuation techniques are adopted.

Trade receivables are initially measured at the transaction price if the trade receivable do not contain a significant financing component or if the practical expedient was applied as specified in AASB 15.

**Classification and subsequent measurement**

**Financial liabilities**

Financial liabilities are subsequently measured at:

- Amortised cost, or
- Fair value through profit and loss

A financial liability is measured at fair value through profit and loss if the financial liability is:

- A contingent consideration of an acquirer in a business combination to which AASB 3 applies
- Held for trading, or
- Initially designated as at fair value through profit and loss

All other financial liabilities are subsequently measured at fair value, amortised cost using the effective interest rate. The effective interest rate method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a debt instrument and of allocating interest expense in profit or loss over the relevant period.

The effective interest rate is the internal rate of return of the financial asset or liability. That is, it is the rate that exactly discounts the estimated future cash flows through the expected life of the instrument to the net carrying amount at initial recognition.

**Financial asset**

Financial assets are subsequently measured at:

- Amortised cost
- Fair value through other comprehensive income
- Fair value through profit and loss

Measurement is on the basis of the two primary criteria:

- The contractual cash flow characteristics of the financial asset, and
- The business model for managing the financial assets

A financial asset is subsequently measured at amortised cost when it meets the following conditions:

- The financial asset is managed solely to collect contractual cash flows; and
- The contractual terms within the financial asset give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding on specified dates.

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES  
A.B.N. 76 470 896 415**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont'd)  
Financial Instruments (Cont'd)**

A financial asset is subsequently measured at fair value through other comprehensive income when it meets the following conditions:

- The contractual terms within the financial asset give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding on specified dates
- The business model for managing the financial asset comprises both contractual cash flows collection and the selling of the financial asset.

By default, all other financial assets that do not meet the conditions of amortised cost and fair value through other comprehensive income's measurement condition are subsequently measured at fair value through profit and loss.

The entity initially designates financial instruments as measured at fair value through profit and loss if:

- It eliminates or significantly reduces a measurement or recognition inconsistency that would otherwise arise from measuring assets or liabilities or recognizing the gains and losses on them on different bases.
- It is in accordance to the documented risk management or investment strategy and information about the groupings was documented appropriately, so the performance of the financial liability that was part of the entity of financial liabilities or financial assets can be managed and evaluated consistently on a fair value basis; and
- It is a hybrid contract that contains an embedded derivative that significantly modifies the cash flows otherwise required by the contract.

**New Accounting Standards for Application in Future Periods**

The Society has not entered in-to any lease agreement as at 31 December 2020 therefore no adjustments have been made.

A core change resulting from applying AASB 16 is that most leases will be recognised on the balance sheet by lessees as the standard no longer differentiates between operating and finance leases. An asset and a financial liability are recognised in accordance to this new Standard. There are, however, two exceptions allowed: short-term and low-value leases.

The accounting for the Society's operating leases will be primarily affected by this new Standard.

The lease liabilities are measured at the present value of the remaining lease payments. The entity's incremental borrowing rate as at 1 July will be used to discount the lease payments.

The following practical expedients will be used by the entity in applying AASB 16 for the first time:

- For a portfolio of leases that have reasonably similar characteristics, a single discount rate will be applied.
- Leases that have remaining lease term of less than 12 months as at beginning of the lease term will be accounted for in the same way as short-term leases.
- The use of hindsight to determine lease terms on contracts that have options to extend or terminate.
- Applying AASB 16 to leases previously identified as leases under AASB 117: *Leases and Interpretation 4: Determining whether an arrangement contains a lease* without reassessing whether they are, or contain, a lease at the date of the initial application.
- Not applying AASB 16 to leases previously identified as containing a lease under AASB 117 and Interpretation 4.

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES**  
**A.B.N. 76 470 896 415**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont'd)**

**Initial application of AASB 15 and AASB 1058**

AASB 1058: Income of *Not-For-Profit Entities* (applicable to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019) and AASB 15: Revenue from Contracts with Customers (applicable to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019).

A core change under AASB 1058 and AASB 15 is that focus shifts from a reciprocal/non-reciprocal basis to a basis of assessment that considers the enforceability of a contract and the specificity of performance obligations. AASB 1058 is applicable when a company receives volunteer services or enters into other transactions where the consideration to acquire the asset is significantly less than the fair value of the asset principally to enable the Company to further its objectives.

The significant accounting requirements of AASB 1058 are as follows:

- Income arising from an excess of the initial carrying amount of an asset over the related contributions by owners, increase in liabilities, decreases in assets and revenue arising from contracts with customers should be immediately recognised in profit or loss. For this purpose, the assets, liabilities and revenue are to be measured in accordance with other Standards.

- Liabilities should be recognised for the excess of the initial carrying amount of a financial asset (received in a transfer to enable the entity to acquire or construct a recognisable non-financial asset that is to be controlled by the entity) over any related amounts recognised in accordance with the applicable Standards. Income must be recognised in profit and loss when the company satisfies its obligations under the transfer.

AASB 15 applies where there is an "enforceable" contract with a customer with "sufficiently specific" performance obligations which results in income being recognised when (or as) the performance obligations are satisfied under AASB 15, as opposed to immediate income recognition under AASB 1058. AASB 15 introduces a five-step approach to revenue recognition which is far more prescriptive than AASB 118: Revenue.

**2 EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE**

The Covid 19 pandemic has been significantly affecting the financial environment. There is a possibility that it will significantly affect the operations of the Association, the results of these operations or the state of affairs of the Association in future financial years.

As at the date of this report, it is not possible to reliably estimate the financial effect (if any) of the virus on the Association's operations.

There have been no other significant events occurring after the reporting period which may affect either the Association's operations or results of those operations or the Association's state of affairs.

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES**  
**A.B.N. 76 470 896 415**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
<b>3 CASH ASSETS</b>		
Cash at bank	<u>271,936</u>	<u>305,019</u>
<b>4 RECEIVABLES</b>		
GST receivable	-	1,433
Royalties	69	309
Currinda fee	-	2,410
Publishing fee	-	1,100
ASSA fee	-	600
Forum income	2,200	8,000
Accrued interest	-	382
	<u>2,269</u>	<u>14,234</u>
<b>5 INVENTORY</b>		
Ties	<u>694</u>	<u>739</u>
<b>6 OTHER ASSETS</b>		
Prepaid expenses	<u>1,868</u>	<u>1,453</u>
<b>7 PROPERTY, PLANT &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>		
Library – at Council valuation	222,940	222,940
Software & Website – at cost	5,900	-
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(254)</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>228,586</u>	<u>222,940</u>
<b>8 CREDITORS &amp; ACCRUALS</b>		
Trade creditors	9,233	25,649
Deferred revenue – fees in advance	66,050	64,227
GST Payable	<u>1,978</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>77,261</u>	<u>89,876</u>
<b>9 RESERVES</b>		
Following sub accounts operated under The Royal Society of NSW are included in Reserves. Income and expenses for these reserves have previously been recorded through the Income & Expenditure Statement of The Royal Society of NSW. These accounts have been adjusted during this year to account for the movement related to the respective sub account for the years from 2010 to 2020:		
Clarke Memorial	3,525	4,279
Library Fund	68,342	90,709
Liversidge Bequest	4,689	5,673
Olle Bequest	13,028	16,036
RSNSW Studentship Fund	44	4,313
Walter Burfitt	<u>19,615</u>	<u>25,812</u>
	<u>109,243</u>	<u>146,822</u>

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES**  
**A.B.N. 76 470 896 415**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Members' & customers' receipts	152,863	199,333
Interest received	1,017	3,476
Payments to suppliers & donations	<u>(180,988)</u>	<u>(181,143)</u>
<b>Net Cash (used in) provided by Operating Activities</b>	<u>(27,108)</u>	<u>21,666</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Purchase of plant & equipment	<u>(5,900)</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net Cash (used in) provided by Investing Activities</b>	<u>(5,900)</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Net movement in reserve accounts	<u>(75)</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net Cash (used in) provided by Financing Activities</b>	<u>(75)</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net (Decrease) Increase in Cash Held</b>	(33,083)	21,666
Cash at the beginning of the financial year	<u>305,019</u>	<u>283,353</u>
<b>Cash at the end of the financial year</b>	<u>271,936</u>	<u>305,019</u>
<b>Reconciliation of net cash provided by operating activities to operating profit (loss) surplus after income tax</b>		
Operating profit (loss) after income tax	(26,342)	36,688
Add/(Deduct) non-cash flows		
Depreciation	254	-
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- (Increase) decrease in inventory	45	89
- (Increase) decrease in receivables	11,965	(3,629)
- (Increase) decrease in other assets	(415)	(707)
- Increase (decrease) in payables	(14,438)	(19,506)
- Increase (decrease) in deferred revenue	<u>1,823</u>	<u>8,731</u>
<b>Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities</b>	<u>(27,108)</u>	<u>21,666</u>