



# The Royal Society of New South Wales

*"for the encouragement of studies and investigations in Science Art Literature and Philosophy"*

## **1284<sup>th</sup> ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 8 JULY 2020 AT 6.30PM**

**By ZOOM Webinar**

### **AMENDED AGENDA**

- 1. WELCOME** – President, Emeritus Professor Ian Sloan AO FRSN
- 1.1 Acknowledgement of country**
- 1.2 Diversity and Inclusion statement**
- 1.3 Minutes of the 1283<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary General Meeting held on 3 June 2020**
- 2. CONFIRMATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

As no valid objection was lodged within two weeks following the 1283<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary General Meeting, the election of the following new Members took effect from the date of that meeting held on 3 June. Certificates will be presented at the first opportunity at a face-to-face meeting.

#### **2.1 Fellows**

Professor Kaarin Jane Ansley  
Professor Leanne Rose Cutcher  
The Honourable John Robert Arthur Dowd  
Associate Professor Simon Paul de Graaf  
Dr Davina Gainor Jackson  
Professor Lisa Jennifer Kewley  
Professor Eric Ronald Wing-Fei Knight  
Laureate Professor Roger Smith  
Adjunct Professor Peter Lyndon Tyree

#### **2.2 Members**

Mr Chad Bochan

### **3. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NAMES OF CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP**

#### **3.1 Members and Associate Members**

##### **Member**

Mr Luke Pearce

### **4 REPORT FROM COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL**

The President wishes to bring to members' attention the following matters.

#### **4.1 Annual Dinner 2020**

The 2020 Annual Dinner was held virtually on Saturday 27 June, the Society's 199<sup>th</sup> birthday. 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*.

#### **4.2 Ideas@TheHouse**

The next Ideas@TheHouse will be on Wednesday 22 July. It will be presented by Clive Lucas OBE the distinguished Australian restoration architect who will talk about the history of Government House which is 175 years old this year

#### **4.3 Revised committee structure and membership**

The Council established a new committee structure: Awards, Bicentennial, Business Continuity, Community Engagement, Events, Fellows and Members Assessment, Library and Assets, and Publishing.

Following expressions of interest, the Council has now finalised the membership of all committees.

#### **4.4 Awards for 2020**

Nominations are now open for the Society's 2020 Awards. They close on 30 September 2020.

### **5 THIS EVENING'S PRESENTATION**

#### **WHY ART MATTERS IN TIMES OF CRISIS**

**Elizabeth Ann Macgregor OBE FRSN**  
**Director, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney**

Elizabeth Ann Macgregor began her career as curator/driver of the Scottish Arts Council's Travelling Gallery which ignited her commitment to engaging new audiences with the work of living artists. In 1989 she was appointed director of Ikon Gallery, Birmingham and in 1999 she took up the directorship of Sydney's Museum of Contemporary Art when it was facing significant challenges. To secure its future, she negotiated a new funding model with government, sponsors and philanthropists. Committed to supporting artists and expanding the audience for art, she has initiated a unique program of partnerships in Western Sydney. She successfully negotiated a \$53m building redevelopment completed in 2012 which includes a National Centre for Creative Learning. Last year, the Museum attracted over a million visitors. Ms Macgregor's innovation and contribution to the arts has been recognised with the Veuve Clicquot Business Woman Award in 2008 and the Australia Business Arts Foundation Business Leadership Award. In 2011 she received an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. In 2019 she was included in *ArtReview's* International Power 100 list; she won the 'Arts & Culture Category' of the *Australian Financial Review* '100 Women of Influence Awards', and was awarded the Western Sydney Leadership Dialogue's Patrons' Prize for Collaboration. She sits on the Foundation of the Sydney Swans and the Board of UNICEF Australia.

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The Royal Society of NSW has long emphasised science, but literature, arts and philosophy have always been categories of interest and responsibility. Today, we find more and more

that neither the arts nor science can stand alone; each needs the other. Ms Macgregor is fascinated by the interrelationship of science and creativity. In this important talk she will raise ideas about the indispensability of the arts especially in a time in which it seems as if our survival depends only on science.

Museums and galleries around the world have had to close their doors, turning to digital programs to stay connected with their audiences. News is dominated by the health crisis and the consequent financial issues. What role can museums and galleries play in these unsettling times where social distancing is the norm? MCA Director Elizabeth Ann Macgregor believes in the social impact of art and will outline how artists can play a critical role as we face the challenges of a changed world post crisis.

## **6 VOTE OF THANKS AND CLOSE**