



**THE  
ROYAL SOCIETY  
OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH KNOWLEDGE SINCE 1821

**1291<sup>st</sup> ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 3 MARCH 2021 AT 6.30PM**

**By ZOOM Webinar**

**Please click the link below to join the webinar:**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85065252155>**

**AGENDA**

**1. WELCOME** – President, Emeritus Professor Ian Sloan AO FRSN FAA

**1.1 Acknowledgement of country**

**1.2 Diversity and Inclusion statement**

**1.3 Minutes of the 1290<sup>th</sup> Ordinary General Meeting held on 3 February 2021**

**2. CONFIRMATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

As no valid objection was lodged within two weeks following the 1290<sup>th</sup> Ordinary General Meeting, the election of the following new Fellows and Members took effect from the date of that meeting held on 3 February. Certificates will be presented at the first opportunity at a face-to-face meeting.

**2.1 Members**

Associate Professor Michaelis Michael  
Dr Deborah Lewis

**3. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NAMES OF CANDIDATES FOR FELLOWSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP**

If no valid objection is lodged within two weeks of this Ordinary General Meeting, that is, by 6.30pm on 17 March 2021, the election of new Members will take effect from the date of the meeting.

### **3.1 Fellows**

Professor Susan Nan Coppersmith  
Dr Malte Christian Ebach  
Professor Rebecca Quentin Ivers  
Emeritus Professor Gisela Kaplan  
Ms Kim Coral McKay  
Ms Samantha Doreen Meers  
Professor Michael John Ryan  
Mr Peter Schouten  
Professor Catherine Margaret Stampfl  
Dr Margaret Louise Varady  
Mr Albert Yue Ling Wong

### **3.2 Members and Associate Members**

#### **Members**

Dr Shane Keating  
Mr Rory McKenzie  
Mr Peter Valtchev  
Dr Margaret Vardy  
Reverend Chris Yates

#### **Associate Members**

Sajad Razavi Bazaz  
Matthew Donnelly  
Daniel Fox  
Philippa Specker

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

The Council met on Thursday 4 February 2020. The President wishes to draw members' attention to the following matters.

### **4.1 Australia Day Honours**

The Council extended its warmest congratulations to Society's Fellows who were honoured in Australia Day Honours List for 2021.

Professor Eileen Baldry AO FRSN – for distinguished service to tertiary education, to criminology and social welfare policy, and as an advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion.

Emeritus Professor Christopher Fell AO FRSN - for distinguished service to science and engineering, particularly to nanotechnology research and fabrication, and to professional networks.

Dr Ronald Webber AM FRSN - for significant service to the building and construction sector.

## 4.2 Bicentennial

Council noted that plans were well underway for the Society's Bicentennial events including the exhibition at the State Library of NSW.

## 4.3 Council elections

The Council noted the following timetable for Council elections, if they needed to be held.

Nominations open: 15 February 2021

Nominations close: 5 March 2021 (open for 3 weeks)

Voting opens: 15 March 2021

Voting closes: 5 April 2021 (open for 3 weeks)

AGM: 7 April 2021

## 4.4 Announcement of Award

Council approved a policy relating to posthumous awards and resolved that

.1 the Society's annual Awards only be given to persons who are living at the close of nominations of Awards in that year in which nominations are sought;

.2 in the case of a deceased person being *recommended for an Award that includes a monetary component*, that component will not be given;

.3 notwithstanding .1 above and without creating any precedent and without any monetary value, the 2020 Archibald Ollé Prize be awarded to the Late Ann Moyal for the paper P.A.M. Dirac and the Maverick Mathematician, by Ann Moyal, *Journal & Proceedings of the Royal Society of New South Wales*, vol. 150, part 2, 2017, pp. 188–194.

## 4.5 Establishment of a new branch

Council is considering the establishment of a new branch in Central Western NSW in association with Charles Sturt University.

## 4.6 OGMs

Council has decided that OGMs will be held virtually until and including June 2021.

## 4.7 The Society's branding

Council enthusiastically noted the work put into the rebranding by Emeritus Professor Lindsay Botten, the Society's Webmaster.

## 5 ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS OF RECENT BALLOT

Because a Fellow, Mr John Hardie, formally advised the President that he wished to stand for a position on Council and was affected by Rule 18(f)(iii) members were invited on 15 February 2021 to vote in the Royal Society of NSW Special Resolution for the 2021 Council Election Nominations.

Rule 18(f) states

*Any financial member or Distinguished Fellow of the Society shall be eligible for nomination for any position on the Council of the Society except that no member shall be eligible for nomination:*

*(i) as President if the member has served as President for the whole of the preceding four years*

*(ii) as a member of the Council if that person has served for an aggregate of fifteen years, unless that person is currently serving as President or immediate Past President or*

*(iii) unless that person is permitted to serve beyond the aggregate of fifteen years by a Special Resolution of the Society.*

The **MOTION** that was voted upon is as follows:

“That Mr John Hardie, who has served on Council for an aggregate of fifteen (15) years or more, be permitted to nominate for Council under Rule 18(f) (iii) of the Royal Society of NSW”

The President will announce the results of the ballot which closed on 28 February 2021.

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

### **WHAT ARE THE BEST OPTIONS FOR GROWING AUSTRALIA'S MENTAL HEALTH THROUGH THE COVID-19 RECOVERY?"**

**Professor Ian Hickie AM FRSN FASSA FAHMS FRANZCP  
Co-Director, Brain and Mind Centre, University of Sydney**

Professor Hickie is Co-Director, Health and Policy, at The University of Sydney's Brain and Mind Centre. He is a NHMRC Senior Principal Research Fellow (2013-2017 and 2018-22), having previously been one of the inaugural NHMRC Australian Fellows (2008-12). He was an inaugural Commissioner on Australia's National Mental Health Commission (2012-18) overseeing enhanced accountability for mental health reform and suicide prevention. He is an internationally renowned researcher in clinical psychiatry, with particular reference to medical aspects of common mood disorders, depression and bipolar disorder. He is now focused on the development of real-time personalized and measurement-based care systems for use in partnership with young people and their families. These systems promote early intervention, use of new and emerging technologies and suicide prevention. In his role with the National Mental Health Commission, and his independent research, health system and advocacy roles, he has been at the forefront of the move to have mental health and suicide prevention integrated with other aspects of health care (notably chronic disease and ambulatory care management).

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The concept of building the 'mental wealth' of Australia, namely, the collective cognitive and emotional resources of our citizens, was increasingly being adopted nationally (and internationally) prior to the COVID19 pandemic. Although the range of public policy options, operative right across the life span, was being scoped, formal implementation had not proceeded. While Australia has been spared the worst direct physical health effects, and social disruption, associated with the pandemic, it would

be a mistake to think that we do not still face many economic and social challenges that are likely to have major effects on our collective mental health and wellbeing.

Formal dynamic systems modelling (DSM) by the team at the Brain and Mind Centre of the University of Sydney has indicated not only the extent to which Australia's mental health may be adversely impacted, but also which sets of economic, education, social and mental health policies may be most relevant in these very different circumstances. These are choices that need to be made urgently (and implemented) – like the variations in JobKeeper, JobSeeker and education funding. Whether those most at risk of bad mental health outcomes – namely, young people and women in casual work, are actually supported at this time, has major long-term ramifications. By using formal simulations and making the likely impacts of different choices more transparent (what works, what does harm, what is just ineffective), DSM offers a more empirically based way of approaching this area of complex decision making.

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