



# THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH KNOWLEDGE SINCE 1821

## Minutes of the 1291<sup>st</sup> Ordinary General Meeting of The Royal Society of New South Wales held by ZOOM Webinar on Wednesday 3 March 2021 at 6.30PM.

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There were 34 Members, Fellows and guests in attendance.

### 1. WELCOME

The President, Emeritus Professor Ian Sloan AO FRSN FAA presided at the meeting and introduced the panel members. He welcomed members and guests and gave an acknowledgement of country. He also referred to the Society's Diversity and Inclusion Policy.

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

The Minutes of the previous Ordinary General Meeting, previously circulated, were approved.

### 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  
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 drew 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 an 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  
Voting opens: 18 March 2021  
Voting closes: 6 April 2021  
AGM: 7 April 2021

## 4.4 Announcement of 2020 Archibald Ollé Prize

The meeting was advised that 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

The meeting was advised that Council is considering the establishment of a new branch in Central Western NSW in association with Charles Sturt University.

## 4.6 OGMs

The meeting was advised has decided that OGMs will be held virtually until and including June 2021.

## 4.7 The Society's rebranding

The meeting was advised that 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

The President advised that because a Fellow, Mr John Hardie, formally advised him 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.

The President announced the results of the ballot which closed on 28 February 2021. There were 581 eligible voters from which 153 ballots were submitted as follows:

- 139 Votes tallied:
- 114 votes IN FAVOUR of the motion (82%)
- 25 votes AGAINST (18%)
- 14 Abstentions

*The* **MOTION**

“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.”

was therefore carried.

## **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**

There followed a question and answer session moderated by Emeritus Scientia Professor Eugenie Lumbers.

The meeting was closed by Vice-President Ms Judith Wheeldon.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.