



THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH KNOWLEDGE SINCE 1821

Minutes of the 1298th Ordinary General Meeting of The Royal Society of New South Wales held by ZOOM Webinar on Wednesday 6 October 2021 at 6.30PM.

There were 71 Members, Fellows and guests in attendance.

1. WELCOME

The President, Dr Susan Pond AM FRSN presided at the meeting. She welcomed members and guests and gave an acknowledgement of country. She also referred to the Society's Diversity and Inclusion Policy and asked that members consider nominating female candidates and those from diverse backgrounds for membership of the Society.

1.1 Minutes of the 1297th Ordinary General Meeting held on 1 September 2021

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

2 CONFIRMATION OF MEMBERSHIP

As no valid objection had been lodged within two weeks following the 1297th Ordinary General Meeting, the election of the following new Fellows and Members took effect from the date of that meeting held on 1 September 2021.

2.1 Fellows

Professor David John Adams
Professor Philip Stewart Bolton
Ms Carolyn Jan Bowen
Professor Min Chen
Dr Simon John Devitt
Dr Jai Christian Galliot
Emeritus Professor Anthony John Hulbert
Professor Christopher Bond Little
Professor Nathan Lo
Dr Colin Pardoe
Professor Jennifer Robyn Potts
Professor Lisa Rae Jackson Pulver
Professor Leigh Albert Sullivan
Associate Professor Rebecca Suter
Professor Xiaoke Yi
Professor Ken-Tye Yong

2.2 Members

Ms Kate Carruthers

3 ANNOUNCEMENT OF NAMES OF CANDIDATES FOR FELLOWSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP

3.1 Fellows

It was noted that the next meeting of the Fellows and Members Assessment Committee was scheduled for 12 October. Recommendations from that meeting would be considered at the November Ordinary General Meeting.

3.2 Members

It was noted that if no valid objection was lodged within two weeks of this Ordinary General Meeting, that is, by 6.30pm on 20 October 2021, the election of the following new Members would take effect from the date of this meeting.

Ms Neanne Alnafta
Dr Fakhri Athari
Ms Claire Eloise Flitcroft
Dr Budhaditya Majumdar
Mr William Bradley Webster

4 REPORT FROM COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

The President reported on the following matters emanating from the September Council meeting.

The meeting convened by Council to inaugurate the Western NSW Branch had been held on 14 September. A Branch Committee had been elected from the Western NSW community and Charles Sturt University. Members will hold office until the first Annual General meeting to be held in March 2022. The first Branch meeting is scheduled for 19 October when Professor Stan Grant will give a presentation 'With the Falling of Dusk'. The Society's Patron, Her Excellency, The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC, Governor of NSW will be in attendance.

The 2021 Annual Forum entitled 'Power and Peril of the Digital Age' will be held virtually on Thursday and Friday, 4 and 5 November 2021 from 9.00 am to 12.30 pm on both days. It will be live streamed and subsequently be on The Society's YouTube channel. There was no charge and registration details will be on the Society's website.

5 QUESTIONS

There were no questions sent to the President in advance.

6 THE EVENING'S PRESENTATION

PRIVACY AND IDENTITY IN AN AI WORLD

**Professor Toby Walsh FAA FACM FAAAS
Scientia Professor of Artificial Intelligence
School of Computer Science and Engineering, University of NSW (Sydney)**

Toby Walsh is a Laureate Fellow and Scientia Professor of AI at the University of New South Wales and Data61, and an adjunct professor at QUT. He was named by the Australian newspaper as one of the "rock stars" of Australia's digital revolution. He is a Fellow of the Australia Academy of Science and recipient of the NSW Premier's Prize for Excellence in Engineering and ICT. He appears regularly on TV and radio and has authored two books on AI for a general audience, the most recent entitled "2062: The World that AI Made".

Artificial Intelligence is making great advances, many of which challenge our notions of privacy and identity. From face recognition to automated decision making, the most pressing problems and how we should navigate this future to ensure a prosperous, just, and sustainable society was addressed.

Following the presentation there was a pre-recorded conversation between Professor Walsh and Emeritus Professor Christina Slade, Chair of the Events Committee. Then followed a live question and answer session moderated by Emeritus Professor Christina Slade, who also gave the vote of thanks.

7 CLOSE

In closing the meeting, Dr Pond thanked Professor Walsh for a thought-provoking talk.

The meeting closed at 7.49pm