



ABN 76 470 896 415

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the 153rd Annual General Meeting of The Royal Society of New South Wales held on Wednesday 22 April 2020 at 6.00pm by ZOOM Webinar.

There were 78 Fellows, Members and guests in attendance. The office-bearers, who were able to be seen and heard by attendees, consisted of Professor Ian Sloan (President), Emeritus Professor Brynn Hibbert (immediate past President and Vice-President), Dr Susan Pond (incoming Vice-President), Ms Judith Wheeldon (Vice-President), Mr Bruce Ramage (Honorary Secretary (General)) and Mr Richard Wilmott (Honorary Treasurer).

1 WELCOME, APOLOGIES, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY AND DIVERSITY STATEMENT

Emeritus Professor Ian Sloan AO FRSN welcomed all those joining the meeting by ZOOM Webinar. He noted that apologies had been received from the following:

Emeritus Professor Brian Fraser, Dr Danila Helbig, Ms Virginia Judge, Adjunct Professor Raja Junankar, Emeritus Professor Gisela Kaplan, Professor Isak Pretorius and Dr John Yu.

He gave an acknowledgement of country. He also referred to the Society's Diversity and Inclusion Policy that had been recently developed.

2 ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROCEDURAL MOTIONS CONDUCTED BY ELECTRONIC BALLOT

Professor Sloan announced the results of the procedural motions that had been conducted by electronic ballot during 3–10 April 2020.

2.1 Minutes of previous annual general meeting

The motion that the minutes of the 152nd Annual General Meeting held on 4 April 2019 was confirmed by 135 in favour, 0 against.

2.2 ANNUAL REPORT OF COUNCIL AND THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2019

The motion that the Annual Report of Council and the financial statements for 2019 be received was confirmed by 144 in favour, 0 against.

The President said that 2019 had been a very successful year for the Society and there had been a number of highlights including the following:

- The adoption by Council of a Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- The establishment of a Hunter Branch of the Society
- The appointment of a part-time Executive Officer for the Society
- The continuing growth in the Society's membership
- The success of the 2019 Annual Forum *Making SPACE for Australia* which had been recorded and was available on the Society's website and its new YouTube site

- The very successful History of Science Tour to Europe led by Emeritus Professor Robert Clancy
- The relocation of the substantial part the Society's library to the State Library of NSW
- The Society's continuing relationship with other organisations including the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts.

2.3 CONFIRMATION OF AUDITORS

The motion that Tinworth & Co., Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors, be confirmed as the auditors of the Royal Society of New South Wales for 2020 was carried with 143 in favour, 0 against.

3 ELECTION RESULTS

The President announced the result of the Vice-President election held electronically during 3–10 April 2020. He also announced the result of the Honorary Librarian election held electronically during 13–20 April 2020. He noted that as there had been fewer nominations for Councillors than vacancies, an election was unnecessary for ordinary members of Council. He said Council would be considering the filling of all vacancies at its May meeting.

3.1 Vice-President

Emeritus Professor Brynn Hibbert
Dr Susan Pond
Ms Judith Wheeldon

3.2 Honorary Librarian

Mr John Hardie

3.3 Councillors

Dr Ian Bryce
Emeritus Professor Robert Clancy
Ms Virginia Judge
Mr Stuart Midgley
Emeritus Professor Bruce Milthorpe
Ms Nyrie Palmer
Adjunct Professor Robert Whittaker

4 COUNCIL FOR 2020/2021

The President advised that the membership of the 2020/2021 Council was as follows:

President	Emeritus Professor Ian Sloan
Vice-Presidents	Emeritus Professor Brynn Hibbert Dr Susan Pond, Ms Judith Wheeldon
Honorary Secretary (General)	Mr Bruce Ramage
Honorary Secretary (Editorial)	Vacant
Honorary Librarian	Mr John Hardie
Honorary Treasurer	Mr Richard Wilmott
Honorary Webmaster	Emeritus Professor Lindsay Botten
Councillors	Dr Ian Bryce Emeritus Professor Robert Clancy Ms Virginia Judge Mr Stuart Midgley Emeritus Professor Bruce Milthorpe

Ms Nyrie Palmer
Adjunct Professor Robert Whittaker

Hunter Branch representative Emeritus Scientia Professor Eugenie Lumbers

Southern Highlands Branch representative Ms Anne Wood

5 PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON THE SOCIETY'S RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS

The President introduced the panel, whom he said were available to answer questions on particular topics as required.

He advised that the Society had established a business continuity committee that had been considering a range of matters emanating from the crisis including how to continue to engage the membership and manage resulting financial issues.

The President advised that as with the evening's Annual General Meeting and the Ordinary General Meeting being held by Zoom, a number of other events were being planned to be held using technology. He mentioned the Ideas@TheHouse events which had been requested by The Governor and the first was currently being planned to be held by video streaming. He also noted that the intention to hold the Distinguished Fellows Lecture, initially planned for the Annual Dinner virtually. He also advised that a talk on COVID-19 was being planned for the near future.

6 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The President opened the meeting to questions. In answer to questions the following points were made.

- The Society's 2019 finances were strong and there were sufficient funds to support the organisation in 2020. It was important that the Society's current level of membership be maintained or exceeded.
- Council would be considering the filling of Council vacancies at its next meeting.
- The membership would shortly be invited to express an interest to be members of Council committees.
- It was noted that some work had been done on the Society's archives and that a manuscript covering the Society's history from 1821–1914 had been written and was with a publisher.

The meeting was followed immediately by the 1282nd Ordinary General Meeting.

Signed as a true record



Ian Sloan
President

27April 2020
Date