



The Royal Society of New South Wales

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

Minutes of the 1280th Ordinary General Meeting of The Royal Society of New South Wales held in the Gallery Room, The State Library of New South Wales on Wednesday 12 February 2020 at 6.30pm

There were 43 Members and Fellows in attendance.

1. WELCOME

Vice-President, Ms Judith Wheeldon AM FRSN presided at the meeting. She welcomed members and guests and gave an acknowledgement of country and read the Society's recently-developed Diversity and Inclusion statement.

1.1 Minutes of the 1279th Ordinary General Meeting held on 4 December 2019

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

2. PRESENTATION OF FELLOWSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES

Ms Wheeldon presented the following Certificates.

Members

Mr Nigel Kuan
Mr Matthew Richardson

3. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NAMES OF CANDIDATES FOR FELLOWSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP

The meeting noted that if no valid objection was lodged with the Society by 6.30pm (AEST) on 26 February 2020 the election of the new Fellows and Members as listed below would take effect from the date of the meeting.

Fellows

Emeritus Professor Thomas John Boulton FRACP
Professor Clare Elizabeth Collins FDAA
Distinguished Professor Karu Priyathama Esselle FIEEE
Emeritus Professor Brian James Fraser FAS
Professor Jeanette Susanne Lechner-Scott
Professor Belinda Elizabeth Medlyn
Professor Shinichi Nakagawa
Professor Catherine Joanna Stevens
Professor Ngamta Thamwattana

3.2 Members

Dr John Flachs

Mr Andrew Freeman
Dr Sonja Van Wichelen

4 THE LIBRARY

Ms Wheeldon thanked the following volunteers who had helped with the sorting and cataloguing the Society's book and journal collection over the previous 12 months in the State Library of NSW.

Ian Bryce MRSN,
Eva Burns
Julie Cameron MRSN
Tony Burrell MRSN
Robert Marks FRSN
Robert Young FRSN

5 REPORT FROM COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

The Council met on 22 January 2020. Ms Wheeldon drew members' attention to the following matters.

5.1 Appointment of Executive Officer

Ms Wendy Enevoldsen had taken up the position of part-time Executive Officer from 22 January.

5.2 New editor of the *Bulletin*

Mr Timothy Humphrey had been appointed as Editor of the *Bulletin*. He is the founder and editor of *Property Daily*. Ms Wheeldon thanked the previous editor Dr Laurel Dyson.

5.3 The Red Cross Disaster Relief and Recovery Fund

Ms Wheeldon thanked all the Fellows and Members who had made a donation to the Fund through the Society.

5.4 Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status

It was noted that the Australian Taxation Office had provided advice indicating that at the moment an application for DGR status by the Society for its non-library and non-scholarship funds would not succeed.

5.5 Diversity and Inclusion Policy

It was noted that the Council had developed a Diversity and Inclusion Policy which was being implemented across all the Society's activities.

5.6 Events for 2020

It was noted that the reconstituted Events Committee had met on 31 January to finalise the OGM program and other events for the year.

Ms Wheeldon advised that following a meeting with the Governor in November, the Society had been asked to create a program for two "Ideas @The House" over a 12 month period with three dates already set at 23 April 2020, 21 July 2020 and 25 February 2021, all to be held at Government House, Sydney.

5.7 Finances

It was noted that the Society made a small surplus for the 2019 year greater than had been budgeted. The audited accounts would be presented at the AGM on 1 April 2020.

5.8 Hunter Branch

It was noted that the Hunter Branch, established last year, had got off to a flying start in 2020. Its first meeting was held on 31 January with Professor Ryan Loxton from Curtin University of Technology speaking about *Mathematics in Industry: Optimisation in Action – unlocking value in the mining, energy and agriculture industries*. Another five meetings are planned for the year.

5.9 Royal Societies of Australia

Council noted recent developments with the Royal Societies of Australia (RSA), of which RSNSW is a member. The RSA had signed an agreement with the Australian Academy of Science for the sharing of a position and the provision of space at the Academy's premises in Canberra. The RSA, whose role is to support and promote the work of Australia's Royal Societies, now had a part-time coordinator whose current focus is on organising a symposium for later this year on 'Stewardship of Country', developing a new website and maintaining a Facebook presence.

6. THE EVENING'S PRESENTATIONS

Emeritus Professor Robert Clancy introduced the presentations that were given by the four winners of the 2019 Royal Society of NSW Scholarships.

Emma Austin, University of Newcastle

Drought and wellbeing in Australian rural communities: implications for improving adaptive capacity and resilience to drought

Ms Austin's research investigates the relationship between drought and wellbeing in rural communities in NSW, taking into account the links between wellbeing and adaptive capacity, and the need for the successful adaptation to drought together with increased resilience which is essential for the survival of rural communities.

Shyam Balaji, University of Sydney

Searches for Extended Higgs Sectors, Flavour Physics Anomalies and Dark Matter at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC)

Mr Balaji's research is in the field of particle physics which explores the fundamental building blocks of the Universe and the interactions between them. The focus of his work, as a member of the ATLAS Collaboration at CERN's LHC, is in testing exotic Higgs boson models and extensions to the Standard Model of Particle Physics.

Michael Papanicolao, University of Technology Sydney and the Garvan Institute of Medical Research

Charting the Extracellular Matrix Through Breast Tumour Progression

Mr Papanicolao's research involves investigations into the role of the extracellular matrix (ECM) in breast tumour progression. The focus of his work is on charting how the ECM evolves with tumour progression, using protein mass spectrometry and advanced imaging to identify targetable proteins that are important in breast cancer metastasis.

Thomas Pettit, University of Technology Sydney

Botanical biofilters for the phytofiltration of urban air pollutants

Mr Pettit's research is in the field of biofilter technology, in which he has been developing and assessing the use of active green walls to clean the air of active pollutants to provide functional reductions of air pollution in zones where they are most needed.

7. VOTE OF THANKS AND CLOSE

The vote of thanks to the four scholarship winners was given by Professor Clancy. Ms Wheeldon presented each speaker with a speaker's medal. The meeting was followed by dinner.

Ms Wheeldon closed the meeting at 8.00pm.