

Welcome address

Her Excellency, the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC

Governor of New South Wales, Patron of the Royal Society

Good evening to you all.

As Patron of the Royal Society of New South Wales, I would have enjoyed joining you this evening for your 200th Anniversary Dinner. I know this event has been a while coming with all the delays and adjustments required over the past twelve months but here you are ready to celebrate.

As you are watching this, Dennis and I are in the Northern Hemisphere singing the praises of New South Wales and promoting engagement in London, Paris and Belgium.

On the occasion of this anniversary event I must acknowledge my predecessor Governor Thomas Brisbane, the 6th Governor of New South Wales, the first President of the Philosophical Society of Australasia, which was the precursor society of the Royal Society of New South Wales.¹

The relationship with Governors has remained constant over your 200 years and I am honoured to continue that tradition.

Government House has been proud to host the annual Royal Society and Learned Academies Forum and to collaborate on the virtual and recently live and livestreamed editions of Ideas@theHouse. These important platforms of discussion promote not only creative thought and intellectual engagement, but foster community and connection.

One thing that has struck me about the Society over the past two years is that for an organisation with such a rich history, you are constantly looking forward. That is reflected in Dr Alan Finkel's after-dinner address topic tonight "All aboard — choose your flight to the future."

Congratulations to the Society for all you have done throughout your history to enrich lives through knowledge, and all that you continue to do to contribute to the intellectual life of the State of New South Wales.



¹ <https://www.royalsoc.org.au/about-us/history>