



THE BULLETIN 449

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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MARCH 2021

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[1292nd OGM and
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Patron of The Royal Society of NSW

Her Excellency The Honourable
Margaret Beazley AC QC
Governor of New South Wales

1291ST OGM AND OPEN LECTURE

What are the best options for growing Australia's mental health through the COVID-19 recovery?

Wednesday, 3 March 2021



Professor Ian Hickie

AM FRSN FASSA FAHMS FRANZCP

Co-Director, Brain and Mind Centre, University of Sydney

Date/time: Wednesday 3 March 2021, 6:30 PM

Venue: [Zoom Webinar](#)

Entry: No charge

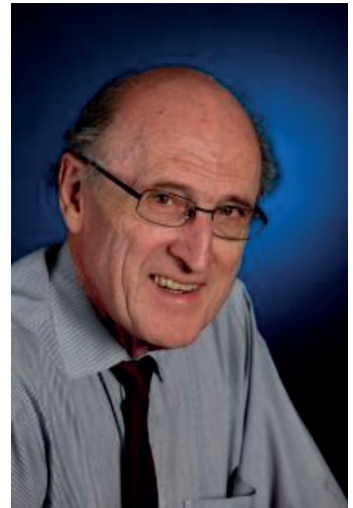
Enquiries: [via email](#)

All are welcome.

See [page 4](#) for more information

From the President

For our sister society the Royal Society of Tasmania, 15 February 2021 was a day of profound significance, for on that day the Tasmanian Society, and the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, issued coordinated public apologies to the indigenous inhabitants of Tasmania for past injustices. These injustices included the exhumation and purchase of ‘the ancestral remains of Tasmanian Aboriginal people for scientific study’, remains that in many cases were sent to institutions elsewhere in Australia or overseas. The apologies acknowledge that such practices occurred with a lack of regard for the deep cultural and spiritual significance of the remains, and in at least one case against the express wish of a respected elder. The apologies acknowledge that scientific studies of indigenous artifacts, culture and languages were often carried out in a disrespectful manner. In their apologies, both institutions undertake to seek a truthful and full account of past actions that have negatively impacted the indigenous people of Tasmania. They promise that all future research and scholarly activity with implications for indigenous Australians will be carried out in a respectful and fully consultative manner. Links to the full apologies are here: [Royal Society of Tasmania](#) and [Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery](#).



The background to this story is that the Royal Society of Tasmania soon after its foundation in 1843 established a museum, the Royal Society Museum, and operated it until it passed to the Tasmanian Government in 1885, so providing the foundation for what is now the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery.

There is an important difference between the NSW and Tasmanian histories: namely that, as far as is known, the Royal Society of NSW never had a museum. Museums have always been key centres of research in the natural sciences, but in the past, as is now recognised, such research has often enough been carried out in culturally inappropriate ways. The historical happenstance of not having a museum does not mean that our Society did not engage in culturally inappropriate activities.

I am pleased to tell you that the process of examining our past has already started: I can report that in the *Journal and Proceedings of the Royal Society of NSW*, in issues dating back to 1822, there are [78 papers that in one way or another deal with Indigenous matters](#). So far the titles suggest nothing too alarming, but it will take time, effort, and cultural sensitivity to assess them. Watch this space!

On another matter, it is exactly one year since the [Society's Diversity and Inclusion Policy](#) was implemented. Council agreed to review it every year and this has now been completed. I'm pleased to report that we have made significant advances in relation to gender. The percentage of new female Fellows during 2020 increased to 29.9% of the total from 23.8% in 2019, and the proportion of female Members has increased from 22% in 2019 to 28% in 2020. The trajectory is in the right direction so parity should not be too far off.

From the President (continued)

On a completely different matter, the elections for Council have been announced, and nominations for Council positions are open until 5 March. Then online voting will open on 18 March and close on 6 April. Please consider nominating for Council, and above all, when the time comes, please exercise your right to vote. The [Elections news post](#) on the Society's website has further information about nomination and the available positions under the Society's revised Rules. I encourage you to view it.

Ian H Sloan AO FRSN FAA
President, Royal Society of NSW

Report of the 1290th OGM — Student Awards

The 1290th Ordinary General Meeting of the Society was held by Zoom webinar on Wednesday 3 February 2021 at 6:30 PM. The President, Professor Ian Sloan AO FRSN FAA, was in the chair and there were 45 Members, Fellows and guests in attendance. A total of thirteen new Fellows and eight new Members were admitted to the Society.

The President noted two initiatives of the Royal Societies of Australia, of which the Royal Society of NSW is a member — the forthcoming *Stewardship of Country* series of webinars, and the publication of a new book by a Fellow of the Royal Society of NSW, Emeritus Professor Robert Clancy AM FRSN entitled *The Long Enlightenment: Australian Science from its beginning to the mid-twentieth century*.

The evening's presentations were given by the winner of the 2020 Jak Kelly Award and the three winners of the 2020 Royal Society of NSW Scholarships. Please click on the links below for a summary of the presentations and a short biography of the speakers:

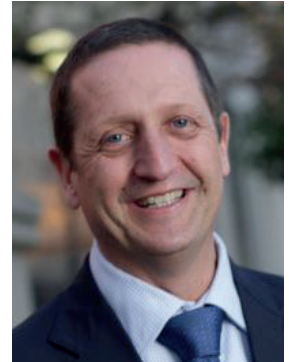
- [Mr Matthew Donnelly](#) (Jak Kelly Award winner) — UNSW (Sydney) — Controlling how electrons move in silicon at the atomic scale
- [Mr Sajad Razavi Bazaz](#) (Scholarship Winner) — University of Technology Sydney — 3D printed micro-engineered systems for life science research
- [Mr Daniel Fox](#) (Scholarship Winner) — Australian National University — Molecular Mechanisms of Inflammasome Activation by Enterotoxins of the Foodborne Pathogen *Bacillus cereus*
- [Ms Philippa Specker](#) (Scholarship Winner) — UNSW (Sydney) — Improving the treatment of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder in refugees: The important role of emotion regulation.

There followed a question-and-answer session after each presentation moderated by Professor Robert Clancy who also gave the vote of thanks and closed the meeting.

1291st OGM and Open Lecture

What are the best options for growing Australia's mental health through the COVID-19 recovery?

Professor Ian Hickie AM FRSN FASSA FAHMS FRANZCP
Brain and Mind Centre, University of Sydney



Date: Wednesday 3 March 2021, 6:30 PM

Venue: [Zoom Webinar](#) ([Obtain help in getting started with Zoom](#))

Entry: No charge

Enquiries: [via email](#)

All are welcome.

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 COVID-19 pandemic¹. 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 our team at the Brain and Mind Centre of the University of Sydney^{2,3} 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.

References

1. Beddington, J., Cooper, C., Field, J. *et al.* The mental wealth of nations. *Nature* 455, 1057–1060 (2008)
2. [Road to Recovery — Restoring Australia’s Mental Wealth](#)
3. [Road to Recovery, Part 2 — Investing in Australia’s Mental Wealth](#)

(continued overleaf)

1291st OGM and Open Lecture (continued)

About the speaker

Professor Ian 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 personalised 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, Professor Hickie 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).

Council Elections

The Council is the Society's governing body, and together with its Committees, is responsible for the planning and delivery of the Society's programs and the initiatives of an ambitious triennial Strategic Plan. Amongst these initiatives are the successful delivery of the Bicentenary celebration during 2021–22, increasing the visibility, reach and influence of the Society through our events and other programs, our YouTube channel and our almost 600 members, and improving the Society's financial position.

Nominations for the 2021/22 Council are now sought from committed and motivated Members and Fellows of the Society who wish to make a difference by contributing to the future directions and work of the Society. Nominations are particularly sought from younger members of the Society, and from women and other underrepresented groups, in line with the Society's [Diversity and Inclusion Policy](#). Nominations opened on 15 February and close on 5 March 2021. Councillors act as Directors of the Society and all Councillors are expected to be Office-bearers, Committee Chairs or Secretaries, or to fulfil another function for the Society in addition to being a Councillor.

This year information sessions are available for nominees to ensure that expectations around time commitments and activities required are in alignment with the reality of the work the RSNNSW needs to be done. Please contact the Society's Executive Officer at execofficer@royalsoc.org.au if you would like to attend an information session.

All Members and Fellows are encouraged to consider nominating so that you can help make this an even more dynamic Society. Further information is available on the [Society's website](#).

Report: Events Committee

by Christina Slade (Chair of Events) and Lindsay Botten (Webmaster)

The Society concluded its events program for 2020 with two excellent talks. Professor Tony Capon of Monash University addressed the Hunter Branch on Wednesday, **2 December** via a Zoom webinar. He discussed the topic of '[Planetary Health: Safeguarding Health in the Anthropocene Epoch](#)'. On Wednesday, **9 December** Professor Matthew England, FRSN FAA, the 2019 winner of the James Cook Medal, spoke at the OGM on the topic of '[Dispelling climate change myths — how ocean physics can help explain surprises in the modern-day climate record](#)': an extraordinarily vivid gallop through the wild waters of the southern oceans and the influence of oceans on climate change.

On Wednesday, **3 February** 2021, [presentations by the 2020 Jak Kelly Award and Scholarship winners](#) concluded the 1290th OGM. There were four excellent talks from Mr Matthew Donnelly (Jak Kelly Award Winner), Mr Sajad Razavi Bazaz (RSNSW Scholarship Winner), Mr Daniel Fox (RSNSW Scholarship Winner), and Ms Phillipa Specker (RSNSW Scholarship Winner). Emeritus Professor Robert Clancy ably conducted a lively Q&A session.

The Annual Meeting of the Four Societies was held on **17 February** — a joint meeting of the Australian Institute of Energy, the Australian Nuclear Association, the Sydney Division of Engineers Australia, and the Royal Society of NSW, which took place face-to-face (at Engineers Australia's premises) and online. The speaker was Ms Lenka Kollar, the co-founder of Helixos, who spoke on the '[UN Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\) and the Role of Nuclear Technology](#)'.

On **18 February**, Dr Kevin Mills addressed the Southern Highlands Branch on the topic of '[The five islands off Port Kembla — an historical and ecological study](#)' at a face-to-face meeting held in Mittagong.

On **24 February**, the Royal Societies of Australia and Inspiring Australia Victoria jointly hosted an online presentation and panel on '[The Common Ground — A Convergence of Traditions](#)' in the series 'Stewardship of Country' with presentations by Adjunct Associate Professor Mary Graham of The University of Queensland (Keynote), Professor Peter Bridgewater of the Australian National University, the University of Canberra and Beijing Forestry University, Mr David Pollock of Wooleen Station and Mr Justin O'Brien, Dr Chris Brady and Mr Peter Christopherson of Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation.

Forthcoming events

On Wednesday **3 March**, Professor Ian Hickie will address the Society at the 1291st OGM on the topic '[What are the best options for growing Australia's mental health through the COVID-19 recovery](#)'. This will be delivered as a Zoom webinar.

On **10 March**, the second in the 'Stewardship of Country' series, titled '[Resilience, recognition and escaping the iron law of business-as-usual](#)' will be presented as a webinar. Presentations will be given by Dr Nicholas Gruen, CEO, Lateral Economics (Keynote) Ms Carolyn Hall, The Mulloon Institute Ms Jody Brown, La Trobe Station and Mr Nigel Sharp, Odonata.

Report: Events Committee (continued)

On 24 March, the third and final webinar of this series, titled '[From Past to Future — Australian Stewardship of Country](#)' will feature presentations from Professor Kingsley Dixon, Curtin University, Dr Michelle Maloney, Australian Earth Laws Alliance, Griffith University and Mr Barney Foran, Charles Sturt University.

Future events are listed on the website in the [Upcoming Events menu](#), and on [page 10](#) in this Bulletin.

News from Council

OGMs and the AGM

Council has agreed that the Society's OGMs will continue online until at least the end of June 2021. This also includes the Society's Annual General Meeting which will be held online on Wednesday 7 April 2021. We will let you know of further developments in this regard as they come to hand.

Awards

Council has announced that the 2020 Archibald Ollé Prize has been awarded to the Late Dr Ann Moyal AM FRSN for the paper 'P.A.M. Dirac and the Maverick Mathematician', *Journal & Proceedings of the Royal Society of New South Wales*, vol. 150, part 2, 2017, pp. 188–194.

The deliberations of the Awards Committee and Council in relation to this Award have resulted in a new policy relating to the awarding of medals and prizes to deceased persons. It states 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.

Notwithstanding point 1 above, Council decided at its February meeting to award the 2020 Ollé Prize to the Late Dr Moyal.

Strategic Plan 2021–2023

Council approved the Society's Strategic Plan 2021–2023 at its February meeting. It can be found on the [Governance page](#) of the Society's website. We will have more about the Strategic Plan in later Bulletins.

Report: Hunter Branch

by Eugenie Lumbers (Branch Secretary)

The Hunter branch has continued planning its activities for 2021. Discussion and planning began at its 2 December committee meeting, which preceded an excellent talk by Prof Tony Capon on Health and the Environment.

The Hunter branch committee then met on 10 February and spent considerable time discussing its proposed AGM to be held on 31 March. A list of constituent members of the Hunter branch eligible to vote on matters pertaining to the Hunter branch has been approved by the Council of the RSNSW.

There was considerable discussion concerning re-election of the Hunter branch committee. It was felt that only half the committee positions should be declared vacant; the rest will provide continuity. Since there will be three vacant positions, these will be filled by election at the AGM.

Members of the Hunter branch of the RSNSW will be consulted about the branch committee's plans for the Hunter Medal and invited to nominate worthy recipients. The committee hopes to begin to seek sponsors for the Hunter Medal in the very near future, as the branch would like to make its first award in 2022.

The first major event for the Hunter Branch will be held 23 March. It is to be a meeting co-hosted by University of Newcastle and the RSNSW as part of the University's 'Looking Ahead — in Conversation' lecture series. The speaker will be Dr Alan Finkel and it is planned to hold the meeting in the Great Hall of the University. A title and abstract will be available soon.

Other events planned for 2021 are a lecture by:

1. Prof Jason Sharples, UNSW, Canberra Director of the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC (30 June)
2. Prof Kathy Eagar from University of Wollongong on the Royal Commission for Ageing and the care and welfare of the elderly (25 August)
3. Nathan Towney, Pro Vice Chancellor for Indigenous Strategy and Leadership, University of Newcastle (29 September).

One other event in November, which is a co-hosted event with the University of Newcastle will be held.

The Hunter branch committee of the RSNSW would like to acknowledge the extremely generous in-kind contribution made by the University of Newcastle to support its activities.

A fresh look for the Bicentennial Year

by Bruce Ramage (Secretary)

With the imminent commencement of the Society's Bicentennial Year in June, some effort has been devoted to developing a fresh branding style for the Society, building upon the colour restyling of the website which took place in early 2020. The new designs have been approved by the President. Some of the outcomes of this work, undertaken by the Webmaster and the Secretary during January, have been seen already by Council and the Society's membership at large in the form of the header of the email event notice and the OGM agenda paper. The fresh designs were enthusiastically received by Council at its last meeting.



The exercise has sought to:

- utilise the Society's core symbol (i.e. the seal) in a simple monochromatic form — in contrast to the traditional symbol, the profusion of colours of which make it impossible to use typography that is other than white, black, or grey, or to embed it on other than a neutral background
- implement a suitable, modern typeface that renders clearly at all scales
- maintain simplicity through the use of not more than two colours in the design, including the red that is used on the website banner and fonts, and which can be complemented by another colour that matches the 'strength' of this red
- incorporate the forward-looking message encapsulated in the vision of the new strategic plan, together with a reference to the Bicentenary through the founding date of the Society's antecedent.

The new branding is exemplified below in the signature block to be used in all Society email correspondence. A set of branding guidelines will be developed shortly.

Welcome to new Members

The Society is pleased to welcome the following new Members to the Society. They were elected at the Ordinary General Meeting held on 3 February 2021. We hope that each of you enjoys your membership and is able to participate in all that the Society has to offer.

Members

- Associate Professor Michaelis Michael
- Dr Deborah Lewis

List of proposed events for 2021

Kindly note that this is a provisional list and will be subject to change. Updates will be reflected in future issues of the Bulletin and on [our website](#).

Date	Event
Thursday, 18 March 6:30 PM AEDT	(Southern Highlands) Sea level change and erosion on the Shoalhaven Coast — past and future Dr Howard Brady
Tuesday, 23 March	(Hunter) 'Looking Ahead — in Conversation' lecture series Dr Alan Finkel
Wednesday, 7 April 6:00 PM AEDT	154 th Annual General Meeting (6.00pm) 1292 nd Ordinary General Meeting and Open Lecture (immediately following) Antarctica, this ain't no mirage: The value of art in disseminating scientific information Lea Kannar-Lichtenberger
Wednesday, 5 May 6:30 PM AEST	1293 rd Ordinary General Meeting and Open Lecture Big, bad fires in NSW Emerita Professor Mary O'Kane AC FRSN FTSE HonFIEAust
Thursday, 20 May 6:30 PM AEST	(Southern Highlands) Mental Health — exact topic t.b.a. Dr Patrick McGorry
Wednesday, 2 June 6:30 PM AEST	1294 th Ordinary General Meeting and Open Lecture Murray-Darling Basin turmoil: past, present and future Professor Richard Kingsford FRSN
Thursday, 17 June 6:30 PM AEST	(Southern Highlands) Nuclear Fusion — exact topic t.b.a. Max La Galle
Wednesday, 30 June	(Hunter) Lecture — exact topic t.b.a. Prof Jason Sharples, UNSW, Canberra Director of the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC
Wednesday, 7 July 6:30 PM AEST	1295 th Ordinary General Meeting and Open Lecture Society as an information-processing system, and the influence of the media Dr Erik Aslaksen FRSN

(continued overleaf)

List of proposed events for 2021 (continued)

Date	Event
Thursday, 15 July 6:30 PM AEST	(Southern Highlands) Neutron scattering and the WOMBAT project Dr Helen Maynard-Casely
Wednesday 4 August 6:30 PM AEST	1296 th Ordinary General Meeting and Open Lecture Topic: 'Towards a Modern History of Gondwanaland' Speaker: Professor Alison Bashford FRSN FAHA FBA FRHistS, UNSW
Wednesday 25 August	(Hunter) Lecture — Royal Commission for Ageing and the care and welfare of the elderly Prof Kathy Eagar, University of Wollongong
Wednesday, 1 September 6:30 PM AEST	1297 th Ordinary General Meeting and Open Lecture Taking humour and laughter seriously: Exploring the multi-disciplinary field of humour studies Dr Jessica Milner Davis FRSN
Wednesday, 29 September	(Hunter) Lecture — exact topic t.b.a. Nathan Towney, University of Newcastle
Wednesday, 6 October 6:30 PM AEDT	1298 th Ordinary General Meeting and Open Lecture Topic: Ethics, regulation and AI (to be confirmed) Speakers: Professor Toby Walsh, Laureate and Scientia Professor, FRSN FAAS FACM FAAAAS FEAAI Sarah Court, Commissioner Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (TBC)
Date 4 November 9:00 AM–4:30 PM AEDT	Royal Society of NSW and Four Academies Annual Forum Venue: Government House, Sydney, Live Streaming and subsequent availability on YouTube Topic: To be advised
Wednesday 10 November 6:30 PM AEDT	1299 th Ordinary General Meeting and Open Lecture Topic: To be announced Speakers: To be confirmed
Wednesday 1 December 6:30 PM AEDT	1300 th Ordinary General Meeting and Open Lecture Topic: Managing Psychological Distress in Times of Stress: Handling the Stress of COVID-19 and All That Speaker: Scientia Professor Richard Bryant AC FASSA FAA FAHMS — James Cook Medal Winner 2020

Society Fellow Bashford named as a 2021 Dan David Prize Laureate

The Council of the Royal Society of NSW warmly congratulates one of its Fellows, **ARC Laureate Professor Alison Bashford FRSN FAHA FRHistS** of UNSW (Sydney), on being named as a 2021 Dan David Prize Laureate. Professor Bashford is the Director of the Laureate Centre for History & Population at UNSW Arts, Design & Architecture, and was the 2020 winner of the Royal Society of NSW History and Philosophy of Science Prize.



The [Dan David Prize](#) is a prestigious international prize, which annually makes three awards of US\$1 million each for achievements having an outstanding scientific, technological, cultural or social impact on our world. Each year, fields are chosen within the three Time Dimensions — Past, Present and Future. The total purse of \$US3 million makes this prestigious prize also one of the highest valued awards internationally.

Professor Bashford is one of three international scholars who have received Laureates in the category *Past: History of Health and Medicine* — with the other two being Professor Katharine Park (Harvard University) and Professor Keith Wailoo (Princeton University).

More information: <https://www.royalsoc.org.au/blog/society-fellow-alison-bashford-named-as-a-2021-dan-david-laureate>

Society Fellow Sahajwalla featured on ABC TV Australian Story

Society Fellow and UNSW Sydney Scientia **Professor Veena Sahajwalla FRSN FAA FTSE** was the subject of a fascinating ABC TV Australian Story documentary, [The Tipping Point](#), on her life's work in the recycling of waste that is now revolutionising manufacturing.



From her childhood in Mumbai, she recognised that waste was an untapped resource that was waiting to be harnessed. The program documents an impressive list of accomplishments that include the development of 'green steel' in which the use of coal in the steel making process is being progressively replaced by rubber from recycled tyres.

Most recently, the Eureka Prize winning scientist has turned her attention to the development of 'green ceramics', fabricated from recycled glass and second-hand clothes, which have a stylish, designer appearance and are being used in flooring, walling, and furniture applications.

More information: <https://www.royalsoc.org.au/blog/society-fellow-veena-sahajwalla-featured-on-abc-tv-australian-story>

Stewardship of Country from the Royal Societies of Australia

Stewardship of Country Webinars

Presented jointly by the Royal Societies of Australia and Inspiring Victoria

Venue: Live streaming on the [RSA Facebook page](#)

Enquiries: [via email](#)

Entry: No charge for [Facebook livestreaming](#). Paid [registration](#) is required for participation as a Zoom panellist (members eligible for a 50% discount).



Join the Royal Societies of Australia for a collaboration with Inspiring Victoria. Stewardship of Country is a series of three webinars that aim to generate a discussion of landscape and environmental stewardship bridging Indigenous, scientific, economic and social perspectives with supporting ideas for practical action and public good.

Stewardship of Country will be conducted online as Zoom webinars. Each event will be livestreamed on the [Societies' Facebook page](#) free of charge; paid [registration](#) is open to those who would like to submit questions and engage in the session as audience members. A promotional code to unlock a 50% discounted ticket will be emailed to all members.

Webinar 2: Resilience, Regeneration and Escaping the Iron Law of Business-As-Usual

Date: Wednesday 10 March 2021, 6:00–8:00 PM

This second webinar in the series focuses on untangling the knots in our system that frustrate beneficial change, from the fixed thinking enforced by our political culture to the slow-changing traditions of agricultural land management and business practices founded in European soils and ecosystems. We also look at how business, entrepreneurship and private property have an effective role to play in conserving and rebuilding ecosystems and biodiversity.

Webinar 3: From Past to Future — Australian Stewardship of Country

Date: Wednesday 24 March 2021, 6:00–8:00 PM

This final webinar in the series takes us to a broad view of the past to define our approach to the future. We range from the natural history of our continent's diverse landscapes and species, including the traditional approaches taken by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to support that diversity, to redefining our relationships with the living world to better rise to the challenges we must collectively face to secure our country's future.

Current Council and Office-Bearers

The current Council and office-bearers of the Society are:

Patron	Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC, Governor of New South Wales
President	Emeritus Professor Ian Sloan AO FRSN
Vice-Presidents	Emeritus Professor Brynn Hibbert AM FRSN (immediate past President) Dr Susan Pond AM FRSN Ms Judith Wheeldon AM FRSN
Secretary	Mr Bruce Ramage MRSN
Journal Editor	Emeritus Professor Robert Marks FRSN
Treasurer	Mr Richard Wilmott MRSN
Librarian	Mr John Hardie FRSN
Webmaster	Emeritus Professor Lindsay Botten FRSN
Councillors	Mr Ian Bryce MRSN Emeritus Professor Robert Clancy AM FRSN The Hon. Virginia Judge FRSN Mr Stuart Midgley MRSN Emeritus Professor Bruce Milthorpe FRSN Ms Nyrie Palmer MRSN Emerita Professor Christina Slade FRSN Adjunct Professor Robert Whittaker AM FRSN
Hunter Branch Representative	Professor George Willis FRSN FAA
Southern Highlands Branch Representative	Mr Mike Jonas MRSN

Editor: [Jason Antony](#)

