



THE BULLETIN 450

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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APRIL 2021

For Your Diary

- 07 APR

[154th AGM, 1292nd OGM and Open Lecture](#)

- 15 APR

[Ideas@theHouse: April 2021](#)

- 05 MAY

Big, bad fires in NSW

154TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND
1292ND OGM AND OPEN LECTURE

**Antarctica, this ain't no mirage: the value of art in
disseminating scientific information**

Wednesday, 7 April 2021, 6:00 PM



Lea Kannar-Lichtenberger

See [page 4](#) for more information



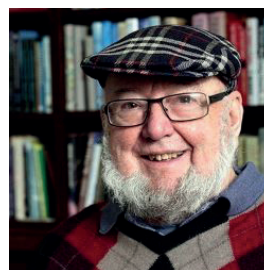
Patron of The Royal Society of NSW

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

IDEAS@THEHOUSE

Australia and the Dickens Boys

Thursday, 15 April 2021, 6:30 PM



Thomas Keneally AO DistFRSN

See [page 5](#) for more information

From the President

Now that the state of New South Wales is moving to end the COVID-19 restrictions (unless the situation has changed for the worse in the few days since I wrote these words!), many people are asking: when will we be able to return to face-to-face meetings and events? A common sentiment (which I share) is that online meetings are all very well, and certainly much better than nothing, but it will be exciting when we can again combine listening to a presentation with stimulating conversation, and perhaps a nibble and a drink. How civilised that will be!



For the Royal Society, the short answer is that we hope to be able to offer live events by July; however, the issue is surprisingly complex. The first point to be made is that online events such as the Society has presented during the past twelve months or more have a strong upside: they are available to our members to enjoy wherever they may live — the events are not just for those who can get to Sydney or Newcastle. Moreover, they are available not only at the time of the initial presentation, but also through [our YouTube channel](#) for enjoyment at any time. It seems amazing to me that our YouTube channel already has more than 50 videos, covering all talks at OGMs over the past year, all presentations from the 2019 and 2020 Forums of the Royal Society and the Four Academies, the inaugural Ideas@theHouse, and to top it off, events from our Hunter and Southern Highlands branches.

When we go back to face-to-face meetings, your Council believes we need to keep the best of the modern world, while we enjoy again the civilised touches. As a short-term aim, we want to be able at least to record all presentations at a technically satisfactory level, and make them available later on the YouTube channel. In the longer term we hope that all our events will be available online, simultaneously with the live event. I am told that it is technically challenging — and expensive — to get good quality sound and vision, both in perfect synchronisation, especially when we are not transmitting from our own premises. But we are working on the problem.

Along with other researchers, I am also looking forward to the resumption of international conferences, after it is again safe to travel. If you think it is challenging to concentrate on an hour-long Zoom talk, think of taking in a day-long conference on the other side of the world, when the ‘day’ is for us in truth night. More importantly, we miss out on those all-important corridor chats with international colleagues.

In spite of the difficulties, I am thankful for the technologies that have allowed us all to continue to work, study, collaborate and communicate through this time of pandemic. But let the good times roll again!

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

154th Annual General Meeting, including Council Election

Date: Wednesday 7 April 2021, 6:00 PM

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

Entry: No charge

All are welcome.



The formal business of the Annual General Meeting, including Council Elections, is being conducted via an electronic ballot. Members, Fellows and Distinguished Fellows, who are financial in 2021, will have received an email from the Society's Returning Officer, via the electronic balloting company ElectionBuddy Elections (invitations@mail.electionbuddy.com). This email includes a unique ballot link that provides a random, secret access key for each voter. Those who are unable to locate this in their inbox or junk mail folder must contact elections@royalsoc.org.au no later than **midday, 1 April** to be added to the voter list.

The ballot runs from **18 March 12:00 PM AEDT** to **6 April 12:00 PM AEST**.

Candidates

Office/Role	Candidate
President	Susan Pond AM FRSN FTSE FAHMS FRACP FAICD Ian Sloan AO FRSN FAA
Vice-President	Sean Brawley FRSN Judith Wheeldon AM FRSN
Secretary	Bruce Ramage MRSN
Treasurer	John Cameron MRSN CPA
Librarian	John Hardie FRSN FHEA FGS
Webmaster	Lindsay Botten FRSN FAIP FAustMS FOSA
Councillors (8 positions)	Katherine Belov AO FRSN Sean Brawley FRSN Robert Clancy AM FRSN FRACP FRCPA FRCPC David Cook AO FRSN FTSE Malte Ebach FRSN Philip Gale FRSN FRSC FRACI Pamela Griffith FRSN Donald Hector AM FRSN FIEAust FICChemE FAICD Davina Jackson FRSN FRSA FRGS LMISDE Virginia Judge FRSN Eric Knight FRSN Robert Marks FRSN Bruce Milthorpe FRSN FBSE Christina Slade FRSN

As there are more nominations than positions available, an election is required for President, Vice-President and eight Councillors.

Relevant documents

It is suggested that Members and Fellows read these documents in advance of opening their ballot:

- [Candidates' statements](#)
- The [Agenda](#) for this meeting
- [Minutes](#) of the previous AGM
- The [Annual Report from Council and Financial Statements for 2020](#)

Deadline

6 April, 12:00 PM AEST.

1292nd OGM and Open Lecture

Antarctica, this ain't no mirage: the value of art in disseminating scientific information

Lea Kannar-Lichtenberger

Contemporary Artist

Date: Wednesday 7 April 2021, 6:00 PM (preceded by the AGM)

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

Entry: No charge

Enquiries: [via email](#)

All are welcome.



In this talk Lea Kannar-Lichtenberger will explore just one of the islands she has investigated and, through her art, has raised awareness about the impact that our contemporary society is having on these often-idealised environments. Through the use of her time-based installations, photography and sculptures, along with her paintings and drawings, Lea works to make science more accessible to the community at large.

In January 2017 Lea travelled to Antarctica. This journey was unusual, not just because it was with a not-for-profit organisation, no room service or cabin attendants, but also as it was in many ways in the footsteps of the adventurer explorer. Her journey here resulted in artworks and exhibitions that have been seen across Australia in universities and art galleries, with her goal to bring the plight of the remote into the lives of the everyday person.

About the speaker

Lea Kannar-Lichtenberger is an Australian contemporary artist who disseminates her research and artistic vision, as an 'artist at large' by presenting her response and advocacy for environmental issues. Her investigations into evolution, contemporary society, and the impact of tourism on island environments has seen Lea do onsite examinations through immersive residencies or eco-tourism inquiries in: the South Shetland Islands specifically Deception Island (Antarctica) 2017; the Faroe Islands (The North Sea) 2015; the Galapagos Islands (Ecuador) 2014; Lord Howe Island (NSW Australia) 2014 & 2015 and; in 2021, an Artist at Sea residency with the Schmidt Ocean Institute. Lea creates artworks and installations that examine a window into the impact of the Anthropocene and contemporary consumerism on the viewed utopian destination. Lea has disseminated this research and her unique perspective through lectures, paper presentations and peer reviewed journals.

Lea Kannar-Lichtenberger has exhibited widely including solo exhibitions at Edith Cowan University (Western Australia) and Griffith University (Queensland), and group exhibitions including Sculpture by the Sea (Sydney and Cottesloe), the Adelaide Perry Prize for Drawing and the Waterhouse Natural Science Art Prize. Internationally her work has been shown at the Venice Summer Academy, Stunning Edge Exhibition Taiwan, the New York Hall of Science, Galway International Arts Festival Ireland, the SVA (the School of Visual Arts) at the Flatiron Building in Manhattan and the NYABF at the MOMA annexe PS1, New York.

Ideas@theHouse: April 2021

Australia and the Dickens Boys

Thomas Keneally AO DistFRSN

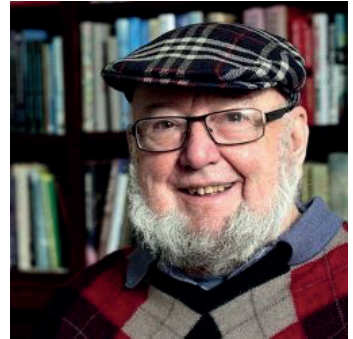
Date: Thursday, 15 April 2021, 6:30 PM AEST

Venue: [Zoom Webinar](#)

Entry: No charge

Enquiries: [via email](#)

Society Members and Fellows, and members of the public are welcome.



Australia was the British Hades where unpromising young men were sent to find the other half of their souls. In the curious second wave of transportees were the unsatisfactory sons of the gentry. We follow Plorn and his experiences in early Australia — Plorn being Edward Bulwer Lytton Dickens, scion of the well known Charles Dickens, who arrived in Melbourne in the late 1860s during the last years of his father's life. What happened to Plorn and why? What is the importance of historical fiction and how is it written — at least, how and why is it written by Thomas Keneally?

About the speaker

Thomas Keneally AO DistFRSN was born in Sydney in 1935 to Irish parents. He became a prolific writer with a deep knowledge of and reverence for history, especially of the working class and people oppressed because of ethnic or class background. Tom has been made a Literary Lion of the New York Public Library, an Officer of the Order of Australia, a National Living Treasure, and is now the subject of a 55 cent Australian stamp! Nationally and internationally, Tom Keneally has become a most significant figure in Australian literature and culture. It is no wonder he has been named an Australian Living Treasure. Tom lives with his wife, Judith, in Manly (Sydney) and is still writing.

About Ideas@theHouse

In late 2019, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC, Governor of New South Wales and Patron of the Royal Society of NSW, invited representatives of the Society to discuss how the Governor might open Government House to a series of public events based on important and/or influential ideas. Her Excellency's proposal was that the Royal Society of NSW and other organisations might devise a series of lectures, to be held at Government House, and known as Ideas@theHouse, on topics of our choice for an invited audience of our Members and Fellows, together with others to be invited by Her Excellency. This is the second in the Ideas@theHouse series, the first being held in May 2020.

Royal Society of New South Wales and Learned Academies Forum

by Susan Pond (Program Committee Chair)

Power and Peril of the Digital Age

Thursday, 4 November 2021. Government House, Sydney

The Society is delighted that the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences will join the other four Learned Academies — Humanities, Science, Social Sciences, and Technology and Engineering — to stage the Royal Society of NSW and Learned Academies Forum. The Forum assumes particular significance this year as one of the series of events planned to mark the 200-year history of the Society. Mark your calendars with the date: **Thursday, 4 November 2021.**

Our Patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC, Governor of New South Wales, will be our host at Government House in Sydney. In addition to the opportunity to attend in person, the Forum will be made available to a wider audience in NSW and beyond via live streaming.

In choosing ‘Power and Peril of the Digital Age’ as the theme, our goal is to consider digitisation and the use of data framed around the future life of a child born on the day of the Forum, 4 November 2021. This child will be born into a world of increasingly complex digital systems that hold great value and vulnerability.

Starting with a technological framing, the Forum will explore several major aspects which will impact the journey of that child as we approach 2030 and beyond. We will explore aspects of technology, health, defence and security in a digital age, the changing nature of industry as the world and society evolves, and Australia’s future as a successful and safe democracy in the digital world.

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 March 2021. We hope that each of you enjoys your membership and is able to participate in all that the Society has to offer.

Fellows

- Professor Susan Nan Coppersmith
- Dr Malte Christian Ebach
- Professor Rebecca Quentin Ivers
- Emeritus Professor Gisela Kaplan
- Ms Kim Coral McKay
- Ms Samantha Doreen Meers
- Professor Michael John Ryan
- Mr Peter Schouten
- Professor Catherine Margaret Stampfl
- Dr Margaret Louise Varady
- Mr Albert Yue Ling Wong

Members

- Dr Shane Keating
- Mr Rory McKenzie
- Mr Peter Valtchev
- Reverend Chris Yates

Associate Members

- Sajad Razavi Bazaz
- Matthew Donnelly
- Daniel Fox
- Philippa Specker

Report from Council

by Bruce Ramage (Secretary) and Lindsay Botten (Webmaster)

The most recent meeting of the Society's Council was held on Wednesday, 17 March 2021.

Diversity and Inclusion Policy

At that meeting, the review of the policy from the Executive Committee was accepted, and the updated [Diversity and Inclusion Policy](#) was approved.

Updating of Committee Terms of Reference

Arising from the new Strategic Plan for 2021–23 is a revised committee structure, designed to support the execution of initiatives associated with the plan. The new structure provides for the Awards Committee, the Bicentennial Committee, the Business Operations Committee, the Community Engagement Committee, the Events Committee, the Executive Committee, the Fellows and Members Assessment Committee, the Fundraising Committee, the Library and Assets Committee, the Publishing Committee, and the RSNSW and Learned Academies Forum Committee. The meeting approved updated Terms of Reference for each of these committees, which will be made available on the [Governance page](#) of the website early in the term of the new Council, from April 2021.

Annual Report

At its March meeting, Council adopted the Annual Report and the audited Financial Statements for 2020. These reports are required to be received by the membership during the current Council elections and are available on the [Governance page](#) of the website.

IT Upgrades

Council noted progress regarding improvements and updates to its back-end IT systems. The Society is now using Microsoft 365, with the Society benefiting from a not-for-profit licence granted by Microsoft. The migration of the royalsoc.org.au domain and the email service took place in February, while the work of the Council and its committees, which require a platform that better supports collaboration, internal communication and secure information management, will benefit from the progressive rollout of Teams, SharePoint and OneDrive in coming weeks and months. Also underway is the replacement of the Currinda membership management system by Membes, with the assistance of the Society's secretarial services provider, TAS. This will provide significant benefits for our membership, which will be described in coming reports as the implementation proceeds.

Annual Forum

Council endorsed the inclusion of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences to the existing four learned academy partners of the Annual Forum. The 2021 Forum is scheduled for 4 November with the theme 'Power and Peril of the Digital Age'.

Citation for Significant Service

The imminent retirement of Mr Richard Wilmott, who has been the Society's Treasurer since May 2015 was noted. In recognition of his significant contribution to the work of the Society, particularly in the management of its financial affairs over nearly six years, Council resolved to award Mr Wilmott a Royal Society of New South Wales Citation.

Report: Hunter Branch

by Eugenie Lumbers (Branch Secretary)

Unfortunately, the Hunter branch's first event for 2021, which was to be held on **23 March**, had to be cancelled because Newcastle airport was flooded and no air traffic was possible. This meant that Dr Alan Finkel could not get to Newcastle to deliver his lecture which was to be co-hosted with the University of Newcastle. The lecture was to have been delivered in the University's Great Hall. It would have been the first face-to-face meeting of the Hunter branch since the advent of the pandemic. The event has, however, only been postponed; hopefully, we will be hosting it in the near future.

On **31 March**, the Hunter branch is holding its first AGM. The agenda has been circulated to eligible members of the Royal Society for New South Wales, and the meeting will be held by face-to-face and via Zoom. The agenda includes the Chairman's report on the activities of the Hunter branch during 2020, events planned for the Hunter branch in 2021, notification of members of the proposal to award a Hunter medal, and election of Hunter branch committee members for 2021.

First Annual General Meeting (Hunter Branch)

Date: Wednesday 31 March 2021, 5:00 PM

Venue: Collaborative Teal room, X201, NUSpace, University of Newcastle

Note: Attendee limitations apply due to COVID-19 restrictions



Agenda

Welcome, acknowledgement of country and diversity statement.

1. Chair's report concerning the activities of the Hunter Branch of the Royal Society of New South Wales during 2020
2. Events planned for the Hunter Branch in 2021
3. Finance report by the Treasurer
4. The Hunter Medal
 - a. Proposal and description of the medal and its award
 - b. Funding
 - c. Potential nominations for the award.
5. Election of the Hunter Branch Committee for 2021–2022 (contact eugenie.lumbers@gmail.com for any queries)
6. Questions and answers.

Southern Highlands March Lecture

The general development of the Sydney Basin Coast and its recent history since the last ice age

Dr Howard Brady

Date: Thursday 18 March 2021, 6:30 PM

Venue: RSL Mittagong, Carrington Room (face-to-face)



Summary

In 2009/2010 Howard Brady examined reports prepared for the Shoalhaven City Council by the Snowy Mountains Engineering Consultants (SMEC). SMEC was asked to examine the effects of a 90cm sea-level rise on Shoalhaven area properties sited either on headland cliffs or on dune systems adjacent to beaches. His reports, very critical of the SMEC reports, were based on his own field work, on aerial photographs of the Shoalhaven Coast taken since WW II, and also on geological studies by scientists at New England University and the University of Wollongong. Dr Brady's talk covered the general development of the Sydney Basin Coast and its recent history since the last ice age.

About the speaker

Dr Howard Brady was involved in Antarctic geological research during 1974–1982 and he was also US Navy catholic chaplain to McMurdo and South Pole Stations for the 1974 and 1975 summer seasons. In 2011, Howard was awarded the Alumnus Scientist of the Year Award by Northern Illinois University for his geological contributions to Antarctic Research. Howard is a member of the Australian Academy of Forensic Sciences and an Emeritus Member of the Explorers Club of New York. Dr Brady has Diplomas in Philosophy and Theology, and two postgraduate degrees in Antarctic science. He is currently an accredited reviewer for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) for its forthcoming report due in 2021.

The event

Despite the heavy rain, 60 attendees were very appreciative to be back for a face-to-face lecture. The Mittagong RSL club invited us to use the lovely Carrington Room which allowed excellent social distancing and good technical support. Dinner with the speaker followed.



Report: Events Committee

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

On 3 February, the 1290th OGM included the [Annual Jak Kelly Award and Scholarship winner presentations](#). Emeritus Professor Robert Clancy ably conducted a lively Q&A. The presenters were: 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).

17 February saw the [Annual Meeting of the Four Societies 2021](#) — 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 and online. Ms Lenka Kollar, the co-founder of Helixos, spoke of ‘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](#)’.

On 24 February, The Royal Societies of Australia and Inspiring Australia Victoria jointly hosted a zoom webinar 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 Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation.

On 3 March, Professor Ian Hickie addressed the Society as part of the 1291st OGM on the topic ‘[What are the best options for growing Australia’s mental health through the COVID-19 recovery?](#)’.

On 10 March, the second of the joint Royal Societies of Australia and Inspiring Australia Victoria ‘Stewardship of Country’ webinars, titled ‘[Resilience, recognition and escaping the iron law of business-as-usual](#)’, was presented. Presentations were given by Dr Nicholas Gruen, CEO, Lateral Economics (Keynote) Ms Carolyn Hall, The Muldoon Institute Ms Jody Brown, La Trobe Station and Mr Nigel Sharp, Odonata.

On 18 March, Dr Howard Brady addressed the Southern Highlands Branch on the topic of ‘[Sea level change and erosion on the Shoalhaven Coast — past and future](#)’ in a face-to-face meeting in Mittagong.

Dr Alan Finkel AO FTSE FAA, the former Chief Scientist of Australia, was due to speak on the matter of ‘[...readying our region for low emissions technology](#)’ at a joint meeting of the University of Newcastle and Royal Society of NSW on 23 March. Due to the extreme weather at the time, which precluded the speaker being able to travel to Newcastle, the event has had to be postponed to a date to be determined.

(continued)

Report: Events Committee (continued)

Finally, on **24 March**, the third and final webinar of this series, titled '[From Past to Future — Australian Stewardship of Country](#)' featured presentations from Dr Anne Poelina, Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council and University of Notre Dame (Keynote); 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 at [Upcoming Events](#).

Dr McCracken awarded COSPAR Space Science Award

Wonderful news from the Southern Highlands branch: Dr Ken McCracken, one of the Highlands' much-loved residents, was awarded the 'COSPAR Space Science Award for outstanding contributions to space science'. COSPAR is the international body that coordinates and promotes science research worldwide, and this is their most senior award. As part of the award, 'Minor Planet (8258) McCracken' has been named in his honour.

For more information, visit <https://www.cospar2020.org/cospar2020-awards>.



The Society and social media

The Society's presence on social media platforms is slowly but surely growing. Our [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#) continue to attract and engage followers and viewers, and we continue to build a repository of online events conducted recently on YouTube.

The icons on the right will take the reader to the platforms' respective pages, from where they can follow and subscribe to the Society, and be notified of new content.



Society Fellow Mark Scott named as next University of Sydney VC

The Council of the Royal Society of NSW warmly congratulates one of its Fellows, **Mark Scott AO FRSN**, on being named as the next Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sydney.

Mr Scott has had a distinguished career in both the public and the private sectors. Since 2016, he has served as Secretary of the NSW Department of Education. Prior to that, from 2006 to 2016, he was the Managing Director of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. Before joining the ABC, he held a number of senior editorial roles within the Australian media, including Editor-in-Chief of *The Sydney Morning Herald* and Group Editorial Director of Fairfax Media.

He commences a five-year term on 19 July 2021 and will be one of only two Vice-Chancellors in Australia with a background outside academia.

To read further, please consult the articles on the [University of Sydney website](#) and the [Sydney Morning Herald](#).



JProcRSNSW, Vol. 153, Part 2, December 2020

After some production delays, the [December 2020 issue of the Journal & Proceedings of the Royal Society of New South Wales](#) is now on-line; hard copies will be mailed out soon. The issue includes: a commissioned paper on the history of blue pigments in the fine arts; submitted papers; *Point Counterpoint* — a new section presenting arguments by eminent scientists on a currently contentious topic, namely the role for natural gas in the transition to a low-carbon, energy-intensive future; an obituary for Emeritus Professor Richard Stanton DistFRSN; abstracts of PhD student theses; and summaries of the event programs of the Society in Sydney and in the Hunter and Southern Highlands Branches.



Journal and Proceedings

of the

Royal Society
of
New South Wales

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

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
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
Thursday, 15 April 6:30 PM AEST	Ideas@theHouse: 'Australia and the Dickens Boys' Thomas Keneally AO DistFRSN
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
Thursday, 15 July 6:30 PM AEST	(Southern Highlands) Neutron scattering and the WOMBAT project Dr Helen Maynard-Casely

(continued overleaf)

List of proposed events for 2021 (continued)

Date	Event
Thursday, 22 July 6:30 PM AEST	Ideas@theHouse: 'Music as a Superfood: How music can help us live longer, sleep better, calm down, find flow, and feel happier' Greta J. Bradman
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 FAAAS FEAAI Sarah Court, Commissioner Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
Date 4 November 9:00 AM–4:30 PM AEDT	Royal Society of NSW and Learned Academies Annual Forum Venue: Government House, Sydney, Live Streaming and subsequent availability on YouTube Topic: Power and Peril of the Digital Age
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

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 FAA
Vice-Presidents	Emeritus Professor Brynn Hibbert AM FRSN (immediate past President) Dr Susan Pond AM FRSN FTSE FAHMS 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](#)

