



# **THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

**ABN 76 470 896 415**

***Enriching lives through knowledge and inquiry since 1821***

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF COUNCIL**

**AND**

**ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2021**

## ABOUT THE SOCIETY

The Society is the oldest learned society in the Southern Hemisphere, tracing its origin to the *Philosophical Society of Australasia*, founded in Sydney in 1821. It became *the Royal Society of New South Wales* by Royal Assent in 1866 and was incorporated by an Act of the New South Wales Parliament in 1881. The Society's long-standing purpose is to *enrich lives through knowledge and inquiry*. It does so by mobilising the multidisciplinary expertise of its members to provide authentic and authoritative information in all dimensions of learning, facilitating the exchange of information and ideas amongst the Members and Fellows of the Society, and disseminating knowledge to the people of New South Wales and beyond.

The Society addresses national and global challenges, facilitates debate on contentious issues, and disseminates the results of research and inquiry through public events and meetings, and through traditional and online publications. It also recognises and celebrates excellence through its awards program and engages with other learned societies within Australia and internationally.

## PATRON

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

## COUNCIL

The members of the Council of the Society were elected at the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 7 April 2021. The names of the Councillors throughout the year and at the date of this report unless stated otherwise are:

President	*Emeritus Professor Ian Sloan AO FRSN FAA (until 7 April 2021)
Immediate Past President	*Dr Susan Pond AM FRSN FTSE (from 7 April 2021) *Emeritus Professor Ian Sloan AO FRSN FAA (from 7 April 2021)
Vice Presidents	*Emeritus Professor D Brynn Hibbert AM FRSN (until 7 April 2021) *Dr Susan Pond AM FRSN FTSE (until 7 April 2021) *Ms Judith Wheeldon AM FRSN
Secretary	*Mr Bruce Ramage MRSN
Treasurer	*Mr Richard Wilmott MRSN (until 7 April 2021) *Mr John Cameron (from 7 April 2021)
Librarian	Mr John Hardie AM FRSN
Webmaster	*Emeritus Professor Lindsay Botten FRSN
Councillors	Professor Katherine Belov AO FRSN (from 7 April 2021) Mr Ian Bryce MRSN (until 7 April 2021) Emeritus Professor Robert Clancy AM FRSN (until 7 April 2021) Ms Pamela Griffith FRSN (from 7 April 2021) Dr Donald Hector AM FRSN (from 7 April 2021) Dr Davina Jackson FRSN (from 7 April 2021) The Honourable Virginia Judge FRSN (until 30 September 2021) Professor Eric Knight FRSN (from 7 April 2021) Emeritus Professor Robert Marks FRSN Mr Stuart Midgley MRSN (until 7 April 2021) Emeritus Professor Bruce Milthorpe FRSN (until 7 April 2021)

Dr Jessica Milner Davis (from 19 January 2022)  
Ms Nyrie Palmer MRSN (until 7 April 2021)  
Emeritus Professor Christina Slade FRSN  
Adjunct Professor Robert Whittaker AM FRSN  
(until 7 April 2021)

Branch representatives

Southern Highlands  
Hunter Branch

Mr Michael Jonas MRSN  
Professor George Willis FRSN

\*Member of the Executive Committee to or from the date indicated, where applicable.

The Council met six times during the reporting period. All meetings were held virtually using Zoom online meeting technology, while meetings of Council committees were held at various locations but mostly using Zoom or Microsoft Teams. All Council committees were active during the reporting period.

## **OFFICE LOCATION AND SERVICES**

The Society's part-time Executive Officer, Ms Wendy Enevoldsen, added great value to the Society's policy and procedural work during the year.

The Society has premises at 121 Darlington Road, Darlington. The Society is most grateful to the University of Sydney for making this accommodation available to the Society. The Society also uses facilities provided by the State Library of New South Wales, for which it is very appreciative.

Professional services are provided under contract by The Association Specialists (TAS), 33-35 Atchison Street, Crows Nest, NSW.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

As Emeritus Professor Ian Sloan AO FRSN noted in his 2020 President's Report, the COVID-19 pandemic had caused significant disruption that year across our whole community and the Society itself. Nonetheless, the Society responded quickly by introducing many innovations to stage an active program in line with its mission to enrich lives through knowledge and inquiry. I acknowledge and thank Ian for his leadership.

I was privileged to assume the role of President in April 2021, joined by very capable Office Bearers and Council Members, Committees and Branches. I salute all of them for supporting our collective ambition to achieve a step change in energy and influence of the Society as an independent, authoritative voice in the community.

During 2021, the Society began to celebrate its past 200 years with plans to open our Exhibition, NEXUS, in the State Library of NSW on 25 June. The sudden COVID-19 lockdown of Greater Sydney forced the Library to close its doors at 5 pm that very day - for a protracted period. The Exhibition, which finally opened in November, has been extended until 30 June 2022. I encourage members who could not attend to make time to visit NEXUS during the next three months. Opening hours are updated regularly on our [website](#). Some of you attended the official launch of NEXUS on 10 December along with eight past Presidents of the Society, several Distinguished Fellows, Fellows, Members, and representatives of kindred organisations. This was a successful, convivial occasion, and special because it is the first time since the 1920s conversaciones that the Society has been able to display some of its unique collection.

At the core of the Society is its commitment to the recognition and support of the finest minds and ideas in NSW. One way by which we demonstrate this commitment is through our prestigious Awards, some of which date back to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. As the Society has grown and diversified, it has added awards for younger, rising stars, and for excellence in a range of fields wider than the natural sciences. Our 2021 winners embody this excellence.

The Society also values the integration of the sciences and humanities to create a flourishing community. During 2021, the Society elected more than 80 new Fellows and 30 Members or Associate Members. Pleasingly, we are welcoming more female and a younger more diverse group of members than ever before.

Not being able to welcome our new members in person during the year, our Community Engagement Committee, introduced Meet the Fellows - 3 Minute Videos. These add the colour and depth to the Society's members only possible before through face-to-face events. The Society extended its reach through the establishment of the Western NSW Branch of the Society in September. The Branch held its inaugural Lecture on 19 October online in the presence of our patron and a large audience. The recording of the Lecture *With the Falling of the Dusk*, delivered by Stan Grant, highly respected journalist and Vice Chancellor's Chair of Australian-Indigenous Belonging, Charles Sturt University, is available on the Society's YouTube channel. My sincere thanks to everyone involved in the foundation and continued growth of our new Branch.

The Society's active and diverse events program in Sydney and regional NSW, at least two presentations each month, attracted good audiences. They also built up a valuable portfolio of more than twenty YouTube video recordings for later viewing. I encourage you to review this excellent set of presentations by experts from a wide variety of fields that span the sciences and humanities.

The RSNSW + Learned Academies Forum for 2021, *Power & Peril of the Digital Age*, has its own section in this Annual Report. Here, I thank the five national Learned Academies for partnering with the Society to make the Forum such a success as it explored the complexity of the life of a child born into a digital world. The Society's Office Bearers and Committee and Branch Chair reports highlight many other advances of the Society during the year.

In September the Society was saddened to learn of the death of past President Mr Edrich Chaffer, a life-long supporter and advocate of the Society.

The RSNSW is positioned to emerge strongly from the aftermath of the pandemic. I look forward to working with you during 2022 to build a vibrant and cohesive Society of the future, an extraordinary Society dedicated to the love of knowledge and the spirit of questioning everything.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

In April 2021, Richard Wilmott stepped down from the role of Treasurer after six years in the role. Council extends its sincere thanks for his service and recognises the considerable effort in guiding the Society through a period of financial constraint.

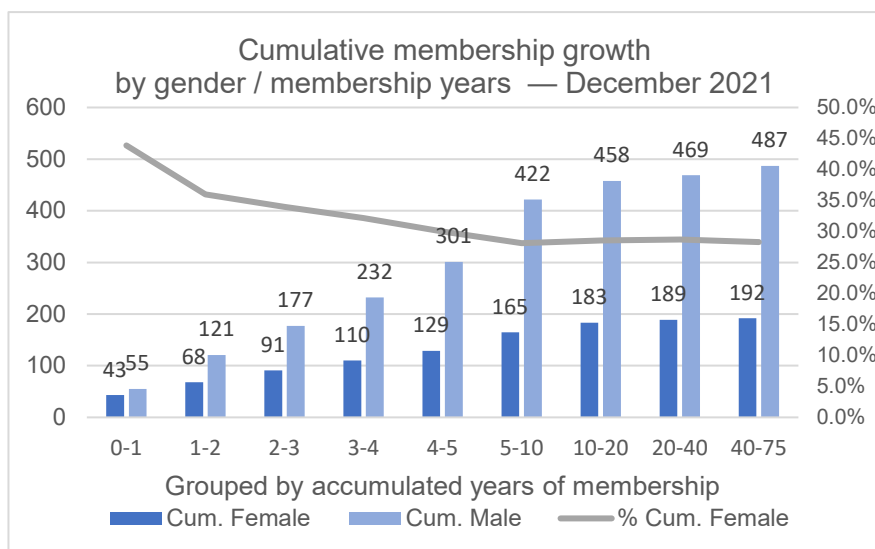
The audited accounts for the 12 months to 31 December 2021 record an operating surplus of \$35,998 compared to an operating deficit of \$26,342 in the previous year. The turnaround included an \$11,000 increase in membership fees; a \$20,000 bequest received from the estate of a former member; and, the first six months' income of a new sponsorship by the Office of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer (total \$324,000 over three years) "to actively promote activities and knowledge sharing of science and innovation in NSW".

As of 31 December 2021, the net cash assets of the Society, excluding 2022 membership fees and other income received in advance, stood at \$256,000, an increase of \$50,000 from the equivalent figure for December 2020. The budget for 2022 anticipates building on the improved 2021 result to further grow reserves.

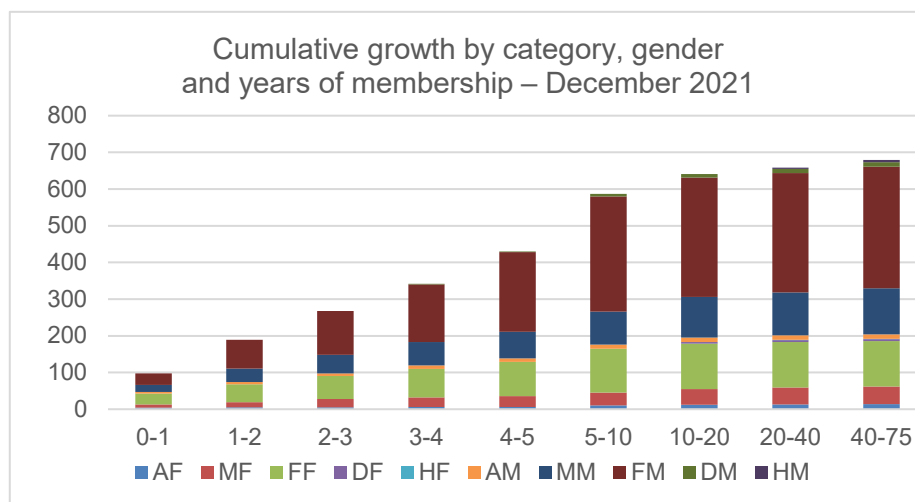
## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

In line with the Society's values and principles the Council, in January 2020, adopted its initial Diversity and Inclusion Policy. This policy is considered by Council annually, and has been updated most recently in January 2021, with progress being reported to both Council and the membership.

The following bar graph displays the cumulative growth in membership broken down by gender and years of membership. The line graph (with scale on the right) displays the proportion of female members of the Society — with the uptick on the left showing the positive effect of strategies to improve the gender balance.



The graph immediately below displays growth in the membership, classified according to the duration of membership and membership category XY, where  $x \in \{A, M, F, D, H\}$  refers to Associate Membership, Full Membership, Fellowship, Distinguished Fellowship, and Honorary/Life Membership, and  $y \in \{F, M\}$  refers to the gender.



## ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS

During the past two years, coinciding with the pandemic, the Society's way of doing business has changed profoundly, both internally and externally, and its IT systems have undergone a generational upgrade. For this reason, this section of the report, previously titled "the Website" or "Webmaster's Report", is now more appropriately retitled as online communications.

The website continues to be at the heart of the Society's public communications and outreach, providing the primary source of information about the Society, its activities, events, news, providing the repository of the Journal and the Bulletin, and curating the online recordings of Society events housed on our YouTube channel. During 2021, 38 event notices and 45 news items were posted, with these flowing through into the monthly Bulletin. Our Facebook page now has 555 followers and 491 likes, growing respectively by 92 followers and 79 page likes in 2021. A major redevelopment of the website is planned for 2022, with a budget approved for this work.

Our YouTube channel ([youtube.com/royalsocnsw](https://youtube.com/royalsocnsw)), which contains the repository of recordings of the Society's events program (OGMs, some Branch events, the annual Forums, and special events such as the Ideas@theHouse series) and other initiatives (e.g., Meet the Fellows) continues to grow in strength. After two years, the channel has 147 subscribers and 93 published videos online, which have received 14,600 viewings over its lifetime. Of these, 26 videos have had more than 100 viewings, 14 with more than 200 viewings, 9 with more than 300 viewings, 4 with more than 400 viewings, and 1 with over 1,000 viewings. During 2021, some 41 videos were edited and added to this repository — 17 associated with events (10 OGMs, 3 Branch events, two Ideas@theHouse, and two "Our Energy Futures" special events), 11 videos from the "Meet the Fellows" initiative, and 13 videos for the 2021 RSNSW and Learned Academies Forum ("Power and Peril of the Digital Age").

Early in 2021, in preparation for the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society, considerable work was devoted to developing a fresh image for the Society that highlighted the bicentenary. This included the development of new templates for letterheads, presentation slides, meeting agenda and minutes papers, YouTube cover slides, email footers and more. These have been in use throughout 2021 and into 2022.

Substantial AV support was provided to the organisers of the Society's NEXUS exhibition. This included photographing of artefacts for use in the exhibition and the videography and post-production of recordings of nine current and former Presidents of the Society for the "President's Reflections" video that features in NEXUS.

A major focus of work in 2021 has been the implementation of a much-needed generational change in the Society's IT support infrastructure—specifically the replacement of the back-end IT services for the Society and the adoption of a new membership management system, with the assistance of the Society's secretariat service, TAS. Until 2021, the back-end IT services available to the Society were rudimentary, with the Society relying on a basic email service provided from the web server, and a basic Dropbox service that facilitated committee work and records-keeping from a WordPress add-on to the website.

Commencing in early 2021, the Society commenced its transition to Microsoft 365, facilitated by a not-for-profit licence provided at no cost by Microsoft. The adoption of Microsoft 365, a cloud-based service, provides the Society with the industry-standard Outlook email service, the widely used Teams and SharePoint collaboration tools to facilitate the work of its committees, and OneDrive storage for the maintenance of document records, images, and videos. The task commenced in February with the migration of the Society's [royalsoc.org.au](https://royalsoc.org.au)

domain to the “royalsoc” organisation within Microsoft, facilitated by our IT services provider, Ezerus. This was followed immediately by the migration of email services from our web server to Microsoft Outlook. During the remainder of 2021, work has proceeded to establish SharePoint and Teams sites to service the work of Council and its committees. An intranet capability to provide member services is also in prototype development.

The second major task was the replacement of the Currinda membership management system, used by the Society for many years, by the more flexible and more web friendly Membes system that provides a wider range of services to members and superior membership management functionality for the Society. In May, the membership data held in Currinda, augmented by updates and the correction of errors found in the membership records of Fellows (when generating the biographical pages for the website), was migrated to Membes, with all membership management taking place in Membes thereafter.

Subdomains to provide access to Membes services from within our royalsoc.org.au domain were implemented by Ezerus and Membes at that time. Thereafter, work commenced on the task of validating and checking the quality of the 600+ member records held in the database. This task revealed years of neglect in managing the membership data, exemplified by missing information and information that was incorrectly coded (e.g., members not assigned correctly to branches, missing or incorrect gender information, etc.) and biographical data in a raw form that was unsuited to any further downstream use.

After substantial work, including development of Python codes to identify data anomalies and errors, the membership data is now in a good state and able to be used to produce accurate reports on membership (particularly for branches and branch elections) and statistics to inform the Society’s decision making about growth, attrition, diversity and other metrics. Simultaneously, the collection of website biographical records for Fellows was completed.

Following this work came the task of implementing online access to the Membes membership services. This work is now effectively complete with online membership applications (replacing the former pdf/paper forms) now implemented, online membership subscription renewals underway, online enrolment for Society events (including payment facilities) now in place, and an online shop established for the purchase of Society merchandise.

Another important aspect of the Society’s transition to an online existence has been the adoption of electronic balloting. The Council elections for 2021 were again conducted using the Election Buddy system, this time under the new rules introduced in December 2019. The participation rate was particularly pleasing with 260 of 584 eligible members casting a vote — some 45% of eligible voters. This compares with a return rate of 32% in 2020, the first year in which electronic balloting was used, and is three times the participation rate of earlier years when paper-based ballots were conducted at face-to-face Annual General Meetings.

With a gradual return to normal after two years of disruption due to the pandemic, the Society is planning a return to face-to-face events in 2022. Mindful, however, of the importance of maintaining a strong online presence, arrangements have been made to record the majority if not all the Sydney-based events, with Corporate Technology Services AV being contracted for this work. This will provide offline access to the Sydney events program for branch members while ensuring that the momentum of our YouTube channel is maintained.

## EVENTS

Events Committee membership:

Emeritus Professor Christina Slade (Chair)  
Dr Elizabeth Deane (Secretary)  
Emeritus Professor Lindsay Botten (Webmaster)  
Stuart Midgley (Zoom master)  
Professor Lewis Bizo  
Emeritus Professor Robert Clancy  
Mr Michael Jonas (Southern Highlands Branch)  
Dr David Nash (Western NSW Branch)  
Dr Adi Patterson  
Professor Steven Weller (Hunter Branch following the withdrawal of Emerita Professor Eugenie Lumbers)  
Ms Judith Wheeldon

The Events Committee oversees events held by the Royal Society of NSW. It takes responsibility for organising the addresses that follow the monthly general meetings and for coordinating the named lectures, the Poggendorff, Pollock and Clarke lectures, generally in collaboration with the University where the recipient is based. The Vice-President of the Society, Judith Wheeldon, is responsible for Ideas@theHouse. The Events Committee also organises Science Week and other lectures outside the OGM cycle.

The Events Committee also brings together representatives of the Hunter, Southern Highlands and Western NSW branches, to ensure events are publicised and where possible recorded. Society events such as the Annual Forum, held at Government House in November in association with the learned Academies, together with a range of jointly sponsored events are organised by independent groups. The Events Committee is working with the Community Engagement Committee to 'join the dots' of the Society's offerings, and to investigate excursions when circumstances permit.

### Ordinary General Meetings and Open Lectures 2021

The Society held a full program of ten monthly open lectures as part of its Ordinary General Meetings and Annual General Meeting in 2021. All meetings were held virtually using Zoom technology, with their recording being available on the Society's YouTube channel.

OGM/Date	Speaker	Title
1290 <sup>th</sup> OGM 3 February zoom	Jak Kelly Award and RSNSW Scholarship Winner Presentations Mr Matthew Donnelly — Jak Kelly Award Winner  Mr Sajad Razavi Bazaz Mr Daniel Fox Ms Phillipa Specker	Controlling how electrons move in silicon at the atomic scale  Presentations by the 2020 Royal Society of NSW Scholarship recipients
1291 <sup>st</sup> OGM 3 March Zoom webinar	Professor Ian Hickie AM FRSN FASSA FAHMS	What are the best options for growing Australia's mental health through the COVID-19 recovery?
154 <sup>th</sup> AGM & 1292 <sup>nd</sup> OGM 7 April	Lea Kannar- Lichtenberger	Antarctica, this ain't no mirage: the value of art in disseminating scientific information



<b>OGM/Date</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Title</b>
1293 <sup>rd</sup> OGM 5 May 5 Zoom webinar	Emerita Professor Mary O’Kane AC FRSN FTSE Hon FIEAust	Big, Bad Fires in NSW
1294 <sup>th</sup> OGM 2 June Zoom webinar	Professor Richard Kingsford FRSN	Murray-Darling Basin turmoil: past, present and future
1295 <sup>th</sup> OGM 7 July Zoom webinar	Dr Erik Aslaksen FRSN	Society as an information-processing system, and the influence of the media
1296 <sup>th</sup> OGM 4 August Zoom webinar	Professor Alison Bashford FRSN FAHA FBA FRHistS	An intimate history of evolution: From genesis to genetic with a scientific dynasty
1297 <sup>th</sup> OGM 1 September Zoom webinar	Dr Jessica Milner Davis FRSN	Taking humour and laughter seriously: Exploring the multi-disciplinary field of humour studies
1298 <sup>th</sup> OGM 6 October Zoom webinar	Scientia Professor Toby Walsh FAA FACM FAAAS	Privacy and identity in an AI world
1299 <sup>th</sup> OGM 1 December Zoom webinar	Scientia Professor Richard Bryant, AC FASSA FAA FAHMS — James Cook Medal Winner 2020	Managing psychological distress in times of stress: handling the stress of COVID-19 and all that

The named lectures for 2020, to be held at the home universities of the awardee, have been delayed until 2022.

### **Ideas@theHouse**

Two Ideas@theHouse lectures took place in 2021 and were delivered by Zoom webinar.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Topic</b>
15 April Zoom Webinar	Thomas Kenneally AO, DistFRSN	Australia and the Dickens Boys
7 July Zoom webinar	Greta Bradman	Music as a Superfood: <i>How music can help us live longer, sleep better, calm down, find flow, and feel happier</i>

### **RSNSW and Learned Academies Annual Forum**

Thursday & Friday 4 & 5 November 9.00am - 12.30pm AEDT	Royal Society of NSW and Learned Academies Annual Forum Venue: Live Streaming Topic: Power and Peril of the Digital Age
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### **Other Lectures**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Topic</b>
February 17 Annual Meeting of the Four Societies Engineers Australia and online	Ms Lenka Kollar Co- founder Helixos	UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Role of Nuclear Technology

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Topic</b>
February 24 Stewardship of Country from the Royal Societies of Australia Facebook livestreaming	Adjunct Associate Professor Mary Graham (Keynote) Professor Peter Bridgewater ANU Mr David Pollock Wooleen Station Mr Justin O'Brien, Dr Chris Brady and Mr Peter Christopherson Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation	Webinar 1: The Common Ground — A Convergence of Traditions
March 10 Stewardship of Country from the Royal Societies of Australia Facebook livestreaming	Nicholas Gruen, CEO, Lateral Economics (Keynote) Ms Carolyn Hall, The Mulloon Institute Ms Jody Brown, La Trobe Station Mr Nigel Sharp, Odonata.	Webinar 2: Stewardship of Country: Resilience, regeneration and escaping the iron law of business-as-usual”
March 24 Stewardship of Country from the Royal Societies of Australia Facebook livestreaming	Dr Anne Poelina, Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council (Keynote) Professor Kingsley Dixon, Curtin University Dr Michelle Maloney, Australian Earth Laws Alliance, Griffith University Mr Barney Foran, Charles Stuart University.	Webinar 3: Stewardship of Country: From Past to Future – Australian Stewardship of Country
August 25 Our Energy Future: The Unrecognised Opportunity in Glasgow — In Two Acts  Zoom Webinar	Dr Saul Griffith Dr Adi Patterson FRSN	Part 1: Context and Castles
September 15 Our Energy Future: The Unrecognised Opportunity in Glasgow — In Two Acts Zoom Webinar	Dr Saul Griffith Dr Adi Patterson FRSN	Part 2: Crushed Rocks

The Royal Society of NSW held twenty separate events online over 2021, not including those held at the Hunter and Southern Highlands Branches. In the circumstances this is a real achievement, and thanks must go to all those involved in the Events Committee, in particular Emeritus Professor Lindsay Botten, the webmaster, and Dr Elizabeth Deane for their assistance. Stuart Midgley, our zoom master, found he had taken on an enormous task and we are grateful for his steady hand.

## **ROYAL SOCIETY OF NSW AND LEARNED ACADEMIES ANNUAL FORUM**

Committee Membership:

Dr Susan Pond (Chair)  
Emeritus Professor Robin King (Secretary)  
Emeritus Professor Lindsay Botten (AV/IT/Webmaster)  
Professor Anne Castles (Program Committee)  
Professor Tony Cunningham (Program Committee)  
Emeritus Professor Annabelle Duncan (Program Committee)  
Professor Toby Walsh (Program Committee)  
Professor Richard Waterhouse (Program Committee)

The Royal Society of New South Wales and Learned Academies Forum, held entirely online in 2021 because of COVID-19 restrictions, was dedicated to the theme “Power and Peril of the Digital Age. This year we were joined by the now fifth Learned Academy, the Academy of Health and Medical Sciences.

The Forum was opened by our patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC. The outstanding line up of speakers framed their observations around the life of a child born on the first day of the Forum and entering the world already with a digital footprint from data collected before and during pregnancy. Beginning with a technological framing, speakers explored many major developments that will impact the journey of that child as it approaches 2030, 2050 and beyond.

Speakers explored aspects of health, defence and security in a digital age, and the changing nature of industry as the world and society evolve. Issues related to ethics, privacy and trust will need to be handled well to avoid a dystopian future. Access to digital technologies and digital literacy will be vital to avoid a digital dark age and inequalities for smaller, poorer, or more isolated communities. A representative from each Academy participated in the final session by summarising the areas of importance and further work for their respective Academy.

This virtual, free of charge event held over two mornings, 4+5 November 2021, attracted almost 400 unique registrants and supported a concurrent online attendance of around 200 people. Through the State Library of NSW, five libraries across the State streamed the live feed to a local audience. The Moderator for the day ensured good audience participation through the Q&A sessions.

The recordings of each Session of the Forum are available on the Society’s YouTube channel. Transcriptions of the audio, prepared using artificial intelligence, will form the basis for papers in the Society’s June 2022 *Journal and Proceedings*.

## **FELLOWS AND MEMBERS**

Fellows and Members Assessment Committee membership:

Emeritus Professor D Brynn Hibbert (Chair)  
Dr Erik Aslaksen (Secretary)  
Emeritus Professor Peter Baume  
Ms Pamela Griffith  
Dr Donald Hector  
Emeritus Professor Heinrich Hora  
Professor Rebecca Ivers  
Emeritus Professor Ian Sloan

Since the 2021 Annual General Meeting, the Fellows and Members Assessment Committee conducted six meetings, and recommended 87 Fellowships to the Council, of which 38 (44 %) were women. The names of new Fellows elected in 2021 will be published in the NSW Government Gazette in early 2022.

## **AWARDS**

Awards Committee membership:

Professor Philip Gale (Chair)  
Dr Jessica Milner Davis (Secretary)  
Professor Paul Griffiths  
Professor Annabelle Duncan  
Distinguished Professor Belinda Medlyn  
Emerita Scientia Professor Eugenie Lumbers

For the 2021 round of awards, the Committee, with the expert assistance of the Society's Webmaster and Secretary, revised and updated the descriptors for all Awards on the Society's website and developed accompanying nomination forms to assist in ensuring all relevant data for applicants was collected. It also began to prepare advice to Council on a possible rationalisation of existing awards and prizes to reflect the Society's mandate in contemporary times. To this purpose, the Secretary commenced significant historical research into the major awards and their terms of bequest etc.

As is customary, Deans of Science and Engineering and other experts at ACT and NSW universities were invited to form an Advisory Panel to assist the Committee in ranking candidates for awards and prizes. This group met by Zoom on 5 November 2021 and provided advice on the merits of each application for the relevant awards. Their advice was considered by the Awards Committee, who formed final recommendations to Council, which were considered at its November 2021 meeting. Some additional considerations were requested by the Council and the recommendations of the Awards Committee were reconsidered subsequently.

The Society's Patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC, presented the Society's Awards for 2019, 2020 and 2021 at a ceremony in Government House Sydney on Wednesday 23 February 2022.

Below are listed the Society's Awards for 2021. Additional detail about the awards and their recipients is available at: <https://www.royalsoc.org.au/awards/recent-winners>

The James Cook Medal: Scientia Professor Rose Amal AC FRSN, UNSW Sydney  
Edgeworth David Medal: Dr Arnold Lining Ju, University of Sydney

### **Disciplinary awards**

Clarke Medal and Lecture: Distinguished Professor Emeritus Robert John Aitken FRSN, University of Newcastle

History and Philosophy of Science Medal: Professor Dean Rickles, University of Sydney

Pollock Memorial Lectureship: Professor Geraint Lewis FRSN FLSW, University of Sydney

Warren Prize: Dr Noushin Nasiri, Macquarie University

Poggendorff Lectureship: Professor Richard Trethowan, University of Sydney  
The Jak Kelly Award: Mx Zain Mehdi, ANU

### **Royal Society of NSW Scholarships:**

Mr Sajad Abolpour Moshizi, PhD Candidate, Macquarie University  
Mr Harry Marquis, PhD Candidate, University of Sydney  
Mr Kevin (The Huong) Chau, Master of Research candidate, Macquarie University

### **Awards for Service to the Society -- Royal Society of NSW Citations:**

The Honourable John Dowd AO QC FRSN  
Mr Hubert Regtop MRSN  
Mr Richard Wilmott MRSN

The Awards Committee is considering changes to the Royal Society of New South Wales Awards for 2022 and will shortly be making a recommendation to Council.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The Community Engagement Committee (Committee) was established by the Council in March 2021. The co-chairs are Professor Kathy Belov AO FRSN and Professor Eric Knight FRSN and the Secretary is Trevor Danos AM FRSN FTSE.

The other members of the Committee are Neanne Alnafta, Professor Arthur Conigrave, Claire Flitcroft, Dr Graham Hellestrand, Mike Jonas (Southern Highlands Branch representative), Associate Professor Alice Motion, Professor Mary O’Kane AC FTSE, Dr Adi Paterson (Events Committee representative), James Tanna, the Hon Virginia Judge. The Committee has met three times since its establishment in 2021 (July 2021, October 2021, December 2021).

The Committee conducts itself in accordance with the policies and guidelines of the Society. The key purpose of the Committee as set out in its Terms of Reference is to lead the community engagement program of the Society on behalf of the Council. The engagement programs are intended to foster strong participation by and retention of the Society’s members and extend the impact of the Society into the community.

Key workstreams that are currently being focused on by the Committee include:

- Considering appropriate means of ascertaining views and preferences of members, fellows and other influencers, and doing desk top research of other learned societies
- Developing a communications program including the launch of a twitter account and meet the fellows series
- Identifying potential new members and new fellows
- Identifying welcome activities for new members and new fellows
- Working with the Events Committee to identify possible future events
- Developing the framework for establishment and operation of special interest groups

## **PUBLISHING**

Publishing Committee membership:

Mr John Hardie (Chair)  
Dr Malte Ebach (Secretary)  
Mr Jason Antony  
Emeritus Professor Lindsay Botten  
Emeritus Professor Heather Goodall  
Dr Davina Jackson  
Emeritus Professor Robert Marks  
Mr Matthew Richardson (until September 2021)

The Publishing Committee met five times during the year. Its remit covers all aspects of publishing in the Society including the *Journal and Proceedings*, the *Bulletin*, the website, monographs, brochures, and its social media channels including Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

Its major achievement during the year was the development and approval by Council of an online bookstore for members. This was developed in partnership with the prominent boutique publisher Halstead Press, and for this reason Mr Matthew Richardson, a principal in that firm, withdrew from the Committee half-way through the year due to potential perceived conflict of interest. Thanks are also due to Mr John Cameron and Professor Leanne Cutcher for their input into this project. The bookstore and associated bibliography of members' books is being launched in early 2022.

The Committee also oversaw the development of a new brochure about the Society, the first in a decade. Its design takes its lead from the design of the Society's NEXUS exhibition in the State Library of NSW. The Society thanks Ms Virginia Buckingham for her input into both these initiatives. Quantities have been distributed to the Branches and it is being used in the exhibition and elsewhere. An online (printable) version appears on the Society's website. Work has also progressed on developing a consistent style and branding for the Society's publications, including promotional material, posters, banners and online. A project using an external designer has been approved for implementation in 2022. Also approved was a project to publish Volume 1 of the Society's history, from 1821 to 1914.

### **The *Journal and Proceedings***

During 2021, the Society published two issues of its *Journal and Proceedings*. The June issue (Vol. 154, Number 1, 2021) documented presentations made at the November 2020 Royal Society of NSW and Four Academies Forum, the theme of which was "After COVID-19: Creating the Best of Times from the Worst of Times". It also included the first in a series on Great NSW Discoveries. In this case, four papers covered the remarkable *Helicobacter pylori* story. This issue also included three refereed papers and three PhD thesis abstracts. The December issue (Vol. 154, Number 2, 2021) included seven original papers, including some invited and some reprinted papers, as well as twelve abstracts of recent PhD dissertations. It also included a Presidential Paper from the Immediate Past President. The number of exchange institutions receiving the *Journal* has remained reasonably constant in recent years at around 70.

### **The *Bulletin***

The Society's *Bulletin* is published monthly, just prior to each Ordinary General Meeting. It is now only published on the Society's website, with the membership accessing it via an emailed link. Contributions from the Branches and from each Committee are sought each month. The *Bulletin* advertises all forthcoming events of the Society, provides reports on those that have recently occurred, collates news which has appeared on the website during

the previous month, and includes reports from branches. It also provides information about the activities of kindred societies. A new 'From the Archives' series was begun during the year, authored by the Society's Secretary. This was an outcome of the work undertaken to prepare the Society's bicentennial NEXUS exhibition in the State Library of NSW.

## **LIBRARY AND ASSETS**

Library and Assets Committee membership:

Mr John Hardie (Chair)  
Dr Davina Jackson (Secretary)  
Mr John Cameron  
Ms Hannah Hibbert  
Dr Evellen Richards

Much of the work of the Committee over the year was spent helping to organise the Society's NEXUS exhibition at the State Library of NSW. The examination of the Society's archives held in the State Library for this purpose was greatly assisted by the generous donations received from members.

As a result of this preliminary work on the archives, it was apparent that work needs to be done to properly document and report on the condition of this extensive and historically significant collection. This project was approved by Council for work to commence in 2022. Funding for this project was sought from members as part of the membership renewal process at the end of 2021.

Council also approved of the following projects for 2022:

- Development of an asset management and risk plan for the Society
- Professional valuation of the Society's library holdings in the State Library of NSW
- Continuation of the binding of the Society's Council and OGM Minutes and of an exemplar copy of the Society's *Journal and Proceedings*
- Commencement of a project to undertake online archiving for the Society
- Restoration of the Society's carriage clock and case
- Development of accessioning and deaccessioning criteria for the Society's library.

The work to clean and repair items in the Society's library collection held in the Jean Garling Room at the State Library of NSW has been completed, but due to COVID and other restrictions, the last of this material is yet to be returned to the library.

The Society has continued to take delivery of some of the collection of former President Dr David Branagan to augment the more recent aspects of its collection. The Society is very grateful to Dr Branagan for his donation.

## **BICENTENARY**

Bicentennial Committee membership:

Dr Susan Pond (Chair)  
Professor Sean Brawley (Secretary)  
Mr John Hardie  
Dr Davina Jackson  
Ms Marian Kernahan

The Committee was formed in 2019 to make recommendations to the Council about events and activities to mark the bicentenary of the founding of the Society's antecedents in 1821. The Committee's work was hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic which necessitated changes to the original timetable and planning. A number of events have been pushed back into 2022. The only public event for the year was the launch of the Society's NEXUS exhibition at the State Library of NSW on 10 December 2021.

The NEXUS exhibition marks a year of celebrations to mark the Society's and its antecedents' contributions to the intellectual life of NSW over 200 years. NEXUS has two meanings: a central or focal point; and a connection or series of connections linking two or more things. From the beginning, the Society has epitomised both meanings, as a forum for ideas and discovery, exposing us to the latest research and promoting awareness of some of the major issues confronting humanity. With 200 years of history, the exhibition showcases a fraction of the Society's archives and achievements in telling the story of its Origins, Ideas, Advances, and Impacts.

The Committee has planned three major events in 2022. The first is a Vice-Regal Garden Party hosted by the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC, QC, Governor of New South Wales at Government House, Sydney on 12 March 2022. The Committee continues to finalise plans for a Gala Dinner in the Great Hall of the University of Sydney, set for 24 June, and a Governor-General's reception at Admiralty House (which had been postponed from October 2021). Plans for a perpetual legacy of the Bicentennial are also being finalised.

## **BUSINESS OPERATIONS**

Business Operations Committee membership:

Mr John Cameron (Chair)  
Dr Donald Hector (Secretary)  
Emeritus Professor Lindsay Botten  
Professor Leanne Cutcher  
Mr Stuart Midgley  
Professor George Willis

The Business Operations Committee (BOC) evolved from the Business Continuity Committee, originally established in 2020, to continue work on the analysis of changing business circumstances. The BOC was re-established in April 2021. Significant matters before the Committee included overview of back-office IT systems implementation, with the Membes system database and Microsoft 365 migration to SharePoint; a proposal for calculation of life membership fees; and input into development of the draft budget process for 2022.

## **PHILANTHROPY**

Philanthropy Committee Membership:

Dr Susan Pond (Chair)  
Professor Robert Clark (Secretary)  
Mr John Cameron  
Mr Paul Jeans  
Ms Nyrie Palmer  
Adjunct Professor Robert Whittaker

The Philanthropy Committee, which met regularly during 2021, achieved several milestones. On 16 July 2021, the NSW Government announced its support for the work of the Society by



providing \$324,000 in sponsorship from 2021-2024 to support its operations and the expansion of its reach across NSW. The Society was also pleased to receive donations to the Library Fund to support the staging of its exhibition, NEXUS, at the State Library of NSW and to support a professional archivist to catalogue our archives. The Committee also acknowledged the Late Emeritus Professor Roger Layton AO FRSN for the generous gift in his will. Considering the provisions of the Society's NSW Fundraising Authority and registration with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission, the Committee developed formal Guidelines for Gifts and Sponsorships to ensure compliance with relevant fundraising laws and provide assurance for donors and sponsors of the integrity of the Society's fundraising activities.

## HUNTER BRANCH

Hunter Branch Committee membership:

Distinguished Emeritus Laureate Professor John Aitken (Chair)  
 Professor Natalie Thamwattana (Deputy Chair)  
 Professor Steven Weller (Secretary)  
 Professor George Willis (Treasurer)  
 Emeritus Professor John Boulton  
 Professor Philip Bolton  
 Professor Alan Broadfoot  
 Father Andrew Doohan  
 Mr John Dunnet  
 Scientia Professor Emerita Eugenie Lumbers  
 Professor Brett Nixon  
 Adjunct Professor Robert Whittaker

## Event Program

The Hunter Branch conducted a restricted program of three (3) events during 2021. The first of these (Finkel) was presented at the Newcastle Conservatorium, while the latter two (Sharples, Eagar) needed to be held online because of restrictions on face-to-face meetings arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

HBM2021 -1 26 May 2021	Dr Alan Finkel AO FTSE FAA Former Chief Scientist of Australia	On readying our region for low emissions technology
HBM2021-2 June 30, 2021	Professor Jason Sharples Professor of Bushfire Dynamics in the School of Science, UNSW Canberra	Extreme bushfires and the age of violent pyroconvection
HBM2021-3 Aug 25, 2021	Professor Kathy Eagar Director, Australian Health Services Research Institute University of Wollongong	Did the Aged Care Royal Commission provide a blueprint to fix Australia's aged care system? If not, what else needs to happen?

## **Committee Meetings**

A total of eight (8) Hunter Branch Committee Meetings were held during 2021: 10 February 2021, 31 March 2021 (AGM), 13 May 2021, 9 June 2021, 5 August 2021, 30 September 2021, 18 November 2021, and 15 December 2021. Activities were focused mainly on arranging events, which were seriously impacted by the COVID pandemic, and the need to raise the profile of the Branch through the active involvement of local media, the University, and the Society.

The Branch Committee is actively pursuing the establishment of a Hunter Medal, conceived as an award to an individual who has made a novel and ground-breaking contribution to research in any area of Science, Art, Literature, and Philosophy, and which has significance for the cultural, economic and social development of the Hunter region or the health and wellbeing of its communities. Sponsorship for the award is being sought in 2022.

## **SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BRANCH**

Southern Highlands Branch Committee membership in 2021:

Mr Hubert Regtop (Chair)  
Mr John Wright (Deputy Chair)  
Ms Anne Wood (Secretary)  
Mr Mike Jonas (Treasurer)  
Mr Peter Eustace  
Ms Andrea Talbot  
Mr Ted Smith

Throughout the world in 2021-2022, organizations have had their normal operational procedures severely battered by the Covid 19 pandemic. The Royal Society of New South Wales has been no exception; so too the Royal Society Southern Highlands Branch. The Branch's face-to-face lectures had to be suspended until November 2021 to comply with Covid-19 restrictions.

The Southern Highlands Branch did all it could to respect the preferences of its many attendees, who while wishing to maintain community safety, nevertheless desired the stimulating academic lectures to which they had become accustomed. The Committee then adopted new modes of communication to address these needs - scientific emails and newsletters, Zoom presentations, YouTube lectures etc. While these substitutes were appreciated by our residents and others, people clearly wished to attend face-to-face lectures as before. We were able to resume face-to-face in November 2021, the process being carefully overseen by the excellent management at Mittagong RSL.

Over the past year, when face-to-face lectures could not be held, the small entry charges that the Committee formerly collected to cover Branch expenses could no longer be counted on. It is clear from the Treasurer's reports for the last year that there has been very little income. It is also clear that the usual expenses have been much less than usual. The Branch is looking forward to more usual circumstances in the next financial year.

With the resumption of face-to-face lectures, the Branch expects that attendance fees, small though they are, will once again very slowly accrue. However, because the Southern Highlands area is not a university town and usually quite distant from the locations from which the Branch sources its lecturers, its financial support for speakers will once again accrue larger out-going expenses.

Another large drain on income is the charge for the lecture venue which, under Covid-19 requirements, must have a large capacity, particularly in this Branch where attendances are relatively high. Committee member Peter Eustace again made a successful application for a

community grant from the RSL to cover the rather large costs and charges which usually pertain to the Mittagong RSL lecture venue. The Branch is very grateful for this support.

The Branch would also like to acknowledge the President Dr Susan Pond and the Council for their valuable support and assistance whenever required. The Committee has managed the challenges of 2021 to the best of its ability and ingenuity. The financial challenges of this Branch will always be with us - but the contribution we are clearly making to this special community is clear for all to see. That is why on occasion the Branch enjoys support from radio ABC Illawarra which covers the airspace from the north of Canberra to the southern areas of Sydney, and why the local newspapers often offer pre-lecture news stories about Branch activities. These outlets are helping bring the branch, and hence the entire Society to higher public awareness of its goals, values and purpose.

The 2021 events program is available [here](#).

## **WESTERN NSW BRANCH**

The inaugural meeting of the new Branch was held on 14 September 2021. Following the resignation of Professor John Germov as Chair due to his move interstate, Dr David Nash was succeeded as Chair until the Branch's annual election and AGM in March 2022.

The current committee comprises Dr David Nash (Chair), Mr Trent Pohlmann (Secretary), Professor Geoff Gurr (Treasurer), and committee members, Professor Mark Morrison, Professor Frank Marino, Professor Lesley Forster and Mr Bradley Hammond.

The Branch hosted its inaugural lecture by Zoom webinar on 19 October at which the Governor was in attendance. The lecture given by Professor Stan Grant was entitled *With the Falling of Dusk*. The Branch decided to cancel an event at the Orange Art Gallery set down for December 2021 due to the evolving COVID-19 situation.

There was no income or expenditure. in 2021. Thanks are due to the Committee, Tony Seymour and John Cameron for the business plan and budget, Lindsay Botten for support in relation to IT matters, Jade Farrant, and to Emeritus Professor Christina Slade who initiated the formation of the branch and recruited Members and Fellows in the region.

## **2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on Wednesday 7 April 2021.



Dr Susan Pond AM FRSN  
President

On behalf of the Council of the Royal Society of NSW

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

**ABN 76 470 896 415**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

## THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

ABN 76 470 896 415

### COUNCIL'S REPORT

The Council presents their report on the Society for the year ended 31 December 2021.

#### COUNCIL MEMBERS

The names of the Councillors throughout the year and at the date of this report unless stated otherwise are:

President	Emeritus Professor Ian Sloan AO FRSN FAA (until 7 April 2021) Dr Susan Pond AM FRSN FTSE (from 7 April 2021)
Immediate Past President	Emeritus Professor Ian Sloan AO FRSN FAA (from 7 April 2021)
Vice Presidents	Emeritus Professor D Brynn Hibbert AM FRSN (until 7 April 2021) Dr Susan Pond AM FRSN FTSE (until 7 April 2021) Ms Judith Wheeldon AM FRSN
Secretary	Mr Bruce Ramage MRSN
Treasurer	Mr Richard Wilmott MRSN (until 7 April 2021) Mr John Cameron (from 7 April 2021)
Librarian	Mr John Hardie AM FRSN
Webmaster	Emeritus Professor Lindsay Botten FRSN
Councillors	Professor Katherine Belov AO FRSN (from 7 April 2021) Mr Ian Bryce MRSN (until 7 April 2021) Emeritus Professor Robert Clancy AM FRSN (until 7 April 2021) Ms Pamela Griffith FRSN (from 7 April 2021) Dr Donald Hector AM FRSN (from 7 April 2021) Dr Davina Jackson FRSN (from 7 April 2021) The Honourable Virginia Judge FRSN (until 30 September 2021) Professor Eric Knight FRSN (from 7 April 2021) Emeritus Professor Robert Marks FRSN Mr Stuart Midgley MRSN (until 7 April 2021) Emeritus Professor Bruce Milthorpe FRSN (until 7 April 2021) Dr Jessica Milner Davis (from 19 January 2022) Ms Nyrie Palmer MRSN (until 7 April 2021) Emeritus Professor Christina Slade FRSN Adjunct Professor Robert Whittaker AM FRSN (until 7 April 2021)
Branch representatives	
Southern Highlands	Mr Michael Jonas MRSN
Hunter Branch	Professor George Willis FRSN

#### PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activities of the Society during the financial year were the presentation of lectures and the publication of learned materials.

#### SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

A.B.N. 76 470 896 415

COUNCIL'S REPORT (CONT'D)

OPERATING RESULT

The Society produced a surplus from ordinary activities for the financial year amounting to \$35,998 (2020: deficit of \$26,342). There was no requirement to provide for income tax.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Council members of the Society.



Susan Pond  
President

Dated this eleventh day of March



John Cameron  
Treasurer

2022

# TINWORTH & Co

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS and BUSINESS ADVISORS

## INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

### Opinion

We have audited the attached financial report of The Royal Society of New South Wales ("the entity") which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2021, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of recognised income and expenditure, cash flow statement for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement by members of the Council.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of The Royal Society of New South Wales is in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012, including:

1. giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 31 December 2021 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
2. complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations), and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act 2012) .

### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Council in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the ACNC Act 2012 and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standard Board's APES 110: *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis of our opinion.

### Responsibilities of the Council for the financial report

The Council members are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the ACNC Act 2012 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The Council's responsibility also includes such internal control as the members determine in necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Council is responsible for assessing the Society's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the members either intend to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### Auditor's responsibility

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

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Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatements of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis of our opinion. The risk of not detecting material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, international omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by members.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the members' use of going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Society's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Society to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieved fair representation.

We communicate with the Council regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



MARK TINWORTH

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

North Sydney, dated this 11<sup>th</sup> day of March 2022



**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES  
A.B.N. 76 470 896 415**

**STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

The Councillors have determined that the Society is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in note 1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the ACNC Act 2012.

In the opinion of the Councillors of the Society the financial report, as set out on pages 7 to 15:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Royal Society of New South Wales as at 31 December 2021 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Royal Society of New South Wales will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Council and Subs 60.15(2) of the ACNC Act 2012 and is signed for and on behalf of the Council by:



**Susan Pond  
President**



**John Cameron  
Treasurer**

Dated this eleventh day of March 2022

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES**  
**A.B.N. 76 470 896 415**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	Note	2021	2020
<b>INCOME</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Members subscriptions		96,410	85,181
Bequests		20,000	-
Social event income		3,220	7,696
Sponsorship income		50,000	-
Donations		965	-
Journal subscriptions		13,559	14,430
Sale of publications/ties		-	73
Copyright		349	752
Interest received		854	635
Academies Forum		19,000	16,000
Royalties income		469	478
Journal Exchange Program UNE		8,195	-
Sundry income		98	-
		<u>213,119</u>	<u>125,245</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Social events		20,985	28,246
Awards		2,500	-
Audit fees		2,580	2,560
Bank charges		2,783	725
Contractor		61,940	47,921
Council meetings		-	352
Insurance		3,186	2,765
Secretariat		32,156	36,341
Database		3,917	3,769
Depreciation		1,475	254
Bad debt expense		69	-
Postage, stationery & copying		931	3,144
General expenses		7,299	7,138
Journal printing & distribution		15,823	12,592
Storage		250	255
Library		12,063	-
Website		6,977	4,874
Legal fees		1,560	-
Telephone & facsimile		627	651
		<u>177,121</u>	<u>151,587</u>
<b>Profit (loss) from ordinary activities before income tax</b>		<b>35,998</b>	<b>(26,342)</b>
Income tax expense	1	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Profit (loss) from ordinary activities after income tax</b>		<u><b>35,998</b></u>	<u><b>(26,342)</b></u>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES**  
**A.B.N. 76 470 896 415**

**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	Note	2021	2020
		\$	\$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash assets	3	387,424	271,936
Receivables	4	11,215	2,269
Inventory	5	694	694
Other assets	6	<u>1,705</u>	<u>1,868</u>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>401,038</u>	<u>276,767</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, Plant & Equipment	7	<u>244,429</u>	<u>228,586</u>
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>244,429</u>	<u>228,586</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u>645,467</u>	<u>505,353</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Creditors & accruals	8	19,431	11,211
Income received in advance	9	<u>132,170</u>	<u>66,050</u>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>151,601</u>	<u>77,261</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<u>151,601</u>	<u>77,261</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>493,866</u>	<u>428,092</u>
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>			
Asset Revaluation Reserve		226,659	209,340
Reserves	10	121,700	109,243
Retained profits		<u>145,507</u>	<u>109,509</u>
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>		<u>493,866</u>	<u>428,092</u>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES**  
**A.B.N. 76 470 896 415**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Royal Society of New South Wales and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act 2012). The council has determined that the Society is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the ACNC Act 2012, the basis of accounting specified by all Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretation, and the disclosure requirements of Accounting Standards AASB 101: *Presentation of Financial Statements*, AASB 107: *Cash Flow Statements*, AASB 108: *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*, AASB 1031: *Materiality* and AASB 1054: *Australian Additional Disclosures*.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values, or except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous year unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report:

**Limitation of Liability**

The rules of the Society provide that the liability of the members of the Society to contribute to the payment of the debts and expenses of the Society or the cost, charges and expenses of the winding up of the Society is limited to the amount of the shortfall in addition to the current year subscription.

**Income Tax**

The Society is exempt from income tax under Section 50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act, 1997, as a non-profit association established for the encouragement of science.

**Fixed Assets**

Office furniture and equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation. The depreciable amount of all fixed assets are depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the Society commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Depreciation rates using the reducing balance method are as follows:

Office Furniture and Equipment	10-25%
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**Library**

The library at 121 Darlington Road has been independently valued at fair value as at 31 December 2021.

**Financial Instruments**

**Initial recognition and measurement**

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the Association becomes a party to the contractual provisions to the instrument. For financial assets, this is the date that the Association commits itself to either the purchase or sale of an asset.

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES**  
**A.B.N. 76 470 896 415**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT'D)**

**Financial Instruments (Cont'd)**

Financial instruments (except for trade receivables) are initially measured at fair value plus transaction costs, except where the instrument is classified 'fair value through profit or loss', in which case the transaction costs are expensed to profit or loss immediately. Where available, quoted prices in an active market are used to determine fair value. In other circumstances, valuation techniques are adopted.

Trade receivables are initially measured at the transaction price if the trade receivable do not contain a significant financing component or if the practical expedient was applied as specified in AASB 15.

**Classification and subsequent measurement**  
**Financial liabilities**

Financial liabilities are subsequently measured at:

- Amortised cost, or
- Fair value through profit and loss

A financial liability is measured at fair value through profit and loss if the financial liability is:

- A contingent consideration of an acquirer in a business combination to which AASB 3 applies
- Held for trading, or
- Initially designated as at fair value through profit and loss

All other financial liabilities are subsequently measured at fair value, amortised cost using the effective interest rate. The effective interest rate method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a debt instrument and of allocating interest expense in profit or loss over the relevant period.

The effective interest rate is the internal rate of return of the financial asset or liability. That is, it is the rate that exactly discounts the estimated future cash flows through the expected life of the instrument to the net carrying amount at initial recognition.

**Financial asset**

Financial assets are subsequently measured at:

- Amortised cost
- Fair value through other comprehensive income
- Fair value through profit and loss

Measurement is on the basis of the two primary criteria:

- The contractual cash flow characteristics of the financial asset, and
- The business model for managing the financial assets

A financial asset is subsequently measured at amortised cost when it meets the following conditions:

- The financial asset is managed solely to collect contractual cash flows; and
- The contractual terms within the financial asset give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding on specified dates.

A financial asset is subsequently measured at fair value through other comprehensive income when it meets the following conditions:

- The contractual terms within the financial asset give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding on specified dates
- The business model for managing the financial asset comprises both contractual cash flows collection and the selling of the financial asset.

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES  
A.B.N. 76 470 896 415**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT'D)**

**Financial Instruments (Cont'd)**

By default, all other financial assets that do not meet the conditions of amortised cost and fair value through other comprehensive income's measurement condition are subsequently measured at fair value through profit and loss.

The entity initially designates financial instruments as measured at fair value through profit and loss if:

- It eliminates or significantly reduces a measurement or recognition inconsistency that would otherwise arise from measuring assets or liabilities or recognizing the gains and losses on them on different bases.
- It is in accordance to the documented risk management or investment strategy and information about the groupings was documented appropriately, so the performance of the financial liability that was part of the entity of financial liabilities or financial assets can be managed and evaluated consistently on a fair value basis; and
- It is a hybrid contract that contains an embedded derivative that significantly modifies the cash flows otherwise required by the contract.

**Derecognition**

Derecognition refers to the removal of a previously recognised financial asset or financial liability from the statement of financial position.

Derecognition of financial liabilities:

A liability is derecognised when it is extinguished. An exchange of an existing financial liability for a new one with substantial modified terms, or a substantial modification to the terms of a financial liability, is treated as an extinguishment of the existing liability and recognition of a new financial liability.

The difference between the carrying amount of the financial liability derecognized and the consideration paid and payable, including any non-cash assets transferred or liabilities assumed, is recognised in profit or loss.

Derecognition of financial assets:

A financial asset is derecognised when the holder's contractual rights to its cash flows expires, or the asset is transferred in such a way that all the risks and rewards of ownership are substantially transferred.

All of the following criteria need to be satisfied for derecognition of financial asset:

- The right to receive cash flows from the asset has expired or been transferred;
- All risk and rewards of ownership of the asset have been substantially transferred; and
- The entity no longer controls the asset

On derecognition of a financial asset measured at amortised cost, the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the sum of the consideration received and receivable is recognised in the profit or loss.

**Impairment**

The association recognises a loss allowance for expected credit losses on financial assets that are measured at amortised cost or fair value through other comprehensive income. Loss allowance is not recognised for financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss.

Expected credit losses are the probability-weighted estimate of credit losses over the expected life of a financial instrument. A credit loss is the difference between all contractual cash flows that are due

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES**  
**A.B.N. 76 470 896 415**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT'D)**

**Impairment (cont'd)**

and all cash flows expected to be received, all discounted at the original effective interest rate of the financial instrument.

*General approach*

Under the general approach, at each reporting period, the association assesses whether the financial instruments are credit-impaired, and:

- If the credit risk of the financial instrument has increased significantly since initial recognition, the Entity measures the loss allowance of the financial instruments at an amount equal to the lifetime expected credit losses; and
- If there has been no significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition, the Entity measures the loss allowance for that financial instrument at an amount equal to 12-month expected credit losses.

*Recognition of expected credit losses in financial statements*

At each reporting date, the association recognise the movement in the loss allowance as an impairment gain or loss in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

The carrying amount of financial assets measured at amortised cost includes the loss allowance relating to that asset.

Assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income are recognised at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in other comprehensive income. The amount in relation to change in credit risk is transferred from other comprehensive income to profit or loss at every reporting period.

**Trade and other payables**

Trade and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association during the reporting period which remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

**Revenue**

Membership revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received and is brought to account on a receipts basis during the year. The membership year currently runs from 1 January to 31 December.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of Goods and Service Tax ("GST").

**Comparative figures**

When required by accounting standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current year.

**New and Amended Accounting Policies Adopted by the Society**

**Initial adoption of AASB 2018-6: *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Definition of Business.***

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES  
A.B.N. 76 470 896 415**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

		2021	2020
		\$	\$
<b>1</b>	<b>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT'D)</b>		
	<b>New and Amended Accounting Policies Adopted by the Society (Cont'd)</b>		
	- AASB 2018-6 amends and narrows the definition of a business specified in AASB 3: Business Combination, simplifying the determination of whether a transaction should be accounted for as a business combination or an asset acquisition. Entities may also perform a calculation and elect to treat certain acquisitions as acquisitions of assets.		
	The standard listed above did not have any impact on the amounts recognised in prior periods and are not expected to significantly affect the current or future periods.		
	<b>New and Amended Accounting Policies Not Yet Adopted by the Society</b>		
	<i>AASB 106: General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities.</i>		
<b>2</b>	<b>EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE</b>		
	The Covid 19 pandemic has been significantly affecting the financial environment. There is a possibility that it will significantly affect the operations of the Association, the results of these operations or the state of affairs of the Association in future financial years.		
	As at the date of this report, it is not possible to reliably estimate the financial effect (if any) of the virus on the Association's operations.		
	There have been no other significant events occurring after the reporting period which may affect either the Association's operations or results of those operations or the Association's state of affairs.		
<b>3</b>	<b>CASH ASSETS</b>		
	Cash at bank	<u>387,424</u>	<u>271,936</u>
<b>4</b>	<b>RECEIVABLES</b>		
	Trade debtors	<u>11,215</u>	<u>2,269</u>
<b>5</b>	<b>INVENTORY</b>		
	Ties	<u>694</u>	<u>694</u>
<b>6</b>	<b>OTHER ASSETS</b>		
	Prepaid expenses	<u>1,705</u>	<u>1,868</u>



**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES**  
**A.B.N. 76 470 896 415**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
<b>7 PROPERTY, PLANT &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>		
Library – at Council valuation	240,259	222,940
Software & Website – at cost	5,900	5,900
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(1,730)</u>	<u>(254)</u>
	<u>244,429</u>	<u>228,586</u>
<b>8 CREDITORS &amp; ACCRUALS</b>		
Trade creditors	9,354	7,847
Other creditors	2,741	1,386
GST Payable	<u>7,336</u>	<u>1,978</u>
	<u>19,431</u>	<u>11,211</u>
<b>9 INCOME RECEIVED IN ADVANCE</b>		
Donation received in advance	5,770	-
Journals received in advance	1,037	7,770
Membership received in advance	67,363	58,280
Sponsorship received in advance	<u>58,000</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>132,170</u>	<u>66,050</u>
<b>10 RESERVES</b>		
<p>Following sub accounts operated under The Royal Society of NSW are included in Reserves. Income and expenses for these reserves have previously been recorded through the Income &amp; Expenditure Statement of The Royal Society of NSW. These accounts have been adjusted during this year to account for the movement related to the respective sub account for the years from 2010 to 2021:</p>		
Clarke Memorial	3,525	3,525
Library Fund	80,843	68,342
Liversidge Bequest	4,689	4,689
Olle Bequest	13,028	13,028
RSNSW Studentship Fund	-	44
Walter Burfitt	<u>19,615</u>	<u>19,615</u>
	<u>121,700</u>	<u>109,243</u>

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES**  
**A.B.N. 76 470 896 415**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Members' & customers' receipts	269,370	152,863
Interest received	854	1,017
Payments to suppliers & donations	<u>(167,194)</u>	<u>(180,988)</u>
<b>Net Cash (used in) provided by Operating Activities</b>	<u>103,030</u>	<u>(27,108)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Purchase of plant & equipment	<u>-</u>	<u>(5,900)</u>
<b>Net Cash (used in) provided by Investing Activities</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>(5,900)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Net movement in reserve accounts	<u>12,458</u>	<u>(75)</u>
<b>Net Cash (used in) provided by Financing Activities</b>	<u>12,458</u>	<u>(75)</u>
<b>Net (Decrease) Increase in Cash Held</b>	115,488	(33,083)
Cash at the beginning of the financial year	<u>271,936</u>	<u>305,019</u>
<b>Cash at the end of the financial year</b>	<u>387,424</u>	<u>271,936</u>
	3	
<b>Reconciliation of net cash provided by operating activities to operating profit (loss) surplus after income tax</b>		
Operating profit (loss) after income tax	35,998	(26,342)
Add/(Deduct) non-cash flows		
Depreciation	1,475	254
Bad debt expense	69	-
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- (Increase) decrease in inventory	-	45
- (Increase) decrease in receivables	(9,015)	11,965
- (Increase) decrease in other assets	163	(415)
- Increase (decrease) in payables	8,220	(14,438)
- Increase (decrease) in deferred revenue	<u>66,120</u>	<u>1,823</u>
<b>Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities</b>	<u>103,030</u>	<u>(27,108)</u>