



The Royal Society of New South Wales

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

1282nd ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL 2020 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 153RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

By ZOOM Webinar

AGENDA

1. **WELCOME** – Vice-President, Dr Susan Pond AM FRSN
- 1.1 **Minutes of the 1281st Ordinary General Meeting held on 4 March 2020**
2. **CONFIRMATION OF FELLOWSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP**

As no valid objection was lodged within two weeks following the 1281st Ordinary General Meeting, the election of the following new Members and Fellows took effect from the date of that meeting held on 4 March.

2.1 **Fellows**

Professor Robert Frank Care
Dr Edith Chow
Professor Ian Jeffrey Constable
Professor Stephen Robert Garton
Professor Ewa Magdalena Goldys
Professor Gilles J Guillemin
Dr Katrin Juliane Meissner
Dr David Bruce Musgrave
Professor John William Patrick

2.2 **Members**

Dr Arthur Firkins
Ms Claire McFarland
Mr John Ritchie
Mr Tibor Molnar

2.3 **Associate Members**

Mr Thomas Green
Mr Avish Sharma
Mr Peter Lees

3. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NAMES OF CANDIDATES FOR FELLOWSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP

If no valid objection is lodged within two weeks of this Ordinary General Meeting, that is, by 6.30pm on 6 May 2020, the election of new Members and Fellows will take effect from the date of the meeting.

3.1 Fellows

The Fellows Assessment Committee is scheduled to meet on 21 April. Recommendations emanating from that meeting will be considered at the next OGM.

3.2 Members and Associate Members

Members

Mr Peter Eustace
Mr Christopher Ruskin
Miss Brittany Walker

4 REPORT FROM COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

The Council met by ZOOM Webinar on 18 March 2020. Much of the agenda was taken up with how the Society would respond to the current health crisis. There was an urgent need to determine how the Society could continue to provide a service to its members including the management of OGMs and the AGM. Other matters considered include the following:

4.1 The Red Cross Disaster Relief and Recovery Fund

The Society received donations of \$7,550 from 13 members, ranging from \$50 to \$5,000, which have been forwarded to the Red Cross.

4.2 Awards

Council resolved to award The Royal Society of New South Wales Medal for 2019 to Emeritus Professor D Brynn Hibbert.

Council also resolved to award a Royal Society of New South Wales Citation for 2019 to Dr Erik Aslaksen and Emeritus Professor James Keogh.

4.3 RSNSW and Four Academies Forum

At this stage it is assumed that the 2020 Forum will proceed on 5 November. The topic being considered is "Long shadows over Australia cast by global risks".

5 THIS EVENING'S PRESENTATION

Vice-President, Emeritus Professor Brynn Hibbert AM FRSN will introduce Emeritus Professor Ian Sloan, President, Royal Society of NSW

PRESIDENTIAL REFLECTIONS: SCIENCE STUFF, AND THE PRESIDENT'S RANDOM PATH

Emeritus Professor Ian Sloan AO FRSN, President, Royal Society of New South Wales

Emeritus Professor Ian Sloan received a PhD in atomic physics from University College London. After a short (and unpromising) year in industry, he joined the University of New South Wales, and is there still. His research career, covering many areas of physics and computational mathematics, has received a number of awards, including the Lyle Medal of the Australian Academy of Science. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science, a former President of the International Council on Industrial and Applied Mathematics, and an Officer of the Order of Australia.

The President will sketch his seemingly erratic research career—from atomic physics to mathematics to astrophysics—using the metaphor of the random walk, and touching lightly on science and history along the way. Turning back two centuries, he will describe the Society's significant early involvement in astronomy through its first President, Sir Thomas Brisbane GCB GCH FRS FRSE.

6 VOTE OF THANKS AND CLOSE – Vice-President, Ms Judith Wheeldon AM FRSN