



The Royal Society of New South Wales

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

Minutes of the 1282nd Ordinary General Meeting of The Royal Society of New South Wales held by Zoom Webinar on Wednesday 22 April 2020 immediately following the 153rd Annual General Meeting

There were 78 Members, Fellows and guests in attendance.

1. WELCOME

Vice-President, Dr Susan Pond AM FRSN presided at the meeting. She welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

1.1 Minutes of the 1281st Ordinary General Meeting held on 4 March 2020

The Minutes of the previous Ordinary General Meeting, previously circulated, were approved.

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. The Fellowship Certificates will be presented at the first opportunity at a face-to-face meeting.

2.1 Fellows

Dr Pond read the citations for the following Fellows who had been elected from 4 March 2020.

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

It was noted that the Fellows Assessment Committee had met 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 meeting noted that Council had met by Zoom Webinar on 18 March 2020. Much of the agenda had been taken up with how the Society would respond to the current 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 as well as other events. Other matters considered include the following:

4.1 The Red Cross Disaster Relief and Recovery Fund

Dr Pond noted that the Society had received donations of \$7,550 ranging from \$50 to \$5,000, which have been forwarded to the Red Cross.

4.2 Awards

It was noted that The Royal Society of New South Wales Medal for 2019 had been awarded to Emeritus Professor D Brynn Hibbert AM FRSN.

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

4.3 RSNSW and Four Academies Forum

Dr Pond advised that 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 introduced Emeritus Professor Ian Sloan AO FRSN, President, Royal Society of NSW.

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

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.

A synopsis of the presentation is given below.

The President sketched 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 described 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 gave the vote of thanks. She thanked the audience for their attendance, Emeritus Professor Lindsay Botten (Honorary Webmaster), Mr Stuart Midgley and Ms Wendy Enevoldsen for their hard work preparing for the meeting and Professor Sloan for his illuminating presentation.

Ms Wheeldon closed the meeting at 7.56pm.