



# THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH KNOWLEDGE SINCE 1821

## Minutes of the 1300<sup>th</sup> Ordinary General Meeting of The Royal Society of New South Wales held by ZOOM Webinar on Wednesday 2 February 2022 at 6.30PM.

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There were 106 Members, Fellows and guests in attendance.

### 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The President, Dr Susan Pond AM FRSN presided at the meeting. She welcomed members and guests and gave an acknowledgement of country. She also referred to the Society's Diversity and Inclusion Policy and asked that members consider nominating female candidates and those from diverse backgrounds for membership of the Society.

The apology from Dr Jessica Milner Davis was noted.

#### 1.1 Minutes of the 1299<sup>th</sup> Ordinary General Meeting held on 1 December 2021

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

### 2. CONFIRMATION OF MEMBERSHIP

As no valid objection was lodged within two weeks following the 1299<sup>th</sup> Ordinary General Meeting, the election of the following new Fellows and Members took effect from the date of that meeting held on 1 December 2021.

#### 2.1 Fellows

Professor Simon Ho  
Professor Jennifer Louise Martin  
Professor Robert A. Minasian  
Associate Professor Alice Elizabeth Motion  
Professor Louis Michael Rendina  
Honorary Professor Graham Edward Town  
Scientia Professor Toby Walsh

#### 2.2 Members

Mr Benjamin Fry  
Mr Michael Atkinson  
Ms Alice O'Keefe  
Dr Michelle Humphries  
Mr Nicholas Raphael

### **3 ANNOUNCEMENT OF NAMES OF CANDIDATES FOR FELLOWSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP**

#### **3.1 Fellows**

At its meeting on 7 December 2021, the Fellows and Members Assessment Committee made the following recommendations for Fellowship. These recommendations were circulated to Councillors following the meeting and they had until 24 January 2022 to lodge an objection. If no objections are received from members within two weeks of this meeting, that is, by 6.30pm on Wednesday 16 February 2022, the election of the following new Fellows will take effect from the date of this meeting, 2 February 2022.

Professor Mark Griffith Evans  
Dr Peter Keegan  
Professor Charles James Lemckert  
Professor Deborah Lupton  
Mr David John van Nunen  
Professor Alistair Gary Beresford Poore  
Ms Judith Maree Rae

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for 8 February 2022.

#### **3.2 Members**

Ms Wendy Enevoldsen  
Dr Michael Tran

#### **3.3 Associate Members**

Mr Kevin (The Huong) Chau  
Mr Harry Marquis  
Mx Zain Mehdi  
Mr Sajad Abolpour Moshizi

### **4 REPORT FROM COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL**

The President drew members' attention to the following matters.

#### **4.1 Election to Council**

Dr Pond said that a vacancy on Council had occurred on 30 September 2021 with the resignation of The Honourable Virginia Judge FRSN who had been a member of Council since 2018. She thanked Ms Judge for her contribution to the Society during her time as a Councillor.

She advised that Council, under Rule 18(j), at its meeting held on 19 January 2021

**RESOLVED:** that

Dr Jessica Milner Davis be elected to Council until the 2023 Annual General Meeting and that her election be notified to members at the Ordinary General Meeting scheduled for 2 February 2022.

## 4.2 Announcement of Awards for 2021

The President announced the following recipients of the Society's Awards for 2021.

### Medals and Lectureships

- **The James Cook Medal** – for outstanding contributions to science and human welfare in and for the Southern Hemisphere. This medal is the Society's most prestigious award. The 2021 James Cook Medal is awarded to Scientia Professor Rose Amal, School of Chemical Engineering, University of New South Wales, Sydney.
- **The Clarke Medal and Lecture** – for distinguished research in the natural sciences conducted in Australia and its territories. The 2021 award is in the field of zoology. The 2021 Clarke Medal and Lecture is awarded to Laureate Professor David John Aitken, College of Engineering, Science and Environment, University of Newcastle.
- **The Edgeworth David Medal** – for distinguished contributions by a young scientist under the age of thirty-five years, for work done mainly in Australia or its territories; or contributing to the advancement of Australian science. The 2021 Edgeworth David Medal is awarded to Dr Lining Arnold Ju, ARC DECRA Fellow, Faculty of Engineering, University of Sydney.
- **The History and Philosophy of Science Medal** - in recognition of outstanding achievement in the History and Philosophy of Science with preference being given to the study of ideas, institutions, and individuals of significance to the practice of the natural sciences in Australia. The 2021 History and Philosophy of Science Medal is awarded to Professor Dean Rickles, Professor of History and Philosophy of Modern Physics, University of Sydney.
- **The Warren Prize** - awarded to recognise research of national or international significance by early- or mid-career engineers and technologists. The 2021 Warren Prize is awarded to Dr Noushin Nasiri Varg, Senior Lecturer, School of Engineering, Macquarie University.
- **The Poggendorff Lectureship** – awarded for research in plant biology and, more broadly, agriculture. The 2021 Poggendorff Lectureship is awarded to Professor Richard Trethowan, School of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Sydney.
- **The Pollock Memorial Lectureship** – awarded approximately every four years in memory of Professor J.A. Pollock, Professor of Physics at the University of Sydney (1899-1922) and a member of the Society for 35 years. The 2021 Pollock Memorial Lectureship is awarded to Professor Geraint Lewis, Sydney Institute for Astronomy, School of Physics, University of Sydney.

### Service Awards

- **The Royal Society of New South Wales Citation** – awarded to a Member or Fellow of the Society who has made significant contributions to the Society, but who has not been recognised in any other way. The Royal Society of New South Wales Citation for 2021 is awarded to The Honourable John Dowd, Mr Hubert Regtop and Mr Richard Wilmott.

## Student Awards and Scholarships

- **The Jak Kelly Award** - created in honour of Professor Jak Kelly (1928 – 2012) who was President of the Royal Society of NSW in 2005 and 2006. The Award encourages excellence in postgraduate research in physics. It is supported by the Royal Society of NSW and the Australian Institute of Physics, NSW branch. The winner is selected from a short list of candidates who made presentations at the most recent Australian Institute of Physics, NSW branch postgraduate awards event. The winner of the Jak Kelly Award for 2021 is Mx Zain Mehdi, Australian National University.
- **The Royal Society of NSW Scholarships for 2021** - awarded each year to acknowledge outstanding achievements by young researchers in any field of science. The winners of the 2021 Royal Society of NSW Scholarships are

Mr Sajad Moshizi, Macquarie University  
Mr Harry Marquis, University of Sydney  
Mr Kevin (The Huong) Chau, Macquarie University

## 5 QUESTIONS

There were no questions sent to the President in advance.

## 6 THIS EVENING'S PRESENTATION

### WHERE NEXT FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AFTER COVID-19?

#### **Professor Mark Scott AO FRSN, Vice-Chancellor and Principal The University of Sydney**

Professor Scott holds a Bachelor of Arts, a Diploma of Education, a Master of Arts (Political Science and Government), an Honorary Doctorate (Letters) and a Professorship of Practice (Education and Media) from the University of Sydney, as well as a Master of Public Administration from the John F Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Professor Scott is a highly respected and successful senior leader of large and complex institutions, across public service, education and the media. Under his leadership as Secretary of the NSW Department of Education (2016 to 2021) the Department secured a record 10-year funding agreement for public schools, created School Infrastructure NSW to deliver an additional 160,000 classroom places and established the School Leadership Institute to train and develop aspiring school principals across the state.

His distinguished record of strategic leadership includes a decade as Managing Director of the ABC (2006 to 2016), where he led the organisation's transformation to be a public broadcaster in the digital era. Over that time, the ABC created new services like iview, News 24, ABC3 and digital radio; and expanded online and mobile services, such as podcasting and ABC News online.

Professor Scott has also held a number of senior editorial roles at Fairfax, including Education Editor of *The Sydney Morning Herald* and Editor-in-Chief of metropolitan, regional and community newspapers. His contribution to education reaches back to the start of his career, as a teacher in Sydney. He built on his interest in education with senior policy and leadership positions with two NSW education ministers. In 2011 he was named an Officer of the Order of Australia for distinguished service to media and communications, and to the

community through advisory and governance roles with a range of social justice and educational bodies.

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Professor Scott outlined how the University of Sydney had managed its teaching, research and revenue sources through the pandemic. In a question-and-answer session he outlined how the higher education sector can build on the lessons learnt during the pandemic to deliver transformational teaching and learning, and support research.

## **7 VOTE OF THANKS**

The vote of thanks was given by Ms Judith Wheeldon AM FRSN, Vice-President.

## **8 CLOSE**

In closing the meeting, Dr Pond thanked Professor Scott for an excellent presentation. She also acknowledged the Awards Committee for its work in relation to the 2021 Awards.

The meeting closed at 7.59pm.