



THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH KNOWLEDGE SINCE 1821

Minutes of the 1305th Ordinary General Meeting of The Royal Society of New South Wales held by Zoom on Wednesday 3 August 2022 at 6.30PM.

There were 46 Members, Fellows and guests in attendance.

1. WELCOME

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 candidates for membership of the Society who reflect the diverse backgrounds and experiences across NSW.

2. MINUTES of the 1304th Ordinary General Meeting held on 6 July 2022

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

3. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NAMES OF CANDIDATES FOR FELLOWSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP

It was noted that if no valid objection is lodged within two weeks of this Ordinary General Meeting, that is, by 6.30pm on 17 August 2022, the election of the following new Fellows and Members will take effect from 3 August 2022.

3.1 Fellows

Professor Sarah Brough
Professor Miroslav Filipovic
Professor Gernot Heiser
Emeritus Professor Iven Klineberg
Professor P David Marshall
Professor Paul McGreevy
Professor Andrew Parfitt
Professor Jane Quinn
Professor Des Richardson
Professor Allen Ross
Emeritus Professor Margaret Somerville
Professor Elizabeth Sullivan
Professor Pall Thordarson
Professor Sheryl van Nunen
Professor James Wallman
Professor Glenn Wightwick

3.2 Member

Mr Quang Ly

4 REPORT FROM COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

4.1 Distinguished Fellowship

Dr Pond advised that the Council, at its meeting on 20 July 2022, resolved unanimously 'that Dr Catherine Foley be elected by Special Resolution as a Distinguished Fellow of the Royal Society of New South Wales'.

She said that she was advising members under Rule 11(d) which states that 'Distinguished Fellows shall be so elected by Special Resolution of Council subject to notification of the Members and Fellows at the next general meeting of the Society'

5 QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

6 THIS EVENING'S PRESENTATION

MARSUPIALS: THEIR SECRETS ARE ALL IN THEIR GENES!

**Professor Kathy Belov AO FRSN FAA Professor of Comparative Genomics and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement), University of Sydney
and Dr Elizabeth Deane FRSN, Education Consultant**

Kathy Belov, Professor of Comparative Genomics at the University of Sydney, is a highly published researcher whose work has been recognised by fellowships of the Australian Academy of Sciences (2022) and Royal Society of NSW (2019) and awards that include the Australian Academy of Sciences Fenner medal (2014), Crozier Medal by the Genetics Society of Australasia (2013) and the MJD White Medal from the Genetics Society of Australasia (2021). Her contributions were recognised by the awarding of an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in recognition of her service as an academic and researcher, especially in comparative genomics.

Elizabeth Deane is a retired academic who now works as an independent higher education consultant to universities and private higher education providers. Although the final years of her academic career were in senior management, her research prior to this was in the area of marsupial immunology and disease with an emphasis on the development of immunocompetence and neonatal protection.

The unique reproductive biology of marsupials has made them a focus of much popular and scientific interest. Much of this public interest and research has highlighted exceptional biological features such as delayed gestation and the extensive period of extrauterine development of the young animal. In this presentation and conversation Kathy Belov and Elizabeth Deane explored the past forty years of research into marsupial immunology, examining the role technology has played in unravelling what was once considered lower levels of immunocompetence and early dependence on nonspecific mechanisms of defence. This conversation will bring into sharp focus the role genomics and proteomics has played in revealing marsupial secrets.

There followed a question-and-answer session moderated by Dr Elizabeth Deane.

7 VOTE OF THANKS

The vote of thanks was given by Emeritus Professor Christina Slade, Chair of the Program Committee.

8 CLOSE

Dr Pond closed the meeting at 7.46pm.