



THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH KNOWLEDGE SINCE 1821

Minutes of the 1306th Ordinary General Meeting of The Royal Society of New South Wales held by Zoom on Wednesday 7 September 2022 at 6.30PM.

There were 26 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 1305th Ordinary General Meeting held on 3 August 2022

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

3 REPORT FROM COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

Dr Pond advised that at the Executive Committee meeting held on 17 August there was a discussion based on a detailed analysis of attendances at recent OGMs (both face-to-face and virtual) and Ideas@TheHouse. As a result it had been decided, as a pilot, to hold the October 2022 OGM face-to-face in the Gallery Room at the State Library of NSW (SLNSW) with no charge. Refreshments would not be available in the Gallery Room but attendees would be able to visit the SLNSW roof bar before and/or after the meeting.

She also encouraged members to attend the joint RSNSW-Law Society of NSW Public Lecture *The US Supreme Court: A Rogue Court in a Fragile Democracy* to be given by Linda Greenhouse, Senior Research Scholar, Yale Law School and President, of the American Philosophical Society on Monday, 14 November 2022, 9.00 am AEST by Webinar.

4 QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

5 THIS EVENING'S PRESENTATION

Is Fairweather an Australian artist? And does it matter?

Associate Professor Claire Roberts in conversation with Emeritus Professor Nicholas Jose

Claire Roberts is an art historian and curator specialising in modern and contemporary Chinese art and cultural flows between Australia and Asia. She is Associate Professor of Art History at the University of Melbourne and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. Her most recent books are *Fairweather and China* (2021); *Ian Fairweather: A Life in Letters* (edited with John Thompson, 2019) *Photography and China* (2013) and *Friendship in Art: Fou Lei and Huang Binhong* (2010).

Nicholas Jose has published novels, short stories, essays and non-fiction and was general editor of the *Macquarie PEN Anthology of Australian Literature*. He recently co-edited *Antipodean China: Reflections on Literary Exchange* (2021) and *Everything Changes: Australian Writers and China—A transcultural*

anthology (2020). He was Cultural Counsellor at the Australian Embassy Beijing, 1987-1990 and Harvard Chair of Australian Studies, 2009-10. He is currently Emeritus Professor of English and Creative Writing at The University of Adelaide and Adjunct Professor, Writing and Society Research Centre, Western Sydney University.

After a life of wandering, including extended periods living in China, Bali and the Philippines, the Scottish-born artist Ian Fairweather (1891-1974) settled on Bribie Island off the coast of Queensland. Working in a self-made house constructed from bush materials Fairweather created works that prompted a leading Sydney critic to name him 'our greatest painter'. Claire Roberts discussed the repositioning of Fairweather as a key transcultural figure, connecting British, European, Chinese and Australian art histories.

There followed a question-and-answer session moderated by Emeritus Professor Christina Slade, Chair of the Program Committee.

7 VOTE OF THANKS

The vote of thanks was given by Vice-President Judith Wheeldon,

8 CLOSE

Dr Pond closed the meeting at 7.58pm.