



THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH KNOWLEDGE SINCE 1821

Minutes of the 1304th Ordinary General Meeting of The Royal Society of New South Wales held in the Gallery Room, State Library of New South Wales on Wednesday 6 July 2022 at 6.00PM.

There were approximately 45 Members, Fellows and guests in attendance.

1. WELCOME

In the absence of the President who was unable to attend because of illness, Vice-President, Ms Judith Wheeldon 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 those from diverse backgrounds for membership of the Society.

2. MINUTES of the 1303rd Ordinary General Meeting held on 1 June 2022

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

3. CONFIRMATION OF MEMBERSHIP

As no valid objection was lodged within two weeks following the 1303rd Ordinary General Meeting, the election of the following new Fellows, Members and Associate Members took effect from the date of that meeting held on 1 June 2022.

3.1 Fellows

Professor Lisa Adkins
Professor Julie Cairney
Dr Geoffrey Cohn
Professor Robyn Dowling
Professor Michelle Leishman
Professor Anna Reid
Professor Moninya Roughan
Professor Rathan Subramaniam

3.2 Member - Mr Zile Yu

3.3 Associate Member - Mr Keval Gandhi

4 REPORT FROM COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

The Vice-President read a statement from the President as follows:

'Most of the focus during the past month has centred on the fabulous 200th Anniversary Dinner held in the Great Hall at the University of Sydney on 24 June and attended by 275 people.

Those who attended will have noted the Society's new banners, including one for each Branch. They are on display here tonight.

The speeches by the President and Guest Speaker, Dr Alan Finkel AC, are published on the [Society's website](#). The photo gallery will be available soon. It was wonderful to see such a good attendance from rising stars and students.

I draw your attention to the call for donations to a new initiative - the Royal Society of NSW [Bicentennial Scholarships](#) to be offered in any academic field. The Society has a long tradition of encouraging and supporting young researchers in NSW. The rationale for establishing these scholarships is that now, more than ever, Australia needs to encourage our future leaders to excel.

The winners will receive a cash prize of at least \$1,000, plus a complimentary year of membership of the Society. Membership provides the young scholars with the opportunity to network with learned researchers and leading professionals across a wide range of disciplines.

The sustainability of the program will depend very much on your generosity. With your generous, tax-deductible donation, the Society looks forward to continuing this meaningful initiative well into our third century. Please visit our website if you would like to donate.'

5 QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

6 THIS EVENING'S PRESENTATION

THIS IS GOING TO BE DIFFERENT: LEARNING TO LIVE WITH CHINESE POWER

**Professor Hugh White AO FASSA Professor Emeritus of Strategic Studies,
Australian National University**

Hugh White spent much of his career in the Australian Government, including as International Relations Advisor to Prime Minister Bob Hawke and Deputy Secretary for Strategy in the Department of Defence. He was the founding Director of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, and from 2004 to 2011 he was Head of ANU's Strategic and Defence Studies Centre. His major publications include *Power Shift: Australia's future between Washington and Beijing*, [2010], *The China Choice: Why America should share power*, [2012], *Without America: Australia's future in the New Asia* [2017], and *How to defend Australia* [2019]. In the 1970s he studied philosophy at the universities of Melbourne and Oxford.

China's rise drives the most consequential shift in Australia's international environment since European settlement. So far we are in denial about this, hoping that a reassertion of American supremacy will contain China's power and preserve the old US-led regional order which has served us so well. Professor White addressed the following questions. But what are the chances of those hopes being realised, and what can we do if they are dashed? How does Australia make its way in an Asia no longer dominated by our Great and Powerful Friends? How we answer that question will do much to define us as a nation.

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

8 VOTE OF THANKS

The vote of thanks was given by Emeritus Professor Christina Slade.

9 CLOSE

Ms Wheeldon closed the meeting at 8.20pm.