

custodianship of the SLNSW. There was one question from a Member regarding the asset value. Two Members spoke, one volunteering to work on the collection and the other expressing strong support for the proposal.

6 QUESTIONS

There were no further questions from the floor.

7 2022 CLARKE MEMORIAL LECTURE

The Royal Society of NSW Clarke Medal honours Rev. William Branwhite Clarke, a geologist, and significant figure in the history of the Royal Society of NSW, serving for a decade as a highly influential Senior Vice-President of the Society (in the early years, the Governor of NSW was the President of the Society). The Medal was first awarded in 1878 “for meritorious contributions to Geology, Mineralogy and Natural History of Australasia”. The first Clarke Memorial Lecture was delivered in 1903. Since 2018, the Clarke Medal and Lectureship have been conjoined.

“Caves as observatories of groundwater recharge”

Professor Andy Baker FRSN FAGU

School of Biological, Earth, and Environment Sciences, University of NSW

Much of the world relies on groundwater as a water resource, yet it is hard to know when and where rainfall actually replenishes our groundwater aquifers. Caves that are situated above the groundwater table are unique observatories of water transiting from the land surface to the aquifer. Professor Baker will show how networks of loggers deployed in Australian caves (and mines and tunnels) have helped understand when, where and how much rainfall is needed to replenish the groundwater.

Andy Baker is a Professor in the School of Biological, Earth, and Environmental Sciences at the University of NSW, Sydney. His research includes the investigation of the climate, soil and groundwater processes that affect the cave and other subsurface environments. He is a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union and the Royal Society of New South Wales. He was awarded the Royal Society of New South Wales Clarke Medal (Geology) and Lecture in 2022.

The lecture covered the extensive work by Prof Baker and his research group investigating the ingress into caves and other underground spaces to determine the rate of groundwater replenishment. This is invaluable work, particularly in the context of climate change and the impact on the environment and the economy.

There were numerous questions about the research program.

8 VOTE OF THANKS

The vote of thanks was given by Dr Elizabeth Deane.

9 CLOSE

The President closed the meeting at 8:00 pm.

The minutes were recorded by the Secretary, Dr Donald Hector AM FRSN.

Signed as a true record
Dr Susan Pond AM FRSN
President