

Editorial

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HON. SECRETARY (EDITORIAL)

In my last editorial, I referred to the disadvantage suffered by multi-disciplinary publications such as the *Journal and Proceedings of the Royal Society of NSW* and noted that we are developing a strategy to re-establish the *Journal's* position in learned publishing in Australia. It is pleasing to note that at the end of May the Australian Research Council announced that it to withdraw the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) Ranked Outlets Indicator and to introduce a Refined Journal Indicator that does not use prescriptive ranks. We anticipate that that it will now be less of a disadvantage for authors to choose to publish in a multi-disciplinary journal such as ours. The Society expects that the *Journal* will be included in the ERA 2012 Journal List.

Since the last edition was published, the Council of the Society held a strategic planning meeting and identified five strategic programmes that will be the focus for the Council for the next two years. Key to success of these programmes are vibrant publications that will continue to raise the Society's profile. The Society's Act of Incorporation states that it is "for the encouragement of studies and investigations in Science Art Literature and Philosophy". The original by-laws placed a heavy emphasis on science and, indeed, many of the Society's activities have been focused on science. We aim to place greater emphasis on the breadth of the Society's activities and at the strategic planning

meeting the Council agreed that our role could best be summed up: "we exist to bring science to art, literature and philosophy; and to bring art, literature and philosophy to science". Thus, we will be encouraging submission of papers that recognise the breadth of influence of art, literature and philosophy on the practice of science and, conversely, the way in which science influences art, literature and philosophy.

We are pleased that the Warren Lecture and Prize has now been formally established by the Society and that funding for the Prize has been assured for the next two years. A prize of \$1,000 and two prizes of \$500 each for the runners-up will be awarded based on a paper submitted for peer review and publication in the *Journal*. Entries close on 31st October 2010 and the winning papers announced will be presented early in 2012.

The Society is fortunate to have an enormous breadth and depth of experience among its membership. We would be pleased to receive papers from members covering aspects of their work that they believe would be of interest to our broad and extensive readership. In particular, we believe readers would be interested to read reviews of our major body of work produced by an ongoing research programme. Manuscripts can be submitted electronically to editor@royalsoc.org.au (information for authors is available at <http://nsw.royalsoc.org.au/authors.html>).

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Hon. Secretary (Editorial)
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