

1326th ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday 2 October 2024 at 6:30pm

Metcalfe Auditorium, State Library of NSW
(enter from main Library entrance)

The 1326th Ordinary General Meeting of the Royal Society of NSW will take place at **6:30 pm on Wednesday 2 October 2024** in the **Metcalfe Auditorium, State Library of NSW**, followed by the launch of the Society's newly published book, *Knowledge for a Nation: Origins of the Royal Society of New South Wales* by Anne Coote. Registration and refreshments will be available in the anteroom to the theatre from 6:00 pm. An optional supper is available (at an additional fee) immediately after the meeting.

AGENDA

- 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**
President, Dr Susan Pond AM FRSN.
- 2. MINUTES**
Minutes of the 1325th Ordinary General Meeting will be reviewed.
- 3. CONFIRMATION OF NAMES OF CANDIDATES FOR FELLOWSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP**
The Council has not met since the last OGM, so there are no candidates to be announced for Members' consideration at this meeting.
- 4. PRESENTATION OF FELLOWSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES**
The President will present certificates to new Fellows whose nominations were tabled at the previous OGM.

FELLOWSHIP

Professor Natkunam Ketheesan
Professor Matt Wand

MEMBERSHIP

Dr Renee V Goreham
Daniel Bruno Bonatti
Samuel Tensingh
Ryan William Daffurn
Phillip Michael Nyssen
Alan Christopher Wainwright

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Robin Miles

- 5. REPORT FROM COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL**
The Vice President will update membership on the key activities underway for 2024.

(cont'd...)

6. BOOK LAUNCH

Knowledge for a Nation: Origins of the Royal Society of New South Wales

The RSNSW origin story, revealed by Dr Anne Coote

Knowledge for a Nation: Origins of the Royal Society of New South Wales tells the early history of a learned society still active in the intellectual culture of twenty-first century Australia. The book begins with an account of Australia's first learned society, the *Philosophical Society of Australasia* (1821-1822), which is the Royal Society's enduring inspiration, if not its earliest incarnation. The Royal Society evolved from the *Australian Philosophical Society* (1850-1), through the *Philosophical Society of New South Wales*, which was re-badged Royal in 1866. Successfully re-organised a decade later, the Royal Society reached the zenith of its influence on the development of a colonial science community in New South Wales. Hopes and disappointments, conflict and camaraderie, challenges and achievements are all part of this story which highlights the society's initiatives in the cause of science, its all-male membership, the women who nevertheless contributed, and the society's glittering conversaciones. The book concludes in 1914, when a visit to Australia by the British Association for the Advancement of Science demonstrated international recognition for the colonial scientific community which the Royal Society had worked so long to help create.

About the Author

Historian, **Dr Anne Coote**, works in the areas of public history and cultural history, including the cultural history of science in colonial Australia. For many years, she held an adjunct position at the University of New England. More recently, as an associate of the Centre for Applied History at Macquarie University, she contributed to a research project investigating the history of shale-mining settlements in the Blue Mountains, New South Wales. She has written entries for the Dictionary of Sydney and published academically on the influence of literate culture on popular perceptions of community and sovereignty in mid nineteenth-century New South Wales; popular science journalism; notable collectors of natural history specimens; the intersection of specimen collection with ideas about class; and the trade in specimens at a local and global level. Dr Coote is a graduate of the University of Sydney and the University of New England, Armidale.

7. VOTE OF THANKS

8. CLOSE

Dr Donald Hector AM FRSN

Secretary