

1328th ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday 4 December 2024 at 6:30pm

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

The 1328th Ordinary General Meeting of the Royal Society of NSW will take place at **6:30 pm on Wednesday 4 December 2024** in the **Metcalfe Auditorium, State Library of NSW**, followed by an open lecture.

Note that the Society's Christmas party will take place in the anteroom to the theatre from 5:00 pm. Registration for the OGM will commence at that time.

AGENDA

- 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**
President, Dr Susan Pond AM FRSN.
- 2. MINUTES**
Minutes of the 1327th 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

Ralph John Lancaster Evans

Laudation – Ralph Evans has given distinguished service to international trade and investment, corporate governance and business and venture capital endeavours.

Professor Bruce Graham Thom

Laudation – Bruce Thorn has made a significant contribution to coastal science and engagement in environmental public policy.

Professor Iain Tyrrell Benson

Laudation – Iain Benson is an internationally recognised barrister, teacher and writer on legal philosophy.

Professor Xufeng Feng Huang

Laudation – Xufeng Huang has made a significant contribution to mental health, well-being and overall well-being in the community.

Professor Christopher Gerard Maher

Laudation – Christopher Maher is recognised internationally for his research discoveries, leadership and mentoring in the field of back pain.

Professor Susan Mary Bennett Morton

Laudation – Susan Morton has made a significant contribution to life course epidemiology.

Professor Ashish Sharma

Laudation – Ashish Sharma has made a significant contribution to hydrology especially in the areas of flood exposure and water security especially as they relate to climate change.

Professor Chung-Wei Christine Lin

Laudation – Chung-Wei Christine Lin has made a significant contribution to advancing the management of pain and musculoskeletal conditions.

Professor Christian Stewart MacGregor Turney

Laudation – Christine Turney is an internationally recognised earth scientist who has pioneered new forms of record capture for climate and environmental change.

Dr Paul Emerson McGillick

Laudation – Paul McGillick is a highly respected arts professional and arts critic, specialising in art and architecture and has had a significant impact over many years on the Australian arts community.

MEMBERSHIP

Dr Tanveer Hussain

Dr Abi Sudharsanam

Jessica Ann Ashton

5. ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES AWARDS 2024

The President will announce the winners of the Royal Society of NSW awards for 2024.

6. REPORT FROM COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

The President will update membership on the key activities underway for 2024.

7. OPEN LECTURE

***Social media and smartphones for youth:
What's the story?***

Scientia Professor Helen Christensen AO FASSA FAHMS

**Professor of Psychiatry and Mental Health, UNSW Sydney and
Honorary Professorial Fellow, The Black Dog Institute**

Social media has been seen by the public and by some researchers as the root cause of rising mental health problems among young people. The issue, discussed widely in the media, almost unanimously concludes social media is harmful and must be curbed. Technological interventions have historically influenced social norms and societal structures, so it is crucial to take these concerns seriously. In this talk, I will discuss whether social media is the culprit responsible for rising levels of anxiety, depression and self-harm. I'll also suggest what sort of research we may now need to answer the question definitively, and what might be the range of alternative hypotheses as to the causes or rising youth distress.

About the speaker

Scientia Professor Helen Christensen is a Professor within the Discipline of Psychiatry and Mental Health at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, a previous Board Director and Executive Director of the Black Dog Institute, a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences Australia and of the Academy of Health and Medical Sciences.

She is a leading expert on using technology to deliver evidence-based interventions for the prevention and treatment of depression, anxiety, suicide, and self-harm. She has received awards for her work including the Innovation NSW Premier's Prize for Leadership in Innovation in 2017, the Roddy D Brickell Memorial Award from Columbia University in

2014, the ISRII Lifetime Achievement Award in 2019, and Suicide Prevention Lifetime Achievement Award. She was made an Officer of Australia for her pioneering work in internet interventions. She serves or has served on many government and scientific committees including the NHMRC Translation Committee, Digital Mental Health Advisory Group, Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, and international collaborations. She has published more than 600 research papers, developed more than 15 apps, websites, digital phenotyping applications and research platforms, and led or co-led more than 50 randomised clinical trials.

Most recently, Professor Christensen was named the NSW Scientist of the Year for 2024 at this year's NSW Premier's Prizes for Science and Engineering.

8. VOTE OF THANKS

9. CLOSE

Dr Donald Hector AM FRSN

Secretary