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ROYAL
SOCIETY
NEW SOUTH WALES

The Bulletin 475

September 2023

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A message from the President

Dear <<First Name>> <<Last Name>>

In my previous column, I drew attention to the online survey seeking your views on the Society and how it meets your needs and aspirations. I am pleased to report that 32 percent of members responded before it closed on 28 July. This, I am told, is a good response. Thank you to those who took the time to complete it.

The next steps in the Master Planning process include preparation of the formal report on the survey findings by Council Member Professor Mark Evans, conducting in-depth interviews with a mix of established, new, potential, and former members, and preparing for a one-day workshop to frame the concepts and principles that will underpin a Green Paper for distribution to all members for further comment. I encourage you to participate as fully as possible to ensure that the Society is progressive, contemporary, and relevant as it enters its third century.

I remind you that nominations for the Society's Awards remain open until 30 September. Please refer to our website for [full details](#) and spread the word across your networks with a view to reaching as many potential nominees as possible.

At its 15 August meeting, Council endorsed the recommendation by the Fellows and Members Assessment Committee to elect one Distinguished Fellow, 15 Fellows, 12 Members, and four Associate Members. I will be notifying these to the membership at the online Ordinary General Meeting on 6 September and encourage you to congratulate and welcome them to the Society as you engage with them.



The Open Lecture that evening [“Challenges for open enquiry and scholarship in a divided age”](#) is important in the context of the ongoing Australian Government reviews of the University sector. Professor Alan Davidson, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Technology, will address the question “Are the current settings within the “ecosystem” of academia – career incentives, and the pressures of social media and public discourse – optimal for generating the best research?”

We work for the Society because we understand the need to enhance public discourse on a wide range of topics that are crucial to our future. Society members have excellent ideas to contribute. In that spirit, I look forward to hearing your ideas and suggested ways to bring them to fruition.

Susan M Pond AM FRSN FTSE FAHMS
[President, Royal Society of NSW](#)

For your diary

- [1315th Ordinary General Meeting and Open Lecture](#) (Wednesday, 6 September, 6.30 – 8.00 pm AEST, live streaming on Zoom), *Challenges for Open Enquiry and Scholarship in a Divided Age*, Professor Alan Davison, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Technology Sydney
- [Southern Highlands Branch Meeting 2023-8](#) (Thursday, 21 September 2023, 6.30 – 7.30 pm AEST, RSL Mittagong, Carrington Room), *Gender dysphoria: emerging teen challenges*, Clare Rowe, Principal Psychologist and Director, Rowe & Associates
- [1316th Ordinary General Meeting and Open Lecture](#) (Wednesday, 4 October, 6.30 – 8.00 pm AEST, Gallery Room, Mitchell Building, State Library of New South Wales), *Australia's nuclear future; A new discourse of the 2040s*, Helen Cook, Principal, GNE Advisory and Dr Adi Paterson FRSN FTSE, former CEO, ANSTO
- [Southern Highlands Branch Meeting 2023-9](#) (Thursday, 19 October 2023, 6.30 – 7.30 pm AEDT, RSL Mittagong, Joadja/Nattai Room), *Are our weeds becoming new native species?*, Professor Angela Moles, Ecology and Evolution Research Centre, UNSW Sydney
- Hunter Branch Meeting 2023-4 (Thursday, 26 October 2023, 6.00 – 8.00 pm AEDT, Hunter Room, Newcastle City Hall), Title: TBA, Professor Colin Waters, School of Information and Physical Sciences, University of Newcastle

The Society's complete events program for the year is published in the [online Events Calendar](#), which is updated regularly.

News

Vale Emeritus Professor Mary-Louise McLaws

The Society is deeply saddened at the passing of one of its Fellows, **Professor Emeritus Mary-Louise McLaws AO FRSN**, on 12 August 2023.

Mary-Louise McLaws, a renowned epidemiologist and expert in infection control at UNSW Sydney, came to public prominence as a trusted commentator and media adviser during the COVID-19 pandemic, at a time of considerable confusion and ignorance about the propagation of the virus and how to control it. As noted in the [ABC's article](#) reporting her death,



“Professor Mary-Louise McLaws became the most trusted, compassionate, and calming voice of reason in the lives of many Australians.”

During her career, she served as a World Health Organisation (WHO) advisor to China and helped with infection-control research in Cambodia, China, Bangladesh, Mali, Indonesia, Iran, Vietnam, Taiwan, and Turkey. She served as Director of the Public Health Unit for the Sydney Southwest Area Health Service and was also a member of the WHO Health Emergencies Program Experts Advisory Panel for Infection Prevention and Control Preparedness, Readiness, and Response to COVID-19.

In January 2022, she was diagnosed with brain cancer, the announcement of which led to a major outpouring of public emotion and grief. In June of that year, she was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in the Queen’s Birthday Honours “for distinguished service to medical research, particularly to epidemiology and infection prevention, to tertiary education, and to health administration.” In December 2022, UNSW celebrated her lifetime of achievements and 36 years of service to the University, with the Chancellor, Mr David Gonski AC FRSN, announcing the award of the title Professor Emeritus, and the establishment of the UNSW Mary-Louise McLaws AO Clinical Education Rooms—a new teaching and education space within the new Prince of Wales Acute Services Building.

To read more of the life of the late Professor Mary-Louise McLaws and her achievements, please see the articles on the [ABC News](#) website and the [Sydney Morning Herald](#), amongst others.

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Universities Accord Chair, Mary O’Kane, interview

The Australian Universities Accord working group, chaired by Professor Mary O’Kane AC FRSN FTSE and including Western Sydney University Vice-Chancellor Professor Barney Glover AO FRSN FTSE, released its interim report during July. The interim report’s recommendations in some areas, particularly in relation to research and the idea that a levy be placed on international student fees to fund research, have proven contentious, with strong criticism emerging from the science lobby group, Science and Technology Australia, the Group of Eight universities, and various research-focused professional associations



In acknowledging that the university sector does the “heavy research lifting”, Professor O’Kane has commented that more funding depends on the case being made to the community about the importance and value of research. A [podcast interview](#) with Professor O’Kane, canvassing these and other facets of the interim report, has just been released by the Group of Eight. This, and [an article](#) in the weekly higher education newsletter, *Future Campus*, make for fascinating and informative reading and listening.

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Tagging the Society in your social media posts

The Society is actively seeking to build its influence and outreach through social media — Facebook, LinkedIn, X (previously known as Twitter), and YouTube. In the first month of the appointment of the Society’s new Communications Officer, we have seen significantly increased

traffic (views and impressions) on these channels, new subscriptions, and a significant uptake on YouTube, on which all recorded events from the Society are made available.



If, as a member of the Society, you have work that you would like to share, or you were recently recognised for your contributions, we would very much like to hear about it. If you are active on social media, we very much encourage you to tag the Society in your social media posts and let us know what you are doing, whether it is a paper that you have published, an award that you have won, or simply sharing photos from a recent event.

To assist you, a [guide to tagging the Society on social media](#) has been prepared.

Also, please follow us on [X / Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [YouTube](#) to keep updated on the latest news, live streams, events, and opportunities.

Society Fellow, Professor Emma Johnston, appointed to CSIRO Board

On 23 August 2023, the Minister for Industry and Science, the Hon. Ed Husic MP, announced that the Australian Government has appointed **Professor Emma Johnston** AO FRSN FAA FTSE, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) of the University of Sydney, as a member of the CSIRO Board for the next four years.



Professor Johnston is well known to RSNSW members as an eminent marine scientist, a past winner of the Society's Clarke Medal, and the speaker at the most recent Ideas@theHouse (August 2023) presentation at which she discussed [Ideas for marine stewardship and sustainability in a time of acceleration](#).

In announcing the appointment, Mr Husic noted that “Professor Johnston’s impressive marine science credentials will bring environmental expertise to the CSIRO Board, complementing the board’s existing skills and experience”, going on to say that “It’s incredibly important that the CSIRO is at the forefront of applying scientific research to tackle the big challenges facing the Australian community. Having esteemed scientists like Professor Johnston as part of the leadership of our national science agency is invaluable.”

The Council of the Society warmly congratulates Professor Johnston on this appointment.

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Four Society Fellows amongst the winners of the 2023 Australian Museum Eureka Prizes

The Royal Society of New South Wales is delighted to learn that four of its Fellows, **Professor Renae Ryan AM FRSN**, a neuroscientist from the University of Sydney, **Professor Richard Kingsford FRSN**, an environmental scientist and river ecologist from UNSW Sydney, **Professor Toby Walsh FRSN FAA**, a computer scientist and artificial intelligence researcher from UNSW Sydney, and **Professor Karu Esselle FRSN**, an antenna engineer from the University of Technology



Sydney, have been awarded Australian Museum Eureka Prizes for 2023 at a ceremony held in Sydney on the evening of Wednesday, 23 August.

The Council of the Society warmly congratulates Professors Kingsford, Ryan, Walsh, and Esselle on their achievements, and on this recognition of the impact of their outstanding research.

Professor Renae Ryan has won the 2023 University of Technology Sydney Eureka Prize for Outstanding Mentor of Young Researchers. Professor Ryan has advanced the careers of many young researchers through mentorship, networking, and advocacy. Driving university-wide gender equity initiatives and founding the Sydney Medical School Early Career Researcher Network, she helped increase the representation of women at the professorial level in her faculty, fostering a more inclusive and supportive academic environment.



Professor Richard Kingsford is the leader of the UNSW Waterbirds Aerial Survey Team which has won the 2023 NSW Environment and Heritage Eureka Prize for Applied Environmental Research. This team has conducted one of the largest and longest-running wildlife surveys in the world. As well as influencing the Murray-Darling Basin Plan and the nomination and management of Ramsar-listed wetlands, their data has contributed to the gazettal of three new national parks, and the conservation of waterbirds and freshwater ecosystems, including rivers.



Professor Toby Walsh is the winner of the 2023 Celestino Eureka Prize for Promoting Understanding of Science. Professor Walsh is a world-renowned authority in artificial intelligence (AI), exploring subjects such as self-driving cars and autonomous weapons. On television, in books, and at academic forums he leads conversations about our AI-driven future: what it will look like, how we can prepare, and what we should be wary of.



Professor Karu Esselle is the leader of the MetaSteerers Team from the University of Technology Sydney, the Defence Science and Technology Group, and Macquarie University which has won the 2023 Department of Defence Eureka Prize for Outstanding Science in Safeguarding Australia. This team has developed a low-profile, energy-efficient and steerable antenna system to help the Australian Defence Force (ADF) gain a crucial advantage in battle. Their unique system allows the ADF to transmit large volumes of data or track suspicious radio activity across a wide bandwidth while remaining almost invisible to adversaries.



To read further, please see the announcement on the [Australian Museum website](#).

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Events

1315th Ordinary General Meeting and Open Lecture

Challenges for Open Enquiry and Scholarship in a Divided Age

Professor Alan Davison

Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences University of Technology Sydney

Date: Wednesday, 6 September 2023, 6.30 — 8.00 pm AEST

Venue: [Zoom webinar](#)

Entry: no charge

All are welcome



[Please click here to join the webinar](#)

Summary: Are the current settings within the “ecosystem” of academia – career incentives, and the pressures of social media and public discourse – optimal for generating the best research? In this talk, Alan Davison will outline some of the key drivers in our current academic environment and public discourse that are inimical to genuine research innovation and deep inquiry, how some disciplines are seeking to redress this (such as in the US with the Society for Open Inquiry in the Behavioural Sciences — SOIBS), and what might be done here in Australia.

Professor Alan Davison is Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Technology Sydney. His research interests cover music and visual culture, art and aesthetics, celebrity studies, and 19th-century European cultural history. More recently he has actively promoted viewpoint diversity within our academic communities (as the lead for the Heterodox Academy in Australia), and has published both scholarly and popular articles on trends in social sciences and humanities research. In late 2021, Alan partnered with well-known media figure Josh Szepts to launch the “[Permission to Think](#)” speaker series, which invites prominent scholars to look at the role of intellectuals and institutions during this age of outrage in public debate of complex issues, especially in the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (HASS) disciplines. To date, guests in the series have included the likes of Jon Haidt and Alice Dreger.

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Southern Highlands Branch Meeting 2023-8

Gender dysphoria: emerging teen challenges

Clare Rowe

**Principal Psychologist and Director
Rowe & Associates**



Date: Thursday, 21 September 2023, 6.30 – 7.30 pm AEST

Venue: RSL Mittagong, Joadja/Nattai Room

All are welcome

Summary: The last ten years have seen an exponential rise in the diagnosis of Gender Dysphoria in children and adolescents, many of them going on to identify as Transgender. The treatment deemed best practice over that time has been ‘gender-affirming therapy’ but this has been with little evidence behind it. Clare Rowe, child psychologist, will explore where the extraordinary rise in these cases has emerged from, discuss the conceptualisation of these presentations as a mental

health disorder, and finally make a case for an individualised nuanced approach to each child and family.

Clare Rowe is the founder of Rowe & Associates Child and Family Psychology. As an educational and developmental psychologist, she specialises in paediatric psychology including the assessment and diagnosis of childhood disorders such as ADHD, autism spectrum disorders, learning disorders, and giftedness. She has extensive experience in the treatment of childhood and adolescent anxiety and depression, and parental training in behavioural management with oppositional behavioural difficulties. Clare specialises in common challenging behavioural difficulties and is passionate about empowering adults to be calm and confident parents through practical and hands-on support.

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1316th Ordinary General Meeting and Open Lecture

Australia's nuclear future: a new discourse for the 2040s

 **Catherine
Ball and Maria
MacNamara**

Helen Cook
Principal, GNE Advisory

and

Dr Adi Peterson FRSN FTSE
Former Chief Executive Officer
ANSTO

Date: Wednesday, 4 October 2023, 6.00 for 6.30 — 8.00 pm AEDT

Venue: Gallery Room, State Library of NSW, 1 Shakespeare Place, Sydney

Entry: Society members, \$10; Non-members, \$20; Students, \$5

Registration: Registration through Membes is required before 2.00 pm on 4 October — registration link to follow

Drinks: available from a cash bar from 6.00 pm

All are welcome

Summary: to follow

About the Speakers: to follow

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Southern Highlands Branch Meeting 2023-9

Are our weeds becoming new native species?

Professor Angela Moles FRSN

Ecology and Evolution Research Centre

UNSW Sydney

Date: Thursday, 19 October 2023, 6.30 – 7.30 pm AEDT

Venue: RSL Mittagong, Joadja/Nattai Room

All are welcome

Summary:

Introducing species to a new environment creates excellent conditions for evolution, as the species are released from their old enemies and subjected to new



conditions. Our work has shown that 70% of the plant species introduced to Australia have changed the way they grow since arriving here. We investigated one species in detail (the South African Beach Daisy, *Arctotheca populifolia*; see picture) and found that the changes are so great that the introduced population is developing reproductive isolation from its source population. That is, at least one of our introduced plants appears to be becoming a unique new species. If Australia cannot eradicate introduced species (and it seldom can), then it seems inevitable that many more species will eventually evolve to become unique new taxa. At this point, we will have to decide whether to accept them as new native species or continue trying to control them. While most people do not like the idea yet, I think acceptance of introduced species is just a matter of time. I have been called a witch for these ideas before - bring on the arguments!

Professor Angela Moles runs the [Big Ecology Lab](#), in the [Evolution & Ecology Research Centre](#) at UNSW Sydney. Angela and her students work to improve understanding of: 1) species' responses to climate change, 2) the ecology and evolution of introduced species, and 3) the factors affecting global patterns in the ways plants grow and reproduce. Angela is passionate about conservation, science communication, and quality teaching. Angela is a member of the [NSW Biodiversity Conservation Advisory Panel](#), the [NSW Threatened Species scientific committee](#), and the [ARC College of Experts](#), and is a board member for the [NSW Saving our Species program](#). She has won a range of prizes, including the Nancy Millis Medal for Women in Science (from the Australian Academy of Science), the Australian Ecology Research Award (awarded by the Ecological Society of Australia), and the Frank Fenner Prize for Life Scientist of the Year (one of the Prime Minister's Prizes for Science). At home, Angela has two children and a golden retriever, and is a surf lifesaver.

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RSNSW and Learned Academies Forum 2023

Forum 2023: Our 21st Century Brain

OUR 21st CENTURY BRAIN

Date: Thursday, 2 November 2023, 9.00 am–5.30 pm AEDT

Venue: Government House Sydney and live streaming

Registration: Information to follow

Brochure and Program: Information to follow



Summary

The brain is our most complex organ. It underpins our basic instincts and needs and our behavioural responses to the world around us. Our brain mediates the compassion, reason, and imagination that are reflected in great works of the arts and sciences. Yet our brain is also the source of distress, dysfunction, and malice. Despite centuries of recurring impacts of tribalism, racism, dehumanisation, and exclusion of 'outsiders', we continue to inflict suffering on others.

At the same time, the 21st century brings new challenges that extend well beyond immediate threats to very complex societal challenges such as global security, climate change, massive demographic shifts, resource management, information overload, and artificial intelligence. Have we reached the edge of our human capacity to respond effectively as either individuals or collective groups?

The context and demands on our brains have been transformed by the very tools we have created, including new information technology platforms, and rapidly developing and deployed forms of artificial intelligence. Diseases of the brain are increasingly prevalent for our ageing population, as are the increasing mental health challenges evident across the lifespan.

Considerable progress across the sciences and humanities has deepened our understanding of genetic, environmental, and social factors that underpin brain development and function, yet the rising demands on our capacity to respond appropriately to globalised threats bring an urgent need for novel, just, and sustainable solutions.

This year's Royal Society of New South Wales and Learned Academies Forum focuses on recent progress in unravelling the workings of the brain and opportunities to use our emerging understanding to promote human well-being well beyond the 21st Century.

The Forum is held under the auspices of Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of New South Wales. The Royal Society of New South Wales acknowledges the generous support by Her Excellency, the Academies, the Office of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer, and Haus Holdings.

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Branch and Committee Reports

Program Committee Report

The Society provides an active program of events through its Hunter, Southern Highlands, and Western NSW branches, and in Sydney. With events held recently by the branches reported on separately in this Bulletin, this section focuses on the two most recent events held in Sydney.

Report on the August events held in Sydney

In August, there were two programs focussed on highly topical issues: one on convergence and new technologies, held at the State Library, and another on the future of the oceans, held at Government House as part of the Ideas@theHouse series.

On Wednesday, 2 August Associate Professor Catherine Ball and Maria MacNamara Director, were in conversation on the topic of "Convergence: the hybridisation of the future".



As the world mixes the human and the technological, Catherine Ball argued that the Internet of Things had already become the Internet of Bodies. She asked how much privacy are we willing to hand over in order to protect the security of life as usual. Maria MacNamara, a leader in the start up sector and government, raised questions about regulation and possible government intervention.



A recording of this event is [available on YouTube](#).

At Government House on 10 August, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of NSW hosted the third and final lecture in the 2023 Ideas@theHouse. Professor Emma Johnston AO FRSN FAA FTSE, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) at the University of Sydney, spoke on the topic "Ideas for marine stewardship and sustainability in a time of acceleration."



Professor Johnston outlined the impacts of climate change, noting that 40% of marine life in Australia has been affected by heat stress, and the increase of temperature in the Antarctic from 2016, following a period when circumpolar currents had provided insulation. A recording of this event is also [available on YouTube](#).

In both presentations, the speakers came with a positive message. Professor Johnston cited the virtuous outcomes that can arise from the environmental actions of local and institutional actors working together. Dr Ball and Maria MacNamara emphasised our role in engaging with technology and regulation.

Christina Slade FRSN
Chair, RSNSW Program Committee

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Southern Highlands Branch Report

Presentation Report — 17 August 2023

Can plant breeding help us manage the challenges of climate change and food insecurity?

Professor Richard Trethowan

**Director Plant Breeding Institute
Sydney Institute of Agriculture
University of Sydney**



Richard Trethowan opened this lecture with the dramatic statement that there has probably never been a more successful event in the history of agriculture than the Green Revolution, spanning the years from the mid-1960s to the turn of the century. This new genetics, along with associated improved economic practice, resulted in an extraordinary leap in production of crops, doubling cereal yield in Asia in a very short space of time. It was a quantum change. During this period of rapid growth in the yields, the population it was serving increased by 60%. An extraordinary result.

According to Richard, this Green Revolution is now running out of steam. For many reasons, there is now a changing trend in global and Australian wheat yields. He believes that both the productivity and profitability must improve as we face increasingly hostile farming environments in a changing climate. At this point, he is leading his team to address three main areas – increasing potential yield, protecting yield through such threats as heat tolerance, and enhancing dietary value.



The major results emerging from this current research are based on a genetic approach in the search for a new hybrid wheat. The innovation is known as the blue aleurone system. Its development has resulted from extensive analysis of past hybrid systems, none of which has been shown to be satisfactory. All these systems failed commercially, the main problems being temperature induced sterility and cytoplasmic male sterility. In comparison, Richard Trethowan's new patented genetic system features natural diversity, demonstrates excellent hybrid vigour, and also has molecular tags for all components.

In answer to his own question in the title of this lecture, “Can plant breeding help us manage the challenges of climate change and food insecurity”, Richard clearly answers in the affirmative as he describes his innovative hybrid wheat as “Hybrid wheat with enhanced yield that is buffered by superior heat tolerance and produces a more nutritious grain”. An outstanding lecture.

Anne Wood FRSN
Chair, Southern Highlands Branch

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Western NSW Branch Report

Event Report

In conjunction with the Western NSW Branch of the Royal Society of New South Wales, Charles Sturt University is conducting its Provocations Public Lecture series that celebrates research at the University. The third lecture in this series was presented on Wednesday, 16 August, at Bathurst by **Professor Ganna Pogrebna**, Executive Director of the Artificial Intelligence and Cyber Futures Institute at Charles Sturt University.



Professor Pogrebna is a pioneer in behavioural data science. In her talk, she introduced the field, discussed its impact on cybersecurity, financial services, talent management, and leadership, amongst other areas, and demonstrated how this new field not only offers new models and methods but also provides significant innovations in the context of the New Digital Economy and the Industrial Revolution 4.0. A [recording of this presentation](#) is available on the Society's YouTube channel

Forthcoming Event

The next event in the Provocations Public Lecture series, titled [Thirst for power – The Rivers of conflict in Southeast Asia](#), will be presented by **Professor Lee Baumgartner**, Executive Director of the Gulbali Institute for Agriculture, Water and Environment, at the Charles Sturt University Albury Campus on Thursday, 16 November (6.00 pm AEDT).

Lee Baumgartner is the Executive Director of Gulbali Institute for Agriculture, Water, and Environment, and is a Professor in Fisheries and River Management and an applied researcher who has worked in the fisheries field for over 20 years. Lee is passionate about healthy rivers and helping fisheries worldwide and has achieved substantial food security outcomes in countries working within the food-water-energy nexus. Lee's high-impact research focuses on developing and applying innovative technology in ecohydrology to reduce pressure on freshwater systems. This Provocations lecture will take a journey across Australia and Southeast Asia, exploring water security challenges and the innovative ways that communities are developing healthy rivers, in a changing climate, with growing regional populations.



Registration for this event is available on [Humanitix](#) and a recording of the event will be made available on the Society's YouTube channel.

Provocations Blog

On 16 August, Charles Sturt University launched a multidisciplinary academic blog called Provocations. Provocations will challenge orthodoxy through new thinking but will also revive policy ideas and political thought from the past for one more encore. After each Provocations Public Lecture, that lecture would become a blog article. The latest article in the blog by Professor Sharynne McLeod is titled *Communication is a human right – but not everyone can communicate effectively*.

Read the blog at: <https://provocations.csu.edu.au/>

Nilima Mathai
Treasurer
Western NSW Branch

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The Society and Social Media

The Society's presence on social media platforms is growing strongly, particularly following the appointment of the Society's part-time communications Officer. Our [Facebook page](#), [LinkedIn channel](#), [X/Twitter feed](#), and [YouTube channel](#) are engaging an increased following, and we continue to build our repository of events on YouTube. Our YouTube channel now has 600 subscribers, while the 127 videos online have received almost 65,000 viewings.

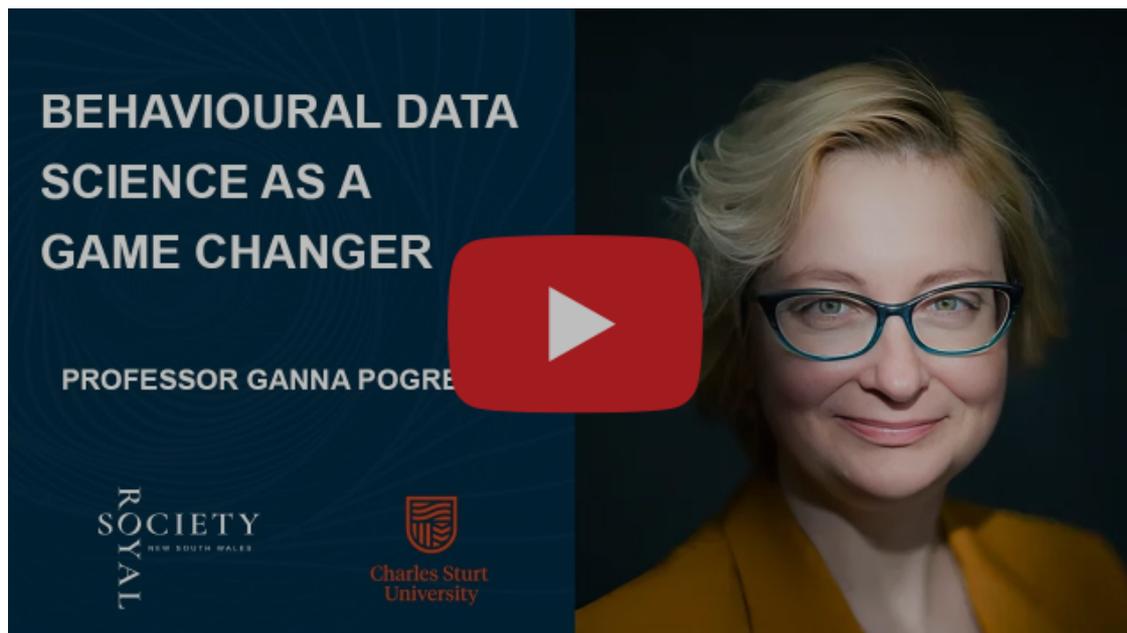
The social media icons at the end of this newsletter will take the reader to our pages on these platforms, from where you can follow, subscribe, and be notified of new content.

As a Society member, please consider subscribing to our social media channels to support the Society's outreach, and also please encourage your friends and colleagues to do similarly.

YouTube recordings of recent events

All online presentations and all face-to-face presentations, held in Sydney and by the Western NSW Branch, are recorded and uploaded to the Society's YouTube channel. These can be accessed directly from [YouTube](#) or from the website [Presentations](#) page of the website.

For convenience, the video links below provide access to recordings from the most recent three months. We hope that these will be of interest to members.



YouTube recording of the lecture delivered at the Society's Western NSW Branch 2023-3 meeting by Professor Ganna Pogrebna, Executive Director of the Artificial Intelligence and Cyber Futures Institute at Charles Sturt University on the subject of *Behavioural data science as a game changer*. An abstract of the talk and the biography of the presenter are available from the [online event notice](#).



YouTube recording of Ideas@theHouse: August 2023 from 10 August 2023 on the subject of *Ideas for marine stewardship and sustainability in a time of acceleration*, delivered by Professor Emma Johnston AO FRSN FAA FTSE, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) at the University of Sydney. An abstract of the talk and the biography of the presenter are available from the [online event notice](#).



YouTube recording of the 1314th Ordinary General Meeting held on 2 August 2023 on the subject of *Convergence: the hybridisation of the future*, featuring a conversation between Associate Professor Catherine Ball, futurist, author, and researcher, and Maria MacNamara, Director of Government Affairs and Innovation Strategy at Kyndryl. A summary of the session and a brief biography of each of the presenters are available from the [online event notice](#).



YouTube recording of the RSNSW Online Presentation 2023-2 held on 5 July 2023 on the subject of *What we need to know about the 'Voice' — before we vote* — an informative panel session featuring Emeritus Professor Peter Baume AC DistFRSN, Professor Megan Davis FRSN FASSA, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous), UNSW Sydney, Christopher Puplick AM, and Dean Ashenden. A summary of the panel and a brief biography of each of the presenters are available from the [online event notice](#).



YouTube recording of the lecture delivered at the Society's Western NSW Branch 2023-24 meeting by Professor Wayne Hudson FAHA of the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Charles Sturt University on the subject of *A new history of Australian political thought*. An abstract of the talk and the biography of the presenter are available from the [online event notice](#).



YouTube recording of Ideas@theHouse: June 2023 from 14 June 2023 on the subject of *Importance of scientific ideas and discovery to Australia's future*, delivered by Dr Cathy Foley AO PSM DistFRSN FAA FTSE, Australia's Chief Scientist. An abstract of the talk and the biography of the presenter are available from the [online event notice](#).



YouTube recording of the 1313th Ordinary General Meeting from 7 June 2023 on the subject of *Making rights a reality — the need for a Human Rights Act for Australia*, delivered by Emeritus Professor Rosalind Croucher AM FAAL, President of the Australian Human Rights Commission. An abstract of the talk and the biography of the presenter are available from the [online event notice](#).

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Edited by: [Lindsay Botten](#) FRSN, Webmaster, Royal Society of NSW

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