

# ROYAL SOCIETY NEW SOUTH WALES ANNUAL

# 2022

Annual Report of Council and Annual Financial Statements  
for the year ending 31 December 2022



THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

ABN 76 470 896 415

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## ABOUT THE SOCIETY

The Society is the oldest learned society in the Southern Hemisphere, tracing its origin to the *Philosophical Society of Australasia*, founded in Sydney in 1821. It became *the Royal Society of New South Wales* by Royal Assent in 1866 and was incorporated by an Act of the New South Wales Parliament in 1881. The Society's long-standing purpose is to *enrich lives through knowledge and inquiry*. It does so by mobilising the multidisciplinary expertise of its members to provide authentic and authoritative information in all dimensions of learning, facilitating the exchange of information and ideas amongst the Members and Fellows of the Society, and disseminating knowledge to the people of New South Wales and beyond.

The Society addresses national and global challenges, facilitates debate on contentious issues, and disseminates the results of research and inquiry through public events and meetings, and through traditional and online publications. It also recognises and celebrates excellence through its awards program and engages with other learned societies within Australia and internationally.

## Patron

Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC Governor of New South Wales

## Council

Two members of the Council of the Society were elected and two Councillors were re-elected at the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 6 April 2022. The names of the Councillors throughout the year and at the date of this report unless stated otherwise are:

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| President              | *Dr Susan Pond AM FRSN FTSE   |
| Vice President         | *Ms Judith Wheeldon AM FRSN   |
| Secretary              | *Mr Bruce Ramage MRSN   |
| Treasurer              | *Mr John Cameron MRSN   |
| Librarian              | Mr John Hardie AM FRSN  |
| Webmaster              | *Emeritus Professor Lindsay Botten FRSN   |
| Councillors            | *Professor Katherine Belov AO FRSN<br>Professor Sean Brawley FRSN (from 6 April 2022)<br>Professor Philip Gale FRSN (from 6 April 2022)<br>Ms Pamela Griffith FRSN<br>Dr Donald Hector FRSN (until 6 April 2022)<br>Dr Davina Jackson FRSN<br>Professor Eric Knight FRSN (until 6 April 2022)<br>Emeritus Professor Robert Marks FRSN<br>Dr Jessica Milner Davis (from 19 January 2022)<br>Emeritus Professor Christina Slade FRSN<br>*Emeritus Professor Ian Sloan FRSN (until 6 April 2022) |
| Branch representatives |   |
| Southern Highlands     | Mr Michael Jonas MRSN   |
| Hunter Branch          | Professor George Willis FRSN  |
| Western NSW            | Dr David Nash FRSN (until 15 March 2022)<br>Professor Mark Evans FRSN (from 15 March 2022)  |

\*Member of the Executive Committee.

The Council met six times during the reporting period. Five meetings were held virtually using Zoom online meeting technology and one was held face-to-face. Meetings of Council committees were held at various locations but mostly using virtual meeting technology.

Council meeting attendance is in the following table.

| <b>COUNCILLOR</b>    | <b>NUMBER HELD WHILE IN OFFICE</b> | <b>MEETINGS ATTENDED</b> |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Katherine Belov      | 6                                  | 4                        |
| Lindsay Botten       | 6                                  | 6                        |
| Sean Brawley         | 4                                  | 4                        |
| John Cameron         | 6                                  | 4                        |
| Mark Evans           | 4                                  | 4                        |
| Philip Gale          | 4                                  | 2                        |
| Pamela Griffith      | 6                                  | 4                        |
| John Hardie          | 6                                  | 6                        |
| Donald Hector        | 2                                  | 2                        |
| Davina Jackson       | 6                                  | 3                        |
| Michael Jonas        | 6                                  | 2                        |
| Eric Knight          | 2                                  | 3                        |
| Robert Marks         | 6                                  | 4                        |
| Jessica Milner Davis | 6                                  | 5                        |
| David Nash           | 1                                  | 1                        |
| Susan Pond           | 6                                  | 6                        |
| Bruce Ramage         | 6                                  | 6                        |
| Christina Slade      | 6                                  | 6                        |
| Judith Wheeldon      | 6                                  | 6                        |
| George Willis        | 6                                  | 6                        |

### **Office location and services**

The Society's part-time Executive Officer, Ms Wendy Enevoldsen, completed two years of exemplary service in January 2022.

The Society currently has premises at 121 Darlington Road, Darlington. The Society is most grateful to the University of Sydney for making this accommodation available to the Society. The Society also uses facilities generously provided by the State Library of New South Wales, courtesy of Dr John Vallance, State Librarian.

Professional services are provided under contract by The Association Specialists (TAS), Suite 5.02, 655 Pacific Highway, St Leonards NSW 2065.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

This time last year, Australia and the Royal Society of New South Wales were emerging from two years of COVID-19 lockdowns but still facing many moments of uncertainty. Daily case numbers of Omicron sub-variant BA.5 infections continued to surge. The Society's achievements during the past year have revealed its resilience and capacity to embrace change and progress while preserving yesterday's heritage. Council and its Committees found innovative ways to serve our members by addressing today's interests and tomorrow's aspirations.

I encourage you to read each Committee's review of its specific achievements in this Annual Report.

Council and the Executive Committee each met six times, in alternate months, usually via Zoom to enable full participation by members who do not reside in inner Sydney. The Society held six in-person Ordinary General Meetings (OGMs) at the State Library of New South Wales and four online. The Open Lectures associated with each of them were video recorded and uploaded to our increasingly popular YouTube Channel that reaches a more geographically spread and diverse audience. Each of our three Branches, Hunter, Southern Highlands, and Western New South Wales Branches held meetings and events in their respective regions.

The Society also ensured that the Award Lectures from 2020 and 2021 were delivered during 2022, all but one of them in person. They included the 2020 and 2021 Clarke Lectures, 2020 and 2021 Poggendorff Lectures, and 2020 Liversidge Lecture. The 2021 Pollock Lecturer presented at one of the in-person OGMs. The winners of the 2022 Awards, announced at the December OGM, will be celebrated at a black-tie dinner in the new wing of the Art Gallery of New South Wales on 10 March 2023. The Society's Patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of New South Wales hosted two Ideas@theHouse and the Society's Annual Forum held in partnership with five national Learned Academies. To ensure younger, more diverse audiences, the Society included university students in the events at Government House and at many other lectures.

On 20 July 2022, Council passed a Special Resolution to elect Fellow of the Society, Dr Cathy Foley AO PSM FAA FTSE, as Distinguished Fellow of the Society. Dr Foley is Australia's Chief Scientist, appointed to this role in January 2021 after a distinguished career in CSIRO where her most recent position was Chief Scientist. Dr Foley has received national and international awards for her pioneering research in solid-state physics, material science and quantum physics, and for her significant contributions in Australia and internationally to the education and inspiration of the next generation of leaders.

An already strong year was greatly amplified by the Society's Bicentenary events that were enjoyed by many members and friends. These included the Gala Dinner in the Great Hall at the University of Sydney on 24 June, the exhibition *NEXUS* held at the State Library of New South Wales from November 2021 until June 2022, the Garden Party at Government House, Sydney on 22 March 2022 hosted by the Governor, and the reception hosted by His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley at Admiralty House on 7 November.

The Society continued to expand its international footprint. Together with the Law Society of New South Wales, it hosted an online presentation by Linda Greenhouse, President of the American Philosophical Society and Pulitzer Prize winning journalist for her reporting on the United States Supreme Court. The Bicentenary celebrations attracted international attention and messages from kindred organisations and individuals around the world. Many of these messages were on display at the Gala Dinner and published in the *Bulletin*. Work to digitise all articles published since the 1800s in the Society's *Journal and Proceedings* continued along with plans for the Smithsonian Biodiversity Heritage Library to produce Digital Object Identifiers that will make the Journal's articles researchable by international scholars.

The Society owes all members of Council and its Committees a great debt of gratitude for contributing their talents and passion. I thank three Council members who have indicated that they will retire from Council at the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

Judith Wheeldon served as Council Member for the past ten years, since the 2014 Annual General Meeting, filling many roles including Secretary of the then Fellows Assessment Committee, Chair of the Voice and Outreach Committee, member of the Program Committee and Vice-President for the past nine years. Undeterred by lockdowns, Judith contributed to discussions and decisions regarding important issues of policy or activity in the Society; represented the Society in organising the Ideas@thehouse program; and organising the Annual Dinner until the pandemic intervened, thus raising its status to be a highlight of the Society's calendar. Undeterred by the lockdowns in 2020, Judith arranged a virtual Annual Dinner at which Professor Brian Schmidt delivered the "after dinner" speech online. Judith led the initiative to create and recruit the position of Executive Officer that turned out to be critical during the pandemic. Judith's laudation as a Fellow of the Society reads *Judith Wheeldon is recognised for eminent and long-standing service to Australian secondary education at senior levels and for service to professional organisations.*

John Cameron has served as Treasurer, Council Member and Member of the Executive Committee for the past two years. In his calm, measured, and patient way, John guided the Society's finances, back-office functions, and the Society's relationship with The Association Specialists. He has contributed much wisdom to the deliberations of Council and the Executive Committee. He also served as a member of the Philanthropy and Library and Assets Committees. John came to the Society having previously been the Chief Operating Officer at the Australian Catholic University where he was responsible for the coordination of strategy and service delivery across a range of specialist administrative functions, covering Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, Legal Services, Planning, Properties and Secretariat. He was also the Secretary to the University Senate and the Company Secretary for ACU. The Society thanks John for the expertise and conscientiousness that he brought to the role.

Jessica Milner Davis served as Secretary of the Awards Committee since 2021 and an appointed member of Council since early 2022. In addition to her acknowledged scholarship in humour studies, Jessica brought a rich experience in governance, including as Deputy and then Pro-Chancellor of the UNSW Sydney from 1981 – 2005. As Secretary of the Awards Committee, Jessica played a key role in the strategic planning for the restructured array of awards and prizes that will take effect in 2023.

The Society was saddened to learn of the death in November 2022 of Past President Dr Ragbir Bhathal, a long-serving member of Council. He was President in 1984 and Honorary Secretary from 1989 to 1991. After his election as Fellow in 2015, he served as Honorary Librarian for several years.

I congratulate and thank all members and friends who contributed to the Society and the broader community in 2022. I also thank the Society's Patron, the Government of the state of New South Wales, through the Office of the Chief Scientist and Engineer, and all other sponsors and donors for supporting the Society's mission. Together, we can look forward to an even brighter future as the Society seeks to enrich lives through knowledge and inquiry.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The audited accounts for the 12 months to 31 December 2022 record an operating surplus of \$86,266 compared to a surplus of \$35,998 in 2021. The improvement included \$35,000 additional membership contributions following an increase in fees. This income, combined with a review of operating expenses, allowed the Society to achieve a budgeted improvement in reserves. Continuing sponsorship by the Office of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer, renewed in February 2023 to now total \$648,000 over six years, is a further important income source to underpin future operating plans.

As of 31 December 2022, the current ratio, used to calculate an organisation's capacity to meet current liabilities, stood at a very healthy 3.5. Net current assets of the Society total \$333,000. The Society is well-placed to meet its obligations and plan to increase its scope and impact.

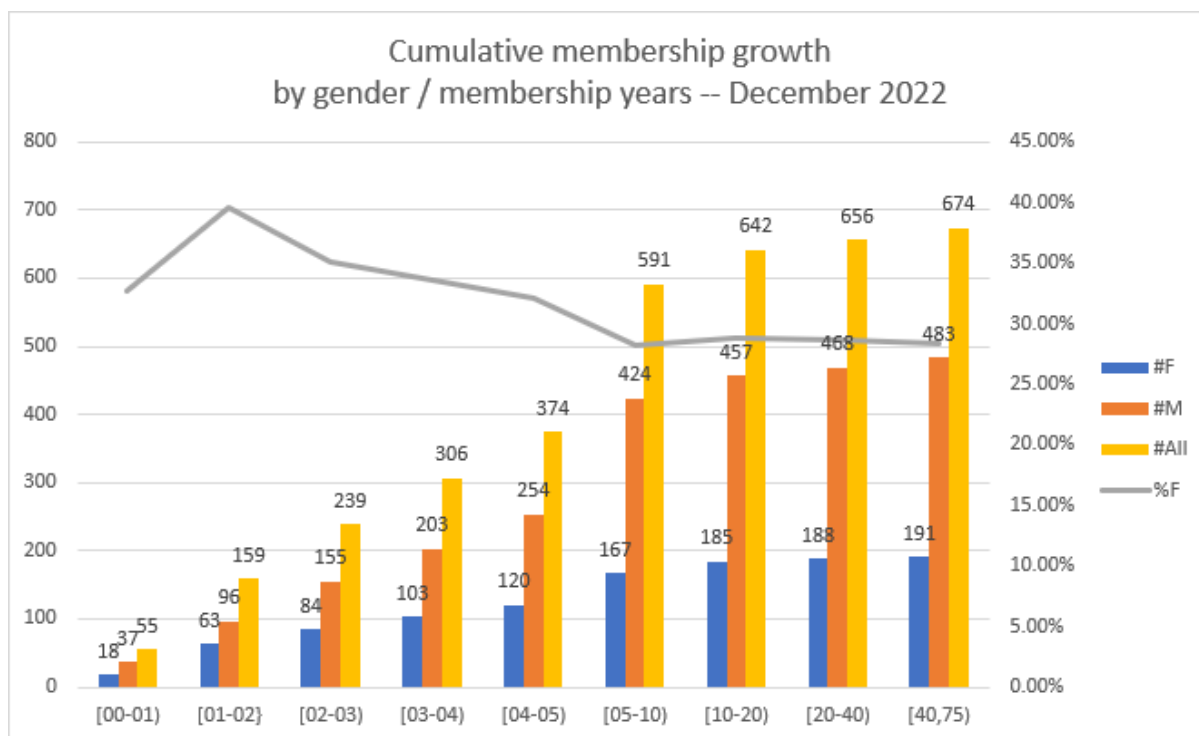
## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

In line with the Society's values and principles the Council, in January 2020, adopted its initial Diversity and Inclusion Policy. This policy is considered by Council annually, and has been updated most recently in January 2021, with progress being reported to both Council and the membership.

The following bar graph displays the cumulative growth in membership broken down by gender and years of membership. The line graph (with scale on the right) displays the proportion of female members of the Society — with the uptick on the left showing the positive effect of strategies to improve the gender balance.



The graph immediately below displays growth in the membership, classified according to the duration of membership and membership category XY, where  $x \in \{A, M, F, D, H\}$  refers to Associate Membership, Full Membership, Fellowship, Distinguished Fellowship, and Honorary/Life Membership, and  $y \in \{F, M\}$  refers to the gender.



## BICENTENARY

Bicentennial Committee membership

Dr Susan Pond (Chair)

Professor Sean Brawley (Secretary until August 2022 remaining a member)

Dr Davina Jackson (Secretary) (from August 2022)

Ms Wendy Enevoldsen

Mr John Hardie

Ms Marian Kernahan

Mr Bruce Ramage

The Bicentennial Committee held its final meeting in late October 2022, ending the project that began on 4 September 2019 when the Committee met for the first time. The original members of the Committee were Bruce Ramage (Chair and Secretary), Ragbir Bhathal, Robert Clancy, Stuart Midgley, Susan Pond, and Ian Sloan. Early 2020 brought new members to the Bicentennial Committee: Sean Brawley, Barbara Gillam, and John Hardie. The Committee and its succession of members thereafter led the development and delivery of the Bicentenary Program of the Society on behalf of Council. The Society owes a great debt of gratitude to them for achievements.

Following extensive discussion at its first meeting, the Bicentennial Committee considered a range of ideas that converted into the series of events that many members of the Society and guests enjoyed, and that created much greater awareness of the Society's history and impact across the centuries.

Events during 2022 featured the exhibition, NEXUS, which closed on 30 June 2022, the Garden Party on 12 March 2022 hosted at Government House by our patron, the Gala Dinner held in the Great Hall at the University of Sydney on 24 June 2022, and a reception hosted at Admiralty House by the Governor-General and his wife on 7 November 2022.

Plans for enduring legacies of the Bicentenary have been transferred to Council or other Committees. These legacies include complete profiles of all Society Presidents since 1821. Council has approved the holding of a Bicentennial Oration every second year beginning in 2023.

In a similar vein, planning is underway to publish in the *Journal and Proceedings* of the Society an author-alphabetical listing of all articles since its inception in 1822 as a 'Bicentennial Bibliography'. The pdf will be uploaded to the Society's website and a range of national and international

repositories. In association, The Smithsonian's Biodiversity Heritage Library will produce Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) for all papers in the Journal published since 1865. This will permanently identify each article and link to it on the worldwide web

## **ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES AND LEARNED ACADEMIES ANNUAL FORUM (Government House, Sydney 3 November 2023)**

### **Membership**

#### **Planning Committee**

Dr Susan Pond (Chair)  
Emeritus Professor Lindsay Botten (Virtual Production)  
Emeritus Professor Robin King (Secretary)  
Emeritus Professor Robert Marks (Editor, *Journal and Proceedings of the Royal Society of New South Wales*)

#### **Program Committee**

Professor Stephen Garton (Chair)  
Professor Tony Cunningham (Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences)  
Emeritus Professor Annabelle Duncan (Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering)  
Professor Bridget Griffen-Foley (Australian Academy of the Humanities)  
Emeritus Professor Philippa Pattison (Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia)  
Professor Hala Zreiqat (Australian Academy of Science)

#### **Moderator**

Ms Julianne Schultz

#### **With Gratitude**

We note with gratitude the contribution of the late Emeritus Professor Robin King, who was Secretary of the Planning Committee and contributed to the Program Committee meetings until his tragic death on 25 July 2022.

#### **Reshaping Australia: Communities in Action**

The Royal Society of New South Wales and Learned Academies Forum, held each year since 2015, is growing in stature and influence. Each Forum addresses a subject that spans a wide range of academic disciplines and professional specializations. The Forum is unique in that it is the only platform in Australia that brings six learned academies together, the Royal Society of New South Wales and five National Learned Academies – Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, Australian Academy of Science, Australian Academy of the Humanities, Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, and Academy of Health and Medical Sciences.

The 2022 Forum with its theme “Reshaping Australia: Communities in Action” focussed on community resilience in times of crisis – acute crises such as bushfires, epochal floods and the global pandemic, and longer-term crises such as the growing disparities in wealth and opportunity in Australia, the impact of under investment in many areas such as the health and aged care systems, the impact of the pandemic, and global warming. Australia’s resilience in the face of these challenges in the form of response of governments, public agencies, charitable organisations, community groups and many individual citizens has been extraordinary.

The Forum began by setting the scene based on economic, demographic, and big data evidence on patterns of social disadvantage and current social policy development. Then followed sessions that focussed on specific case studies of collaboration by communities, researchers, policy makers and the corporate sector with a view to developing better solutions to the policy and implementation challenges facing the nation.

Bringing such accomplished and diverse speakers together with the engaged audience was an invigorating mix, especially in the wonderful setting of Government House. The 100-strong in-person audience included sixteen undergraduate students from seven Universities, including the Universities of Newcastle and Wollongong. The audience was amplified many times over by those who watched it in real time via the live-



streaming services or later via the Society's YouTube Channel. The impact and influence will continue to grow. As but one example, the Session on Health and Communities informed the Academy of Health and Medical Sciences working group on mental health in Australia's youth. The Society's Journal preserves the Proceedings of the Forum in print as another enduring legacy.

## ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS

The Society's online communications and IT infrastructure comprises the website (royalsoc.org.au), the membership management website (members.royalsoc.org.au managed by Membes), internal communications via Microsoft 365 (Outlook email and the SharePoint and Teams collaboration environments), as well as four social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube) and the electronic balloting website (Election Buddy). All are managed by the webmaster, who also generates the bulk of the new content to these. The Society's reliance on online communications has increased remarkably since the start of the Covid pandemic three years ago and has led to profound changes in the way in which the Society operates, not the least of which has been the strong growth in the Society's outreach and increasing democratisation of the Society's governance through electronic elections which have increased the participation rate three-fold to approximately 30%.

### Website

The current website, based on the Joomla content management system (CMS), has been in use since 2016. With the current version of the CMS coming to its end of life, and with the website lacking necessary contemporary functionality and needing to be refreshed in its appearance, plans are in train for its replacement in 2023.

The first phase of the website upgrade, namely the replacement of the EasyBlog functionality (which underpins the events and news posts of the current website) with a WordPress equivalent commenced in 2022 and will be in production in the first quarter of 2023. The substantive redevelopment of the website, based around the new branding and implementing the required new functionality will then proceed, based on a brief for the website developers that is being written.

Accordingly, during 2022 the website's content has been largely maintained, although with some new features introduced, including inline access to the GiveNow donation site together with features that integrate new Membes functionality, particularly the introduction online joining forms for new members. All content relating to news (58 items in 2022) and events (49 items) that is generated for the website is included in digest form in the monthly Bulletin.

### Membership management system

While the Membes membership management system (replacing the earlier Currinda system) was adopted in 2021, this year (2022) was the first year in which the Society was able to comprehensively interrogate membership data and track changes in demographics and renewals. Such analyses and the associated data validation, are undertaken offline using Python codes and Excel spreadsheets developed in-house that process data exported from Membes, have proven to be valuable to the Council and the Executive Committee. These reports supplement what TAS provides from Membes with deeper and more-tailored analyses of data, together with fit-for-purpose data validation not available in Membes. These include 'drill-down' overviews of membership data by membership class, years of membership, gender, geographical location (branch), diversity and inclusion statistics, purchases and subscriptions, and the identification of financial members, including Fellows whose FRSN postnominal is to be degazetted

| Count of Profile # | Branch    |            |           | Southern Highlands | Sydney     | Western NSW | Grand Total |
|--------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|--------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
|                    | Hunter    | Interstate | Overseas  |                    |            |             |             |
| AssocMember        |           |            |           | 1                  | 23         | 1           | 25          |
| DistFellow         | 1         | 2          | 2         |                    | 13         |             | 18          |
| Fellow             | 49        | 16         | 18        | 10                 | 363        | 16          | 472         |
| HonLife            |           | 1          | 1         | 1                  | 2          |             | 5           |
| Member             | 15        | 2          | 1         | 17                 | 113        | 13          | 161         |
| <b>Grand Total</b> | <b>65</b> | <b>21</b>  | <b>22</b> | <b>29</b>          | <b>514</b> | <b>30</b>   | <b>681</b>  |

Reports, such as that shown above for the Society membership at the end of 2022, are generated on a regular basis to inform follow up activities and planning for membership retention and growth. Also, summary application forms for new members, for use by the Fellows and Members Assessment Committee, are generated offline using standard 'mail-merge' software.

### **Rebranding of online platforms**

As is described elsewhere in this report, the Society engaged a graphics designer during 2022 to undertake to develop new branding for the Society. Following this, all social media channels were updated and the Members membership website ([members.royalsoc.org.au](http://members.royalsoc.org.au)) was reskinned to accord with the new brand. The main website, when redeveloped in 2023, will reflect the new branding.

### **Social media**

The Society now has four social media channels: Facebook (570 followers), Twitter (1016 followers), LinkedIn (176 followers) which was introduced in 2022, and YouTube (500 subscribers). All Society events and the subsequent availability of YouTube recordings are publicised on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter, as well as the website.

Our YouTube channel has now reached a milestone of 500 subscribers and over 50,000 viewings of its 115 videos, following substantial growth since November 2022. At the time of writing this report in early 2023, 48 of our videos have received at least 100 viewings, 20 videos have had at least 250 viewings, 7 videos have at least 500 viewings, 3 have had more than 1,000 viewings, 2 have more than 5,000 viewings, and one (the Hugh White talk from July 2022 on 'This is going to be different: learning to live with Chinese power') has achieved 30,000 viewings.

This outcome justifies the decision in early 2020, at the time the pandemic struck, to carry the whole of the Society's events program on YouTube. Such growth demonstrates the important role played by the channel in advancing outreach in line our mission and in reaching a new and younger audience, external to the Society.

### **Support for the Society's events program**

Comprehensive assistance and support, including all publicity on the website and social media channels, has been provided for the events program overseen by the Program Committee and the Forum Planning Committee. With the return to face-to-face events from April 2022, all such events have been recorded, principally with the assistance of our contractor, Corporate Technology Services, and funded by the grant from Office of the Chief Scientist and Engineer of the NSW Government. During 2022, video recordings of 23 face-to-face events and online events were edited and uploaded to YouTube.

## **EVENTS**

The Program Committee membership:

Emeritus Professor Christina Slade (Chair)  
Dr Elizabeth Deane (Secretary)  
Professor Lewis Bizo  
Emeritus Professor Lindsay Botten  
Ms Kate Carruthers  
Professor Robert Clancy  
Mr Michael Jonas  
Mr Guy Loucks  
Dr David Nash  
Dr Adi Patterson  
Professor Steve Weller  
Ms Judith Wheeldon

The Program Committee oversees events held by the Society. It takes responsibility for organising the addresses that follow each Ordinary General Meeting (OGM) in Sydney and for coordinating the named lectures - the Poggendorff, Pollock and Clarke lectures - generally in collaboration with the university where

the recipient is based. The Program Committee also has the remit of organising lectures outside the OGM cycle.

The Program Committee brings together representatives of the Hunter, Southern Highlands, and Western NSW branches, to ensure events are publicised and where possible recorded. Society events such as the Annual Forum, held at Government House in November in association with the learned Academies, together with a range of jointly sponsored events are organised independently.

### Ordinary General Meetings and Open Lectures 2022

The Society held a full program of ten monthly open lectures as part of its Ordinary General Meetings and Annual General Meeting in 2022. In general, OGMs were held alternating online via zoom and face-to-face. Recordings were made available on the Society's YouTube channel. Arguably the number of views is a proxy for the reach of our programs.

| DATE  | SPEAKER  | TOPIC   | YOUTUBE VIEWS |
|---|--|---|---------------|
| 4/2/22<br>1301 <sup>st</sup> OGM and Open Lecture Online                              | Professor Mark Scott (University of Sydney)  | Where next for higher education after COVID-19  | 92            |
| 3/3/22<br>1301 <sup>st</sup> OGM and RSNSW Student Award Presentations Online         | Zain Mehdi (ANU)<br><br>Sajad Abelpour Moshizi (Macquarie University)<br><br>Harry Marquis (University of Sydney)<br><br>Kevin Chau (Macquarie University) | <i>Bigger than atoms, smaller than cheese: probing the mesoscopic world with table-top experiments</i><br><i>Development of a biomimetic vestibular system with miniaturized sensors to restore balance</i><br><i>Improved imaging for targeted radiation treatments in cancer patients</i><br><br><i>Decoding the platelet glycoproteome</i> | 165           |
| 17/3/22<br>Clarke Lecture 2020<br>Online, hosted by Macquarie University              | Professor Michelle Leishman (Macquarie University)   | From bulldozers, pests and pathogens to climate change and urban futures: the tough life of plants  | 174           |
| 4/4/22<br>Liversidge Lecture 2020<br>Hosted by the University of Sydney               | Prof Richard Payne (University of Sydney)  | Drug Discovery Inspired by Natural Products   | 60            |
| 6/4/22<br>1302 <sup>nd</sup> OGM and Open Lecture<br>State Library of NSW             | Professor Ben Eggleton (University of Sydney)  | New frontiers in smart sensor technology for a healthier, safer and sustainable future  | 255           |
| 11/0/22<br>Poggendorf Lecture 2020<br>Hosted by UNSW at Royal Botanic Gardens         | Professor Angela Moles (UNSW Sydney)   | Are our weeds becoming a new native Species   | 116           |
| 1/6/22<br>1303 <sup>rd</sup> OGM and lecture<br>Face-to-face and online State Library | Professor Anne Twomey (University of Sydney)   | Federalism, borders, and National Cabinet — What has the pandemic taught us?  | 171           |

| DATE   | SPEAKER  | TOPIC  | YOUTUBE VIEWS |
|--|--|--|---------------|
| of NSW   |  |  |               |
| 10/06/22<br>Clarke Memorial<br>Lecture 2021<br>hosted by Hunter<br>Branch.                               | Distinguished Emeritus<br>Laureate Professor John<br>Aitkin (University of<br>Newcastle)   | The changing tide of human<br>populations: an infertility trap   | 490           |
| 6/7/22<br>1304 <sup>th</sup> OGM and<br>lecture online   | Professor Hugh White<br>(ANU)  | This is going to be different: Learning to<br>live with Chinese Power  | 30,000        |
| 3/08/22<br>1305 <sup>th</sup> OGM and<br>Open Lecture<br>online  | Professor Kathy Belov<br>(University of Sydney)<br>Dr Elizabeth Deane FRSN   | Marsupials: their secrets are all in their<br>genes  | 104           |
| 7/09/22<br>1306 <sup>th</sup> OGM and<br>Open Lecture<br>online  | Associate. Professor<br>Claire Roberts FAHA<br>(University of Melbourne)<br>with Emeritus. Professor<br>Nicholas Jose (University<br>of Adelaide)    | Is Fairweather an Australian artist? And<br>does it matter   | 142           |
| 5/10/22<br>1307 <sup>th</sup> OGM and<br>Open Lecture<br>Face-to-face                                    | Dr Don Russell (Australian<br>Super),<br>Industry Professor Jane<br>Drake- Brockman<br>(University of Adelaide)<br>Professor Robert Marks<br>(RSNSW) | The global economy and Australia's<br>outlook: Geoff Harcourt's contribution to<br>the theory of productivity growth | 321           |
| 23/11/22<br>1308 <sup>th</sup> OGM and<br>2021 Pollock<br>Memorial Lecture<br>Face-to-face and<br>online | Professor Geraint Lewis<br>(University of Sydney)  | Most of our universe is missing:<br>Adventures in the dark side of the<br>cosmos                                     | 634           |
| 30/11/22<br>Poggendorff<br>Lecture 2021<br>Hosted by<br>University of<br>Sydney                          | Professor Richard<br>Trethowan (University of<br>Sydney)   | A plant breeder's perspective on food<br>security and climate change   | 147           |
| 7/12/22<br>1309 <sup>th</sup> OGM and<br>Open Lecture<br>State Library of<br>NSW                         | Professor Rose<br>Amal,(UNSW Sydney)   | Harnessing solar energy through<br>catalysis to make chemicals and fuel  | 208           |

There were 18 programs for which the committee responsible. This included several delayed named lectures from 2020 as well as those from 2021, and we are grateful for the State Library of New South Wales, UNSW Sydney, The University of Sydney, and Macquarie University for hosting these events. In addition, each of the Branches – Hunter, Southern Highlands, and Western NSW - offered a program. This is an extraordinarily rich program and the Society thanks all involved.

Over the year we experimented with different models for face-to-face meetings at the State Library of New South Wales. Financial pressures have led to the decision not to offer refreshments but to welcome attendees to the Library Bar either before or afterwards.

A range of other events were held during the year, as summarised below.

## Ideas@theHouse

Two Ideas@theHouse were held in 2022, both face-to-face and streamed.

| DATE                                   | SPEAKER                    | TOPIC                             | YOUTUBE VIEWS |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| 20 April<br>face-to-face and streaming | Richard Tognetti           | 'Nothing'                         | -             |
| 4 August<br>face-to-face and streaming | Professor Michelle Simmons | Manufacturing at the Atomic Scale | 288           |

## Royal Society of New South Wales and Learned Academies Annual Forum

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 3 November<br>Government House<br>face-to-face and live streamed<br>100 attendees | Royal Society of New South Wales and Learned Academies Annual Forum<br>Topic: Reshaping Australia: Communities in action |
|---|--|

## Jointly sponsored lectures

| Date  | Speaker   | Topic  |
|---|---|--|
| February 16<br>9:30am -5:30 pm<br>Annual Meeting of the Four Societies                          | Professor Stephen Wilson,<br>University of Queensland   | Engineering and related Challenges in Decarbonising the Electricity System   |
| March 25<br>Frontiers of Science Forum<br>Joint AIP, RACI, TGNSW, RSNSW meeting<br>Face-to-face | The Hon Alister Henskens MP<br>(NSW Government)<br><br>Professor Johannes le Coultre<br>(UNSW Sydney)<br><br>Professor Benjamin Eggleton<br>(University of Sydney)<br><br>Professor Martina Stenzel (UNSW Sydney) | From Botanists and Butterflies to Populations and Planets'<br><br>'New Frontiers in Photonics — The Science of Light'<br><br>Going small to make big impacts in medicine: nanomedicine |
| June 21<br>Joint AIP, RACI, RSNSW and ANSTO presentation<br><br>Zoom Webinar                    | Dr Mark Ho<br>(ANSTO VP)  | Big Science of Gen IV Power Reactors   |
| Nov 14 Joint RSNSW and Law Society of NSW Public Lecture<br>online                              | Linda Greenhouse, Yale Law School and President, American Philosophical Society   | The US supreme court: a rogue court in a fragile democracy   |

## FELLOWS

Fellows and Members Assessment Committee membership:

Emeritus Professor D Brynn Hibbert (Chair) (until 6 April 2022)  
Professor Sean Brawley (from 18 May 2022)  
Dr Erik Aslaksen (Secretary) (until 6 April 2022)  
Dr Donald Hector (until 6 April 2022)  
Professor Simon Ringer (from 18 May 2022)  
Professor Rose Amal (from 18 May 2022)  
Emeritus Professor Peter Baume  
Ms Pamela Griffith  
Professor Lisa Jackson Pulver (from 18 May 2022)  
Emeritus Professor Ian Sloan  
Mr Rod Stowe (from 18 May 2022)

Since the 2022 Annual General Meeting, the Fellows and Members Assessment Committee recommended 40 Fellowships to the Council, of which 15 (37.5 %) were women. The names of new Fellows elected in 2022 will be published in the NSW Government Gazette in 2023.

## AWARDS

Committee membership:

Professor Philip Gale (chair)  
Dr Jessica Milner Davis (Secretary)  
Professor Merlin Crossley  
Emeritus Professor Annabelle Duncan  
Professor Paul Griffiths  
Distinguished Professor Belinda Medlyn  
Dr Noushin Nasiri

### 2022 Awards

The range and number of applicants for the Society's Awards in 2022 was pleasing with a plurality received for each award. In addition, administration issues were much reduced using the standardised online nomination forms prepared by the Committee in the preceding year. For the 2022 round, the Committee constituted itself as a selection panel to rank all applicants and recommend award winners to Council. It augmented itself where necessary with additional expertise and particular thanks are due to Emerita Scientia Professor Eugenie Lumbers AM FAA. Council made its final determinations of winners at its meeting on 16 November 2022. The RSNSW Awards for 2022 will be presented at the Annual Dinner to be held on 10 March 2022, to be chaired by the President, Dr Susan Pond.

The list of the Society's Awards for 2022 appears below. Additional detail about the awards and their recipients is available at: <https://www.royalsoc.org.au/awards/recent-winners>

James Cook Medal: John Alexander Church, Emeritus Professor, Climate Change Research Centre, UNSW  
Edgeworth David Medal: Tim Doherty, ARC DECRA Fellow, Professor in Ecology, The University of Sydney  
Clarke Medal and Lecture: Andrew Baker, School of Biological and Behavioural Sciences, UNSW  
History and Philosophy of Science Medal: Stephen Gaukroger, Emeritus Professor, The University of Sydney  
Burfitt Prize: Susan M. Scott, Distinguished Professor of Theoretical Physics, ANU  
Warren Prize: Anita Wing Yi Ho-Baillie, John Hooke Chair of Nanoscience, The University of Sydney  
Liversidge Lecture: Timothy W Schmidt, Professor, School of Chemistry, UNSW  
Jak Kelly Award: Mr Shankar Dutt, Research School of Physics, ANU

RSNSW Scholarships:

Chung Ming (Clara) Liu, Biomedical Engineering, UTS  
Thomas Mesaglio, Ecology & Marine Science, UNSW  
Anyang (Anyang) Zhao, Medicine, ANU

## **Future Awards**

As signalled in last year's Report, the Awards Committee completed its lengthy review of the existing Awards portfolio and prepared recommendations to Council on a revamped structure. The intention was to preserve history but to broaden and streamline the present awards and prizes to simplify administration, recognize recent and evolving fields and disciplines, and emerging as well as established stars. The review took as its guideline the fact that, from its foundation in 1821, the Society's mission has been to encourage "studies and investigations in Science, Art, Literature and Philosophy".

Council approved the Committee's final recommendations at its meeting on 15 February 2023, and from 2023, the Society's Awards will be made in two main classes reflecting the Society's history: Career Excellence Medals and Discipline Awards and Medals; with additional Awards, Scholarships and Citations, including Discretionary Awards and Internal Awards for distinguished service to the Society. Both external and internal nominations may be made for all but Internal and Discretionary Awards which will be determined by the Council of the RSNSW with proposals open to all members of the Society where applicable.

Nominations for available Awards will continue to open on 1 July each year but Discipline Awards will now rotate in a three-year cycle to enhance the significance of those presented in any one year. As before, Awardees will be announced by the end of the calendar year with formal presentations of Medals, Awards and Scholarships in the following year. With the assistance of the Society's Webmaster and donors, revised and updated descriptors for all Awards are in preparation for the Society's website and links will be included to past winners and awards.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Community Engagement Committee membership:

Professor Katherine Belov (Chair)  
Mr Trevor Danos (Secretary)  
Professor Arthur Conigrave  
Dr Graham Hellestrand  
Associate Professor Alice Motion  
Dr Adi Paterson

The Community Engagement Committee met twice in 2022, in February and May. The Committee has been focused on three key workstreams: External and Internal Engagement (including exploring the possibility of establishing special interest groups, with approval of the Council); Communications Program (including through creating a digital media presence for the Society); and Increasing Membership (both Members and Fellows and including through networking with universities and cultural institutions). The Committee notes that some of the proposed activities across all three workstreams will require a budget to cover external costs. The Committee is cognisant of the need for coordination with the Events Committee. After discussion with the President, it was agreed that the Committee would focus on the second workstream. To progress the second workstream, it is the view of the Committee that volunteer and/or paid resources will need to be identified and engaged with the requisite digital media skills and ability to devote time.

## **PUBLISHING**

Publishing Committee membership:

Mr John Hardie AM FRSN (Chair)  
Dr Malte Ebach (Secretary) (until January 2022, on leave)  
Dr Davina Jackson (Secretary) (from February 2022)  
Mr Jason Antony  
Emeritus Professor Lindsay Botten  
Emeritus Professor Heather Goodall (until March 2022)  
Emeritus Professor Robert Marks

The Publishing Committee met seven times during the year. Its remit covers all aspects of publishing in the Society, especially the Journal & Proceedings, the Bulletin, monographs, and brochures. Members include the Society's Webmaster— who reports separately on the Society's website, membership administration

system and social media channels—and the Librarian, who reports separately on the work of the Library and Assets Committee.

### **Corporate rebranding**

The Committee's major achievement during 2022 was a comprehensive redesign of the Society's graphics collateral and stationery by a graphic designer, Ms Virginia Buckingham, who consulted intensively with committee members to produce updated artwork for the Society's Seal, an ornamental shell motif representing the Fibonacci mathematical series; new typography formats using EB Garamond serif and Inter sans serif fonts in several weights, and a new colour palette of blues, greys and warm reds.

The new graphics were spectacularly unveiled with banners, cards, and other collateral at the Society's Bicentennial dinner event at the University of Sydney on Friday 24 June 2022. Ms Buckingham later provided template files for most individual components needed to print new stationery and produce in-house documents. She will be commissioned for further design work on the *Bulletin*, *Journal*, website, and other publications.

### **Journal & Proceedings**

During 2022, the Society published two issues of its *Journal & Proceedings*; edited by Robert Marks. The June issue (Vol. 155, No. 1, 2022) documents presentations made at the November 2021 Royal Society of NSW and Four Academies Forum, the theme of which was 'Power and Peril in the Digital Age'. This issue also includes two refereed papers, a reprinted paper, four PhD thesis abstracts, and an obituary of Geoffrey Harcourt. The December issue (Vol. 155, No. 2, 2022) includes the four addresses given at the Bicentennial Dinner on 24 June, a description of the NEXUS Exhibition, two submitted papers, Martin Green's acceptance lecture for the 2022 Finnish Millennium Technology Prize, four invited papers, and 18 abstracts of recent PhD theses. It also includes the Society's 2022 Proceedings. The *Journal* is typeset by Mr Jason Antony.

### **Bicentennial bibliography**

Davina Jackson spent most of the year compiling a new author-alphabetical bibliography of citations for RSNSW *Journal* articles and significant other papers published between 1822 and 2022. Several thousand citations have been compiled with hotlinks to online facsimiles of the original papers, mostly published on the Smithsonian Institution's Biodiversity Heritage Library website. The Smithsonian's BHL project team is now arranging for all these papers to have DOI (digital object identifier) labels. The Bicentennial Bibliography is a keyword-searchable PDF that will be circulated to all RSNSW members, many public and university libraries, allied institutions overseas, research organisations, other learned societies, and many multi-disciplinary researchers. Along with the proposed biennial 'Bicentennial Oration', this publication is expected to be one of the Society's lasting legacies of its 1821-22 bicentenary.

### **Bulletin**

Ten editions of the Society's *Bulletin*, edited by Jason Antony, were published during 2022. These are now published on the royalsoc.org.au website, with members emailed an announcement with a hotlink to allow downloading. The *Bulletin* advertises all forthcoming events of the Society, provides reports on those that have recently occurred, collates news which has appeared on the website during the previous month, publishes obituaries of prominent members/fellows and includes reports from branches. It also provides information about the activities of kindred societies and publishes special features, including a regular 'From the Archives' article written by the RSNSW's Secretary, Mr Bruce Ramage.

### **Website and other online communications**

In the Online Communications section of this annual report, the Society's Webmaster, Lindsay Botten, notes his improvements and updates to the website, Members data administration system and social media channels. Prof Botten and Mr Antony also collaborated to video-record many lectures, interviews and presentations by the Society's leaders and guest speakers.

### **Bookselling venture**

Halstead Press, a publishing company led by Society member Matthew Richardson, has launched a sales catalogue of books authored or edited by members of the Society. This is the first year of a partnership in which Halstead Press has agreed to pay a small percentage of its sales revenue from *Book Reports* to the



Society in return for rights to circulate the catalogue to the Society's members. An evaluation of this trial will be undertaken in 2023.

### **Society history book**

This approximately 275-page analysis of the impact of the Royal Society of NSW on the NSW community during the long 19<sup>th</sup> century has been written by historian Dr Anne Coote. The completion of the project stalled during 2022 as Councillors and Committee members debated the financial risks of printing a conventional book in the current climate. Mr Hardie has continued to support production of a hardcover book as a fitting memento of the Society's bicentenary. Dr Jackson provided a comprehensive suite of reasons why the Society should underwrite this project. Mr Hardie is consulting with the Society's preferred publisher, Halstead Press on possible ways forward.

### **Video interviews – oral histories**

A suggestion from the Society President to create short video recordings of recollections by eminent contemporary leaders of the Society was tested by a Publications Committee working group with mid-year interviews of Peter Baume and John Hardie at the State Library. For various reasons, this project has been postponed, at least until the mid-2023 relaunch of the Society's website.

### **LIBRARY AND ASSETS**

Committee membership for 2022:

Mr John Hardie (Chair)  
Mr John Cameron  
Ms Hannah Hibbert  
Dr Davina Jackson (Secretary) (until April 2022)  
Professor Evelleen Richards (Secretary) (May-October 2022)  
Dr Diana Wyndham (Secretary) (November-December 2022)

The Committee met 10 times during 2022, entirely by Zoom technology. Minutes of these meetings have been uploaded to the Society's SharePoint site.

The Society's NEXUS exhibition celebrating the Society's bicentenary continued in the Jean Garling Room at the State Library of NSW from its opening in November 2021 until it closed on 30 June 2022, thanks to the generous support of the State Librarian who agreed to two extensions to the duration of the exhibition. The exhibition attracted over 1,000 visitors during its 7½ months opening. The Society posted an advertisement for the exhibition in *Spectrum* in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on two consecutive Saturdays in May, increasing the visibility of the Society to the wider community.

Following the visit of the Society's Patron to the exhibition on 30 November 2021, the Society was pleased to be able to host The Hon Alister Henskens SC MP, Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology in the NSW Government, at the exhibition on 5 May 2022. The Society also hosted a viewing by members of the Teachers Guild of NSW on 23 March 2022.

Work to properly document and report on the condition of the Society's extensive and historically significant archive collection held in the State Library of NSW commenced during 2022. All 77 boxes of archival material were examined and documented by Dr Evelleen Richards with significant input by the Society's Hon Archivist Hannah Hibbert. The Society is grateful to the State Library of NSW for their assistance with this project. Detailed examination of individual items will commence in 2023. Members of the committee met with Louise Anemaat, the Executive Director Library Services and Dixon Librarian at the State Library and other Library staff on 17 November 2022 to plan the next steps for this project.

Professional valuation of the Society's library holdings held in the State Library of NSW was undertaken in the first half of the year by Louella Kerr and Adrienne Carlson, who did the first valuation of a small portion of this collection in 2016. The collection in the State Library was valued at approximately \$850,000 using sampling methodology, adding to the work done previously. The remainder of the Society's collection at the University of New England and at the Society's Darlington Road premises was not included in this exercise.

With the conclusion of the NEXUS exhibition, the Society now has an opportunity to continue the work begun prior to the outbreak of COVID-19 to list and catalogue all items in its collection held in the Jean

Garling Room at the State Library of NSW. Only approximately 10% of these items were listed by volunteers prior to the outbreak of the pandemic. Work will resume on this activity in 2023.

The Society took receipt of a small collection of 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century journals from the University of Wollongong for which it is very grateful. They complement material already held by the Society and add to the run of journals from the Royal Society of Edinburgh, the Royal Society of Victoria and *Nature*.

The development of an asset management and risk plan for the Society will commence in 2023, as will a project to undertake online archiving for the Society. A project to recommence the binding of the Society's Council and OGM Minutes and of an exemplar copy of the Society's *Journal and Proceedings* will continue into 2023. Work to develop accessioning and deaccessioning criteria for the Society's collections has begun.

## **PHILANTHROPY**

Philanthropy Committee Membership:

Dr Susan Pond (Chair)  
Professor Robert Clark (Secretary) (until April 2022)  
Mr John Cameron (Secretary) (from April 2022)  
Ms Wendy Enevoldsen (until April 2022)  
Professor Deborah Haski-Leventhal (from July 2022)  
Mr Paul Jeans  
Mr Bruce Ramage  
Adjunct Professor Robert Whittaker  
Mr Albert Wong (from July 2022)

During 2022, the Philanthropy Committee made a significant contribution to the work of the Society. It was pleased to report that \$6,524 (ex-GST) were contributed to the end of FY22 appeal to support the Bicentennial Scholarship Program that will be established in 2023. Scholarships (at least \$500 per student and complimentary Associate Membership of the Society) will be offered in any academic field to candidates enrolled in their first higher research degree.

In the lead up to the Bicentennial Gala Dinner on 24 June 2022, the Committee raised \$54,000 (ex-GST) to support expenses not covered by ticket sales. The cost of tickets (\$200 incl. GST) was set at a relatively low price point to enable as many people as possible to attend. The Society acknowledges the generosity of Andrew and Paula Liveris, Charles Sturt University, Western Sydney University and the University of Canberra, University of Newcastle, University of New England, UNSW Sydney, The University of Sydney, University of Technology Sydney, and The University of Wollongong.

Work in progress by the Committee includes re-examination of the Society's value proposition, social impact, and Deductible Gift Recipient status.

## **HUNTER BRANCH**

During 2022 the Hunter Branch membership included 17 members and 48 Fellows of the Society. The affairs of the branch were managed by the following individuals who served on the branch committee.

Distinguished Emeritus Laureate Professor John Aitken (Chair)  
Professor Professor Natalie Thamwattana (Deputy Chair),  
Philip Bolton (Secretary)  
Professor George Willis (Treasurer)  
Dr Philip Bailey  
Professor Alan Broadfoot  
Mr John Dunnet  
Mr Paul Jeans  
Emeritus Scientia Professor Eugenie Lumbers  
Professor Brett Nixon  
Professor Steven Weller  
Adjunct Professor Robert Whittaker

The Committee met on 7 occasions during the year. Meetings primarily focused on arranging events for the Society members and the general community. The Committee has been exploring strategies to 1) sustain its capacity to host lectures, 2) stimulate greater public awareness of and involvement in the branch's

events, and 3) ways to establish and fund an award (Hunter Medal) and event to acknowledge and celebrate an individual who has made a novel and ground-breaking contribution to research in any area of science, art, literature, and philosophy, and which has significance for the cultural, economic and social development of the Hunter region or the health and wellbeing of its communities.

## Events Program

The primary events of the Hunter Branch in 2022 involved public lectures. Although the scheduled lectures for the second half of the year were unable to be held due to speaker unavailability at very short notice, the Hunter Branch held three lectures during 2022 that were well attended by Society members and the public.

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| HBM2022-1<br>27 <sup>th</sup> April 2022                                      | Distinguished Laureate Professor Nick Talley<br>AC<br>University of Newcastle       | COVID 19: past performance, present practice, and future prospects |
| HBM 2022-2<br>Clarke Memorial<br>Lecture (2021)<br>10 <sup>th</sup> June 2022 | Distinguished Emeritus Laureate Professor<br>John Aitken<br>University of Newcastle | The changing tide of human populations: an infertility trap        |
| HBM 2022-3<br>28 <sup>th</sup> July 2022                                      | Dr Xanthé Mallett<br>Associate Professor of Criminology<br>University of Newcastle  | The intersection between Science and Law                           |

The program of events was supported by a \$1,000 budget allocation by the Council. The Hunter Branch also gratefully acknowledges the in-kind-support provided by the University of Newcastle as a co-host of the 2021 Clarke Memorial Lecture which was held in June 2022 in the Harold Lobb Concert Hall of *The Conservatorium*, a part of the University of Newcastle's Newcastle City Campus.

## SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BRANCH

Southern Highlands Branch Committee membership in 2022:

Mr Hubert Regtop (Chair)  
Mr John Wright (Deputy Chair)  
Ms Anne Wood (Secretary)  
Mr Mike Jonas (Treasurer)  
Mr Peter Eustace  
Mr Ted Smith

The Southern Highlands Branch held the full set of ten lectures in 2022, and although attendance was slightly down on recent years the lecture attendance figures were reasonably satisfactory. As in previous years, the committee has constantly noted that, overall, each lecture draws a different audience depending on the subject matters particularly interesting to them. We do not see the same group of people from month to month.

| MONTH     | TOPIC AND LECTURER   | ATTENDANCE |
|-----------|--|------------|
| February  | Mr Robert Parker – Nuclear energy  | 77         |
| March     | Dr Alyson Ashe – Epigenetics   | 45         |
| April     | Dr Bradley Tucker – Space Race 2.0                                       | 39         |
| May       | Dr Lindsay Wu – Longevity  | 42         |
| June      | Professor Pali Thordarson – RNA  | 46         |
| July      | Clare Rowe – Young People Mental Health                                  | 83         |
| August    | Professor Michael Asten and Prof Ken McCracken – Rainfall in eastern NSW | 93         |
| September | Dr Helen Maynard-Casely – Neutron scattering                             | 30         |
| October   | Dr Jessica Milner Davis – Judging a Jest: Humour and Censorship          | 64         |
| November  | Dr Samane Manoufi – Green Steel  | 48         |

The Branch continued its sponsorship of *Philosophy in Schools* and other school programs

in 2022. The Branch also arranged a group visit to the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) at Lucas Heights.

The Branch continues to explore ways to expand the Excellence-in-Science awards and the Philosophy Essay Competition. The Branch expects to arrange more group visits in future.  
Mike Jonas

## **WESTERN NSW BRANCH**

Following the resignation of Professor John Germov as Chair, due to moving interstate, and Dr David Nash's generous service as Interim Chair, Professor Mark Evans was elected Chair in March 2022. The following individuals served on the Branch Committee in 2022.

Professor Mark Evans (Chair),  
Mr Trent Pohlmann (Secretary)  
Professor Lesley Forster  
Mr Bradley Hammond  
Professor Frank Marino  
Professor Mark Morrison  
Dr David Nash

The Western NSW Branch held a face-to-face meeting in Wagga Wagga on 18 May 2022, where Dr Colin Pardoe, Biological Anthropologist and Archaeologist presented on "*Making a living on the plains — Stone tools and archaeology of Aboriginal societies*". The event was well attended by approximately 20 people in person and a good contingent online.

With support from Charles Sturt University, the Branch was delighted to have several representatives attend the Society's Gala Dinner Celebrating 200years held on 24 June.  
The Western NSW Branch held two successful events in Bathurst and Wagga Wagga (and virtually). Both events attracted over 130 people in person and received over 200 online registrations.

On 15 March 2022 a successful event was held in Bathurst with Robert Clancy, Michelle Grattan and Jane Quinn on "*Public Trust in Science in Times of Coronavirus*". On 8 November, at the Playhouse Theatre in Wagga Wagga, guest speaker Professor Clive Hamilton, Professor of Public Ethics at Charles Sturt University, spoke to the topic "*Defiant Earth – Where humans have become so powerful that we have disrupted the functioning of the Earth, bringing on a new geological epoch: the Anthropocene. The stable environmental conditions that allowed civilisation to flourish are disappearing*".

Two additional co-badged events were promoted and included significant member participation.

### **Yindyamarra Pledge for Democracy – 17 October**

On Monday 17 October, Professor Stan Grant Jnr launched the Yindyamarra Democracy Pledge in Canberra with Charles Sturt University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Mark Evans. All Australians are invited to take the Yindyamarra Pledge for Democracy (the **Pledge**), which is a gift from the Wiradjuri people to all Australians to show support for building a better national democracy which truly includes and respects all Australian people. The Yindyamarra Pledge for Democracy is adapted from reflections in Professor Grant's 2019 book, *Australia Day*.

### **Presentation of *Saving Democracy* with Mark Evans, Stan Grant, Michelle Grattan, Gerry Stoker, and Jack Jacobs, hosted by His Excellency Ambassador Armando Abraham Vargas Araya – 14 November**

On 14 November in Canberra, His Excellency Ambassador Armando Abraham Vargas Araya, Ambassador of Costa Rica, hosted a presentation of *Saving Democracy* with a panel of speakers including Mark Evans, Stan Grant, Michelle Grattan, Gerry Stoker and Jack Jacobs.

The Branch has determined that it is important to work on attracting more members and fellows and continues to put out calls for new members through various forums. Three new members will join the Branch Committee at its next meeting drawn from the Dubbo, Wagga Wagga, and Orange communities.

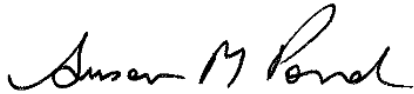
With the new branch's reputation growing, several speakers have volunteered their time to deliver future lectures. In 2022, the Branch was delighted to see several of its members appointed Fellows, including

Professor Mark Evans, Professor Renée Leon, and Professor Jane Quinn. They joined existing Fellows of the Branch including Professor Geoffrey Gurr, Professor Sharynne McLeod, Dr David Nash, and Professor Lesley Forster, ensuring the Branch has a very large contingent of Fellows amongst its membership.

There was no income or expenditure in 2022. The Branch acknowledges the support from Dr David Nash, and staff in the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) at Charles Sturt University.

### **2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on Wednesday 5 April 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan M Pond". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Susan Pond AM FRSN  
President  
On behalf of the Council of the Royal Society of NSW