

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Society is open to any person interested in evidence-based debate on matters of significance to humanity and who is committed to the enrichment of lives and society through knowledge and inquiry.

There are four membership categories: Members, Associate Members, Fellows and Distinguished Fellows. Members and Associate Members are admitted on application. Fellows are elected on nomination based on their achievements. Distinguished Fellows are nominated by the Society's Council. Currently, Society membership numbers over 650.

## Benefits of membership

- Network with learned researchers and leading professionals across a wide range of disciplines
- Add your name to our historical lineage of members and use the post-nominal MRSN
- Hear today's outstanding researchers and innovators explain their insights
- Enjoy special events at unique historic venues
- Present your work in the Society's *Journal & Proceedings or Bulletin*
- Access Society and other publications at reduced rates
- Access the Society's extensive heritage library, one of the oldest in the Southern Hemisphere
- If your professional achievements are significant, become a Fellow and use the post-nominal FRSN
- Help advance the evolution of science and culture.

## BECOME A MEMBER

We invite you to join the Society at any time. To do so, visit the Membership page on our website at: [royalsoc.org.au/membership-info/join-the-society](http://royalsoc.org.au/membership-info/join-the-society) or call the Society's office on 02 9431 8691.

## OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT THE SOCIETY

The Society has Deductible Gift Recipient status with the Australian Taxation Office for its Library Fund and its Scholarship Fund. Tax-deductible donations of \$2 or more can be made by contacting the Society on 02 9431 8691 or by email at [royalsoc@royalsoc.org.au](mailto:royalsoc@royalsoc.org.au)

## CONTACT US

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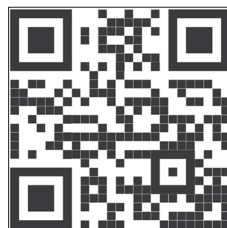
## Social media

 @royalsoc

 @royalsocnsw

 [youtube.com/royalsocnsw](https://youtube.com/royalsocnsw)

 [linkedin.com/company/royalsocnsw](https://linkedin.com/company/royalsocnsw)



# THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Enriching lives through knowledge and inquiry



COVER IMAGES: FIGURES OF THE SOCIETY, COURTESY PRIVATE COLLECTIONS, STATE LIBRARY OF NSW AND MEDIA AGENCIES



## ABOUT US

**The Royal Society of New South Wales is a learned society with a 200-year history dedicated to public, interdisciplinary discussion of important matters in the sciences and humanities.**

We contribute to a just, secure and sustainable world by mobilising the multidisciplinary expertise of members, providing authentic and authoritative information, addressing national and global challenges and recognising and promoting excellence. In so doing, the Society is integral to the social and economic wellbeing, and the profile and reputation of NSW.

## Values

The Society values liberal democracy, respects religious, political and cultural freedoms, and promotes non-discriminatory, evidence-based discourse and the free exchange of ideas. We aim to be an effective public intellectual voice by comprehensively embracing diversity and inclusion in all our activities.

## Origins

The Society traces its origins to the formation of the Philosophical Society of Australasia in 1821, with its purpose to 'awaken a spirit of research or excite a thirst for information', a sentiment alive in the Society today.

## Impacts

Today the Society holds regular lectures and seminars where experts share their discoveries and insights on innovations and current affairs. Many of these are conducted online and are recorded for access from the Society's YouTube channel.

We publish current research in refereed papers in our *Journal & Proceedings* and share news with our members through our regular *Bulletin* and with the wider world on our website and Facebook page. Our Annual Forums, held in conjunction with Australia's Learned Academies, offer forward thinking on the fundamental issues of the day. The Society also maintains an extensive archive and heritage library of over 40,000 volumes.

## Governance

The Society is incorporated under its own Act of the New South Wales Parliament which was passed in 1881. It is governed by a Council elected by its members in accordance with the Society's Rules. The Society is a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.



MICHELLE SIMMONS, © LOUIE DOUVIS, 2017

## OUR PEOPLE

**The Royal Society of New South Wales is a meeting place for people interested in ideas that matter. Drawn from the professions, business, academia, industry and government, our members encompass a wide range of disciplines and knowledge.**

This breadth and diversity of expertise, which makes the Society unique in Australia, provides a powerful platform for debate about today's most challenging problems.

The Society acknowledges up to 25 internationally recognised contributors to world knowledge as Distinguished Fellows at any one time. They currently include quantum physicist Michelle Simmons (above) and author Thomas Keneally, as well as several Nobel Prize winners.

As in the past, the Society continues to be a home for some of the most influential leaders and scholars in Australia, including such figures as geologist Ida Browne and aviation pioneer Lawrence Hargrave shown on the front of this brochure. Rev WB Clarke, a major force in the Society's growth in the second half of the 19th century, combined his pastoral work with debating Charles Darwin, an Honorary Member, about the origins of life.

The Governor of New South Wales, Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC, is the Society's Patron.

## HONOURING EXCELLENCE

**The Royal Society of New South Wales awards prizes, scholarships, medals and lectureships for major contributions to research and intellectual inquiry, including for student research excellence and contributions to the community.**

The **James Cook Medal** is the Society's most prestigious award. It recognises outstanding contributions to science and human welfare in and for the Southern Hemisphere.

Other awards are made in specific fields including biology, geology, chemistry, engineering and technology, and the history and philosophy of science.

The Society encourages intellectual achievement in young people through our **Scholarships** in science and in our **Jak Kelly Award** in physics. The **Edgeworth David Medal** rewards research excellence in young scientists under 35 years.

Bequests have also enabled the Society to offer prestigious lectureships, such as the **Liversidge Lectureship** and the **Clarke Memorial Lectureship**, on a regular basis.

For more information, see the Awards menu on our website: [royalsoc.org.au/awards](http://royalsoc.org.au/awards)

## BRANCHES

**Regional New South Wales is served through the Society's branches which offer activities with a regional focus in addition to our state-wide membership services.**

The **Hunter Branch** is based in Newcastle, north of Sydney, and holds regular meetings and events, some in conjunction with the University of Newcastle.

The **Southern Highlands Branch**, established in 1994, holds regular meetings in Mittagong, south of Sydney.

The **Western New South Wales Branch** holds meetings in the main regional centres across its vast catchment, including Wagga Wagga, Bathurst and Orange. Its activities are supported by Charles Sturt University.

For more information, see the Branches menu on our website: [royalsoc.org.au/branches](http://royalsoc.org.au/branches)