



The Royal Society of New South Wales

"for the encouragement of studies and investigations in Science Art Literature and Philosophy"

1283rd ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 3 JUNE 2020 AT 6.30PM

By ZOOM Webinar

Questions concerning business items on the agenda should be sent in writing to the Honorary Secretary at secretary@royalsoc.org.au by close of business on Monday, 1 June.

AGENDA

1. WELCOME – President, Emeritus Professor Ian Sloan AO FRSN

1.1 Acknowledgement of country

1.2 Diversity and Inclusion statement

1.3 Minutes of the 1282nd Ordinary General Meeting held on 22 April 2020

2. CONFIRMATION OF MEMBERSHIP

As no valid objection was lodged within two weeks following the 1282nd Ordinary General Meeting, the election of the following new Members took effect from the date of that meeting held on 22 April. Certificates will be presented at the first opportunity at a face-to-face meeting.

2.1 Members

Mr Peter Eustace
Mr Christopher Ruskin
Miss Brittany Walker

3. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NAMES OF CANDIDATES FOR FELLOWSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP

If no valid objection is lodged within two weeks of this Ordinary General Meeting, that is, by 6.30pm on 17 June 2020, the election of new Members and Fellows will take effect from the date of the meeting.

3.1 Fellows

Professor Kaarin Jane Ansley
Professor Leanne Rose Cutcher
The Honourable John Robert Arthur Dowd
Associate Professor Simon Paul de Graaf
Dr Davina Gainor Jackson
Professor Lisa Jennifer Kewley
Professor Eric Ronald Wing-Fei Knight
Laureate Professor Roger Smith
Peter Lyndon Tyree

3.2 Members and Associate Members

Mr Chad Bochan

4 REPORT FROM COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

The new Council met by ZOOM Webinar on 20 May 2020. The President wishes to bring to members' attention the following matters

4.1 Councillor appointments

Under Rule 12(h) the Council filled two Council vacancies. Emeritus Professor Robert Marks was elected as Honorary Secretary (Editorial). Emeritus Professor Christina Slade was also elected to Council. Professor Slade has also accepted the position of Chair of Council's Events Committee. Professor Slade's background and experience appeared in the latest issue of the *Bulletin*. Both appointments are until the next AGM.

4.2 Appointment to Executive Committee

Under Rule 11(c) Emeritus Professor Lindsay Botten has been appointed as a member of the Executive Committee.

4.3 Revised committee structure and membership

The Council established a new committee structure: Awards, Bicentennial, Business Continuity, Community Engagement, Events, Fellows and Members Assessment, Library and Assets, and Publishing.

Following receipt of expressions of interest the Council will be considering the membership of all committees.

4.4 Ideas@TheHouse

A very successful Ideas@TheHouse was held on Thursday 21 May when Emeritus Professor Robert Clancy AM FRSN gave the inaugural lecture entitled 'Ten': *the Mapping of Colonial Australia*. The concept is the idea of the Society's Patron, The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC, Governor of NSW in which a range of events such as Music@TheHouse, NSW produce@TheHouse are planned. There were 130 participants viewing the ZOOM webinar – the same number who could have attended the event had it been able to be held at Government House.

It may interest Members and Fellows of the Society, particularly those who missed the live presentation on the evening of 21 May 2020, that the recording of the Ideas@theHouse event, is now available on the Society's YouTube channel. Further, the meeting notice for that event, which includes information about the Ideas@theHouse series, the talk on "Ten: the mapping of Colonial Australia", and the speaker, Emeritus Professor Robert Clancy, has been updated to include a link to this video.

4.5 Society's website redevelopment

The Honorary Webmaster has been active in making improvements to the website. Members and Fellows are encouraged to take the opportunity to view the changes.

4.6 Budget

A 2020/2021 budget has been developed keeping in mind the operational changes due to the pandemic.

4.7 Hunter Branch

Council agreed to postpone the Branch's first AGM until 2021. It was noted that the Branch is continuing its program of events by ZOOM.

4.8 Awards

Council is considering an event to present the 2019 Awards in lieu of presentation at this year's Annual Dinner.

5 THIS EVENING'S PRESENTATION

DRINKING FOR THREE: MOTHER, BABY AND SOCIETY

Distinguished Professor Elizabeth Elliott AM FRSN FAHMS The University of Sydney and Sydney Children's Hospital (Westmead)

Professor Elliott holds a Chair in Paediatrics and Child Health at the University of Sydney and is Consultant Paediatrician at the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network (Westmead). She holds a prestigious Practitioner Fellowship, her third, from the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia. In 2019 she received the James Cook Medal for 2018 from the Royal Society of NSW – its highest honour – and was the first female amongst its 47 recipients at that time.

Professor Elliott has dedicated her career to advancing human rights, health and quality of life for ill and disadvantaged children in Australia and beyond, through education, research, clinical care and advocacy. Specific examples include promoting the health and human rights of: children disabled by rare diseases, FASD and vaccine-preventable and other infectious diseases; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, particularly those in remote Australia; Asylum Seeker and Refugee Children, particularly in Immigration detention; children receiving Cochlear implants; Children with Female Genital Mutilation or Cutting (FGMC); and Children living in developing countries in our region, particularly Vietnam.

For over 20 years, Professor Elliott has worked to improve the lives of children with FASD in Australia. She is regarded as pre-eminent in advocacy, research, policy and clinical care regarding FASD and has an international reputation in the field. She is a member of the Australian Government's FASD Advisory Committee; Co-Director of the NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence in FASD; Co-Director of the Care and Intervention for Children and Adolescents with Drug and Alcohol Problems (CICADA); and Head of the CICADA NSW FASD Assessment clinic.

Australians love alcohol! Amongst the highest consumers in the world, we are renowned for our excellent quality wine. Our national sporting teams are sponsored by the alcohol industry and advertising and promotion of alcohol is rife, including to children. Yet the costs of alcohol are immense. It is difficult to measure the full economic impact of alcohol on our health and mental health and our education, child protection and justice systems. It is impossible to measure the costs to individuals and society.

Alcohol has a particularly devastating impact on the most vulnerable members of society — our children. Tonight, the topic of foetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) and the current state of play in Australia will be discussed. FASD results from the brain injury to the unborn child that is caused by

prenatal alcohol exposure. Children with FASD have severe neurodevelopmental impairment, birth anomalies and learning and behavioural problems, which have lifelong consequences.

Over two decades there has been enormous progress in the recognition of FASD as a significant but preventable public health problem. Clinical practice, education, service development and policy have been guided by a national collaborative approach involving clinicians, researchers, parent support groups, Indigenous communities and NGOs — with government and NHMRC funding. We have a national action plan, advisory group, website, and disease register, training programs and specialist FASD assessment clinics, and research and clinical networks. We have innovative diagnostic techniques and access to the NDIS. But the future is prevention, which remains our biggest challenge: 60% of Australian women continue to drink during pregnancy and children are increasingly diagnosed with FASD. We know what will minimise alcohol harms but face significant challenges to implementing these interventions which will also be discussed.

6 VOTE OF THANKS AND CLOSE