

Minutes of the 1308th Ordinary General Meeting of The Royal Society of New South Wales held in the Gallery Room, State Library of NSW on Wednesday 23 November 2022 at 6.30PM.

There were 30 Members, Fellows and guests in attendance.

1. WELCOME

The President, Dr Susan Pond AM FRSN presided at the meeting. She welcomed members and guests and gave an acknowledgement of country. She also referred to the Society's Diversity and Inclusion Policy and asked that members consider nominating candidates for membership of the Society who reflect diverse backgrounds and experiences across NSW.

2. MINUTES OF THE 1307TH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 5 OCTOBER 2022

The Minutes of the previous Ordinary General Meeting, previously circulated, were approved.

3. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

3.1 Announcement of names of candidates for Membership

At its meeting on 9 November 2022, the Fellows and Members Assessment Committee made the following recommendations for Membership. These recommendations were circulated to Councillors on 9 November and no objections were received. If no valid objections are received from members within two weeks of this meeting, that is, by 6.30pm on Wednesday 7 December 2022, the election of the following new Members will take effect from the date of this meeting.

MEMBERSHIP

Professor Martina Doblin
Dr Andrei Herdean
Dr Agota Tuzesi

4. QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

5. THIS EVENING'S PRESENTATION – 2021 POLLOCK MEMORIAL LECTURE

In inviting Professor Lewis to deliver the 2021 Pollock Lecture, the President said a few words about Professor Pollock after whom the lecture is named.

James Arthur Pollock FRS was Professor Physics at the University of Sydney from 1899 until his death at the age of 52 in 1922. Pollock was a member of the Royal Society of New South Wales for 35 years and Secretary for the last 11 years of his life. In short, having obtained the University Medal in Physics from the University of Sydney in 1889, ten years later he was appointed to the professorship in Physics. He served in France during World War I as a captain in the Australian Mining Battalion, training officers to listen underground using geophones and related devices. Returning to Sydney in April 1919, Pollock resumed scientific work in acoustics based on his war experiences and worked on plans for the present physics building with Professor Leslie Wilkinson. The Pollock Memorial Lectureship has been awarded every four years since 1949. Recent winners have included Brian Schmidt, Michelle Simmons, Andrea Morello, and now Geraint Lewis.

MOST OF OUR UNIVERSE IS MISSING! - ADVENTURES IN THE DARK SIDE OF THE COSMOS

Professor Geraint Lewis, Professor of Astrophysics Sydney Institute of Astronomy University of Sydney

Born and raised in Old South Wales and with a passion for astrophysics, Geraint Lewis spends his time unravelling the dark side of the universe, the dark matter and dark energy that dominate the cosmos. His research focuses upon cosmology, gravitational lensing and galactic cannibalism, as well as exploring why our universe appears to be just right for complexity and life, publishing more than four hundred research articles. He also undertakes a broad array of award-winning science outreach, bringing the wonders of the cosmos to broad audiences through public speaking and writing, including publishing several world-renowned books on the mysteries of the cosmos

Most of the cosmos, astronomers tell us, appears to be missing! They say it is dominated by an invisible dark side, dark matter and dark energy that have shaped the evolution of the entire universe. But why do astronomers believe there is this mysterious invisible cosmos surrounding us? The talk involved a tour of the dark side, and an exploration of the observations that reveal its presence. To understand the true nature of dark matter and dark energy, Professor Lewis delved into the wealth of ideas and theories, and the current experiments underway to separate the true contenders from the scientific also-rans. Finally, Professor Lewis looked into the future to reveal the next steps physicists and astronomers will take in their quest to shine a light into our cosmological dark side.

There followed a question-and-answer session moderated by Professor Sarah Brough.

6 VOTE OF THANKS

The vote of thanks was given by Emeritus Professor Christina Slade, Chair, Program Committee.

7 CLOSE

Dr Pond closed the meeting at 7.45pm.