## NOMINATION FOR COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

The Royal Society of NSW traces its origins to the Philosophical Society of Australasia, which was established on 27 June 1821. The Society received Royal Assent in 1866 and was incorporated by an Act of the NSW Parliament in 1881. Today, the Society draws together people who span and cross a wide range of disciplines and knowledge, creates a focus for sharing and applying expertise, and delivers an independent and authoritative voice.

The Council is responsible for delivering the initiatives of the 2021-23 Strategic Plan through a collection of programs designed and implemented by Council and its committees to manage the business, property, and affairs of the Society.

The Society will commence its Bicentenary Program to showcase and celebrate the Society’s two hundred years of contributions to the people of New South Wales and beyond in June 2021.

[Further information about Council and its Committees](https://royalsoc.org.au/about-us/governance) is available on the Society’s website. The [relevant Rules](https://royalsoc.org.au/images/easyblog_docs/Rules_approved_OGM_9_December_2020-v1.pdf) (16 and 18) relating to the Council and elections are printed on subsequent pages for your information.

**Key** **Election Dates**

The 2021 Council election timetable is as follows:

* Monday 15 February 2021 — nominations open at 5.00pm (AEDT)
* Friday 5 March 2021 — nominations close at 5.00pm (AEDT)
* Monday 15 March 2021— voting (if required) opens at 5.00pm (AEDT)
* Monday 5 April 2021— voting closes at 5.00pm (AEST)
* Wednesday 7 April 2021— Annual General Meeting 6.30pm (AEST), including announcement of successful candidates.

**Council Terms**

At this first election under the new Rules, the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian and Webmaster shall be elected at the 2021 Annual General Meeting for a period of two (2) years.

One half or, if an uneven number, the number immediately above half of the eight (8) ordinary Council members shall be elected at the 2021 Annual General Meeting for a period of two (2) years based on the number of votes cast for them in the election, and the balance for a period of one (1) year.

**Nomination Requirements**

Any financial Member or Fellow who is not disqualified by the Rules of the Society may be nominated for any position on the Council.

Nominations for Council membership must be both ‘nominated’ and ‘seconded’ by two financial full Members or Fellows of the Society, accepted by the nominee and submitted by the nominator.

Nominations must contain a brief (maximum 250 words) summary of the nominee’s background and experience which makes them suitable for holding a position on Council. This information will be made publicly available to the membership on the Society’s website.

**COMPLETED NOMINATION FORMS, CONTAINING THE SIGNATURES OF NOMINATOR, SECONDER AND NOMINEE, SHOULD BE SENT BY E-MAIL TO THE SECRETARY AT** [**secretary@royalsoc.org.au**](mailto:secretary@royalsoc.org.au) **BY 5.00PM (AEDT) ON FRIDAY 5 MARCH 2021.**

**Council Nomination Form — 2021**

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| --- | --- |
| **NAME OF NOMINEE** (please print)  ……………………………………………………… | **COUNCIL POSITION**…………………………….. |
| **NOMINATOR**………………………………………  (please print) | **SECONDER**……………………………………….  (please print) |
| ………………………………………………………  Signed  Date | ………………………………………………………  Signed  Date |
| I …………………………………………………………… hereby accept nomination and, if elected, consent to act as a director of The Royal Society of New South Wales.  ……………………………………………………………..  Nominee signature  Date:  **NOMINEE STATEMENT** | |
| Summary of the nominee’s background and experience which makes them suitable for holding a position on Council (max 250 words) | |

**Note**: Should it be impractical or unduly difficult for the nominee, the nominator and the seconder to complete the information on a single form, it is acceptable for the nominator and the seconder to provide separate certifications using this form (that must include the name of the nominee) to the Secretary at secretary@royalsoc.org.au.

**Extract of Royal Society of NSW Rules (9 December 2020)**

**16. The Council of the Society**

1. The Business, Properties and Affairs of the Society shall be managed by the Council of the Society which shall consist of Members or Fellows of the Society elected at or prior to the Annual General Meeting each year.
2. Any financial Member or Fellow who is not disqualified by the Rules of the Society may be nominated for any position on the Council. Such a nomination, signed by two Members or Fellows of the Society and counter-signed by the nominee, shall be notified to the Secretary according to the deadline (announced at the Ordinary General meeting in February), but no later than the fifteenth day of March each year.
3. After receipt of nominations from Members or Fellows of the Society, the Council may make additional nominations, if deemed necessary.
4. The following office-bearers and ordinary Council members shall form the duly elected Council and shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting:
5. the President
6. the Vice-President
7. the immediate Past President, if available, and only for the first year after leaving the role of President
8. the Secretary
9. the Treasurer
10. the Librarian
11. the Webmaster
12. the Chairperson of each of the Branches or another representative that the Branch may nominate and
13. eight Members or Fellows.
14. When a member stands for election in several of the above offices, that person shall be deemed elected to the first office considered for election in the order given above, if successful, and shall by deemed ineligible for subsequent offices.
15. The declaration of the result of the election of Council Members shall be the last item of formal Business at the Annual General Meeting. The newly elected Council shall remain in office until the declaration of the results of the office bearers at the next relevant Annual General Meeting.
16. The Council may at its absolute discretion remove an office-bearer or ordinary member of the Council if Council is satisfied by Special Resolution that the person is not fit to hold office, provided 21 days’ notice of a motion for that purpose is given by the person moving the motion.

**18. Election of the Council**

1. The President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian and Webmaster and the ordinary Members or Fellows elected to Council shall be elected for a period of two years.
2. At the first election under these Rules, the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian and Webmaster shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting for a period of two years. One half or, if an uneven number, the number immediately above half of the ordinary Council members shall be elected at that Annual General Meeting for a period of two years based on the number of votes cast for them in the election, and the balance for a period of one year.
3. Thereafter, at each Annual General Meeting, there shall be an election for the vacant Council member positions for a period of two years.
4. The representative of any Branch on the Council shall be chosen by that Branch at each Annual General Meeting of the Branch.
5. All positions shall be honorary unless determined by resolution of the Council.
6. Any financial member or Distinguished Fellow of the Society shall be eligible for nomination for any position on the Council of the Society except that no member shall be eligible for nomination:
   1. as President if the member has served as President for the whole of the preceding four years
   2. as a member of the Council if that person has served for an aggregate of fifteen years, unless that person is currently serving as President or immediate Past President or
   3. unless that person is permitted to serve beyond the aggregate of fifteen years by a Special Resolution of the Society.
7. A Returning Officer (not a Council Member) shall be appointed by the Council, where a ballot is required:
   1. The Treasurer shall provide the Returning Officer with a list of financial Members and Fellows.
   2. The Council shall authorise the use of such electronic voting system that it considers appropriate provided such system establishes a random order for candidates rather than alphabetical. Voting papers setting out the motion(s) and/or ballot(s) shall be made available to all eligible financial members at the time that the electronic voting site is opened for voting. The vote shall be valid if at least thirty (30) valid votes are received by the close of the voting period, which shall be twenty-one (21) days.
   3. In the event that there is an equality of votes in any election, there shall be a further ballot conducted according to Rule 18(g)(ii) after which, if there is a further equality of votes, the name of the successful candidate will be drawn out of a hat by the Returning Officer.
8. The Council shall inform the Membership of the result, including the number of votes for each person elected, on the Society’s website and in the next issue of the Society’s newsletter.
9. No ballot for the election of Council Members shall be valid unless forty (40) Members or Fellows at least record their votes.
10. Any vacant Office Bearer or Council position may be filled for the balance of the term by election at a Council Meeting. Members or Fellows of the Society shall be notified of the result at the first Ordinary General Meeting following such action.