



The Royal Society of New South Wales

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

Minutes of the 1281st Ordinary General Meeting of The Royal Society of New South Wales held in the Gallery Room, The State Library of New South Wales on Wednesday 4 March 2020 at 6.30pm

There were 75 Members, Fellows and guests in attendance.

1. WELCOME

The President, Professor Ian Sloan AO FRSN presided at the meeting. He welcomed members and guests and gave an acknowledgement of country. He also spoke about the Society's recently-developed Diversity and Inclusion statement.

1.1 Minutes of the 1280th Ordinary General Meeting held on 12 February 2020

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

2. PRESENTATION OF FELLOWSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES

Professor Sloan presented the following Certificate.

Fellow

Professor Natalie Thamwattana

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 18 March 2020, the election of new Members and Fellows will take effect from the date of the meeting.

3.1 Fellows

Professor Robert Frank Care AM FREng
Dr Edith Chow FRACI
Professor Ian Jeffrey Constable AO FRCSE
Professor Stephen Robert Garton FASSA
Professor Ewa Magdalena Goldys FTSE
Professor Gilles J Guillemin OM (France)
Dr Katrin Juliane Meissner
Dr David Bruce Musgrave
Professor John William Patrick FAAS

3.2 Members

Dr Arthur Firkins
Ms Claire McFarland

Mr John Ritchie
Mr Tibor Molnar

4 REPORT FROM COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

Professor Sloan drew members' attention to the following matters.

4.1 Annual General Meeting 1 April 2020

Professor Sloan reminded those present that the Society's AGM would be held on Wednesday 1 April 2020 in the Gallery Room, State Library of NSW.

4.2 Nominations for Council

Professor Sloan noted that nominations for membership of the Society's Council, including all office-bearers, closed on 12 March. He said that nomination forms were available on the Society's website and encouraged those who might be interested to be on Council to nominate.

5. THE EVENING'S LECTURE

SOILS: THE LEAST UNDERSTOOD PART OF SCIENCE, YET VITAL FOR ALL OF US

**Professor Robin J Batterham AO, Kernot Professor of Engineering,
University of Melbourne**

Emeritus Professor Robert Clancy, Chair of the Events Committee, introduced Professor Batterham a former Chief Scientist of Australia and President of the Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science, the Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, and The Royal Academy of Engineering, amongst others. Previously, he has held senior roles in CSIRO and with Rio Tinto, as Global Head of Innovation and Vice-President for Processing Developments. Most recently, he has had leadership roles at the interface of university, industry and government in areas that include mining, mineral processing, and algal and energy systems. Presently, he is the Chair of the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund, the Chair of the Australia-China Strategic Research Fund, the Chair of the Australian Chamber Choir, and a Member of the International Mineral Processing Council.

A synopsis of the lecture is given below.

The decadal plan for agriculture from our Academy of Science suggests that soils are the least understood part of all science. The lecture explored, if we approach the stewardship of our country differently (and many already are) we can improve our drought resilience, have fewer challenges with run off, use fewer farm chemicals, produce zero emission products such as meat and, if we get it right, sequester around 40% of Australia's emissions. The science to do this is innovative and multifaceted. The lecture ended with an invitation that, whether we live in cities or in the country, we all have a role to play.

6. VOTE OF THANKS AND CLOSE

The vote of thanks was given by Vice-President Ms Judith Wheeldon FRSN who presented Professor Batterham with a speaker's medal. The meeting was followed by dinner.

The President closed the meeting closed at 7.50pm.