



# THE BULLETIN 455

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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SEPTEMBER 2021

## For Your Diary

- 14 SEP

[\*Inaugural meeting of the Society's Western NSW branch\*](#)

- 15 SEP

[\*Our Energy Future: Part 2\*](#)

- 06 OCT

[\*1298<sup>th</sup> OGM and Open Lecture\*](#)

- 04 Nov

[\*RSNSW and Learned Academies Forum 2021\*](#)

## 1297<sup>TH</sup> OGM AND OPEN LECTURE

### Taking humour and laughter seriously: Exploring the multi-disciplinary field of humour studies

Wednesday, 1 September 2021, 6:30 PM



Dr Jessica Milner Davis FRSN

Honorary Associate, University of Sydney

See [\*page 4\*](#) for more information



Patron of The Royal Society of NSW

Her Excellency The Honourable  
Margaret Beazley AC QC  
Governor of New South Wales

## Our Energy Future: Part 2

Wednesday, 15 September 2021, 12:30 PM



Dr Saul Griffith FRSN and Dr Adi Paterson FRSN

See [\*page 5\*](#) for more information

## From the President

Wherever we turn today, we find an unsettled, rapidly changing and challenged world due to overlapping threats. Each threat — the COVID-19 pandemic being just one example — shows us how much we depend on interconnected and coordinated global and national networks to prepare and respond locally. The pandemic is demanding that we consider questions far beyond those related to the virus itself, such as the fragility of global supply chains, the implications of massive surges in the use of data and artificial intelligence, and of the forced acceleration of workforce trends as the physical footprints of nearly all sectors shrink. We are also grappling with the collateral damage exacted on the social, economic, psychological, and physical wellbeing of our contemporary society. The news is relentless.



Yet history teaches us to be optimistic. A century ago, the world seemed apocalyptic when World War I had killed 20 million people, the influenza pandemic at least 50 million more, and the next 25 years would see a global depression and World War II. But the second half of the century saw amazing progress in our material wealth and wellbeing. The Society takes the view that it must play its part in solving today's challenges through well-directed and informed use of its multidisciplinary expertise to engage with its members and the broader community.

The RSNSW and Learned Academies all day Forum in November 2020, which focussed on the theme '[After COVID-19: Creating the Best of Times from the Worst of Times](#)' is one example. The Forum examined how the COVID-19 pandemic is driving a wide-ranging, national program that will create a more resilient, self-sufficient, and prosperous Australia. None of us imagined back in November 2020 that NSW would be entering its third month of lockdown 10 months later. I am pleased to report that the Proceedings from the 2020 Forum have just been published in the [June 2021 issue of the Journal & Proceedings of the RSNSW](#). The papers by the various presenters are as relevant today as they were last year. They make compelling reading. I thank all the presenters and the Editor of Journal, Emeritus Professor Robert Marks, for creating such a fine resource.

A second example is the two-part series featuring two of our Fellows, Saul Griffith and Adi Paterson in conversation about '[Our Energy Future: The Unrecognised Opportunity in Glasgow. Part 1: Context and Castle; Part 2: Crushed Rocks](#)'. As I write this 'From the President' today on 25 August, the Society will be presenting Part 1. [Part 2](#) will air on Wednesday 15 September at 12:30 PM. Saul Griffith will frame his presentations as a reimagining of our energy economy without carbon dioxide and other emissions. His interlocuter, Adi Paterson, will draw out how human ingenuity can find the necessary solutions for our energy future. I urge you to tune in to the series, if not in real time then later via [our YouTube Channel](#).

*(continued overleaf)*

## From the President (cont'd)

In another innovation, given the fact that we are still in lockdown and cannot meet our new Fellows personally, we have introduced [Meet the Fellows — 3 Minute Videos](#). This is led by the Society's Community Engagement Committee, co-chaired by Professors Kathy Belov and Eric Knight. It will comprise 3-minute video interviews of our Fellows elected most recently. Each interviewee will be asked the same set of questions. Their own unique answers will add colour and depth to the Society's membership as we interview more and more. We will extend this initiative to Society Members as soon as possible. Each interview will be posted on the Society's website and social media accounts, subject of course to appropriate permissions. You will find links to [the first eight videos](#) on the website.

Regarding social media, I am pleased to announce that the Society's Twitter account — [@royalsocnsw](#) — went live about three weeks ago. As of today, it has sent 169 tweets and attracted 359 followers. This is another initiative of our Community Engagement Committee, members of which are taking on the role of administrator for a week at a time. My thanks to our first three: Alice Motion, Kathy Belov and Eric Knight. We plan to add PhD students and others as administrators in due course to extend the Society's reach into the broader community. I also thank our Webmaster, Lindsay Botten, who underpins our online presence with energy and flair.



We continue to work for the Society and for NSW because we understand the need to enhance public discourse on a wide range of topics that are crucial to our future. Society members have excellent ideas to contribute. In that spirit, I look forward to hearing your ideas and suggested ways to bring them to fruition.

Dr Susan M Pond AM FRSN  
President, Royal Society of NSW

## Welcome to new members

The Society is pleased to welcome the following new members to the Society. They were elected at the Ordinary General Meeting held on 4 August 2021. We hope that each of you enjoys your membership and is able to participate in all that the Society has to offer.

### Members

- Ms Catherine Carter
- Dr Rhea Friederike Cornley
- Associate Professor Wei Deng
- Professor Jennifer Louise Martin
- Mr Trent Pohlmann
- Mr James Tanna
- Ms. Melinda Tursky

## 1297<sup>th</sup> OGM and Open Lecture

### Taking humour and laughter seriously: Exploring the multi-disciplinary field of humour studies

Dr Jessica Milner Davis FRSN  
*Honorary Associate, University of Sydney*



**Date:** Wednesday, 1 September 2021, 6:30 PM

**Venue:** [Zoom Webinar](#)

**Entry:** No charge

**Enquiries:** [via email](#)

*All are welcome.*

#### Summary

From the time of Aristotle and Plato, philosophers have speculated about humour and laughter, proposing that *ridere est humanum*. But we now know that chimpanzees and rats also laugh. Sociologist Norbert Elias believed that laughter evolved as an antidote to aggression; but humour can also be damaging. This lecture explores the question of whether humour unites or divides the human race. Studies in neuroscience, psychology, linguistics, literature, performance, history, sociology, religion, health, and the emotions all now contribute to our understanding of the functions and consequences of humour. We honour its creators and practitioners, but we still can't define it.

#### About the speaker

Jessica Milner Davis PhD FRSN is a research associate at the University of Sydney and at Brunel University London's Centre for Comedy Studies Research. A life member of Clare Hall, Cambridge, she has held fellowships and lectured at the Universities of Cambridge, Bologna, Bristol, and NSW, as well as Stanford, Hofstra, and the Jagellonian University. A past president of the International Society for Humor Studies (ISHS), she founded and continues to co-ordinate the [Australasian Humour Studies Network](#). In 2018, she received the ISHS Lifetime Achievement Award for her interdisciplinary research and publications on humour, comedy, and laughter.

## Our Energy Future: a two-part event from RSNSW

### Our Energy Future: The Unrecognised Opportunity in Glasgow — In Two Acts

Part 2: Crushed Rocks

Dr Saul Griffith FRSN  
*including a conversation with*  
Dr Adi Paterson FRSN

**Date:** 15 September 2021, 12:30 PM AEST

**Venue:** Zoom webinar — [Part 2](#)

**Entry:** No charge

**Enquiries:** [via email](#)



*Society Members and Fellows, and members of the public are welcome.*

This year, from 1–12 November 2021, Glasgow, Scotland will host the 26<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. ‘Glasgow’ is the current shorthand for this meeting — which may etch it into our consciousness for a generation as Rio de Janeiro did in 1992 with the Rio 21 Principles.

Saul Griffith presents a future for our energy system and economy in the context of Glasgow. For Australia, understanding what we know (and why) about our energy economy allows us to think deeply about reimagining an energy economy without carbon dioxide and other emissions. The two sessions explore the Australian energy economy: domestic — ‘Our Castles’, and global — ‘Our Crushed Rocks’. Using a new analysis of our emissions data and a cross-sectoral analysis, he will contextualise our machines (hardware in the economy) and climate targets (1.5 degrees, with and without negative emissions) to show why we now need nearly perfect execution of new solutions.

#### **Part 1: Context and Castles — 25 August 2021**

Part 1 was presented on 25 August; it is now [available on our YouTube channel](#).

#### **Part 2: Crushed Rocks — 15 September 2021**

The second session will start with responses to questions and comments from the [first session](#), and will allow people who did not see session 1 to get the background that will give context to the second talk.

Questions may be submitted by [email](#) up until the close of business on **Thursday, 9 September**.

#### **The Talk: Saul Griffith**

Given we can win the battle for our Castles in the domestic economy (Part 1), what about the export economy, given the fear of lost rural and regional jobs and export value that has traditionally driven Australian climate politics? This discussion has to deal with our hydrogen demons and global trade and economic security. It needs a very honest look at our primary exports in the context of a carbon-constrained world. Is Australia’s enormous opportunity (still) in metals? If it is, the processes need to be electrified, and we need to produce primary metals and not just ores. There is also an agricultural opportunity.

*(continued overleaf)*



## Our Energy Future: a two-part event from RSNSW (cont'd)

### The Conversation: Saul Griffith and Adi Paterson

Saul and Adi will explore the export economy and the technologies that we don't yet have, but which are predictably going to exist, to decarbonise the 'hard to decarbonise' sectors such as steel, aluminium, cement, agriculture, forestry, paper, and pulp.

### The Wrap

Saul Griffith will provide recommendations for what Australia could advance at the COP in Glasgow — if we aspire to be a country that wants to win the carbon Olympics as badly as we wanted to win at the Tokyo Olympics.

## Inaugural meeting to establish the Society's Western NSW Branch

**Date:** Tuesday, 14 September 2021, 2:00 PM AEST

**Venue:** [Zoom Webinar](#)

**Entry:** No charge

**Enquiries:** [via email](#)

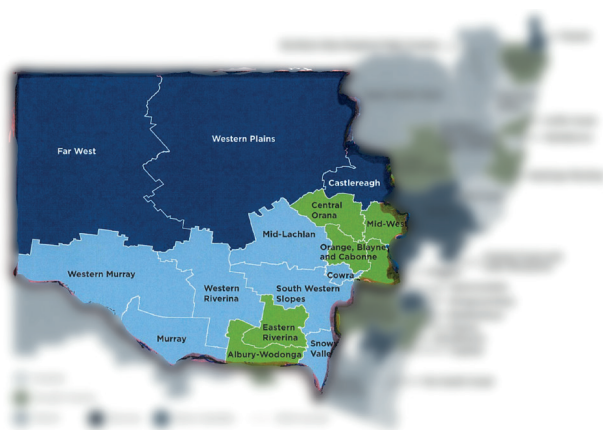
*All Society members are invited to join this historic occasion.*



**THE  
ROYAL SOCIETY  
OF NEW SOUTH WALES**  
ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH KNOWLEDGE SINCE 1821

**Western NSW Branch  
Inaugural Meeting Notice  
14 September 2021 (2.00pm)**

The Council has resolved to establish a new branch of the Society in Western NSW covering a wide area including the towns of Wagga Wagga, Orange, Bathurst and Dubbo. The new Branch is being established with the support of Charles Sturt University. In accordance with the Rules, the Council is convening a meeting to inaugurate the Branch and establish the first Branch Committee. The President, Dr Susan Pond AM FRSN, will give a presentation about the Society in Western New South Wales. The [agenda for the meeting is now available](#) online.



*Coverage of the Western NSW Branch*

## From the Archives: Brown to Browne

by Bruce Ramage (Secretary)

*This is the third in a series of articles that highlights items from the Society's extensive archives, some of which are held in the State Library of NSW, the NSW State Archives and within the Society itself.*

In looking through the long list of the Society's presidents over the past 200 years, some are familiar (even to me) while others, with the passing of time, have disappeared from our consciousness. There was one name, however, that stood out — Ida Brown. Who was she and why did she stand out so clearly?

Ida Brown was born on 16 August 1900 at Paddington, Sydney, daughter of William George Brown, an insurance clerk from New Zealand, and his wife Alison, née Logan, a Sydneysider. Educated at Fort Street Girls' High School and the University of Sydney (BSc, 1922; DSc, 1932), Ida graduated with first class honours and the university medal in geology. Having briefly held a science research scholarship, she demonstrated in geology at the university until 1927. That year she was awarded a Linnean Society of NSW Macleay Fellowship which enabled her to further geological investigations of the NSW South Coast, a study in which she combined field-mapping with laboratory work in petrology. She travelled extensively overseas, attending scientific congresses and research institutes.



*Ida Brown c. 1932.  
Courtesy Dorothy Welding*

Ida returned to demonstrating at the university early in 1934 and the next year became assistant lecturer in palaeontology. Promoted to lecturer (1940), in 1941 she published a notable paper on fossiliferous Silurian and Devonian sequences of the Yass district. She had successfully negotiated the shift from hard-rock to soft-rock geology, both in her research and teaching. More distinctly palaeontological papers on Palaeozoic invertebrates (especially brachiopods) followed, as did studies in biostratigraphy. She became a senior lecturer in 1945 but resigned in August 1950.

On 16 February 1950 at St Nicholas's Anglican Church, Coogee, she married William Rowan Browne (1884–1975), a well-known and respected geologist and teacher at the university and the successor to Sir Edgeworth David. It was his second marriage, his first wife dying in 1948.

The couple supported local learned societies and frequently published in their journals. Ida was a member of the Royal Society of NSW from 1935, a Vice-President (1942–50), Honorary Editorial

*(continued overleaf)*

## From the Archives: Brown to Browne (cont'd)



Joan Crockford and Ida Browne (right) on the south coast of New South Wales. Unknown photographer, c. 1940.  
Courtesy Susan Turner

Secretary (1950–53) and President (1953–54). Her husband was also President of the Royal Society of NSW (1932–33), received the Clarke Medal (1942), the Society Medal (1956), and had a volume of the *Journal and Proceedings* dedicated to him (1966). Both belonged to the Australian National Research Council and to the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science.

Ida Browne (now with an ‘e’) was among the women who have played a significant role in Australian geoscience, and especially in palaeontology. Australian women gained

degrees by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and began to contribute intensively. Australian-born young women already immured to the rigours of climate and culture, collected and illustrated fossils, enrolled in the first university courses, thrived in the field, in some instances outnumbering and out-achieving men. Where women palaeontologists made their mark they often energetically concentrated on a taxonomic group, making them their own, as Isabel Cookson did with palynology, Joan Crockford with bryozoans, Dorothy Hill with corals, Ida Browne with brachiopods. She and her contemporaries did taxonomy, classical geology and biostratigraphical studies that laid the foundations for making maps and work that became recognised nationally and internationally. Women in geosciences spanning the 20<sup>th</sup> century in Australia contributed some hundreds of scientific papers, maps and textbooks.

Ida’s last years were blighted by a slow, paralysing illness which required the attention of nurses and the constant care of her husband. She died on 21 October 1976 at Edgecliff. Reserved and dignified, at times unbending but helpful withal, Ida had made for herself a career in science, then not easy for a woman. Strength of character, intellect, and a capacity for meticulous attention to detail served her well.

So why did the name Ida Browne catch my eye? She was the only female president of the Society in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Also, my mother’s name was Ida.



## Report: Southern Highlands Branch

by Anne Wood (*Honorary Secretary*)

Despite COVID-19's effects on our usual timeline of events, this year's Philosophy in Schools Essay Competition was successfully held after the granting of timing flexibility by the organising committee. This excellent competition is sponsored annually by the *RSNSW Southern Highlands Branch*.

The Branch is delighted to now announce the winners of the competition for 2021:

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Sneha Shygale (Meriden)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Yu Ming Lee (Sydney Boys)
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Yaohong (Sherry) Jiang (NSGHS)

Because of the Sydney COVID-19 situation, this year's trophies have been sent to Dr Britta Jensen, Newington College, Stanmore, for distribution to the winning candidates. The sponsor, RSNSW Southern Highlands Branch, looks forward to another great state-wide competition next year, and congratulates the 2021 winners on their outstanding contributions.

Unlike the Philosophy in Schools Essay event, another Southern Highlands event which also attracted a great amount of attention, could not escape the ravages of COVID-19. That event was the scheduled lecture for August entitled *Interrupted by fire — making ceramics in the Southern Highlands*, which was to be delivered by Dr Stephen Harrison PhD MA (Hons). Unfortunately, at very short notice before the scheduled lecture, this lovely regional area of NSW was locked down in line with Sydney COVID-19 restrictions.

You will remember that in his last lecture here in 2019, Dr Stephen Harrison told of how he was one of the six artists recently commissioned across Australia to create a new work for the Powerhouse Museum. Very shortly after his lecture. Stephen's tiny hamlet of Balmoral in the Southern Highlands was decimated by horrendous bushfires. He made headlines in Australia and around the world when he miraculously survived the firestorm by sheltering in a makeshift 'coffin' which he quickly constructed from ceramic fibre. Unfortunately, although he was able to save his home, the fires ravaged his studios, workshops, works of art and precious materials.

The update we now have is that approximately one year ago, Stephen was honoured by the Art Gallery of NSW when they purchased 12 pieces of his porcelain for their permanent collection. That was an exceptionally great honour in recognition of Stephen's research and artistic achievement. We are hoping that in the fullness of time, Stephen's next attempt to address the Southern Highlands Branch will be successful, and we will be given a first-hand account of how one person survived an indescribable ordeal to again make a life for himself, his family, and his creative spirit.

## Report: Events Committee

*by Christina Slade (Chair of Events) and Lindsay Botten (Webmaster)*

The Royal Society of NSW hosted a range of events over August.

The 1296<sup>th</sup> Ordinary General Meeting was held on **4 August**. At that meeting, Professor Alison Bashford FRSN FAHA FRHistS FBA, the Laureate Professor of History at UNSW, addressed the Society on the topic of ‘The Intimate History of Evolution: The Huxleys 1825–1975’. This presentation is now [available on our YouTube channel](#).

Also, during August we offered an innovative lunch time talk and debate by Dr Saul Griffith FRSN and Dr Adi Patterson FRSN FTSE, both Fellows of the Society. The first of the two sessions on ‘Our Energy Future: The Unrecognised Opportunity in Glasgow’, Part 1, ‘Context and Castles’, was held on **25 August**, and will be followed on **15 September** by Part 2, ‘Crushed Rocks’. The discussion in Part 1, relating mainly to households, was both lively and informative and is now [available on YouTube](#). An opportunity to comment and to ask questions in advance of Part 2, which focuses on the wider economy, is available. Members and Fellows are requested to [contribute these by email](#) by **9 September**.

Dr Jessica Milner Davis FRSN will address the [1297<sup>th</sup> OGM](#) on **1 September** on the topic of ‘Taking humour and laughter seriously: Exploring the multi-disciplinary field of humour studies’. The October OGM will also be [delivered online](#) and will be available on YouTube shortly thereafter.

The Society is excited to be able to inaugurate its new Western NSW Branch at a special meeting at 2:00 PM on Tuesday **14 September 2021**. At this meeting, the President will outline how the Society

can assist the Western region of NSW in disseminating knowledge across disciplines. The [meeting](#) will be held by Zoom and all are welcome to attend. The Society is grateful to Charles Sturt University for its assistance with this initiative.

The rescheduled opening of the Society’s exhibition, [NEXUS](#), at the State Library celebrating our 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary, continues to depend on the lifting of the ongoing COVID-19 lockdown restrictions.



## Report: Hunter Branch

*by Steven Weller (Acting Branch Secretary)*

Ongoing COVID-19 lockdown provisions in regional NSW unfortunately obliged the Hunter branch to hold its **5 August** meeting using Zoom rather than face-to-face. The committee met under the direction of branch Chair, Professor John Aitken.

The Hunter branch hosted an event on **25 August** presented by Professor Kathy Eagar, Director of the Australian Health Services Research Institute at the University of Wollongong, titled ‘Did the Aged Care Royal Commission provide a blueprint to fix Australia’s aged care system? If not, what else needs to happen?’. As our population shrinks and ages, the provision of a safe effective system of aged care is an immediate priority for both our Government and our society.

To the question posed in the title of her presentation, Professor Eagar’s answer was a resounding ‘no’, with Professor Eagar arguing that the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety’s final report failed to set out a coherent package of policy and practical solutions to fix the problems identified in the Interim Report. That interim report itself found that Australia’s aged care system fails to meet the needs of its older, vulnerable, citizens.

Following the presentation was a panel discussion in which Professor Eagar was joined by a panel comprising Ms Marie Coleman AO and Dr Max Thorpe. Ms Colman is an Australian feminist, social activist, public servant and journalist, and Dr Thorpe is a retired gastroenterologist; both he and Ms Coleman are strong advocates for the better management of aged care. Interestingly, all three of the speakers identified the establishment of regional aged care authorities as the primary (but not only!) reform needed to fix Australia’s aged care system.

This talk is now [available on our YouTube channel](#).

Events to be presented by the Hunter branch later in the year are still in the planning stage.

## Distinguished Fellow Michelle Simmons awarded Bakerian Medal

Our Distinguished Fellow, **Scientia Professor Michelle Simmons AO FRS DistFRSN FAA** of UNSW Sydney, was awarded the Bakerian Medal and Lecture 2020 by the Royal Society. Professor Simmons has been recognised for ‘her seminal contributions to our understanding of nature at the atomic scale by creating a sequence of world-first quantum electronic devices in which individual atoms control device behaviour’.



The Royal Society’s Bakerian Medal and Lecture is its premier lecture in the physical sciences. The lectureship was established through a bequest by Henry Baker FRS of £100 for ‘an oration or discourse on such part of natural history or experimental philosophy, at such time and in such manner as the President and Council of the Society, for the time being, shall please to order and appoint’. The lecture series began in 1775. The medal is of silver gilt, is awarded annually, and is accompanied by a gift of £10,000.

Professor Simmons is the Director of the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Quantum Computation and Communication Technology ([CQC2T](#)) at UNSW Sydney, and also the founder of Australia’s first quantum computing company, [Silicon Quantum Computing](#). Her achievements have been recognised by numerous prizes and fellowships. She has been recognised by the American Computer Museum as a pioneer in quantum computing, awarded the [Feynman Prize in Nanotechnology](#), and named as the [2017 L’Oréal-UNESCO Asia-Pacific Laureate in the Physical Sciences](#). Professor Simmons was named [Australian of the Year](#) and admitted as a Fellow to the Royal Society of London in 2018; in 2019, she was appointed as an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO). She is also a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science and a Distinguished Fellow of the Royal Society of NSW.

To read further, please see the article in the [UNSW Newsroom](#) and also the announcement on the [Royal Society website](#).

## Recent events on YouTube: August 2021

All online events from the Royal Society of NSW are recorded and are made available for subsequent viewing on our YouTube channel, [youtube.com/royalsocnsw](https://youtube.com/royalsocnsw), as well as being curated on the [Presentations page](#) of the Society's website (under the Publishing menu).

Amongst the most recent events are [Music as a Superfood](#) presented as part of the *Ideas@theHouse* series by renowned writer, broadcaster, psychologist, and operatic soprano, Greta Bradman on 22 July 2021, and [The Intimate History of Evolution: The Huxleys 1825–1975](#), presented on 4 August 2021 by noted historian Professor Alison Bashford FRSN FAHA FRHistS FBA of UNSW (Sydney).

In [Music as a Superfood](#), Greta Bradman discusses how music can help us live longer, sleep better, calm down, find flow, and feel happier. Regrettably, due to rights restrictions, the YouTube recording is available only until 21 October.

In [The Intimate History of Evolution: The Huxleys 1825–1975](#), Alison Bashford explored the contribution of Thomas Henry Huxley (1825–1895) and his grandson Julian Huxley (1887–1975) in communicating to the world the great modern story of the theory of evolution by natural selection. Thomas Huxley, a mid-nineteenth century natural scientist was Darwin's most outspoken spokesman, while Julian Huxley, a well-known mid-twentieth century science writer, zoologist, conservationist, was that generation's David Attenborough. Together, they were 'trustees of evolution', a phrase that Julian Huxley often used to describe all of humankind, but which Alison Bashford uses to describe the Huxleys themselves.



## Society launches its Twitter account

The Society is pleased to announce the launch of its Twitter account (on 3 August 2021), in its bicentennial year. The Society is now active on three social media platforms: [Twitter \(@royalsocnsw\)](#); [YouTube \(royalsocnsw\)](#); and [Facebook \(@royalsoc\)](#), with these to be followed shortly by a presence on LinkedIn.

Please consider following us on these channels to stay informed about Royal Society of NSW events and news.





## Meet the Fellows: a series of 3-minute videos

The Society is pleased to introduce a new initiative titled [Meet the Fellows](#) comprising a series of 3-minute video interviews with Fellows, commencing with those who have been elected most recently.

Since the Fellowship category of membership was introduced in December 2013 to recognise individuals who are leaders in their field, the number has continued to grow steadily to the more than 400 Fellows and Distinguished Fellows who form part of our Society today. They join around 200 Members who are also desirous of furthering the aims of the Society and have been elected in accordance with its Rules.

Our Society includes members from a wide range of disciplines and experiences, drawing its strength by embracing the sciences and the humanities and building bridges across them. The whole becomes greater than the sum of the parts because of the new knowledge, insights, and outcomes created by this collective intelligence.

Not being able to meet face-to-face while we grapple with the pandemic means that we cannot introduce our new Fellows to each other or to the Society at large in person. We hope that these videos will help to bridge that gap.

Further information can be found on the [Meet the Fellows page](#), while the videos, which will be referred to on our social media accounts, are accessible from our YouTube channel in the [Meet the Fellows playlist](#).



## Society attracts attention in the French community

Society Fellow Yves Hernot FRSN Chevalier de l'Ordre du Mérite has written about the Society in the French online daily *Le Courrier Australien*. The article titled [Avoir de la patience est une vertu](#) appeared in the 16 August edition of the paper. It contains images from the Society's (as yet unopened) bicentennial exhibition and last year's Royal Society of NSW and Learned Academies Forum, as well as portraits of our Patron and the author and a brief description of the Society's role, its history, and its distinguished fellowship. It is pleasing to see the work of the Society being exposed to a new community and this expansion of the Society's reach.



## List of proposed events for 2021

Kindly note that this is a provisional list and will be subject to change. Updates will be reflected in future issues of the Bulletin and on [our website](#).

Date	Event
Wednesday, 1 September 6:30 PM AEST	1297 <sup>th</sup> Ordinary General Meeting and Open Lecture Taking humour and laughter seriously: Exploring the multi-disciplinary field of humour studies Dr Jessica Milner Davis FRSN
Wednesday, 15 September 12:30 PM AEST	Our Energy Future: The Unrecognised Opportunity in Glasgow — In Two Acts Part 2: Crushed Rocks Dr Saul Griffith FRSN and Dr Adi Paterson FRSN
Wednesday, 29 September	TENTATIVE (Hunter Branch) Lecture — exact topic t.b.a. Nathan Towney, University of Newcastle
Wednesday, 6 October 6:30 PM AEDT	1298 <sup>th</sup> Ordinary General Meeting and Open Lecture Privacy and identity in an AI world Scientia Professor Toby Walsh FRSN FAA FACM FAAAS
Thursday, 4 November 9:00 AM–4:30 PM AEDT	Royal Society of NSW and Learned Academies Annual Forum Power and Peril of the Digital Age Venue: Live Streaming (details to follow) and subsequently on YouTube
Wednesday 1 December 6:30 PM AEDT	1299 <sup>th</sup> Ordinary General Meeting and Open Lecture Managing psychological distress in times of stress: handling the stress of COVID-19 and all that Scientia Professor Richard Bryant AC FASSA FAA FAHMS — James Cook Medal Winner 2020

## Archibald Liversidge: Imperial Science under the Southern Cross

When Archibald Liversidge first arrived at Sydney University in 1872 as reader in geology and assistant in the laboratory, he had about ten students and two rooms in the main building. In 1874, he became professor of geology and mineralogy; by 1879, he had persuaded the senate to open a faculty of science. He became its first dean in 1882. In 1880, he visited Europe as a trustee of the Australian Museum and his report helped to establish the Industrial, Technological and Sanitary Museum which formed the basis of the present Powerhouse Museum's collection. Liversidge also played a major role in the setting up of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science which held its first congress in 1888.

One of his greatest contributions was to science education. He worked tirelessly to secure proper recognition of science in both secondary and tertiary education. In the preface of his book, Professor MacLeod comments: 'Liversidge remained confident that Australia's path would follow the route of the "moving metropolis", strengthened by the bonds that tied Australia to its British heritage. In that heritage lay his life, and through that heritage, flowed the genius of imperial science in New South Wales'.

To order your copy, please complete the [MacLeod: Liversidge order form](#) and return it to:

The Royal Society of NSW (Liversidge book)

PO Box 576

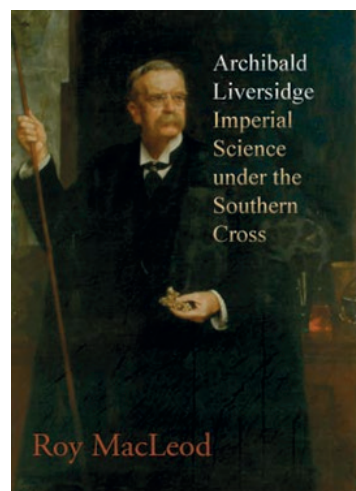
Crows Nest NSW 1585

Australia

or contact the Society:

Phone: +61 2 9431 8691

Email: [info@royalsoc.org.au](mailto:info@royalsoc.org.au)



## The Society and social media

The Society's presence on social media platforms is slowly but surely growing. Our [Facebook page](#), [Twitter feed](#) and [YouTube channel](#) continue to attract and engage followers and viewers, and we continue to build a repository of online events conducted recently on YouTube.

The icons on the right will take the reader to the platforms' respective pages, from where they can follow and subscribe to the Society, and be notified of new content.



## Current Council and Office-Bearers

The current Council and office-bearers of the Society are:

Patron	Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC, Governor of New South Wales
President	<a href="#">Dr Susan Pond AM FRSN FTSE FAHMS</a>
Vice-President	<a href="#">Ms Judith Wheeldon AM FRSN</a>
Past President	<a href="#">Emeritus Professor Ian Sloan AO FRSN FAA</a>
Secretary	<a href="#">Mr Bruce Ramage MRSN</a>
Treasurer	<a href="#">Mr John Cameron MRSN</a>
Librarian	<a href="#">Mr John Hardie AM FRSN</a>
Webmaster	<a href="#">Emeritus Professor Lindsay Botten FRSN</a>
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