

1314th Ordinary General Meeting of The Royal Society of NSW

Minutes

Gallery Room, State Library of NSW, 6.30 pm, Wednesday 2 August 2023.

There were 32 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 asked that Members consider nominating candidates who reflect diverse backgrounds and experiences across NSW for membership of the Society.

2. MINUTES OF THE 1313TH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 7 JUNE 2023

The Minutes of the previous Ordinary General Meeting, posted to the website last week, were approved.

3. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NAMES OF CANDIDATES FOR FELLOWSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP

There were no candidates for consideration at this meeting because neither the FMAC nor the Council has met since the last meeting.

4. PRESENTATION OF FELLOWSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES

At the OGM held on Wednesday 7 June 2023, the following candidates were proposed by the Council for admission to the Society. As no valid objections were received from members within two weeks of the that meeting (that is, by 6.30pm on 21 June 2023), their admission was confirmed with effect from the date of the OGM.

FELLOWSHIP

Professor Les Copeland
Professor Bing Jie Ni
Professor Roger Reddel
Professor Renae Ryan
The Hon Gabrielle Upton
Dr Alan Williams

MEMBERSHIP

Ms Tina Katherine Allen
Professor Trevor Brown
Dr Andrea Coda
Ms Ann Fieldhouse
Mr Andrew Kenneth Bruce Mortimer
Ms Patricia Kay Philip
Mr Craig Russell Symes

The President presented membership certificates to those present at this evening's meeting.

4. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

The President reported on the following matters.

The Council is undertaking a substantial consultation and master planning process to determine the future of the Society over the next decade. The initial survey to canvass membership views has been circulated and completed. The results of this will be made available soon. The Council encourages all members, particularly younger members to engage in the process, so that we can steer the Society in the direction to give maximum impact over the next decade.

The President advised that a Communications Officer, Amanda Yeo, has been appointed and she will commence next week.

The President encouraged nominations for the Society's awards program. Nominations opened on 1 July and will close on 30 September.

The next event in the Ideas@theHouse program presented by the Society and hosted by the Governor and Vice-Regal Patron of the Society will take place at Government House, Sydney, on Thursday, 10 August 2023, 6.30–8.00 pm and will be live-streamed. The speaker will be Professor Emma Johnston AO FRSN FAA FTSE, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), University of Sydney. She will discuss the topic, "Ideas for marine stewardship and sustainability in a time of acceleration".

5 QUESTIONS

There were no questions from the floor.

6 OPEN LECTURE

"Convergence: the hybridisation of the future"

In conversation:
Associate Professor Catherine Ball
Futurist, Author, Researcher, Rebel

and

Maria MacNamara
Director, Government Affairs and
Innovation Strategy, Kyndryl

Convergent technologies are accelerating business model evolution and are changing our tolerance and social licence around them. How can we accept technologies we don't understand? Is there trust when it comes to taking these hardware and software into our homes? Would you let your children have an implantable device, or even offer up your genome as proof of ID?

As the world mixes the human and the technological, we are entering Industry 5.0- the Internet of Things has become the Internet of Bodies. How much privacy are we willing to hand over to protect the cybersecurity of life as usual? All these questions have been around for some time but they have never been so pressing.

With the rise and rise of Generative AI, the scaling of technology seems to have caught some by surprise, including our regulators and governance leaders. Ultimately we still have consent. We can still turn it all off – can't we?

The speakers engaged with the membership in a wide-ranging and energetic discussion around these highly complex and contentious issues.

7 VOTE OF THANKS

The vote of thanks was given by Elizabeth Deane.

8 CLOSE

The President closed the meeting at 7.55pm.

The minutes were recorded by the Secretary, Dr Donald Hector AM FRSN.

Signed as a true record
Dr Susan Pond AM FRSN
President