

**1316th ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING
AND OPEN LECTURE**

Wednesday 4 October 2023 at 6:30pm

**GALLERY ROOM, STATE LIBRARY OF NSW
(enter from Shakespeare Place)**

The 1316th Ordinary General Meeting of the Royal Society of NSW will take place at 6:30 pm on Wednesday 4 October 2023 in the Gallery Room, State Library of NSW, followed by an open lecture.

AGENDA

1. WELCOME – President, Dr Susan Pond AM FRSN

2. MINUTES

Minutes of the 1314th and 1315th Ordinary General Meetings will be reviewed.

3. CONFIRMATION OF NAMES OF CANDIDATES FOR FELLOWSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP

As the Fellows and Members Assessment Committee has not met since the 1315th OGM, there are no nominations for membership at this meeting.

4. PRESENTATION OF FELLOWSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES

The President will present Certificates to new Fellows and Members whose nominations were tabled at the 1315th OGM.

FELLOWSHIP

Professor Ben Colagiuri
Andrew Thomas Condon
Associate Professor Amy Katherine Cain
Professor Julianne Schultz
Professor Si Ming Man
Professor Steven James Langford
Professor Ainsley Newson
Professor Christopher F Sharpley
Steven James Miller
Professor Vicki F Bitsika
Elaine Sadler
Rosalind Croucher
Catherine Greenhill
Alaina Ammit
Kim Lovegrove

MEMBERSHIP

Brian William Bell
Micheal Daniel Lynch
Selena Griffith
Robert Anton Fabian
Ed Matzenik
Tracy Victoria Ryan

Susan Bazzana
Dr Zamira Gibb
Dr Rachel Clare Fitzhardinge
Michael Hedger
Christopher Fellows
Dyone Bettega

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Lorraine Pountney
Luke Hall
Rebel Bailey
Benjamin Chidiac

5. REPORT FROM COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

The President will report on matters dealt with by the Council and Committees since last OGM.

7. QUESTIONS

8. OPEN LECTURE

“Australia’s nuclear future: a new discourse for the 2040s”

Helen Cook
Principal, GNE Advisory
and
Dr Adi Paterson FRSN FTSE
Former Chief Executive Officer, ANSTO

The debate about nuclear power in Australia has been deeply divisive, with pro- and anti-nuclear lobbies failing to engage with each other. Helen Cook, the author of the canonical work on legal regulation of the rapidly-innovating nuclear industries, *The Law of Nuclear Energy*, and Dr Adi Patterson, former CEO of ANSTO, bring new perspectives and argue for a more nuanced understanding of the issues.

Helen Cook discusses the proactive role that nuclear law can play in addressing key challenges for global governance of nuclear power. Adi Patterson argues that the assessment of options for power generation should be technology-neutral. It is a mistake, he says, to focus only on renewables to achieve carbon zero by 2040. He notes that there is geopolitical pressure, specifically, in our region, to be engaged in nuclear industries. Cook notes that 50 countries are currently considering or actively implementing new nuclear power programs, recognising the role that nuclear energy can play as a proven, clean, dispatchable and economical technology to improve energy supply security and mitigate climate change.

About the Speakers

Helen Cook is the Principal of GNE Advisory Pty Ltd., a law practice dedicated to all aspects of the civil nuclear energy sector. Recognised by the International Atomic Energy Agency as a nuclear law expert, Helen has expertise advising on the establishment of legal and regulatory infrastructure for civilian nuclear power programs, as well as the negotiation of commercial contracts for new nuclear power plants, including procurement, construction and financing. She currently advises on three of the demonstration small modular reactor projects in the United States and Canada and two of the front-runner SMR projects in Europe. Helen advises governments, such as Egypt and Estonia, on their nuclear power programs and recently drafted a national nuclear law and nuclear liability law for the Philippines. She is a non-executive Director of Silex Systems Limited, an Australian-listed company commercialising laser enrichment technology, Global Laser Enrichment LLC in the US and is an Executive Committee member of the Australian Nuclear Association.

Dr Adi Paterson FRSN FTSE has a strong public science and senior management background, with extensive operational and strategic management expertise, specifically in nuclear programs and in the commercialisation of scientific research. He co-authored the post-Apartheid National R&D Strategy in South Africa and was Chief Operating Officer of the national Department of Science and Technology. From March 2009 to September 2020, Adi had strategic oversight and responsibility for ANSTO's multi-faceted portfolio of activities. He anchored a values-based program of positive change and growth. This leveraged, outcomes-based approach is focussed on the nexus of public science investment and practical innovation with positive impacts on health, industry, and the environment. He oversaw the integration of the Australian Synchrotron into ANSTO operations in 2016. Since leaving ANSTO, he has established a specialised consultancy company, Siyeva Consulting, that focuses on technology and energy futures.

9. VOTE OF THANKS

10. CLOSE – President

Dr Donald Hector AM FRSN

Secretary