

1326th Ordinary General Meeting of the Royal Society of NSW

Minutes

The 1326th Ordinary General Meeting of the Royal Society of NSW took place in the Dixon Room, State Library of NSW, on Wednesday, 2 October 2024, commencing at 6:30 pm. There were 51 Members, Fellows and visitors in attendance. The meeting was recorded for those who could not attend in person.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The President, Dr Susan Pond AM FRSN presided at the meeting. She welcomed Members and guests.

2. MINUTES OF THE 1325th ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the 1325th Ordinary General Meeting were reviewed and approved. There were no matters arising.

3. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NAMES OF CANDIDATES FOR FELLOWSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP

The Council has not met since the last OGM, so there are no candidates to be announced for Members' consideration at this meeting.

4. CONFIRMATION OF FELLOWSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP AND PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES

The President presented certificates to new Fellows and Members whose nominations were tabled at the previous OGM and were present at this meeting. Newly admitted members are:

FELLOWSHIP

Professor Natkunam Ketheesan

Laudation – Natkunam Ketheesan is an internationally distinguished researcher and educator in infectious diseases.

Professor Matt Wand

Laudation – Matt Wand is internationally recognised for his contributions to statistics methodology, theory and computing.

MEMBERSHIP

Dr Renee V Goreham

Daniel Bruno Bonatti

Samuel Tensingh

Ryan William Daffurn

Phillip Michael Nyssen

Alan Christopher Wainwright

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Robin Miles

5. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

No questions or comments were received at the meeting.

6. BOOK LAUNCH

Knowledge for a Nation: Origins of the Royal Society of New South Wales

The RSNSW origin story, revealed by Dr Anne Coote

Knowledge for a Nation: Origins of the Royal Society of New South Wales tells the early history of a learned society still active in the intellectual culture of twenty-first century Australia. The book begins with an account of Australia's first learned society, the *Philosophical Society of Australasia* (1821-1822), which is the Royal Society's enduring inspiration, if not its earliest incarnation. The Royal Society evolved from the *Australian Philosophical Society* (1850-1), through the *Philosophical Society of New South Wales*, which was re-badged Royal in 1866. Successfully re-organised a decade later, the Royal Society reached the zenith of its influence on the development of a colonial science community in New South Wales. Hopes and disappointments, conflict and camaraderie, challenges and achievements are all part of this story which highlights the society's initiatives in the cause of science, its all-male membership, the women who nevertheless contributed, and the society's glittering conversaciones. The book concludes in 1914, when a visit to Australia by the British Association for the Advancement of Science demonstrated international recognition for the colonial scientific community which the Royal Society had worked so long to help create.

About the Author

Historian, **Dr Anne Coote**, works in the areas of public history and cultural history, including the cultural history of science in colonial Australia. For many years, she held an adjunct position at the University of New England. More recently, as an associate of the Centre for Applied History at Macquarie University, she contributed to a research project investigating the history of shale-mining settlements in the Blue Mountains, New South Wales. She has written entries for the Dictionary of Sydney and published academically on the influence of literate culture on popular perceptions of community and sovereignty in mid nineteenth-century New South Wales; popular science journalism; notable collectors of natural history specimens; the intersection of specimen collection with ideas about class; and the trade in specimens at a local and global level. Dr Coote is a graduate of the University of Sydney and the University of New England, Armidale.

7. VOTE OF THANKS

An extensive of thanks and acknowledgement of the importance of the book was given by the Vice President, Dr Peter Shergold AC FRSN all.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

9. CLOSE

The Vice President closed the meeting at 7:55 pm.

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

Signed as a true record
Dr Susan Pond AM FRSN
President