

ROYAL SOCIETY ANNALS

NEW SOUTH WALES

2025

Annual Report of Council and Annual Financial
Report for the year ending

31 December 2025



THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

ABN 76 470 896 415

The Royal Society of New South Wales is one of the oldest learned societies in the Southern Hemisphere, tracing its origins to the *Philosophical Society of Australasia*, founded in Sydney in 1821. It became the Royal Society of New South Wales by Royal Assent in 1866 and was incorporated by an Act of the New South Wales Parliament in 1881. The Society is an independent organisation with an enduring purpose to *enrich lives through knowledge and inquiry*. It engages its Members and Fellows to foster an authentic and authoritative exchange of ideas across disciplines, spanning the sciences and engineering, the social sciences and humanities, philosophy, and the creative and performing arts.

The Society addresses national and global challenges, supports informed debate on contentious issues, and shares the outcomes of research and inquiry through public events, meetings, publications, and other media. It recognises excellence through its awards program, collaborates with other learned societies in Australia and internationally, and contributes to public discourse on the complex problems of the 21st century, particularly those affecting New South Wales and Australia.

Patron

Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC Governor of New South Wales is the Vice-Regal Patron of the Society.

Council

Council members serve for a term of two years and are elected at the annual general meeting of the Society held in April each year. Terms of the Council members are staggered so approximately half the Councillors' terms expire each year. When more than one candidate stands for a position, an election is conducted by electronic poll. The results of the poll are announced at the AGM.

Membership of the Council for calendar year 2025 until the date of the AGM in 2026, unless stated otherwise.

President	Dr Susan Pond AM FRSN* (to 2 April 2025)
	Em Prof Christina Slade FRSN* (from 2 April 2025)
Immediate Past President	Dr Susan Pond AM FRSN* (from 2 April 2025)
Vice President	Em Prof Peter Shergold AC FRSN* (to 2 April 2025)
	Em Prof Lindsay Botten FRSN* (from 2 April 2025)
Secretary	Dr Donald Hector AM FRSN* (to 2 April 2025)
	Em Prof Trevor Brown FRSN* (from 2 April 2025)
Treasurer	Em Prof Peter Wells FRSN*
Librarian	Prof Stephen Garton AM FRSN
Webmaster	Em Prof Lindsay Botten FRSN* (to 2 April 2025)
	Em Prof Graham Town FRSN (from 2 April 2025)
Editor, <i>Journal and Proceedings</i>	Em Prof Robert Marks FRSN
Councillors	Prof Sean Brawley FRSN*
	Prof Sally Cripps FRSN
	Em Prof Rosalind Croucher AM FRSN (from 2 April 2025)
	Mr Médy Hassan OAM FRSN*
	Dr Davina Jackson FRSN (*Exec. to 2 April 2025)
	Dr Sarah Jones FRSN* (from 9 April 2025)
	Dr Elizabeth Killen MRSN
	Cdre (Ret'd) Vince Di Pietro AM FRSN
	Em Prof Christina Slade FRSN* (to 2 April 2025)
Branch representatives	
Southern Highlands Branch	Air Cdre Ret'd Peter Eustace (to 2 April 2025) Ms Ann Fieldhouse MRSN (from 2 April 2025)

Hunter Branch	Adj Prof Robert Whittaker AM FRSN
Western NSW Branch	Prof Mark Evans FRSN (to 2 June 2025) Prof Lewis Bizo FRSN (from 2 June 2025)
New England North West Branch	Em Prof Trevor Brown FRSN (to 2 April 2025) Prof Vicki Bitsika AM FRSN (from 2 April 2025)

* Member of the Executive Committee.

The Council met five times throughout 2025. Meetings of all Council committees were held via videoconference.

Council meeting attendance was:

Councillor	Meetings held while in office	Meetings attended
Vicki Bitsika	4	2
Lewis Bizo	3	1
Lindsay Botten	5	5
Sean Brawley	5	4
Trevor Brown	5	5
Sally Cripps	5	3
Rosalind Croucher	4	4
Peter Eustace	1	1
Mark Evans	2	0
Ann Fieldhouse	4	3
Stephen Garton	5	3
Médy Hassan	5	3
Donald Hector	1	1
Davina Jackson	5	5
Sarah Jones	4	3
Elizabeth Killen	5	4
Robert Marks	5	5
Susan Pond	5	5
Peter Shergold	1	1
Christina Slade	5	5
Vince Di Pietro	5	3
Graham Town	4	4
Peter Wells	5	4
Robert Whittaker	5	5

Office location and services

Some professional services are provided under contract by The Association Specialists (TAS), Suite 5.02, 655 Pacific Highway, St Leonards NSW 2065.

President's report

The year 2025 was an exceptionally busy and productive year for the Royal Society of NSW, and also my first as President. I was honoured to be elected to this role at the Annual General Meeting on 2 April 2025. I extend my congratulations and the Society's gratitude to the outgoing President, Dr Susan Pond for four years of outstanding achievements during her term.

Amongst the many highlights of Susan's term were real improvements in the Society's financial position, particularly by attracting substantial support for communications and outreach from the NSW Office of the Chief Scientist and Engineer. An extension of the grant through to 2031–32 was announced at the 2025 AGM at which the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer, Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte (pictured) spoke powerfully on 'Engineering the Future'.



I also acknowledge and express thanks for the dedicated service to the Society by Dr Donald Hector who stood down as Secretary after a two-year term and fourteen years on the Council, including four years as President from 2012–2016. I am grateful to the entire Council for their ongoing work and support and note the contributions of those who retired from the Council in April 2025, namely Emeritus Professor Peter Shergold (Vice-President).

We are particularly fortunate, in this current term of Council, to have Emeritus Professor Lindsay Botten take on the role of Vice-President and manage the operations of the Society. I am also grateful to Emeritus Professor Trevor Brown for taking on the position of Secretary, and to Emeritus Professor Peter Wells for his continued stewardship of our finances as Treasurer. We welcomed three new members to the Council, Emeritus Professor Graham Town as webmaster, Emeritus Professor Rosalind Croucher as a general member, and Dr Sarah Jones as an appointed members.

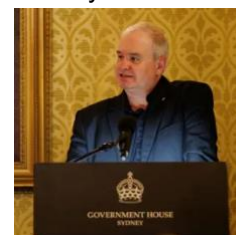
During 2025, some forty-four (44) separate events were delivered across the Sydney, Hunter, Western, Southern Highlands, and New England North West branches, and with cognate organisations. This is a demanding schedule, and I acknowledge the significant workload it represents for those involved in their organisation. While these are expanded upon elsewhere in this report, it is noteworthy that 62% are in the fields of science, technology, health and medicine, with 26% in the social sciences and 12% in the humanities, with this balance being consistent with the multidisciplinary goals of the Society. This remarkable breadth of activity reflects the deep commitment of our Fellows and Members, whose contributions make such a wide-ranging program possible. I extend my sincere thanks to the many eminent scholars, practitioners, public servants, business leaders, artists, and others who generously shared their expertise with us throughout the year.

The Society's outreach continues to be enhanced by a growing library of recordings of many of these events on our [YouTube channel](#). Our part time communications officer, Amanda Yeo, maintains our active social media profile. Each of these is made possible by the invaluable sponsorship from the NSW Office of the Chief Scientist and Engineer. Over the past year, we added 35 full-length videos and 9 'shorts' to this library, which now has 230 videos online. Our YouTube subscriber base grew by 35% during 2025 and viewings by 46,000 to 190,000. It is also gratifying that we now have a substantial international audience, with approximately half of the viewings last year being from overseas.

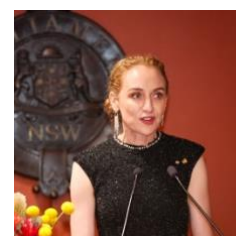
Amongst the highlights of this year's events program were the Annual Forum, the Ideas@theHouse series and the Annual Dinner held at Parliament House. The 2025 Annual Forum, held at Government House Sydney on 6 November 2025, was expertly convened by Society Fellow and Council member, Professor Sally Cripps (pictured) of UTS, on the highly topical theme of '[AI: the Hope and the Hype](#).' It was an outstanding event, bringing together an influential and experienced array of speakers who focused on the implications of AI in the law, communities, health, and various other areas of practice.



Three events in the Ideas@theHouse series were hosted by our patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, at Government House. The speakers in 2025, were Dr Sarah Britton from the Interim Australian Centre for Disease Control who spoke on biosecurity risk management, Professor Jason Sharples (pictured), the 2024 RSNSW Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Scholar Award winner, who discussed extreme wildfires in a warming world, and Professor Bamini Gopinath from Macquarie University, who tackled the important topic of hearing loss in adults and public health approaches to mitigating this. This brings us to a total of 14 lectures since the inception of the series in 2020.



We celebrated the 2024 award winners at the very successful Annual Dinner and Awards Presentation held at Parliament House Sydney on 7 March 2025, under the expert guidance of Emeritus Professor Ross Griffith and his team. The fully subscribed event, with 250 people in attendance, saw the presentation of four career excellence medals and four discipline awards, including two inaugural awards in the Humanities, Philosophy and Law and interdisciplinary studies (the Milner Award), together with a RSNSW Citation to Hannah Hibbert and the RSNSW Medal to Emeritus Professor Eugenie Lumbers. Professor Georgina Long AO (pictured), the 2024 Australian of the Year, in recognition of her groundbreaking research on targeted cancer therapies, delivered an inspiring after-dinner address. We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of our sponsors, Bioplatforms Australia (Platinum), the University of NSW (Gold), the University of Sydney (Gold) and Quantum Law (Silver), who made this such a successful evening and enabled a surplus of approximately \$26,000.



Two days prior to that, on 5 March 2025, we celebrated the 2024 RSNSW Postgraduate Student and Early Career Research Award Presentations (pictured) at a ceremony kindly hosted by the University of Technology Sydney. Each winner's short presentations and the Q&A were facilitated by the renowned science journalist and broadcaster, Robyn Williams AO FRSN, who subsequently included his interview with Mr David Sweeney, the 2024 Jak Kelly Award winner, on the ABC Science Show, broadcast on 5 April 2025.



The overarching themes of the year's event program centred on the critical issues of our time—productivity, health, the environment, and technological change. Amongst the highlights of the 2025 events program was the return of the lunchtime Provocations and Inspirations series, convened by Dr Don Hector and Emeritus Professor Roy Green. There were outstanding presentations in this series of events from prominent presenters such as Ross Gittins, Economic Editor of the Sydney Morning Herald, Dr Cathy Foley AO (pictured), the former Australian Chief Scientist, Professor Anthony Burke, Professor of Architecture and host of the ABC-TV Grand Designs series of programs, and renowned climate scientist, Professor Chris Turney.



An innovation for 2025 was the introduction of our Visits Program, made possible by the work of Debbie Perik and Emeritus Professor Robert Clancy. Two successful visits were organised during 2025, to the University of Sydney Library and the Chau Chak Museum, in June and the Australian Botanic Garden at Mount Annan in September. The full span of the 2025 events program in Sydney and in each of the four branches can be gleaned from the [calendar](#) that is available on our website.

Our regional branches are a tremendous asset, ensuring that the Society's reach and relevance extend well beyond the capital. While branch activities are reported separately, I want to emphasise the importance of our regional presence. Issues affecting regional NSW—power, connectivity, water, health, and more—are often peripheral to metropolitan debates, yet they represent some of the most pressing challenges facing the State. In the early years of the Society, our Fellows were deeply engaged in exploration (and, admittedly, exploitation) across NSW. It is fitting that we continue to maintain a broad and inclusive perspective today. It was a pleasure to visit the Southern Highlands, New England North West and Hunter Branches during 2025 and I look forward to continuing these visits in future years.

I wish to express my appreciation to all those involved in our activities both in Sydney and across the State. We are most grateful to our patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of New South Wales, to the NSW Government, through Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte and the Office of the Chief Scientist and Engineer, for its ongoing sponsorship through the NSW Research Attraction and Acceleration Program, and the State Library of NSW which hosts the majority of our meetings in Sydney. We express sincere gratitude to the Mittagong RSL for its sponsorship of meetings conducted by the Southern Highland Branch, together with the University of New England, Charles Stuart University, the Teachers Guild of NSW, and the NSW Branch of the Australian Institute of Physics for their collaboration and joint hosting of meetings. We further express thanks to the University of Technology Sydney and the University of Sydney for respectively hosting the 2024 Student and ECR Awards Presentation and the 2024 Poggendorff Lecture, the sponsors of the Annual Dinner mentioned previously, and the Honourable Steven Kamper MP, as the host of our Annual Dinner in Parliament House.

During the year, the Executive and Council continued to advance the initiatives outlined in the Master Plan through the work of the various Working Groups. The Vice-President has overseen a series of operational improvements. In the Activities with Impact Working Group, we noted both the scale of our activities and the breadth of audiences engaging with our YouTube channel, including viewers from the United States and Asia. The Effective Communication Working Group examined the Society's strategic aims and stakeholder engagement, asking what our value proposition is and how we might extend Fellowship and Membership. Professor Sean Brawley, Chair of the Fellowship and Membership Committee, also led the Membership Engagement Working Group. As the Society is dependent on membership for its financial health, we considered corporate, lifetime, and associate membership options, and clarified the roles of nominators and seconders.

It has been a challenging year for philanthropy, and we have not yet achieved our goal of

securing long-term financial stability through the Future Fund. Medy Hassan has begun developing a strategic plan, but this will take time to mature. Meanwhile, rising costs require us to develop new revenue streams.

I am grateful to the Chairs and members of all Committees for their work throughout the year. I particularly acknowledge Professor Stephen Garton, Librarian, for leading the extensive process of distributing the Royal Society Library. The Dixon Library at the University of New England is now the major repository, with parts of the collection held by the State Library of NSW and the Fisher Library at the University of Sydney. I thank Dr Susan Pond for arranging the sale of remaining items through Sydney Rare Books.

Professor Merlin Crossley led the Awards Committee with exemplary efficiency, and the 2025 Awards were announced in December. We are grateful to Emeritus Professor Herbert Huppert for endowing the Herbert Huppert Early Career Researcher Medal. Professor Robert Marks continued as Editor of the *Journal and Proceedings*, while the Vice-President continued to edit a monthly Bulletin for members and a subscriber newsletter for friends of the Society. We continue to explore new ways to communicate effectively with our community.

It is pleasing to note the growth in the membership of the Society over the past year, which is expanded upon elsewhere in this report. We finished the year with 772 active members, an increase of 41 over 2024. Contributing to this outcome were the new Fellowship rules that are better tailored to inducting accomplished applicants from business, the public sector, and organisations other than our traditional academic base. The year 2025 also saw improvements in our ability to attract women, with 45% of new members being women.

We ended the 2025 calendar year in a sound financial position, assisted by a surplus from the annual dinner. Nevertheless, the Council recognises that our financial position is significantly underpinned by volunteer work that has replaced a significant fraction of the secretariat/operational services contracted previously to an external provider, together with the sponsorship from the NSW Government that largely provides for our communications and outreach profile. Accordingly, the focus for the next few years is on improving our financial resilience through increases in membership and a priority on new fundraising efforts.

Over the past five years, notably since the return from the COVID lockdowns, the Society's activity profile has diversified and increased substantially. The Royal Society of NSW continues to stand as a beacon of cross-disciplinary inquiry, where science, evidence, and reason guide our exploration of issues of public importance. The need for civil debate across disagreement has never been greater. We must engage with complex issues, recognise well-attested evidence, and evaluate impact not only within individual disciplines but across them.

Treasurer's report

The Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2025 shows total revenues of \$356,768. The largest contributors were Sponsorships of \$108,000 and membership fees of \$136,336. As expected, significant expenses were incurred in relation to meetings, with a large component of this being the recording of meetings so they could be distributed online. The next largest expenses were management services (\$59,091) and wages and salaries (\$58,500) for a staff member employed to manage the Society's social media communications.

Overall, the Society recorded an operating surplus of \$51,771. While a surplus of this magnitude gives some comfort in the short term, there are challenges in the longer term. These include growing the membership base to provide a level of membership fees that will sustain the organisation. There will also be expenses associated servicing the membership and developing distribution channels that are relevant to the membership, and more generally the public if the Society wants to improve its impact.

In the balance sheet, current assets (primarily cash), totalled \$885,839 and total assets were \$882,712. Included in current liabilities of \$260,502 is income received in advance of \$217,695, that will largely be recognised in 2026. This will underpin financial performance in 2026. Cash holdings exceed total liabilities and there are no issues or concerns with liquidity. Total members' funds increased to \$622,210. Clearly there are significant resources available for the future development of the Society. However, caution is required as resources are limited, and it is likely there will be considerable evolution in the strategies to develop the Society over time.

The Annual Financial Report 2025 is attached and forms part of this report.

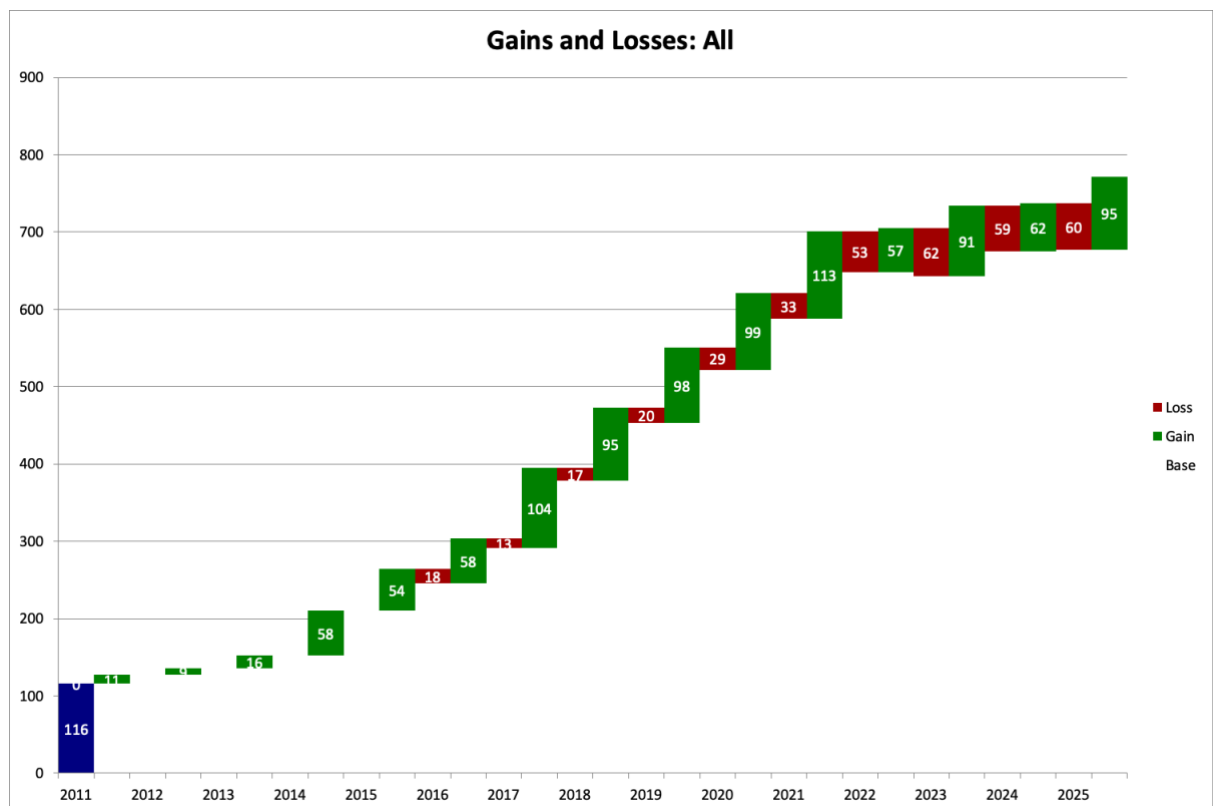
Society membership

At the end of 2025, the Society had 772 active members, the distribution of which between membership classes and geographical location/branches is shown in the table below.

Membership Status	Active (All)									
Gender										
Count of Profile #	Branch									
Membership Class	Hunter	Interstate	New England		Southern Highlands		Sydney	Western NSW	Grand Total	
			North West	Overseas						
AssocMember	2				1		1	25	1	30
DistFellow	1	2			1			15		19
Fellow	49	20	11		17		8	420	11	536
HonLife			1		1		1	2		5
Member	21	4	5		5		15	122	10	182
Grand Total	73	27	16		25		25	584	22	772

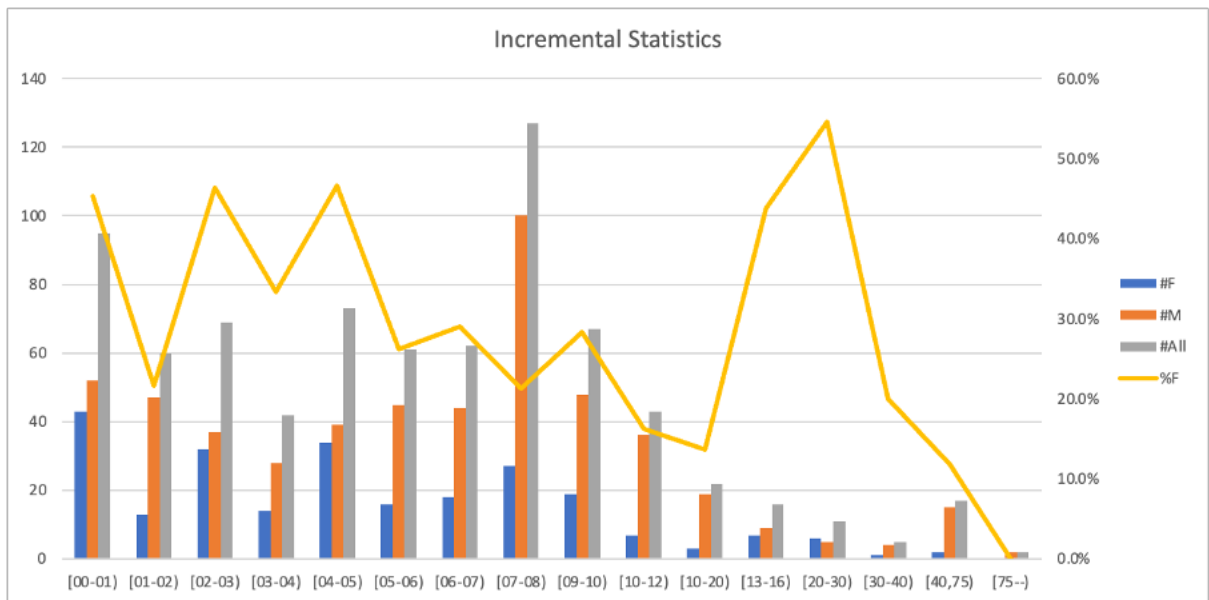
This was a significant gain of 41 over the membership of 731 at the end of 2024, corresponding to a net gain of 35 new members in 2025, with 95 new members in 2025, following attrition (losses, resignations, deaths) of 60 at the end of 2024, and what appears to be the recovery of 6 members who rejoined the Society's ranks from previous years.

Over the past decade, the Society's membership has grown more than three-fold, as is evident from the waterfall chart below, which displays gains and losses in membership for each year, respectively in green and red. This substantial rise can be directly attributed to the introduction of an accredited Fellowship. The churn in membership that was apparent in the post-COVID years appears to be weakening, according to data for the current year — a trend that we hope will continue with ongoing initiatives from our Master Plan. The plateauing of the aggregate membership suggests a year-by-year retention rate of 92%.



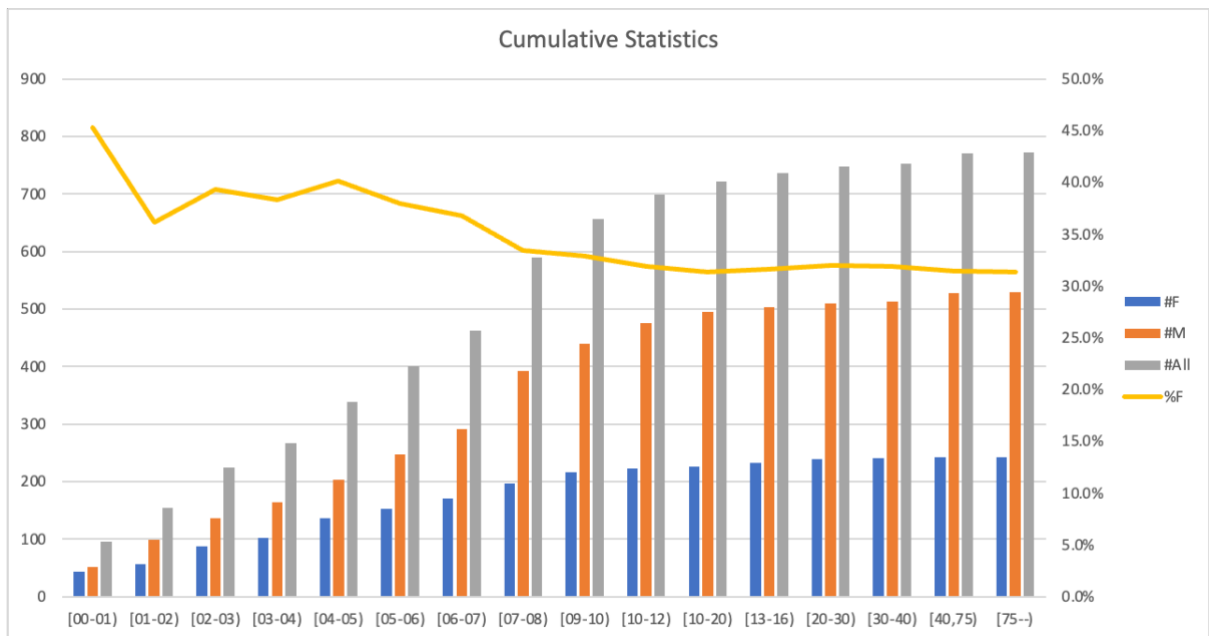
Diversity and Inclusion report

Following the Society's introduction of its Diversity and Inclusion Policy in January 2020, progress in the realisation of its objectives has been reported to Council every six months and to the members in each Annual Report.



The two charts, above and below, respectively display the yearly incremental and cumulative growth of the membership by the number of years of membership—shown on the horizontal axis, with the labels displaying the number of years of membership, e.g., [0,1) referring to people who have joined in the past year (2025), [1,2) refers to people who have been members for 1–2 years, and so on.

The incremental data allows the comparison of changes in the membership profile year-by-year, while the cumulative data displays a picture of the aggregate growth, with year-by-year changes smoothed out. For each year category, there are three bars displaying the cumulative numbers of women, men, and the total, with the line graph (right-hand axis) showing the proportion of women in the membership.



Where the yellow line reaches its horizontal asymptote, on the right in the cumulative chart, we can see, at the end of 2025, that 31.3% of the members are women.

The recruitment of new members in recent years, however, shows a variable pattern, when inspecting the incremental data on the first chart. Last year (2024), identified by the category '[1,2)', saw only 21.7% of new members being women, significantly lower the long-term average. This year, however, the situation is much more favourable, with 45.3% of new members being women and comparable to the induction rates of approximately 40% in recent years.

Membership Analytics

During July and August 2025, the first comprehensive analysis of our membership data was undertaken to inform the Council's future decision making. The following provides a summary of the key conclusions.

Age demographics: Until this study, little was known about the age profile of the Society, since members have not been required to provide their age or date of birth. As of mid-2025, only 32% of members had volunteered this information. With considerable work involving the use of available CV information, the interrogations of LinkedIn profiles, the use of AI tools (Microsoft CoPilot) to ascertain career timelines, and some manual 'detective' work, we now have some reasonably accurate information about age for some 97% of active members.

We have deduced that: (a) for women, the median age is in the band 55–60 and the average age is ~61; (b) for men, the median age is 60–65, while the average age is ~65; and (c) overall, the median age is 60–65 and the average age is ~64. Only 8% of members are under the age of 40, while 32% of members are under 50 years of age. These few statistics emphasise the need to engage a younger cohort, and particularly to ensure our offerings are attractive to them.

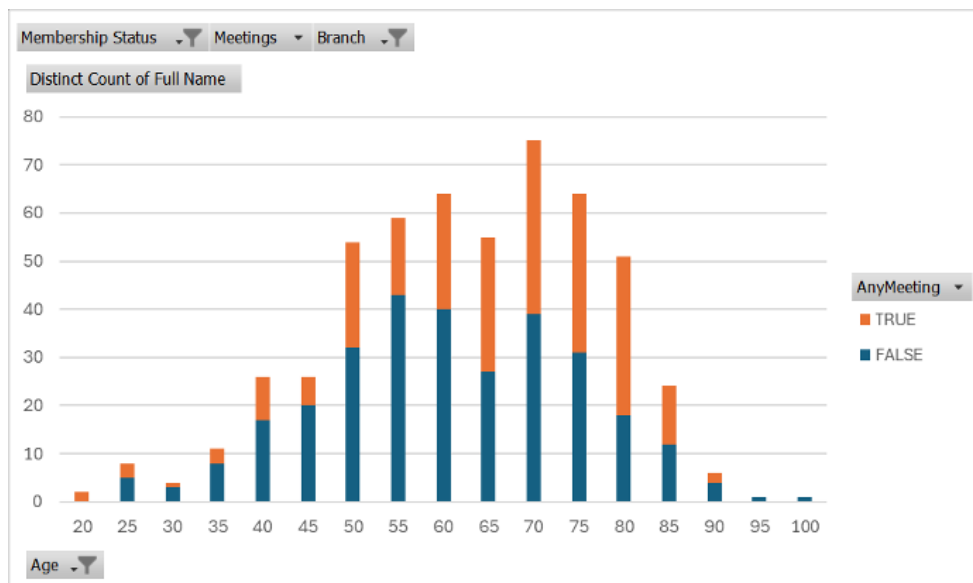
Further analysis revealed that many Fellows (the largest membership class) are approaching retirement when elected. It is noteworthy that the age on joining of new Fellows has been progressively increasing, with the median age on entry in 2025 being 60–65 years, while in earlier years it was 55–60. Two conclusions may be drawn: (a) with an ageing demographic older Fellows are more likely to nominate older colleagues; and (b) that for academics, for whom the median age of promotion to full professor is around 45, there should be ample opportunity to recruit a younger cohort of university staff to our Fellowship with an appropriate course of action.

Organisational affiliation: The professional affiliation of our membership is significantly skewed towards academic employment—present or past. Of the 85% of members who list such an employer association, approximately 73% of these listed an affiliation with a university. While Fellows comprise approximately 70% of the membership, the proportion of those who list a university affiliation is significantly higher (~80%). The new Fellowship rules are thus an important step towards rectifying this balance. Studies of membership attrition, while quite variable, reveal that university-associated members have lower attrition rates than other classes of membership.

Gender balance: While women comprise approximately 30% of the membership, their representation in the fellowship is significantly lower, viz., 62% vs 74% for men.

Meeting attendance: Using the age profile data, and the registrations for face-to-face held in the membership database, we sought to analyse the demographics of meeting attendance. Of the meetings held in Sydney, for example, only 43% of active members (in Sydney) attended at least one meeting, while 57% of members attended no meetings in the 17-month sample period from February 2024 – June 2025.

As is demonstrated by the chart below, there is a more than 50% chance that members beyond the age of 60-65 will attend at least one meeting in this period. Below that age, the likelihood is significantly poorer — perhaps or probably associated with a paucity of available time due to personal or professional commitments.



Operations Program

The Operations Program focuses on providing high quality and cost-effective underpinning infrastructure and software support for the full span of the Society’s programs. Progressively it seeks to build resilience in the operations portfolio, refine and develop back-office systems, and reduce costs. The program is led by the Vice President Lindsay Botten and includes the Webmaster, Graham Town, the Treasurer, Peter Wells, and our part-time Communication Officer, Amanda Yeo.

The bulk of its work is associated with the online communications and IT infrastructure which, in 2025, comprised the website (royalsoc.org.au), the membership management system and database (members.royalsoc.org.au), internal communications and collaboration via a pro bono Microsoft 365 licence (for Outlook email, SharePoint, and Teams), a Mailchimp subscription used for Society newsletters and announcements, including events, four social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube), and electronic balloting (Election Buddy).

Website

The website continues to be the primary shopfront and activity archive of the Society. Through the past year, it has been regularly updated and polished since its late-2024 redesign and implementation refresh by our contractor, Ezerus. While the site generally works well, some concerns about performance under load, particularly the capability of the hardware underpinning it, have emerged, given the greater demands imposed by a large WordPress implementation. We plan to migrate the site to a new hosting provider in 2026 to alleviate these issues.

Online Communications

The increasing cost of services provided by our secretariat, The Association Specialists (TAS), and the growth in our profile of activities over recent years, has necessitated the Society becoming less reliant on previously contracted services. Society volunteers now undertake all online communications via the website, email, event registrations, newsletters, and the like— a significant change in recent years.

The website is the focal point of our outreach and information activities and publicises all news and events from Sydney and all four branches. All email notices, including those for the branches, are now circulated from the Society’s Mailchimp bulk mail subscription. Our subscription to Mailchimp provides a three-fold advantage: a substantial reduction in costs over the service previously provided by TAS, greater responsiveness, and superior outcomes and quality control.

During 2025, there were 59 items of news, and 48 event notices published on the website. These figures may be compared with the 64 news posts and 47 event notices in the preceding year, 2024. In addition, there were 28 registration sites in Membes established for face-to-face Society events, in Sydney and the Hunter. Over 150 email notices were circulated to members during 2025, providing information about events and registrations (including reminders), formal notices to members (about ballots, etc.), together with the monthly Bulletin and subscriber

newsletters. The growth in our activity profile, including increases in the number of regional branches, can be discerned by comparing the same metrics with those of six years earlier that are three times smaller. Such metrics also validate the financial necessity of reducing our dependence on TAS services.

The Bulletin

The Bulletin continues to be edited by the Vice-President and has been published as an electronic newsletter for nearly three years. During 2025, 11 issues of the Bulletin were published, typically comprising the President’s column, a digest of news from the previous month, event notices for the next three months, reports from committees and branches on their recently held events, and links to YouTube recordings from events in recent months. In their [archived pdf form](#), the Bulletins of 2025 averaged 25 pages in length, with the largest issue being 32 pages.

Tabulated below is the uptake data for the 11 issues of the Bulletin, from February–December 2025. Shown in the table are the number of unique openings of the newsletter, as recorded by Mailchimp, and the number of downloads from the website archive.

Issue	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501
Newsletter	184	291	179	214	207	260	222	194	230	338	200	313
Archive	620	720	742	660	582	543	586	414	285	207	155	49
Total	804	1011	921	874	789	803	808	608	515	545	355	362

Subscriber Newsletter

In addition to the Bulletin, the Society now publishes a monthly subscriber newsletter, which is essentially a lightweight version of the Bulletin, derived from its contents, for friends of the Society who have subscribed through the website. This initiative follows on from the commissioning of the new website and is one that we hope will ultimately attract new attendees to events and new members to the Society. During 2025, we published 12 monthly issues, with our subscriber base growing from zero to 97 by the end of the year.

Events Program in 2025

This past year has seen considerable increases in our events program, which scheduled 44 events during the year. Initiatives for 2025 included the very successful lunchtime series of Provocations and Inspirations talks, organised by Dr Donald Hector and Em Prof Roy Green, that were held at the Union, University, and Schools Club, together with the introduction of a Visits Program, organised by Debbie Perik and Em. Professor Robert Clancy, which saw excursions to the Chau Chak Wing Museum and Fisher Library at the University of Sydney and the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan.

A summary of the events program is listed below, with the [Calendar of Events for 2025](#) listing all events, topics, and speakers.

- Sydney (21) — 9 OGMs (6 face-to-face with 4 post-meeting suppers (Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct); 3 online), 2 Visits, 1 Award Lecture, 1 Student and ECR Presentations and Awards Ceremony, 3 Ideas@theHouse, 1 Annual Forum, 4 Lunchtime Provocations and Inspiration Lectures
- Hunter Branch (5)
- Highlands Branch (9)
- New England North West Branch(1)
- Western Branch NSW (5)
- With cognate organisations in Sydney (3)
- Annual Dinner (1)

Video recordings were made of all Society events held in Sydney, and the Hunter, New England North West, and Western NSW Branches. The total output for 2025 was 35 full-length videos (including 7 from the Annual Forum), and 9 ‘shorts’.

The multidisciplinary nature of the Society’s events program can be seen from the table below, compiled from the events program in Sydney (listed immediately below) and from the lists of events included in the reported from the four branches. The data below excludes and the annual dinner and the visits program

Branch/ Disciplines	Sydney	Hunter Branch	New England North West Branch	Southern Highlands Branch	Western NSW Branch	Total
Science/ Technology/ Medicine/ Health	14	4		4	4	26 (62%)
Social Sciences	7	1	1	2		11 (26%)
Humanities	1			3	1	5 (12%)
Total	22	5	1	9	5	42

The balance of the program between the sciences, technology, medicine/health, the social sciences and humanities is consistent with the multidisciplinary goals of the Society, and broadly in line with its award program, and its founding foci of ‘science, art, literature, and philosophy’ from the nineteenth century.

In terms of our public outreach, the corresponding analysis by counting the full-length video content that was uploaded YouTube in 2025, including the 7 videos from the Forum as distinct content, is as shown in the following table. Note that the Southern Highlands lectures are not recorded.

Branch/ Disciplines	Sydney	Hunter	NENW	Western	Total
Science/ Technology/ Medicine/ Health	15	4		4	23 (66%)
Social Sciences	9	1	1		11 (31%)
Humanities	0			0	0 (0%)
Unclassified	1	0	0	0	1 (3%)
Total	25	5	1	4	35

Sydney Events Program 2025

The Sydney events program for 2025 is summarised in the following table. YouTube views as at 8 March 2026 are included in those cases for which the event was recorded.

Meeting/Date	Speaker	Topic	YouTube Views
1329th OGM 5 Feb. 2025 State Library	Dist. Professor Ian Paulsen FRSN FAA FASM, Director, ARC Centre of Excellence in Synthetic Biology, Macquarie University	Inspired by Nature, Designed by Science	155
Ideas@theHouse: February 2025 20 Feb. 2025 Government House	Dr Sarah Britton, Director, One Health Unit, Australian Centre for Disease Control, Department of Health and Aged Care	Where worlds collide: exploring the wide/domestic animal-human interface in One Health	206
RSNSW 2024 Student/ECR Award Presentations 5 March 2025 UTS Central	David Sweeney (Sydney), Muyang Li (Sydney), Joel Sved (Sydney), Linqing Tian (UNSW), Dr Fei Deng (UNSW), Dr Jennifer Matthews (UTS), Dr Cynthia Turnbull (ANU)	RSNSW Postgraduate Award and Early Career Citation Presentations 2025	93

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Meeting/Date	Speaker	Topic	YouTube Views
Annual Dinner 7 March 2025 Parliament House, Sydney	Professor Georgina Long AO FAHMS FAA, Co-Medical Director, Melanoma Institute Australia and 2024 Australian of the Year	RSNSW Annual Dinner and Presentation of Awards	—
Frontiers of Science Forum 2025 28 March 2025 Concord Golf Club	Assoc. Prof. Benjamin Pope (Macquarie), Emeritus Prof. Liz Harry (UTS), Assoc. Prof. Helen Georgiou (UoW), Dr Vipul Agarwal (UNSW Sydney)	Exploring major discoveries and theories in physics, mathematics, biology, and chemistry — A joint presentation of the Teachers' Guild of NSW, the AIP, RACI, and RSNSW	—
158 th AGM and 1330 th OGM 2 April 2025 State Library	Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte FRS FREng FAA, NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer	Engineering the Future	323
Lunchtime Provocation and Inspirations 2025-1 15 April 2025 Union, University and Schools Club	Professor Christian Turney, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research), University of Technology Sydney	Extreme Earth: Antarctica's climate warning for the future and what we can all do about it	347
1331 st OGM 7 May 2025 Zoom Webinar	Scientia Professor Jane McAdam AO FASSA FAAL, School of Law and Justice, UNSW Sydney	Rethinking Mobility in a Changing Climate	210
RSNSW Visits Program 2025-1 2 June 2025		Chau Chak Wing Museum and Fisher Library, University of Sydney	—
1332 nd OGM 5 June 2025 State Library	Professor Michael Blumenstein, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Business Creation & Major Facilities), UTS and Professor Nicholas Davis Co-Director, Human Technology Institute, UTS	AI: —the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly	162
Joint AIP, RACI, RSNSW, and ANSTO Event 17 June 2025 ANSTO Discovery Centre	Professor Richard Garrett, SUPL Chief Scientist and Associate Professor Tony Hooker, University of Adelaide	Journey to the Centre of the Earth: Unlocking Mysteries of the Universe	—
Lunchtime Provocation and Inspirations 2025-2 23 June 2025 Union, University and Schools Club	Dr Cathy Foley AO PSM DistFRSN FTSE FAA, Australia's Chief Scientist of Australia	The Productivity Challenge: the role of innovation and R&D in Australian business	120
Ideas@theHouse: June 2025 26 June 2025 Government House	Professor Jason Sharples FRSN FTSE, Professor of Bushfire Dynamics and Foundation Director, UNSW Bushfire, UNSW Canberra	Extreme wildfires in a warming world: insights and challenges	143
RSNSW Poggendorff Lecture 2024 2 July 2025 University of Sydney	Professor Alex McBratney FAA, Professor of Digital Agriculture and Soil Science; ARC Laureate Fellow, University of Sydney	Agriculture over the horizon	123
Joint RAHS-RSNSW Event: July 2025 16 July 2025 History House	Dr Anne Coote, Historian and Author	Not just a gentleman's club: The origins and significance of the Royal Society of NSW	—
1333 rd OGM 6 August 2025 State Library	Associate Professor Ian Wright, School of Science, Western Sydney University	PFAS in New South Wales: Is it under control?	267

Meeting/Date	Speaker	Topic	YouTube Views
Lunchtime Provocation and Inspirations 2025-3 19 August 2025 Union, University and Schools Club	Ross Gittins AM FRSN FASSA, Economics Editor, The Sydney Morning Herald	Solving Australia's Productivity Crisis	342
Ideas@theHouse: August 2025 28 August 2025 Government House	Professor Bamini Gopinath, Cochlear Chair in Hearing and Health, Macquarie University	Busting Myths, Bridging Gaps: Public Health Approaches to Hearing Loss in Adults	151
1334th OGM 3 September 2025 Zoom Webinar	Emeritus Professor Peter Wells FRSN, UTS School of Business, University of Technology Sydney	Bringing Financial Reporting into the 21st Century	70
1335th OGM 1 October 2025 State Library	The Hon. Bill Shorten, Vice-Chancellor, University of Canberra, in conversation with Professor Merlin Crossley AM FRSN (2), Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Quality), UNSW Sydney	Have universities become too political?	170
Lunchtime Provocation and Inspirations 2025-4 21 October 2025, Union, University and Schools Club	Professor Anthony Burke, Presenter of Restoration Australia & Grand Design Australia, ABC TV, and Professor of Architecture, University of Technology Sydney	After the Crisis: a new Australian Dream	560
Royal Society of NSW and Learned Societies Annual Forum 2025 6 November 2025 Government House Sydney	Convened by Professor Sally Cripps FRSN, Co-Director, Human Technology Institute, University of Technology Sydney	AI: the Hope and the Hype	570 (over 7 videos)
1336th OGM 12 November 2025 Zoom Webinar	Professor Katherine Boydell FASSA, The Black Dog Institute and UNSW Sydney	Arts-based knowledge translation in mental health and social care	43
1337th OGM 3 December 2025 State Library	Dr Donald Hector AM FRSN, Principal, Grassick SSG Pty Ltd	A Future made In Australia	120

Social Media

The Society uses four social media channels, the management of which is part of the operations program. The focus of the work is to provide publicity for the events program and the achievements of the Society and its members. All events are publicised by our part-time Communications Officer on Facebook, X/Twitter, and LinkedIn in advance and, for those events for which a recording is made, there are follow up postings notifying the availability of a YouTube recording. Mentions of the Society by others on these channels are also reposted. The Vice-President undertakes the editing of all video recordings, while the Communications Officer, prepares YouTube 'shorts' for which the video content is amenable.

The status of these social media channels, at the end of 2025, together with their incremental uptake in recent years is summarised in the table below.

Channel/Followers	End 2025	End 2024	End 2023	End 2022
Facebook	778	763	747	570
X/Twitter	1,078	1,104	1,131	1,016
LinkedIn	1,057	748	492	178
YouTube	1,579	1,151	798	500

The slow decline in X/Twitter subscribers, evident last year, continues as our subscribers turn away from this channel in keeping with shifts in platform culture and policies, and increasing

toxicity of the environment.

Facebook uptake has largely flatlined while subscriptions to our LinkedIn and YouTube channels continue to grow solidly. LinkedIn, with its significant professional membership, and YouTube continue to be our main channels of social media outreach.

For YouTube, we had 229 videos online at the end of 2025, with 1,579 subscribers and more than 189,000 viewings over the lifetime of the channel. Our audience grew by nearly 430 subscribers in 2025, and viewings by 46,000.

It is of interest that of all Royal Societies in Australia, only our Society and the Royal Society of Tasmania have active YouTube channels. The Royal Society of Victoria, which was previously active on YouTube until the end of 2024, did not add new content in 2025.

In mid-2025, we undertook an analysis of our YouTube audience (using Google’s analytics) to assist the Council and Activities working group to better understand the effectiveness of our outreach. Data for geographical reach is shown in the table below, although the available data is limited by various factors including VPN and proxy usage that can mask the actual location, untracked views arising from private viewing, embedded videos, YouTube’s sampling methods, and the filtering of ‘bot’ and invalid traffic. In the case of our channel, it appears that only about 65% of the total number of views can be accurately assigned to a geographic location. The tabulated information that is displayed is for the lifetime of the channel (up until May 2025) and the three individual years prior to that.

Views by country	Lifetime	May 24–May 25	May 23–May 24	May 22–May 23
Total Views	173,037	44,948	68,071	44,014
Australia	33.4%	48.1%	26.8%	13.7%
United States	29.7%	20.3%	37.7%	20.1%
Canada	6.9%	6.3%	6.0%	6.7%
United Kingdom	6.7%	4.0%	7.0%	6.4%
Malaysia	5.4%	4.9%	4.3%	5.8%
Singapore	4.1%	4.3%	2.5%	4.9%
Indonesia	2.1%	1.1%	3.5%	1.1%
Hong Kong	1.5%	2.6%	1.1%	1.1%
Germany	1.5%	1.3%	1.7%	0.5%
Philippines	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%

Over the lifetime of the channel, YouTube’s analytics reveal that the bulk (97.3%) of the watch time is from people who are not subscribed to the channel, in comparison with 2.3% of those who are. Over a 90-day period in mid-2025, the corresponding figures are 94.1% and 5.9%. Both sets of figures are consistent with the relatively low number of subscribers that we have. This shows potential for growth, but within the Society we are hampered by our age demographic, which is largely not engaged with social media, and does not have a YouTube account.

The YouTube analytics also reveal that audience is predominantly male (88.6%) and older, with approximately 50% being over the age of 55 according to YouTube’s estimates. Analysing the differences between full-length videos and shorts, our videos are watched by an audience that is 91.3% male and even older, with 75.6% being over the age of 55, while the ‘shorts’ are viewed by an audience that is significantly younger (64.4% under the age of 45) but only slightly less dominated by men (M:84.5%; F:15.5%).

At the time that the data was analysed, the full-length videos constituted 77.3% of the views while shorts represented 22.7%. Shorts are a comparatively recent initiative for our Society, introduced in mid- 2023. Not every recording that is edited for YouTube is amenable to the creation of a ‘short’, either because of the nature of the subject matter, or the nature of the recording (e.g., being dominated by slide presentations). That said, it is reasonable to believe that the proportion of views from shorts will increase and, hopefully, with that a reduction in the age of our audience.

Logistical support for events

The operations program, in addition to its work in providing all events-focused communications, services the logistics needs of all Sydney activities and assists with the logistics of branch activities. This involves all liaison with our hosts at State Library and Government House, liaison

with AV contractors (CTS-AV, Blive, and Salty Dingo) for recording, live-streaming and photography, follow-up editing of all video content for YouTube, and provision of registration sites for all-face-to-face events. The recording of events greatly increases our outreach and is made possible by the grant from the Office of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer, for which the Society is most grateful.

Membership database and maintenance

The secretariat, TAS, provides the Society with a membership database, Membes, the maintenance of which is a shared responsibility of TAS and the Society through the operations program. Our responsibilities include the quality control and accuracy of the data, and the preparation of member data in formats suitable for public accessibility such as the Fellows pages and bespoke attendance lists, for events held at Government House.

The currency of mailing lists, through the synchronisation of data held in the member database with the mailing lists in Mailchimp, is also an important task that must be undertaken regularly. Finally, there are the statistical analyses, including the diversity and inclusion reports, that are generated to keep Council and the Executive Committee apprised of membership dynamics.

These tasks, if undertaken manually, are both laborious and prone to error. When the working groups were established one or more years ago, the operations portfolio indicated that it would seek to develop methods (Excel VBA scripts, Python codes, etc.) that could enhance data provision and improve the efficiency with which administrative tasks could be undertaken, specifically to remove the burden of undertaking these manually, and simultaneously ensure accurate and consistent outcomes.

This work is now largely complete with extensive VBA scripts having been developed for:

- Membership analytics, including growth and attrition studies, for reports provided to the Executive, Council, and contributions to the Annual Report
- Reports on Diversity and Inclusion
- Management of updates for the Mailchimp mailing lists that align the data in the membership database with the various mailing lists
- Maintenance of the Fellows pages on the website, through the processing (in Python) of regular extracts of data from Membes, the validation of the content, and the generation of data in the requisite format for importing into the website
- Generation of bespoke attendance lists (including postnominals and affiliation information) for the events at Government House.

Committee reports

Library and Assets Committee

As outlined in last year's Annual Report, the dilapidated and mouldy condition of the Darlington terrace at the University of Sydney, where the Society's remaining archives and library collections were held for a number of years, necessitated urgent action to save these valuable items. The vital actions of the volunteers to clear the Darlington terrace were acknowledged last year and, as reported, we negotiated with the State Library of NSW, which already held some of the Society's archives, to take the remainder, despite their poor condition. The State Library also agreed to assess the Society's library to see whether there were items there that the Library did not already hold (it declined to accept items already held by the Library to avoid unnecessary duplication and overlap, given its own space constraints).

The important news for 2025 is that the State Library now has all the Society's extant archives and is undertaking conservation work on a number of items prior to an extensive program of listing the contents to make these valuable records available to researchers and a wider public. This work is on-going and may take some time given the extensive nature of the records we were able to transfer to the State Library.

The fate of the Society's library, however, became more complicated after it was assessed by State Library staff during the year. In the end the bulk of the Society's collection was already held by the Library. The State Library, however, took 72 items, some of them very valuable, such as the Lawrence Hargrave drawings, adding vital elements to the Library's extensive holdings in the history of science in Australia. All these items will be listed in the catalogue as part of the Society's collection. Unfortunately, this left 266 boxes of books (over 49,000 items). We put out a call to other leading libraries to see if they were interested in adding to their collections. Fisher Library at the University of Sydney came and took over 70 items and the

Dixon Library at the University of New England, which already has a significant collection of the Society's library, came and took another 9 or so boxes.

Thanks to former President Susan Pond, we were able to persuade Sydney Rare Book Auctions to take the remainder and over coming months as the books sell, we hope to be able to add the proceeds into the Society's endowment funds.

At the conclusion of 2025, we can report that the substantive work to save and safeguard the Society's archives and Library has been completed. Although many would have wished that the Society's library might have found a single home, it is the case that what our Library held is now fully in public collections and the Society has been able to add very important items to these collections, benefitting the broader public culture.

Em Prof Stephen Garton AM FRSN
RSNSW Librarian

Royal Society of NSW Forum Committee

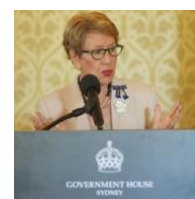
Committee membership

Prof Sally Cripps FRSN (Chair)
Em Prof Christina Slade FRSN
Dr Elizabeth Deane FRSN (Secretary)
Cdre Ret'd Vince Di Pietro AM FRSN
Em Prof Lindsay Botten FRSN
Em Prof Graham Town FRSN

The Royal Society of New South Wales forum *AI — The Hope and the Hype* brought together researchers, legal scholars, technologists, public sector leaders, and practitioners to examine artificial intelligence from multiple angles — technical, social, legal, clinical, and operational. Across the day, the discussion repeatedly returned to a central idea: AI's promise is real, but it is not self-executing. Benefits depend on governance, human judgment, data quality, institutional readiness, and careful evaluation. The tone throughout was neither alarmist nor boosterish, but deliberately grounded — focused on separating demonstrable progress from inflated expectation.



The day opened with welcome remarks from Emeritus Professor Christina Slade, President of the Royal Society of NSW, followed by an opening address from Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC (pictured), Governor of New South Wales, who framed AI as a transformative but socially consequential technology that demands careful stewardship. She emphasised the importance of informed, evidence-based dialogue that brings together technical expertise and public values. An introductory address from The Hon. Victor Dominello, CEO of the Future Government Institute, focused on the implications of AI for government and service delivery, noting both the opportunities for improved public sector capability and the need for policy and institutional preparedness.



The keynote perspective from Professor Pascal Van Hentenryck (pictured) reinforced that AI's real value emerges when systems are embedded into decision and operational contexts, not when judged only by laboratory benchmarks. He stressed that translating AI capability into social and economic benefit requires strong integration with domain knowledge and decision processes.



Legal implications were explored in depth by a panel (pictured) chaired by Emeritus Professor Rosalind Croucher, with contributions from The Honourable Dr Annabelle Bennett, Justice Melissa Perry, and Professor Lyria Bennett Moses. The discussion drew a clear distinction between outputs that resemble legal reasoning and the exercise of legal judgment itself. While AI systems can generate persuasive legal text and assist with research, they do not exercise discretion, proportionality, or moral evaluation — all central to judicial reasoning. Justice Perry emphasised that courts depend on accountable and explainable reasoning, and that opacity in AI systems poses a challenge to procedural fairness. Professor Bennett Moses highlighted the regulatory difficulty of fitting AI systems into existing legal categories such as agency and liability. The panel broadly agreed that AI will be a useful



support tool within legal practice, but that responsibility and judgment must remain firmly with human decision-makers, with regulatory adaptation guided by enduring legal principles rather than technological novelty.

Attention then shifted from institutions to social settings in the ‘communities’ discussion (pictured), chaired by Professor Sally Cripps and featuring Scientia Professor Jill Bennett, Dr Stephen Hardy, Jacky Hodges, and Dan Hart. This conversation centred on how AI affects people in lived contexts — education, wellbeing, and community services — and how success should be measured at the level of social outcomes rather than technical performance.



Professor Bennett highlighted the importance of considering emotional and wellbeing dimensions when evaluating technology impacts. Jacky Hodges described emerging uses of AI in education systems, alongside the governance requirements needed to maintain trust — including transparency in data use and capability building for educators. Speakers emphasised that AI can widen existing inequalities if access, representation, and participation are not designed in from the start. Trust, they noted, is built through openness and engagement, not assumed through technical performance.

Health applications were examined by a panel (pictured) chaired by Professor Michael Blumenstein, with Dr Sean Baldwin, Dr Simon Carlile, Dr Amandeep Hansra, and Dr Richard Taggart bringing clinical, research, and system perspectives. The discussion was notably pragmatic. AI is already demonstrating value in clinical support roles such as imaging assistance, triage support, and workflow optimisation, but the panel stressed that augmentation — not replacement — is the correct frame. Clinical judgment remains central. Strong emphasis was placed on privacy, consent, interoperability, and validation standards, reflecting the sensitivity and complexity of health data environments. Speakers warned that exaggerated claims are particularly risky in healthcare, where premature deployment can undermine both safety and public trust. Ensuring representative data and rigorous evaluation was presented as essential to avoid biased or unsafe outcomes.



A practice-focused panel (pictured) chaired by Professor Mary-Anne Williams, with Ros Harvey, Dan Jermyn, and Professor Salah Sukkarieh, brought an operational lens to the discussion. Here the gap between prototype success and production reality was a recurring theme. Real-world deployment introduces messy data, hardware and environmental constraints, safety requirements, and organisational change challenges. Dan Jermyn discussed enterprise decision systems where AI supports structured decision-making rather than replacing it. Ros Harvey highlighted applied AI in environmental and agricultural settings, where variability and reliability dominate design choices. Professor Sukkarieh drew on robotics and autonomous systems to show how safety and robustness requirements shape system architecture. The consistent message was that successful AI in practice depends as much on engineering discipline, process integration, and workforce adaptation as on model performance.



Looking ahead, the future research panel (pictured) chaired by Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte, NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer, with Professors Jie Lu, Toby Walsh, Lina Yao, and Pascal Van Hentenryck, focused on where AI science needs to deepen. Despite rapid empirical advances, many systems still lack strong theoretical guarantees around robustness, safety, and generalisation. The panel called for stronger foundational research alongside application-driven work, with trustworthy, explainable, and human-centred AI identified as core research priorities rather than peripheral concerns. Interdisciplinary collaboration — linking AI with domain sciences, social science, and policy — was seen as essential for addressing complex real-world problems and ensuring that research directions align with societal needs.



In closing, Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte reflected on the day’s discussions and returned to the forum’s central distinction between hope and hype. AI’s positive impacts are achievable, but they are not automatic and not evenly distributed. Realising them requires deliberate choices in research, governance, and deployment, supported by collaboration across sectors. A final vote of thanks from Emeritus Professor Christina Slade recognised the breadth of expertise and the

constructive, evidence-focused tone of the forum. The overall impression from the day was clear and consistent: AI should be treated neither as a miracle solution nor as an inevitable threat, but as a powerful set of tools whose value depends on careful design, disciplined evaluation, and sustained human responsibility.

Fellows and Members Assessment Committee

Committee membership

Professor Sean Brawley FRSN (Chair)
Trevor Danos AM FRSN (Secretary)
Professor Lisa Jackson Pulver AM FRSN
Pamela Griffith OAM FRSN
Emeritus Professor Rosalind Croucher AM FRSN
Professor Peter Shergold AC FRSN
Scientia Professor George Paxinos AO FRSN
Professor Emerita Jane Simpson FRSN
Emeritus Professor Ian Sloan AO FRSN
Wendy Sharpe AM FRSN
Judith Wheeldon AM FRSN

The President, represented by the Vice-President, and Secretary were members of the committee *ex officio*.

The Fellows and Members Assessment Committee (FMAC) met on four occasions during 2025 and considered applications for Membership, Associate Membership, and Fellowship across all meetings.

Throughout the year, the Committee assessed 34 Member/Associate Member applications and made 33 recommendations for election. Within this category 47% of the applications were by women.

In the Fellowship category, the Committee considered 65 applications (a 68% increase on 2024) and made 53 recommendations for election. Of these recommendations to election, 42% of the candidates were women. With regard to unsuccessful applications, 7 of the 12 unsuccessful applicants were women.

The Committee does not collect or assess data relating to an applicants' ethnicity or national origin. Nonetheless, the range of backgrounds represented among those recommended in 2025 indicates significant diversity within the cohort.

The Committee continued to implement the revision to Rule 10 which sought to encourage membership from candidates beyond academia. Of the total 53 recommendations, 15 were for individuals from outside academia (28%).

The candidates recommended to Council reflected the breadth, interdisciplinary character, and public contribution that distinguishes the Society's Fellowship. Fellows spanned the sciences, engineering, medicine, humanities, social sciences, creative arts, public policy, and professional practice.

A significant focus of the Committee's work in 2025 was with regard to the quality and completeness of nomination materials, particularly under the revised Fellowship criteria adopted in 2024. In response, the Committee discussed and endorsed a range of process improvements, including clearer guidance to nominators and seconders, stronger emphasis on criterion-based statements, ways to improve the Membes interface, and the possible inclusion of short qualitative supporting comments from nominators to assist assessment. The Committee considers these refinements important to maintaining rigour while improving transparency and fairness for applicants.

The Committee's work during 2025 took place alongside broader governance discussions within the Society regarding membership categories and pathways. The FMAC received updates from Council's Membership Working Group (led by the FMAC Chair and including Dr Elizabeth Killen and Dr Donald Hector) and will continue to provide advice where proposed changes have implications for assessment standards or processes.

The year 2025 marked a transition period in membership of the FMAC. The Committee acknowledges with thanks the contributions of those members who stood down in 2025 (Lisa Jackson Pulver, Pamela Griffith, George Paxinos, Judith Wheeldon) and welcomes the new members appointed to the Committee (Rosalind Croucher, Jane Simpson, Wendy Sharpe). We

also gratefully acknowledge the administrative assistance provided by TAS. The Committee remains committed to upholding the integrity, standing, and reputation of election to Membership and Fellowship of the Royal Society of New South Wales.

Awards Committee

Committee membership

Prof Merlin Crossley AM FRSN (Chair)
Em Prof Annabelle Duncan FRSN (Secretary)
Prof Lisa Adkins FRSN
Prof Mark Hoffmann FRSN
Prof Si Ming Man FRSN
Prof Warwick Anderson FRSN
Mr Zile Yu MRSN

The President and Secretary were members of the committee *ex officio*.

The Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Scholar Medal was separately assessed by a subcommittee comprising the Chair and Secretary and two senior Indigenous scholars.

The Committee's recommendations listed below were accepted unanimously by the Council and were announced at the Ordinary General Meeting held on 3 December 2025.

James Cook Medal for Lifetime Achievement

Professor Michelle Haber AM FAA FAHMS (Children's Cancer Institute and UNSW)

Professor Haber has shaped the international field of childhood cancer research for more than four decades. She has contributed seminal discoveries in cancer biology, pioneered new diagnostics and therapies, and created enduring national frameworks that ensure children with cancer in Australia now benefit from world-leading personalised medicine programs. She recently retired as Executive Director of the Children's Cancer Institute and remains a co-leader of the Experimental Therapeutics and Molecular Oncology Group in the University of New South Wales Sydney Faculty of Medicine.



Edgeworth David Medal for Mid-Career Achievement

Scientia Professor Xiaojing Hao FTSE FAA (UNSW Sydney)

Professor Hao is at the international forefront of developing cost-effective thin-film semiconductor materials to harvest sunlight for future photovoltaic technology, products and applications. She has made vital contributions to photovoltaic science and engineering by providing unique solutions for improved performance of several types of emerging thin-film photovoltaic devices, and developing efficient, cheap and environmentally friendly thin-film materials. Her work represents a significant and lasting contribution to the advancement of knowledge in this field.



Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Scholar Medal

Professor Bradley Moggridge FTSE (University of Technology Sydney)

Professor Moggridge, from the Kamilaroi nation, is the Associate Dean (Indigenous Leadership and Engagement) with the Faculty of Science at the University of Technology Sydney. He is a global leader in water research and climate change, focused on the integration of Traditional Aboriginal knowledge and Western science to provide a holistic approach to the management and repair of Country. His 25 years' experience spans water and environmental science, cultural science, regulation, Indigenous engagement, water policy and hydrogeology. His strong research publication record informs his extensive and highly sought-after contributions to high-profile expert panels, professional societies, reconciliation advisory groups and boards.



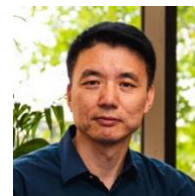
Ida Browne Early Career Medal

No award in 2025.

Liversidge Award and Lectureship in the Chemical Sciences

Professor Chuan Zhao FTSE FRSN FRACI FRSC (UNSW Sydney)

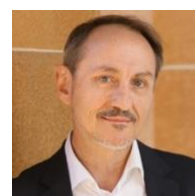
Professor Zhao is Australia's leading electrochemist and was recently awarded a Laureate Fellowship by the Australian Research Council. His work on the production of green chemicals and sources of energy by electrochemistry, is actively contributing to the nation's fight against climate change. He has been the world record-holder for the efficiency of hydrogen production by electrolysis of water.



Warren Award in Engineering, Technology, Architecture and Design

Professor Simon Ringer FRSN FTSE (University of Sydney)

Professor Ringer is a globally recognised materials engineer whose research has redefined how solute atoms govern microstructure and properties in metals and semiconductors. His breakthroughs have resolved long-standing property conflicts and translated into industrial technologies in steel, aluminium, and advanced alloys worldwide. His innovations in electron microscopy and atom probe tomography have delivered unprecedented atomic-scale insights, advancing both fundamental science and applied engineering. His leadership has transformed the New South Wales research landscape through new centres, institutes, and national research facilities, expanding Australia's technological competitiveness.



RSNSW Award in the Creative and Performing Arts

Scientia Professor Dennis Del Favero FAHA (UNSW Sydney)

Professor Del Favero is Director of the Centre for Interactive Cinema at the University of New South Wales Sydney's Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture. He is a distinguished leader of frontier advances in interactive and AI visualisation, integrating artistic, conceptual and technological innovations to create ambitious immersive productions for major museum, media, performing arts, mining and emergency organisations. His work has been nationally and internationally praised for its exceptional artistic quality, and cultural and social utility.



RSNSW Award in the Life Sciences

Scientia Professor Richard Kingsford AO FRSN FRZS (UNSW Sydney)

Professor Kingsford is one of Australia's most prominent and respected experts on waterbird, wetland and river ecology. For most of his three-decade career, he has focused on restoring and protecting the wetland ecosystems of New South Wales and recently extended his work to terrestrial ecology. He leads the Wild Deserts Partnership Project in far western New South Wales, reintroducing locally extinct mammal species and controlling feral predators.



RSNSW Bicentennial Postgraduate Scholarships

Ms Eilish McMaster (University of Sydney)

Ms McMaster is a Scientific Officer at the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney and University of Sydney PhD candidate studying population genomics of flowering plants. In an internationally published paper, she clarified a framework for analysing plant populations to identify conservation priorities while considering fire risk, genetic diversity and resource limitations.



Ms Isabelle Nicolas (Macquarie University)

Ms Nicolas is a Senior Policy Specialist with the Australian Government agency AUSTRAC and a Macquarie University PhD candidate in the field of financial crime and money laundering. Her published paper analyses Australia's failure to regulate legal professionals in line with international standards to prevent money laundering and financing of terrorism activities. Her conclusions influenced the Anti-Money Laundering/Counter Terrorism Financing Amendment Act 2024.



Mr Amir Tourani (Western Sydney University)

Mr Tourani is a Western Sydney University PhD candidate in biology. His research paper analyses the spread of specific endosymbiotic bacteria in certain insect populations, to inform the potential application of incompatible insect technique (IIT) as a biological way to control numerous pest species.



Mr Christopher Whyte (University of Sydney)

Mr Whyte is a University of Sydney PhD candidate in computational neuroscience. He has developed a computational model to progress understanding of human perceptual psychology using new biophysical data from animal experiments. His work provides a cellular-level explanation for known psychophysical laws.



RSNSW Bicentennial Early Career Research and Service Citations

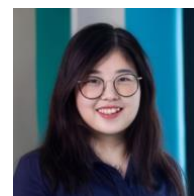
Dr Adrian Y. S. Lee (Westmead Institute of Medical Research, University of Sydney)

Dr Lee is a clinician-scientist specialising in autoimmunity and Sjögren's disease (SjD), working as a clinical immunologist at the Westmead Institute of Medical Research and the University of Sydney. An emerging leader in the field, he established the first SjD biobank and registry in New South Wales and is completing his PhD in this area.



Dr Jiayan Liao (University of Technology Sydney)

Dr Liao is an award-winning nano-photonics researcher and National Health and Medical Research Council EL1 Fellow whose work is transforming molecular diagnostics. She is a Senior Lecturer and Chancellor's Research Fellow with the University of Technology Sydney's School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences and received the 2024 New South Wales Premier's Prize for Early Career Researcher of the Year (Physical Sciences).



Dr Brandon Munn (University of Sydney)

Dr Munn is a postdoctoral neurophysicist who applies principles from physics to uncover how the brain processes information, providing new foundations for understanding cognition and neurological disease. He is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow with the University of Sydney's School of Medical Sciences and Brain and Mind Centre.



RSNSW Jak Kelly Award for Postgraduate Research in Physics— awarded in conjunction with the Australian Institute of Physics

Dr Yun Long Qiang (University of Sydney)

Dr Qiang is a University of Sydney PhD candidate who has developed a new method of analysing the recently observed quartic dispersion class of optical solitons (unique wave packets arising from balances between linear and non-linear effects). With complex new non-linear equations, he is contributing to many potential applications across optics, oceanography, and plasma physics.



Journal & Proceedings of the Royal Society of NSW

Editorial Board

Em. Prof. Robert Marks FRSN (Editor)
Prof. Richard Banati FRSN
Prof. Michael Burton FRSN
Dr Len Fisher OAM FRSN
Pamela Griffith OAM FRSN
Dr Donald Hector AM FRSN
Em. Prof. David Brynn Hibbert AM FRSN
Prof. Emerita Helen Irving FRSN
Dr Nick Lomb FRSN
Dr Jessica Milner Davis FRSN
Prof. Timothy Schmidt FRSN
Dr Toner Stevenson MRSN

Two issues of the *Journal & Proceedings* were published in 2025 (Volume 158). The June issue mainly carried the proceedings of the 2024 November Forum. The December issue included a paper by the immediate past president on biotechnology, a paper recounting the invention of Wi-Fi in Sydney almost 30 years ago, a critique of the poor way the Australian government procured COVID vaccines during the pandemic (it was a race), and three refereed papers: on the law on Antarctica (from an Ideas@theHouse presentation), Mozart's piano sonata number 2, and Society information. The issue included 13 abstracts of recent PhD theses, and two obituaries.

Unfortunately, Dr Toner Stevenson, the twelfth member of the *Journal's* Editorial Board, resigned because of pressure of work. The Board agreed on the value of continuing to produce printed copies of the *Journal*. (The costs of production and postage are covered by the subscription price.) Paid circulation figures for the print edition of the *Journal* are steady, while the number of exchange institutions slowly falls. Their copies are donated to the UNE Dixson Library. We continue to receive unsolicited submissions for publication. Jason Antony MRSN continued to provide invaluable work to produce the *Journal*.

During the year, we published an exhaustive index of all 3,900-odd papers we have published since 1862, with digital object identifiers (DOIs), for all except the most recent, which may be searched by author, title, or date.

After many years, the cover of the *Journal* has been given a make-over, to bring it into line with the branding and style of the rest of the Society's publications.

RSNSW Annual Dinner and Awards Presentation

Committee membership

Em Prof Ross Griffith FRSN (Chair)
Pamela Griffith OAM FRSN
Selena Griffith MRSN
Marian Kernahan MRSN
Zile Yu MRSN
Joanna Mendelssohn FRSN

The 2025 Annual Dinner and Awards Presentation was held in Parliament House, Sydney, on Friday, 7 March, with access to this superb space under the patronage of the Hon. Stephen Kamper MP, Minister for Jobs and Tourism, Minister for Multiculturalism, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Sport, and the Member for Rockdale. Some 250 guests assembled for pre-dinner drinks in the Fountain Court area adjacent to the dining room, before proceeding to 25 tables in the Strangers' Room to welcome Her Excellency Margaret Beazley AC KC (pictured), Governor of New South Wales and Patron of the Society.



Amongst the guests were nine recipients of medals and awards winners (pictured) from 2024, and their partners. One winner was unable to attend due to illness, but souvenir booklets of the event were forwarded to her, together with her medal.



Guests enjoyed a three-course dinner (with choice of two dishes at each course) and were treated to fine wines from the Hunter Valley, served on tables decorated by Selena Griffith. Each guest was provided with a superbly designed and produced souvenir booklet of the occasion describing the Society and its Awards, and a brief statement about the achievements of each award winner. Each recipient was called forward to be appropriately recognised by a knowledgeable audience and receive their award from the Governor.

A feature of the evening was a stirring after-dinner address from former Australian of the Year, 2024, Professor Georgina Long AO (pictured). She drew attention to the important work that she and her colleagues are undertaking in pursuit of cancer cures, and how the successes achieved in treatment of melanomas are pointing the direction for expansion to treatment of other forms of cancer. She did not miss the opportunity to draw attention to the increasing role women are playing in the research community, noting her address coincided with International Women's Day. She urged younger women to not shy away from the potential they had to 'make a difference.'



In 2025, we again enjoyed significant and generous support from the University sector, UNSW Sydney and the University of Sydney, each contributing a gold sponsorship. A platinum sponsorship came from Bioplatforms Australia, which provides state-of-the-art infrastructure and expertise in genomics, proteomics, metabolomics, synthetic biology, and bioinformatics to support life science research. A silver sponsorship was provided again by the Quantum Law group. A particularly encouraging aspect of support this year was the sponsorship of tables of 10 persons from the University of New England, Western Sydney University, the University of Newcastle, the Faculty of Science at the University of Sydney, and the School of Biological Sciences and Pharmacy at the University of Newcastle.

Such sponsorship underpins our ability to make this event a celebration. We were able to fund the costs of our winners and their guests, of our speaker and partner, the Governor and partner, and to have a surplus for wider application in the Society's activities. Our surplus this year was \$25,995. Success of this event relies on a strong and effective organising committee, whom we sincerely thank.

Branch reports

Southern Highlands Branch

Committee membership

Ms Anne Wood FRSN (Chair)

Air Cdre (Ret'd) Peter Eustace MRSN (Deputy Chair and Secretary)

Mr Douglas McKinlay MRSN (Treasurer)

Ms Ann Fieldhouse MRSN (Council Representative)

Dr Michael de Percy MRSN

Mr Hubert Regtop MRSN

Mr Jayden Mullie-Locke MRSN

Financial arrangements 2025

The branch acknowledges the support of Professor Peter Wells, without whose assistance the introduction of a cashless system for lecture entry would not have occurred this year. Current entry charges stand at \$5 per member and \$10 per visitor. These charges have remained static for many years, but simple increases are now easily introduced if required.

All Branch monies are now held in a separate ledger in the RSNSW accounts maintained by the Society Treasurer. The branch operates independently, using its funds for accommodating speakers overnight at the Springs Motel, Mittagong. Lectures are held at the lovely Carrington Room at Mittagong RSL. The branch makes application each year for this facility for 2 hours, 6pm-8pm, on the third Thursday of each month for 10 months. This grant-in-kind is now costed at \$880 per lecture. We are very fortunate to be able to host this community feature.

The 10 yearly lectures are carefully chosen to cover a broad range of disciplines from eminent speakers. Such a program works very well in a non-university location where residents are often retirees from academic professions. They enjoy a casual dinner with the lecturer on leaving the lecture venue. Lecturers often comment on this pleasant aspect.

Event Program for 2025

Meeting/Date	Speaker	Topic
Meeting 2025-1 20 February 2025 RSL Mittagong	Susannah Fullerton OAM FRSN, Author, Literary Lecturer, and Tour Leader	Dr Johnson's Dictionary
Meeting 2025-2 20 March 2025 RSL Mittagong	Dr Craig Barker, Head, Public Engagement, Chau Chak Wing Museum, University of Sydney	The Curator and the Cats: The Curious Story of Professor James Stewart and the Archaeology of Ancient Cyprus in Australia
Meeting 2025-3 17 April 2025 RSL Mittagong	Associate Professor Mark Cowley, Deputy Director, Enabling Platforms, Children's Cancer Institute	Using Precision Medicine to Eradicate Childhood Cancer
Meeting 2025-4 15 May 2025 RSL Mittagong	Professor Geraint Lewis FRSN FLSW, Sydney Institute of Astronomy, University of Sydney	Rare or Everywhere—Life in a Hostile Universe

Meeting/Date	Speaker	Topic
Meeting 2025-5 19 June 2025 RSL Mittagong	Dr Hugh Mackay AO FRSN FAPS, Psychologist and Social Researcher	The Way We Are
Meeting 2025-6 17 July 2025 RSL Mittagong	Dr Michael de Percy FRSA FCILT MRSN, Canberra Press Gallery Correspondent, <i>The Spectator Australia</i> , and Editor- in-Chief, <i>Journal of Tele- communications and the Digital Economy</i>	Stray Dogs and Gross National Happiness: Bhutan's Modernisation Challenge
Meeting 2025-7 21 August 2025 RSL Mittagong	Professor Andrew Dempster, School of Electrical Engineering and Communications, UNSW Sydney	Mining Water on the Moon
Meeting 2025-8 18 September 2025 RSL Mittagong	Professor Fred Watson AM, Honorary Professor, School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, Macquarie University	Tomorrow's Universe — the discoveries that will change science
Meeting 2025-10 20 November 2025 RSL Mittagong	Dr Jessica Milner Davis FRSN Honorary Research Associate, Department of English, University of Sydney	Laughing at other people's pain: Why do we do it, and is it ethical?

*Meeting 2025-9, scheduled for 16 October 2025, was cancelled.

Hunter Branch

Committee membership

Emeritus Professor George Willis FRSN (Chair)
Adjunct Professor Robert Whittaker AM FRSN (Secretary and Council Representative)
Distinguished Emeritus Professor John Aitken FRSE FRSN
Dr Kenneth Dawson FRSN
Dr Zamira Gibb MRSN
Mr Warwick Giblin FRSN
Dr Philip Bailey MRSN

The Branch held its 2025 AGM at the Newcastle Exhibition and Convention Centre on Thursday March 20th, prior to the lecture on that date and elected the committee.

During 2025, the Hunter Branch membership included 2 Associate Members, 20 Members, 50 Fellows and 1 Distinguished Fellow. This is an increase of three over the previous year.

The Hunter Branch was thrilled that Emeritus Scientia Professor Eugenie Lumbers AM FRSN FAA, the prime mover behind the formation of the Branch and a founding member, was awarded the Royal Society of NSW Medal for 2024 at the 2025 Annual Dinner and Awards Presentation, in recognition of her outstanding research career and contributions to the Society.

Event Program for 2025

Five public lectures and events were hosted by the Hunter Branch in 2025. All were held at NEX, Newcastle Exhibition and Conference Centre, 309 King Street, Newcastle West

The cross-promotion of events with ArtsNational Newcastle continued in 2025. Although it is not clear that this has increased attendance at our events, it does raise the profiles of both Societies in Newcastle and it is proposed to continue this collaboration in 2026.

Meeting/Date	Speaker	Topic	YouTube Views
Meeting 2025-1 20 March 2025	Dr Hannah Schunker, ARC Future Fellow, School of Information and Physical Sciences, University of Newcastle	Our Magnetic Sun	622
Meeting 2025-2 15 May 2025	Professor Thomas Nann, Co- founder and Chief Executive Officer, Allegro Energy	From Test Tubes to Terawatts: How research sparked a battery business	95

Meeting/Date	Speaker	Topic	YouTube Views
Meeting 2025-3 21 August 2025	Laureate Professor Jennifer Gore AM FASSA, School of Education, University of Newcastle	An elegant solution to enduring problems in education	57
Meeting 2025-4 30 October 2025	Dr John Schjenken (1, 2), Dr Elizabeth Torres-Arce (1,2), Dr Nathan Burke (1), Dr Aleona Swegen (1, 2), Professor John Aitken (1, 2), Dr Andrew Hedges (3), Nick Allen-Ducacat (4) (1) University of Newcastle, (2) Hunter Medical Research Institute, (3) IVF Australia, (4) Hit 106.9 Newcastle	Male Fertility Public Forum	99
Meeting 2025-5 4 December 2025	Renewable energy 101: What is being delivered in NSW's first renewable energy zone?	Adjunct Professor Warwick Giblin FRSN FEIANZ Principal, ESE Justice	68

Western NSW Branch

Committee membership

Prof Lewis Bizo FRSN (Chair and Council Representative)

Ms Tracy Ryan MRSN (Deputy Chair)

Prof Zahid Islam FRSN (Secretary)

Ms Nilima Mathai (Treasurer)

Prof Geoff Gurr FRSN

Dr Shakeel Mahmood MRSN

Prof Francesco Marino FRSN

Dr David Nash FRSN

Assoc Prof Holly Randell-Moon MRSN

The Western Branch was in a rebuilding phase through 2025. The Branch works in conjunction with Charles Sturt University to deliver a series of events in areas of research where it has intellectual strength and political and social concerns. All events are promoted to the regional communities in Charles Sturt's campus footprint.

Event Program for 2025

Meeting/Date	Speaker	Topic	YouTube Views
Democracy Audit Launch 5 February 2025 Parliament House Canberra and live streaming	Panel members: Prof Stan Grant, Michelle Grattan AO, Mark Evans FRSN, Senator David Pocock, Allegra Spender MP	Is it time to renew Australian democracy? Understanding the findings of the New Democratic Audit of Australia	—
Meeting 2025-1 16 April 2025 Live streaming	Distinguished Professor Christopher Blanchard, Professor of Food Science, Charles Sturt University	Is my food killing me?	53
Meeting 2025-2 16 April 2025 Live streaming	Distinguished Professor Jing Sun, Chair of Biostatistics, Charles Sturt University	Hidden causes of rising disability and death in the working population	43
Meeting 2025-3 20 August 2025 Live streaming	Professor Geoffrey Gurr FRSN, Professor of Applied Ecology, Charles Sturt University	Nature-based solutions for future farming	52
Meeting 2025-4 5 November 2025 Live streaming	Professor Jane Quinn FRSN, Professor of Veterinary Parasitology, Charles Sturt University	Optimising yield, growth, and use of the '5th quarter' for Australian agricultural food access and market security	35

New England North West Branch

Committee membership

Prof Chris Armstrong PSM FRSN (Chair)

Prof Vicki Bitsika AM FRSN (Deputy Chair and Council Representative)
Em Prof Trevor Brown FRSN (Secretary)
Prof Derek Baker MRSN (Treasurer)
Em Prof Nick Reid FRSN
Prof Andrew Robson FRSN
Prof Gerd Schmalz FRSN

Branch Meeting and Public Lecture

Building resilient futures: Understanding rural youth through the lens of place, risk, and prevention

On Wednesday, 29 October 2025, the Branch hosted a public lecture at NOVA, Armidale, featuring Dr Kyle Mulrooney (UNE Centre for Rural Criminology), with a panel including the Mayor of the Armidale Regional Council, Youth on Track, and PCYC Armidale. The discussion examined how place shapes risk and prevention for rural young people, and highlighted the value of locally grounded, place-sensitive strategies that build community resilience and support youth wellbeing. The lecture was well attended and included representatives from key youth support organisations in Armidale, including the CEOs of Homes North and Armidale Family Support Service, and Armidale Women's Shelter.

Visit by the RSNSW President

In October 2025, the Branch hosted a visit by the President of the Royal Society of New South Wales. During this visit, the President met with the University of New England Vice-Chancellor, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), the Dixon Librarian, and Branch Members. The visit strengthened relationships between the Society and the University, and supported ongoing collaboration around scholarship, regional engagement, and stewardship of the Society's historical collections.

RSNSW Collection at the Dixon Library

The Royal Society of New South Wales Collection at UNE's Dixon Library originated with a major donation from RSNSW in 1983, comprising a substantial portion of the Society's former library holdings, and it has continued to grow through exchanges with other learned societies.

During 2025, the Branch supported discussion and planning relating to the Dixon Library's RSNSW collection, including the transfer of RSNSW items from the State Library of NSW to the Dixon Library. This work improves regional access to RSNSW materials, strengthens preservation arrangements, and enhances opportunities for research, public history, and engagement with the Society's legacy in the New England North West region.

Annual General Meeting 2025

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on Wednesday, 2 April 2025.

On behalf of the Council of the Royal Society of NSW



Emeritus Professor Christina Slade FRSN
President

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

A.B.N. 76 470 896 415

FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

A.B.N. 76 470 896 415

COUNCIL'S REPORT

The Council presents their report on the Society for the year ended 31 December 2025.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

The names of the councillors throughout the year and at the date of this report unless stated otherwise are:

Patron	Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of New South Wales
President	Dr Susan Pond AM FRSN (until 2 April 2025); Emeritus Professor Christina Slade (from 2 April 2025)
Immediate Past President	Dr Susan Pond AM FRSN (from 2 April 2025)
Vice President	Emeritus Professor Peter Shergold AC FRSN (until 2 April 2025); Emeritus Professor Lindsay Botten FRSN (from 2 April 2025)
Secretary	Dr Donald Hector AM FRSN (until 2 April 2025); Emeritus Professor Trevor Brown FRSN (from 2 April 2025)
Treasurer	Emeritus Professor Peter Wells FRSN
Librarian	Emeritus Professor Stephen Garton AM FRSN
Editor, Journal & Proceedings	Emeritus Professor Robert Marks FRSN
Webmaster	Emeritus Professor Lindsay Botten FRSN (until 2 April 2025); Emeritus Professor Graham Town FRSN (from 2 April 2025)
Councillors	Professor Sean Brawley FRSN (Executive from 2 April 2025) Professor Sally Cripps FRSN Cdre (Ret'd) Vince Di Pietro AM FRSN Emeritus Professor Rosalind Croucher AM FRSN (from 2 April 2025) Mr Medy Hassan OAM FRSN (Executive from 2 April 2025) Dr Davina Jackson FRSN (Executive until 2 April 2025) Dr Sarah Jones FRSN (from 9 April 2025) Dr Elizabeth Killen MRSN Emeritus Professor Christina Slade FRSN (until 2 April 2025)

The names of the branch representatives throughout the year and at the date of this report unless stated otherwise are:

Southern Highlands	Air Cdre (Ret'd) Peter Eustace MRSN (until 2 April 2025); Ms Ann Fieldhouse MRSN (from 2 April 2025)
Hunter Branch	Adjunct Professor Robert Whittaker AM FRSN
New England North West	Emeritus Professor Trevor Brown FRSN (until 2 April 2025); Professor Vicki Bitsika AM FRSN (from 2 April 2025)
Western NSW	Professor Mark Evans FRSN (to 2 June 2025); Professor Lewis Bizo FRSN (from 2 June 2025)

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The names of the committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report unless stated otherwise are listed below. The President and Secretary are *ex officio* members of all committees.

Executive Committee

Chair	Dr Susan Pond AM FRSN (until 2 April 2025); *Emeritus Professor Christina Slade (from 2 April 2025)
Immediate Past President	Dr Susan Pond AM FRSN (from 2 April 2025)
Secretary	Dr Donald Hector AM FRSN (until 2 April 2025); *Emeritus Professor Trevor Brown FRSN (from 2 April 2025)

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

A.B.N. 76 470 896 415

COUNCIL'S REPORT (CONT'D)

Members

Emeritus Professor Peter Wells FRSN
Emeritus Professor Peter Shergold AC FRSN (until 2 April 2025)
Emeritus Professor Lindsay Botten FRSN
Professor Sean Brawley FRSN
Mr Medy Hassan OAM FRSN (from 2 April 2025)
Dr Davina Jackson FRSN (until 2 April 2025)
Dr Sarah Jones FRSN (from 9 April 2025)
Emeritus Professor Christina Slade FRSN (until 2 April 2025)

Awards Committee

Chair

Professor Merlin Crossley AM FRSN

Secretary

Emeritus Professor Annabelle Duncan PSM FRSN

Members

Professor Lisa Adkins FRSN
Professor Mark Hoffmann FRSN
Professor Si Ming Man FRSN
Professor Warwick Anderson FRSN
Mr Zile Yu MRSN

Fellows and Members Assessment Committee

Chair

Professor Sean Brawley FRSN

Secretary

Mr Trevor Danos AM FRSN

Members

Professor Lisa Jackson Pulver AM FRSN (until February 2025)
Pamela Griffith OAM FRSN (until May 2025)
Emeritus Professor Rosalind Croucher AM FRSN (from July 2025)
Professor Peter Shergold AC FRSN
Scientia Professor George Paxinos AO FRSN (until June 2025)
Professor Emerita Jane Simpson FRSN (from September 2025)
Emeritus Professor Ian H Sloan AO FRSN
Wendy Sharpe AM FRSN (from July 2025)
Judith Wheeldon AM FRSN (from July 2025 to September 2025)

RSNSW Forum Committee

Chair

Professor Sally Cripps FRSN

Secretary

Dr Elizabeth Deane FRSN

Members

Em Prof Christina Slade FRSN
CDRE Vince di Pietro AM FRSN
Emeritus Professor Lindsay Botten FRSN
Emeritus Professor Graham Town FRSN

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activities of the Society during the financial year were the presentation and communication of lectures, presentation of awards and the publication of learned materials.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

A.B.N. 76 470 896 415

COUNCIL'S REPORT

OPERATING RESULT

The Society produced a surplus from ordinary activities for the financial year amounting to \$51,771 (2024: surplus of \$84,462). There was no requirement to provide for income tax.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the council members of the Society.

Councillor:



Dated this 6th day of March 2026

TINWORTH & Co

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS and BUSINESS ADVISORS

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Opinion

We have audited the attached financial report of The Royal Society of New South Wales (“the entity”) which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2025, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of recognised income and expenditure, cash flow statement for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement by members of the Council.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of The Royal Society of New South Wales is in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012, including:

1. giving a true and fair view of the Company’s financial position as at 31 December 2025 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
2. complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations), and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act 2012).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Council in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the ACNC Act 2012 and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standard Board’s APES 110: *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis of our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the registered entity’s financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of the Council for the financial report

The Council members are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the ACNC Act 2012 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The Council’s responsibility also includes such internal control as the members determine in necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the committee are responsible for assessing the Society’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the members either intend to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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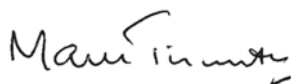
Auditor's responsibility

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatements of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis of our opinion. The risk of not detecting material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, international omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Committee's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by members.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the members' use of going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Society's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Society to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieved fair representation.

We communicate with the committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



MARK TINWORTH
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

North Sydney, dated this 06th day of March 2026

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
A.B.N. 76 470 896 415**

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

The Councillors have determined that the Society is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in note 1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the ACNC Act 2012.

In the opinion of the Councillors of the Society the financial report, as set out on pages 8 to 17:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Royal Society of New South Wales as at 31 December 2025 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Royal Society of New South Wales will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Council and Subs 60.15(2) of the ACNC Act 2012 and is signed for and on behalf of the Council by:

Councillor:



Dated this 6th day of March 2026

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
A.B.N. 76 470 896 415

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Note	2025	2024
INCOME		\$	\$
Members subscriptions		136,336	138,021
Journal subscriptions		778	2,271
Sale of publications/ties		2,280	2,636
Copyright		149	-
Interest received		11,406	6,494
Lectures income		3,001	6,844
Academies Forum		-	8,947
Royalties income		67	1,034
Social & other event income		94,751	77,106
Sponsorship income		108,000	162,023
Sundry income		-	1,264
		<u>356,768</u>	<u>406,640</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Audit fees		3,100	2,900
Awards		2,500	3,840
Bank charges		7,561	3,660
Database		7,310	5,309
Depreciation		11,789	6,397
Dues and subscription		5,600	3,158
Employee leave entitlements		4,347	5,305
General expenses		3,767	31,383
Insurance		6,071	5,705
Journal printing & distribution		9,738	8,697
Ordinary general meetings expenses		10,678	40,784
Postage, stationery & copying		305	1,993
Recording & live streaming expenses		31,145	-
RSNSW master project planning expenses		-	3,000
Secretariat		59,091	57,860
Social & other events		68,781	50,346
Superannuation		7,141	6,581
Wages and salaries		58,500	58,500
Website		6,808	1,458
Workers compensation		765	302
		<u>304,997</u>	<u>297,178</u>
Profit (loss) from ordinary activities before income tax		51,771	109,462
Income tax expense	1	-	-
Transfer to reserve		-	(25,000)
Profit (loss) from ordinary activities after income tax		<u>51,771</u>	<u>84,462</u>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
A.B.N. 76 470 896 415

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Note	2025	2024
		\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash assets	3	803,313	682,329
Receivables	4	10,941	15,233
Inventory	5	694	694
Other assets	6	14,491	13,744
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>829,439</u>	<u>712,000</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Plant & Equipment	7	26,873	38,662
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>26,873</u>	<u>38,662</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>856,312</u>	<u>750,662</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors & accruals	8	28,592	30,291
Income received in advance	9	193,695	184,955
Employee leave entitlements	10	11,815	7,468
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>234,102</u>	<u>222,714</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>234,102</u>	<u>222,714</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>622,210</u>	<u>527,948</u>
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Reserves	11	215,775	173,284
Retained profits	12	406,435	354,664
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		<u>622,210</u>	<u>527,948</u>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
A.B.N. 76 470 896 415

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Royal Society of New South Wales and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act 2012). The council has determined that the Society is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the ACNC Act 2012, the basis of accounting specified by all Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretation, and the disclosure requirements of Accounting Standards AASB 101: *Presentation of Financial Statements*, AASB 107: *Cash Flow Statements*, AASB 108: *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*, AASB 1031: *Materiality* and AASB 1054: *Australian Additional Disclosures*.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values, or except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous year unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report:

Limitation of Liability

The rules of the Society provide that the liability of the members of the Society to contribute to the payment of the debts and expenses of the Society or the cost, charges and expenses of the winding up of the Society is limited to the amount of the shortfall in addition to the current year subscription.

Income Tax

The Society is exempt from income tax under Section 50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act, 1997, as a non-profit association established for the encouragement of science.

Fixed Assets

Office furniture and equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation. The depreciable amount of all fixed assets are depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the Society commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Depreciation rates using the reducing balance method are as follows:

Office Furniture and Equipment	10-25%
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Financial Instruments

Initial recognition and measurement

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the Association becomes a party to the contractual provisions to the instrument. For financial assets, this is the date that the Association commits itself to either the purchase or sale of an asset.

Financial instruments (except for trade receivables) are initially measured at fair value plus transaction costs, except where the instrument is classified 'fair value through profit or loss', in which case the transaction costs are expensed to profit or loss immediately. Where available, quoted prices in an active market are used to determine fair value. In other circumstances, valuation techniques are adopted.

Trade receivables are initially measured at the transaction price if the trade receivables do not contain a significant financing component or if the practical expedient was applied as specified in AASB 15.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
A.B.N. 76 470 896 415

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT'D)

Financial Instruments (Cont'd)

Classification and subsequent measurement
Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are subsequently measured at:

- Amortised cost, or
- Fair value through profit and loss

A financial liability is measured at fair value through profit and loss if the financial liability is:

- A contingent consideration of an acquirer in a business combination to which AASB 3 applies
- Held for trading, or
- Initially designated as at fair value through profit and loss

All other financial liabilities are subsequently measured at fair value, amortised cost using the effective interest rate. The effective interest rate method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a debt instrument and of allocating interest expense in profit or loss over the relevant period.

The effective interest rate is the internal rate of return of the financial asset or liability. That is, it is the rate that exactly discounts the estimated future cash flows through the expected life of the instrument to the net carrying amount at initial recognition.

Financial asset

Financial assets are subsequently measured at:

- Amortised cost
- Fair value through other comprehensive income
- Fair value through profit and loss

Measurement is on the basis of the two primary criteria:

- The contractual cash flow characteristics of the financial asset, and
- The business model for managing the financial assets

A financial asset is subsequently measured at amortised cost when it meets the following conditions:

- The financial asset is managed solely to collect contractual cash flows; and
- The contractual terms within the financial asset give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding on specified dates.

A financial asset is subsequently measured at fair value through other comprehensive income when it meets the following conditions:

- The contractual terms within the financial asset give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding on specified dates
 - The business model for managing the financial asset comprises both contractual cash flows collection and the selling of the financial asset.

By default, all other financial assets that do not meet the conditions of amortised cost and fair value through other comprehensive income's measurement condition are subsequently measured at fair value through profit and loss.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT'D)

Financial Instruments (Cont'd)

The entity initially designates financial instruments as measured at fair value through profit and loss if:

- It eliminates or significantly reduces a measurement or recognition inconsistency that would otherwise arise from measuring assets or liabilities or recognizing the gains and losses on them on different bases.
- It is in accordance to the documented risk management or investment strategy and information about the groupings was documented appropriately, so the performance of the financial liability that was part of the entity of financial liabilities or financial assets can be managed and evaluated consistently on a fair value basis; and
- It is a hybrid contract that contains an embedded derivative that significantly modifies the cash flows otherwise required by the contract.

Derecognition

Derecognition refers to the removal of a previously recognised financial asset or financial liability from the statement of financial position.

Derecognition of financial liabilities:

A liability is derecognised when it is extinguished. An exchange of an existing financial liability for a new one with substantial modified terms, or a substantial modification to the terms of a financial liability, is treated as an extinguishment of the existing liability and recognition of a new financial liability.

The difference between the carrying amount of the financial liability derecognized and the consideration paid and payable, including any non-cash assets transferred or liabilities assumed, is recognised in profit or loss.

Derecognition of financial assets:

A financial asset is derecognised when the holder's contractual rights to its cash flows expires, or the asset is transferred in such a way that all the risks and rewards of ownership are substantially transferred.

All of the following criteria need to be satisfied for derecognition of financial asset:

- The right to receive cash flows from the asset has expired or been transferred.
- All risk and rewards of ownership of the asset have been substantially transferred; and
- The entity no longer controls the asset

On derecognition of a financial asset measured at amortised cost, the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the sum of the consideration received and receivable is recognised in the profit or loss.

Impairment

The association recognises a loss allowance for expected credit losses on financial assets that are measured at amortised cost or fair value through other comprehensive income. Loss allowance is not recognised for financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss.

Expected credit losses are the probability-weighted estimate of credit losses over the expected life of a financial instrument. A credit loss is the difference between all contractual cash flows that are due and all cash flows expected to be received, all discounted at the original effective interest rate of the financial instrument.

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
A.B.N. 76 470 896 415**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT'D)

Impairment (cont'd)

General approach

Under the general approach, at each reporting period, the association assesses whether the financial instruments are credit-impaired, and:

- If the credit risk of the financial instrument has increased significantly since initial recognition, the Entity measures the loss allowance of the financial instruments at an amount equal to the lifetime expected credit losses; and
- If there has been no significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition, the Entity measures the loss allowance for that financial instrument at an amount equal to 12-month expected credit losses.

Recognition of expected credit losses in financial statements

At each reporting date, the association recognise the movement in the loss allowance as an impairment gain or loss in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

The carrying amount of financial assets measured at amortised cost includes the loss allowance relating to that asset.

Assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income are recognised at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in other comprehensive income. The amount in relation to change in credit risk is transferred from other comprehensive income to profit or loss at every reporting period.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

Accounts receivables and other debtors

Accounts receivables and other debtors include amounts due from members as well as amounts receivable from donors. Receivable expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association during the reporting period which remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

Revenue

Membership revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received and is brought to account on a receipts basis during the year. The membership year currently runs from 1 January to 31 December.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of Goods and Service Tax ("GST").

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
A.B.N. 76 470 896 415

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT'D)

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the assets and liabilities statement.

Employee provisions

Provision is made for the society's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee provisions have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Comparative figures

When required by accounting standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current year.

Change of Accounting Policy

In 2021 a decision was made to recognise one of the Society's library collections at revalued amount rather than historic cost. While the decision to recognise non current assets on this basis is permissible under Australian accounting standards (AASB 116 Property Plant and Equipment) there is the requirement that all assets within a class be recognised on the same basis. This was not done, and different libraries are recognised on different bases. A complication is that the various library collections are being donated to the State Library of New South Wales.

To ensure that all library collections are accounted for on a consistent basis, as required by the accounting standards, a policy of recognition on an historic cost basis has been adopted. This has been treated as a change in accounting policy and accounted for in accordance with AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors. Accordingly, the prior revaluation has been reversed and an adjustment made to prior year figures in the financial report.

A further complication is that some library costs have in prior years been capitalised, whereas the majority have been expensed. This is inconsistent and to ensure consistency costs previously carried forward have been adjusted against retained earnings.

The impact of the adjustments was to reduce the value of the Library by \$240,259, a reduction in the Asset Revaluation Reserve of \$226,659 and a reduction in retained earnings of \$13,600. There is no impact on the Statement of Profit or Loss in the current period.

New and Amended Accounting Policies Adopted by the Association

Initial adoption of AASB 2018-6: *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Definition of Business*.

AASB 2022-3: Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards

AASB 2022-3 amends the Australian illustrative examples for not-for-profit entities accompanying AASB 15: *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* to illustrate how AASB15 applies to the recognition and measurement of upfront fees. The amendments do not change the requirements of AASB 15.

The basis for Conclusions also document the Council's decision to retain the accounting policy choice on an ongoing basis for NFP private sector lessees to elect to initially measure a class of ROU assets arising under concessionary leases at cost or at fair value.

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
A.B.N. 76 470 896 415**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT'D)		
New and Amended Accounting Policies Adopted by the Association (Cont'd)		
The adoption of the amendment did not have a material impact on the financial statements.		
<i>AASB 2020-3: Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards</i>		
The society adopted AASB 2020-3 which makes some small amendments to a number of standards including the following: AASB 1, AASB 3, AASB 9, AASB 116, AASB 137 and AASB 141.		
The adoption of the amendment did not have a material impact on the financial statements.		
2 EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE		
There have been no significant events occurring after the reporting period which may affect either the Association's operations or results of those operations or the Association's state of affairs.		
3 CASH ASSETS		
Cash at bank	<u>803,313</u>	<u>682,329</u>
4 RECEIVABLES		
Trade debtors	5,941	15,233
Sundry debtors	<u>5,000</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>10,941</u>	<u>15,233</u>
5 INVENTORY		
Ties	<u>694</u>	<u>694</u>
6 OTHER ASSETS		
Prepaid expenses	<u>14,491</u>	<u>13,744</u>
7 PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT		
Software & Website – at cost	53,058	53,058
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(26,185)</u>	<u>(14,396)</u>
	<u>26,873</u>	<u>38,662</u>

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
8 CREDITORS & ACCRUALS		
Trade creditors	8,064	11,441
Other creditors	-	4,546
GST Payable	16,694	9,349
PAYG withholding payable	3,834	3,834
Superannuation payable	-	1,121
	<u>28,592</u>	<u>30,291</u>
9 INCOME RECEIVED IN ADVANCE		
Event income in advance	34,070	7,108
Membership received in advance	100,812	82,347
Sponsorship received in advance	58,000	95,500
Journal income received in advance	813	-
	<u>193,695</u>	<u>184,955</u>
10 EMPLOYEE LEAVE ENTITLEMENTS		
Provision for annual leave	<u>11,815</u>	<u>7,468</u>
11 RESERVES		
<p>Following sub accounts operated under The Royal Society of NSW are included in Reserves. Income and expenses for these reserves have previously been recorded through the Income & Expenditure Statement of The Royal Society of NSW. These accounts have been adjusted during 2020 financial year to account for the movement related to the respective sub account for the years from 2010 to 2020. All income and expenses related to following reserves are now recorded through the reserve accounts:</p>		
Clarke Memorial	3,525	3,525
Library Fund	95,261	57,987
Liversidge Bequest	4,689	4,687
RSNSW Future fund	55,798	51,116
Olle Bequest	13,028	13,028
Scholarship fund	23,859	23,326
Walter Burfitt	19,615	19,615
	<u>215,775</u>	<u>173,284</u>
12 RETAINED EARNINGS		
Opening balance	354,664	270,202
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	51,771	109,462
Transfer to Scholarship reserve	-	(25,000)
Closing balance	<u>406,435</u>	<u>354,664</u>

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
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STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Members' & customers' receipts	398,973	352,577
Interest received	6,406	6,494
Payments to suppliers & donations	<u>(326,886)</u>	<u>(304,535)</u>
Net Cash (used in) provided by Operating Activities	<u>78,493</u>	<u>54,536</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Net movement in reserve accounts	<u>42,491</u>	<u>23,804</u>
Net Cash (used in) provided by Financing Activities	<u>42,491</u>	<u>23,804</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of plant & equipment	<u>-</u>	<u>(26,450)</u>
Net Cash (used in) provided by Investing Activities	<u>-</u>	<u>(26,450)</u>
Net (Decrease) Increase in Cash Held	120,984	51,890
Cash at the beginning of the financial year	<u>682,329</u>	<u>630,439</u>
Cash at the end of the financial year	<u>803,313</u>	<u>682,329</u>
3		
Reconciliation of net cash provided by operating activities to operating profit (loss) surplus after income tax		
Operating profit (loss) after income tax	51,771	109,462
Add/(Deduct) non-cash flows		
Depreciation	11,789	6,397
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- (Increase) decrease in receivables	4,292	1,217
- (Increase) decrease in other assets	(747)	(3,763)
- Increase (decrease) in payables	(1,699)	(15,296)
- Increase (decrease) in deferred revenue	8,740	(48,786)
- Increase (decrease) in provisions	<u>4,347</u>	<u>5,305</u>
Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities	<u>78,493</u>	<u>54,536</u>