

## 1340<sup>th</sup> Ordinary General Meeting of the Royal Society of NSW

### Minutes

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The 1340<sup>th</sup> Ordinary General Meeting of the Royal Society of NSW took place at 6:00 pm on Wednesday 6 May 2026 via Zoom webinar, followed by an open lecture.

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The President, Em Prof Christina Slade FRSN presided at the meeting. She welcomed members and guests.

**2. MINUTES OF THE 1339<sup>th</sup> ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING**

Minutes of the 1339<sup>th</sup> Ordinary General Meeting were reviewed and approved. There were no matters arising.

**3. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NAMES OF CANDIDATES FOR FELLOWSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP**

As Council has not met since the last Ordinary General Meeting, there are no new candidates to be presented for members' consideration at this meeting.

**4. PRESENTATION OF FELLOWSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES**

No certificates were presented at this meeting.

**5. REPORT FROM COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL**

The President reported that Council met on 8 April 2026. Council noted the election of Erin Gao as Treasurer and Holly Randell-Moon from the Western Branch as newly elected members. Council agreed to appoint Dr Michael William Taylor to Council to chair the new Finance, Risk and Governance Committee, and Zile Yu to lead the Annual Dinner Working Group. Council also agreed that the RSNSW should rejoin the Royal Societies of Australia, following confirmation that the Governor-General is patron. Council further agreed to welcome younger members, including school children, as Associate Members, with further discussion continuing on how best to support and welcome them.

**6. OPEN LECTURE**

**“Household Electricity Use and Investment”**

***Professor Jeffrey Reimers FRSN FAA FRACI***

Director, International Centre for Quantum and Molecular Structures,  
Department of Physics  
Shanghai University, Shanghai, China  
and  
Honorary Associate  
School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences  
University of Technology Sydney

**Summary:** Electricity production, transmission, use, and pricing in eastern states are very complex, with consumer reports indicating very poor community understanding of the basic features. In this presentation, a broad, holistic view is presented. The focus is on how users can save money and be environmentally friendly in their energy use, how to understand and optimise retailer plans and distributor tariffs, and how to optimise investment in household solar power, solar batteries, and electric-vehicle technologies. Indeed, a strong connection is made between saving money and being environmentally friendly. A central aspect is understanding of the “spot price” and how that is used to stabilise the grid and hence provide the means by which energy production can be transformed from coal/gas to renewables, as well as its role in setting consumer costs and

investment returns. Bring an electricity bill to discuss.

**About the speaker**

**Jeff Reimers** studied organic spectroscopy under Ian Ross and Gad Fischer before doing a PhD with Bob Watts on the structure, thermodynamics, and spectroscopy of water and ice. He then studied semiclassical quantum mechanics in the USA under Kent Wilson and Rick Heller, before returning to Australia to be an ARC Research Fellow from 1985 to 2010 at the University of Sydney and there as a professor until 2013. There, he collaborated extensively with Noel Hush and Max Crossley on problems involving electron transfer, molecular electronics, porphyrin chemistry, self-assembly, electronic-structure theory, and photosynthesis. In 2014, he moved to a joint appointment at the University of Technology Sydney and Shanghai University to set up a multi-disciplinary quantum research centre, himself focusing mostly on quantum chemistry, spectroscopy, nanophotonics, and molecular electronics. His work spans a wide range of applications, from solar energy conversion to electronic devices to the origins of consciousness. He has received the RACI Physical Chemistry Division Medal and the H.G. Smith Medal, the David Craig Medal of the Australian Academy of Science, and the 2025 Shanghai Gold Magnolia Medal; he is a Fellow of the RACI, the Royal Society of NSW, and the Australian Academy of Science.

The Q&A at the end of the lecture was facilitated by Vice President, Em Prof Lindsay Botten FRSN

**7. VOTE OF THANKS**

A vote of thanks was given by Em Prof Christina Slade FRSN.

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**9. CLOSE**

The President closed the meeting at 7:30 pm.

The minutes were recorded by the Secretary, Em Prof Trevor Brown FRSN.

Signed as a true record  
Em Prof Christina Slade FRSN  
President

RSNSW YouTube link: [Household Electricity Use and Investment](#)