

1342nd Ordinary General Meeting of the Royal Society of NSW

Minutes

The 1342nd Ordinary General Meeting of the Royal Society of NSW took place at 6:00 pm on Wednesday 1 July 2026 in the Gallery Room, Mitchell Building, State Library of NSW, Shakespeare Place, Sydney, followed by an open lecture.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Vice President, Em Prof Lindsay Botten FRSN presided at the meeting. He welcomed members and guests.

2. MINUTES OF THE 1341st ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the 1341st Ordinary General Meeting were reviewed and approved. There were no matters arising.

3. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NAMES OF CANDIDATES FOR FELLOWSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP

The Vice President reported that the following candidates for Fellowship and Membership, were recommended by Council at its meeting on 17 June 2026 on the advice of the Fellows and Members Assessment Committee. These names were circulated to voting members on 19 June 2026, with any objections to be submitted to the Secretary by Friday 3 July 2026.

Fellows:

Professor Xiaobo Qu: Xiaobo Qu has made a significant contribution to intelligent transportation systems, and connected and automated vehicles.

Professor Vicki Karaminas: Vicki Karaminas has made a significant contribution to media and cultural studies in the areas of masculinities, genders and sexualities.

Professor Jun Huang: Jun Huang has made an outstanding contribution to sustainable chemistry and chemical engineering.

Professor Serkan Eylul Saydam: Serkan Eylul Saydam has made distinguished contributions to mining engineering through advanced mining technologies, systems engineering, and resource sustainability.

Professor Xiaojing Hao: Xiaojing Hai has made a substantial contribution to the field of photovoltaics through her research into low-cost, high-efficiency thin-film and tandem solar cells.

Professor John Sydney Croucher: John Croucher has made a significant contribution to the mathematical sciences through the application of statistics to a range of disciplines.

Dr Bernadette Carmel Boss: Bernadette Boss has made a significant contribution to the Australian community, most notably through her work in the field of defence and veteran suicide prevention.

Professor Sharon Naismith: Sharon Naismith is internationally recognised for her contributions to neuropsychology and dementia research.

Professor Kenneth John Maher: Kenneth Maher has made an outstanding contribution to Australian architecture.

Members:

Professor Andrew Reti Rosenberg;

Dr Elizabeth Anne Williams;

Amy Lin;

**Dr Marilena Salvo;
Oliver Gordon Pickford;
Dr Richard Humfry Henschman;
Viktoria Butler; and
Associate Professor Robert Crowther.**

Associate Members:

**Krithikaa Gopinath;
Ines Wen;
Violette Emma Rose Perry; and
Sarah Rajaratnam.**

4. PRESENTATION OF FELLOWSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES

The Vice President presented a membership certificate to the following new Member:

MEMBERSHIP

Dr Quentin Meyer

5. REPORT FROM COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

The Vice President reported that Council was progressing proposals for two linked initiatives: a Youth Network for senior secondary school students and undergraduates, and an Emerging Researcher Network for postgraduate students and early career researchers. The initiatives were intended to enhance the Society's relevance and public benefit, support membership renewal, and strengthen links with schools, universities and industry.

Under the proposed Youth Network, participants would join as Associate Members and have access to Ordinary General Meetings, possible youth-only meetings and other opportunities. Council was examining the Society's obligations under legislation administered by the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian, including Working with Children Checks and broader organisational requirements.

The Emerging Researcher Network would build on the Society's scholarships, prizes and early career researcher citations, and could draw on the Royal Society of Victoria's Emerging Scientists Network. Its focus could include community-building, career development, confidence and career challenges, and engagement with industry. The Governor-General had also indicated a willingness to facilitate gatherings of young researchers through the Royal Societies of Australia.

Implementation would require further development of Associate Membership categories, including categories for participants under and over 21 years of age and an ongoing partner Associate Membership, together with changes to the membership management system and website.

Expressions of interest had been received for the position of Editor of the Journal, following Professor Robert Marks' decision to step down at the end of 2026 after ten years in the role. Shortlisting had been completed and interviews were scheduled for the weeks commencing 13 and 20 July 2026.

Council was also establishing a podcast channel, initially drawing on the Society's recorded lectures and other suitable material.

The Vice President advised that nominations for the Society's 2026 Awards opened on 1 July and would close on 30 September. The Year A discipline awards included the Clarke Medal in the Earth Sciences, the Walter Burfitt Award in Medical and Veterinary Sciences and Technology, the Awards in Social and Behavioural Sciences and in History and Philosophy of Science, and the new RSNSW Award in Computer Science or Information Technology. Nominations were also open for the Career Excellence, postgraduate, early career and service awards.

Forthcoming events were highlighted, including Tim Buckley's lunchtime lecture on 14 July, the 5 August Ordinary General Meeting lecture by Professor Bradley Moggridge, Ideas@theHouse on 1 September with Matt Allen, and the 2 September Ordinary General Meeting lecture by Scientia Professor Richard Kingsford. Members were reminded that recordings of Society events were available on YouTube, where the channel had reached 200,000 views.

6. OPEN LECTURE

"Thin-film photovoltaics — the enabling engine for next-generation tandem solar cells"

Scientia Professor Xiaojing Hao FRSN FAA FTSE

ARC Laureate Fellow and
Deputy Director, ARC Research Hub for Photovoltaic Solar Panel Recycling and Sustainability
School of Photovoltaic and Renewable Energy Engineering
UNSW Sydney

Solar energy is already transforming the world, but meeting the demands of a net-zero future will require photovoltaic technologies that go beyond the limits of silicon alone. Tandem solar cells offer a powerful next step: by combining silicon with a wide-bandgap top cell, they can capture more of the Sun's spectrum and deliver substantially higher efficiencies. Realising this vision, however, depends on solving a central materials challenge. The top cell must combine high efficiency, long-term stability, low cost, and scalable manufacturing — an exceptionally challenging combination to achieve in any one material system. In this talk, Xiaojing Hao will discuss advances in earth-abundant thin-film top-cell technologies developed by her research group and show how they are developing strategies to enable the next generation of tandem solar cells. Beyond higher efficiency, these developments point to a broader opportunity: more sustainable, affordable, and widely deployable solar energy for the future.

About the speaker

Xiaojing Hao is a Scientia Professor and ARC Laureate Fellow at UNSW, Sydney. She obtained her PhD in the School of Photovoltaic and Renewable Energy Engineering of UNSW in 2010. Her research focuses on low-cost, high-efficiency thin-film solar cells and tandem solar cells for both solar photovoltaic and solar fuel applications. She has led her group to achieve several efficiency records for emerging thin-film solar cells, including wide-bandgap chalcogenides (kesterite, chalcopyrite, antimony chalcogenide) and perovskites.

Professor Hao has published more than 250 peer-reviewed journal articles, including a number in Nature Energy, Nature Photonics, and Energy and Environmental Science. She has been awarded more than 20 prestigious awards/prizes, including the 2020 Prime Minister's Prizes for Science: Malcolm McIntosh Prize for Physical Scientist of the Year, and the 2021 Australian Academy of Science Pawsey Medal. Professor Hao is an elected Fellow of both the Australian Academy of Science and the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering. Most recently, she was the winner of the 2026 Royal Society of NSW Edgeworth David Medal.

7. VOTE OF THANKS

A vote of thanks was given by Em Prof Lindsay Botten FRSN.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

9. CLOSE

The Vice 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 Lindsay Botten FRSN
President

RSNSW YouTube link: [Thin-film photovoltaics — the enabling engine for next-generation tandem solar cells](#)