

1343rd Ordinary General Meeting of the Royal Society of NSW

Minutes

The 1343rd Ordinary General Meeting of the Royal Society of NSW took place at **6:00 pm on Wednesday 5 August 2026** in the **Michael Crouch 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 in the absence overseas of the President, Professor Christina Slade FRSN.

The Vice President welcomed members and guests and acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the land on which the State Library of NSW stands, the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, paying respects to Elders past and present.

2. MINUTES OF THE 1342nd ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

The minutes of the 1342nd Ordinary General Meeting, held in the Gallery Room of the State Library of NSW on 1 July 2026, were reviewed and approved as a true record.

There were no matters arising.

3. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NAMES OF CANDIDATES FOR FELLOWSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP

The following candidates for Membership had been recommended by Council at its meeting on 17 June 2026, on the advice of the Fellows and Members Assessment Committee. Their names had been circulated to voting members on 8 July 2026, with any objections to be submitted to the Secretary by 23 July 2026.

Members:

Associate Professor Shafagh Waters;
Professor Joseph Zajda.

4. PRESENTATION OF FELLOWSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES

The Vice President invited new Fellows, Members and Associate Members in attendance to receive their certificates. Certificates were presented to:

Fellows

Professor Vicki Karaminas;
Professor Kenneth Maher

Members

Dr Richard Henchman;
Yvonne Xu

Associate Member

Krithikaa Gopinath

5. REPORT FROM COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

The Vice President advised that there had been no meeting of Council since the previous Ordinary General Meeting, with the next Council meeting scheduled for 26 August 2026.

He reported that work was continuing on proposals to establish Youth and Emerging Researcher Networks. The objectives were to enhance the Society's relevance and reputation, demonstrate greater public benefit, improve membership recruitment and renewal, and strengthen links with schools, universities and industry.

The proposals included broadening Associate Membership to enable senior secondary school students to participate alongside undergraduate and postgraduate students and early career researchers. Council was also considering the creation of an appointed early career researcher position on Council to provide a stronger voice for younger members and contribute to the development of activities and programs for the next generation of the Society.

The Vice President noted that particular consideration was required in relation to participation by secondary school students, including the Society's obligations under Working with Children legislation and associated requirements.

Council would consider the proposals further at its August meeting. Depending on the decisions taken, a ballot of members was expected to be held in early September on amendments to the Society's Rules required to implement the changes.

The Society had also rejoined the Royal Societies of Australia. The Governor-General, as Patron, had expressed interest in initiatives to bring together young members of the Royal Societies with representatives from industry and academia, including possible events at the Governor-General's residences in Sydney and Canberra.

The Vice President provided an update on the appointment of the next Editor of the Journal of the Royal Society of New South Wales. Professor Robert Marks would step down at the end of 2026. Interviews had been completed and a preferred candidate had been identified for consideration by Council at its meeting on 26 August.

Work was also continuing towards establishing a Royal Society of NSW podcast channel. A series of in-conversation interviews was being recorded to generate content, with the President conducting the interviews and the Vice President undertaking the recordings.

Members were reminded that nominations remained open for the Society's 2026 Awards, having opened on 1 July and closing on 30 September. The awards included Career Excellence Awards, five Discipline Awards, including the new Award in Computer Science or Information Technology, Scholarship and Early Career Research and Student Awards, and Service Awards. Members were encouraged particularly to consider nominating outstanding younger researchers and others within their professional networks.

The Vice President also outlined forthcoming Society activities. Preparations were underway for the Society's Forum in November and development of the 2027 Sydney program had commenced under the new Sydney Program Committee, chaired by Susie Stigler-Peters.

Forthcoming events included a New England and North West Branch event on autism, neurodiversity and resilience; a Southern Highlands Branch lecture on underwater weather and its significance; Ideas@theHouse on 1 September; and the next Ordinary General Meeting on 2 September, featuring Scientia Professor Richard Kingsford FRSN. Further Branch events included a Southern Highlands lecture on astrophysics and a Hunter Branch event on healthy soils and a healthy Hunter.

In discussion, a member highlighted the considerable potential for the Society to support postgraduate and early career researchers seeking to commercialise emerging technologies. Drawing on experience reviewing research grant applications and working with start-up companies, he noted the quality of research emerging from universities and suggested that the Society's Fellows and Members could provide valuable networks, experience and connections between researchers, industry and investors.

It was observed that such activity would be consistent with the Society's historical role in supporting the development of science, industry and commerce in New South Wales and Australia. The Vice President welcomed the suggestion and the offer to contribute to future work in this area.

6. OPEN LECTURE

“The Cultural Value of Water and the Importance of Understanding Water Quality and Climate Change for Aboriginal People”

Professor Bradley Moggridge FRSN FTSE

Associate Dean (Indigenous Leadership and Engagement),
Faculty of Science
University of Technology, Sydney

Australia is the driest inhabited continent on Earth, yet it has been the traditional land of its original inhabitants, Australia's First Peoples (its Indigenous people), for thousands of generations—65,000 years, plus. Protecting water landscapes (surface and groundwater) in a dry place like Australia, along with the protection of cultural values, has always been a high priority for Aboriginal people, and protecting water remains a cultural obligation. Water connects people to Country, carries songs, dances and language through the generations. This connection and understanding of climate are no different; observations, adaptation and lived experience (already having survived sea level rise) put First Peoples of Australia in a place to provide solutions for a modern issue like climate change. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are adapting now to a changed climate. Seasonal changes, culturally significant species are also adapting and evolving. Through his research and experience, Bradley Moggridge feels very privileged to work towards solutions combining both my ancestral Traditional Knowledge and qualifications in Western science for water and climate.

About the speaker

Bradley Moggridge is a proud Murri from the Kamilaroi Nation living on Ngunnawal Country in Canberra and a Professor of Science and Associate Dean (Indigenous Leadership and Engagement) at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS). He has a PhD in Science from the University of Canberra, an MSc in Hydrogeology from UTS, and a BSc in Environmental Science from the Australian Catholic University.

Professor Moggridge is the Immediate Past President of the Australian Freshwater Science Society (President, 2022–2024), a current Board member with the NSW Environmental Protection Authority, and previously was a member of the Biodiversity Council and the National Youth Science Forum (NYSF). He was appointed as Lead Author for IPCC AR7 Chapter 10, and was accepted as a Fellow of the Academy of Technological Science and Engineering (ATSE) in 2025, and as a Fellow of the Royal Society of NSW (FRSN) in 2026. He is a member of the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists and is a Governor of WWF Australia. He is an alumnus of the International Water Centre.

Professor Moggridge has won several awards, including the 2026 RSNSW Aboriginal Scholar Medal, and has presented widely, including at the 2023 UN Water Conference (New York) and at the 2022, 2023 and 2025 SIWI World Water Week (Stockholm), and COP29 in Baku. He has published in his area of expertise in Indigenous Water Knowledge and Climate Change, also finding himself on many committees (local, national and international), adding to his 25 years in water and environmental science, cultural knowledge, regulation, water planning and management. He hopes to encourage Indigenous generations to pursue interests in science and promote his ancestors' knowledge.

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: [The Importance of Understanding Water and Climate Change for Aboriginal People](#)