

1344th ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday 2 September 2026 at 6:00pm

Michael Crouch Room, Mitchell Building, State Library of NSW,

The 1344th Ordinary General Meeting of the Royal Society of NSW will take place at **6:00 pm on Wednesday 2 September 2026** in the **Michael Crouch Room, Mitchell Building, State Library of NSW, Shakespeare Place, Sydney**, followed by an open lecture. Registration and refreshments will be from 5:30 pm.

AGENDA

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

President, Em Prof Christina Slade FRSN.

2. MINUTES

Minutes of the 1343rd Ordinary General Meeting will be reviewed.

3. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NAMES OF CANDIDATES FOR FELLOWSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP

Candidates for Fellowship and Membership were recommended by Council at its meeting on 26 August 2026 on the advice of the Fellows and Members Assessment Committee. These names will be circulated to voting members in the coming days, with any objections to be submitted to the Secretary within two weeks after the names have been circulated.

4. PRESENTATION OF FELLOWSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES

The Vice President will present certificates to new Members and Fellows who have notified the Secretariat of their attendance.

5. EDITOR, JOURNAL AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE RSNSW

The Editor Selection Interview Panel recommends that **Emeritus Professor Les Copeland FRSN** be appointed Editor of the *Journal and Proceedings of the Royal Society of New South Wales*.

The Council at its meeting on 26 August 2026 approved the recommendation and agreed that it should be submitted to the next OGM for approval by the membership.

Professor Copeland is an experienced academic and journal editor, with approximately 12 years' service as Editor-in-Chief of *Cereal Chemistry*, an international peer-reviewed journal now published by Wiley, as well as a strategic editorial role with *Agriculture*. He has extensive experience in manuscript assessment, peer review, working with associate editors and reviewers, editorial decision-making, research integrity and the operation of journals within major academic publishing systems.

During the selection process, Professor Copeland demonstrated a thoughtful and collegial approach to the future of the *Journal and Proceedings*. He favoured careful, incremental development, stronger engagement of the Editorial Board and Society membership, improved acquisition and discoverability of content, and consideration of future publishing arrangements while preserving the Journal's scholarly quality and open-access model.

The membership at the OGM RESOLVES that:

Emeritus Professor Les Copeland FRSN be appointed Editor of the Journal and Proceedings of the Royal Society of New South Wales.

For discussion and decision.

6. REPORT FROM COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

The President will update membership on the key activities of Council in 2026.

6. OPEN LECTURE

**“Ecosystem restoration at scale, reintroducing native species and managing threats
– nearly a decade of the Wild Deserts project”**

Scientia Professor Richard Kingsford AO FRSN

Director, Centre for Ecosystem Science
School of Biological, Earth & Environmental Sciences
UNSW Sydney

Australia has the world's most notorious extinction record for mammals, driving widespread functional loss in our desert ecosystems. The Wild Deserts project is a nationally significant ecological restoration initiative in the Strzelecki Desert of the Sturt National Park in far-northwestern New South Wales. Established in 2016, this project is led by UNSW's Centre for Ecosystem Science and Ecological Horizons, collaborating with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and Taronga Conservation Society. The Wild Deserts Program represents one of the most ambitious attempts to restore arid ecosystems in Australia. It was designed not only to reintroduce seven locally extinct species but to restore ecosystem function at a landscape scale through integrating species' reintroductions, threat management, particularly feral cats, and adaptive data-driven decision-making. This presentation focuses on the successes and failures of ecosystem restoration at large scales, reflecting the vision of the Wild Deserts Project.

About the speaker

Richard Kingsford is a Scientia Professor at UNSW Sydney and the Director of the Centre for Ecosystem Science. He is a conservation biologist who has worked extensively on ecosystem restoration and threatening processes in Australia. He has led projects in aerial surveys of waterbirds, informing river management, reintroduction of platypuses and reintroductions of locally extinct mammal species. He has expertise in the conservation of ecosystems, particularly freshwater aquatic ecology. He has worked with many different communities and governments across Australia on the conservation management of ecosystems. His research has influenced conservation policy and management, including through involvement on state and federal advisory committees. He leads the Wild Deserts Partnership, focusing on restoring seven locally extinct mammal species to Sturt National Park in far western New South Wales and monitoring, evaluation and research for water for the environment in the Macquarie River and Lower Balonne.

Richard has been a Fellow of the Royal Society of NSW since 2020. His work has been acknowledged by numerous awards, including three Eureka Awards in 2001, 2008, 2015, the Hoffman Medal in 2007 for contributions to global wetland science, and in 2025 he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for 'distinguished service to conservation biology, to environmental sustainability research, and to freshwater biodiversity and ecosystems governance.' Richard is also the inaugural winner of the Royal Society of NSW Life Sciences Award in 2025.

7. VOTE OF THANKS

8. CLOSE

Em Prof Trevor Brown FRSN

Secretary