

1345th ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday 7 October 2026 at 6:00pm

Gallery Room, Mitchell Building, State Library of NSW,

The 1345th Ordinary General Meeting of the Royal Society of NSW will take place at **6:00 pm on Wednesday 7 October 2026** in the **Gallery 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 1344th Ordinary General Meeting will be reviewed.

3. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NAMES OF CANDIDATES FOR FELLOWSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP

At its meeting on 26 August 2026, the Council of the Royal Society of NSW, on the recommendation of the Fellows and Members Assessment Committee, agreed to propose the following candidates for admission as Fellows and Members by electronic communication, in accordance with Rule 8(c). No objections to any of the recommendations were received by the close of business on Monday, 14 September 2026:

Fellows

Associate Professor Benjamin Holman

***Citation:** Benjamin Holman has made significant contributions to practice and research in Australian meat science.*

Professor Yang Liu

***Citation:** Yang Liu has made an outstanding contribution to sustainable water management.*

Professor Ross Street

***Citation:** Ross Street has made a substantial contribution to the field of mathematics through his work in category theory.*

Members

Professor James Bennett

Mr Anthony Donnellan

Dr Masoud Ganji

Dr Vandana Gulati

Associate Member

Mr Arshia Sharif

As no objections were received, the above candidates were duly elected to the respective categories of membership.

4. PRESENTATION OF FELLOWSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES

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

5. REPORT FROM COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

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

6. OPEN LECTURE

“Reformulating the visualisation of climate disasters”

Scientia Professor Dennis Del Favero FRSN FAHA

Professor of Digital Innovation and
Executive Director, iCinema Research Centre
UNSW Sydney

Climate disasters have doubled in frequency and scale since 2000 and are expected to double again by 2035. As seen in Australia 2019/2020 and in Los Angeles 2025, climate disasters such as extreme and catastrophic wildfires are new singular events whose unforeseen and ferocious life-threatening behaviour challenge picturing. Their singularity, such as the unpredictable creation of new weather events, such as firestorms, resists the patterns and repetitions that make coherent aesthetic depiction and safe engagement possible. As they pose an unprecedented threat, we need to ask: *“How do we aesthetically picture such singular events so that we can meaningfully understand and safely prepare?”*

Artistic picturing imagines powerful engagement with known scenarios, while technological picturing, such as *WRF-SFIRE* simulations, abstractly maps the data patterns of typical fires. On their own, neither form of picturing can perceptually and sensorially depict the unpredictable dynamics of climate disasters and experientially engage artistic research and first response stakeholders with their uncertainty so they can safely interpret and interact. To address this gap, recent reports outline the urgent need for a form of picturing that leverages advances in art and technology.

This demands the modelling of complex processes imperceptible to human cognition, requiring the speed and scale of AI to learn patterns and render behaviours, integrated with the power of art to experientially engage stakeholders in compelling and dynamic scenarios. Professor Del Favero’s research addresses this problem through an aesthetic that fuses art and AI and enables the experiential picturing of unforeseen scenarios. By converting scientific simulations into dynamically evolving, immersive aesthetic experiences, it will allow stakeholders to generate possible ‘what if’ scenarios that rehearse unexpected threats to build anticipatory understanding and situational deliberation. This research demonstrates that an immersive visual aesthetic—where users feel proactively present in unanticipated settings as they interactively rehearse their engagement with threats in advance can provide open-ended experiences that enhance risk apprehension and response.

About the speaker

Dennis Del Favero is a research artist, Scientia Professor and ARC Laureate Fellow, Director of the iCinema Research Centre at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Honorary Professor, University of Melbourne (Australia), Visiting Professor, Royal College of Art (UK), Editorial Board Member of Quodlibet Studio Corpi (Italy) and the inaugural winner of the Royal Society of NSW Award in the Creative and Performing Arts in 2025.. He is the former Executive Director of the Australian Research Council | Humanities and Creative Arts and inaugural Visiting Professorial Fellow, ZKM Centre for Art and Media (Germany).

His work explores the use of AI aesthetics and immersive visualisation to picture and engage with uncertain scenarios, such as extreme fires, to enhance preparedness and response. His AUD \$31M in funding has delivered a range of cutting-edge projects, including: *iCASTS*, an immersive training system for the Australian and Chinese mine industries, educating 30,000 miners, reducing injury by 65% with no fatalities *iDesign*, a 3D stage design prototyping system for Sydney Theatre Company; *iFire*, a 3D immersive simulation system for the international emergency sectors, for training 7,000 firefighters; *netARCHIVE*, a networked display system for multi-located museum collection experience for Powerhouse Museum, Sydney; and *memorySCAPE*, an intelligent memorialisation database VR system for the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. These outputs form part of significant commercialisations of immersive visualisation technologies, such as with Shenyang Design & Research Institute of the China Technology & Engineering Group. His work has been exhibited in over 140 major exhibitions, including Sprengel Museum

Hannover and the Smithsonian. He is represented by Galerie Schenkweitzdoerfer, Cologne and Gallery Mais Wright, Sydney.

7. VOTE OF THANKS

8. CLOSE

Em Prof Trevor Brown FRSN
Secretary