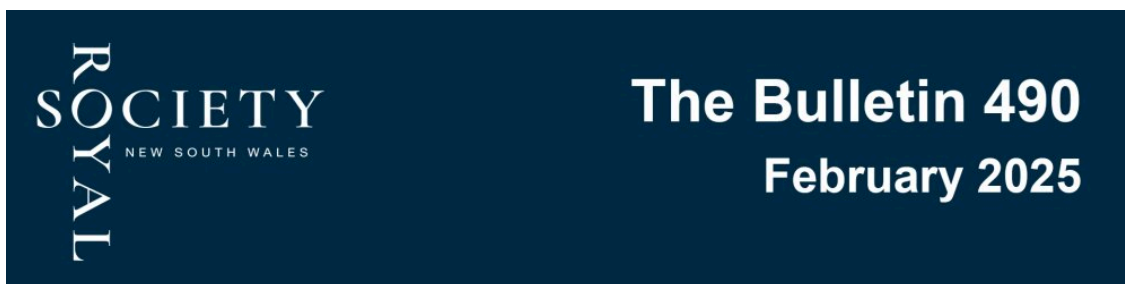


[View this email in your browser](#)

For the best reading experience, please click the link above.

Some email clients may not correctly render the content.



In this newsletter:

A message from the President

Dear <<First Name>> <<Last Name>>

I am writing this column on the 24th day of 2025, a year that has generated already an apocalyptic atmosphere and avalanche of news and opinion. I trust that you had a relaxing break that sets you up for what will be a rollercoaster year on the national and global stage.

I took the opportunity to enjoy the wilderness of the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve in the Upper Amazon region of Peru and view through a long-distance lens or up close some of its incredible biodiversity. As the Society navigates the equally turbulent waters of 2025, it will continue to draw people together from diverse disciplines and backgrounds with the deep knowledge to investigate, elaborate, inform and influence public discourse on the highly complex issues facing the world in 2025 and indeed the 21st century.



The Society has gained considerable momentum during the past four years. Our [2024 – 2029 Master Plan](#) outlines goals to be achieved during the next four years under Council's guidance.

Are you a financial member of the Society and keen to roll up your sleeves as a volunteer, engage with a dynamic and creative group of colleagues from a wide range of disciplines, and apply your not-for-profit governance expertise or gain this expertise?



If so, I encourage you to consider nominating for a position on the RSNSW Council. There will be several open positions. My four-year term as President will end, in accordance with the Society's Act and Rules.

Nominations for Council will be open from 10–28 February. Electronic voting will be open from 10–31 March. Election results will be announced at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Society which will be held in Sydney on 2 April 2025. Ahead of the AGM, each Branch will meet to constitute its Committee members for 2025.

Already in 2025, you have [Volume 157-2](#) of the Journal and Proceedings of the Royal Society of New South Wales available to read. Issued by our Editor Emeritus Professor Robert Marks on 24

December, its 326 pages embrace deep knowledge spanning a wide range of topics.

I am also pleased to report the final execution on 13 January 2025 of the donation forms that document the transfer of the 77 boxes of Society archives already housed in the State Library of New South Wales (SLNSW) and the archives transferred from 121 Darlingtong Road in 2024. The latter included the Council Minute books dating back to 1906 that had to be placed in quarantine for 12 months before they could be accepted into the Collection. Now that this process is complete, the entire RSNSW Collection of archives and books will be catalogued by the SLNSW and made accessible to the public.

A rich [calendar of events](#) is scheduled already for 2025 in Sydney and regionally in our Branches. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at one or more of the three meetings in Sydney in February – the Open Lecture on 5 February to be presented by Distinguished Professor Ian Paulsen FRSN FAA FASM, Director, ARC Centre of Excellence in Synthetic Biology, Macquarie University; the annual [Four Societies Lecture](#) on 19 February to be presented by Dr Robert Barr AM FIEAust CPEng, Director, Electric Power Consulting; and [Ideas@theHouse](#) on 20 February to be presented by Dr Sarah Britton, Director, One Health Unit, of the Interim Australian Centre for Disease Control, Department of Health and Aged Care.

I do hope that you plan to join members and friends at our [Annual Dinner and Award Presentations](#) to be held on Friday 7 March 2025 in the Strangers' Room, Parliament House Sydney. More than 200 guests will gather to honour the 2024 winners of the Society's prestigious Career Excellence, Discipline, and Internal Awards. They include two inaugural Awards, in Humanities, Philosophy and Law, and the Milner Interdisciplinary Award. Our Patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of New South Wales, will be in attendance to present the Awards. Our after-dinner speaker is the 2024 Australian of the Year, Professor Georgina Long AO FAHMS FAA, recognised for her ground-breaking research on targeted therapies for melanoma.

I also hope that, if you were a member in 2024, you received an email on 31 October inviting you to renew their membership for 2025 and that you have done so. If not, please refer to this email to renew. If you have not received your renewal email, you can contact the Secretariat at royalsoc@royalsoc.org.au.

We work for the Society because we understand the need to enhance public discourse on a wide range of topics that are crucial to our future. Society members have excellent ideas to contribute. In that spirit, I look forward to hearing your ideas and suggested ways to bring them to fruition.

Susan Pond AM FRSN FTSE FAHMS

[President](#)

[Royal Society of NSW](#)

For your diary

The Society's annual events program is published in the online [Events Calendar](#) that is updated regularly.

- [1329th Ordinary General Meeting and Open Lecture](#) (Wednesday, 5 February 2025, 6.30 – 8.00 pm AEDT, Metcalfe Theatre, State Library of NSW, Macquarie Street, Sydney), *Inspired by Nature, Designed by Science*, Distinguished Professor Ian Paulsen FRSN FAA, Director, ARC Centre of Excellence in Synthetic Biology, Macquarie University
- [Western NSW Branch Meeting 2025-1](#) (Wednesday, 5 February 2025, 6.00 – 7.00 pm AEDT, Charles Sturt University, live streaming), *Title: to be advised*, Professor Jane Quinn,

Professor of Veterinary Physiology, Charles Sturt University

- [Annual Meeting of the Four Societies 2025](#) (Wednesday, 19 February 2025, 6.00–7.30 pm AEDT, Online and in person at Engineers Australia Sydney Officer Mezzanine Floor, 44 Market Street, Sydney), *Integrating nuclear generation into the Australian electricity grid*, Dr Robert Barr AM FIEAust CPEng, Director, Electric Power Consulting
- [Ideas@theHouse: February 2025](#) (Thursday, 20 February, 6.30–7.30 pm AEDT, Government House Sydney and live streaming) *Where Worlds Collide: Exploring the wild/domestic animal-human interface in One Health*, Dr Sarah Britton, Director, One Health Unit, Australian Centre for Disease Control, Department of Health and Aged Care
- [Southern Highlands Branch Meeting 2025-1](#) (Thursday, 20 February 2025, 6.30–7.30 pm AEDT, RSL Mittagong, Carrington Room), *Dr Johnson's Dictionary*, Susannah Fullerton OAM FRSN, Author, Literary Lecture, and Tour Leader
- [RSNSW 2025 Annual Dinner and Presentation of Awards](#) (Friday, 7 March 2025 5.30 – 10.00 pm AEDT, Strangers' Room, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney)
- [Hunter Branch Meeting 2025-1](#) (Thursday, 20 March 2025, 6.00–7.00 pm AEDT, NEX, Newcastle Exhibition and Convention Centre, 309 Kind Street, Newcastle West), *Our magnetic Sun*, Dr Hannah Schunker, ARC Future Fellow, School of Information and Physical Sciences, University of Newcastle
- [1330th Ordinary General Meeting and Open Lecture](#) (Wednesday, 2 April 2025, 6.30 – 8.00 pm AEDT, Michael Crouch Room, Mitchell Building, State Library of NSW, Shakespeare Place, Sydney), *Engineering the Future*, Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte FRS FREng FAA FIEEE HonFIEAust, NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer

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News

Announcement of the 2024 Royal Society of NSW Awards

The Royal Society of New South Wales has long recognised distinguished achievements in various fields of knowledge through its Awards. Some are amongst the oldest in Australia while others are more recent. In 2023, the Society broadened and streamlined its Awards portfolio to recognise recent and evolving fields and disciplines, and emerging as well as established research stars. Since then, the Society Awards are made in two main classes reflecting the Society's history: Career Excellence Medals and Discipline Awards and Medals; with additional Awards, Scholarships, and Citations, including Internal Awards for distinguished service to the Society and community.

**RSNSW Awards
2024**



Listed below are the winners, together with links to information about the awards and their recipients

RSNSW Career Excellence Awards

[RSNSW James Cook Medal:](#)

Scientia Professor George Paxinos AO DistFRSN FAA FASSA FAHMS (NEURA and UNSW Sydney)

[RSNSW Edgeworth David Medal:](#)

Professor Yansong Shen (UNSW Sydney)

[RSNSW Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Scholars Medal:](#)

Professor Jason Sharples FRSN FTSE (UNSW Canberra)

[RSNSW Ida Browne Early Career Medal:](#)

Dr Xuan Li (University of Technology Sydney)

RSNSW Discipline Awards and Lectureships

[RSNSW Pollock Award and Lectureship in the Physical Sciences and Mathematics:](#)

Professor Nalini Joshi AO FRSN FAA FAustMS (University of Sydney)

[RSNSW Poggendorff Award and Lecture in Agricultural and Environmental Science :](#)

Professor Alexander McBratney AO FAA (University of Sydney)

[RSNSW Award in the Humanities, Philosophy, and Law:](#)

Scientia Professor Jane McAdam AO FASSA FAAL (UNSW Sydney)

[RSNSW Milner Interdisciplinary Award :](#)

Professor Katherine Boydell FASSA (The Black Dog Institute and UNSW Sydney)

RSNSW Scholarships, Early Career, and Student Awards

[RSNSW Bicentennial Postgraduate Scholarships](#)

—Mr Muyang Li (University of Sydney)

—Mr Joel Sved (University of Sydney)

—Ms Linqing Tian (UNSW Sydney)

[RSNSW Bicentennial Early Career Research and Service Citations](#)

—Dr Fei Deng (UNSW Sydney)

—Dr Jennifer Matthews (University of Technology Sydney)

—Dr Cynthia Turnbull (Australian National University)

[RSNSW Jak Kelly Award](#)

—Mr David Sweeney (University of Sydney)

RSNSW Service Awards

[RSNSW Medal](#) — Emeritus Scientia Professor Eugenie Lumbers AM DistFRSN FAA

[RSNSW Citation](#) — Ms C. Hannah Hibbert

The Council of the Royal Society of New South Wales extends its warmest congratulations to all winners of the 2024 Awards and wishes them every success in their future endeavours.

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December 2024 issue of the Journal now available

The [December 2024 issue](#) of the *Journal and Proceedings of the Royal Society of NSW* was published online on 23 December and is packed with interesting reading.

Highlights of the issue include papers derived from this year's events program, notably:

- John Bell — [‘Shakespeare on politics: what can we learn’](#)
- Roy Green — [‘Productivity: what it is and why it matters’](#)
- Ken Henry — [‘Inequality in Australia’](#)
- Julie Inman Grant — [‘How a single letter changed the world: W x 3 — the World Wide Web we weaved’](#)

Recordings of these events are available in the [Events 2024 playlist](#) on our YouTube channel.



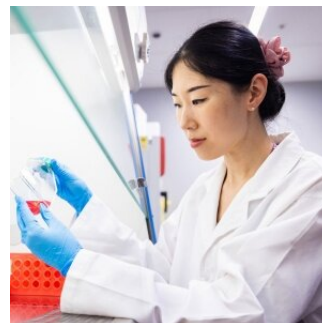
Journal and Proceedings
of the
Royal Society
of
New South Wales

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Recent Successes by Society Fellows and Award Winners

In our final news post for 2024, we recognised and applauded recent successes by Society Fellows and Award Winners that were announced in December 2024.

Dr Jiao Jiao Li FRSN, a biomedical engineer from the University of Technology Sydney was awarded a \$1 million Fellowship from the Rebecca L. Cooper Medical Research Foundation. Her work focuses on the development of new regenerative therapies for joint diseases, such as osteoarthritis, by drawing on her unique understanding of stem cell biology, materials science, nanotechnology, and bio-fabrication. Earlier this year, Dr Li's research was recognised by winning the 2024 Eureka Prize for Emerging Leader in Science.



Professor Nalini Joshi AO FRSN FAA, the Payne-Scott Professor of Mathematics at the University of Sydney, and winner of the 2024 RSNSW Pollock Award and Lectureship in the Physical Sciences and Mathematics, was recently elected as one of the five new members of the Governing Board of the international Sciences Council. This appointment creates an opportunity for Australian mathematics and science to be represented at one of the highest international levels of science governance. Her four-year term commences in January 2025.



Distinguished Professor Susan Scott FAA FEurASc of the Australian National University, and the winner of the RSNSW Walter Burfitt Prize in 2022, has recently been awarded the George Szekeres Medal, the most prestigious honour awarded by the Australian Mathematical Society that recognises outstanding contributions to the mathematical sciences.



The Council of The Royal Society of New South Wales warmly congratulations each of Dr Li, Professor Joshi, and Professor Scott on their achievements and recognition and wishes them every success in their future endeavours.

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Dr Cathy Foley concludes four-year term as Chief Scientist

Dr Cathy Foley AO PSM DistFRSN FAA FTSE, a Distinguished Fellow of the Royal Society of New South Wales, recently completed her term as Australia's Chief Scientist on 31 December 2024.

In [thanking her for her service](#), the Minister for Industry and Science, The Honourable Ed Husic MP commented on her success in 'Bringing together Australia's science and research community, Dr Foley played a crucial role in helping the country confront a once-in-a-generation pandemic.'



He went on to refer to her work in helping to steer Australia's National Science and Technology Council, which provides independent advice to the Prime Minister and Government on matters of science, her leadership of the consultation to refresh the National Science and Research Priorities, and her contributions to the development of Australia's first National Quantum Strategy.

Mr Husic noted that she has been 'a fierce advocate for women in STEM, encouraging more women to follow pathways into jobs and education within the sector' and 'a great champion of engaging and uplifting interest in science among young people and students across Australia.'

Recognising her contributions and experience, the Government has appointed Dr Foley to the Board of the CSIRO for a three-year term, commencing in 2025.

The Society congratulates Dr Foley on her distinguished achievements as Chief Scientist, wishes her well in her new board roles at CSIRO and other organisations, and thanks her for her support of the Society, most notably through her Ideas@theHouse presentation in June 2023 on the "[Importance of scientific ideas and discovery to Australia's Future](#)", and her [address to the 2021 Annual Forum](#).

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Honorary Doctorate awarded to Society Fellow, David Black, by UNSW

The Council of the Royal Society of New South Wales warmly congratulates **Emeritus Professor David Black AO FRSN FRSN** for the award of Doctor of Science, honoris causa, for eminent service to organic chemistry and UNSW.

A prolific researcher in heterocyclic chemistry, coordination chemistry, and natural products, Professor Black has published more than 310 papers and received numerous prestigious awards, including the Rennie, Smith, Birch, and Leighton Medals from the Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI).



He was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2012 for his services to organic and heterocyclic chemistry through leadership roles within professional organisations and as an educator and mentor.

David's global influence is equally profound, having served as Secretary General of both the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) and the International Council for Science, as well as contributing to scientific development in Malaysia and Indonesia.

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Vale Professor Sir Fraser Stoddart FRS DistFRSN

The Royal Society of New South Wales was saddened to learn of the death, in Australia, of Distinguished Fellow Professor **Sir Fraser Stoddart FRS DistFRSN FAA FRSE FRSC**. Sir Fraser was 82 and was still active in research and teaching around the world until recently before his death on 30 December 2024.



Known for a share the 2016 Nobel Prize in Chemistry ‘for the design and synthesis of molecular machines,’ Sir Fraser was considered a pioneer in ‘artificial molecular machines’: molecules that can undergo simple mechanical motion and thereby have the potential to do work on the smallest of scales. Sir Fraser dubbed his approach ‘molecular Meccano’.

In 2017 Sir Fraser joined UNSW, Sydney to realise his “New Chemistry” initiative. Visiting each year, Sir Fraser gave lectures to faculty and students and collaborated on a range of exciting chemistry projects involving the manipulation of molecules to effect devices such as switches, sensors and motors.

In addition to the Nobel Prize, Sir Fraser has been awarded many prizes and fellowships including a Humboldt Fellowship (1998), the King Faisal Prize in Science (2007), the Albert Einstein World Award of Science (2007), Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (2008), Davy Medal of the Royal Society (2008) and membership of the National Academy of Sciences (USA, 2014).

Two former students (of 300 PhD and post-doctoral researchers), Albert Fahrenbach and Dong Jun Kim, have positions in the School of Chemistry at UNSW and write: ‘He was a role model in every sense – someone who inspired others not just through his achievements but through the way he lived, worked, and encouraged those around him to strive for excellence. He was generous as much as he was hard-working and visionary, and the impact he made on people’s lives will be passed on for generations.’

Numerous obituaries, including those on the following websites—[BBC](#), [Royal Society of Chemistry](#), [Washington Post](#), and the [South China Morning Post](#)—have appeared since his death.

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Steven Sherwood FRSN awarded an American Geophysical Union Fellowship

The Royal Society of New South Wales congratulates **Professor Steven Sherwood FRSN** on his election as a Fellow of the [American Geophysical Union](#), the world’s largest Earth and space science association.



His decades-long work analysing climate science has addressed two important questions: How much will the world warm in future? And how readily could we adapt?

He commented that ‘one practical goal of the work is to figure out how climate models might be improved for regional predictions of weather and climate. A more academic goal is just to unlock the secrets of our atmosphere.’

Professor Sherwood's work has demonstrated how severe global warming and humidity can produce heat stress beyond human tolerance. He has also identified errors in weather balloon data that were hiding warming and pinpointed how water vapour is mixed in the troposphere and enters the stratosphere.

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Australia Day Honours 2025

The Society is delighted to learn of the awards to the following Fellows whose names appear in the 2025 Australia Day Honours List.

The following have been honoured as **Officers of the Order of Australia (AO)**.

Professor Andrew Blakers AO FRSN FAA FTSE, Emeritus Professor in the Research School of Engineering at the Australian National University, for distinguished service to science in the field of solar cell development, and as an advocate for energy storage and renewable technologies,

The Hon. Justice Brian Preston AO FRSN SC, Chief Judge of the Land and Environment Court of New South Wales, for distinguished service to the judiciary and the law, to legal academia, and to environmental and natural resources governance and education.

Scientia Professor Veena Sahajwalla AO FRSN FAA FTSE, Director of the Centre for Sustainable Materials Research and Technology at UNSW Sydney, for distinguished service to science as an engineer and inventor, to sustainable materials research and technology and waste management.

Should the Society have missed the names of other Members and Fellows who have been included in the 2025 Australian Honours, please let us know by writing to [RSNSW Communications](#).

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RSNSW history book now on sale

Author: Anne Coote

Knowledge for a Nation: Origins of the Royal Society of New South Wales tells the early history of a learned society still active in the intellectual culture of 21st century Australia.

The book begins with an account of Australia's first learned society, the Philosophical Society of Australasia (1821-1822), which is the Royal Society's enduring inspiration, if not its earliest incarnation. The Royal Society evolved from the Australian Society (1850-1851), through the Philosophical Society of New South Wales, which was re-badged Royal in 1866. Successfully reorganised a decade later, the RSNSW reached the zenith of its influence on the development of a colonial science community in New South Wales.

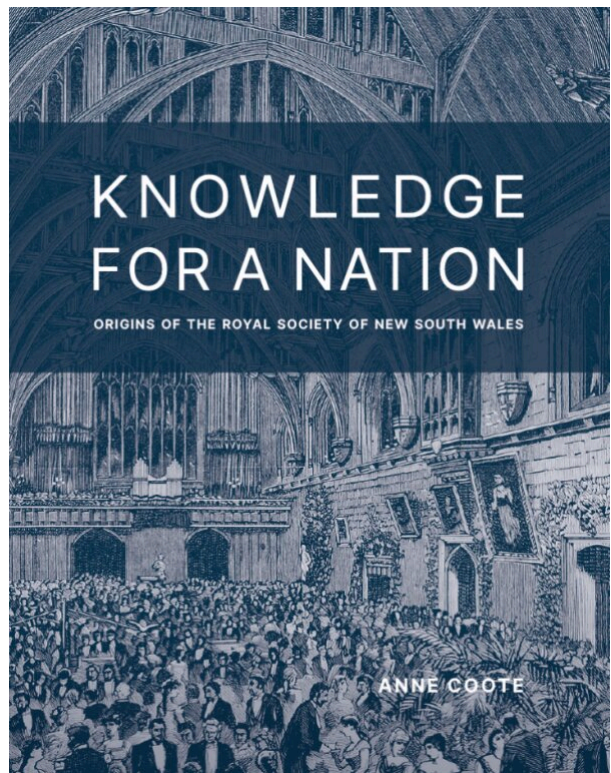


**Australia Day
2025 Honours**

Hopes and disappointments, conflict and camaraderie, challenges and achievements are all part of this story which highlights the society's initiatives in the cause of science, its all-male membership, the women who nevertheless contributed, and the society's glittering conversaciones.

The book concludes in 1914, when a visit to Australia by the British Association for the Advancement of Science demonstrated international recognition for the colonial scientific community which the Royal Society had worked so long to help create.

Orders: Please order your copy through the [RSNSW online shop](#) (members' price, \$50) or [John Reed Books](#) (\$59.95).



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Book Launch

Wiggle Worm Canterbury Tales: from London to Charles Darwin

Frances Rosamond FRSN and Barbara Aigen

Authors

Date: Thursday, 4 February 2025, 5.00 – 6.00 pm AEDT

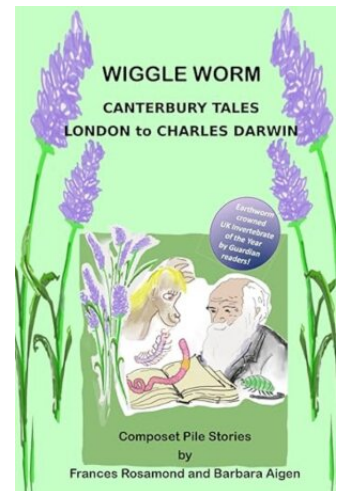
Venue: Manning Valley Art Gallery, 12 Macquarie Street, Taree NSW

All are welcome

Sisters and best friends Frances Rosamond (local author) and Barbara Aigen (from the USA) will discuss their books from the *Compost Pile Tells a Story* collection, including their latest—*Wiggle Worm Canterbury Tales*—published on 30 December 2024. Barbara will bring 20 copies of “Canterbury Tales” for purchase at \$35.

The whimsical tales narrated by Compost Pile mingle terrific adventures packed with drama and excitement—plus there are loads of real facts about the hidden power of worms, engineers of the soil, and other tiny underworld creatures.

Come to learn about the delightful Wiggle Worm and best friends Molly, the millipede and Rollie, the roly-poly, who find their way with pheromone signals, and other amusing characters including Charles Darwin, famous for his earthworm research.



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Events

Western NSW Branch Meeting 2025-1

Title: to be advised

Professor Jane Quinn

Professor of Veterinary Physiology
Gulbali Institute for Land, Water, and the Environment
Charles Sturt University



Date: Wednesday, 5 February 2025, 5.30 for 6.00–7.0 pm AEDT

Venue: Live streaming

All are welcome

This meeting is a joint presentation of Charles Sturt University and the Western NSW Branch of the Royal Society of NSW

Summary: To follow

Speaker biography: To follow

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1329th Ordinary General Meeting and Open Lecture

Inspired by Nature, Designed by Science

Distinguished Professor Ian Paulsen FRSN FAA FASM

Director, ARC Centre of Excellence in Synthetic Biology
Macquarie University



Date: Wednesday, 5 February 2025, 6.00 for 6.30 – 8.00 pm AEDT

Venue: State Library of NSW, Macquarie Street, Sydney

Cash bar from 6.00 pm: Macquarie Room

OGM and Open Lecture: Metcalfe Theatre

Registration: [Registration through Membes](#) is required by 2.00 pm, Tuesday, 4 February, 2025

Entry: Members: \$20; Non-members: \$30; Students: \$0

All are welcome

Please click here to register before
2.00 pm on Tuesday, 5 February 2025

Summary: to follow

Distinguished Professor Ian Paulsen is a world-leading researcher in microbiology and a pioneer in microbial genomics and synthetic biology. He has developed the infrastructure and capabilities to harness the potential of synthetic biology, positioning Australia as a global leader in this transformative field.

As Founder and Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence in Synthetic Biology, Ian aims to catalyse a bioeconomy based on alternatives to fossil fuel-derived products. The Centre develops microbes that convert agricultural biomass into high-value plastics, chemicals, fertilisers and fuels. In just three years, it has spun out nine companies, raising over \$180 million in venture capital and producing innovations such as a methane emission-reducing cattle feed supplement.

Ian co-founded and directs the Australian Genome Foundry, a world-class facility for automated microbe construction and testing. He also co-directs Australia's node of Yeast 2.0, an international consortium building the world's first complex synthetic organism.

His work addresses critical global challenges such as food security, waste management, water quality and decarbonisation, with significant implications for NSW. Ian's research has the potential to create new economic opportunities by leveraging the state's rich biomass resources. His commitment to training future synthetic biology researchers fosters a skilled workforce driving innovation and growth across NSW.

Ian is a Fellow of the Royal Society of NSW and the Australian Academy of Science and a former ARC Laureate Fellow.

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Annual Meeting of the Four Societies 2025

Integrating nuclear generation into the Australian energy grid

Dr Robert Barr AM FIEAust CPEng

Director
Electric Power Consulting



Date: Wednesday, 19 February 2025, 6.00 – 7.30 pm AEDT

Venue: Online and in person at Engineers Australia Sydney Offices Mezzanine Floor, 44 Market Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Entry: No charge (with a registration discount code — to be emailed to RSNSW members) for members of the four Societies. Non-members: \$30

Enquiries: via [email to Engineers Australia Member Services](#), or by phone 1300 653 113

Registration: before 5.30 pm on 19 February 2025 on the [Engineers Australia registration site](#)

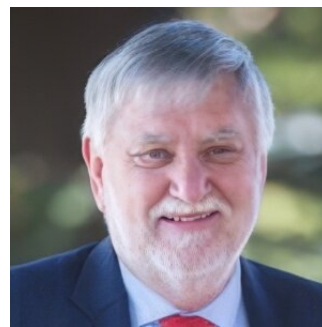
All are welcome

Please click here to register before
5.30 pm on 19 February 2025

Summary: The introduction of nuclear power generation is shaping up as a real possibility in Australia. Methods of integrating new nuclear generation into a grid with existing coal, gas, wind and solar PV generation are discussed with reference to both engineering and economic issues. The identification of feasible long-term optimum generation mixes, using all generation types beyond 2050, is addressed. The economic analysis focuses on total delivered costs to customers including generation, storage, transmission, distribution, rooftop solar PV and behind-the-meter batteries.

Robert Barr is a consulting engineer, director of his company Electric Power Consulting Pty Ltd and past National President of the Electric Energy Society of Australia. Robert has over 40 years of experience in the fields of power systems and electricity distribution. He is a Fellow of Engineers Australia, a member of the Australian Nuclear Association and Consult Australia, and was honoured as the Australian National Professional Electrical Engineer of the Year in 2012. In 2013, Robert was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to engineering,

particularly electrical energy supply and distribution. Robert's main clients include generators, electricity supply companies, HV electricity customers, federal, state and local governments, universities and other large energy users.



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Ideas@theHouse: February 2025

Ideas@theHouse

presented by

**Her Excellency the Honourable
Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of NSW**



**Where Worlds Collide: Exploring the wild/domestic
animal-human interface in One Health**

Dr Sarah Britton

**Director, One Health Unit
Australian Centre for Disease Control
Department of Health and Aged Care**



Date: Thursday, 20 February 2025, 6.30–8.00 pm AEDT

Venue: Face-to-face (by invitation for Society members) and live streaming from Government House Sydney

Registration: Society members will have received an invitation to register for a place by 24 January. Please use this [link for the livestream](#)

Entry: No charge

All are welcome to the live stream

**Please click here to join the live stream on
Thursday, 20 February at 6.30 pm AEDT**

Summary: The wild-domestic-human interface represents a critical juncture where interactions between wildlife, domestic animals, and humans create opportunities for pathogen spillover, threatening global health, biodiversity, and economies. This presentation explores the drivers of these interactions, including habitat encroachment, land-use changes, and human activities, and examines the risks and challenges posed by zoonotic diseases. Through the lens of the One Health approach, we highlight strategies for mitigating these risks, such as integrated surveillance, enhanced biosecurity, and cross-sector collaboration. By addressing the complexities of this

interface, we aim to foster a deeper understanding of its role in safeguarding human, animal, and environmental health.

Sarah Britton is an experienced executive leader with 30 years of One Health and biosecurity experience across government, private, and not-for-profit sectors. She is the Director of One Health in the interim Australian CDC, the principal consultant of One Biosecurity Solutions, and a Non-Executive Director for Australian Eggs. She was the NSW Chief Veterinary Officer leading multiple emergency responses, such as Japanese Encephalitis, and owned two veterinary practices in city and regional locations. Sarah is passionate about One Health and improving human, animal and ecosystem health.

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Southern Highlands Branch Meeting 2025-1

Dr Johnson's Diary

Susannah Fullerton OAM FRSN

Author, Literary Lecturer, and Tour Leader

Date: Thursday, 20 February 2025, 6.30–7.30 pm AEDT

Venue: RSL Mittagong, Carrington Room

All are welcome



Summary: In 1664, the Royal Society set up a committee ‘for improving the English tongue’ and creating a dictionary that might standardise spelling and pronunciation. That plan came to nothing. It was not until 1747 that a scholar named Samuel Johnson published a plan for a Dictionary of the English Language and embarked on the phenomenal task of compiling it. It was published in 1755 to great acclaim and, for more than a hundred years, it remained unsurpassed as a reference book to our language.

Susannah Fullerton tells the extraordinary story of how Johnson came to tackle this vast project, what assistance he received, his struggles and poverty as he worked away in the attic at Gough Square. He was granted honorary degrees and became Dr Johnson as a result, and the dictionary made his fame. The Royal Society had missed a great opportunity, but the world of lexicography was forever enriched by the stupendous efforts of Dr Samuel Johnson.

Susannah Fullerton OAM FRSN, President of Jane Austen Society of Australia, majored in English Literature at the University of Auckland. She then completed a postgraduate degree in Victorian fiction and prose at the University of Edinburgh. For over 25 years Susannah has been President of the Jane Austen Society of Australia. She has lectured extensively on Jane Austen in Australia and overseas and has published many articles about Jane Austen’s works. She is the co-author of *Jane Austen – Antipodean Views* and published *Jane Austen and Crime* in 2004, and *Brief Encounters: Literary Travellers in Australia* (Picador) in 2009. Susannah’s latest books are *A Dance with Jane Austen*, *Happily Ever After: Celebrating Jane Austen’s Pride and Prejudice*, and a memoir *Jane & I: A Tale of Austen Addiction*.

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RSNSW 2025 Annual Dinner and Presentation of Awards



ROYAL
SOCIETY
NEW SOUTH WALES

Royal Society of New South Wales 2025 Annual Dinner and Presentation of Awards

Strangers' Room, Parliament House, Sydney, NSW
7 March 2025, 5.30–10.00 pm AEDT

Dress: Black Tie

Registration: closes at 5.00 pm on Wednesday, 26 February



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Date: Friday, 7 March 2025, 5.30 – 10.00 pm AEDT

Venue: Strangers' Room, Parliament House, 6 Macquarie Street, Sydney

Registration: \$200 (incl. GST) per person, closing at 5.00 pm on Wednesday, 26 February 2025

Dress: Black tie

Enquiry: By email to [RSNSW Annual Dinner enquiries](#)

All are welcome

The Society's Annual Dinner and Award Presentations will be held at Parliament House, Sydney on Friday, 7 March 2025 in the Strangers' Room, the principal dining room in the building with expansive views across the Domain to the Harbour.

We will honour the 2024 winners of the Society's prestigious Career Excellence, Discipline, and Internal Awards. They include two inaugural Awards, in Humanities, Philosophy and Law, and the Milner Interdisciplinary Award.

The Society's Patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of New South Wales, will be in attendance to present the Awards.

Our after-dinner speaker is the 2024 Australian of the Year, Professor Georgina Long AO FAHMS FAA, recognised for her ground-breaking research on targeted therapies for melanoma.

The Society gratefully acknowledges our Platinum Sponsor, Bioplatforms Australia, our Gold Sponsors, UNSW Sydney and the University of Sydney, and our Silver Sponsor, the Quantum Law Group, for supporting this event.

Accessibility

Entrance to the building is via the security gatehouse on Macquarie Street, near the State Library. Security officers will direct you to the building entrance and a staff member will meet you and escort you into the building.

For people who use wheelchairs or have mobility disabilities, there is a ramp and lift access from the Macquarie Street entrance to Reception on level 7.

General access car parking is not available at Parliament House. Nearby commercial car parks are located at:

- Cook and Phillip Park Pool (access via Cathedral St)
- The Domain Car Park (access via St Mary's Road)
- Sydney Hospital, next door to Parliament House (access via Hospital Road).

People with a current Mobility Parking Scheme Permit attending Parliament House may arrange accessible parking, subject to availability on the day. Requests for accessible parking may be made through the [Disability Car Parking Request Form](#) on the Parliamentary Catering website. Enquiries regarding the availability of disability parking can be made by [email](#).

How to register

Do join us to celebrate this occasion by clicking the registration button below. Members and non-members are equally welcome. We encourage you to register younger colleagues and colleagues from across New South Wales.

Dietary requirements can be catered for provided that we are informed in advance when you are registering.

Please register now

All enquiries should be sent by email to [RSNSW Annual Dinner enquiries](#).

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1330th OGM and Open Lecture

Engineering the Future

Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte
FRS FREng FAA FIEEE HonFIEAust

NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer
NSW Government



Date: Wednesday, 2 April 2025, 6.00–8.00 pm AEDT

Venue: Michael Crouch Room, Mitchell Building, State Library of NSW, Shakespeare Place,

Sydney

Registration: Information to follow

Entry: Members: \$20; Non-members: \$30; Students: \$0

Drinks: A cash bar will operate from 5.30 pm

All are welcome

Summary: to follow

Hugh Durrant-Whyte is the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer and Natural Resources Commissioner.

Previously from:

- 2016–18, Hugh was Chief Scientific Advisor to the UK Ministry of Defence
- 2014–16 and 2002-2010, he was a Professor and ARC Federation Fellow at the University of Sydney
- 2010–2014, he was CEO of National ICT Australia (NICTA)
- 1995–2010, he was Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Autonomous Systems and of the Australian Centre for Field Robotics (ACFR).

Hugh is a world-leading authority on machine learning and robotics and their applications in areas that include cargo handling, mining and defence. He has published over 300 research papers, graduated over 70 PhD students, and has won numerous awards and prizes for his work, including being named 2010 NSW Scientist of the Year and 2008 Engineers Australia NSW Engineer of the Year.

In his career, he has worked with many major companies and has co-founded three successful start-up companies. He is particularly well known for his work with Patrick in delivering the automated container terminals in Brisbane and Port Botany, and for his work with Rio Tinto in pioneering and delivering the automated “Mine of the Future”. He is an honorary Fellow of Engineers Australia, a Fellow of the IEEE, a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of London.

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Hunter Branch Meeting 2025-1

Our Magnetic Sun

Dr Hannah Schunker

ARC Future Fellow

School of Information and Physical Sciences

University of Newcastle



Date: Thursday, 20 March 2025, 5.30 pm for 6.00 – 7.00 pm (AEDT)

Venue: NEX, Newcastle Exhibition & Convention Centre, 309 King Street, Newcastle West, NSW

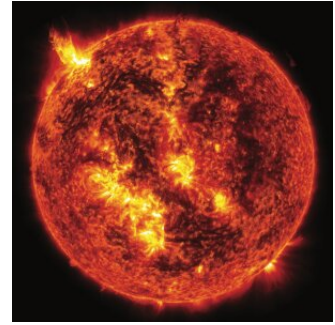
Registration: [Please register](#) before 2.00 pm on Wednesday, 19 March 2025

Entry: Members, \$15; Non-members, \$25; Students, \$5

All are welcome

Please click here to register before
2.00 pm on Tuesday, 19 March 2025

Summary: The Sun is a magnetic star, with its magnetic field driving a wide range of phenomena, from dark sunspots on the surface to large explosions of energy in the outer atmosphere. Generated by the motion of electrically conductive plasma within the Sun's interior, the magnetic activity cycle of the Sun peaks every 11 years.



One of the key challenges in solar physics is understanding the mechanism of the solar dynamo that generates the solar cycle. Recent advances in numerical simulations, combined with high-resolution observations of the Sun's surface, are helping to address this question. Furthermore, placing the Sun in the context of other Sun-like stars reveals that its magnetic activity is atypical, offering new insights into stellar dynamo processes.

The Sun's magnetic field is the primary driver of space weather, influencing the solar wind that carries energetic particles outward through the heliosphere. These particles shape space weather phenomena, including auroras, which have recently been visible at latitudes as far from the South Pole as Newcastle as we approach solar maximum. Understanding the magnetic field's generation and behaviour is critical for improving predictions of space weather events that impact Earth's technological systems—such as communications, navigation, and defence infrastructure. This research also advances our understanding of space weather dynamics on exoplanets, with implications for the habitability of distant worlds and the potential for life beyond our Solar System.

Hannah Schunker is an ARC Future Fellow in the physics discipline at the University of Newcastle (Australia). Her doctorate was conferred in 2007 from Monash University under the supervision of Professor Paul Cally. She then held research scientist positions at the Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research (Germany) in the Department of Solar and Stellar Interiors under the director Professor Laurent Gizon. Her overarching science goal is to understand one of the fundamental problems in astrophysics: the solar dynamo. She attacks the problem with a top-down approach from two perspectives: i) using helioseismology to understand the formation mechanism and subsurface structure of magnetic active regions on the Sun, and ii) using asteroseismology to probe the internal dynamics of other stars to exploit the solar-stellar connection. Space weather is entirely driven by the Sun's magnetic field and therefore, from a practical perspective, her work towards understanding the origin of the Sun's magnetic activity is critical to making reliable space weather forecasts.

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Branch and Program Reports

Report from the Activities with Impact Program

The Society provides an active program of events through its Hunter, New England North West, Southern Highlands, and Western NSW branches, and in Sydney. With events planned and held recently by the branches reported separately in this Bulletin, this section focuses on the Master Plan's *Activities with Impact* program and events held in Sydney.

Activities with Impact Planning for 2025

An *Activities with Impact* working group is currently being convened to consider the range of activities offered by the Royal Society of New South Wales, both in Sydney and in all its branches, and to attempt to evaluate their impact. The Working Group will bring together branch representatives to report on their programs, and those leading offerings such as the Annual Dinner, Ideas@theHouse and the Forum at Government House, luncheon talks at the Union Club, excursions, and travel. We hope to assess the level of engagement of our Fellows and Members and thus tailor our offerings.

In late 2023, the Council of the Society accepted the broad recommendations of the consultant, Poetic Thinking: the need to revitalise the Society, to set it on a firm financial basis, to broaden the membership base, to offer 'Activities with Impact', to engage the audience, to communicate effectively, and to have efficient and high-quality operations. Over the last year the Executive and Council have been engaged in evaluating our offerings and developing a master plan to ensure our future. This stream of action, 'Activities with Impact', was designed to ensure we dealt as a Society with issues of social importance and engaged our audience. It links critically with plans to broaden the audience and to communicate what we do more generally. We need to know who the newer audiences are to be sure we are on the right track.

It is not easy to define what we mean by impact. Insofar as we have a measure of impact, we use the webmaster's reports on attendance and YouTube viewing. We do not make an impact in the broader media, so measures of media viewership, used by advertising industries, are not appropriate. Nor would consumer behaviour or 'cut through' (recognition, again used in the industry) necessarily reflect what we are doing. Our consumers are our Fellows and Members. How we assess our impact will differ depending on the audience we seek to attract.

Attendance at meetings and engagement of Members and Fellows has been an issue over the two centuries of the Society's somewhat interrupted history. Social events, such as Conversaciones and Dinners were the most successful, and special interest groups branched off to become separate—in some cases learned societies. The current Society is interdisciplinary, informed by scholarship but not in a specialist sense, and with the ambition to have an impact on society. (In this respect, it is similar to the Royal Society of Arts in the UK, which prides itself on its generalist focus and social impact).

Poetic Thinking recommended a mix of strategies—'ideas of a popular appeal', a 'social salon', 'industry panels' of international online speakers of high repute, less formal events with more discussion, Fellows and Members lunches, themed events, more controversial topics, and shorter communications (rather than just YouTube)

The Program Committee has tried out most of these ideas over 2024. On a rough count, there have been over 40 events advertised. We began the year with a talk on Australia's productivity, and then a discussion of Civil Society. Sir Michael Marmot spoke online from London, and there was an industry panel on housing. Student awards were held at Western Sydney University, and Robyn Williams then showcased them on his radio program on ABC Radio National. Davina Jackson organised the launch of Anne Coote's history of the Society, followed by a post-talk dinner. Don Hector and Roy Green have begun the luncheon talk series, and a cash bar was reintroduced after the cancellation of drinks at Sydney events, to attract those members who enjoyed the social

ambience. Further, our YouTube viewership is international and growing, and the content is of high quality.

We have a wide range of events, as listed below.

Initiative Domain	Event	Lead Responsibility	Details
Signature Events			
	Annual Dinner	In the past, the President	The Dinner Committee now coordinates this event
	Ideas@the House	The President	The host is the Governor who both invites and chooses speakers
	Royal Society of NSW and Learned Academies Forum	Forum Committee, this past year the Program Committee	Government House hosts this all-day event, organised by an internal committee of RSNSW
	Travel	RSNSW branded tours with Academy Travel	Most recently a European tour in 2019, with a similar tour planned for 2025
Regular Program			
	Sydney OGMs	Program Committee	Typically, 6 face-to-face events (in the State Library) and 4–5 online held on the first Wednesday of the month
	Named Lectures, Awards	Program Committee	Liaison with universities is required
	Branch events	Organised by branch committees	Coordination with branches is required
Social Events			
	Symposia, other than already programmed	Organised by individuals	
	Provocations and Inspirations	3-4 a year on a theme	Luncheon talks at the Union, University and Schools Club
	Drinks before and dinners following events	Program Committee and Branch Committees	SLNSW supplies a cash bar for Sydney events. Dinner at the nearby Mordeo restaurant has worked well. Branches arrange for social occasions (drinks and dinner) following their events
	Christmas event	Program Committee	
	Partnership events	Annual Four Societies Lecture	Hosted by RSNSW every 4 years

Do consider attending these events. If you can help with the organisation of any of these please let me know: We need Fellows and Members to create the Society they wish us to be.

Should you have other new ideas and thoughts that you would like to contribute, please let me know by emailing these to rsnswevents@royalsoc.org.au.

Christina Slade FRSN
Chair, Activities with Impact Working Group

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Report: 1328th OGM and Open Lecture, 4 December 2025

At the final event for 2024, the 1328th Ordinary General Meeting, held on Wednesday, 4 December, Scientia Professor Helen Christensen AO FASSA FAHMS challenged the efficacy of the recent ban on social media, imposed by the Australian Government, in a talk titled [Social Media and Smartphones for Youth: What's the Story?](#).



Professor Christensen opened the talk by asking, 'Is social media a convenient scapegoat for the increase in youth mental health problems?' To answer this question, she presented scientific evidence on three key issues. The first was: *Do we have a problem?* The answer was a definitive yes. Professor Christensen presented compelling evidence that anxiety, depression, self-harm, and suicide are all on the rise, particularly among young women.

The second issue she raised was: *Is the penetration of smartphones and the uptake of social media sufficient to be the potential cause of the increase in mental health problems?* The answer was a qualified yes. Professor Christensen summarised 35 studies examining this issue and concluded that while the increase in youth mental health problems correlated with the rise in social media usage, none of the studies established a causal relationship.

The third issue she explored was: *What is the amount of evidence for a causal relationship? Does detoxing from social media improve mental health?* She presented a meta-analysis of 23 studies but concluded there was insufficient evidence to support this claim.

Professor Christensen ended the talk by urging us to listen more closely to those at the heart of the issue—adolescents. She proposed several possible explanations for the mental health crisis and argued persuasively that, given the scale of the problem, more research is needed to understand the underlying causes. She also suggested that the government would be better served by regulating the content on social media platforms, rather than imposing a blanket ban on adolescents.

The talk was followed by a lively debate on how the Royal Society of NSW might provide a forum for scientific evidence to be used more effectively in government policy.

Should you have missed Professor Christensen's talk at the 4 December event, a [recording is available](#) on our YouTube channel.

Sally Cripps FRSN
Chair, Program Committee

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Preview of the 2025 Events Program in Sydney

Helen Christensen's wonderful talk, *Social Media and Smartphones for Youth: What's the Story?*, was a great segue into the theme of this year's program—**Science, Society, and Global Challenges**.

This year, we will host a series of talks and panel discussions exploring how science, in collaboration with civil society, can address some of our greatest challenges. These include but are not limited to clean and reliable energy, water as our most precious resource, social inequality, mental health, and democracy under siege.

Science clearly plays a tremendously important role in tackling these issues—but it is not the only one. To have real impact, we must engage with other sectors of society, including government, industry, and civil society. The goal of the program is to provide a platform for these challenges to be discussed, allowing the Society to decide which issues to pursue and secure funding for so that we can effect meaningful change.

To kick off the program on **5 February**, we are excited to have Dr Ian Paulsen, Distinguished Professor at Macquarie University and Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence in Synthetic Biology, giving a talk titled *“Inspired by Nature, Designed by Science”*, which has clear implications for synthetic fuels.

In **March**, we will hold the presentation of the 2024 Early Career Research Awards at the University of Technology Sydney. Then, in **April**, the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer, Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte, will speak on *“Engineering the Future”* and its implications for our Net Zero strategy. Following this, there will be a panel discussion with representatives from government, civil society, and academia on *“Breaking the Chains of Inequality: The Evidence for What Works.”*

I look forward to lively discussions at these events.

Sally Cripps FRSN
Chair, Program Committee

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Hunter Branch Report

Events Program for 2025

The Society's Hunter Branch has provided the following information for its events planned in the first half of 2025.

All events will be held at NEX, the Newcastle Exhibition and Conference Centre located at 309 King Street, Newcastle West.



Meeting 2025-1 Thursday, 20 March 6.00 – 7.30 pm AEDT	Space Weather Dr Hannah Schunker ARC Future Fellow School of Information and Physical Sciences University of Newcastle
Meeting 2025-2 Thursday, 15 May 6.00 – 7.30 pm AEDT	An energy storage start-up in the Hunter Professor Thomas Nannr Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer Allegro Energy

George Willis FRSN
Chair, Hunter Branch

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Southern Highlands Branch Report

Events Program for 2025

The Southern Highlands Branch has provided the following information for its exciting program of ten events in 2025.

All events will be held at the Mittagong RSL (148-150 Old Hume Highway, Mittagong) in the Carrington Room.



Meeting 2025-1 Thursday, 20 February 6.30 – 7.30 pm AEDT	Dr Johnson's Dictionary Susannah Fullerton OAM FRSN Author, Literary Lecturer, and Tour Leader
Meeting 2025-2 Thursday, 20 March 6.30 – 7.30 pm AEDT	The Curator and the Cats Dr Craig Barker Head, Public Engagement Chau Chak Wing Museum University of Sydney
Meeting 2025-3 Thursday, 17 April 6.30 – 7.30 pm AEST	Using Precision Medicine to Eradicate Childhood Cancer Associate Professor Mark Cowley Deputy Director, Enabling Platforms Children's Cancer Institute
Meeting 2025-4 Thursday, 15 May 6.30 – 7.30 pm AEST	Space Race 2.0 Dr Brad Tucker Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics Australian National University
Meeting 2025-5 Thursday, 19 June 6.30 – 7.30 pm AEST	The Way We Are Dr Hugh Mackay AO FRSN FAPS Psychologist and Social Researcher
Meeting 2025-6 Thursday, 17 July 6.30 – 7.30 pm AEST	Bhutan: Lessons in Tough Love Dr Michael de Percy FRSA FCILT MRSN Senior Lecturer, School of Politics, Economics, and Society University of Canberra
Meeting 2025-7 Thursday, 21 August 6.30 – 7.30 pm AEST	Mining Water on the Moon Professor Andrew Dempster School of Electrical Engineering and Communications UNSW Sydney
Meeting 2025-8 Thursday, 18 September 6.30 – 7.30 pm AEST	Topic: TBA Professor Fred Watson AM Australia's Astronomer-at-Large
Meeting 2025-9 Thursday, 16 October 6.30 – 7.30 pm AEDT	Drones and AI in Conservation Studies Dr Roxane Francis Research Fellow School of Biological, Earth, and Environmental Science UNSW Sydney

Meeting 2025-10 Thursday, 20 November 6.30 – 7.30 pm AEDT	Topic: TBA Dr Jessica Milner Davis FRSN Formerly Honorary Research Associate, Department of English University of Sydney
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Anne Wood FRSN
Chair, Southern Highlands Branch

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Western NSW Branch Report

In conjunction with the Western NSW Branch of the Royal Society of New South Wales, Charles Sturt University is conducting its Provocations Public Lecture series that showcases and celebrates research at the University.



Forthcoming Events

The program for 2025 has been recently announced.

Speakers for the 2025 season are:

- Professor Jane Quinn, Professor of Veterinary Physiology, Charles Sturt University—live streaming (5 February 2025)
- Professor Christopher Blanchard, Professor of Food Science, Charles Sturt University—live streaming (16 April 2025)
- Distinguished Professor Jing Sun, Professor of Statistics, Charles Sturt University—live streaming (25 June 2025)
- Distinguished Professor Geoffrey Gurr, Professor of Applied Ecology, Charles Sturt University—live streaming (20 August 2025)
- Professor Juliette Tobias-Webb, Professor of Practice, Behavioural Science and Translational Research, Charles Sturt University—live streaming (20 October 2025).



Nilima Mathai
Treasurer, Western NSW Branch

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The Society and Social Media

The Society's presence on our social media channels—[Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [X/Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#)—is engaging an increased following, and we continue to build our repository of events on YouTube.

The YouTube channel now has over 1,350 subscribers, while the 184 online videos and 'shorts' have received over 160,000 views.

The social media icons at the end of this newsletter will take the reader to our pages on these platforms, from where you can follow, subscribe, and be notified of new content.

As a Society member, please consider subscribing to our social media channels to support the Society's outreach and encourage your friends, colleagues and members of your networks to do so.

YouTube recordings of recent events

All online presentations and all face-to-face presentations held in Sydney and by the Hunter (since April 2024), New England North West, and Western NSW Branches are recorded and uploaded to the Society's YouTube channel. These can be accessed directly from our [YouTube](#) channel or the [Presentations](#) page of the RSNSW website.

For convenience, the video links below provide access to recordings from the most recent three months. We hope that these will be of interest to members.



YouTube recording of the presentation from the 1328th Ordinary General Meeting (4 December 2024) on *Social media and smartphones for youth: What's the story?*, delivered by Scientia Professor Helen Christensen AO FASSA FAHMS, Professor of Psychiatry and Mental Health, UNSW Sydney and Honorary Professorial Fellow at the Black Dog Institute. A summary of the lecture, and a brief biography of the presenter, are available from the [online event notice](#).



YouTube recording of the Launch and Inaugural Meeting of the New England North West Branch of the Royal Society of NSW, held at the University of New England (UNE) in Armidale on the evening of Monday, 25 November. The theme of the evening was *Women in STEM*, comprising keynote presentations by Dr Amy Moss and Dr Marissa Betts, ARC DECRA Fellows and Senior Lecturers in the UNE School of Environmental and Rural Science at UNE, followed by a panel convened by Professor Vicki Bitsika AM FRSN, Deputy Chair of the NENW Branch, and including Kate Armstrong-Smith (Othelia), Jena Glover (Epic Architecture), and Dr Rebecca Williams (UNE), Dr Amy Moss, and Dr Marissa Betts. Brief biographies of the presenters and panellists are available from the [online event notice](#).

A poster for an event titled 'THREATS TO DEMOCRACY'. The title is in large, bold, white letters with a red outline, set against a dark background with a red and black pattern. To the right, the date 'Thursday 14 November 2024' and location 'Government House Sydney' are listed. Below the title, it says 'Presented by The Royal Society of New South Wales & Learned Academies Forum'. At the bottom, there is a row of logos for various organizations: The University of New England, Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences, Australian Academy of the Humanities, Australian Academy of Science, Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, ATSE (Australian Academy of Technological Sciences & Engineering), the Royal Coat of Arms, and the NSW Government logo. A red banner at the bottom of the poster contains the text 'YOUTUBE PLAYLIST (6 VIDEOS)'.



YouTube recording of the presentation from the 1327th Ordinary General Meeting (6 November 2024) on *Australian Immigration Policy and the Federal Election* delivered by Dr Abul Rizvi PSM, a former Deputy Secretary of the Australian Government Department of Immigration. A summary of the lecture, and a brief biography of the presenter, are available from the [online event notice](#).



YouTube recording of the presentation from the October Ideas@theHouse (31 October 2024) titled *The Big Thaw: Who Governs Antarctica's Ice* and delivered by Professor Tim Stephens FAAL, Professor of International Law at the University of Sydney. The [online event notice](#) provides a summary of the lecture and the presenter's biography..



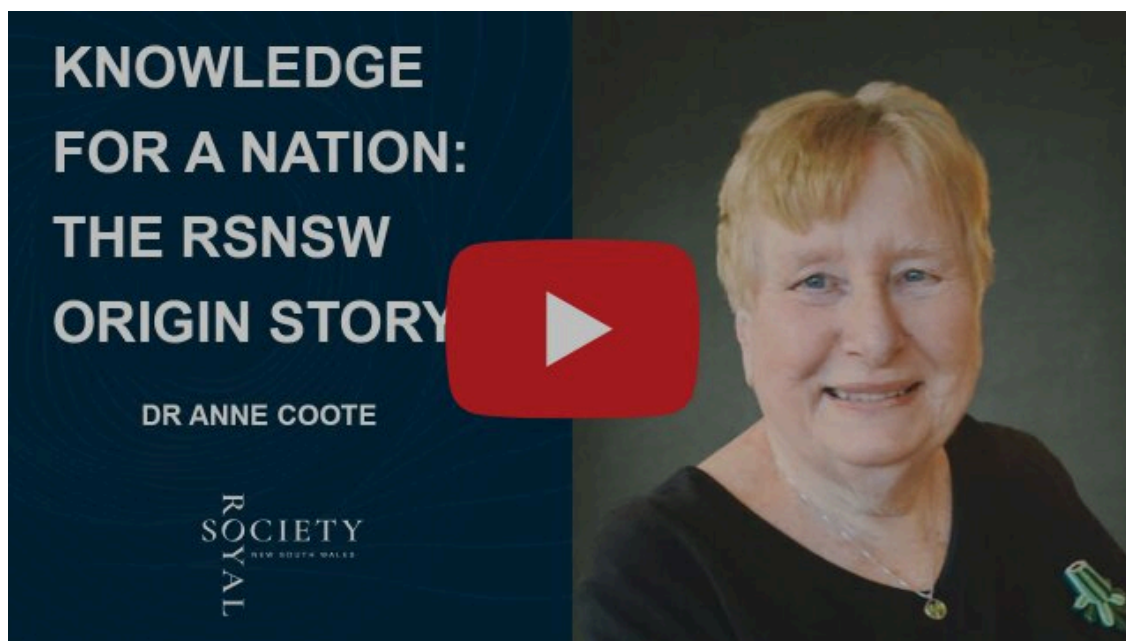
YouTube recording of the presentation from the Hunter Branch Meeting 2024-4 (24 October 2024) on *How can we afford the healthcare system of our dreams?* delivered by Professor Francesco Paolucci of the University of Newcastle Business School. A summary of the lecture, and a brief biography of the presenter, are available from the [online event notice](#).



YouTube recording of the presentation from the Western NSW Branch Meeting 2024-5 (23 October 2024) on *Equity within the Academy—rethinking the 'why' of higher education* delivered by Distinguished Professor Sarah O'Shea, Dean of Graduate Research at Charles Sturt University. A summary of the lecture, and a brief biography of the presenter, are available from the [online event notice](#).



YouTube recording of the presentation from the inaugural meeting of the Society's Provocations and Inspirations lunchtime series held at the Union, University, and Schools Club in Sydney (22 October 2025) at which Dr Ken Henry AC, Former Secretary to the Treasury and Former Chair, National Australia Bank, spoke on *Inequality in Australia*. A summary of the talk, and a brief biography of the presenter, are available from the [online event notice](#).



YouTube recording of the presentation from the 1326th Ordinary General Meeting (2 October) comprising the launch of the book, *Knowledge for a Nation: Origins of the Royal Society of New South Wales*. The recording includes an introduction from the Governor of New South Wales, the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, the launch of the book by Dr Caroline Butler-Bowdon, State Librarian of New South Wales, an illustrated presentation on the book by its author, Dr Anne Coote, and some reflections on the book and of the darker periods of our history about 19th-century attitudes towards Indigenous peoples, from Emeritus Professor Peter Shergold AC FRSN, the Society's Vice-President. A summary of the lecture, and a brief biography of the author, are available from the [online event notice](#).

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Edited by: [Lindsay Botten](#) FRSN, Webmaster, Royal Society of New South Wales

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