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ROYAL
SOCIETY
NEW SOUTH WALES

The Bulletin 505

June 2026

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A message from the President

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

During May, the Royal Society of NSW held three events across the State. The Sydney event was focused on energy, with Professor Jeffrey Reimers FRSN FAA FRACI, Director of the International Centre for Quantum and Molecular Structures at Shanghai University and an Adjunct Fellow in the School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences at UTS, talking about '[Household Electricity Use and Investment](#)' online following the 1340th OGM on 6 May. In a [fascinatingly detailed presentation](#), now available on YouTube, Professor Reimers explained his own path to a fine-grained understanding of the highly complex pricing of electricity in the Eastern states of Australia. His forensic examination of the retailer's plans, distributor tariffs, spot prices, and the costs and benefits of home solar power generation revealed why the community is so baffled, yet provided us with the necessary information to simultaneously save money and be environmentally friendly.



The Society prides itself on the range of topics that it presents. The branches proved the point in May, with Susannah Fullerton talking about her [top ten places in Literary France](#) on 21 May at the Southern Highlands Branch. On 27 May, the New England North West Branch held an evening event at which Professor David Durrheim led a distinguished evening panel in Armidale on the topic '[One Health for a Changing World: Forests, Farms and Families](#).' A recording of this event will be available on YouTube in early June. Unfortunately, the online lecture by Professor Jade Forwood on '[Staying ahead of viral](#)

[threats — host interactions shape pandemic preparedness](#)', scheduled for 27 May, had to be postponed to a later date.

The Council will meet again on 17 June. Professor Sean Brawley and Dr Michael Taylor have joined the Executive Committee. I am grateful to them for putting their names forward. The new committee structure, which I alerted you to in the last Bulletin, is now in place. I am very grateful to those who volunteered to join the committees. Susi Steigler-Peters has taken over as chair of the Sydney Program committee, with support from Debra Perik, Professor Susan Rowland, Emeritus Professor Graham Town, Honorary Professor Chris Bertram, Samuel Tensigh, and Emeritus Professor Lindsay Botten. Dr Davina Jackson is leading the Publishing Committee and has convened the process for finding a new editor for the Journal. Dr Liz Killen is working on a proposal for a podcast series within that committee. Dr Michael Taylor will chair the new Finance, Risk, and Governance Committee, which will include Dr Jessica Milner Davis and Ashley Overhill, as well as the Treasurer, Erin Gao, and the Vice-President, Lindsay Botten. The President and Secretary are members of all committees *ex officio*.

We recognise the need to expand our membership and fellowship. Council has agreed that the Associate Membership category will be made available to a younger group, including not just postgraduates and undergraduates, but also senior school students. We hope to develop this initiative over the coming months. We will also consider the possibility of introducing Associate Fellowships. The Council has also agreed to propose a rule change to the membership that will provide for an additional place on the Council, designated for an early-career researcher, to bring the voice of young people into the Society's governing body. A ballot for this rule change will be conducted shortly.

Planning is underway for the annual RSNSW and Learned Academies Forum. It will be held at Government House on Thursday, 5 November. This year, the theme is taken from Derek Parfit: 'We live during the hinge of history... If we act wisely in the next few centuries, humanity will survive its most dangerous and decisive period... What now matters most is that we avoid ending human history.' (On What Matters, 2011, vol. 2). We will focus on tipping points across climate change, technology, medicine, geopolitics, and economics.

Christina Slade FRSN

[President](#)

[Royal Society of New South Wales](#)

For your diary

The Society's annual events program is published in the online [Events Calendar](#), which is updated regularly. Upcoming events, organised by the Society in the next two months, are listed below and, in greater detail, in the following Events section. Events by cognate and partner organisations are included in the events section of this newsletter.

- [1341st Ordinary General Meeting and Open Lecture](#) (Wednesday, 10 June 2026, 6.00–7.30 pm AEST, Gallery Room, Mitchell Building, State Library of NSW, Shakespeare Place, Sydney) *The Circular Economy: A pathway to environmental sustainability?* Professor Sami Kara FRSN FFCIRP FACATECH, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, UNSW Sydney and Professor Michael

Hauschild, Department of Environmental and Resource Engineering, Technical University of Denmark

- [Ideas@theHouse: June 2026](#) (Tuesday, 16 June 2026, 6.30–8.00 pm AEST, Face-to-face (by invitation for Society members) at Government House Sydney, and live streaming) *City Futures: from challenge to opportunity – by design*, Leone Lorrimer LFRAIA
- [Joint AIP, RACI, RSNSW, and ANSTO Event: June 2026](#) (Tuesday, 16 June 2026, 7.00 – 8.00 pm AEST, AINSE Theatre, ANSTO, Lucas Heights and online) *Special Event Panel: OPAL | Past, Present, and Future*
- [Southern Highlands Branch Meeting 2026-5](#) (Thursday, 19 June 2026, 6.30–7.30 pm AEST, RSL Mittagong Carrington Room) *Roaming Reptile of the Eocene*, Dr Michael Stein, Palaeoscientist, Archer Palaeontology Laboratory, UNSW Sydney
- [Hunter Branch Meeting 2026-2](#) (Thursday, 25 June 2026, 5.30 pm for 6.00 – 7.00 pm AEST, NEX, Newcastle Exhibition and Convention Centre, 309 King Street, Newcastle West, NSW) *Forever Chemicals, Future Generations: What Environmental Pollution Means for Reproductive Health*, Dr Jacinta Martin, Reproductive Biologist and Lecturer, University of Newcastle and the Hunter Medical Research Institute
- [1342nd Ordinary General Meeting and Open Lecture](#) (Wednesday, 1 July 2026, 6.00–7.30 pm AEST, Gallery Room, Mitchell Building, State Library of NSW, Shakespeare Place, Sydney) *Thin-film photovoltaics – the enabling engine for next-generation tandem solar cells* Scientia Professor Xiaojing Hao 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
- [Lunchtime series: Provocations and Inspirations—July 2026](#) (Tuesday, 14 May 2026, 12.15 for 12.30 – 2.00 pm AEST, Union University and Schools Club, 25 Bent Street, Sydney) *Energy: Cost and Enabling Technologies*, Tim Buckley, Founder of the public interest think tank, Climate Energy Finance
- [Southern Highlands Branch Meeting 2026-6](#) (Thursday, 16 July 2026, 6.30–7.30 pm AEST, RSL Mittagong Carrington Room) *Not just a gentleman's club: The origins and significance of the Royal Society of NSW*, Dr Anne Coote, Author and Historian

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News

Society President interviewed on the ABC Science Show on the 'Ambitious Australia' Report

Recently, the Society President, **Emeritus Professor Christina Slade**, was interviewed on the ABC Science Show by its presenter and Society Fellow, Robyn Williams, following the release in December 2025 of the Department of Industry report '[Ambitious Australia](#)' on research and development in Australia and the structural problems holding the nation back.

In the interview, Professor Slade praised the report for clearly identifying long-standing structural weaknesses in Australia's research and innovation system. Highlighted in the

discussions were chronic underinvestment in R&D, fragmented and inefficient research funding, poor translation of research into industry outcomes, risk-averse business culture, and tax and regulatory settings that discourage investment and drive talented researchers overseas. Also discussed were the need for stronger industry–university collaboration, targeted national research priorities, and tax incentives to encourage private and superannuation fund investment in research.



Christina Slade
President, Royal Society of NSW

Professor Slade stressed that genuine cultural change, in universities, government, and business, is essential but difficult to achieve. While welcoming the report’s recognition of humanities and social sciences, she warned that complex challenges like climate change, defence and technology require ethical, social and geopolitical perspectives alongside science and technology.

The [recording of the interview](#), which originally aired on 11 April 2026, is available from the [ABC Science Show](#) website.

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Chloe Kwan, Associate Member, on the ABC Science Show

Chloe Kwan is one of the Society’s newest and youngest members, joining the Society early in 2026 as an Associate Member. Chloe, a Year 10 student at St George Girls High School, has a passionate interest in science, although that was not always the case. Recently, she penned a most insightful essay for the Teachers’ Guild of NSW magazine in which she reflects on what turned her off science as a young child, and how science teaching at primary school might be changed to excite more students like her.



Chloe Kwan

In [her essay](#), Chloe Kwan argues that Australia’s education system fails to nurture children’s innate scientific curiosity, causing disengagement from science as early as primary school. She highlights a range of persistent problems: inadequate resources, minimal hands-on experimentation, lack of repetition, insufficient instructional time, and teachers who often feel underprepared to teach science with confidence. She emphasises that such gaps create weak foundations that persist into high school, leaving students feeling lost and uninterested. Chloe proposes solutions, including better funding, dedicated science spaces, more teacher training, early exposure to competitions and initiatives, and integrating science with students’ personal interests, concluding that meaningful reform can inspire a new generation of Australian scientists.

In the past month, the ABC Science Show has serialised the essay, with Chloe reading from it in three parts, which are available from the ABC Science Show website: [Part 1](#) (18

April 2026), [Part 2](#) (25 April 2026), [Part 3](#) (2 May 2026).

Congratulations, Chloe, on being such a wonderful advocate for science and science education.

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Honorary Doctorate awarded to Stephen Garton AM FRSN FAHA FASSA

The Society warmly congratulates **Professor Stephen Garton AM FRSN FAHA FASSA** on receiving an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from the University of Sydney on 5 May 2026 in recognition of his exceptional leadership, scholarship, and long-standing service to the institution and the humanities. The citation, delivered by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mark Scott, described Professor Garton as one of Australia's most accomplished university leaders and historians.



Congratulations

An alumnus of the University, Stephen Garton has helped to shape the University of Sydney for more than three decades through a series of senior roles, including Dean of Arts and Social Sciences, Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, and ultimately Vice-Chancellor and Principal. His leadership guided the University through major academic restructures, financial reforms, and the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, while advancing key initiatives such as the Indigenous Strategy, the Gadigal Student Centre, and significant organisational reforms.

A distinguished historian with seven books and over 90 publications, Professor Garton is a Fellow of multiple learned academies and currently serves as President of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. His honorary doctorate recognises both his scholarly impact and his enduring institutional stewardship.

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Society Fellows, Andrew Dzurak and Timothy Schmidt, elected as 2026 Academy of Science Fellows

The Royal Society of New South Wales is delighted to learn of the recognition of two of its Fellows in the recently announced list of new Fellows of the Australian Academy of Science, elected in May 2026.

They are:

- **Scientia Professor Andrew Dzurak FRSN FAA** — Professor of Quantum Engineering in the School of Electrical Engineering and Telecommunications at UNSW Sydney, and the Chief Executive Officer and Founder of Diraq, an Australian start-up company developing fault-tolerant quantum processors, and
- **Professor Timothy Schmidt FRSN FAA FRACI FRSC** — Professor and Head of the School of Chemistry at UNSW Sydney, and the winner of the 2022 RSNSW Liversidge Award and Lectureship in the Chemical Sciences.



The Academy citation for **Professor Dzurak** states that he is recognised internationally as a leader in the field of spin-based qubits, with his scientific advancements having played a pivotal role in the ongoing development of semiconductor-based quantum computing. Over a period of 25 years, he has made important and highly-cited contributions across all aspects of the field, including new qubit concepts, new nanofabrication technologies, the first experimental demonstrations of qubit realisations, world record qubit fidelity demonstrations, and novel qubit operational protocols.



The Academy citation for **Professor Schmidt** notes that he is an eminent physical chemist whose work spans solar energy and astrochemistry. He has achieved world-record photochemical upconversion efficiencies and was the first to apply this process to solar cells, advancing prospects for next-generation renewable energy. His research has also transformed understanding of molecules in space, particularly the fundamental C_2 molecule, and illuminated the behaviour of highly reactive species through pioneering gas-phase spectroscopy. These discoveries have reshaped knowledge of molecular structure and reactivity across chemistry and physics. His international impact has been recognised through major honours, including the Coblentz Award (2010) and the Broida Prize (2015).



The Council of the Royal Society of New South Wales extends its warmest congratulations to Professor Dzurak and Professor Schmidt on this latest recognition of their outstanding research achievements.

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Call for Expressions of Interest: Honorary Editor, Journal & Proceedings of the Royal Society of NSW

The Royal Society of New South Wales is calling for expressions of interest from Members and Fellows to become the next Editor of the Society's [Journal and Proceedings](#). We are seeking the services of a highly talented scholar who is skilled and experienced in editing reputable scholarly journals in the sciences or social sciences.



The position of Editor is honorary, and the successful applicant will be *ex officio* an appointed member of the RSNSW Council, the Society's governing body.

Expressions of interest, which close at 5.00 pm AEST on Monday, 15 June 2026, should be sent to Dr Davina Jackson, Chair, RSNSW Publishing Committee, at publications@royalsoc.org.au.

About the Journal

The Journal & Proceedings of the Royal Society of New South Wales (JProcRSNSW) has been published regularly since 1867, first under the name Transactions, before being renamed Journal & Proceedings in 1876.

Facsimiles of almost all the published editions have been digitised and archived online by the Smithsonian Institution's Biodiversity Heritage Library, and the RSNSW website includes a bibliography of contents of each edition and an author-alphabetical listing of all but the most recent articles, with links to the online facsimiles.

Since 2015, the Journal has been edited on an honorary basis by Emeritus Professor Robert Marks FRSN, who has signalled that he will retire on completion of the second number of the current volume, to be published in December 2026. There will be a transition period of co-operation between the retiring and incoming editors, and support from the Editorial Board.

Role and responsibilities

- Commissioning, editing and correcting text and image content for the biannual editions of the Journal, with control of ethical and legal concerns such as authentic authorship, plagiarism, irregular uses of AI-generated material, factual accuracy, copyright and fair dealing
- Managing the appointment of, and the advisory, reviewing and editing support from, members of the Editorial Board, appointed by the RSNSW Council
- Managing production of all content through professionally competent page layout processes, primarily using Adobe InDesign and Acrobat software
- Membership of and reporting to meetings (usually online) of the RSNSW Council and its Publications Committee
- Covering reports on major proceedings of the RSNSW, including its annual Forum and regular Ideas@theHouse symposia
- Liaising with the Society's Council and Publishing Committee on ways to improve the Journal's content, management and relevance to members
- Maintaining an operational mailing list/database of Journal subscribers, legal deposit institutions, and other appropriate recipients of the Journal, and arranging for distribution of these copies to all listed recipients, and

- Liaising with the Society's Council and Publishing Committee on the recruitment of necessary editorial and administrative assistance.

Qualifications and capabilities

The successful candidate will have:

- Experience and skills in effectively editing one or more reputable scholarly journals, preferably specialising in science and/or social science disciplines and including ethical management of peer-review processes, appointment of suitably qualified editorial board members, commissioning, editing and correcting text and imagery submissions, management of page layouts using Adobe InDesign and Acrobat PDF publishing software, and the management of printing and/or distribution of each edition.
- Personal ability to liaise proactively, pleasantly and effectively with the Journal's stakeholders (contributors, editorial advisors, the Society's Officers, Fellows and Members, and leaders of relevant science, social science and public sector organisations relevant to the Journal's content and readership).

For more information and contact

Dr Davina Jackson
Chair, RSNSW Publishing Committee
publications@royalsoc.org.au

Expressions of interest close:
COB Monday, 15 June 2026

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Events

1341st OGM and Open Lecture — 10 June 2026

The Circular Economy: A pathway to environmental sustainability?

Professor Sami Kara FRSN FFCIRP FACATECH (1)
and

Professor Michael Hauschild (2)

(1) School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, UNSW Sydney

(2) Department of Environmental and Resource Engineering, Technical University of Denmark

The
Circular Economy:
A pathway to
environmental
sustainability



Date and Time: Wednesday, 10 June 2026, 6.00–7.30 pm AEST

Venue: Gallery Room, Mitchell Building, State Library of NSW, Shakespeare Place, Sydney

Pre-meeting drinks: A cash bar will operate from 5.30 pm

Post-meeting supper: An optional supper will be available from Balcon by Tapavino, 17 Bligh Street, Sydney, following the OGM

Registration: OGM: [Please register](#) before Wednesday, 10 June 2026 at 2.00 pm AEST

Supper: [Please register](#) before 5.00 pm on Friday, 5 June 2026

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

Supper: \$110 per person (non-refundable) for a fixed menu meal

Please note: credit card payments only (Visa and Mastercard)

All are welcome

REGISTER NOW

**Please register for the OGM before
Wednesday, 10 June at 2.00 pm AEST**

REGISTER NOW

**Please register for the supper before
Friday, 5 June at 5.00 pm AEST**

OGM Agenda: The [Agenda](#) for this meeting is available from the [Meetings Page](#) of the website.

Summary: The world's population, growing in concert with an ever-increasing average affluence, leads to accelerated rates in the consumption of resources and the production of wastes and associated environmental impact. In large measure, this situation is due to our existing industrial processes and supporting global economic system that are operated in a linear sequence: Extraction, Production, Consumption, and Disposal (or 'Take-Make-Use-Dispose'). This sequence and our global system rely on a paradigm where there is infinite resource availability. It is increasingly clear that this linear sequence is not sustainable, i.e., capable of being maintained in perpetuity. A way to address this complex issue is to aim to close material flows throughout our society through the introduction of what is commonly known as the Circular Economy (CE).

The circular economy has been widely acclaimed with the potential to disrupt the current linear economy of production, consumption, and waste generation by encouraging system innovation that designs out waste, increases resource efficiency, keeps materials in use, and decouples growth from the consumption of finite resources—thereby achieving a healthier balance between the economy, the environment, and society. In these discussions, 'sustainability' has often been used synonymously with CE. Although there is a relationship between sustainability and CE, these are different concepts, and the assumption that circularity is inherently sustainable has yet to be successfully demonstrated.

In this panel discussion, presenters and panel members will discuss the questions of:

- What does it mean to be environmentally sustainable in absolute terms?
- How far is it possible for us as a society to minimise resource and energy consumption while still meeting the needs of today and the future generations?
- At the same time, is it possible for us to minimise our environmental footprint, limit our global temperature rise to 1.5 °C, and reach net zero emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050?

[Sami Kara](#) is a professor of sustainable manufacturing and life cycle engineering at UNSW Sydney. He has a professional background of more than 30 years in industry, research, and tertiary education, including several engineering and management positions in manufacturing companies in Australia and around the world. His research interests are in developing technology solutions with a life cycle view by using circular economy strategies

to decarbonise and reduce the environmental impact of manufacturing industries while helping them to create value. He has authored more than 300 peer-reviewed scientific publications.

Professor Kara is an elected fellow of the International Academy of Production Engineering (CIRP), the Royal Society of New South Wales, the UNSW Scientia Education Academy, the International Academy of Engineering and Technology (AET), and the German National Academy of Science and Engineering (ACATECH).



Michael Z. Hauschild is a professor in quantitative assessment of sustainability at the Technical University of Denmark (DTU), where he leads the DTU Centre on Absolute Sustainability. He has worked on the development of methods for sustainability assessment of products and technologies for 30 years and has served as chair on working groups under UNEP, developing the scientific consensus model [USEtox](#) for assessment of chemical impacts on health and environment. He has acted as a consultant to the European Commission, creating the groundwork for the Commission's standard methodology for life cycle assessment (LCA) of products and systems. In 2018, he received the SETAC Europe Lifetime Achievement in LCA Award. He has authored or co-authored more than 260 peer-reviewed scientific publications as well as a leading textbook on Life Cycle Assessment: Theory and Practice, with more than 150,000 downloads.



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Ideas@theHouse: 16 June 2026

Ideas@theHouse

presented by

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



City Futures: from challenge to opportunity – by design

Leone Lorrimer LFRAIA

Architect

Date: Tuesday, 16 June 2026, 6.30–8.00 pm AEST

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

Registration: Society members who registered for a face-to-face place at

Ideas@theHouse will have received their formal invitation from Government House in the week commencing 25 May. You must RSVP to this invitation to confirm your place. Registration is not required for the [live stream](#), which commences at 6.30 pm, Tuesday, 6 June 2026.

Entry: No charge

All are welcome to the live stream



LIVE STREAM

**Please join the livestream at
6.30 pm AEST on Tuesday, 16 June 2026**

Summary: ‘Unprecedented’ and ‘crisis’ are so frequently used that the challenges appear overwhelming.

The challenges are well known. There are crises in housing, cost of living, mental health, healthcare and aged care, not to mention climate change, technology and AI. There is an ever-widening gap in wealth, education and standards of living.

What roles do city planning, urban design and architecture play in delivering solutions?

Although the scale of the challenge is huge, state government, local government and the private sector working together can deliver successful solutions.

Certainty, resulting from long-term, visionary city planning, supplemented by urban design guidelines, is the responsibility of government. Many of the initial city-scale steps have been taken by government, but reliance on the private sector and variable market forces is not enough to close the housing gap.

History shows us that in crises, governments have delivered housing at large scale, but we cannot afford to sprawl and crawl model of the past. A large-scale program is required to build new affordable housing near hospitals, emergency services, schools and aged care, in locations that are not economically viable for the private sector. The high land value requires greater density, supported by quality urban design and placemaking.

Affordable housing needs to be near new jobs that support future industries, with good public transport, schools and green space. This requires visionary city-scale master planning, combined with economic incentives and a partnership between state and local government.

To deliver such a huge volume of housing, with labour and material shortages limiting capacity and driving up costs, innovative construction methods, such as prefabrication, are required. Smaller, less expensive homes that meet all the householders’ needs can result from good design. The construction of energy-efficient homes reduces ongoing energy bills.

Good design also improves the quality of city living in walkable, mixed-use neighbourhoods. Every detail is considered, from the light, air and views, circulation, proximity of green space, water reticulation, playground design, materials and public art.

Good design supports physical and mental health and underpins the ultimate goal of delivering social and economic equity.

Leone Lorrimer is a distinguished Australian architect and executive leader whose four-decade career has shaped major design practices and city-scale projects across Australia, the UK and the Middle East. Born in Sydney, she studied architecture in Sydney and London, graduating with Honours in 1983.

Returning to Australia, she held Directorships at Stephenson & Turner, then Woods Bagot, where she co-founded the Sydney studio and became a defining force in its global expansion over the next two decades. Her international portfolio includes leadership roles on major developments such as the Qatar Science and Technology Park, and the Louvre, Guggenheim and Zayed National Museums in Abu Dhabi.

Lorrimer later served as National Practice Leader at GHD Design and has been recognised as a Life Fellow of the Australian Institute of Architects, an Indesign Luminary and one of Australia's 100 Women of Influence. She continues to contribute as a design awards juror, reviewer, specialist advisor and advocate for design excellence and gender equity in the profession. She is also a keen sailor and Board Member of the Sydney Amateur Sailing Club.

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Joint AIP, RACI, RSNSW, and ANSTO Event: June 2026

Special Event Panel: OPAL I Past, Present, and Future

Date: Tuesday, 16 June 2026

Time: Tour (optional): 5.30–6.30 pm; Seminar: 7.00–8.00 pm; Dinner: 8.30–10.00 pm

Venue: Hybrid event: AINSE Theatre, ANSTO, New Illawarra Road, Lucas Heights, NSW and streamed online

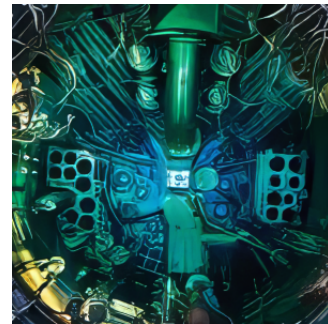
Registration: [Registration](#) is required

Ages: High school students and above (Adults)

Enquiries: Phone: (02) 9717 3090; Email: education@ansto.gov.au

Entry: No charge for the tour and seminar; Dinner (optional), \$65

All are welcome



REGISTER NOW

Please register through Humanitix

A joint presentation by the Australian Institute of Physics (AIP), the Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI), the Royal Society of NSW (RSNSW), and the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO).

Registration options for in-person attendance at this event include:

- An optional tour of the Opal Reactor (5.30–6.30 pm AEST)

- Special Event Seminar: OPAL I Past, Present, and Future (in-person and online)
- Post-event dinner (\$65 pp at the Rock Salt restaurant, Menai from 8.30–10.00 pm)

In celebration of OPAL's 20th anniversary, join us for this panel discussion exploring the legacy and future of OPAL, Australia's world-class research reactor, and its role in shaping national and global scientific capability.

Over the past two decades, OPAL has positioned Australia as an international leader in nuclear medicine production, silicon irradiation, and neutron scattering research. Its design and performance continue to influence next-generation research reactors worldwide, demonstrating Australia's ability to deliver complex, large-scale scientific and medical infrastructure.

This 60-minute conversation will bring together leading voices who have been central to OPAL's evolution, reflecting on its origins, current impact, and future potential. The discussion will highlight how OPAL safely underpins critical national capabilities across health, industry, and research – while supporting the development of Australia's future scientific workforce and technologies.

Suitable for a general public audience, this hybrid event will be delivered in person at the AINSE Theatre at ANSTO's Lucas Heights campus in Sydney.

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ATSE Events: The AI Transition – 17 June 2026

The AI Transition

Date: Wednesday, 17 June 2026

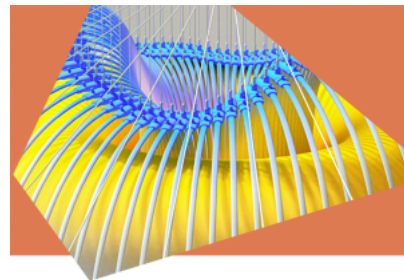
Time: All-day event: 9.00 am – 5.00 pm

Venue: Engineers Australian Auditorium, 44 Market Street, Sydney

Entry: Students: \$50; ATSE or Engineers Australia Fellows, \$200; General Public, \$300

Registration: [Registration](#) is required

All are welcome



The AI transition: What are the economics, social and ethical impacts?

REGISTER NOW

This event is jointly presented by the NSW Division of the Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE) and Engineers Australia.

AI is already transforming many sectors, including healthcare, finance, research, and education. However, it also raises important questions about ethics, privacy, and the future of work.

This one-day event will explore the AI transition in detail – bringing together perspectives from industry, academia and the non-government sector. Through a series of engaging

panel sessions, a range of expert speakers will unpack some the key questions we all need to be thinking about as AI transforms the world around us.

The symposium will include welcome remarks by **Dr Cathy Foley AO**, ATSE President and Former Chief Scientist, and a keynote address by **Scientia Professor Toby Walsh**, Chief Scientist at UNSW's AI Institute.

Panel sessions will include discussion of the legal, ethical and social impacts of AI, its implications for productivity, as well as unique perspectives from industry and academia.

Details oof the day's program are available from the event notice.

About the Keynote Speaker

Professor Toby Walsh is an ARC Laureate Fellow, Scientia Professor of Artificial Intelligence in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at UNSW Sydney and Chief Scientist in the UNSW AI Institute



His work builds on ideas from statistical physics, economics and game theory to study challenging optimisation problems such as scheduling and vehicle routing. His theoretical advances and algorithms have led to considerable economic value in areas such as optimising truck routes, both saving costs and reducing carbon emissions.

In addition to his technical prowess, Professor Walsh is a renowned advocate for trustworthy AI. He is highly sought after for his ability to articulate complex concepts in a way that resonates with policymakers, industry and the general public.

He has served as a key advisor to governments, international organisations and industry bodies, providing guidance and recommendations on AI governance, regulation and strategic planning.

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Southern Highlands Branch Meeting 2026-5 — 19 June 2026

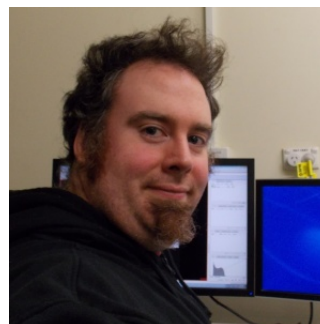
Roaming Reptiles of the Eocene

Dr Michael Stein

Palaeoscientist

Archer Palaeontology Laboratory

UNSW Sydney



Date: Thursday, 19 June 2026, 6.30–7.30 pm AEST

Venue: RSL Mittagong, Carrington Room

Entry: Members, \$5; Non-members, \$10 (please note: cashless payments only)

All are welcome

ENQUIRIES

by email to the Southern Highlands Branch Chair

Summary: What does it take to leave behind a lucrative position and chance new possibilities—Time? Opportunity? Desperation? Consider crocodiles, cited often as classic ‘living fossils’ in popular science media. But Australian–New Zealand palaeontology is beginning to reveal the labyrinthine extent of crocodile evolution in the Southern hemisphere post K–Pg, along with our region’s role in key global interchanges. In the middle of this, Australia’s unique branch began to make a seemingly un-crocodilian push back onto the land. Curious investigators must contend, however, with our continent’s notorious bias against complete body fossils, encouraging a multi-disciplinary approach.

Dr Michael Stein is a palaeoscientist with the Archer Palaeontology Laboratory at the University of New South Wales. Both his PhD (2019) and current research with UNSW focus on the remarkable crocodile fauna preserved at the Riversleigh World Heritage Area, along with crocodile paleo-communities across northern to central Australia. This research incorporates studies of locomotory evolution, biomechanics, geometric morphometrics and histology in pursuit of a better understanding of ecomorphological plasticity, particularly niche diversification among predatory hunting ecologies and the capacity of lineages to reposition in trophic webs.

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Hunter Branch Meeting 2026-2 — 25 June 2026

Forever Chemicals, Future Generations: What Environmental Pollution Means for Reproductive Health

Dr Jacinta Martin

Reproductive Biologist and Lecturer
University of Newcastle and
Hunter Medical Research Institute



Date: Thursday, 25 June 2026, 5.30 pm for 6.00 – 7.00 pm AEST

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

Registration: [Registration](#) is required by 5.00 pm AEST, Wednesday, 24 June 2026

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

Enquiries: [by email](#) to the Hunter Branch Chair

All are welcome

REGISTER NOW

Please register before
5.00 pm AEST on Wednesday, 24 June 2026

Summary: PFAS, often called ‘forever chemicals’, are now found in our water, food, homes, and even our bodies — but what does this mean for human health? This talk explores how environmental exposures can influence fertility, pregnancy, and early development, and why reproductive health may act as an early warning system for environmental harm. Drawing on new research from the University of Newcastle and HMRI, Dr Jacinta Martin will share how her team studies environmentally relevant exposures in the laboratory, investigates how pollutants move across generations, and explores potential strategies to reduce their impacts. Attendees will also hear some of the newest findings emerging from this research program.

Dr Jacinta Martin is a reproductive biologist at the University of Newcastle and Hunter Medical Research Institute whose research investigates how environmental exposures influence fertility, pregnancy, and long-term health. Her work focuses particularly on environmental toxicants, including PFAS and plastics-associated chemicals, and how these exposures impact reproductive and developmental outcomes across generations.

Jacinta leads an NHMRC Ideas Grant investigating strategies to reduce the impacts of environmental toxicant exposure during pregnancy and early development, alongside broader research spanning laboratory models, translational science, and public health. Her goal is to generate evidence that informs clinical practice and environmental policy.

She has published more than 38 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters and has secured over \$4.4 million in research funding. She is passionate about science communication, mentoring, and improving health outcomes for future generations.

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1342nd OGM and Open Lecture — 1 July 2026

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

Scientia Professor Xiaojing Hao 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



Date and Time: Wednesday, 1 July 2026, 6.00–7.30 pm AEST

Venue: [Gallery Room](#), Mitchell Building, State Library of NSW, Shakespeare Place, Sydney

Pre-meeting drinks: A cash bar will operate from 5.30 pm

Registration: [Please register](#) before Wednesday, 10 June at 2.00 pm AEST

Please note: [credit card payments only \(Visa and Mastercard\)](#).

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

All are welcome

REGISTER NOW

**Please register for the OGM/Lecture before
Wednesday, 1 July at 2.00 pm AEST**

Business of the Meeting

The Agenda for the Ordinary General Meeting will be made available on the [Meetings](#) page of the website.

Summary: 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 our advances in earth-abundant thin-film top-cell technologies and show how we develop 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.

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 focus is 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 on 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 papers, including a number of publications 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.

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Lunchtime series: Provocations & Inspirations — 14 July 2026

Energy: Cost and Enabling Technologies

Tim Buckley

Founder of the public interest think tank, Climate Energy Finance

Date: Tuesday, 14 July 2026, 12.15 for 12.30 – 2.00 pm AEST

Venue: Union University and Schools Club, 25 Bent Street, Sydney (corner of Bent and

Philip Streets)

Enquiries: by [email to RSNSW Events](#)

Registration: [Registration](#) is required before 2.00 pm AEDT on Thursday, 9 July 2026

Cost: \$75 (RSNSW or UUSC members); \$85 (non-members/guests). A warm meal and wine will be served.

Dress: Business Dress. To avoid embarrassment, please note that a jacket and tie are required. Denim, trainers and shoes with white soles are not permitted. Attendees not dressed appropriately may be refused entry by the Club.

Flyer: [Downloadable](#) from this link



REGISTER NOW

**Please register before
200 pm AEST on Thursday, 9 July 2026**

A Future Made in Australia (FMiA) is a major federal government program (announced in the 2024-25 Federal budget) that establishes a policy framework called the National Interest Framework (NIF) that imposes rigour on government decision-making on public investments, particularly those that need to attract large-scale private investment. The program will see investment of \$22.7 billion over the next decade, focused on two major streams:

- Net zero transformation; and
- Economic security and resilience.

At the heart of this challenge is the availability and cost of energy, a challenge brought into particularly sharp focus recently by the war being waged in the Middle East.

Tim Buckley will talk to the accelerating global energy system transformation, with a focus on China's growing leadership role, particularly in light of the energy security and trade headwinds caused by the Trump administration, which has doubled down on climate science denialism, trade wars and fossil fuels. China leads the world in terms of research and development, manufacturing, domestic deployments and exports of all zero-emissions growth industries of the future. Climate Energy Finance (CEF) has also tracked China's growth in outbound foreign direct investment in cleantech, both in terms of renewables infrastructure and foreign manufacturing capacities, as a new geopolitical bridge to build China's international standing, even as the US undermines its own standing. China is also investing aggressively in upstream critical minerals and strategic metals mining, and upstream value-adding, creating a growing pressure on Australia's world-leading mining sector. Australia has made some strong progress under the current Federal government's embrace of electrification and decarbonisation, as it tries to reverse the decades-long deindustrialisation of our economy with its FMiA. But even as Australia seeks to pivot from our petrostate past to embrace the investment, employment and export opportunities for Australia as an electrostate, there are headwinds. The old fossil fuel incumbents will not go quietly! And even as Australia's two-way trade with China reached a record high of A\$300bn in 2025, there are headwinds. Chinese investment into Australia over the last 3 years is at a two-decade low. If Australia does not want to work with our #1 trade partner, we should not be surprised when China goes elsewhere, at our economic and trade cost.

Tim Buckley is the founder of Climate Energy Finance, an independent, non-partisan, and philanthropically funded Australian think tank established in 2022 that works *pro bono* in the public interest to accelerate the transition in Australia to net zero in line with the climate science.

CEF conducts research and analyses on the current strategic, financial and geopolitical issues that are shaping the global energy transition and their implications for the Australian economy, with a focus on the challenges and opportunities for Australian investments, industry and exports. This involves tracking and providing independent commentary on developments in China and other key trading partners in the Asia Pacific region, as well as advocating for stronger mutually beneficial collaboration with these partners. CEF also examines the convergence of global technology trends in power, transport, mining and industry in accelerating decarbonisation.

Tim has 35 years of financial market experience covering the Australian, Asian and global equity markets and is a highly influential energy finance commentator. He has written more than 100 reports on the global energy transition and the roles of finance and policy in accelerating critical decarbonisation trends.

Tim was previously the Australasian Director of the global Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, 2013–2021. Prior to this, he was a top-rated equity research analyst, including Head of Equity Research in Singapore at Deutsche Bank, Managing Director, Head of Equity Research at Citigroup for 17 years, Head of Institutional Equities at Shaw & Partners and co-Managing Director of Arkx Investment Management Pty Ltd, a global, listed clean energy investment start-up, jointly owned with Westpac.

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Southern Highlands Branch Meeting 2026-5 — 16 July 2026

Not just a gentleman's club: The origins and significance of the Royal Society of NSW

Dr Anne Coote

Author and Historian

Date: Thursday, 16 July, 6.30–7.30 pm AEST

Venue: RSL Mittagong, Carrington Room

Entry: Members, \$5; Non-members, \$10 (cashless payments only)

All are welcome



ENQUIRIES

By email to the Southern Highlands Branch Chair

Summary: The Royal Society of NSW is a twenty-first-century organisation with a long history in the intellectual culture of Sydney and beyond. In this talk, Anne Coote will discuss the origins of this learned society, its character and social position in nineteenth-

century NSW, and the significant contribution it made to the development of an active colonial research community.

Historian **Dr Anne Coote** works in the areas of public history and cultural history, including the cultural history of science in colonial Australia. For many years, she held an adjunct position at the University of New England. More recently, as an associate of the Centre for Applied History at Macquarie University, she contributed to a research project investigating the history of shale-mining settlements in the Blue Mountains, New South Wales. She has written entries for the *Dictionary of Sydney* and published academically on the influence of literate culture on popular perceptions of community and sovereignty in mid nineteenth-century New South Wales, popular science journalism, notable collectors of natural history specimens, the intersection of specimen collection with ideas about class, and the trade in specimens at a local and global level. Dr Coote is a graduate of the University of Sydney and the University of New England, Armidale.

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ATSE New Fellows Showcase and Awards Gala Dinner 28 October 2026

Discover brilliant innovators, unsung heroes of Australian ingenuity, and concrete examples of practical technologies that benefit us all at these events.

New Fellows Showcase

Date: Wednesday, 28 October 2026

Time: 9.00 am – 4.00 pm AEDT

Venue: Hirer's Dining Room, Allianz Stadium, 40/44 Driver Ave, Moore Park NSW 2021

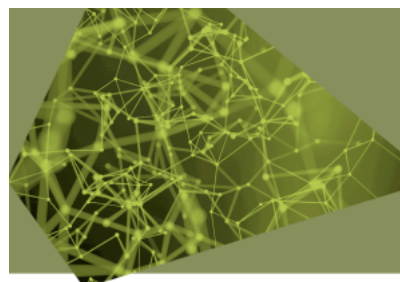
Entry: Early Bird (until 31 July 2026): ATSE Fellows, \$200; General Public, \$210

Standard (1 August 2026 onwards): ATSE Fellows, \$225; General Public, \$250

Dress: Business/smart casual

Registration: [Registration](#) is required

All are welcome



New Fellows Showcase
& ATSE Awards Gala Dinner

Featuring ATSE's new Fellows, the showcase will highlight the breakthroughs leading the way into new areas of discovery and prosperity and identify the key opportunities to build Australia's rich innovation future. Innovative panel discussions, keynote presentations, discussion, and networking with over 300 of Australia's STEM champions.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

ATSE Awards Gala Dinner

Date: Wednesday, 28 October 2026

Time: Pre-dinner drinks: 6.30 pm. Official proceedings: 7.00 pm – 10.30 pm AEDT

Venue: The Ivy Ballroom, Ivy Sydney, 320 George St, Sydney NSW 2000

Entry: Early Bird (until 31 July 2026): ATSE Fellows, \$250; General Public, \$275

Standard (1 August 2026 onwards): ATSE Fellows, \$300; General Public, \$325

Dress: Formal/evening wear; business suit is acceptable

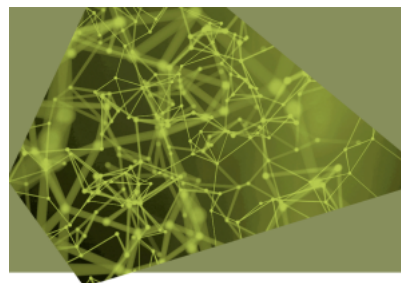
Registration: [Registration](#) is required

All are welcome

A celebration of Australia's most esteemed and up-and-coming innovators across 6 major national award categories, who are generating new ideas and technologies which are redefining how we live, work and play.

Featuring a distinguished keynote address to be announced and over 300 high-profile participants spanning Federal and State politics, business, government, education, science, technology, engineering, research and the media.

You can receive additional discounts by purchasing the 2026 New Fellows Showcase and Awards Gala Dinner tickets together.



**New Fellows Showcase
& ATSE Awards Gala Dinner**

REGISTER NOW

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Branch and Program Reports

Report from the Activities with Impact Program

The Society provides an active program of events in Sydney and through its Hunter, New England North West, Southern Highlands, and Western NSW branches. 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.

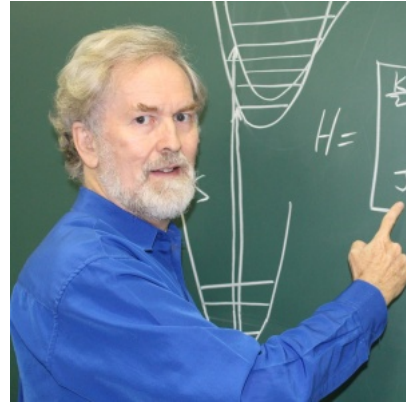
ROYAL
SOCIETY
NEW SOUTH WALES
**Activities
with Impact**

Presentation Report: 1340th OGM & Open Lecture—6 May 2026

The lecture that followed the Society's 1340th Ordinary General Meeting, held online on Wednesday, 6 May 2026, was presented by Society Fellow, **Professor Jeffrey Reimers FRSN FAA FRACI**, on the topic of '[Household Electricity Use and Investment](#).'

His talk, which provided a consumer-focused guide to optimising the use of household

electricity, i.e., saving money and reducing emissions, was a thoroughly insightful and eminently accessible discussion of a complex topic, presented from the personal perspective of a family who sought to engage with these challenges during the recent renovation of their home.



Using his Sydney terrace renovation as the context for the talk, Jeff Reimers argued that the cheapest choices are often the greenest, but that outcomes depend on three interacting factors—how you use energy, the retailer plan that you are on, and the hardware that you install (solar photovoltaic panels, batteries, EV charging, and heat pump hot water systems). He began by stressing the 'easy wins': switching off unused appliances and avoiding running heating/cooling with doors or windows open. The next lever is load shifting: moving flexible loads (e.g., use of the dishwasher, washing machine, hot water, pool pumps/heaters, cooking and EV charging) away from peak times.

Professor Reimers recommended watching the market operator's (AEMO) [live spot-price and demand data](#) as both a cost signal and an early warning of grid stress, with evenings being typically the worst time, mornings the second worst, overnight the second best, and the middle of the day (about 10 am–2 pm) usually best due to the prevalence of solar generation. He also explained how retailers buy electricity via contracts and the spot market, why prices can spike or go negative, and how generators, the grid operator, distributors and retailers each shape bills. He flagged concerns with embedded networks and increasingly complex tariffs (demand/capacity charges, the two-way 'sun tax', solar-soak and EV tariffs). For solar, he emphasised that value hinges on self-consumption and curtailment capability. In contrast, for batteries, he emphasised the need to judge the lifetime 'operating cost' and the principle of 'use it or lose it'. He further urged that virtual power plants (VPP) be treated cautiously since the rules keep changing.

In response to questions from the audience, Professor Reimers said that the biggest self-consumption gains came from daytime load-shifting (heat-pump hot water and appliances). He stated that tariffs and home energy decisions are too complex for most people, and so solutions will need community advice, better digital/AI tools, clearer retailer obligations and stronger regulation, including standardised battery communications for VPPs. He flagged frequency control as a key grid challenge, and warned tariff changes could drive off-grid moves and worsen equity.

This was a not-to-be-missed talk that you can catch up on through [the recording](#) on our YouTube channel. The [PowerPoint slides](#) from his presentation, which will be valuable to those following the same path, are available at the link above.

Lindsay Botten
Bulletin Editor

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Presentation Report— 21 May 2026

Literary France: Susannah's Top Ten Places

Susannah Fullerton OAM FRSN

Author, Literary Lecturer, and Tour Leader



This fascinating lecture was delivered by Susannah Fullerton, who had just flown back from another of her literary tours in France. She was greeted by a large, enthusiastic audience, some of whom were former fellow travellers. In Susannah's top ten places in her ranking of 'Literary France', she placed the Auguste Escoffier Museum of Culinary Art in the south of France as number one. That house was Escoffier's birthplace.



What a tale it has to tell! Born in 1846, the son of a blacksmith, Escoffier became the father of modern French cuisine. At the age of 13, he entered his uncle's restaurant at Nice, soon taking part in the Franco-Prussian war. Later he became an Army chef cooking for officers. After the war he started running his own restaurants, becoming very friendly with Caesar Ritz who offered him a leading position in his new hotel, the Savoy in London. There he cooked for the Prince of Wales and created the famous dish 'Peach Melba' for the great singer Nellie Melba and 'Cherries Jubilee' for Queen Victoria. He was often called 'king of chefs and chef of kings'.

Escoffier's written work, especially *Le Guide Culinaire*, further secured his influence on French cuisine by standardising recipes, techniques, and kitchen practices for generations of chefs. Escoffier's legacy continues to shape culinary education and fine dining today, making him one of the most important figures in the history of French gastronomy.

Susannah continued this outstanding lecture, describing nine more of her favourite sites whose people had contributed immensely to today's society and culture. France has had more winners of the Nobel Prize for Literature than any other nation. Today, it is the most popular tourist destination in the world.

Anne Wood FRSN

Chair, RSNSW Southern Highlands 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 increasing following, and we continue to build our repository of events on YouTube.

Our YouTube channel now has over 1,660 subscribers, while the 239 full-length videos and 'shorts' that are online have received more than 198,000 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, New England North West, and Western NSW Branches are recorded and made available on 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 current recordings and recent popular recordings. We hope that these will be of interest to members.



YouTube recording of the presentation from the 1340th Ordinary General Meeting (6 May 2026) on *Household Electricity Use and Investment*, delivered by Professor Jeffrey Reimers FAA FRSN, Director, International Centre for Quantum and Molecular Structures at Shanghai University, China and Adjunct Fellow in the School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences at the University of Technology Sydney. 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 1339th Ordinary General Meeting (8 April 2026) on *A drone by any other name*, delivered by Dr Catherine Ball, scientific futurist, tech influencer, and robotics expert, and Simon Masters, Deputy Director of the InnovateUK Future Flight program. 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 sixth meeting of the Society's Provocations and Inspirations lunchtime series held at the Union, University, and Schools Club in Sydney (24 March 2025), at which Alex Dronoff, Chair of the Hunter Hydrogen Taskforce and former CEO of Fichtner Australia, spoke on *The Renewable Hydrogen Journey 2015–2026 and Opportunities Beyond*. A summary of the presentation 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 2026-1 of the Royal Society of NSW (25 March 2026) on *The illusion of friendship: Why generative AI demands unprecedented ethical vigilance*, by Professor Zahid Islam FRSN, Professor of Computer Science and Director, AI and Cyber Futures Centre at Charles Sturt University. A summary of the presentation and brief biographies of the presenters and panellists are available from the [online event notice](#).



YouTube recording of the presentation from the Hunter Branch Meeting 2026-1 of the Royal Society of NSW (19 March 2026) on *Observing the Faint Universe with the Legacy Survey of Space and Time*, by Professor Sarah Brough FRSN FASA, Head, School of Physics, UNSW Sydney. A summary of the presentation and brief biographies of the presenters and panellists are available from the [online event notice](#).



YouTube recording of the presentation from the 12 March 2026 Ideas@theHouse titled '*Navigating Strategic Uncertainty: Space, Cyber and National Support in a Fractured World*', delivered by Lieutenant General Susan Coyle AM CSC DSM, Chief of Joint Capabilities, Australian Defence Force. The [online event notice](#) provides a summary of the lecture and the presenter's biography.



A compilation of offline recordings made by the winners of the RSNSW 2025 Awards for Postgraduate Students and Early Career Researchers speaking on their research. The presentation ceremony, at which each of the award winners spoke and was interviewed by Robyn Williams AO FRSN FAA, host of the ABC Science Show, was kindly hosted by the University of Sydney on the evening of Monday, 9 March 2026. Those appearing in the video include Dr Yunlong Qian (University of Sydney), winner of the RSNSW Jak Kelly Award; Bicentennial Scholarship winners: Ms Eilish McMaster (University of Sydney), Mr Amir Tourani, (Western Sydney University), and Mr Christopher Whyte University of Sydney); and Bicentennial Early Career Research and Service Citation winners: Dr Adrian Lee (Westmead Institute for Medical Research), Dr Jiayan Liao (University of Technology

Sydney), and Dr Brandon Munn (University of Sydney). The [online event notice](#) provides a summary of each of the presentations and of the presenters' biographies



YouTube recording of the presentation from the 1338th Ordinary General Meeting (11 February 2026) on *How many Australians should there be?*, delivered by Dr Abul Rizvi PSM FRSN, former Deputy Secretary of the Department of Immigration and now an expert commentator on such matters. A summary of the lecture and a brief biography of the presenter are available from the [online event notice](#).



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

Disclaimer: Positions expressed in this publication by the authors of articles and event presenters do not necessarily reflect those of the Society.

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