



Presidents of the Royal Society of New South Wales

The Society was called the “Philosophical Society of Australasia” from 1821–1822, “The Australian Philosophical Society” from 1850–1855 and “The Philosophical Society of New South Wales” from 1855–1865 and finally “The Royal Society of New South Wales” in 1866.

This list of our past Presidents was very kindly compiled by Peter Tyler and Marian Haire. Sources used were The Royal Society of NSW, Journal and Proceedings and W.R. Browne, “Scientific Societies in Australia (6)”, Proceedings of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute, March 1961.

Year Elected	Initials	Surname	Discipline	Notes
1821-2	Sir Thomas	Brisbane	Astronomy	Governor NSW, Hon. President
1850-5	Hon. E.	Deas-Thomson	Public Administration	Senior Vice-President. Clerk of both the Council of NSW and the Executive & Legislative Council
1855-7	Sir William	Denison	Engineering	Governor NSW, Hon. President
	Sir Charles	Nicholson	Medicine	Senior Vice-President
1858-60	Sir William	Denison	Engineering	Governor NSW, Hon. President
	Hon. E.	Deas-Thomson	Public Administration	Senior Vice-President. Clerk of both the Council of NSW and the Executive & Legislative Council
1861-5	Sir John	Young	Law	Governor NSW, Hon. President
	Rev.W.B.	Clarke	Geology	Senior Vice-President
1866-7	Sir John	Young	Law	Governor NSW, Hon. President
	Rev.W.B.	Clarke	Geology	Senior Vice-President
1868-71	4th Earl of	Belmore	Public Administration	Governor NSW, Hon. President
	Rev.W.B.	Clarke	Geology	Senior Vice-President
1872-8	Sir Hercules	Robinson	Public Administration	Governor NSW, Hon. President
	Rev.W.B.	Clarke	Geology	Senior Vice-President
1879	Lord Augustus	Loftus	Diplomat	Governor NSW, Hon. President
	Hon. J.	Smith	Physics	Senior Vice-President
1880	Hon. J.	Smith	Physics	First elected President
1881	H.C.	Russell	Astronomy	
1882	C.	Rolleston	Statistics	Auditor-General
1883	Professor J.	Smith	Physics	Second elected term
1884	H.C.	Russell	Astronomy	Second term
1885	Professor A.	Liversidge	Chemistry	Joint Secretary 1875-1884;1886-1888
1886	C.	Rolleston	Statistics	Second term
1887	C.S.	Wilkinson	Geology	
1888	Sir Alfred	Roberts	Medicine	
1889	Professor A.	Liversidge	Chemistry	Second term
1890	Dr A.	Leibius	Chemistry	Joint Secretary 1875-1885
1891	H.C.	Russell	Astronomy	Third term
1892	Professor W.H.	Warren	Engineering	Joint Secretary 1889-1891
1893	Professor T.P.	Anderson Stuart	Physiology	Joint Secretary 1892
1894	Professor R.	Threlfall	Physics	

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Year Elected	Initials	Surname	Discipline	Notes
1895	Professor T.W.E.	David	Geology	Joint Secretary 1893-4
1896	J.H.	Maiden	Botany	Joint Secretary 1893-5; 1897-1913
1897	Henry	Deane	Engineering	
1898	G.H.	Knibbs	Mathematics	Joint Secretary 1896-7; 1899-1906
1899	W.H.	Hamlet	Chemistry	
1900	Professor A.	Liversidge	Chemistry	Third term
1901	H.C.	Russell	Astronomy	Second term
1902	Professor W.H.	Warren	Engineering	Second term
1903	F.B.	Guthrie	Chemistry	Joint Secretary 1907-1911
1904	C.O.	Burge	Engineering	
1905	H.A.	Lenehan	Astronomy	
1906	Professor T.P.	Anderson Stuart	Physiology	
1907	Henry	Deane	Engineering	Second term
1908	W.H.	Hamlet	Chemistry	Second term
1909	H.D.	Walsh	Engineering	
1910	Professor T.W.E.	David	Geology	Second term
1911	J.H.	Maiden	Botany	Second term
1912	R.H.	Cambage	Surveying	Joint Secretary 1914-1922; 1925-7
1913	H.G.	Smith	Chemistry	
1914	C.	Hedley	Zoology	
1915	R.	Greig-Smith	Bacteriology	Joint Secretary 1925-6
1916	T.H.	Houghton	Engineering	
1917	Dr J.B.	Cleland	Microbiology	
1918	W.S.	Dun	Palaeontology	
1919	Professor C.E.	Fawsitt	Chemistry	
1920	J.	Nangle	Astronomy	
1921	E.C.	Andrews	Geology	
1922	C.A.	Sussmilch	Geology	Joint Secretary 1928-1933; 1936-7
1923	R.H.	Cambage	Surveying	Second term
1924	Dr C.	Anderson	Mineralogy	Joint Secretary 1935-1942
1925	Professor R.D	Watt	Agriculture	
1926	Dr W.G.	Woolnough	Geology	
1927	Prof. J. Douglas	Stewart	Veterinary Medicine	
1928	W.	Poole	Engineering	
1929	Professor L.A.	Cotton	Geology	
1930	Professor O.U.	Vonwiller	Physics	Joint Secretary 1927-8; 1948
1931	Edwin	Cheel	Botany	
1932	Asst.Prof. W.R.	Browne	Geology	
1933	R.W.	Challoner	Chemistry	
1934	Dr R.J.	Noble	Agriculture	Joint Secretary 1933
1935	A.R.	Penfold	Chemistry	
1936	Major E.H.	Booth	Physics	Joint Secretary 1934-6
1937	Dr W.L.	Waterhouse	Botany	
1938	Professor J.C.	Earl	Chemistry	
1939	Dr H.S.H.	Wardlaw	Biochemistry	
1940	Professor A.P.	Elkin	Anthropology	Joint Secretary 1938-9; 1941-5

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Year Elected	Initials	Surname	Discipline	Notes
1941	D.P.	Mellor	Chemistry	Joint Secretary 1943-7
1942	Professor H.	Priestley	Biochemistry	
1943	Dr A.B.	Walkom	Palaeobotany	
1944	Dr G.D.	Osborne	Geology	Joint Secretary 1953
1945	Dr A.	Bolliger	Medicine	
1946	Dr F.	Lions	Chemistry	
1947	Dr J.A.	Dulhunty	Geology	
1948	Dr R.L.	Aston	Engineering	
1949	Harley	Wood	Astronomy	Joint Secretary 1948; 1951; 1958-1960
1950	F.R.	Morrison	Chemistry	Joint Secretary 1946-7
1951	Dr R.C.L.	Bosworth	Chemistry	Secretary 1948-50
1952	Dr C.J.	Magee	Agriculture	
1953	Dr Ida A.	Browne	Palaeontology	First female President; Joint Secretary 1950-2; 1957-8
1954	Dr R.S.	Nyholm	Chemistry	
1955	Dr M.R.	Lemberg	Biochemistry	
1956	F.D.	McCarthy	Anthropology	
1957	F.N.	Hanlon	Geology	Joint Secretary 1954-6
1958	J.L.	Griffith	Mathematics	Secretary 1955-7; 1966-8
1959	A.F.A.	Harper	Physics	
1960	H.A.J.	Donegan	Chemistry	
1961	R.J.W.	LeFevre	Chemistry	
1962	W.B.	Smith-White	Mathematics	
1963	H.H.G.	McKern	Chemist	
1964	J.W.	Humphries	Physics	
1965	Dr A.A.	Day	Geology	Joint Secretary 1959-1960
1966	A.H.	Voisey	Geology	
1967	A.H.	Low	Mathematics	Secretary 1963-5
1968	A.	Keane	Mathematics	
1969	J.W.G.	Neuhaus	Chemistry	
1970	W.E.	Smith	Mathematics	
1971	M.J.	Puttock	Metrologist	
1972	J.C.	Cameron	Geology	Secretary 1969
1973	J.P.	Pollard	Mathematics/Statistics	
1974	J.W.	Pickett	Palaeontology	
1975	E.K.	Chaffer	Geology	Secretary 1970-1
1976	D.J.	Swaine	Chemistry	Secretary 1986-8
1977	W.H.	Robertson	Astronomy	
1978	F.C.	Beavis	Geology	
1979	D.H.	Napper	Chemistry	
1980	G.S.	Gibbons	Geology	
1981	B.A.	Warren	Pathology	
1982	T.W.	Cole	Engineering	
1983	R.S.	Vagg	Chemistry	
1984	R.S.	Bhathal	Astronomy	Secretary 1989-91
1985	J.H.	Loxton	Mathematics	

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Year Elected	Initials	Surname	Discipline	Notes
1986	M.A.	Stubbs-Race	Engineering	
1987	F.L.	Sutherland	Geology	
1988	D.E.	Winch	Mathematics	
1989	H.S.	Hancock	Geology	
1990	G.W.K.	Ford	Nuclear Science	Secretary 1993-
1991	E.C.	Potter	Chemistry	
1992	F.L.	Sutherland	Geology	Second term
1993	R.A.L.	Osborne	Geology	
1994	J.R.	Hardie	Geology/Education	Secretary 1992
1995	Dr D.F.	Branagan	Geology	
1996	K.L.	Grose	Ancient History	
1997	E.C.	Potter	Chemistry	Second term
1998	D.J.	O'Connor	Physics	
1999	A.T.	Baker	Chemistry	
2000	P.A.	Williams	Geology	
2001	D.A.	Craddock	Aeronautics	
2002	D.A.	Craddock	Aeronautics	Second term
2003	K.	Kelly	Science Journalism	
2004	K.	Kelly	Science Journalism	Second term
2005	Prof. J.C.	Kelly	Physics	
2006	Prof. J.C.	Kelly	Physics	Second term
2007	J.R.	Hardie	Geology/Education	Second term
2008	J.R.	Hardie	Geology/Education	Third term (not consecutive)
2009	J.R.	Hardie	Geology/Education	Fourth term

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