

March 2022

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## Australasian Neuroscience Society Newsletter



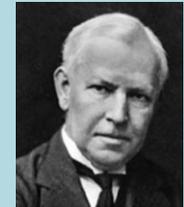
Laura Foster  
(1858–1917)



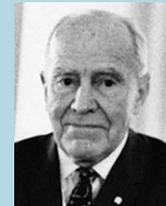
James T Wilson  
(1861–1945)



Alfred E Campbell  
(1868–1937)



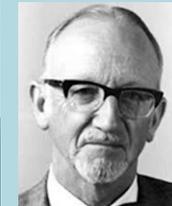
Elliot G Smith  
(1871–1937)



Raymond Dart  
(1893–1988)



John Eccles  
(1903–1997)



Archie McIntyre  
(1913–2002)



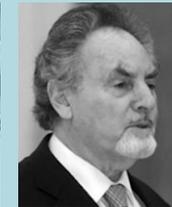
Peter Bishop  
(1917–2012)



Paul Korner  
(1925–2012)



David Curtis  
(1927–2017)



Geoffrey Burnstock  
(1929–2020)



Mollie Holman  
(1930–2010)

### **Australasian Neuroscience Pioneers 1890s–1970s**

*Australasian Neuroscience Pioneers 1890s-1970s*

## Notifications

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### **Become an ANS member or student member!**

Please join us by becoming a Member of ANS.

You can join online at any time!

<https://tas.currinda.com/register/organisation/172>

### **Check out our website**

[www.ans.org.au](http://www.ans.org.au) and follow updates on the ANS

Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/AusNeuroSoc>)

or via our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/AusNeuroSoc>).

# Acknowledgements

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## Sponsors *(We thank our Society partners)*

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- Melbourne Neuroscience Institute, The University of Melbourne
- Neurological Foundation of New Zealand
- Otago Division of Sciences, University of Otago
- University of Tasmania
- The Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health
- The Eccles Institute of Neuroscience, The John Curtin School of Medical Research, Australian National University
- Centre for Neuroscience, Flinders University
- Centre of Excellence for Integrative Brain Function, ARC Centre of Excellence
- South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute
- Hopwood Centre for Neurobiology, South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute
- Queensland Brain Institute, The University of Queensland

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## Message from the President

Thank you to all our presenters and our members who joined the virtual ANS 2021 Conference. It was an outstanding day of neuroscience. I thought that the juxtaposition of our PhD student 3 Minute Thesis finalists presenting their outstanding work followed shortly afterwards with the lecture from Nobel Laureate Edvard Moser highlighted the passion and flair of the next generation of neuroscientists. Congratulations to the winners of our various awards and thank you to our named lecturer who all gave outstanding presentations. And finally, special thanks to those members who joined the Annual General Meeting.

When I wrote the last newsletter, we were emerging from the delta variant lockdowns hoping for a relaxed summer break, only to find that the omicron variant and its impacts changed our plans yet again. However, as the omicron peak is passing and students have been able to return to study at schools and universities, it seems that 2022 might be the start of a (slow) return to more normal times. Hopefully by December, we will all be adept at living with covid and can enjoy a return to in-person conferences.

### **Welcome to new Council members**

The AGM provided the opportunity to welcome new members to Council and the Executive as well as to recognise those who have served the society. In particular, I want to acknowledge Kaylene Young's contributions as the Conference Executive Chair and valued member of the Executive Committee, as well as the key contributions of Tony Hannan – Scientific Program Chair, Ashleigh Geiger – Student Body Chair, Sam Berkovic – ACAN Management Committee Chair, Rebecca San Gil – Early- & Mid-Career Researcher Committee, and Omar Abdelrahman – Newsletter Co-Editor.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome our President Elect – Prof Janet Keast, Chair of Anatomy and Neuroscience, University of Melbourne.

Janet is a longstanding member of ANS, the recipient of the 2018 ANS Nina Kondelos Award and is currently a member of the ACAN Management Committee. She has previously served as the President of the International Society for Autonomic Neuroscience. Her primary research expertise is in sensory and autonomic neuroscience, especially relating to neural control of the urogenital system and the neurobiology of pelvic pain. Janet's scientific training began at the University of Adelaide (BSc Hons), followed by a PhD from Flinders University, mentored by John Furness and Marcello Costa. After postdoctoral training with William ("Chet") de Groat at the University of Pittsburgh, she held a Senior Lectureship at the University of Queensland, followed by a NHMRC Senior Research Fellowship. She held the role of Director of Basic Research at the Pain Management Research Institute, University of Sydney at the Royal North Shore Hospital.

In 2012 she was recruited to the Chair of Anatomy and Neuroscience at the University of Melbourne and from 2013-2017 was Head of Department. Joining Janet on the Executive Committee is Tim Bredy from Queensland Brain Institute, who has taken on the role of Conference Executive Chair. We are also grateful to Greg Stuart (JCSMR, ANU) who has taken on the role of ACAN Management Committee Chair, Jason Mattingley as Program Committee Chair, Stewart Christie (Flinders) as Early- & Mid-Career Researcher Committee, and Nathalie Dehorter (JCSMR, ANU) who has added Newsletter Co-Editor to her duties.



*President Elect Prof Janet Keast, Chair of Anatomy and Neuroscience, University of Melbourne*

*(Message from the President ... continued)*

### **2022 Call for Symposia**

In February the call went out to members for symposia proposals for the 2022 Annual Scientific Meeting to be held in Melbourne. A key decision which should enliven the conference program has been to reinstate the travel budget for international speakers. With the return of unrestricted international travel to Australia, it will now be possible for our conference to benefit from international speakers presenting alongside our own talented neuroscientists in the symposia that are selected to form the conference program. The conference convenors Jess Nithianantharajah and Zane Andrews and Conference Executive Chair Tim Bredy were strong advocates of this decision and we hope that this make the return to face-to-face conferencing in Melbourne even more rewarding.



**Prof Peter R  
Schofield AO**

*President, ANS*

[p.schofield@neura.edu.au](mailto:p.schofield@neura.edu.au)

## Message from the Secretary

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Among the tasks of the ANS Secretary are administration of our annual ANS Awards (calling for applicants, organising assessment, certificates, and medallions etc.) and organising the Annual General Meeting where the ANS Awards are announced. Despite any constraints caused by the pandemic, the number and quality of the applications for the various ANS Awards was very high in 2021. Short articles on these high performers will be featured in the ANS Newsletters of 2022!

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The entire online ANS 2021 conference and Annual General Meeting was recorded. (Minutes of the AGM are provided in this Newsletter.) From this, I have now excerpted into separate video files the various plenary lectures and the presentations of the ANS Student Body 3-Minute Thesis Competition finalists. These are available to view in the Members Area of the ANS website. Also available to view again is the presentation by former ANS President Laurie Geffen whose contributions to neuroscience and the ANS were recognised by receipt of an ANS Distinguished Achievement Award at the AGM. Laurie then made a fascinating historical presentation on "Australasian Neuroscience Pioneers" and you can also view that again in the Members Area. (In particular, Laurie's summary of the career of John Eccles illustrated the ongoing connections between neuroscience research in Australia and New Zealand long before the establishment of the ANS.)

Changes you will see to ANS procedures in 2022 are clearer criteria around applications for ANS awards and the assessment of the applications. And on the archival front, we are also attempting to capture more completely the ongoing activity of various ANS committees and office-bearers by instituting Dropbox repositories for their working documents.

**Michael  
Lardelli**

*Secretary, ANS*

[michael.lardelli@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:michael.lardelli@adelaide.edu.au)

# Message from the new Conference Executive Chair

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It's my pleasure to serve the Australasian Neuroscience Society as your 2022 Executive Conference Chair.

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**Tim Bredy**

*Conference Executive Chair*

[t.bredy@uq.edu.au](mailto:t.bredy@uq.edu.au)

A bit about me, I started my lab at the Queensland Brain Institute in 2009 and I am currently an NHMRC Senior Research Fellow. My primary interests are in the molecular mechanisms of memory, with a focus on fear-related learning. In recent years, we've been heavily invested in all aspects of RNA biology in the brain, which has led to some new discoveries surrounding noncoding RNA and RNA modification in experience-dependent plasticity. I'll be happy to talk about our work more with you when we meet in early December at the Pullman Hotel in Melbourne

With the return of the "in person" ANS meeting this year, word on the street is that there is a massive amount of enthusiasm and hunger from Society members to get back to business! I am particularly excited about this year's meeting as we'll be introducing some new features aimed at making the conference more inclusive for participants at all levels. For example, we'll be introducing a Data Blitz at the end of every symposium. This will

be a wonderful opportunity for all you ECRs who are presenting posters to increase your exposure and spread the word about your latest exciting findings. We'll also be reinstating international speaker invitations for all our Symposia, with the goal of attracting world leaders to our shores to share their science with the Australian neuroscience community. Discussions have begun for some exciting new collaborative developments between Australasian brain research societies to help strengthen and grow Neuroscience in Australasia.

In the meantime, I encourage everyone to submit your proposals for Symposia before the March deadline and to support your students' and postdocs' poster and oral session abstract submissions when that call opens. As we enter the post-pandemic era, there has never been a more important time for all of us to come together to share and show the world how much amazing, high impact, brain research is going on all over the country. Let's get back to business.

# ANS2021 Online Conference & AGM

ANS2021 Online was held on 6 December 2021, and the outstanding program of plenary and award presentations attracted 390 virtual registrants.

Highlights included presentations from Nobel Laureate, Prof Edvard Moser, revealing neural population dynamics of the entorhinal cortex; Prof Bernard Balleine, detailing the circuits that regulate goal-direction action; Prof Linda Richards, exploring the role of axon guidance in interhemispheric communication, Prof. Lars Ittner, unpacking the pathological mechanisms of Alzheimer's disease, and Prof. Clare Parish, divulging the successes and challenges paving the way to stem cell therapies for Parkinson's disease. We offer our congratulations to Professor Elizabeth Coulson, who was the 2021 recipient of the Nina Kondelos Award and delivered the 2021 Nina Kondelos Plenary Lecture on the causes and consequences of cholinergic degeneration. We also congratulate Dr Christina Mo who presented her research on transthalamic cortical pathways - the area that led to her receipt of the AW Campbell Award.

ANS2021 hosted the finals of an outstanding 3-minute thesis competition, organised by the student body committee and chaired by Ms Ashleigh Geiger.

The winners of the 3 Minute Thesis competition were:

**1st place**

Adam Hines

**2nd place (shared)**

Frankie (Frances) Theunissen

**2nd place (shared)**

Fariha Kabir



## ANS2021 Online Conference & AGM

ANS would like to thank the sponsors of the ANS2021 Online Conference

Sponsored by:



## ANS EMCR showcase

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### Bladder sensory neurons: Do they have rhythm?

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#### Stewart Christie

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*Post-Doctoral Associate,  
College of Medicine and  
Public Health, Flinders  
University; ANS EMCR  
Committee Chair.*

Stewart Christie completed his PhD at The University of Adelaide in the laboratory of Professor Amanda Page, specialising in peripheral sensory signalling, with a focus on appetite signalling via the vagal nerves.

Since then, Stewart has started his career as a Post-Doctoral Associate at the Flinders Health and Medical Research Institute, Flinders University, under the supervision of Associate Professor Vladimir Zagorodnyuk. As an ECR networking is important. Through the ANS, Stewart has formed several connections both in Australia and internationally. Currently, Stewart is the Chair of the ANS EMCR Committee with an aim to help others network.

In his research, Stewart has taken an interest in sensory signalling from the bladder, specifically how the sensory nerves change in pathologies such as inflammation, and how they are controlled by the circadian clock. This has led to three publications in his first year with the discovery that bladder sensory nerves demonstrate a potential circadian rhythm.

In his recent publication in Scientific Reports<sup>1</sup>, 'Time-of-day dependent changes in guinea pig bladder afferent mechanosensitivity', Stewart details, for the first time, that bladder sensory nerves have a higher sensitivity to mechanical stimuli during the day compared to the night. He also found that the sensitivity of bladder sensory nerves to chemical stimuli also changes between day and night. This publication has important implications for circadian rhythm disorders such as nocturia, or frequent night-time urination. It also has important implications when considering pharmacological treatments, suggesting that a treatment may have different efficacies depending on the time of administration.

Stewart intends to follow up on this new information by fully characterising the circadian rhythms of bladder sensory nerves and the underlying mechanisms of their control.

<sup>1</sup> Christie, S., Zagorodnyuk, V., 2021. Time-of-day dependent changes in guinea pig bladder afferent mechanosensitivity. Sci Rep 11, 19283. DOI: 10.138/s41598-021-98831-x

# Message from the Nina Kondelos Award winner Professor Elizabeth Coulson

March 2022

It is with great honour that I received the Nina Kondelos Award at ANS 2021. I was asked to reflect on my career, and document it for the newsletter which I did while dropping my youngest off to start his university adventures.



*The laboratory of Professor Elizabeth Coulson, Group Leader in Dementia Research, Clem Jones Centre for Ageing Dementia Research and Professor, Queensland Brain Institute Interim Head of School, School Biomedical Science*

My strongest memories (including of my career) typically involve laughter: e.g. messaging a fellow Honours student via gel tank lids dangled off the roof several floors away with messages to run off to 'Quit Street' (aka Lygon Street) only to be sprung by that friends' supervisor, who nonetheless endorsed my failed experiment-inspired mid-afternoon dash for sugar; unsuccessfully bribing poster prize judges with 'winnings' from trade display competitions at a Lorne Conference but getting free drinks at the bar later; writing plays and making jelly shots in petri dishes for lab Christmas 'do's, dancing at ANS dinners and getting lost on the way back to the hotel, unstoppable soap bubbles overflowing out of the dishwasher at the pointy-end of a lab party, a speaker dinner where the kitchen closed before we ordered desert, escapades at the end of an NHMRC GRP panel in Melbourne, a conference sailing trip boat capsize, a wrong turn in a Faculty Retreat treasure hunt involving the possible use of a chainsaw... and the list goes on.

Reflecting more deeply highlights to me the importance of the people with whom I laughed in the above escapades. Supervisors, students, and colleagues, who were happy to laugh with me, at me, or at themselves. Importantly, many of those with whom I have shared belly laughs have also been around to assist me when things were tougher, and have been champions, mentors and mentees. Friendships in science and academia, as well as in life generally, are important. My academic networks have certainly played a role in my career in terms of conference, and seminar invitations as well as reviewing and collaboration opportunities. I am

neither claiming nor endorsing nepotism; rather my career has been lived as an integral and important part of my life, valuing and maintaining friendships, even if sometimes I have to be reviewer 3 (albeit I don't write what I wouldn't be prepared to say to their face). Somehow having laughed together allows me to be honest and seek honesty from my colleagues.

Some of my important mentors were/are:

**Marion, my mother.** I was expected to do anything a boy could do from day one, and better. Mum also forced me to speak in public, talk to strangers (e.g. her friends and colleagues), instilled in me a community consciousness and a protestant work ethic. She broke a number of her own glass ceilings in her career, and she encouraged my interest in psychology, science and research. (Dad made sure I left home with some reasoning, logic and maths abilities!).

**PhD student Justen Andrews,** my Honours 'lab'-supervisor, who inspired me to think, not just do. He also told me to do a PhD on something I was interested in... with a rich lab!

**Colin Masters, my PhD supervisor,** who allowed (and perhaps forced) me to conceptualise and test my own scientific ideas. I credit him also with instilling the importance of obtaining one's own robust evidence, and through whom I came to value and enjoy robust open scientific debate.

March 2022

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*(Message from the Nina Kondelos Award winner Professor Elizabeth Coulson ... continued)*

**Linda Richards AO**, as motivating now as she was when she was a final year PhD student and I was in my first week: professional, articulate, considered, ambitious, a mother, an ANS president, a scientist, a road-trip guru and a friend. She gave and still gives me encouragement, sage advice, and is a role model when I need(ed) it; I learned and was inspired to 'lean in' and to continue to do my best in, and for neuroscience, in my way.

**Perry Bartlett**. What a fun ride we have had! The career opportunities inherent in being part of the start of The Queensland Brain Institute 20 years ago are immeasurable, but before and after that there has been encouragement, support and conviction. Every time I write (or review) I can hear his criticisms in the back of my mind: what is the big question?, what is the key experiment?, why are you doing that?, I had to quieten that echo for a while, but it is useful again now. I think I also caught his (lack of) time management skills, learned how important is having good people around you, and witnessed 'leadership' and what a big 'vision' is.

**Rowan - editor, sounding board, mentor, confidant**, taught me to actually write and to express my ideas. She often translated them into something others might understand; many a grant I would not have got without her assistance, and most papers are much better because of her input. Her belief, encouragement, sympathy, and friendship, in addition to practical assistance, has

profoundly influenced my career, and my ongoing championing and mentorship of students and staff, in my lab, School, discipline and beyond.

Which brings me to my last reflective insight: the importance of caring. Each of these people care about science, me, the state of the world, or all three. They have lived their careers and lives with drive and passion to achieve their aims, regardless of the challenges and, amazingly, were also prepared to invest in me. I too care about discovery, the teaching quality, and about the people who work with or for me, and about research in Australia. I suspect caring is the most important thing my friends and mentors have. So if you are young and want some unsolicited advice: find people who care about the same things as you do, talk and laugh together, and you'll likely become friends! Your life will be richer even if your career doesn't make you so.

**Prof Elizabeth Coulson**

*Nina Kondelos Award winner*

# Australian Course in Advanced Neuroscience (ACAN)

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*Australasian Course in Advanced Neuroscience*

Last year we held ACAN virtually. Despite the challenges the course ran amazingly well with students universally positive about their experience. Importantly, the virtual course gave us an opportunity to test our new program that integrates more imaging and systems neuroscience. We are now excited to announce that a full hands-on course will be held in 2022 from the 9th to the 30th of October. ACAN will be held at the Florey and University of Melbourne with accommodation secured at Graduate House. Applications will open on the 15th of March 2022 through the ACAN website. Applications will close on the 30th of April. 12 students will be selected from around Australia and New Zealand to take part in the course.

We are finalising an exciting program which will be available on the website soon. The program will include both national and international faculty who will discuss cutting edge neuroscience techniques and concepts. Dedicated electrophysiology rigs, a 2 photon microscope, surgical and behavioural equipment will be available for students to get hands-on experience in a range of experimental techniques. The 'Miniscope' technique will also feature for the first time. Student will leave the course with a sound knowledge of the theoretical and practical aspects of neuroscience methods.

We are looking forward to delivering the course in person again. Please send any queries to [acanadministration@ans.org.au](mailto:acanadministration@ans.org.au)

**Chris Reid**

*(on behalf of the  
ACAN Directors)*

March 2022

# ANS-Illumina Neurogenetics Research Award

illumina

How genomics can advance your neurological research



We were thrilled to announce the inaugural ANS-Illumina Neurogenetics Research Award at the ANS annual scientific meeting. The award is exclusive to ANS members and will provide one researcher the opportunity to expand the scope of their research by providing them the reagents and services required to generate transcriptomic or epigenetic data.

Is it proof of concept data you need for a grant application? Or that experiment you've always wanted to run but have never had the opportunity? The possibilities are many and varied.

Valued at over \$40,000, we invite researchers with innovative projects to submit a 300-word application outlining how genomics can be utilised to advance their research.

**Applications are now open until March 31st, 2022.**

To submit an application or to learn more, please visit our [website](#).

# Federation of Asian-Oceanian Neuroscience Societies (FAONS)

## New Year Greetings from the FAONS President

2021 has posed some of the most challenging circumstances we all have ever lived through with the COVID-19 pandemic. For many of us, the pandemic has changed the way we conduct research, how we serve patients, and how we interact with others. It is a time that gives us the opportunity to honor the sacrifices and hard work of all scientists and health workers worldwide. And while 2021 was difficult for many of us, we must hope that brighter days are ahead.

We are privileged and honored to welcome you to the 8th FAONS Symposium between the 19th and 21st of August 2022, held virtually. FAONS Council members agreed to postpone the 2021 Bali Symposium until 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 8th virtual Symposium is supported by the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO). We are expecting over 400 participants from the Asia and Oceania region to attend. Even though the last two years were a difficult situation due to the pandemic, this virtual symposium will be a great opportunity for participants to share the latest information and knowledge in the neuroscience field. We invite you to take advantage of this event to promote your research. We request assistance from top scientists to enhance our capacity building in brain related research, both basic and clinical neuroscience.

We will continue promoting the advancement of neuroscience research and education in the Asian-Oceanian region, as well as contributing to the advancement of neuroscience worldwide.

**Dr Adhi Wibowo**

**Nurhidayat**

*Executive Director, Indonesia  
Neuroscience Institute;  
Executive FAONS President*

# International Cerebral Amyloid Angiopathy Conference

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The 8th International Cerebral Amyloid Angiopathy Conference will be held in Perth, Western Australia (3rd to 5th November 2022). The 2022 conference is the first to be held outside of North America and Europe.

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Cerebral amyloid angiopathy (CAA), characterised by deposition of amyloid-beta protein in small cerebral blood vessels, is increasingly recognized for its clinical and mechanistic importance. CAA is a fundamental part of the pathology of many disorders, including hemorrhagic stroke, and immunotherapy-triggered Amyloid-Related Imaging Abnormalities (ARIA). Of note, CAA is present in the brains of almost all people with late onset Alzheimer's disease.

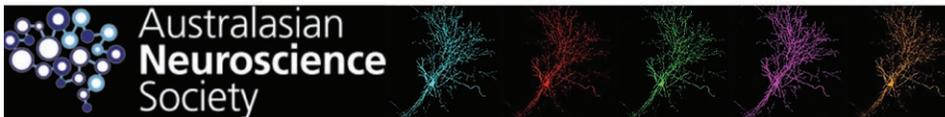
The conference aims to share the latest findings in research, techniques, and clinical practice. It will connect internationally renowned scientists and clinicians from all CAA research pathways - bench to bedside. Major topics at past conferences

have included new strategies for detecting and diagnosing CAA, defining its role in ARIA, practical clinical strategies, and prospects for disease-modifying therapy. The conference will also include a public lecture aimed at the general public who themselves have CAA or have affected friends or family members.

The November 2022 conference will be held in hybrid in-person/online format to maximize personal interactions while allowing worldwide participation during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We are grateful that Western Australia has largely been spared from major COVID-19 outbreaks and are confident in the success of the upcoming meeting.

## The ADNF

# ANS Developmental Neuroscience Forum (ADNF)



The **ANS Developmental Neuroscience Forum (ADNF)** is a specialized forum that provides year-long engagement for ANS members and our colleagues around the world with an interest in neuroscience. This initiative was put together by Drs Julian Heng (WA), Nathalie Dehorter (ACT), Michael Piper (QLD) and Kelly Glendining (NZ) and endorsed by the ANS at the height of the pandemic-imposed lockdown measures across Australia and New Zealand during mid-late 2020.

Since its inaugural session in September 2020, the ADNF has delivered 39 oral presentations across 14 symposia, achieving near-parity gender composition of speakers (19 females). In December 2020, a PhD/ECR seminar blitz was also held for 6 students, to great success. The ADNF is present on Twitter @ANS\_DevNeuro and is affiliated to the international seminar series WordWideNeuro. The YouTube channel ([https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCx4umz9ea0JJ8YyCjOh\\_-pg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCx4umz9ea0JJ8YyCjOh_-pg)) has more than 25 recorded presentations to select from and these have been collectively viewed more than 1300 times.

To have a glimpse of the ADNF program, visit the ANS website: <https://www.ans.org.au/meetings-events/australasian-developmental-neuroscience-forum-adnf>

In 2022, the ADNF is delighted to welcome early career researcher and NHMRC Leadership Fellow Dr Laura Fenlon as a committee member. As such, following from gender parity in its inception, the ADNF committee now has more females than males in its leadership. The goals in 2022 are to increase worldwide visibility of Australian developmental neuroscience through the composition of speakers in symposia and attracting attendees from all over the world.

As the ADNF is a recent activity, feedback from the audience for improvement is encouraged. The ADNF committee welcomes any feedback and suggestions. The survey tool of six questions (<https://form.jotform.com/213061567310042>) remains open to participants and ANS members are encouraged to complete it. We look forward to delivering another year of excellent dev neuro symposia in 2022!

## Australasian Neuroscience Society Annual General Meeting

Held on Zoom 06/12/2021 @ 14:30

### 1. Meeting Welcome

The Secretary, Michael Lardelli opened the meeting at 3:01pm AEDT.

Michael read the Acknowledgment of Country for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and Māori peoples of New Zealand.

### 2. ANS Distinguished Achievement Award

A video of Emeritus Professor Perry Bartlett, presenting Emeritus Professor Laurie Geffen with the ANS Distinguished Achievement Award was played.

### 3. Australasian Neuroscience Pioneers presentation

A video presentation was played, detailing the history of Australasian Neuroscience Pioneers.

Michael Lardelli congratulated Laurie Geffen on his award and thanked him for the video history of Australasian Neuroscience Pioneers, noting that the video will be made available to members on the ANS website.

### 4. ANS Awards 2021

Michael Lardelli thanked the ANS Award Assessment panels and passed on the gratitude of the Council and Executive for their time.

Peter Schofield congratulated Laurie Geffen on his outstanding achievements, and thanked him for his history of Australasian Neuroscience Pioneers.

The winners the ANS Awards for 2021 were announced by the President.

| <i>Name</i>       | <i>Award</i>   |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Jana Vukovic      | Paxinos-Watson |
| Christina Mo      | AW Campbell    |
| Emily Willis      | Mark Rowe      |
| Ye Tian           | Mark Rowe      |
| Elizabeth Coulson | Nina Kondelos  |

Peter Schofield thanked Ashleigh Geiger for chairing the Student Body committee and invited her to announce the winners of the 3 Minute Thesis competition.

| <i>Name</i>                  | <i>Prize</i> |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Adam Hines                   | 3MT 1st      |
| Frankie (Frances) Theunissen | 3MT 2nd      |
| Fariha Kabir                 | 3MT 2nd      |

# Minutes for ANS AGM 2021

The Secretary, Michael Lardelli congratulated the winners and commenced the formal AGM proceedings.

### 5. Quorum, Attendance and Apologies

Quorum was noted as 115 participants at 3:46pm (see attendance sheet held by the Secretariat).

Apologies – Marc Russo, Helen Cooper, Alexander Burton, Steven Petrou

### 6. Confirm the minutes of the 2020 ANS AGM

Motion: That the minutes of the 2020 ANS AGM are a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Moved: Michael Lardelli

Motion passed.

### 7. President's Report

The President spoke to his report, highlighting the success of online events during a year impacted by a pandemic. The online symposia would continue during the first half of 2022.

Special thanks to sponsors Illumina, TAC, Compumedics and Miltenyi Biotech were given for their support of ANS. Peter thanked ANS2021 speakers, award recipients and all committee chairs and offered special thanks to Ashleigh Geiger for their combined efforts

supporting ANS and advancing the field of neuroscience.

Efforts undertaken to save the Eccles Institute at the Australian National University (ANU) were reviewed. Peter expressed his gratitude to all members who wrote submissions supporting the institute and highlighted the need for a varied approach to neuroscience.

ACAN continues to be important to ANS and has moved from its original site in Queensland to a new home in Melbourne, owing to the complexity of course requirements. ACAN Directors, Christopher Reid, Karl Iremonger, Ian Forster, Lucy Palmer and Jay Bertran-Gonzalez were able to convene a virtual ACAN, hosted by the Florey Institute. Peter congratulated the ACAN Directors for their execution of the course despite the many disruptions the pandemic has caused.

The President congratulated Peter Susanto, who placed third in the International Brain Bee Competition, who, at 15 was the youngest ever winner of the Australian Brain Bee Competition and the first from the Northern Territory. ABBC Coordinator Ramesh Rajan along with committee members Matthew Kirkaldie and Dan Binks were thanked for the mentoring and support of Peter.

Peter thanked all members for their ongoing support of ANS during challenging times for the Society, universities, and research organisations.

# Minutes for ANS AGM 2021

## 8. Secretary's Report

The Secretary spoke to his report, updating current membership numbers and outlining the impact not being able to hold an in-person annual conference has had.

Michael thanked all members who contributed archival material to help preserve the history of the ANS. Special thanks were given to Elspeth McLachlan for her work collating and cataloguing submitted material.

## 9. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer spoke to her report and presented the Independent Audit Report to the Members of the ANS.

Jana Vukovic thanked her predecessor Brian Dean for making the transition to a new Treasurer as smooth as possible and for his work making some difficult decisions with the ANS Council to protect the financial stability of the Society.

Cancelled conferences have the biggest impact on the Society's finances. Jana acknowledged the efforts of the Conference Committee even though that cannot be reflected in the auditor's report.

## 9.1 The Society has received the Treasurer's Report

Motion: That the Society receives the annual Financial Report and accompanying Auditor's Report.

Moved: Jana Vukovic

Motion passed.

## 9.2 Appointment of Auditors

Motion: That the Society appoints Mark Tinworth of Tinworth & Co to be the Society's Auditor for the 2021/2022 Financial year.

Moved: Jana Vukovic

Motion passed.

## 10. Conference Chair's Report

The Conference Chair spoke to her report, reiterating the President's thanks to sponsors for their support of ANS2021 Online.

Kaylene confirmed that 390 members had registered to attend ANS2021 Online and expressed her gratitude for the support from membership of the event. She also extended thanks to The Association Specialists for their conference management and to each of the ANS2021 Online Plenary speakers for their presentations.

Members were encouraged to apply for the ANS/Illumina Neurogenetics competition that was launched during ANS2021 Online.

The dates and location for the ANS 2022 Annual Scientific Meeting were announced by Kaylene as 5-7 December 2022 at the Pullman Hotel in Melbourne. The conference will be co-chaired by Jess Nithianantharajah and Zane Andrews.

The ANS Plenary Lecture will be given by Professor Helen Cooper.

The Lawrie Austin Plenary Lecture will be given by Professor John Bekkers.

The Elspeth McLachlan Plenary Lecture will be given by Tony Hannan.

The International Plenary will be given by Tara Spire-Jones.

## 11. Appointment of 2022 Office Bearers and Council Members

Peter Schofield acknowledged and thanked outgoing Council members Johanna Montgomery, Tony Hannan, and Ashleigh Geiger. He also thanked outgoing committee members Sam Berkovic, Omar Abdelrahman and outgoing ANS Executive member Kaylene Young.

Peter Announced the 2022 Executive

Peter Schofield – *President*  
Jana Vukovic – *Treasurer*  
Michael Lardelli – *Secretary*  
Tim Bredy – *Conference Executive Chair*  
Janet Keast – *ANS President Elect*

Peter announced the 2022 Council

Tara Walker – QLD  
TBA – NZ (*to be advised*)  
Nicole Jones – NSW  
Nathalie Dehorter – ACT  
Tony Hannan – VIC  
Lyndsey Collins-Praino – SA – *Chair, Gender Equity and Diversity Committee*  
Hamid Sorhabu – WA  
Cathryn Blizzard – TAS  
John Bekkers – *Public Officer*  
Rebecca San Gil – *Neuroscience Research Representative and EMCR Chair*  
Alison Canty – *Chair, Teaching Resources and Outreach National Committee*  
Jason Mattingly – *Scientific Program National Committee Chair*  
Ryan Doig – *Animals in Research National Committee Chair*  
Ramesh Rajan – *Australian Brain Bee Coordination*  
Chris Reid – *ACAN Director*  
Greg Stuart – *ACAN Management Committee Chair*

**12. Other Business**

Nick Spencer thanked Marcello Costa for his contributions to Neuroscience and Australian science in general. He invited members to Optogenetics Australia.

Elizabeth Coulson asked about ANS' advocacy activities with regards to funding via NHMRC and ARC.

Paul Pilowsky commented that there is a failure of Government to understand research infrastructure and how that impacts education as well.

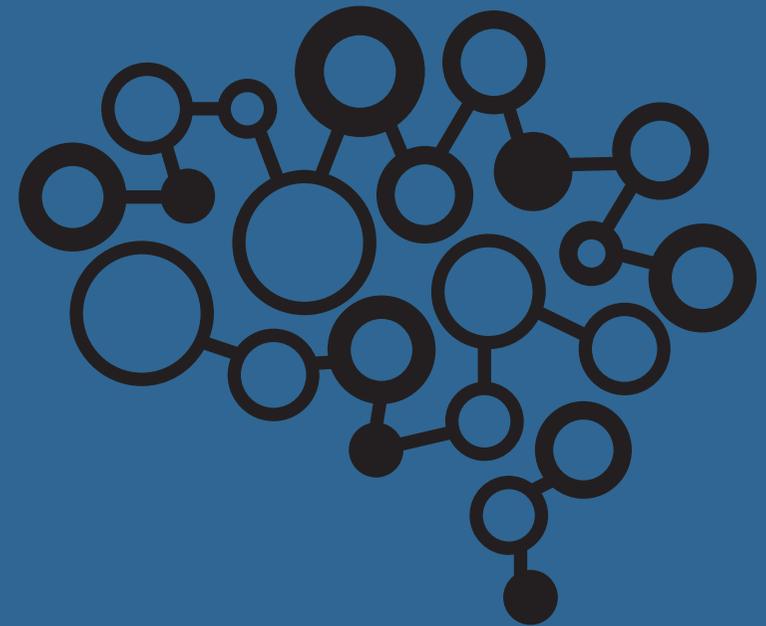
Cliff Abraham updated members present that Brain Research New Zealand will become the Aotearoa Brain Project, similar to the Australian Brain Alliance.

**13. Close**

There being no further business, the President closed the AGM at 4.45pm AEDT.

# Minutes for ANS AGM 2021

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March 2022

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## Communications

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### **Is there information you would like included in our ANS Newsletter, published in our monthly online Bulletin, posted on our website, or Facebook page, or tweeted?**

ANS has a Communications Committee to help members disseminate information and assist the Society in publicising its activities to Members and the public. This committee is Co-chaired by Dr Nathalie Dehorter (Australian National University) and Dr Marco Morsch (Macquarie University). It oversees the production of the newsletter and ensures that current content is posted on the ANS website (<http://www.ans.org.au/>), published in our monthly online Bulletin prepared by the ANS

Secretariat, posted on the ANS Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/AusNeuroSoc>; curated by Dr Nathalie Dehorter) and disseminated through postings on the ANS Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/AusNeuroSoc>; by Dr Lila Landowski, University of Tasmania) and LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8362021/>; curated by Prof Thomas Fath, Macquarie University).

If you have content for us, please email Marco Morsch ([marco.morsch@mq.edu.au](mailto:marco.morsch@mq.edu.au)).

### **Become an ANS member or student member!**

Please join with your colleagues in Australia and New Zealand by becoming a Member of ANS. You can join online at any time (<https://tas.currinda.com/register/organisation/172>).

[www.ans.org.au](http://www.ans.org.au)

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## Policy

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### **ANS Policy on Requests for Publicity via Email Circulation:**

The policy of ANS is to minimise email traffic to members. Advertisements for meetings and other significant announcements such as job vacancies can be added to the website and included in the newsletter if appropriate. Such requests should be directed to the ANS Secretary.

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