

The Royal Society of Queensland

PO Box 6021, St Lucia, Queensland 4067, Australia

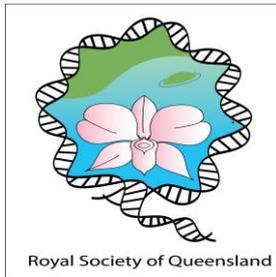
www.royalsocietyqld.org.au

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‘MAKING A DIFFERENCE’ A Prospectus for Philanthropists

January 2019



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Incorporated by Letters Patent issued under the
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1 January 2019

'MAKING A DIFFERENCE ' Opportunities For Philanthropists

The Royal Society of Queensland is the State's senior scientific academy, established in 1884. The Society is a generalist learned organisation, seeking to uphold the standards of independent curiosity-led enquiry. Its membership includes some of Queensland's most eminent researchers, as well as experts with senior policy experience, early-career researchers and laypeople with a general interest in the progress of society. Its Council is composed entirely of volunteers who are paid no fees.

The Society speaks on behalf of a network of knowledgeable experts, bridging government, business, civil society and academe. Its reliance primarily on membership fees and a small flow of royalties from publications conveys independence of sectoral interest but also limits its capacity to bring knowledge into public discourse.

During 2017-2018, it accepted assistance by way of: modest financial contributions from NRM Regions Queensland and the Queensland Government towards three public deliberative workshops; a grant from the Office of the Queensland Chief Scientist towards a series of seminars on evidence-led policy; and sponsorship from PricewaterhouseCoopers towards three workshops on preventative health.

Council of the Society has resolved to seek philanthropic donations during 2019 to enable it to better serve the scholarly community and Queensland society generally.

Given the scope of the Society's interests (its Constitution specifies "science and the application of science"), it has a wide scope to conduct activities, such as:

- holding of deliberative workshops and seminars;
- publication of scholarly knowledge (for example, its peer-reviewed *Proceedings*);
- sponsorship of scientific research (through its tax-deductible Research Fund);
- translation of expert knowledge into lay terms through reports and submissions;
- web-publication of expert knowledge through three different websites;
- compilation of educational materials for primary, secondary and tertiary students;
- conduct of training courses for company directors, policy officers and laypeople.

An activity can be readily tailored to suit the particular sphere of interest of a donor. Potential philanthropists are invited to contact me to establish a relationship.

Geoff Edwards

04 8850 5887

President

President@royalsocietyqld.org.au

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Purposes to which philanthropic donations can be put

Project or role	Notional quantum	Comment
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Research

The Society operates a Research Fund to sponsor projects in the natural sciences that escape the attention of the mainstream grant agencies such as the Australian Research Council, particularly orientated towards projects by early-career researchers and naturalists. The first awards were announced on 29 November 2018. Although (by tax legislation) donors cannot direct the selection of projects, they can specify a preferred field for which applications can be invited.

Research Fund	Unlimited	Donors can express preference as to field. Naming rights if >\$20,000. Can lead to high public profile.
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Integrate science into policy – build on current initiatives

The scope of the Society's activities is not limited to the environmental sciences, just as the disciplinary expertise of members crosses numerous fields. The following entries reflect initiatives currently on foot.

Preventative health model	\$10,000 +	Research officer to develop model under guidance of expert team and promulgate it.
Preventative health model – implementation	\$10,000 to develop case	Application of the emerging model at a pilot locality. E.g. develop a centre for life skills development
Preventative health – print proceedings	\$20,000	Income can be offset by sales. Good to give free copies to NGOs
Pastoral land regeneration – Stewardship incentives – Drought preparedness	\$10,000 to get started, \$100,000 for a once-in-a-generation recalibration of rural policy	Re-calibrate drought policy + rural policy generally, Queensland focus initially, then collaborate with other Royal Societies to take analysis nationally. Jointly with agricultural industry, regional catchment bodies and conservation science. A significant summit event in mid-2019.
Mine rehabilitation	\$10,000 – 25,000	Research officer with economic policy skills to engage with Treasury in its new financial assurance model. Research officer to develop case for sovereign wealth fund to preserve the capital value of mine royalties Form an independent expert panel to advise the government
Electricity reform	\$10,000	Research officer to promulgate the current model and take it to the next stage
Citizens' assembly on governance	\$50,000 – 100,000	Public forum to explore pathways to evidence-led policy and guard against fake news.
Training for parliamentarians, public servants and company directors	\$10,000 to get started, can become self-sustaining	Establish a new training course in several formats to build scientific literacy.

Integrate science into policy – new initiatives

The following topics have arisen from previous meetings and/or members' expressed interests and are potentially on the table. A new initiative can be launched to suit a donor's field of interest, so long as Council of the Society is satisfied that it would not unduly dilute our current focus and so long as intellectual freedom is retained.

Infrastructure	\$10,000 – 100,000	Take the results of the "Community Infrastructure" forum co-hosted in June 2015 with Engineers Australia and develop a multi-disciplinary infrastructure project. Possible themes include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whether Queensland's town planning regime takes adequate recognition of scientific information • infrastructure in areas particularly vulnerable to natural disasters • peak oil and the lack of preparation for electrifying the vehicle fleet • the weakness of strategic land use planning in favour of "unsolicited projects" which can suit the proponents but undermine infrastructure planning that would benefit industry as a whole • the implications of climate change and peak oil for Queensland's infrastructure program.
Tertiary education	\$5000	Workshops to engage with the universities to review science content of non-science courses such as economics and law. Also to review philosophy content of science courses
Shellfish restoration	\$5000-10,000	Hold a workshop and prepare business case to take Ben Diggles' published research (PRSQ 2017) State-wide
Citizens assembly on climate change (or any other subject)	\$50,000-100,000	Could be a game changer, high public profile, commence with no preconceived ideas, one-week debate in front of (say) 50 volunteers.
Rural land use planning	\$5000-10,000	Build a business case and project plan for a new public or semi-public authority to conduct regional and district land use planning with a view to resolving land-use controversies and preparing for climate change.
Town planning and disaster preparedness	\$10,000 +	Conduct a review of Queensland's statutory planning system as to its ability to regulate development in an era of climate change

Promote original science

Membership fees do not cover the cost of printing the annual Proceedings, which is the bedrock activity as it legitimises the role of the Society in speaking on behalf of Queensland scientists.

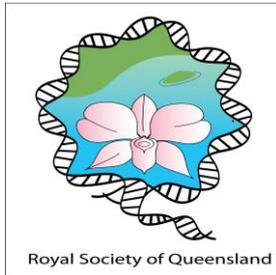
Annual proceedings	\$7500 p.a.	A service to science. Would allow membership fees to be directed to routine expenses, which is as it should be
Annual proceedings copyright surrender	\$2500 p.a.	Would enable the Society to open access to its journal for all years except the most recent. This would increase its ranking, increase its profile and be a service to science.
Eungella rainforest – print proceedings	\$10,000	Income can be offset by sales. Good to give free copies to NGOs
GAB springs – print proceedings	\$20,000	Income can be offset by sales. Good to give free copies to NGOs

Populate Queensland Science Network-education	\$10,000	Engage an experienced educator to systematically assemble location-linked or subject-linked educational materials as a guide to teachers and parents, with Science Teachers' Association
Populate Queensland Science Network-publications archive	\$10,000	Engage a librarian to systematically populate the archive with material not otherwise readily accessible.
Queensland Science Network – science newsletter	\$20,000 ?	Engage part-time editorial assistance to compile a weekly newsletter drawing upon the knowledge of 21 scientific societies and packaging it for a public audience.
Queensland Science Network	\$20,000 ?	Establish a “Ask a scientist” facility on behalf of 21 scientific societies, drawing upon knowledgeable scientists and naturalists; potential fundraiser

Strengthen the Society's foundations

Arguably the most important function of all, the administration requires support as membership fees don't cover current outgoings. The Society's current work program and its aspirations are too expansive to rely solely on volunteers, especially given the complexity of information technology.

Webmaster, Royal Society	\$5000 per year	Release the energies of office bearers
Webmaster, Queensland Science Network	\$5000 per year	Develop the website as a go-to portal into non-government science.
Queensland Policy Network	\$2500	Hold a workshop to develop the concept, with Griffith University and the Public Sector Commission
Secretary	\$5000 p.a.	Now beyond capacity of volunteers
Marketing strategy	\$5000 +	Pursue back-office collaboration with Qld Science Network Engage experienced assistance to develop a marketing plan and sponsorship packages including advertising
Grant coordinator	\$10,000	Engage experienced grants person to pursue opportunities for grant funding and philanthropy
Advertising	\$5000 +	To allow the Society to promote its events and activities in the media
Fund-raising dinner	\$5000	Hold a high-profile event to celebrate current initiatives, launch the Qld Science Network, launch the 2019 Research Fund grant applications and set strategy for the next five years.



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21 December 2018

The Royal Society of Queensland is the State's senior learned institution, tracing its ancestry as follows:

- 1660 – foundation of the Royal Society of London;
- 1859 – foundation of the Queensland Philosophical Society, in the year that Queensland became a colony;
- 1884 – folding of the Philosophical Society into the Royal Society of Queensland;
- 1884 – first issue of the annual *Proceedings*.

There is a Royal Society in each of the other Australian States.

Traditionally, its scope has been general science, science-related policy and science - related education. These terms are interpreted broadly: recent activities have covered preventative health, electricity reform and evidence-led policy.

The Society seeks to increase awareness of and respect for evidence-based enquiry in Queensland. It endeavours to serve as a custodian of scholarly tradition. It encourages original research and the application of scientific knowledge and method to policy-making and decision-making.

The Society is not politically aligned nor beholden to commercial interests. Its main contemporary activities are networking between members, government and the community; holding seminars crossing disciplinary and sectoral silos; and publishing the annual *Proceedings* along with special themed issues.

It operates a Research Fund to sponsor small-scale research projects that do not qualify for the large-scale grant programs. Donations to the Fund are tax deductible.

The Society convenes an informal Queensland Science Network, a collaboration of more than 20 civil society knowledge-based scientific societies. It also convenes the nascent Queensland Policy Network as a platform for building capacity within Queensland's policy community.

The Governor of Queensland His Excellency The Honourable Paul de Jersey AC has agreed to be Patron for the duration of his term of office.

Contact details

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Secretary: for general inquiries including membership enquiries

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Websites:

www.royalsocietyqld.org.au

www.scienceqld.org.au

www.policyqld.org.au