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CHANNEL**

**MEDIA RELEASE
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NEW INDUCTEES OF PRESTIGIOUS BRAGG MEMBERSHIP

The Royal Institution of Australia will honour prominent Australian scientists and science communicators with a prestigious Bragg Membership, presented by HRH Prince Andrew, in a ceremony to be held today.

On behalf of Patron, The Duke of Kent KG GCMG GCVO ADC, HRH Prince Andrew, Duke of York, KG, GCMG, GCVO ADC will formally induct **Professor Robin Batterham AO, Professor Stephen Hopper AC, Mr Tim Jarvis AM, Professor John Long, Professor Jennifer Martin, Scientia Professor Veena Sahajwalla** and **Associate Professor Paul Willis** as Honorary Bragg Members.

Named after the prominent Australian Pioneer scientists, Sir William Henry Bragg and Sir William Lawrence Bragg, Honorary Bragg Membership is the highest category of membership awarded by The Royal Institution of Australia and recognises excellence in scientific achievement and commitment to science communication.

'In Australia, we are truly fortunate to have so many remarkable scientists and science communicators, who are each making a significant contribution to the future of this country and beyond', said Mr Peter Yates AM, Chairman of The Royal Institution of Australia. 'We are pleased to welcome our new inductees and to celebrate the achievements of these inspirational people'.

'By acknowledging and honouring our industry leaders we hope to inspire the next generation of scientists and STEM graduates who will play an important role in the development of Australia as an innovative nation', he said.

Iconic environmental scientist and explorer Tim Jarvis was humbled to be selected for the prestigious award and 'particularly honoured given the caliber of the scientists inducted'.

Also being recognized for his lifelong commitment and dedication to science communication, Associate Professor Paul Willis reflected on the integral role science plays in progressing our society. 'With science so vital to our future and our present it is imperative that everyone across society has access to the thoughts and actions of our scientists. Those of us who translate and transform the complications of science into the language of the everyday serve a crucial role that should be recognized and in awarding me this Bragg Membership that is exactly what The Royal Institution of Australia is doing', he said.

The new inductees join 36 other distinguished Bragg Members including former astronaut Andy Thomas, developer of the HPV vaccine, Professor Ian Frazer AC as well as Nobel Prize winners, Professor Brian Schmidt AC and Dr Elizabeth Blackburn AC.

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Biographies



Professor Robin Batterham AO

Professor Robin Batterham AO is currently the Kernot Professor of Engineering at the University of Melbourne. He was previously Australia's Chief Scientist for 6 years, Global Head of Technology for Rio Tinto for many years and President of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering. He is a Fellow of seven Academies in recognition of his many contributions to research and industry, particularly the mining industry.



Professor Stephen Hooper AC

Western Australian Professor Steve Hopper AC leads a program on sustainable living with biodiversity at UWA's Albany campus. His focus is on old, climatically-buffered, infertile landscapes, and on cross-cultural studies with Noongar people. Previously, he has served as Director of Kings Park and Botanic Garden in Perth (1992-2004) and Director (CEO and Chief Scientist) of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in London (2006-2012).



Tim Jarvis AM

Tim Jarvis is an environmental scientist, author, and explorer with Masters degrees in both the sciences and environmental law. He is committed to finding pragmatic solutions to major environmental issues related to climate change and biodiversity loss using his public speaking engagements, research, and films/books to progress thinking in these areas. He was voted Conservationist of the Year in 2016 by the Australian Geographic Society, conferred a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for services to environment, community and exploration in the 2010 Australian honours list and was made a Fellow of the Yale World Fellows Program, 2009 based on international leadership in the field of environmental sustainability. His latest project 25Zero highlights climate change through the plight of melting equatorial glaciers, raising both awareness of the issue as well as offering solutions to it.



Professor John Long

Professor John Long is currently the Strategic Professor of Palaeontology at Flinders University. His research focuses on the early evolution of vertebrates and for the past 30 years has been collecting from the Gogo sites in northern Western Australia. The perfectly preserved 3-D fish fossils found at these sites have yielded many significant discoveries, including mineralised soft tissues and the origins of complex sexual reproduction in vertebrates. Professor Long was previously the Vice President of Research and Collections at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and is also an author of popular science books for adults and children. His awards include the 2001 Eureka Prize for the Promotion of Science, the 2003 Riversleigh Society Medal for promoting the understanding of Australian prehistory; and the 2008 Australasian Science Prize.



Professor Jennifer Martin

Professor Jennifer Martin is the Director of Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery (GRIDD) at Griffith University in Australia. Her research focuses on protein structure and function in health and disease and the application of structure-based approaches to the design and development of new drugs. Professor Martin has been awarded the inaugural ARC Australian Laureate Fellowship, the ASBMB Roche Medal, the Queensland Smart Women Smart State Research Scientist Award, and the Women in Biotech Outstanding Achievement Award. She is the President of the Asian Crystallography Association, a former President of the Society of Crystallographers in Australia and New Zealand, and a former chair of the National Committee for Crystallography of the Australian Academy of Science. Professor Martin was a Foundation Member of the Australian Academy of Science "Science in Australia Gender Equity" (SAGE) Committee charged with addressing gender equity in STEM.



Scientia Professor Veena Sahajwalla

Australian Research Council (ARC) Laureate Professor Veena Sahajwalla is revolutionising recycling science to unlock the wealth of resources embedded in the many complex and toxic wastes currently destined for landfill. As a materials scientist and engineer and founding Director of the Centre for Sustainable Materials Research and Technology (SMaRT) at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, she is producing a new generation of green materials, products and resources made entirely, or primarily, from waste. Veena also heads the ARC Industrial Transformation Research Hub for 'green manufacturing', a leading national research centre that works in collaboration with industry to ensure new science is translated into real world environmental and economic benefits. Numerous international and national honours have recognised Veena's research and leadership; most recently, she became the first woman to be awarded the prestigious Jubilee Chair and Professorship by the Indian Academy of Sciences.



Associate Professor Paul Willis

Paul is a respected leader in the science community with an impressive career in science. He has a background in vertebrate palaeontology, studying the fossils of crocodiles and other reptiles. He also has a long history as a science communicator, with a career spanning as Director of The Royal Institution of Australia, presenter and host for Australia's Science Channel, working for the ABC on TV programs such as Catalyst and Quantum as well as radio and online. He's written books and articles on dinosaurs, fossils and rocks and is finding new ways to engage the people of Australia with the science that underpins their world.

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The Royal Institution of Australia promotes public awareness and understanding of science by producing thought-provoking and entertaining events, broadcasts and publications as well as education and teacher support programs. We produce and deliver Australia's Science Channel, SCINEMA International Science Film Festival, Ultimate Careers for students, and a teacher resource tool – education.australiascience.tv. We make science fun, inspiring and accessible for all Australians.

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