

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

MINUTES OF THE THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at the University of Sydney: on Wednesday 4 December 1968

The meeting began at 1402 with the President, Harley Wood, in the Chair welcoming the 108 participants.

1. MINUTES

Motion (Giovanelli, Christiansen): That the minutes of the Second Annual General Meeting be taken as read and confirmed.

Carried.

2. REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

The report dealt mainly with membership, meetings, the Constitution, and publication arrangements.

In accordance with the policy set in the Constitution, the Council had invited a number of well-known companies associated with astronomy to become Corporate Members of the Society; seven companies had accepted the invitation. They were listed for the first time in the published Proceedings of the Adelaide meeting. The Society is pleased to be associated with these companies and their support of the Society's work is appreciated.

Again, as provided in the Constitution, the Council had invited Professor Bart J. Bok and Sir Richard Woolley to become Honorary Members of the Society for distinguished contributions to astronomy and for services to astronomy in Australia. At the time of the meeting, the Society had 250 members, including 187 Full and 54 Student Members.

Since the period reviewed in the previous report, the Second Annual General Meeting had been held in the Physics Department at the School of General Studies at the Australian National University, and a meeting on 'The Solar System as an Astrophysical Laboratory' was held at the Physics Department of the University of Adelaide in August 1968. In each case the meeting was very successful scientifically and in providing a relaxing atmosphere in which members were able to meet informally. The Council expressed its appreciation to the Australian National University and the University of Adelaide for the facilities provided for these meetings. For its next meeting the Society had been invited to Hobart for 28th to 30 May by the University of Tasmania.

Article 36 of the Constitution had been amended in order to clarify the mechanism for transfer of the management of the Society from one Council to the next. The Council had made a corresponding change to By-Law B1 and had added a further By-Law C7 on publication policy.

The publication arrangements with the Sydney University Press had continued satisfactorily and the Proceedings seemed to have a firmly established place among astronomical periodicals.

The report of the Council was adopted on the motion of Christiansen and Wild.

3. REPORT OF THE AUDITOR AND TREASURER

The audited statement showed a surplus of income over expenditure of \$861.38 as of 30 June 1968, . This included Urn Proceedings in stock valued at \$1770. Shobbrook, after deducting 'Stock on Hand', added the following items to present the following financial statement as of 30 November :

Income	
Cash on 30 June	\$1,502
Since June: members' subscriptions	801
Proceedings subscriptions	557
Expenditure	\$2,860
Debt to Sydney University Press	<u>\$960</u>
Maxprint and Ambassador Press	140
	<u>\$ 1,100</u>

This left a credit of \$1,760. Shobbrook suggested that, after allowing for the cost to the Society of No. 4 of the Proceedings, those of the Adelaide meeting, the present Society credit was approximately \$800.

The Auditor's and Treasurer's Reports were received and adopted on the motion of Shobbrook and Wild .

In a brief discussion it became apparent that the debt to the Press included a commission of approximately \$200 which may be waived and that there were about 20 subscribers to the Proceedings.

4. ELECTION OF AUDITOR

Mr J.L. Clark, Chartered Accountant, was nominated as Auditor by Wild and Sheridan.

In the absence of further nominations, Mr. Clark was declared elected.

5. CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS

Wood explained that the amendment to Article 36 had been proposed by Bray and Loughhead and accepted by the Council. The amendment clarified the original intention that the new Council should take office immediately following the announcement of its election at the Annual General Meeting rather than at the end of that meeting.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

Ramsay wondered if two meetings per year were warranted. McCracken suggested that so far all meetings had been justified by the number of contributions and, as Wood added, a suitable number of participants. Giovanelli pointed out that the Annual General Meetings were likely to continue in Sydney and Canberra and that the other meetings provided the desirable opportunity to hold meetings in other places.

In response to an enquiry by Fenton, about 25 members said they were likely to attend the Hobart meeting.

Wood reported that the Executive Committee of the IAU will recommend to the General Assembly in 1970 that the following General Assembly be held in Australia in 1973. A small group of people will be heavily involved in the preparation; everybody's cooperation would be needed. The meeting was likely to be held sometime between the beginning of August and mid-September 1973.

7. ELECTION RESULTS

The following were declared elected to the next Council:

President	R. Giovanelli O
Vice- President	O.J. Eggen
Secretaries	R.X. McGee, S.F. Smerd
Treasurer	R.R. Shobbrook
Ordinary Councilors	W.N. Christiansen, S.C.B. Gascoigne, K.G. McCracken, M.D. Waterworth, K.C. Westfold.

Two ex-officio members joined the Council: H.W. Wood as Immediate Past President and J.P. Wild as Editor.

Wood, the retiring President, found three reasons for pleasure. Firstly, of the range of opinion on the Society's ventures so far, the optimistic views had invariably been nearer the truth than the pessimistic ones; secondly, the members of the Council and the Executive Committee had been pleasant to work with; and finally, it was a pleasure to hand over to on Giovanelli. Giovanelli, the incoming President, suggested that the Society owed a debt to its first President. There are a lot of tasks involved in starting a Society, to make it viable and to ensure that it will continue in harmony. The preparation of a Constitution that makes good provision for members' rights and participation, the question of what meetings should be held, how often and where, the problem of finding a publisher for the Society's Proceedings – in all these Harley Wood had taken the initiative. He proved a shrewd and wise President.

The meeting finished at 1445.

S.F. Smerd
Secretary

Shobbrook

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