

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at the University of Sydney on Wednesday, 19 May 1971

The meeting began at 1410 with the President, Dr.R.G.Giovanelli in the Chair welcoming the 109 participants.

1. APOLOGY: Dr .H.W.Wood
2. MINUTES: After Giovanelli had read the minutes of the Fourth Annual General Meeting, they were confirmed on the motion of Sheridan and W.H. Robertson.
3. REPORT OF THE COUNCIL: The Report, as distributed before the meeting, was taken as read on the motion of Miller and Labrum. Giovanelli drew attention to several items in the Report. He noted that Council had decided to delete from the membership list the names of those astronomers who had indicated their intention to join, but had never paid dues; this accounted for the increase in membership being small during the year. Only one Society meeting had been held in 1970 largely because of the IAU meetings that year.

Giovanelli noted that Council had agreed to supply the Secretary to the Donovan Astronomical Trust and to advise on the allocation of funds. Our Treasurer, Mr.A.G.Little, was now the Trust's Secretary. Council felt that the Trust funds may help young astronomers to attend Vacation Schools and the IAU meetings in 1973; it should also enable distinguished astronomers to give public lectures away from the main centres of population.

The meeting stood in silence after Giovanelli had expressed the Society's deep regret at the death of Mrs. Berenice Page, a Foundation Member of the Society. Giovanelli wished to record the Society's gratitude for the bequest of \$400 by the late Mrs. Berenice Page.

Giovanelli also expressed the Society's thanks to the Research Foundation for Physics Within the University of Sydney, the most recent Corporate Member, who had generously donated \$200 towards the costs of the present Annual General Meeting.

After correcting the number of external subscriptions to the Proceedings to 156, that from outside Australia to 129, and the spelling of Mackerras in the Report the Motion (K.B.Fenton, Mugglestone): 'That the Report of the Council, as amended, be adopted'

was carried.

4. REPORT OF THE AUDITOR AND THE TREASURER:

The latest Audit referred to 30 June 1970; it showed a surplus of income over expenditure of \$2988. Little then presented the financial statement as of 30 April 1971 and noted that the Society was free of debt. He presented a breakdown of expected income and expenditure for the remainder of the year and suggested that the Society was financially able to cope with 2 issues of the Proceedings during the year, if desired.

Motion (Freeman, Sheridan): That the Report of the Auditor and of the Treasurer be received and adopted.

Carried.

5. EDITOR'S REPORT: McGee reported that the Society's Proceedings were being abstracted by Astronomische Jahresberichte, Physics Abstracts and the Russian Abstracting Service; he was negotiating with French and American abstracting services. He pointed out that No. 8 completed Volume 1 of the Proceedings; it also saw the end of the term of office of the Society's first Editor, Dr. J.P. Wild resigned at the beginning of the year on taking up a new appointment. McGee thanked Dr. Wild whose enthusiasm and drive had got the Proceedings off the ground right from the first meeting.

There followed a discussion on the merits of publishing the Proceedings at the expense of a substantial portion of the Society's Income. Wilson and Monaghan thought more money should go towards vacation schools. Wild, at Eggen's request, repeated some of the arguments that he presented to the first Council in favour of publishing Proceedings. He listed the stimulus of writing things up for a publication deadline and the big part the publication played in the Society. He suggested that earlier Society meetings would be largely forgotten, if not for the Proceedings. This view found support from Gascoigne who thought the Society got good value for its money and Christiansen who drew attention to the better quality of papers presented at meetings, if the papers had to be prepared for publication. Giovanelli noted that by now it would need stronger arguments to stop the Proceedings that it did to start the publication. Eggen, who agreed, thought we should eventually aim for a regular journal. KB. Fenton reported that the Australian Research Grants committee, following a referees comment on a project, wondered why certain papers should not be published in better known journals. Giovanelli noted that this was similar to McCusker's advice to the Sydney University Promotions Board last year. Wild pointed out that McCusker withdrew his objections when he actually saw the Proceedings. He suggested that Fenton's case pointed the need for another drive to widen the clientele of the Proceedings.

The Editor's Report was adopted on the motion of Riddle and Page.

6. ELECTION OF AUDITOR: Mr. J. L. Clark, Chartered Accountant, was nominated and seconded as Auditor to the Society by Little and Wild, .

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

7. GENERAL BUSINESS:

(a) IAU 1973

Giovanelli read a report prepared by Harley Wood, Chairman of the National Committee for Astronomy, on the XIVth General Assembly of the IAU at Brighton in 1970 and on the acceptance by the International Astronomical Union at its XIVth General Assembly of the invitation by the Australian Academy of Science to hold the following General Assembly in Australia. The XVth General Assembly will be held at the University of Sydney from 21st to 30th August 1973. The General Assembly will be preceded and followed by 6 IAU Symposia and by an Extraordinary General Assembly, consisting of several Symposia, in Poland to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the birth there of Copernicus. Giovanelli and Wild reported on preparations for the two solar Symposia 'Fine Structure of the Chromosphere' and 'Coronal Disturbances' to be held from 3 to 11 September 1973. The Joint Local Organizing Committee was looking for a venue in Queensland. The Scientific Organizing Committees were aiming to provide ample time for discussions at these meetings. Freeman announced that Margaret Burbidge was Chairman of the Scientific Organizing Committee for a Symposium on the 'Formation and Dynamics of Galaxies'. Time and place had yet to be decided. Giovanelli pointed out that suggestions for subjects for Joint Discussions at the General Assembly were welcome; they could be sent to the National Committee.

(b) Donovan Trust Fund

The Society's involvement had been detailed in the Report of the Council (see item 3 above); members' views were sought on how the Council should advise the Trust Committee on Trust Fund expenditure. A brief discussion led to the Motion (Wilson, Gleeson): That Council give consideration to providing funds for students to go to vacation and specialist schools.

Carried.

(c) Berenice Page Bequest

The untimely death of Mrs. Berenice Page and her generous bequest of \$400 to the Society had already been announced (see item 3 above); members' views were sought on the best use of the bequest. It was generally agreed that the money should not be whittled away and that it should be used for a special purpose.

Several possibilities were considered but no specific instructions were given to the Council; it was left to Council to decide on a suitable special purpose.

(d) Monash Vacation School

Westfold reported that the preparations for the Vacation School at Monash in August were well in hand. It was hoped that two overseas participants at the International Cosmic-Ray Conference at Hobart would stay on to lecture at the School.

(e) December Meeting

Dennison had invited the Society to hold its next meeting in Adelaide during December. The invitation was accepted but there was nobody at the meeting to give further details.

8. ELECTION RESULTS:

In the absence of any nominations by members, the following were declared elected to the next Council

President	O.J. Eggen
Vice-President	S.C.B. Gascoigne
Secretaries	D.J.Faulkner, K.C. Freeman
Treasurer	A.G. Little
Ordinary Councillors	W.N.Christiansen, P.A. Dennison, K.B. Fenton, K.C. Westfold, S.E. Williams.

Two ex-officio members joined the Council:

R.G.Giovanelli as the Immediate Past President and
R.X.McGee as the Editor.

Giovanelli, the retiring President, thanked the Councillors of the last two Councils for their unstinted cooperation.

Eggen, the incoming President, closed the business meeting at 1530 for a break before the start of the scientific sessions.

S.F. Smerd

Secretary

President

