

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF
AUSTRALIA

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY ON WEDNESDAY; 16 MAY 1973

The meeting began at 1405 with the President, Professor O.J. Eggen welcoming the 66 participants.

1. APOLOGIES:

R.G. Giovanelli, D.S. Mathewson, D Mugglestone, J.O. Murphy, A.W. Rodgers, R.D. Watson, K.C. Westfold, J.P. Wild and H.W. Wood

2. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Sixth Annual General Meeting were taken as read and confirmed.

3. REPORT OF THE COUNCIL:

The report of the Sixth Council, as distributed before the meeting, was taken as read and adopted.

4. REPORT OF THE AUDITOR AND THE TREASURER:

These reports were distributed before the meeting. The Treasurer spoke on several aspects of the report. He pointed out that the Society operated at a loss of \$1538 in the year June 1971 - June 1972. In the current financial year, the Society is expected to have a profit of about \$790, but this is due to the fact that only one issue of the Proceedings will be published. The cost of publication is rising at about 13% per annum, and two issues in the next financial year could be expected to cost \$9240. The Society's average income is \$2750 for members' subscriptions and \$3400 for sales of reprints and Proceedings (196 external subscriptions, plus 150 - 200 sales per year on a non-subscription basis, at \$3 per copy). Thus a considerable loss will result unless the Society takes firm action.

Some suggestions were made including increasing the charge for reprints; and increasing the membership subscription fees. It was pointed out that other Societies had been forced to increase their fees to remain solvent. Concerning reprints, it was felt that increasing the charges would simply reduce the orders. The matter of finance was discussed further in general business (see 9(d) below).

5. EDITOR'S REPORT:

In the absence of the Editor, Little reported on publication matters. The delay of seven months in the publication of Volume 2, No. 3, had several causes, including the late arrival of members' manuscripts.

The format of the Proceedings was discussed, and use of the Multilith process was suggested. Eggen stated that the Proceedings had posed two problems for several years, the first relating to cost, and the second to the philosophy of the journal itself (whether it should be a professional journal or a house journal for the Society). Members expressed concern that use of the Multilith process would place a large workload on the Society.

6. MEMBERSHIP:

Freeman reported that a number of approaches had been made to firms regarding Corporate Membership, and that so far one new Corporate Member had been enrolled.

7. ELECTION OF AUDITOR:

Mr. J. L. Clark, Chartered Accountant, was nominated as Auditor to the Society (Little, Faulkner). In the absence of further nominations, Mr. Clark was declared elected.

8. PRESENTATION OF THE FIRST BERENICE PAGE MEDAL:

The President gave a brief review of the inauguration of the Berenice Page Medal as a memorial to Mrs. Page, an amateur astronomer and a Foundation Member of the Society. The Medal is to be offered at intervals for excellence in amateur astronomy in Australia. He announced that on this, the first occasion, the Medal had been won by Mr. S. J. Elwin of Sydney for his photometric observations of the occultation of β' Scorpii by Jupiter. Mr. Elwin is the Secretary of the New South Wales Branch of the British Astronomical Association. The President then presented the Medal.

In response, Mr. Elwin expressed his pleasure and gratification at being the first recipient. He also expressed delight at being able to return to Canberra and renew some old friendships made during his stay at Mount Stromlo many years ago.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS:

(a) I.A.U. 1973

All enquiries regarding the I.A.U. should be directed to Dr. H. W. Wood. Eggen said there were indications that the attendance at the General Assembly would be lower than usual. The arrangements for the associated Symposia are well in hand.

(b) December Meeting of the Society

The Society has no invitations for further meetings at the moment. The new Council would welcome invitations for the Annual General Meeting in May 1974, and also for a meeting in December 1973. Some members thought that the I.A.U. meetings in August would preclude a large attendance at a December meeting.

(c) Donovan Trust

The Treasurer (Secretary to the Trust) reported that the income from the fund (approximately \$300 per year) had been conserved for two years to provide travel assistance for the I.A.U. Such assistance had been offered to two students and tentatively offered to a third.

(d) Membership Fees and Finance

The meeting returned to the discussion of the financial state of the Society. It was pointed out that Membership fees had remained unchanged since the inauguration of the Society in 1966. The question of a Commonwealth book bounty in respect of the Proceedings was raised. The Treasurer reported that the Academy of Science was having discussions concerning this bounty. It was

pointed out that the Membership fees could only be changed by a general vote of the Society (Constitution: Article 9). It was moved (Smerd, Miller) that Membership subscriptions be increased by 5% as from 1 January 1974.

CARRIED

It was moved (Smerd, Lewis) that the meeting recommend to Council that external subscriptions to the Proceedings (including the sales of back numbers) be increased by 100%, and that Council should set such reprint charges as would maximize the income from reprints.

CARRIED

It was moved (Smerd, Melrose) that the meeting urge Council to continue to make every effort to reduce publication costs by any method consistent with the Proceedings remaining a professional journal.

CARRIED

10. ELECTION DECLARATION:

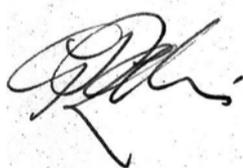
In the absence of any nominations by members, the following were declared elected to the Seventh Council:

President	G.R.A. Ellis
Vice-President	K.C. Westfold
Secretaries	M.:O. Waterworth
	R.D. Watson
Treasurer	A.G. Little
Councillors	J.H. Carver
	K.B. Fenton
	B.J. Harris
	A.A. Page
	J.A. Thomas

Two ex officio members joined the Council:

O.J. Eggen as Immediate Past President
R.X. McGee as Editor

Eggen, the retiring President, handed over the meeting to Ellis, the incoming President, who closed the business meeting at 1520 for a break before the start of the scientific sessions.



D.J. Faulkner
Secretary