

# ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

## MINUTES OF THE TWELFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN

COONABARABRAN ON 1978 MAY 17

The meeting began at 12.00 with the President, Professor Christiansen in the Chair.

### 1. Apologies

Drs Milne, Smerd and Waterworth

### 2. Minutes

The minutes of the Eleventh Annual General Meeting were accepted and confirmed on the motion of Westfold and Sheridan.

### 3. Report of the Council

Copies of the Report were distributed to members before the meeting. The Chairman drew attention to the change in the subscription rates from 1 January 1979 and explained Council's decision not to participate formally in the IAU Regional Meeting in New Zealand. The appointment of Dr J. A. Thomas to the AAT Time Assignment Committee has been confirmed. The Donavon Astronomical Trust Prize was awarded to Mr F. A. Vaughan. The current membership of the Society was 231 and 3 corporate members.

The Chairman then reported on the Twenty-fourth Council Meeting held on 16 May. Council was concerned about the rising cost of running the Society and action had been taken to review the membership list and delete names of members who had not paid a subscription for three years. Council had decided, in order to encourage membership and reduce the cost of publishing the papers of non-members, that non-members be permitted to present only one paper to the Society. In the discussion which followed Robinson suggested an alternative of a page charge to non-members. Giovanelli said the Society could miss some interesting contributions, and it would be a courtesy to extend the facilities of the Society to genuine visitors, perhaps on a reciprocal basis with other Astronomical Societies. Morton said that the American Astronomical Society had a similar rule to restrict non-members to one paper. Council's decision was accepted on the motion of Westfold and Little.

The Chairman gave notice that a postal ballot would be held in the near future on a proposal to alter Article 6 of the Constitution so that the Society could elect persons resident in Australia as Honorary Members.

A small committee has been set up to examine the material submitted for the award of the Berenice Page Medal.

Following the great success of the Merimbula Beach Meeting, Council had proposed that a similar meeting be held on the banks of the Cotter River near Canberra. Mathewson indicated that some observing facilities at Mount Stromlo Observatory could be made available for families and

talks could be arranged. The meeting will be held in the school holidays in 1979. In response to a question from the chair it was agreed that Council should pursue this suggestion.

Council had decided, in view of the offer from Canberra to hold a Beach Meeting in 1979, that the next AGM should be held in Tasmania. (Note: After later submissions concerning the heavy expense of overseas conferences in 1979, the President announced that the next AGM would be held in Canberra.)

Council put to the meeting for discussion a recommendation that the Society sponsor a post-graduate Summer School to be held at Siding Spring Lodge. It was suggested that a subsidy of \$500 would allow some 30 students plus lecturers to attend. After discussion and favourable comments, the Chairman's suggestion that Council pursue the proposal was approved unanimously.

#### 4. IAU Regional Meeting in New Zealand

In order to emphasize Council's interest and support for this meeting, the Chairman asked Dr B.M. Lewis to speak. Lewis gave details of the scientific program and indicated that the facilities in Wellington were quite adequate and that the arrangements were going smoothly. He encouraged members to attend and was able to supply copies of the circulars. Those Section Chairmen who were present were then asked to list briefly the Invited Speakers in their sections.

#### 5. Editor's Report

The Editor reported on the rising cost of publishing the Proceedings and the difficulties and delays caused by the printer. Council had discussed these matters in detail and had decided that alternative methods of production were not satisfactory. In order to contain costs authors of papers with long sections of mathematics would be required to prepare these sections in 'camera-ready' form. There was a possibility of attracting a government subsidy if the format of the Proceedings were changed so as to be classified as a 'book'. Council has resolved that the Proceedings continue to be printed in their present form and that the price to non-members be increased to \$10 per copy.

After some discussion on alternative methods of publication the Editor's Report was adopted and Council's decisions approved.

#### 6a Treasurer's Report

Copies of the Report were distributed to Members before the meeting. Jones (deputizing for the Treasurer) mentioned the complications arising from the change in the date of the end of the Society's financial year. Two audits were presented covering the periods 1 July 74 to 30 June 76, and 1 July 76 to 31 December 77. The deficit of \$3362.87 in the latter period was mainly due to the cost of two issues of the Proceedings not being balanced by the receipt of two years' subscriptions. The present balance of the Society is \$9975.28.

A motion that the Treasurer's Report be adopted (Little / McAdam) was carried unanimously.

The meeting then considered the recommendations made by the Treasurer in his written report as follows:

1. Jones expressed her willingness to do the secretarial work of the Society but indicated that more time may be needed. A motion that the question of secretarial help be considered by a sub-committee of Council (Westfold / Little) was carried unanimously.
2. After discussion on the price of back issues of the Proceedings the motion: That a price of \$3 be charged for all issues up to and including Vol . 3 No . 1 (Jones / McGee) was carried.
3. Council has already resolved to increase (from 1979) the price of the Proceedings to \$10 and no further action is needed.
4. Council has already resolved to permit non-members to present only one paper to the Society.

6b Auditor 's Report

A motion to accept and approve the Auditor 's Report (Little / Davis) was carried unanimously .

7. Election of Auditor

A motion to elect Mr J.L. Clark, Chartered Accountant , as Auditor for the next financial year (Little / Allen) was carried unanimously.

Westfold suggested that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr Clark for the great amount of effort involved in preparing the Society's audit for the last few years . The suggestion was approved unanimously.

8. As there were no other nominations for positions on the Council except those put forward by the Eleventh Council, the following were declared elected to the Twelfth Council :

President	Professor W.N. Christiansen
Vice President	Dr D.S. Mathewson
Secretaries )	Dr L.R. Allen
)	Dr J.B. Whiteoak
Treasurer	Dr D.K. Milne

Ordinary Councillors	Dr W.G. Elford
	Dr A.R. Hyland
	Dr D.C. Morton
	Dr H.S. Murdoch
	Dr M.D. Waterworth

The Immediate Past President , K.C. Westfold and the Editor , R.X. McGee are ex officio members of the Council .

The meeting closed at 12 .SSpm



L.R. Allen  
Secretary

J.B. Whiteoak  
Secretary