

# ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held in the  
Science Lecture Theatre, University of N.S.W. on 18th May 1983 at 11 am

## 1. Apologies

D.K. Milne and W. Orchiston

## 2. Minutes of Sixteenth AGM

On the motion of Little/Turtle the Minutes of the 16th AGM were accepted after the correction of the misprint on p.2.

## 3. Business arising from Minutes

### (a) Funding for National Facilities

Davis reported the ARGS had replied to requests from the AAT Board that such funding was outside the terms of reference for ARGS. After some discussion on the importance of establishing the principle, Davis submitted the following resolution which was adopted unanimously at the end of the meeting on the motion of Davis/Little.

The Astronomical Society of Australia believes that an allocation of time on a national facility, or on an international facility in which Australia participates on a national basis, should include a guarantee of user funds. To this end the annual budget of a national facility, or of the Australian share of an international facility, should include funds to cover the costs incurred by users of the facility.'

With the agreement of members the Chairman wished to receive the Editor's Report before discussion of the Treasurer's Report.

## 4. Editor's Report

- (a) Two data issues had been published in the last year, which provided an outlet otherwise denied to Australian astronomers since the closure of AJP Astrophysics Supplement and the imposition of page charges elsewhere. Both data issues were produced in camera ready format.
- (b) The Proceedings is now listed in Current Contents and the Science Citation Index.
- (c) The Editor reminded contributors of the deadline and to follow the instructions to authors.

In the discussion of the motion to accept the Editor's Report (Fenton/Roberts) it was stated that the cost of producing the data issues was covered by the reimbursement from subscribers.

The motion was carried unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report

In the absence overseas of the Treasurer the President spoke on the report, copies of which had been circulated to members. It must be noted that the income for the Winter School for 1982 included an amount of \$500 which was to have been paid in 1981. In summary the Society made a loss in 1982 of \$2861 and expects a small gain of \$200 in 1983 after an increase in fees. The loss in 1982 was in part due to unexpected expenses for the A.G.M. and the Advisory Committee.

After requests from members that future balance sheets list the Society's activities in greater detail the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report (Morton/Davis) was carried unanimously.

6. Budget Forecast

The President introduced the proposed budget for January 1, 1984 to December 31, 1984 which showed that with a minimum (subscribers and students) increase in fees the Society would only just balance its income and expenditure. It was therefore proposed to increase member's fees in 1984 from \$35 to \$40 which still compared well with other Societies and will give us a surplus of \$1000.

In discussion of the President's remarks, Faulkner noted that the substantial increase in fees for members and particularly for subscribers could be attributed to the publication of the data issues. He asked whether costs should be reduced by adopting a camera ready format and making a page charge for the data issue. Davis supported a change to camera ready format. The Editor commented that such a change would demand a greater work load from the Editor, although costs would be reduced. There followed a detailed discussion on the complications of refereeing retyping and editing a camera ready format and whether to change the page size or column layout of the present journal, or to appoint an editorial board to issue detailed instructions. The President drew the discussion to a close by stating that page charges would be unjust to some institutions and proposing that Council take note of the enthusiasm for change and the stated difficulties and resolve the issue as soon as possible before the next A.G.M. A motion to support this (Melrose/Robertson) was carried unanimously.

A motion (Morton/Little) was then put to the meeting to increase fees for 1984 as follows:

- |                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1) Members           | \$40            |
| 2) Students          | \$12            |
| 3) Corporate Members | \$250           |
| 4) Life Members      | \$90            |
| 5) Subscribers       | \$25 per issue. |

Items 1) and 4) were approved unanimously, item 2) with one opposed voice and 3) and 5) with six opposing voices.

In reply to suggestions that such fee increases would reduce the Society Membership or that different grades of membership for subscription be introduced, the President indicated that Council had already considered these questions before making its recommendations.

7. Election of Auditor

On the motion of Allen/Little, Mr. John Clarke was unanimously elected as Auditor for 1983-84.

8. President's Report

The President reported briefly on the matters discussed at the November, February and May meetings of Council which will not be covered under other items of the agenda. At the earlier meetings Council discussed organizational aspects of the Winter School and the Annual General Meeting and also rejected a proposal that the Society engage in any form of advertising as this would prejudice the income tax status of the Society. The recent meeting of Council was devoted to a detailed examination of the Society's financial position and future commitments.

9. Annual General Meeting and Winter School 1984

An invitation was extended to the Society on behalf of the ANU, AAT and the UKSTU to hold the 1984 A.G.M. at Coonabarabran.

Dr. Dawe will Chair the organising committee and the meeting would coincide with the official opening of the 2.3 m telescope and would provide an opportunity for members and their families to inspect this and other facilities at Siding Spring Observatory. Dr. Dawe would welcome any suggestions for improving the A.G.M. arrangements particularly when the meeting was held away from a large city.

There followed some discussion on the introduction of review talks to discuss the poster papers and give an opportunity for students to present their work.

Mathewson suggested that the Winter School for 1984 be held in Canberra and offered the facilities of Mt. Stromlo Observatory, this would be discussed in detail nearer the time.

10. Any other business

(a) Winter School 1983

Professor Little reported on behalf of Storey on the detailed arrangements for the Winter School. There would be 37 students and 5 lecturers, and the cost to the students would be \$38 per head. The School will run for 4 days of lectures and discussion.

(b) Dr. Fenton requested information on the activities of the Astronomical Society Advisory Committee. The President replied that there had been no matters of immediate concern in the last year and no meetings were held.

(c) Berenice Page Medal

The guidelines have been modified to make it easier to prepare submissions while maintaining the high standard of the award which would be made next in April 1984.

(d) Bicentennial Celebrations

The Society was not in favour of establishing a separate coordinating group but would always offer assistance to non-professional groups where appropriate. Roberts was concerned that inadequate publicity would be given for the astronomical content of the bicentennial celebrations. The President suggested that efforts be made to contact the appropriate committees.

11. Election of Council for 1984

Dr. D. Allen and Professor K. Taylor acted as tellers for the election of the 1984 Council. 49 votes were counted in total and two were rejected as informal. The result of the election is as follows:

Members of Council - 1984

President	Assoc. Prof. A.G. Little	University of Sydney
Vice President	Dr. K.B. Fenton	University of Tasmania
Secretaries	Dr. L.R. Allen Dr. M.S. Bessell	University of Sydney Mount Stromlo Observatory
Treasurer	Dr. D.K. Milne	CSIRO Division of Radiophysics
Councillors	Dr. J.A. Dawe Dr. D.J. Faulkner Dr. P.A. Hamilton Dr. J.E. Ross Dr. J.A. Thomas	UK Schmidt Telescope Unit Mount Stromlo Observatory University of Tasmania University of Queensland University of Melbourne

The meeting closed with a unanimous expression of thanks to the Subscription Manager, Joan Jones, for her continued efforts on behalf of the Society and a vote of thanks to the retiring President, Don Morton.

