

# ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

## MINUTES OF THE TWENTIETH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held in the Physics Department at the University of Tasmania on 15th MAY 1986

AT 2 PM

1. APOLOGIES: J. Thomas, D. Faulkner, R. McGee
2. MINUTES: The minutes of the 19th A.G.M. were unanimously accepted, after correction, on the motion of Hyland/Davis.
3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (

(a) Constitutional Amendments

- (i) The President notified the meeting of a change in By Law A7, which now reads:

Article A7

Any member of the age of 60 or greater is eligible for life membership on payment of 5 years subscription at the then current rate for a full member, this payment is to be made within the first year of life membership: alternatively, any retired member over the age of 60 may continue membership at the rate fixed in article A2 for student members.

- (ii) The announcement of the result of the ballot to decide on the amendments to articles of the constitution concerned with the election and membership of Council, was postponed to the end of the meeting.

(b) The Bok Prize

The sub-committee appointed by council to investigate the establishment of an undergraduate prize in astronomy had recommended as follows:

That a prize of a medal plus 100 dollars be awarded annually (if candidates are of sufficient merit) for a research report or essay on an astronomical topic by an undergraduate student or honours student of at least two years standing (or equivalent).

The entry must be accompanied by a statement from the candidate's lecturer or supervisor indicating the relationship of the submission to the student's course requirements and a confidential statement on the originality of the submission.

Council had accepted this recommendation and also resolved that (a) the membership be canvassed to raise the necessary funds and (b) that the question of the tax deductibility of such donations be investigated.

The motion that council's recommendation concerning the Bok prize be accepted was passed unanimously

*Duldig/Humble*

Arising out of the earlier discussion on the Bok prize the decision to adopt Council's suggestion that the Public Lecture given as part of the A.G.M. be named the Harley Wood Memorial Lecture was accepted unanimously

*Duldig/Milne*

(c) Winter School 1986

The President outlined the arrangements for the forthcoming Winter School to be held in Christ College. Five lecturers have volunteered to contribute to the programme, ten students had indicated that they would attend.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President's report was circulated to Members before the meeting (a copy is included in the minute book). After members were invited to raise any points dealt with in the report, the report was accepted unanimously.

*Duldig/Sheridan*

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer spoke on his written report and budget which were circulated before the meeting. The number of members had remained steady at around 280. Early payment of fees was requested, as there were 47 members now in arrears for 1985. The printing costs this year have been higher than expected hence a surplus in 1983-84 of some \$8000 is down to \$2000 for 1986 and without an increase in fees will be about \$730 in 1987. The Treasurer therefore recommended a fee increase of \$5 for members and \$3 for students and retired members with a rebate of this amount (approved by Council) if the fee is paid before or at the 1987 A.G.M.

A motion that the Treasurer's Report be accepted was passed unanimously.

*Allen/Whiteoak*

A motion that the proposed fee structure be adopted was passed unanimously.

*Milne/Duncan*

6. ELECTION OF AUDITOR

The meeting, on the motion of Milne/Allen elected John Clark as the Society's Auditor for 1986-87 and unanimously supported a vote of thanks for his continued service to the Society.

The President also noted the retirement from CSIRO of Joan Jones and a motion to express the Society's thanks and best wishes was passed by acclamation.

7. EDITOR'S REPORT

The Editor's Report was distributed to members before the meeting and was reviewed briefly by the President, who reminded members that all papers must now be abstracted for listing purposes. After brief

discussion on the developments and desirability of a camera ready format a motion that the Editor explore the state of technology in camera ready copy lapsed and the Editor's Report was accepted unanimously.

*Duldig/Hyland*

8. REPORT ON FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIAN SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

The President drew attention to the item on this topic in his Report and invited Brian Robinson to report on the meeting he had attended as the Society's representative. This was a full Council meeting but the Institute of Engineers had withdrawn from FASTS. The aims of the Federation were set out in the President's report. Action was already being taken in the formation of a Science and Technology Budget Analysis Group to explore and comment on the implications of funding changes in several areas. The Society had made a contribution to this analysis.

The meeting had been reminded that membership of FASTS involves some cost to the Society and a motion was put to the meeting to ratify Council's decision to become a Corporate member and to pay the appropriate fee.

*Allen/Storey*

The motion was passed unanimously.

9. 1987 A.G.M. AND WINTER SCHOOL

Hyland announced that the A.G.M. would take place at the ANU from 12-15th May, the possibility of a Winter School in 1987 had not yet been decided.

The meeting expressed its thanks to the Australian National University and the Division of Radiophysics, CSIRO for continued support of the Winter School.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Kuiper Airborne Observatory

The President wished this issue raised in order to have the support of the Society in taking action to reverse the unfortunate decision of the Government not to support the project.

After some discussion and a detailed account of attempts already made to ensure the continuence of the cooperation with NASA a motion was put to empower council to pursue the matter vigorously. The motion was carried unanimously.

*Fenton/Allen*

11. DECLARATION OF RESULT OF POSTAL BALLOTS

(a) Amendments to the Constitution

D. Crawford and D. Jauncey acted as tellers for the vote on the four proposed amendments to the constitution concerned with the election and membership of Council.

Result of Ballot for the following amendments

1. Constitution - Article 14:

replace the word 'five' by the word 'seven'.

2. Constitution - Article 30:

insert 'Student Member' after 'Full Member'.

3. Constitution - Article 33:

replace the words 'all positions' by the words 'all categories'

and replace the word 'least' by 'most'

4. constitution - By-Law D4:

replace the first sentence by 'A voting member shall vote by placing a tick against the name of the candidate or candidates for whom he is voting. A ballot paper will be considered informal if the number of ticks in any category exceeds the number of vacancies for that category according to Article 14. A formal vote need not include a tick in all categories.'

All amendments were rejected as they failed to gain the necessary two-thirds majority.

(b) Election of council 1986-87

The Tellers then handed the result of the Council Election to the President who, after thanking the retiring Councillors for their efforts on behalf of the Society announced the members of the 1987 Council as follows:

President	K.B. Fenton
Vice-Presidents	B.J. Robinson D.S. Mathewson
Secretaries	L.R. Allen M.K. Duldig
Treasurer	D.K. Milne
Editor Proc ASA	R.X. McGee
Mon. Sec. Donovan Trust	K.V. Sheridan
Councillors	D.A. Allen M.P. Candy R.W. Clay R.A. Duncan A.R. Hyland

The meeting closed at 15.45.

