

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held in the Hayden-Allen Theatre at the Australian National University

on Wednesday 13 May 1987 at 1.45 pm

1. APOLOGIES: D. Allen, M. Casidy, R. Duncan, A. Fenton, J. Humble,
R. McGee and W. Orchiston.

2. MINUTES: The minutes of the Twentieth Annual General Meeting were
unanimously accepted on the motion of
Hyland/Davis.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Bok Prize

Donations to the fund now total about \$1500 which is marginally sufficient. A brochure is being prepared to encourage support from a wide area. It is hoped to make the first award in 1988.

(b) Kuiper Airborne Observatory

Attempts to gain support from Government had failed despite the obvious benefits to Australian Astronomy and Technology. The new operating base in New Zealand had proved successful, but we must also consider the future use of SOFIA. J. Storey thanked Council for its efforts on behalf of the K.A.O. users.

(c) F.A.S.T.S.

A monthly Newsletter is now published which should be available to all institutions, and demonstrates that the Association is proving of benefit by keeping a high profile. Robinson reported on the Budget review meeting which noted the lack of support for training in science and technology. While other groups were well represented attendance from industry was poor. The question of an Australian Space Industry seems to have been ignored.

(d) 1987 Winter School

A brief account of the 1987 Winter School was presented. The meeting was organised by B. Peterson and 23 students were able to take part.

4. PRESIDENT 'S REPORT

Copies of the President 's Report were distributed to members before the meeting. In commenting on the written report the President congratulated those members who have recently received honours and welcomed the new members. The President then drew attention to the items contained in the report and invited questions and discussion. After some brief comment the President 's Report was accepted unanimously.

Duldig/Allen , L.R.

The President then announced to the meeting that Council had elected Dr. Paul Wild as an Honorary Life Member of the Society and were especially appreciative of Dr. Wild's constant efforts in support of the Society from the time of its foundation.

5. TREASURER 'S REPORT

Copies of the Balance Sheet and Treasurer 's Report were distributed to members before the meeting. The membership numbers were stable with a small increase in the number of retired members. The Treasurer had requested the Auditor to reduce the nominal value of stock in hand to a more realistic figure. The Society has continued to receive assistance from the Division of Radiophysics in the form of postal fees which does not appear as a separate donation on the balance sheet. The entry under subscription income is lower than it should be due to the number of members who are in arrears, but steps are being taken to recruit more corporate members. In summary, it will be necessary to reduce expenditure or increase the fees. The Treasurer therefore put to the meeting the following fee structure for 1988 for approval.

Full Membership Fee	\$55
Student and Retired Fee	\$20
<i>(Both subject to a rebate of \$5 if paid before 1st April)</i>	
Corporate Fee	- \$500
Subscribers	\$60

There followed some discussion on the imposition of page charges in order to raise funds and on the rate set for corporate members. It was suggested that members try and introduce more corporate members. Carter opposed any fee increase as the Society was a non-profit organisation and the Proceedings should be self sufficient. The Treasurer replied that the subscription fees help significantly to pay for the Proceedings. After further discussion on the future cost of the Proceedings and the rate to be charged for overseas subscribers the following motions emerged:

- (1) That the Treasurer 's suggested fees for members, student and retired members and corporate members be approved.

Milne/Allen, L.R., Carried with two dissenting voices

(2) That the Treasurer give consideration to increasing the Subscriber's rate to A\$55 in Australia and US\$55 for overseas.

Faulkner/Carter, Carried unanimously

(3) That the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

Duldig/Hewitt, Carried unanimously

6. ELECTION OF AUDITOR

The Treasurer, in proposing J. Clarke as Auditor for 1987-88, again extended the Society's thanks for his continued service.

The Motion was passed by acclamation

7. EDITOR'S REPORT

The Editor's report was distributed before the meeting and accepted unanimously.

Greenhill/Page

8. LIGHT POLLUTION NEAR OBSERVATORIES

J. Dawe was invited to speak on his report which was available to members before the meeting. The recommendation of the Regional Environmental Study Steering Committee that:-

"The contribution of artificial light at the zenith (between 330 nm and 1000 nm but excluding the Sodium D lines) scattered from clear sky should not exceed 3% of the lowest natural level of the night sky brightness in that direction. Similarly, the contribution of artificial light, at a zenith distance of 60° and in the azimuth of the greatest source of light pollution, should not exceed 10% of the night sky brightness in that direction."

was unanimously adopted by the meeting and endorsed for communication to I.A.U. Commission 50

Dawe/McAdam

The President wished to couple this discussion of light pollution levels with a similar threat to observatories from various proposals for launching into orbit objects which would seriously jeopardise the work of earth-based and space telescopes. With the strong recommendation of the President the meeting endorsed the concern for this problem already expressed in correspondence with the IAU and wished Council to take steps to recruit Government support to control such activities at an international level.

Mathewson/Cannon

9. FUTURE OF THE UK SCHMIDT TELESCOPE

The President reported on the present state of negotiations for the integration of UKSTU with the AAT. The question of funding was still to be resolved but the ROE library of plates and the measuring machine would still be available.

10. AGM AND WINTER SCHOOL 1988

The 1988 Annual General Meeting would be organised by Radiophysics staff in Narrabri in the week beginning 29th August. It was hoped that the Australia Telescope opening ceremony would be included in the programme, but the date was still to be confirmed. No decisions had been made so far concerning the dates or venue for a Winter School.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) A request was received that a list of the Fax numbers of Astronomical Institutions be distributed to members.

(b) Support for Space Science

The President expressed grave concern at the present lack of funding for Space Science projects. The recently established Australian Space Board advises the Minister for Industry, Technology and Commerce. As most of the expertise is in the Universities and Research Institutes it is important that science projects be included in Australian space activities.

After some discussion which supported the President's remarks, the meeting resolved that a statement strongly supporting adequate funding for Australian Space Science experiments through the Australian Space Board be communicated to the Department of Science, Department of Industry, Technology and Commerce and the Australian Space Board.

Statement

The Astronomical Society of Australia is concerned that the development of Australian space science experiments will be seriously inhibited because of lack of financial support. The Society has been advised that the Department of Science accepts no responsibility for space science. The Australian Research Grants Committee (ARGS) is very unlikely to support such projects because of their technological nature and a perception by the ARGS that the development of space science experiments is the responsibility of the Australian Space Board (ASB).

Much of Australia's expertise in space science resides in University research groups whose budgets are totally inadequate for such projects. The society is concerned that this pool of talent will be lost to the national space effort. It notes that the Madigan Committee recommended that a proportion of funds should be used for space science and therefore urges the ASB to provide direct financial support for the development of appropriate space science experiments.

12. ELECTION OF COUNCIL 1987-88

As there were no nominations other than those made by the retiring Council the meeting concluded with a declaration of the Members of Council for 1987-88 as follows:

President	Dr. B.J. Robinson, <i>CSIRO Division of Radiophysics</i>
Immed. Past Pres	Dr. K.B. Fenton, <i>University of Tasmania</i>
Vice-President	Dr. D.J. Faulkner, <i>Mt Stromlo & Siding Spring Obs.</i>
Secretaries	Dr. L.R. Allen, <i>University of Sydney</i> Dr. M.L. Duldig, <i>Antarctic Division, Dept. Science</i>
Treasurer	Dr. D.K. Milne, <i>CSIRO Division of Radiophysics</i>
Councillors	Dr. D.A. Allen, <i>Anglo-Australian Observatory</i> Mr. M.P. Candy, <i>Perth Observatory</i> Dr. R.W. Clay, <i>University of Adelaide</i> Dr. A.R. Hyland, <i>Mt Stromlo & Siding Spring Obs.</i> Dr. A.E. Wright, <i>CSIRO Division of Radiophysics</i>
Hon. Secretary Donovan Trust	Dr. K.V. Sheridan, <i>Sydney</i>
Editor	Dr. R.X. McGee, <i>CSIRO Division of Radiophysics,</i>

