



ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

Incorporated in the ACT

Minutes of the 27th Annual General Meeting held on Sunday July 11 1993 at the University Of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand

The Meeting was opened at 9:00 am with the President in the Chair.

1. Apologies

W. Orchiston, P. Cottrell, R. Stewart, K. Sheridan.

2. Minutes of the 26th Annual General Meeting

Motion that the minutes of the 26th Annual General Meeting be accepted as presented.

**Page/Wright
Carried**

3. Business arising from the Minutes

(i) Incorporation of the Society

The President reported that the Society was now incorporated in the ACT and expressed thanks to Don Faulkner for his efforts to this end. It was pointed out that gifts to the Society were not yet tax deductible.

(ii) Revisions to the Constitution

Revisions to the constitution to meet the demands of incorporation were described to the meeting by Don Faulkner. A postal ballot approved the amendments by 70 votes to 0. The revised constitution will be published in the Proceedings as soon as possible.

(iii) Publication of the Proceedings

The President reported that the Society had recently entered into an agreement for a two year trial of publication of the Proceedings by CSIRO Information Services. They will publish the Proceedings while the Society provides editorial oversight. The expectation was that the presentation of the Proceedings would improve and lead to a wider distribution, although at some financial cost to the Society.

4. President's Report

A written report was distributed to members before the meeting. The President presented an overview of the contents of that report.

The President acknowledged Bob Duncan's efforts in the production of the ASA Newsletter. He also pointed out, in comments seconded by Ben Gascoigne, the importance of the Newsletter to the ASA and requested more contributions from the membership.

It was reported that Roy Allen had been offered, and had accepted, Honorary Life Membership of the Society, in appreciation of many years of service to the Society as Secretary.

The Bok Prize was presented to Sally Houghton from The University of NSW by the President. The work in her report was described in a poster presented at the meeting.

The Fund for Foreign Astronomers is intended to support astronomers from the former Soviet Union and other disadvantaged countries. \$2000 was sent in 1992, but an oversight resulted in the deadline for further donations through the American Astronomical Society passing without action

in 1993. Considerable discussion resulted concerning the best way the Society could continue to assist, especially in the light of a very large donation by the Soros Foundation in the US. The President asked Dave Jauncey to use the Newsletter to generate further discussion amongst the membership, and suggested that Heads of departments invite scientists from the former Soviet Union to visit Australia.

The President foreshadowed the production of a leaflet on postgraduate opportunities in astronomy. He also reported on efforts toward nominating Aboriginal women's names for features on the planet Venus.

A proposal for advertising billboards in space by a US company has met with widespread condemnation by the astronomical community. The President reported on his TV, radio and press interviews on the matter and an email communication to President Clinton in the US, urging that the proposal not be allowed to proceed.

Motion that the President's report be accepted.

**Hyland/Dopita
Carried**

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer gave a summary of the written report and balance sheet which had been distributed to the meeting. Membership of the Society was 321, the highest it has ever been, although 70 members were currently unfinancial. Unfinancial members do not receive Society publications.

The Society had a surplus of \$32,000 in 1992. This resulted from unusual circumstances during the year and the surplus will be expended in 1993. Also, the cost of the Publications was predicted to rise with the move to publishing by CSIRO Information Services. To reduce the loss in 1993 the Treasure recommended a fee increase, the first since 1990, to:

Full members	\$80
Retired or Student members	\$35
Corporate members	\$300

The Treasurer made several other recommendations to the meeting:

1. To maintain discounts for early payment of fees,
2. To extend the audit year for 1993 to March 31 1994 to meet the rules of incorporation, returning to a 12 month interval after that, and
3. To reappoint Mr John Ewing as Auditor for 1993 at an honorarium of \$300.

There was some discussion of points in the Treasurer's report, including whether the level of funding reserves held by the Society was excessive.

Motion that the Treasurer's Report be accepted, including his recommendations (listed above) concerning fees, discounts and audit period.

**L.R.Allen/McAdam
Carried**

6. Election of Auditor

Motion that Mr John Ewing being appointed as Auditor for 1993-94.

**McAdam/Gascoigne
Carried**

7. Editor's Report

Changes to the publication of the Proceedings were reported by the President. The Editor reported on the status of the next issues of the Proceedings. Volume 10 No.4 will include abstracts for Australian PhD theses accepted in the last 12 months. Volume 11 No.1 will include papers from the current meeting and new guidelines for authors. The Editor also pointed out that papers are always acceptable outside of the annual meeting.

The President noted that a revised editorial board would be formed with revised duties under the agreement with CSIRO Information Services. Several other points were raised by the members, including a suggestion by Alan Wright that a 10 year index would be useful.

Motion that the Editor's Report be accepted.

**Milne/Spyromilio
Carried**

8. AGM and School of Astronomy 1994

The 1994 AGM was planned to be held in Canberra for the common vacation week in July. The Harley Wood School of Astronomy would probably be held in the week before.

9. Any other business

John Whiteoak questioned the Society's continuing membership of FASTS. The Council had delegated the President to write to the FASTS President for more information on FASTS activities. John Whiteoak also reported concerns among radio astronomers about a potential threat to protected astronomical radio frequencies, especially L band, which were expected to be raised at international meetings in 1995 or 1997. The relevant bodies in Canberra seemed unconcerned, perhaps in part because they were undergoing reorganisation. The President asked that the Council be kept advised of the situation.

The President commented on the future of the National Committee for Astronomy and the Australian Astronomical Directors and Heads Committee. The Society would probably serve as a conduit to and from the National Committee. He reported that a review of Astronomy would probably be undertaken in the near future.

He also suggested that Annual Meetings should, in future, provide time for discussion on issues concerned with the future of Astronomy in Australia.

10. Election of the Council for 1993-94

As no further nominations for the 1993-94 Council had been received, the retiring Council's nominations for the 1993-94 Council were declared elected as follows:

President:	Prof. A R Hyland
Vice President	Dr E M Sadler
Treasurer	Dr D K Milne
Secretaries	Dr M L Duldig Dr J W O'Byrne
Councillors	Dr M A Dopita Dr W J Couch Dr R W Hunstead Dr J E Norris Dr R L Webster

The meeting closed at 10:45 am.