



ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

Incorporated in the ACT
ABN 37 660 297 848

Minutes of the 35th Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 3 July 2001 in the Erskine House Auditorium, Lorne, Vic.

The Meeting was opened at 11:20 am with the President in the Chair and approximately 35 members of all grades in attendance.

1. Apologies

L.R. Allen, J.E Humble, K.B. Fenton

2. Minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting

Motion that the minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting be accepted as presented.

**Manchester/Hyland
Carried**

3. Business arising from the Minutes

None.

4. President's Report

A written report was distributed to members at the meeting. The President, Mike Bessell, outlined the contents of that report.

The Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) was held this year at Erskine House in Lorne, Victoria, organised by the Astrophysics and Supercomputing department of the Swinburne University of Technology. The meeting dates are 1 to 4 July. The Harley Wood School was held immediately before the Scientific Meeting, also at Erskine House, and was attended by around 50 students. The topic was "Structure in the Universe"

This meeting marked the retirement from Council of Roger Clay, the Immediate Past President, Michelle Storey, the Editor of PASA, and Michelle Buxton, the student representative. The President thanked them all for their service to the Society. He noted that, under new arrangements for the production of PASA, the chair of the new PASA Editorial Advisory Committee, Russell Cannon, was now an ex-officio member in place of the PASA Editor. The President also recorded his appreciation to Brad Carter who was retiring as Editor of the ASA Newsletter.

The 2001 Bok Prize (for an undergraduate project completed in 2000) was awarded to Yeshe Fenner from the ANU's Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics. The judges commented on the high standard of this years other entries from Aidan Brooks, Sarah Lawley, Daniel Price, Cathryn Trott and Randall Wayth.

After making the inaugural award of the Charlene Heisler Prize last year, the prize was not awarded in 2001 and a committee was formed to re-assess the nature of the award. However the initial award of the David Allen Prize was made this year and announced at the conference dinner. The prize of \$1000 and a plaque was awarded to Jonathon Nally, Editor of *Sky & Space* magazine.

The President noted the shock of many members at the death of Michael Large, a long serving member of the astronomical community from the University of Sydney. On a less sombre note, he

commented on the retirements of John Whiteoak, Raymond Haynes and John Humble, all strong supporters of the Society. He noted that John Whiteoak had been awarded the Public Service Medal for Exceptional Service. Another recent award was the Malcolm McIntosh Prize for Achievement in the Physical Sciences to Brian Schmidt. Nine ASA members had been nominated as Australian ISI Citation Laureates, indicating the high citation rate for their papers. This was an outstanding result for the astronomical community since these 9 were drawn from a total of 33 Australian scientists. Finally it was noted that the outgoing President, Mike Bessell, had been elected by (the other members of) the Council as an Honorary Fellow of the ASA.

The current year was described as a watershed for the *Publications of the Astronomical Society of Australia* (PASA) as it ceased to be a paper journal and became largely electronic. The Editorial Board had been disbanded and replaced by a new PASA Editorial Advisory Committee, chaired by Russell Cannon. Michelle Storey had moved from the role as Editor, but remained intimately involved with PASA as Managing Editor, working with CSIRO Publishing. The President thanked her for her initiative and hard work in bringing about the changes in PASA.

The next item in the report noted the preparations for the IAU2003 General Assembly in Sydney. A report from the National Organising Committee (NOC) was presented separately.

The President moved on to note the hard work of many people in the preparation of the NCA mid-term Review of Astronomy. He also noted another complex task - the Major National Research Facility (MNRF) bid for SKA and Gemini funding which was past the first cull at the time of the meeting. A bid for the Antarctic Douglas Mawson Telescope was not so fortunate.

Lighting engineer Reg Wilson continued as the Society's nominee on the Standards Australia Committee LG10 for Obtrusive Lighting. The Society was seeking membership on other relevant panels for Roadway and Sports Ground Lighting. The President thanked Reg for his continuing support to members of the ASA and amateur societies.

Other items were briefly mentioned in the report, including a review of the Education sub-committee and an increase for the overseas travel grant to students from \$500 to \$750. The report concluded by noting that the University of Southern Queensland (USQ) had regretfully withdrawn their offer to host the 2002 meeting and new offers were being sought.

Finally, the membership was informed of amendments to the Society's By-Laws, set out on a page distributed at the meeting. These changes were concerned with changes to the PASA Editorial Board and the position of Editor, and a minor change to the David Allen Prize.

Motion that the President's report be accepted.

**Dopita/Burton
Carried**

5. Treasurer's Report

Bruce Dawson presented a summary of his report for the Society's financial year ending 31 March 2001. Membership of the Society was listed as 377, consisting of 72 Fellows, 218 members, 67 Students, 12 Associate Members, 1 Associate Society and 6 Corporate members. 61 members were unfinancial at the time of the meeting.

At \$26,188, the 2000-2001 income appeared significantly higher than the previous year because of donations from institutions to support the PASA Editorship (appearing as income and expenditure) and a change in accounting methods related to the GST. The latter will not recur in the next report. Assets were \$121,917 in 2000-2001, as compared to \$115,675 in 1999-2000. The Society benefited

from a surplus returned by the 2000 ASM, extra support from the Macquarie Foundation and much improved return on investments.

The Foundation for the Advancement of Astronomy received several large and many smaller donations, more than doubling total funds to \$40,336.

The audit also included the IAU 2003 General Assembly account which is operated by the Society as the legally responsible body for the GA. The account contains seed funding from institutions and has paid some initial expenses, leaving a balance of \$65,215. It is independent of other ASA finances.

The Treasurer proposed that there be no change to the basic fee structure. As a result, the annual fees were

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Aust.(include.GST)</u>	<u>Overseas</u>
Honorary Fellows	no cost	no cost
Fellows	\$121	\$110
Full members	\$99	\$90
Student	\$44	\$40
Retired Fellow	\$44	\$40
Retired Member	\$44	\$40
Associate Member	\$44	\$40
Associate Member with PASA	\$82	\$75
Associate Societies	\$88	\$80
Corporate members	\$330	\$300
Discounts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$5 if paid by 28/2• 10% discount off the GST-inclusive fee if also a member of the AIP and paid by 28/2.• No discount for Corporate members	

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, with Fees and discounts maintained at previous levels.

**Hyland/Couch
Carried**

6. Election of Auditor

The Treasurer recommended the appointment of Chartered Accountant Mr Graham Combe as Auditor for 2001-2002. He noted that the audit was becoming progressively more complex, resulting in a higher cost. The Treasurer undertook to seek ways to streamline the audit.

Motion that Mr Graham Combe be appointed as Auditor for 2001-2002.

**Dawson/Drinkwater
Carried**

7. Editor's Report

The Editor, Michelle Storey, reported on the major changes underway in the administration of PASA in a talk to the ASM earlier in the day. Her written report, circulated at the meeting, noted some of this and reported on PASA activities in the previous year.

She noted that the process of change for PASA had been made possible by financial support of the Editor's position by CSIRO Publishing, the ASA, AAO, ATNF, RSAA and the Universities of Sydney, NSW, Melbourne and Swinburne. This had allowed significant work on graphics and web design in the production of the first PASA Update Bulletin (PUB!) and the draft Australian Astronomy website.

The Editor noted that the current edition would expand to four issues to accommodate all the material to be published. She also noted improvements related to quality and impact - rejection rates had climbed to 21% in 2000-2001, impact factor reached 1.03 (more than double its 1997 value), and institutional subscriptions were up.

The changes to PASA include the replacement of the Editorial Board with an Editorial Advisory Committee (EAC), initially with five local members. An International Advisory Panel was also to be appointed. The Editor thanked the previous Board members for their hard work and advice in the move towards a new model of operation for PASA.

Motion to accept the Editor's report.

**McAdam/Manchester
Carried**

8. ASM/AGM and Harley Wood School for 2002

As noted in the President's report, the University of Southern Queensland had withdrawn their offer to host the 2002 meeting and new offers were being sought.

9. NOC Report

A report from the National Organising Committee (NOC) for the IAU2003 General Assembly in Sydney was presented by NOC chair, Harry Hyland. He noted that this report marked a half way point in the operation of the NOC, with two years to go until the GA. The NOC had formed a variety of sub-committees to manage aspects of its responsibilities. These were - an Executive; Finance; WWW, Media/Newspaper Marketing; Hospitality, Accommodation and Tours; Associated Promotional Events; Program; and Operational Program.

He outlined several major issues to be decided:

- Registration fee and its structure. It was likely to be ~A\$900, which was higher than normal, but essential to meet venue costs of ~\$0.5M (compared to zero for university venues in Manchester);
- the exact rooms to be used in the Darling Harbour Convention Centre;
- the Opening Ceremony, in particular the use of the Opera House;
- the Program;
- the Media interface, led by Helen Sim;
- Sponsorship and Exhibition income. These were crucial and at least \$200,000 was required;
- the Web site, the administration which was in a somewhat confused state over what costs were covered in the contract with ICMS;
- Tours and Associated Events.

These issues generated some questions and comments from the membership, especially about the expected number of delegates and the level of sponsorship required.

10. Any other business

There was no other business apart from some continuing discussion of the previous item.

11. Election of the Council for 2001-2002

As usual, the outgoing Council had made nominations for each position on the Council for 2001-2002. One further nomination was received, so a postal ballot was necessary. The result was declared at the meeting.

The Council for 2001-2002 consisted of the following members:

President:	Dr Richard Manchester
Vice President	Dr Anne Green
Treasurer	Dr Bruce Dawson
Secretaries	Dr Marc Duldig Dr John O'Byrne
Councillors	Prof. Matthew Bailes Dr James Biggs Dr Peter Cottrell Dr Brian Schmidt Prof. John Storey

Prof. Mike Bessell was ex-officio member as Immediate Past President. Dr Roy Allen remained as Donovan Trust Representative. Dr Russell Cannon became an ex-officio member of Council as the chair of the new PASA Editorial Advisory Committee. Diana Londish was the new student representative on the Council.

The meeting was then handed over to the incoming President, Dr Richard Manchester, who offered his thanks to outgoing President, Prof. Mike Bessell, and the Secretaries, Treasurer and outgoing Editor.

The meeting was closed at 12:20 pm by the new President.