



ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

Incorporated in the ACT
ABN 37 660 297 848

Minutes of the 36th Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 2 July 2002 in the Bannisters Point Lodge, Mollymook NSW

The Meeting was opened at 11:25 am with the President in the Chair and approximately 40 members of all grades in attendance.

1. Apologies

M. Bailes, R.D. Cannon, K.B. Fenton, J. Humble, R.D. Cannon, M.C.Storey

2. Minutes of the 35th Annual General Meeting

Motion that the minutes of the 35th Annual General Meeting be accepted as presented.

**Schmidt/Storey
Carried**

3. Business arising from the Minutes

None.

4. President's Report

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

The Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) was held this year at Bannisters Point Lodge, in Mollymook NSW, organised by staff of the Mount Stromlo and Siding Spring Observatories (MSSSO). The meeting dates were 30 June to 3 July. The Harley Wood School was held immediately before the Scientific Meeting, at the Coachhouse Marina Resort at Batemans Bay, and was attended by around 50 students. The topic was "A History of the Universe in Three Acts"

The President noted that it had been a very busy year, with the organisation of the IAU General Assembly taking much of the Council's time. The Society was healthy, both in membership numbers and finances. The Society had 382 members, marking a modest upward trend with strong student numbers.

Several members had died during the year and the President briefly commented on each – Robert Hanbury-Brown, Kevin Westfold, Ken Sims and Jim O'Mara - and asked the members to stand for a minute as a mark of respect.

The Society periodically awards several prizes and their status was reported. A second award of the David Allen Prize, for the promotion of astronomy in the media, was expected to be advertised and possibly made before the end of the year. Nominations had been called during the year for the second award of the Charlene Heisler Prize, to reward excellence at the undergraduate level, but the response had been disappointing and it was decided not to make an award. The process was to be reassessed. The Bok Prize is awarded annually for an undergraduate project completed in the previous year. The call for nominations had been late this year and as a result there were few entries. It was decided to make no award. The Page Medal is awarded biannually to members of the amateur community making substantial contributions to astronomy. In a departure from

tradition, the 2002 award was made to a group, the Reynolds Amateur Photometry Team for their work on variable stars using telescopes at Mount Stromlo.

The David Allen and Charlene Heisler Prizes are funded through the Foundation for the Advancement of Astronomy (FAA). The fund stood at almost \$50,000 and the President encouraged members to continue supporting the growth of the fund. The Ellery prize was to be included in FAA activities in the future.

The past year marked the transition for the *Publications of the Astronomical Society of Australia* (PASA) from paper to electronic publication. The President congratulated the Managing Editor, Michelle Storey, and CSIRO Publishing for being at the forefront of developments in electronic publishing. Subscriptions appeared to be around the usual rate despite early concerns and the impact factor was rising, but the journal needs good papers submitted to guarantee its future.

The next item in the report noted the preparations for the IAU2003 General Assembly (GA) in Sydney. The ASA was involved in a number of ways, with many members involved in the National Organising Committee (NOC). After some initial problems, the NOC and conference organisers ICMS were working together well. The ASA was also the financially responsible body for the \$2 million budget. The ASA reserves and the 'float' funds provided by many institutions were small in comparison. Most of the funds must come from registrations and thus it was essential to encourage attendance by international colleagues.

The budget also contained \$350,000 in sponsorship but efforts to raise this, using the time of busy members, had not progressed well in the last year. A shortfall of this magnitude would bankrupt the Society and so the Council decided to commit \$55,000 of ASA funds towards employing someone to pursue sponsorship. David Ellyard was employed 3 days per week in this role.

The President urged all members to give some of their time to help when asked, to ensure the success of the GA.

In conclusion, the President thanked the Council for their efforts, in particular the two Secretaries and the Treasurer.

The report generated several questions, covering issues such as insurance for individuals involved in the organisation (in place), how to cover any shortfall or deal with a profit (under debate), and performance clauses in Ellyard's contract (performance review was included). The point was again made that members must encourage international colleagues to attend.

Finally the President's considerable efforts in the last year contributing to the organisation of the GA were acknowledged.

Motion that the President's report be accepted.

**McAdam/Allen
Carried**

5. Treasurer's Report

Bruce Dawson presented a summary of his report for the Society's financial year ending 31 March 2002. Membership of the Society was listed as 382, consisting of 71 Fellows, 220 members, 73 Students, 11 Associate Members, 1 Associate Society and 6 Corporate members. 73 members were unfinancial at the time of the meeting.

The Treasurer reported on three sets of accounts – the Society, the Foundation for the Advancement of Astronomy (FAA) and the IAU2003 General Assembly. The last is administered by conference organisers ICMS for the NOC.

The Society accounts showed an increase of almost \$9000 over the financial year, continuing a trend of surpluses in recent years. In 2001-2002 the surplus resulted from various factors including improved interest and reductions in some expenditure. Note that this did not allow for \$55,000 committed to seeking GA sponsorship, as noted in the President’s report, which occurred after the end of the Society’s financial year.

The Foundation for the Advancement of Astronomy received donations totalling almost \$8000, to bring total assets to almost \$50,000.

The IAU 2003 General Assembly account was reduced by expenditure related to the preparations for the GA to just over \$38,000.

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 	

The Treasurer presented a budget for 2002-2003, predicting a small surplus.

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

**Burton/Caswell
Carried**

6. Election of Auditor

The Treasurer recommended the appointment of Chartered Accountant Mr Graham Combe as Auditor for 2002-2003.

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

**Dawson/Tinney
Carried**

7. Editor's Report

The Managing Editor, Michelle Storey, and the chair of the Editorial Advisory Committee, Russell Cannon, were not present and no formal report was presented on PASA, although it had been discussed earlier.

8. ASM/AGM and Harley Wood School for 2003

In 2003 the IAU General Assembly will displace the Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) and the Harley Wood School. The Society's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place around the time of the GA.

No site had yet been suggested for the 2004 ASM/AGM.

9. NOC Report

The activities of the NOC had been discussed during the President's report.

10. Any other business

There was no other business apart from some brief discussion of aspects of the GA web site.

11. Election of the Council for 2002-2003

Dr Peter Cottrell was retiring from the Council and the President acknowledged his contribution over his three years on the Council.

As usual, the outgoing Council had made nominations for each position on the Council for 2002-2003. One further nomination was received, so a postal ballot was necessary. The result was declared at the meeting.

The Council for 2002-2003 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 Paul Cally 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 was ex-officio member of Council as the chair of the PASA Editorial Advisory Committee. Mrs Diana Londish remained the student representative on the Council.

The meeting was closed at 12:34 pm by the President.