



# ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

*Incorporated in the ACT*

*ABN 37 660 297 848*

## **Minutes of the 47th Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 10 July 2013 Central One Theatre Monash University**

The Meeting was opened at 11:12 am with the President in the Chair and approximately 112 members of all grades in attendance.

### **1. Apologies**

J.Dickey, M.Burton.

### **2. Minutes of the 46th Annual General Meeting**

Motion that the minutes of the 46th Annual General Meeting be accepted.

**Madidson/Couch  
Carried**

### **3. Business arising from the Minutes**

None.

### **4. President's Report**

A written report (included below) was distributed to members at the meeting. The President, Kate Brooks, outlined the contents of the report (below) in a powerpoint summary.

#### **1. ASA Council Members 2012 – 2013**

Kate Brooks	President
Andrew Hopkins	Vice-President
Lister Staveley-Smith	Immediate Past President
John O'Byrne	Secretary
Marc Duldig	Secretary
Katrina Sealey	Treasurer
Andrew Walsh	Councillor
Cath Trott	Councillor
Amanda Karakas	Councillor
Gavin Rowell	Councillor
Darren Croton	Councillor
Andy Casey	Student Representative
Bryan Gaensler	(Co-opted) Chair, PASA Editorial Board
Tanya Hill	(Co-opted) Prizes and Awards Coordinator

I would like to thank all members of Council for their efforts and contributions, and to acknowledge in particular Lister Staveley-Smith and Andrew Walsh whose terms come to an end at this AGM. I would like to extend a special thank you to Lister who did an excellent job serving as the Society's Vice President, President and Immediate Past President over these past six years.

I am very grateful for the work of those council members who hold ongoing roles in the Society (John O'Byrne, Marc Duldig, Katrina Sealey, Bryan Gaensler and Tanya Hill).

#### **2. Highlights**

##### 2.1 Official Opening of MWA and ASKAP

Australia welcomed its newest radio telescopes, the Australian Square Kilometre Array Pathfinder (ASKAP) and the Murchison Widefield Array (MWA). They were officially opened at two separate opening ceremonies

held at the Murchison Radio-astronomy Observatory (MRO) in Western Australia, ASKAP on 5 October 2012 and MWA on 30 November 2012.

### 2.2 Total Solar Eclipse

On 14 November 2012 the solar system delivered a total solar eclipse across northern Queensland and the Northern Territory. Many of our members participated in community outreach events in Queensland and in the local communities. An ASA Fact Sheet on the Total Eclipse (No. 23) was produced for school groups, amateur astronomy groups and the general public by the Education and Public Outreach Chapter of the ASA. A subsequent Fact Sheet (No. 25) was produced on the annular solar eclipse that took place on the morning of 10 May 2013.

### 2.3 New leaders of Australia's National Observatories

Welcome to Dr Lewis Ball, the new chief of CSIRO Astronomy and Space Science (and Director of the Australia Telescope National Facility), Professor Warrick Couch, the new Director of the Australian Astronomical Observatory and Professor Matthew Colless, the new Director of the Research School of Astronomy & Astrophysics of the Australian National University (which operates the Siding Spring Observatory).

### 2.4 Significant achievement and recognition of ASA members

Many of our members and institutes were acknowledged over the past year for their contributions to scientific excellence and the community. Those nationally recognized include:

- Brian Schmidt received Australia's greatest civic honour, Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia
- Michael Dopita was awarded Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia.
- Brian Boyle was awarded a Public Service Medal.
- Ken Freeman received the 2012 Prime Minister's Prize for Science and 2013 Henry Norris Russell Lectureship, the American Astronomical Society's top prize.
- Chris Blake received the 2013 Australian Academy of Science's Pawsey Medal.
- Bryan Gaensler was elected as Fellow of the Australia Academy of Science.
- The AAO was co-winner of the 2013 AHRI Gender Equity in the Workplace Awards.

These are in addition to the dozens of other National and State-based prizes that were awarded to our members across the country. This long list of accolades is a testament not only to the high calibre of researchers, teachers and communicators in our society but also to the high profile and regard that Australian astronomy enjoys from the public.

### 2.5 Launch of new ASA Chapter for Early Career Researchers

The Early Career Researcher Chapter is a new chapter of the ASA that will act to support the needs and development of Early Career Researchers in the Australian astronomy community. Membership of the chapter is open to all members of the ASA (as student member, ordinary member and senior/mentor member). The new Chapter will work with the other ASA Chapters (ANITA, Women in Astronomy and EPOC) to support cross-chapter goals for the benefit of all ASA members.

### 2.6 Changes to ASA Constitution

An ASA Constitutional Amendment Ballot took place in March/April 2013. The important changes passed included:

- Electronic ballots are now possible (in addition to postal ballots).
- Terms of office for Councillors are now two-year rolling cycles (rather than one year) to allow Councillors the stability to invest effort into council activities on longer timescales.
- The Chair of the Editorial Board is now an *ex-officio* extra Council member (rather than using up one of the two available co-opted positions that the council may appoint).

### 1.7 Trial of Parallel Sessions

In response to our growing membership and the high number of requests each year for contributed talks at the ASA Annual Science Meeting (ASM) a trial of parallel sessions (2 x 2 parallel sessions) is underway at the 2013 ASM. Feedback from participants will be sought via a post-meeting survey.

## 2.8 New date for 2014 Annual Science Meeting

There have been increasing requests from members to hold the ASM outside of school holidays. The meeting is usually held in the University common week, which overlaps with most state school holiday periods. After polling the membership on what dates suit the community best, the dates for the 2014 ASM have been set at 20-25 July (outside school holidays but within the teaching break for many universities). The date for the 2015 ASM will likely revert back to the University common week and depending on membership feedback, an alternating pattern of dates may be adopted for future years.

## **3. Wambelong Bush Fire**

On the evening of Sunday 13 January 2013 the Australian astronomy community, along with the rest of the Nation, watched on in horror at the reports unfolding of the fierce Wambelong Bush Fire that roared through the Warrumbungle National Park, to the west of Siding Spring Observatory and the Mopra Telescope. When the fire changed direction with a sudden change in wind and began roaring up the Timor Road, astronomers were glued to the online telescope webcams and announcements made by the Rural Fire Service (RFS). In the following days there was relief to hear that there was no loss of life but absolute shock to uncover the extent of devastation to homes, sheds and outbuildings. Damage to the infrastructure at Siding Spring Observatory and the Mopra Telescope site was evident but it took time to determine that the telescopes themselves had survived.

In the weeks following the bushfire I regularly sent out emails to our membership with status updates of the fire damage and with information on the various funds set up to help the local Coonabarabran community. The concern from our members for their colleagues and friends in “Coona” was overwhelming.

Our members were also very grateful to the brave men and women of the NSW Rural Fire Service, local Police and other volunteers in the Coonabarabran region who did an amazing job to ensure that no lives were lost and that the damage to properties was kept to a minimum.

Over the past six months since the fires staff from astronomy institutes across Australia, particularly those from the Australian Astronomical Observatory, Australian National University and CSIRO, have worked very hard to return the telescopes to working order. I am very pleased to note that the Siding Spring Observatory and the Mopra Telescope are operational once more. This is fantastic news for the Australian astronomy community, especially for our astronomy students and early career staff working on projects that rely on new data from these world-class facilities.

The ASA Council has given a modest financial donation of \$1000 to three residents affected by the fires. One of these is a current ASA student member and the other two are past ASA members who are well known to our community. The annual membership fee was also waived for the student member.

## **4. ASA Events in 2012**

### 4.1 ASA Women in Astronomy Workshop 2012

The second ASA women in astronomy workshop was held over 10-11 October 2012 at Swinburne University. The meeting was attended by more than 100 people, including over 30 people streaming online. A brief report on the content and outcomes of the workshop is available from the Chapter's website: <http://asawomeninastronomy.org/>

### 4.2 ASA ANITA Astroinformatics Summer School 2013

The ASA held its third biennial Astroinformatics Summer School at the University of Queensland, Brisbane over three days (18-20 February 2013). For the first time the school was administered by the ASA Australian National Institute for Theoretical Astrophysics (ANITA) Chapter. The school was attended by 56 participants and 11 instructors.

Tutorials are available online at: <https://github.com/astroinformaticsau>

### 4.3 ASA ANITA Theory Workshop 2013

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual ANITA Theory Workshop took place over two days (21-22 February 2013) after the Astroinformatics Summer School at the same venue. The meeting was attended by 64 participants, with 33

presenting. Nine students gave talks, and the ANITA book prize was awarded to Michael Meehan from James Cook University, for his talk “Enhancement of dark matter relic abundances in various cosmological scenarios”.

#### 4.4 ASA Harley Wood Winter School 2013

The 2013 Harley Wood Winter School was held over the 4-7 July 2013 on Phillip Island in Victoria. This year’s theme was “Supersize Me: extremely large telescopes, datasets and careers” and was attended by 50 astronomy students and 10 invited speakers.

#### 4.5 ASA Annual Science Meeting 2013

The annual 5-day ASA Science Meeting took place at the Clayton Campus of Monash University in Melbourne over 8-12 July 2013. There were 260 registered participants (the highest ever) and the program was jam-packed with 100 invited and contributed talks as well as many auxiliary meetings and events and an Australian Synchrotron tour.

#### 4.6 Support of other meetings

The ASA supported the attendance of two members (early career researchers Stas Shabala from UTas and Cath Trott from Curtin) at the 2012 Science Meets Parliament event.

As a cognate society partner of the Australian Institute of Physics, the ASA also supported two astronomy sessions in the 20th Australian Institute of Physics Congress.

### **5. ASA Membership**

Our membership continues to grow. As of 30 June 2013 the current membership is 645 including 200 student members.

Our Corporate Members (AAL, AAO, CSIRO Astronomy and Space Science, Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics ANU, Centre for Astrophysics and Supercomputing, Swinburne University of Technology and the University of Sydney Physics Foundation) continue to support the Society.

It is also with much pleasure that we announce Council’s appointment of Professor Anne Green as an Honorary Fellow of the Society. Anne is a distinguished radio astronomer whose main research focus is the study of the structure and ecology of the Milky Way Galaxy. She was the Director of the Molonglo Observatory for 10 years and was the first female Head of the School of Physics at University of Sydney from 2007-2009. Anne has served on numerous national and international working groups, review boards and executive committees. She is currently a Director and Deputy Chair of the AAL Board, has previously been President of the Astronomical Society of Australia, and was the inaugural chair of a working group of the International Astronomical Union on Women in Astronomy. She is a friend and a mentor to many of our members and the Society is proud to have her as an Honorary Fellow.

### **6. Financial**

Information on the Society’s finances is available in the Treasurer’s Report.

I wish to acknowledge all of those groups and individuals who have made donations to the Foundation for the Advancement of Astronomy (FAA). The FAA is a tax-deductible Foundation that exists to enhance the ASA's efforts to promote Astronomy and related fields in Australia, and to recognise and support excellence in those fields. The purposes of the FAA are broadly defined to allow the support of prizes, scholarships, research and facilities. The FAA now funds all ASA Prizes. In addition, support from the Richard Cole Fund is now available to support ASA activities for students, in particular the ASA/ANITA Summer School in Theoretical Astrophysics and the Astroinformatics School. The ASA welcomes suggestions for other initiatives.

### **7. Publications of the ASA (PASA)**

The society’s journal Publications of the ASA (PASA) continues to thrive under the leadership of Bryan Gaensler and his editorial colleagues: Jeremy Mould, Daniel Price, Michael Burton and Benedetta Ciardi, Beatriz Barbay and Dawn Erb. The PASA International Advisory Board is now fully installed to be a public advocate for PASA and to provide strategic advice.

As anticipated, PASA's 2013 ISI two-year impact factor (IF), corresponding to citations in 2012 from papers published in 2010 & 2011, has continued to improve: impact factors for the last three years have been 1.59 in 2011, 2.26 in 2012 and 3.12. PASA now ranks 19 out of the 56 astronomy journals whose IFs are tracked by ISI. Notably, PASA ranks 10th in IF out of the 84 journals published by Cambridge University Press.

PASA's long-standing publishing contract with CSIRO Publishing ended on 31 Dec 2012. A new 5-year publishing contract has been signed with Cambridge University Press (CUP). PASA now publishes continuously, with no division into individual issues. The current median turnaround times are 7 weeks from submission to acceptance, and 7 weeks from acceptance to publication. ASA members can sign up to receive an electronic table of contents alert.

All papers submitted to PASA will now be reviewed with the plagiarism detection software "CrossCheck."

## **8. Loss of prominent Society members**

It is with sadness that I note the passing of two former ASA Foundation members Richard McGee and S. Suzuki.

Suzuki passed away in November 2012 and was a member of the ASA until this time. He was affiliated with CSIRO Radiophysics and worked on the Culgoora Radioheliograph at the Paul Wild Observatory in Narrabri.

Dick McGee passed away in December 2012. He was the secretary and then editor of the Society's journal (then known as Proceedings of the Astronomical Society of Australia) between 1971 and 1988, our longest serving editor so far. In 1990 Dick was made an Honorary Fellow of the Society. During the 36-year period he worked at CSIRO, Dick carried out groundbreaking research on the Galactic Centre and the Magellanic Clouds. Many members of the ASA attended Dick's memorial service, with strong representation from CSIRO and the University of Sydney.

## **9. ASA Awards and Prizes**

*2013 Bok Prize for outstanding research in astronomy by an Honours or eligible Masters student at an Australian university.*

Awarded to Ben Pope for his thesis "Dancing in the Dark: Kernel Phase Interferometry of Ultracool Dwarfs". Ben completed his honours research at the Sydney Institute for Astronomy (SifA) at the University of Sydney, supervised by Peter Tuthill and Frantz Martinache.

In addition, Andrew Lehmann receives an honourable mention for his thesis "Shock Waves in Turbulent Molecular Clouds" completed at Macquarie University and supervised by Mark Wardle.

*2013 Charlene Heisler Prize for the best PhD thesis accepted by an Australian university.*

Awarded to Emily Wisnioski for her thesis "The Kinematic Properties of Clumpy Star-Forming Galaxies", completed at Swinburne University and supervised by Karl Glazebrook.

The field was particularly strong this year, and two Honourable Mentions are also awarded: To Daniel Huber for his thesis "Asteroseismology and Interferometry of Cool Stars" completed at SifA and supervised by Tim Bedding; and to Keith Bannister for his thesis "Astrophysical Radio Transients: Surveys and Techniques" completed at SifA and supervised by Bryan Gaensler, Tara Murphy and Tim Cornwell.

*2013 Louise Webster Prize for outstanding research by a scientist early in their post-doctoral career.*

Awarded to Andy Green (Swinburne University) for his paper "High star formation rates as the origin of turbulence in early and modern disk galaxies".

In addition, Alan Duffy (University of Melbourne) receives an honorable mention for his paper on the "Impact of baryon physics on dark matter structures: a detailed simulation study of halo density profiles".

*2013 Robert Ellery Lectureship to recognise individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to astronomy throughout their career to-date.*

Awarded to Professor Rachel Webster (University of Melbourne) for her significant contributions to both observational and theoretical astrophysical research over the past two decades and her work in supporting

students and early career researchers, including mentoring programs and women in physics initiatives.

*2013 Harley Wood Lecture – an annual public lecture in honour of the first President of the Society.*

“The Birth, Life and Death of our Planet..... and of the Universe” by Assoc. Professor Charley Lineweaver (Australian National University).

*2012 Annual Science Meeting Student Prizes (from last year’s Annual Scientific Meeting)*

Best student Talk:

Winner - Christina Blom (Swinburne) "NGC 4365: A key to Galaxy Formation."

Runner up - Terrence Tricco (Monash) "Improved simulations of magnetic fields in star formation."

Best Student Posters:

Winner: Genevieve Shattow (Swinburne) "Measuring the environments of galaxies in the high redshift Universe."

Runner up#1: Kitty Lo (USyd) "Automatic classification of variable 2XMM sources."

Runner up#2: Hauke Worpel (Monash) "Does the accretion rate change during a thermonuclear bust?"

**10. Women in Astronomy Chapter (WiA)**

<http://asawomeninastronomy.org/>

The aim of the Women in Astronomy Chapter is to raise the profile of women in Australian astronomy. The current Chair of the Chapter’s Steering committee is Lisa Harvey-Smith.

The primary goal of the Chapter is to monitor the status of women working in astronomy in Australia and recommend future actions that will improve the environment for all astronomers. Statistics are now available for the following: ASA membership, ASA Council membership, ASA award recipients and the ASA Annual Science Meetings. <http://asawomeninastronomy.org/statistics/>

The ASA Women in Astronomy Chapter invites you to register for the Women in Astronomy 2013 Workshop “Pathways to Success.” The workshop is free and all are welcome to attend irrespective of gender and seniority. The workshop will be held on 11-12 September 2013 in Perth Western Australia and will be hosted by the International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research (ICRAR).

<http://asawomeninastronomy.org/wia-workshop-2013/>

**11. Education and Public Outreach Chapter (EPOC)**

<http://asaepoc.wordpress.com/>

The Mission of EPOC is to advance the level of public awareness of the excitement of astronomy and of the international importance of Australian astronomy, while promoting the teaching of astronomy to students and the public. The current Chair of the EPOC Steering Committee is Chris Fluke (Swinburne).

EPOC produces the popular ASA Factsheets series. These information sheets cover a number of topics of interest to the general public, such solar and lunar eclipses, comets and general astronomy information with an Australian flavour. The three most recent fact sheets have proved to be very popular with the public:

No. 25: Annular Solar Eclipse 10 May 2013.

No. 24: Transit of Venus 6 June 2013.

No. 23: Solar eclipse 14 November 2012.

**12. Australian National Institute for Theoretical Astrophysics (ANITA)**

<http://anita.edu.au/>

ANITA is a virtual national institute, which aims to ensure that the needs of Australian theoretical astrophysics are represented at a national and international level. The goals of ANITA are to raise the profile of Australian theoretical astrophysics, encourage national collaboration, foster international links, facilitate theoretical astrophysics meetings, and provide input into national policy.

The current Chair of the ANITA Steering Committee is Darren Croton. In February 2014 the annual ANITA Workshop and the biennial ANITA Summer School (on N-Body Simulations) will be hosted by the University of Sydney (LOC Chair is Geraint Lewis).

ANITA supports the ongoing education of astronomy students, postdocs and staff by hosting a series of

monthly online lectures through Google's Hangouts on Air. These lectures cover a wide range of topics: from basic statistics and computational techniques, to advanced specialised subjects and more.

### **13. Early Career Research Chapter**

<http://asaecr.smp.uq.edu.au/>

This new ASA chapter aims to support the needs and development of early career astronomers (including students) in Australia. The priorities of the Chapter are to:

1. Highlight opportunities for professional training and support.
2. Provide training in professional development.
3. Connect members and provide a support network.
4. Advocate for and represent the ECR community.

An interim Steering Committee is in place, Chaired by David Parkinson.

### **14. Communications (Information flow to members)**

The ASA email exploder remains the primary communication avenue for ASA news. Under the new Mailman system, members can post directly to the email exploder [asa@physics.usyd.edu.au](mailto:asa@physics.usyd.edu.au).

The ASA Facebook Page continues to be a popular avenue for quickly highlighting recent articles, awards and upcoming events.

The ASA Events Calendar lists all ASA-sponsored events as well as conferences, workshops and meetings in Australia (and occasionally overseas) that are open to broad Australian and international participation (see <http://asa.astronomy.org.au/calendar.html>).

### **15. Progress against 2012-2013 priorities**

In addition to the ongoing work of the ASA, the Council had defined the following series of priorities for 2012-2013. These were suggested by the outgoing Council and presented to the 2012 AGM. (<http://asa.astronomy.org.au/priorities.html>).

1. New ASA Chapter for Early Career Researchers.  
*Complete – see 2.5 above.*
2. Electronic Voting.  
*Complete – see 2.6 above.*
3. Brian Schmidt Lecture Series.  
*Brian and the ANU have run an impressively full and high-impact schedule of public events over the past two years and a Lecture Series run by ASA and AIP will be put on hold for the time being.*
4. Look at restructuring the Council to reflect our increasing membership roles and the changing role of technology.  
*Complete – see 2.6 above.*
5. Management of information flow to members.  
*Ongoing – see 14 above.*
6. Document the early history of the ASA.  
*Ongoing.*
7. Enhance the Australian Astronomy web site.  
*Ongoing. Thank you to Sarah Maddison for managing this website. The website has moved to a new site: <http://astronomy.org.au/>*
8. Run a workshop for ECRs on "How to referee journal articles".  
*Carried over to 2013-14.*

### **16. New Priorities for ASA Council 2013-2014**

The new priorities for the ASA Council 2013-14 (see below) will be discussed during the ASA Annual General Meeting and updated afterwards on the ASA website.

1. Document the early history of the ASA.
2. Enhance the Australian Astronomy web site.
3. Run a workshop for ECRs on "How to referee journal articles".
4. Review priorities of ASA funding to ensure continued support of students.

5. Consider bidding for a future IAU Asia-Pacific Rim (APRIM) meeting.
6. Promote close involvement of the ASA Chapters in the preparation of the next Astronomy Decadal Plan.
7. Fill the newly opened co-opted position on Council (social media focus).
8. Run a workshop on science communication.

### **17. ASA Council for 2012-2013**

Council made nominations for the two opening positions on Council and then solicited the membership for further nominations. One extra nomination was received. One of the council nominees withdrew their nomination and therefore the nomination from the membership was elected unopposed and there was no need for an electronic ballot.

Nominations were sought from the student membership for a new student representative. One nomination was received and the new student representative was elected unopposed.

I am pleased to announce that Council for the following 12 months will be:

Andrew Hopkins	President
Darren Croton	Vice-President
Kate Brooks	Immediate Past President
John O'Byrne	Secretary
Marc Duldig	Secretary
Katrina Sealey	Treasurer
Lee Spitler	Councillor
Cath Trott	Councillor
Amanda Karakas	Councillor
Gavin Rowell	Councillor
Duncan Galloway	Councillor
Paola Oliva Altamirano	Student Representative
Bryan Gaensler	(Ex-officio) Chair, PASA Editorial Board
Tanya Hill	(Co-opted) Prizes and Awards Coordinator
New Position	(Co-opted but currently unfilled)

Congratulations to Andrew Hopkins who will be the new ASA President and I welcome our new Council members Lee Spitler (Macquarie University) and Duncan Galloway (Monash University) and our new student representative Paola Oliva Altamirano.

### **18. Harley Wood and ASM/AGM 2014**

Macquarie University's Astronomy, Astrophysics and Astrophotonics Research Centre (MQAAAstro) will be the host of the 2014 Harley Wood Winter School and the Annual Science Meeting. The Harley Wood Winter School will take place at the Windsor Convention Centre (18 – 20 July 2014) and the Science Meeting will be held on campus (20 – 25 July 2014).

The ASA Council is grateful to Quentin Parker and the team at MQAAAstro for hosting the major ASA event in our yearly calendar.

### **19. Thank you to organisers of the Harley Wood and ASM/AGM 2013-07-12**

A special thanks goes to Duncan Galloway and his Monash colleagues for being excellent hosts and running a jam-packed meeting full of excellent scientific sessions and community meetings as well as trialing a family-friendly breakout session from which to view the talks. Thank you also to Michael Brown and the rest of the Science Organising Committee for scheduling interesting invited and contributed talks and trialing parallel sessions. The Council also appreciate the efforts of the Dane Kleiner and the rest of the Harley Wood Winter School organizing committee for running a very successful school for our student members.

### **20. Closing remarks**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our members for giving me the opportunity to serve as the ASA

President for these past two years. It has been an immensely rewarding and fun experience. I look forward to serving as the Immediate Past President for the next two years and working with our new President, Andrew Hopkins and new Vice President, Darren Croton. I must thank Andrew for his unfailing support over the past two years in the role of Vice President.

I must extend a special thanks to past ASA Presidents Lister Staveley-Smith and Warrick Couch who both encouraged me to step up to this role – they are wonderful mentors and I am extremely grateful to them.

Motion that the President's report be accepted.

**Lattanzio/Duncan Galloway  
Carried**

**5. Treasurer's Report and presentation of audited accounts**

The Treasurer, Katrina Sealey, presented a summary of a printed report for the Society's financial year ending 31 March 2013.

I present the Treasurer's report for the 12 months ending 31 March 2013 - the ASA's 2012-13 financial year - based on the ASA and FAA financial reports of Wong and Mayes Chartered Accountants, Sydney (audit reports available on request).

The Society's finances are once again solid.

The outgoings appear lower than the previous year due to the change in PASA publishers and the change in the PASA editor payment cycle. The payments to the editors are now done by the ASA Treasurer and were done in the 13/14 financial year.

Incomings are slightly higher than last year. There was an increase in income from the membership fees and the 2011 ASM surplus has been received.

We currently have about 645 active members (12 members are to be deemed unfinancial at the 2013 AGM). Of these active members 85% are financial as of June 2013. There is still around 6K of subs to be collected for 2013. There has been 63k in subs invoiced to date.

This year the Foundation for the Advancement in Astronomy (FAA) has received about \$2.8K in donations from members.

The surplus from the IAU General Assembly is currently about \$14,000 (\$36K minus \$22,000 to 2012 ANITA, 2013 ANITA and ECR Mentoring workshops). There is approximately 1 year of support for the student workshops remaining with the IAU surplus.

The ASA hopes to accumulate funds over the coming years to allow the ASA to continue supporting student workshops once the IAU surplus is depleted. The funds collected for the student workshops will appear as profit over the next few years until the IAU General Assembly surplus has been used and we begin to use the funds being accumulated for the workshops.

Account balances at 31/3/13 were:

<b>ASA accounts</b>		<b>FAA accounts</b>	
ASA chq 062 166 0090 2732	39,746.53	FAA Chq 065004 10222301	8,389
ASA online business 2284 1028	31,397.71	FAA online 2284 1028 7949	59,069
Term Deposit 06 2284 50140052	46,751.32	Term deposit 06 2284 50140060	29,219
Term Deposit 06 2284 50130794	48,891.02	Term deposit 06 5004 50120254	63,667
		3 year term deposit 06 2210 50131569	53,544
<b>Total</b>	<b>166,786.58</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>213,888</b>

The Foundation for the Advancement of Astronomy (FAA) received donations of \$2,667.

The allocation of FAA funds among the various nominal funds at 31/3/13 were:

	<b>David Allen Prize</b>	<b>Charlene Heisler Prize</b>	<b>Louise Webster Prize</b>	<b>No Preference[1]</b>	<b>Bok Prize</b>	<b>Page Medal</b>	<b>Gascoigne Fund[2]</b>	<b>Harley Wood Fund[3]</b>	<b>Richard Cole Fund[4]</b>
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Total	29,195	31,290	19,840	16,402	11,870	1,351	26,648	43,549	33,743
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[1] No preference will be allocated to prizes/funds to make them self-sustaining.

[2] to support the Ellery lectureship.

[3] to support student travel to the HWWS.

[4] to support student workshops.

In summary, ASA finances remained sound. The Treasurer offered a projection for the following financial year with an income of \$63,400 and expenditure of \$73,500. The difference is explained by the timing of payments for Student Workshops that will fall due within this financial year.

The basic table of membership rates proposed was changed for 2014, in line a new policy of increasing rates approximately in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Grade	Discounted rate	Full rate
Honorary Fellows	no cost	no cost
Fellows	\$159	\$192
Full members	\$129	\$162
Student/Retirees/Associates	\$55	\$77
Associate Societies	\$108	\$108
Corporate members		\$563

The discounts applied to most grades for payment by the due date. Overseas members paid rates less GST.

### Discussion

Sarah Maddison asked about the royalties from PASA. The Treasurer explained that the situation with the new publisher, Cambridge University Press, was that the net cost of PASA was only around \$10k, compared to \$15k under the previous contract with CSIRO Publishing.

Quentin Parker asked about donations, currently around \$2-3k per year.

Warrick Couch asked about budget priorities. The Vice President responded, explaining that the objective was to ensure sustainability of current key activities such as the student travel support and the various workshops. Darren Croton noted that support institutions remained critical to the various workshops.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and audit and the new Fee structure.

**Fluke/Mould  
Carried**

### 6. Election of Auditor

The Treasurer recommended the continued appointment of Wong and Mayes as Auditor for 2013-2014.

Motion that Wong and Mayes be appointed as Auditor for 2013-2014.

**Sealey/Duncan Galloway  
Carried**

### 7. Editorial Board Report

The PASA report was presented by Bryan Gaensler, the Chair of the Editorial Board. The report began by once again encouraging members to publish in PASA, emphasising the advantages of publishing in PASA – electronic only, fast publication, experienced and pro-active Editorial Board, including review articles and topical issues, with a solid and improving ISI impact factor. From 2013 PASA moved to a new publisher, Cambridge University Press (CUP).

All submissions were via *ScholarOne* (same as MNRAS) with continuous publication in just 5-7 weeks, whereas previously it had been previously ~5-6 months! CUP also allowed a 20% discount for ASA members on purchases of CUP books, free electronic reprints of published articles and plagiarism checking via *iThenticate*.

Examples of the special series of papers published by PASA were quoted, noting that these were *not* conference proceedings, but unique sets of refereed papers or reviews, inspired by conferences, workshops, new facilities, etc. In addition, the Dawes Review of 'marquee' review papers had several in preparation:

- "Kinematic studies of galaxy assembly across cosmic time" by Karl Glazebrook
- "Nucleosynthesis and stellar yields of low and intermediate-mass stars" by Amanda Karakas & John Lattanzio
- "The atmospheres of extrasolar planets and brown dwarfs" by Jeremy Bailey
- "Spiral galaxies and the nature of spiral arms" by Clare Dobbs

The Editorial Board members were listed and the need for three new appointments was foreshadowed for later in 2013.

### Discussion

The report attracted a variety of questions. The Editor noted:

- the rejection rate was ~30-40%.
- Demography of submissions was ~30-40% Australian, ~20-30% from countries with strong astronomy communities, with the remainder from developing countries.
- Moderated commenting was now available on articles.
- There are no real limits on the supplementary data that may be included.
- There are 6 free Open Access papers per year or you can pay.
- Authors can publish a pdf to their own web pages immediately.

The question was asked if any departments were telling researchers where to publish to maximise impact, but no one suggested that this was true and it was perhaps less critical with changes to the Excellence in Research Australia (ERA) process. Brian Schmidt noted that it was costly to publish regularly in Ap.J and he saw no disadvantage to publishing in PASA.

Motion to accept the PASA Report.

**Duncan Galloway/Andrew Walsh  
Carried**

### **8. ASM, AGM and Harley Wood School for 2014**

As noted in the President's report, the Annual Science Meeting and Annual General Meeting of the ASA for 2014 were to be hosted in Sydney by Macquarie University and would be trialling a later date, 20-25 July.

### **9. Any other business**

None

### **10. Election of the Council for 2013-2014**

As required under the Constitution, the outgoing Council had made nominations for each position on the Council for 2013-2014. With additional nominees, there were six nominees for the five Councillor positions and therefore a ballot of the voting members was necessary. This was to be the first electronic ballot for the Council. However, one nominee withdrew several weeks before the AGM and so no ballot was necessary and nominees were declared elected unopposed.

Note that the terms for Councillors had been extended by Constitutional changes to 2 years.

The Council for 2013-2015 consisted of the following members:

President	A/Prof. Andrew Hopkins
Immediate Past President	Dr Kate Brooks
Vice President	A/Prof. Darren Croton
Secretaries	Dr Marc Duldig A/Prof. John O'Byrne
Treasurer	Dr Katrina Sealey
Councillors	Dr Duncan Galloway Dr Amanda Karakas Dr Gavin Rowell Dr Lee Spitler Dr Cathryn Trott

Additional Councillors were:

PASA Editorial Board Chair (ex-officio)	Prof. Bryan Gaensler
Prizes and Awards Coordinator (co-opted)	Dr Tanya Hill
New co-opted position	unfilled

Ms Paola Oliva-Altamirano was elected unopposed as the new student representative on the Council. Mr Robert Hollow continued as the Society's Donovan Trust representative, although this is not a Council position.

Thanks were offered to Lister Staveley-Smith as the retiring Immediate Past President. The new President, Andrew Hopkins, thanked the outgoing President, Kate Brooks, for her service.

The meeting was closed at 12.29 pm by the new President.