



# ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

*Incorporated in the ACT*

*ABN 37 660 297 848*

## **Minutes of the 48th Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 23 July 2014 Macquarie Theatre Macquarie University**

The Meeting was opened at 11:08 am with the President in the Chair and approximately 140 members of all grades in attendance.

### **1. Apologies**

J.Dickey, A.Walsh.

### **2. Minutes of the 47th Annual General Meeting**

Motion that the minutes of the 47th Annual General Meeting be accepted.

**Croton/Rowell  
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, Andrew Hopkins, outlined the contents of the report (below) in a powerpoint summary.

#### **1. ASA Council Members 2013 – 2014**

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

I would like to thank all members of Council for their efforts and contributions, and to acknowledge in particular Katrina Sealey, who is stepping down as Treasurer. I want especially to thank Katrina for her outstanding efforts over the past five years in this role. I would also like to thank Paula Oliva-Altamirano whose term as Student Representative finishes this year, and to recognise the outstanding role she has played in communicating student views to the ASA Council, and providing feedback from the Council to the student members. I am very grateful for the work of those council members who hold ongoing roles in the Society (John O'Byrne, Marc Duldig, Bryan Gaensler, Tanya Hill, and Michael Brown).

#### **2. Highlights**

##### 2.1 New Council appointments

The Council welcomes Dr Michael Brown (Monash), taking on the new co-opted role of Media and Outreach

Coordinator in February. Michael is now the Council representative on the EPOC steering committee, and will add to the Council's capacity to coordinate interactions between the media generally and the Society. The Council also welcomes Prof. Ravi Sood (UNSW Canberra) in the role of Treasurer. We look forward to working closely with Ravi in the coming years. In addition, the Council welcomes Emily Petroff as the new student representative.

### 2.2 ASVO Launch

The All-Sky Virtual Observatory project is the first step towards building a federated network of datasets from all types of astronomical facilities in Australia. The ASVO currently consists of two nodes:

- The Theoretical Astrophysical Observatory (TAO), launched in March 2014, provides access to a growing collection of cosmological simulations and galaxy formation models that are stored and processed on Swinburne University's super-computer.
- The SkyMapper Node, will provide an integrated and comprehensive environment for the hosting, analysis, and exploration of the SkyMapper Southern-Sky Survey. The first public data release of fully calibrated SkyMapper survey data will be in 2015.

There are ongoing efforts to develop two additional nodes, providing curation and access to data from the MWA and from the AAT.

### 2.3 SkyMapper start operations as a national facility

SkyMapper began survey operations in March 2014. Following the repurposing of a CAASTRO-led LIEF grant, SkyMapper will operate as a national facility during 2014 – 2019. Australians can join existing SkyMapper science collaborations, and can propose and lead new science programs (if there is no duplication of primary survey observations). International collaborators can be included on case-by-case basis. There will be 20% of non-survey time available via a TAC, and the data will be made immediately available to all Australians. The National Facility operations will be overseen by the SkyMapper Executive: B. Schmidt (ANU), M. Colless (ANU), H. Jerjen (ANU), G. Da Costa (ANU), M. Brown (Monash), B. Gaensler (USyd), G. Meurer (UWA).

### 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:

- Ken Freeman was awarded the 2014 Gruber Foundation Cosmology Prize, together with Jaan Einasto, R. Brent Tully and Sidney van den Bergh, recognising his significant contributions to Near Field Cosmology.
- Bill Tango was awarded the 2014 Fizeau Prize from the International Astronomical Union, recognising his long-term efforts in the development of optical interferometry. The prize recognises Bill's publication of the seminal paper on optical interferometry in 1980, and his role in the construction & operation of several major ground based instruments, including most recently the Sydney University Stellar Interferometer (SUSI).

These are in addition to many other National and State-based prizes and accolades that were awarded to our members across the country. These accolades are 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 Communications to CSIRO and Powerhouse Museum

The community has been challenged by the funding cuts to CSIRO announced as part of the Federal budget this year. The ASA Council submitted a letter to Megan Clark, CSIRO Chief Executive, expressing our community's concern over the impact of these cuts on capacity and resourcing at CASS given the CSIRO's stated priority of supporting ASKAP and SKA. The letter was acknowledged and we received a reply from David Williams, Executive Director, CSIRO National Facilities & Collections. Quoting from this letter: "The impact of the budget will be felt across the CSIRO", "...we will maintain a significant focus on Radio Astronomy, and I would like to confirm to you that CSIRO remains committed to this field", "I can also confirm that our priority in Astronomy will be to support ASKAP and SKA", "The Director of CASS will produce a roadmap for the future shape and scope of Radio Astronomy in CSIRO. His team will consult widely with the community in developing this, through the Australia Telescope Steering Committee, the Australia Telescope Users Committee and the ASA."

The community has also expressed concern about restructuring at the Powerhouse Museum, with potential impact on Sydney Observatory staff and operations. The ASA Council submitted a letter to Rose Hiscock,

Director, Powerhouse Museum, noting the importance of specialist astronomy knowledge for senior Observatory staff, as well as for guide lecturers and casual staff. We also noted the value of partnerships with the research community, and in particular the employment of astronomy postgraduate students as an ideal resource that provides enthusiastic and knowledgeable staff, while developing experience in public communication. At this time we await more information on the outcome of the restructuring.

### 2.6 NCRIS funding 2015-16

The Federal budget announced in May 2014 included an allocation of \$150M to extend the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Scheme (NCRIS) by one year, from 1 July 2015 until 30 June 2016 to fund existing NCRIS capabilities (or a subset of those capabilities). This is the largest yearly NCRIS allocation since the commencement of the NCRIS programme. This additional year of funding will provide time for the Government to review existing infrastructure requirements in order to inform ongoing funding for research infrastructure. AAL will support this review by demonstrating the value generated by the previous NCRIS investments into astronomy.

## **3 ASA Events in 2013-14**

### 3.1 ASA Women in Astronomy Workshop 2013

The third ASA women in astronomy workshop, *Pathways to Success*, was held at ICRAR in Perth, WA, over 11-12 September 2013. More than 90 people, including over 20 people participating online, attended the meeting. More information on the content and outcomes of the workshop is available from the Chapter's website: <http://asawomeninastronomy.org/>

The 2014 Women in Astronomy Workshop, *We Are All Made of Stars*, is scheduled for 28-29 August to be held at ANU, Canberra.

### 3.2 ASA ECR "How to be an effective referee" workshop 2013

The ECR Chapter held this workshop on 29 November 2013. The goal was to inform and educate ECRs and students about the refereeing process. The workshop was interactive, with participants refereeing mock material (in the form of published papers and an old grant application, kindly donated by Warrick Couch). Slides from the workshop are available from the chapter website (<http://asaecr.smp.uq.edu.au/resources/>)

### 3.3 2nd ASA Early Career Researcher mentoring workshop 2014

On 2-3 June 2014 the Chapter held the 2nd ASA Early Career Researcher mentoring workshop at Cedar Creek Lodges on Tamborine Mountain, in Queensland. The workshop covered subjects such as working with government and the media, academic jobs and jobs outside astrophysics, project management and managing people, and work/life balance. There were 35 participants, nine of whom were finishing PhD students. The workshop was interactive, with small discussions and role-playing sessions. Slides and session summaries (written by the participants) are available at:

<http://asaecr.smp.uq.edu.au/resources/ecr-workshop-session-summaries/> .

### 3.4 ASA ANITA N-Body Summer School 2014

The ASA 2014 ANITA Summer School was held at the Sydney Institute for Astronomy, The University of Sydney, over 19-21 February 2014. The school covered techniques and resources for use in astrophysical N-body simulations.

### 3.5 ASA ANITA Theory Workshop 2014

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual ANITA Workshop was held at the University of Sydney on 17-18 February, 2014. There were 77 participants, with 45 presenting. Sixteen students gave talks, and the ANITA book prize was awarded to Elodie Thilliez from Swinburne University of Technology for her talk "Modelling debris discs interacting with planets with a modified Nbody code".

### 3.6 ASA Harley Wood Winter School 2014

The 2014 Harley Wood Winter School was held over the 17-20 July 2014 at Collaroy in Sydney's northern-beaches area. This year's theme was "*Bridging the gaps: Integrating astronomy for the future*" and was attended by 70 astronomy students and 13 invited speakers.

### 3.7 ASA Annual Science Meeting 2014

The annual 5-day ASA Science Meeting is taking place at Macquarie University in Sydney over 21-25 July 2014. There were more than 300 registered participants (the highest ever) and the program was jam-packed with over 100 presentations (almost a third of which were student presentations) as well as many auxiliary meetings and events, and a special exhibition, “*Fields of Vision: Art and Astronomy*”, at the Macquarie University Art Gallery.

### 3.8 Support of other meetings

The ASA supported the attendance of three members, Julie Banfield, (CASS/ANU), David Parkinson (UQ), and Michael Murphy (Swinburne), at the 2014 Science Meets Parliament event.

As a cognate society partner of the Australian Institute of Physics, the ASA will be supporting an astronomy session at the 21st Australian Institute of Physics Congress in December this year.

## **4 ASA Membership**

Our membership continues to grow, reflecting the size and strength of our community. As of 30 June 2014 the current total membership is 697 including more than 240 student members.

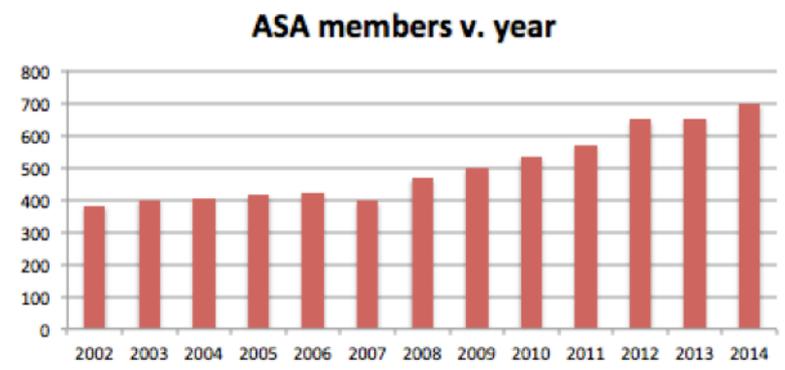


Figure 1: Membership number as a function of time.

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 Science Foundation for Physics) continue to support the Society.

## **5 Honorary Fellow**

It is with much pleasure that we announce Council’s appointment of Professor Russell Cannon as an Honorary Fellow of the Society. Russell is a distinguished astronomer whose main research interests include the study of stellar evolution and carbon stars, quasars and radio galaxies, and the structure of the Milky Way Galaxy. He was the Director of the Anglo-Australian Observatory for 10 years from 1987-1996. Russell’s early scientific work was in star clusters and stellar evolution, with a sideline in the then newly discovered quasars. One highlight was the first demonstration, from data and models, that the red giant clump stars in open clusters are analogues of double-source HB stars in globular clusters. Russell has been deeply involved in a succession of major sky survey projects, starting with the Southern Sky photographic surveys on the UK Schmidt, followed by 2dF and the 2dFGRS on the AAT and now HERMES for GALAH. Russell is an Associate Member of the Royal Astronomy Society, and a Visiting Fellow at the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Pune, India. Russell has also previously been Editor in Chief for PASA. He is a friend and a mentor to many of our members and the Society is proud to have him as an Honorary Fellow.

## **6 Financial**

Information on the Society’s finances is available in the Treasurer’s Report. I thank, once again, Katrina Sealey for her role as Treasurer over the past five years. The healthy state of the Society’s finances owes much to Katrina’s astute management over this time.

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: Beatriz Barbuy, Benedetta Ciardi, Dawn Erb, Brad Gibson, Alexander Heger and Daniel Price. The PASA International Advisory Board has twelve members who act as public advocates for PASA and to provide strategic advice.

PASA publishes continuously, with no division into individual issues. The current median turnaround times are 3 weeks from submission to first decision, 10 weeks from submission to acceptance (dependent on author response times) and 6 weeks from acceptance to publication. ASA members can sign up to receive an electronic table of contents alert. All papers submitted to PASA are reviewed with the plagiarism detection software "CrossCheck."

Further information is provided in the PASA Report.

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

It is with sadness that I note the passing of ASA Foundation member Bob Shobbrook, the inaugural Treasurer of the ASA. Bob was a well known former member of staff from the Chatterton Astronomy Department at the University of Sydney (now part of the Sydney Institute for Astronomy, SIfA).

Bob passed away in May 2014. Bob became interested in astronomy in high school in England, making his own seven-inch telescope. He did a BSc in Astronomy at St Andrew's University before coming to Mount Stromlo in 1960 for a PhD. Bob was one of Stromlo's first astronomy graduates, receiving his PhD in 1964 and joined the University of Sydney in 1966. In his later professional life, even after he formally retired from the university, he was a regular observer on the smaller telescopes at Siding Spring Observatory, doing photometry of variable stars. Bob is survived by his wife Robyn, herself very well known in the astronomy community as the AAO librarian for 20 years.

I am also sad to report the recent death of Australian comet hunter Bill Bradfield (1928-2014). Bill Bradfield was the 20th Century's foremost visual comet hunter, discovering 18-comets between 1972 and 2004. He was a former ASA member, winning the ASA's Page Medal in 1981, and was internationally renowned. He has asteroid 3430 Bradfield named in his honour. He was also a former employee of DSTO in Adelaide who worked as a research scientist on rocket-propulsion systems.

## **9 ASA Awards and Prizes**

*2014 Bok Prize for outstanding research in astronomy by an Honours or eligible Masters student at an Australian university.*

Awarded to Ross Turner, University of Tasmania, for his thesis "Evolution of radio-loud Active Galactic Nuclei." Ross was supervised by Stanislav Shabala.

An honourable mention goes to Chris Herron, University of Sydney, for his thesis "Probing Cosmic Magnetic Fields with Faraday Rotation and Depolarisation." Chris was supervised by Bryan Gaensler and Shane O'Sullivan.

*2014 Charlene Heisler Prize for the best PhD thesis accepted by an Australian university.*

Awarded to Justin Bray, University of Adelaide, for his thesis "Lunar Radio Detection of Ultra-High-Energy Particles." Justin was supervised by Raymond Protheroe.

An honourable mention goes to Anthony Conn, Macquarie University, for his thesis "Structure of the M31 Satellite System: Bayesian Distances from the Tip of the Red Giant Branch." Anthony was supervised by Quentin Parker.

*2014 Louise Webster Prize for outstanding research by a scientist early in their post-doctoral career.*

Awarded to Dr Simon Campbell, Monash University, for his paper "Sodium content as a predictor of the advanced evolution of globular cluster stars".

*2014 Berenice and Arthur Page Medal for excellence in amateur astronomy in Australia.*

Awarded to Mr Tim Napier-Munn for impressive work on double stars and techniques to measure them. Tanya Hill presented the Page medal at the National Australian Convention of Amateur Astronomers in April.

*2014 Harley Wood Lecture – an annual public lecture in honour of the first President of the Society.*

"Relatively Brilliant" by Professor Fred Watson (Australian Astronomical Observatory).

*2013 Annual Science Meeting Student Prizes (from last year's Annual Scientific Meeting)*

Best student Talk at the 2013 ASM:

Winner: Vanessa Moss (USyd/CASS) "High velocity clouds in the Galactic All Sky Survey: Catalogue"

Runner up: Andrew Casey (ANU) "Adopting the Aquarius Stream: Is the Aquarius Stream the result of a disrupted classical Globular Cluster?"

Best Student Posters at the 2013 ASM:

Winner: Louise Howes (ANU) "Discovery of the oldest stars in the Galactic bulge"

Runner up#1: Bernard Meade (Swinburne) "Do tiled display walls improve feature recognition in large astronomical images?"

Runner up#2: Scott Meyer (ICRAR) "HI stacking can be used to measure edge-on rotation velocities for use in the Tully-Fisher relation."

## **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 2014 Workshop "We are all made of stars" before 10 August 2014. The workshop is free and all are welcome to attend irrespective of gender and seniority. The workshop will be held on 28-29 August 2014 at the ANU in Canberra.

<http://asawomeninastronomy.org/meetings/wia-workshop-2014/>

## **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 Rob Hollow (CSIRO Astronomy and Space Science). The new EPOC Steering Committee is currently discussing the role, goals and activities of EPOC.

EPOC produces the popular ASA Factsheets series. These information sheets cover a number of topics of interest to the general public, such as solar and lunar eclipses, comets and general astronomy information with an Australian flavour. There was one new fact sheet in the past year: No. 26. Partial solar eclipse, 29 April 2014.

## **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 Cathryn Trott. 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. ANITA ran the annual ANITA workshop and the N-body Summer School at the University of Sydney over 17-21 February 2014.

### 13 Early Career Research Chapter

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

The ASA ECR 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.

The ECR Chapter coordinated the 2<sup>nd</sup> Early Career Research Mentoring Workshop at Tambourine Mountain, Queensland, on 2-3 June 2014. The Chapter also coordinated the "How to be an effective referee" workshop at CAASTRO, The University of Sydney on 29 November 2013. The Steering Committee is Chaired by David Parkinson.

### 14 Communications (Information flow to members)

The ASA email exploder remains the primary communication avenue for ASA news. 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 2013-2014 priorities

In addition to the ongoing work of the ASA, the Council had defined the following series of priorities for 2013-2014. These were suggested by the Council and presented to the 2013 AGM. (<http://asa.astronomy.org.au/priorities.html>).

1. Continue documenting the early history of the ASA.  
*This continues to progress, with Nick Lomb now taking responsibility for the effort.*
2. Continue to enhance the Australian Astronomy web site.  
*Following the transition of the hosting of the site, much of the content has been updated. This will need to be an ongoing effort, and in consequence will be removed as a specific priority item. The Council thanks Sarah Maddison, once again, for her efforts in managing the site.*
3. Run a workshop for ECRs on "How to referee journal articles".  
*The ECR Chapter coordinated this event in November 2013, see 3.2 above.*
4. Review priorities of ASA funding to ensure continued support of students.  
*Council approved a motion to increase the number of \$1000 student travel grants offered in any year from 10 to 15, and to consider offering more within a particular year after assessing the financial implications for such additional expenditure. Council also endeavours to ensure that the various Chapter workshops are self-sustaining, through a combination of modest direct financial support and promotion of sponsorship.*
5. Consider bidding for a future IAU Asia-Pacific Rim (APRIM) meeting.  
*The ASA Council identified ICRAR and Perth, following a competitive bid process, as a potential venue for an Australian APRIM meeting in 2017. A delegation led by Lister Staveley-Smith will present Australia's bid for APRIM 2017 at the upcoming APRIM 2014 meeting in Korea.*
6. Promote close involvement of the ASA Chapters in the preparation of the next Astronomy Decadal Plan.  
*Through the leading role taken by the ASA President in coordinating dates and locations for the numerous community town hall meetings, and through the routine use of the ASA mailing list for announcements, as well as the dedicated session for discussion of draft working group reports at the 2014 ASM, the ASA*

*Chapters and membership have been closely engaged with the Decadal Planning process.*

7. Fill the newly opened co-opted position on Council (social media focus).  
*The new position has been filled with the appointment of Michael Brown.*
8. Run a workshop on science communication.  
*This has not been completed, but is a priority for EPOC for the coming year.*

In addition to the 2013-14 priorities, I note that one of the 2012-13 priorities was for the ASA and AIP to coordinate a national lecture series by Brian Schmidt. Although this did not eventuate due to his extensive commitments, I am pleased to report that Brian will be presenting lectures in a tour of Tasmania during Science Week 2014, over 19-21 August, as a joint ASA/AIP initiative.

## **16 New Priorities for 2014-2015**

Priorities for 2014-15 will be discussed during the ASA Annual General Meeting and uploaded afterwards on the ASA website.

## **17 ASA Council for 2014-2015**

Following the Constitutional Amendment passed by the membership in early 2013, the terms of office for Councillors are now two years. In consequence, there were no Council vacancies and no election this year. New elections will take place in mid-2015. I would like to thank all Councillors for their efforts over the past year, and I look forward to continuing to work with them in the coming year.

Nominations were sought from the student membership for a new student representative. Although three nominations were initially received one candidate stood down and an election was held.

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
Ravi Sood	Treasurer
Lee Spitler	Councillor
Cath Trott	Councillor
Amanda Karakas	Councillor
Gavin Rowell	Councillor
Duncan Galloway	Councillor
Emily Petroff	Student Representative
Bryan Gaensler	(Ex-officio) Chair, PASA Editorial Board
Tanya Hill	(Co-opted) Prizes and Awards Coordinator
Michael Brown	(Co-opted) Media and Outreach Coordinator

I welcome our new Media and Outreach Coordinator, Michael, our new Treasurer, Ravi, and our new student representative, Emily, to the Council, and I look forward to working with them.

## **18 Harley Wood Winter School and ASM/AGM 2015**

ICRAR and Curtin University will be the host of the 2015 Harley Wood Winter School and the Annual Science Meeting. The Harley Wood Winter School will take place on Rottnest Island (3 – 5 July 2015) and the Annual Science Meeting will be held at the Esplanade Hotel in Fremantle (5 – 10 July 2015).

The ASA Council is grateful to Andrew Walsh, Cathryn Trott and the team at ICRAR and Curtin for hosting the major ASA event in our yearly calendar.

## **19 Harley Wood Winter School and ASM/AGM 2016**

The year 2016 is the 50th anniversary of the ASA's first meeting, held at the University of Sydney. The inaugural meeting was held in the Chemistry building over 30 November to 2 December 1966 and was

attended by 130 people. Elections were held for an eleven-member Council and Harley Wood was elected foundation President in recognition of the part he had played in bringing the ASA into being. The foundation council comprised: Vice-Presidents: Gascoigne, Wild; Secretaries: Sheridan, Smerd; Treasurer: Shobbrook; Members of the Council: Carver, Eggin, Harris, Giovanelli, Mugglestone.

In 2016 it will be 11 years since the University of Sydney previously hosted the ASA (see the history at <http://asa.astronomy.org.au/asm.html>). For this reason, Council proposes to invite the University of Sydney to submit a bid to host the 2016 HWWS and ASM. This may also take advantage of the new Australian Institute of Nanoscience building that will then be about a year old (<http://sydney.edu.au/science/physics/about/AIN/>).

## 20 Closing remarks

I close with thanks to the organisers of our very successful 2014 Harley Wood Winter School and Annual Science Meeting, and the many auxiliary events and meetings that have been attached to the week. A big thank you to Quentin Parker, and to the dedicated teams on the Scientific Organising Committee and especially to the Local Organising Committees, for both events.

## Discussion

The President invited suggestions for new priorities for the year ahead. Suggestions included:

- Mentoring those who may not stay in astronomy
- Keeping in touch with members who have left astronomy, locally and internationally (with a new grade of membership?)
  - to get them to stay connected with the Society
  - to see and collate what opportunities arise for former astronomers
  - to keep track of contributions of astronomers to society at large
- Promoting industry links
- Archiving of presentations on mentoring, refereeing etc. from workshops – have Chapters do this?

Several comments, both for and against, were made on the date of the ASM which was later in July for the current meeting, but with around 300 attendees setting a new record. This date was the result of a poll of the membership that was evenly divided between early and late July as the preferred date. It was noted that July conflicts with some international conferences, while late in July conflicts with the start of the teaching semester (or preparations for it) for university staff.

Andrew Jacob reported his thanks to the ASA Council for commenting on proposed changes at the Powerhouse Museum that manages the Sydney Observatory. Subsequently some changes had been made to the descriptions of several roles.

Motion that the President's report be accepted.

**Couch/McAdam  
Carried**

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

The President, on behalf of the Treasurer Katrina Sealey, presented a summary of a printed report for the Society's financial year ending 31 March 2014. Katrina was stepping down after the AGM and Ravi Sood was taking over as Treasurer.

The Society's finances are once again solid. The outgoings appeared higher than the previous financial 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 is an increase PASA royalties with CUP, while funds from UQ, ANITA and the 2012 UNSW ASM 'surplus' have been received. Subs are slightly lower due to subs not being paid before March 31st and in the 12-13 financial year many back subs were collected, increasing the subs for that year.

We currently have about 640 active members (61 members are to be deemed unfinancial at the 2014 AGM). Of these active members 90% are financial as of June 2014. There is still around \$7K of subs to be collected for 2014. There has been about \$74k in subs invoiced to date.

This year the Foundation for the Advancement in Astronomy (FAA) has received about \$3.1K in donations from members.

The surplus from the IAU General Assembly is currently about \$7,000 (\$14K minus \$7K to ANITA and ECR Mentoring workshops). There is approximately 0.5 years 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 31/3/14 were:

<b>ASA accounts</b>		<b>FAA accounts</b>	
ASA chq 062 166 0090 2732	50,497.73	FAA Chq 065004 10222301	5,427
ASA online business 2284 1028 1061	32,237.10	FAA online 2284 1028 7949	60,648
Term Deposit 06 2284 50140052	48,742.16	Term deposit 06 2284 50140060	30,463
Term Deposit 06 2284 50130794	50,792.41	Term deposit 06 5004 50120254	65,135
		3 year term deposit 06 2210 50131569	55,655
<b>Total</b>	<b>182,269.40</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>217,328</b>

The Foundation for the Advancement of Astronomy (FAA) received donations of \$ 3,131.

The allocation of FAA funds among the various nominal funds at 31/3/14 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>
Total	30,725	30,790	19,851	16,258	11,862	1,542	25,648	45,314	35,338

[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 \$79,500 and expenditure of \$69,600. However Student Travel Allowance had been increased to \$15k, reducing the nominal surplus by \$5k.

The basic table of membership rates proposed was changed for 2015, 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	\$164	\$197
Full members	\$133	\$166
Student/Retirees/Associates	\$57	\$79
Associate Societies		\$111
Corporate members		\$577

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

### Discussion

There was some discussion about the possibility of a 2 year membership, or even longer terms up to Life membership. The Treasurer will look into this.

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

**Trott/Mould  
Carried**

### 6. Election of Auditor

The Treasurer recommended the continued appointment of Wong and Mayes as Auditor for 2014-2015.

### Discussion

While accepting this proposal for this year, Brian Schmidt suggested that it was time to change the Auditor as a matter

of good governance.

Motion that Wong and Mayes be appointed as Auditor for 2014-2015.

**Duldig/Gaensler  
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, high standards with rigorous refereeing, a solid ISI impact factor and an experienced and prestigious publisher in Cambridge University Press (CUP). All submissions were via *ScholarOne* (same as MNRAS) with plagiarism checking via *iThenticate*. CUP also allowed a 20% discount for ASA members on purchases of CUP books, free electronic reprints of published articles and full compliance with open access requirements of the Australian Research Council (ARC).

The Editor highlighted types of papers published in PASA

- Highly cited papers
- Special Series and Topical Reviews
- Surveys and Data releases
- Pedagogy
- Computing and Engineering
- History

In addition, the Dawes Review of ‘marquee’ review papers had begun to appear:

- “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 editor summarised PASA’s recent performance:

- ~2300 subscribing institutions (2.2% from Australia / New Zealand)
- (2013) 91 papers submitted (35% rejection rate) with 54 papers published in 801 pages
- C2-year impact factor steady around 2.5-3.0 (placing PASA between PASP & PASJ) with average [or median] over last 5 years: 8.8 [4] cites per paper
- Times from submission to first decision:  $\mu = 18$  days; from acceptance to publication:  $\mu = 6$  weeks

The Editorial Board members were listed and the advertisement of two Associate Editor positions foreshadowed for later in 2014. The Editor also noted that he was stepping down and a replacement would also be sought.

### **Discussion**

The President noted the ASA’s gratitude to Bryan for his work as Chair of the Editorial Board.

Motion to accept the PASA Report.

**Tango/Cannon  
Carried**

### **8. Any other business**

It was noted that ARC Future Fellowships had just been announced and 10 had gone to astronomers – more than any other discipline.

The meeting was closed at 12.25 pm by the President.