

## **The 59th Meeting of the Council of the ASA**

The 59th Meeting of Council was held at the Anglo-Australian Observatory on 20 November 1992. Council approved a motion to submit a list of aboriginal mythological names to the Venus names project. Also approved was an information sheet describing how to become an astronomer which will be widely distributed by the society. Don Faulkner reported that further changes to the ASA constitution were necessary to meet changes to the ACT Incorporation act. He proposed to follow up on all requirements before the next AGM. It was resolved that monies in the Page bequest fund and the Bok prize account be merged into a single account once the Bok funds were transferred from the Academy of Science.

The Council once again discussed new arrangements for the publication of the Proceedings. A motion was passed to empower the Editorial board, in consultation with the President, to undertake serious negotiations with CSIRO Editorial Services. Ravi Sood reported that the 1992 AGM and Harley Wood School had made a modest profit. Council selected Dick Manchester as the Ellery Lecturer for 1993 and accepted a bid from Tasmania to host the 1996 AGM.

## **The 60th Meeting of the Council of the ASA**

The 60th Meeting of Council was held at the Anglo-Australian Observatory on 2 April 1993. As part of the ASA's contribution to help astronomers in the former Soviet Union, the council decided to continue sending free copies of the Proceedings to 20 previously identified institutions. Don Faulkner presented a new version of the constitution designed to satisfy the requirements for Incorporation of the Society in the ACT. After making a few further modifications it was decided to commence procedures necessary for incorporation. A draft agreement from CSIRO Publication Services for publication of the Proceedings was tabled and discussed. It was resolved that several points be clarified and a legal opinion obtained, while negotiations continue. Following a suggestion by Elaine Sadler it was also resolved that, in future, a list of winners of the Society's prizes and honours would be published periodically in the Proceedings. Council decided that Honorary Life Membership be offered to Roy Allen, retiring ASA secretary, which he subsequently accepted with surprise and thanks. Council also accepted the recommendation that Sally Houghton from UNSW be awarded the Bok Prize, the value of which was increased to \$250.

## **The 61th Meeting of the Council of the ASA**

The 61th Meeting of Council was held at the Anglo-Australian Observatory on 8 July 1993. The Society had been asked by Standards Australia to prepare a list of observatories designated to be of research, educational or community value. Reference would be made to this list in the Standard on Obtrusive Lighting. Roy Allen had compiled a preliminary list with considerable difficulty. Council formed a sub-committee to refine criteria for inclusion of a site and prepare a list.

In a related item, the President had written a letter of support for MSSSO regarding light pollution from a proposed housing subdivision. He had also given numerous radio and TV interviews discussing the proposal in the US to launch billboards into space for advertising.

The President reported that the Society was now incorporated in the ACT, which requires the addition of "Inc." or "Incorporated in the ACT" to the Society's letterhead. Harry Hyland is the inaugural Public Officer and the registered number is A2224. The Treasurer reported that, although the Society ended the current year with a deficit, the financial situation is extremely sound. Nonetheless a fee increase was foreshadowed to cover larger publication costs with CSIRO in the future. Also, incorporation required a change in the Society's financial year which would be proposed to the upcoming AGM.

A copy of the signed agreement between the ASA and CSIRO was presented. Ravi Sood had agreed to continue as Editor for one more year and members were being approached to form a new Editorial Board.

The President reported that the Australian Astronomical Directors and Heads Committee had resolved to continue meeting annually under the auspices of the ASA. The Council resolved to holdover a payment of \$800 to FASTS until the president had received a satisfactory reply to a letter requesting clarification of the benefit of FASTS activities.

Kevin Sheridan presented a folder detailing the activities of the Donovan Trust up to date. The material was passed to Roy Allen who took over from Sheridan as ASA representative on the Donovan Trust Committee.

Finally, the Council passed a vote of thanks to David Allen for his highly productive term as President.

## **The 27th Annual General Meeting of the ASA**

The 27th Annual General Meeting of the ASA was held from 9 to 13 July 1993 at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch New Zealand. The meeting was distinguished by being held in conjunction with the 70th AGM of the RASNZ. The presence of RASNZ members meant a large representation of New Zealand amateurs, mixing with the normal professional delegates to an ASA meeting. A total of 198 people attended, of whom 88 were research astronomers, 29 Australian and 12 New Zealand graduate students, and 69 amateurs. The resulting programme featured a mix of professional research papers, amateur contributions and historical material and was widely regarded as a very successful combination.

The best student and amateur presentations were rewarded with a prize contributed by *Sky & Space* magazine and judged by the ASA. Student prizes went to James Murray (Monash) for his poster and Maria Hunt (Western Sydney) for her talk. The prize for best amateur poster went to Gordon Hudson from Wellington, New Zealand. The Ellery lecture was presented by Dr Dick Manchester during the conference program.

The Harley Wood Lecture was delivered by Dr Patrick Moore to a capacity crowd of conference delegates and members of the public at the Christchurch Town Hall. He presented a talk entitled "Exploring the Planets" in which he presented an outline of our current knowledge of the planets from his perspective as a long-time amateur planetary observer and astronomy populariser.

At the business meeting on July 11, the incorporation of the Society in the ACT was reported. Revisions to the constitution to meet the demands of incorporation were described and approved unanimously. Also reported was the 2 year agreement with CSIRO Publication Services to publish the Proceedings.

The President's printed report was circulated to members, with the Fund for Foreign Astronomers drawing considerable discussion, mainly concerned with how astronomers from the former Soviet Union could best be assisted.

The Treasurer reported that the Society's financial position was healthy, but the increased publication costs involved with publication of the Proceedings by the CSIRO demanded an increase in fees for the first time since 1990. This change was approved by the meeting, along with a continuation of ASA membership discounts for members of related societies and an extension of the audit period for the current year only to meet the demands of incorporation.

The Editor's report was accompanied by some discussion, including the suggestion that a 10 year index be prepared. The members were also officially informed that the 1994 meeting will be held in Canberra, hosted by the MSSSO.

Other business included a discussion of the ASA's membership of FASTS and the roles of the ASA, National Committee for Astronomy and the Australian Astronomical Directors and Heads Committee.

The election of office bearers did not require a ballot and the following positions for 1994 were announced:

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

Council appointed Dr Ravi Sood as Editor and Dr Roy Allen as Donovan Trust representative and Dr David Allen continues on Council as Immediate Past President. The 1993 Harley Wood Winter School was held from 22 to 24 June in the Blue mountains near Mt Victoria, with 41 students in attendance and a program of local and international speakers. The School was organised by the Research Centre for

Theoretical Astrophysics at the University of Sydney with the theme of "Active Galactic Nuclei, Quasars, Black Holes and the Like".

Reported by John O'Byrne  
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