

The 65th Meeting of the Council of the ASA

The 65th Meeting of the Council was held at the University of New South Wales on 24 November 1994. This was the first Council meeting attended by a representative of the student members of the Society.

The Society secretaries reported on the first offer of support under a new program to assist student attendance at overseas conferences and the establishment of a World Wide Web home page for the ASA. The Council also received a report on a public lecture which the Society co-sponsored on the impact of comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 with Jupiter. This proved to be a considerable success and it was resolved to continue sponsoring this type of activity with a lecture tour of several capital cities in 1995.

Other Executive business included the appointment of a new Public Officer because the President was no longer resident in the ACT. John Norris accepted this position.

Following the Treasurer's report, new categories of membership were the subject of a draft proposal by Michael Dopita. The proposal introducing the grades of Fellow and Associate Member was revised and accepted by Council and passed to Marc Duldig to prepare the necessary changes to the Constitution and By-Laws. The proposal to enter into a contract with Annual Reviews Inc. to make discounted subscriptions to *Annual Review of Astronomy and Astrophysics* available through the Society, as discussed at the previous Council meeting, was also accepted.

The Editor tabled a report from the Editorial Board with recommendations for the future of the *Proceedings*. Perhaps the most important of these was the change of name to *Publications* of the Astronomical Society of Australia (PASA). With small modifications, all the recommendations were accepted. The Editor also reported on a meeting to discuss the possibility of publishing PASA electronically. Council resolved to delegate the Editorial Board to watch developments in electronic publishing. The rising cost to the Society of publication by CSIRO was a concern and Council felt that the next contract needed to be tougher on this and other points.

The business of the National Committee for Astronomy as reported to Council included a discussion of the Review underway of Australian Astronomy. This included five astronomy projects submitted to the major National Research Facilities program. One of these is the proposal for Australia to join the European Southern Observatory (ESO) which had been supported by the Large Telescope Working Group.

The President presented proposals for the establishment of the David Allen Memorial Prize to be awarded for articles published in the previous year. Details of the award remained to be finalised.

The 66th Meeting of the Council of the ASA

The 66th Meeting of the Council was held at the University of Sydney on 19 April 1995. The meeting opened with discussion of a variety of topics which had been on-going agenda items. These included the preparation of a list of 'designated' observatories worthy of protection from obtrusive lighting, a list of aboriginal names for features on Venus, income tax deductibility for the Society and the preparation of a brochure describing the benefits of ASA membership.

A report was also received describing a very successful series of talks in capital cities around the country by Colin Norman in February and March. The ASA had co-sponsored the series and the Council expressed its continuing support for this sort of activity. The program to assist student attendance at overseas conferences was also successful, with six applications funded from the second round of applications.

The Treasurer's report included a description of the program to offer discounts on *Annual Reviews of Astronomy and Astrophysics* to members. Thirteen subscriptions had been received to that point. The Treasurer presented a proposal for fee increases to present to the AGM, but this depended on the fate of proposals to introduce new membership grades.

The Council accepted a recommendation from the Editor to accept papers from the first international meeting of the Joint Australian Centre for Astrophysical Research in Antarctica (JACARA) in PASA in 1995. The report from the Editorial Board included a recommendation to accept a request from the Astrophysical Data Service to include abstracts and later entire articles in its database. Council agreed to this in principle. This discussion raised the question of copyright over PASA, which Council reiterated must remain with the ASA.

Other business included the usual reports from the Donovan Trust and Macquarie Foundation. The Donovan Trust continued to fund a variety of different projects with an educational theme. The Macquarie Foundation reported on its program of open nights, astronomy schools and bus tours.

The 67th Meeting of the Council of the ASA

The 67th Meeting of the Council was held at ATNF on 2 July 1995, on the day before the start of Annual Scientific Meeting.

After advertising in the local astronomy magazines, applications had been received for the list of 'designated' observatories for protection from obtrusive lighting. This program was coordinated by John Dawe. The Council approved the first five private observatories to add to a list of major observatories and university and publicly funded facilities. Another initiative which had been discussed previously by Council was a summary of Honours and Postgraduate courses on offer in Australia. This was finally available in the form of a World Wide Web page linked to university departments' own web pages.

Council voted to continue the program of public lectures co-sponsored by the Society by contributing to the promotion of a lecture series by Richard Ellis in November.

The Treasurer presented his report and the draft report for the AGM. The Society's financial position was healthy with a surplus of over \$4000, compared to a loss of almost \$9000 in the previous year.

The Editor reported on the status of PASA. Volume 12 No. 1 had recently appeared and had drawn a surprising amount of response, much of it commenting on its professionalism. The President had written to CSIRO Publications and it had been agreed that re-negotiation of the contract would begin during the upcoming Scientific Meeting. The Executive, plus the Editor and Roger Clay from the Editorial Board were delegated to take part in the negotiations, using a list of issues prepared by the Editor. The Council also extensively discussed the need for three issues of PASA per year and cost recovery from special conferences and workshops which were contributing to the need for extra issues.

The President reported on the business of the National Committee for Astronomy which included a possible bid for the IAU General Assembly in 2000. He also noted that three astronomy projects submitted to the major National Research Facilities program had been interviewed, placing them in the top 16 out of over 60 applications.

Finally the Council approved new membership applications received since the last meeting, a procedure to be made a formal part of the Council agenda for future meetings.

The 29th Annual General Meeting of the ASA

The 29th Annual Scientific Meeting of the ASA was held from 2 to 6 July 1995 at Macquarie University. A total of 158 people attended, of whom 63 were postgraduate students and a small number were non-ASA members of the Macquarie University Foundation for Astronomy.

56 verbal papers and around 50 poster papers were presented. The prize for best talk went to Simon Ellingsen from the University of Tasmania, while the poster prize went to Andrew Reid from the University of Sydney. The 1995 Ellery Lecturer was presented during the meeting by Richard Hunstead from the University of Sydney. The 1995 Bok Prize recipient, Michael Brown from the University of Melbourne, also presented a talk during the meeting.

The Harley Wood lecture was delivered one evening during the meeting by Professor Malcolm Longair from Cambridge University. His talk was entitled 'Black Holes made simple' and attracted a large public audience. The 1995 Harley Wood School was held from 6 to 9 July at a conference centre in the Royal National Park south of Sydney. The School was organised by staff from the AAO, ATNF and Macquarie University with the theme of 'Large Scale Structure in the Universe'. It was attended by over 30 students who listened to a program with 6 local speakers.

The Society's Annual General Meeting was held on July 5. Several printed reports were circulated to members. The President's report began by describing the Discipline Research Strategy that was released shortly after the meeting. It included a priority list of projects, three of which were short-listed for funding from the Major National Research Facilities (MNRF) Program. These were the bids to become a member of the European Southern Observatory (ESO), to upgrade the AT for millimetre wave astronomy and to take part in the International Cosmic Ray Observatory.

The President outlined the reasons behind the introduction of the new grades of Fellow and Associate Member, whose approval was announced at the meeting. He also described progress in instituting the David Allen Prize for articles in the Australian media, in honour of the Society's Past President who died shortly after the 1994 meeting. Other new initiatives of the Society included the introduction of a student member attending Council meetings to represent student interests.

The Treasurer's report covered a normal 12 month financial year, unlike the previous year, and resulted in a surplus \$4,000, although this was mostly due to a profit from the previous Annual Scientific Meeting rather than the revenue growth which had been predicted. Estimates for the 1995-96 financial year predicted a small loss since the publication of PASA was moving to three issues per year. However the introduction of the new membership grades was expected to result in a modest increase in revenue and thus the Treasurer recommended that fees and discounts remained unchanged apart from the introduction of the new grades.

The Editor's report began by summarising the results of the Editorial Board's consultations on the future of the *Proceedings of the Astronomical Society of Australia* (PASA). The clear view of the membership was that PASA should continue, preferably in an expanded form, and with the new name of the *Publications of the Astronomical Society of Australia*. In response to this support and increased submissions, PASA moved from two to three issues per year. The report also described the status of issues in preparation for volumes 12 and 13. As ever, the Editor's report generated wide-ranging discussion which finally centred on the desirability of being innovative and moving to electronic publication in the near future. Re-negotiation of the contract with CSIRO Publications had begun earlier in the week.

Other business of the meeting included the announcement of the result of the ballot for proposed constitutional amendments. These amendments passed easily, introducing the new grades of Fellow and Associate Member.

Since there was a nomination from the membership for an elected position on the 1995-96 Council, a postal ballot was conducted. The newly elected Council consisted of the following members:

President:	Dr E M Sadler
Vice President	Dr R W Clay
Treasurer	Dr D K Milne
Secretaries	Dr M L Duldig
	Dr J W O'Byrne
Councillors	Dr M A Dopita
	Dr R N Manchester
	Dr J E Norris
	Dr S Ryan
	Dr R L Webster

Prof. Harry Hyland became Immediate Past President. Dr Roy Allen remained as Donovan Trust Representative and Dr Jenny Nicholls remained as Editor. A transfer was also required in the position as the Society's Public Officer. This position was accepted by John Norris.

Reported by John O'Byrne