

MINUTES OF THE 12TH BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASGRG
held at the University of Tasmania and concurrently online via Zoom,
Thursday 3 February, 2022

The meeting opened at 5.05 p.m. (AEDT)

Present: Jörg Frauendiener (President), Karl Wette (Treasurer), Malcolm Anderson (Secretary), Susan Scott, David Wiltshire, Krzysztof Bolejko, Andrew Norton, Woei Chet Lim, Tevian Dray, John Steele

Apologies: Ben Whale

1. The minutes of the 11th Biennial General Meeting, held at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand on Tuesday 10 December, 2019, were presented to the meeting. Jörg Frauendiener moved that the minutes be accepted, and Krzysztof Bolejko seconded. The motion was approved.

Matters Arising: None.

2. President's Report: Jörg Frauendiener informed the meeting that

(i) Due to the ongoing pandemic, no activities were organised by the ASGRG in 2020 or 2021.

(ii) David Blair, David McClelland, Susan Scott and Peter Veitch were awarded the 2020 Australian Prime Minister's Prize for Science, while Susan Scott was also awarded the 2020 Dirac Medal for the Advancement of Physics (a prize given jointly by UNSW and the AIP).

(iii) The proposal submitted by David Wiltshire, Richard Easter and Jenny Adams for funding for the Kerr-Tinsley Centre, as a New Zealand Centre of Research Excellence in Astrophysics, was not successful.

(iv) Renate Meyer of the University of Auckland has received a grant of NZ\$3 million from the Royal Society Te Aparangi to study aspects of gravitational waves.

(v) A new working group on astro-statistics and general relativity has been established in New Zealand.

- Susan Scott asked if most of the GR theorists in New Zealand were involved in the working group. David Wiltshire affirmed that they were.

(vi) The next AIP Congress will be held in Adelaide from 11 to 16 December 2022. The nominated plenary speaker from the ASGRG is Kip Thorne, and the ASGRG can also nominate invited speakers for the GR sessions.

- Susan Scott informed the meeting that Kip Thorne has now accepted the invitation and will attend the AIP Congress.

(vii) The ASGRG currently has 63 members (59 life members and 4 ordinary members).

David Wiltshire moved that the President's Report be accepted, and Karl Wette seconded. The motion was approved.

3. Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer, Karl Wette, reported that as of 31 August 2021 the Society's current account contained \$10,702.93, and there was another \$5,305.76 in Paypal. The net balance of funds was therefore unchanged from 2019 at \$16,008.69.

Jörg Frauendiener moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted, and David Wiltshire seconded. The motion was approved.

4. Auditor's Report: The Auditor, John Schutz, certified in an email dated 3 February 2022 that he was satisfied with the Society's accounts.

5. Appointment of Auditor for the next session: John Schutz has agreed to remain the Auditor of the Society's accounts.

6. Election of officers: The following people were elected officers of the ASGRG Committee for the 2022-2023 session unopposed:

President:	Krzysztof Bolejko	(nominated: Susan Scott, seconded: Jörg Frauendiener)
Treasurer:	Karl Wette	(nominated: Susan Scott, seconded: David Wiltshire)
Secretary:	Malcolm Anderson	(nominated: Susan Scott, seconded: David Wiltshire)
Committee:	Susan Scott	(nominated: David Wiltshire, seconded: Malcolm Anderson)
Committee:	David Wiltshire	(nominated: Susan Scott, seconded: Malcolm Anderson)

7. Date and venue for ACGRG12: The date of the next Conference was set for December 2023, but the venue remained undecided. One possible venue was Auckland. David Wiltshire would investigate this.

8. Other business

- Resolutions: The following ordinary resolutions were submitted to the BGM for approval by the ASGRG Secretary Karl Wette.

1. The Society authorises the Treasurer to open a new bank account for the Society with Bank Australia.

2. The authorised signatories to the account with Bank Australia are the President, Secretary, & Treasurer of the Society.

3. For the sole purpose of opening a bank account with Bank Australia, the beneficial owners of the Society are its office holders (President, Secretary, Treasurer).

All three resolutions were adopted unanimously by the members present at the meeting.

- ASGRG Climate Policy: Andrew Norton submitted a document to the meeting and proposed that it be adopted as the Society's official climate policy. It was decided to submit the proposal to a remote ballot of the entire membership rather than have a small subgroup

vote on it at the BGM. Andrew Norton and Krzysztof Bolejko would jointly refine the text of the proposed resolution for the remote ballot and send it to the Secretary.

- Susan Scott reported that the current term of the OzGrav Centre [the ARC Centre of Excellence for gravitational wave discovery, hosted by Swinburne University] would expire in 2024. A proposal has been submitted for the renewal of the Centre, which has been shortlisted as one of the top 17 candidates by the ARC. The renewed Centre would focus more on FRBs and the Hubble tension, and employ fewer theorists than currently.

The meeting closed at 6.20 p.m. (AEDT)

Malcolm Anderson
ASGRG Secretary
10 February 2022