

MINUTES OF THE 13TH BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASGRG
held at the University of Tasmania and concurrently online via Zoom,
Wednesday 29 November, 2023

The meeting opened at 11.35 a.m. (AEDT)

Present: Krzysztof Bolejko (President), Karl Wette (Treasurer), Malcolm Anderson (Secretary), Susan Scott, Jörg Frauendiener, David Wiltshire, Gawain Simpson, Nikodem Poplawski, David Blair, Rudeep Gaur, Joshua Baines, Carl Blair, Colin Maclaurin

Apologies: None

1. The minutes of the 12th Biennial General Meeting, held at the University of Tasmania on Thursday 3 February, 2022, were presented to the meeting. Susan Scott moved that the minutes be accepted, and David Wiltshire seconded. The motion was approved.

Matters Arising: None.

2. President's Report (2022-2023 session): Krzysztof Bolejko informed the meeting that

(i) The ASGRG helped organise three sessions at the AIP Congress in Adelaide in December 2022, two on Monday 12 December, and a focus session on Australia's future in gravitational wave physics and astrophysics on Thursday 15 December.

(ii) The next AIP Congress will be held in Melbourne in December 2024.

- Susan Scott mentioned that the ASGRG is permitted to nominate one plenary speaker at the AIP Congress, so we need to choose a speaker and send a request to the AIP.

(iii) A mini-meeting to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the ASGRG is planned for September 2024, hosted by the Australian National University in Canberra.

(iv) Susan Scott and Matt Visser were selected as Fellows of the ISGRG in July 2022. Susan Scott was awarded the 2022 Blaise Pascal Medal for Physics, the 2022 AIP Walter Boas Medal, the 2022 Distinguished Alumni Award from Monash University, the 2022 Walter Burfitt Prize, and the 2023 Thomas Ranken Lyle Medal. David Wiltshire was awarded the 2023 Dan Walls Medal.

- Susan Scott added that Bram Slagmolen became a Fellow of the American Physical Society in 2023.

(v) OzGrav, the ARC Centre of Excellence for Gravitational Wave Discovery, finishes its first 7 years of operations in March 2024. In November 2022, the ARC awarded a further \$35 million of funding to extend its operations for another 7 years under the name OzGrav 2.0.

(vi) The Astronomical Society of Australia established a new chapter called Time Domain Astronomy in July 2023.

(vii) The ASGRG currently has 65 members (64 life members and 1 ordinary member).

Susan Scott 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 2023 the Society's current account contained \$16,788.32, and there was another \$500.00 in Paypal. The net balance of funds was therefore increased by \$1,279.64 from 2022 at \$16,008.68.

The Treasurer reported that he is still attempting to open a new ASGRG account with Bank Australia, as the current account with the Commonwealth Bank cannot be accessed until the previous signatories (Todd Oliynyk and Leo Brewin) are changed, and this requires all parties to be physically present at a Commonwealth Bank branch. However, Bank Australia requires the ASGRG to formally declare the names of the signatories for the new account.

The Treasurer reported that unified financial records dating back to June 2003 have been received from past Treasurers, and that the ASGRG website now produces automated receipts for anyone paying their membership subscription by PayPal.

The Treasurer raised the concern that the Society's funds are earning no income and so their value is being eaten away by inflation. He also pointed to the fact that the ASGRG has virtually no ordinary or student members, only life members, and asked what benefit there was in being an ASGRG member, other than a reduced attendance fee for ACGRG.

- Susan Scott suggested that Society's funds should be invested in a fixed-term deposit, and that the cost of life membership be increased to \$350.
- Jörg Frauendiener proposed that the ASGRG award two prizes for the best PhD theses (one experimental and one theoretical) at each ACGRG. David Wiltshire seconded the proposal, which was approved.

Susan Scott moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted, and Krzysztof Bolejko seconded. The motion was approved.

4. Auditor's Report: The Auditor, John Schutz, certified in an email dated 8 November 2023 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 2024-2025 session unopposed:

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

7. Date and venue for ACGRG13: David Wiltshire offered to host the next ACGRG at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch. The date would be either during the first two weeks of December 2025 or the last week of January/first week of February 2026.

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, Dr. Karl Wette, 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 of the Society, Dr. Krzysztof Bolejko, the Secretary of the Society, Dr. Malcolm Anderson; and the Treasurer of the Society, Dr. Karl Wette.

3. For the sole purpose of opening a bank account with Bank Australia, the beneficial owners of the Society are its office holders: the President of the Society (currently Dr. Krzysztof Bolejko), the Secretary of the Society (currently Dr. Malcolm Anderson); and the Treasurer of the Society (currently Dr. Karl Wette).

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

- ASGRG Climate Policy: Andrew Norton submitted a document to the 12th BGM and proposed that it be adopted as the Society's official climate policy. The BGM voted to refine the text of the proposal and submit it to a remote ballot, but so far this has not been done. The ASGRG Committee will meet to discuss the matter further.

- The ASGRG Committee will meet to decide the name, eligibility criteria, award conditions and value of the proposed PhD prizes.

- The ASGRG Committee will meet to organise the 30th anniversary mini-meeting of the Society in September 2024.

The meeting closed at 12.40 p.m. (AEDT)

Malcolm Anderson
ASGRG Secretary
6 December 2023