

MINUTES OF DELEGATES MEETING FOLLOWING THE THIRD ASTRONOMICAL CONVENTION  
HELD AT BALLARAT, VICTORIA ON 6TH APRIL 1969

PRESENT

MEETING OPENED - 2.30 p.m.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Mr. L. Brown, N.S.W. was elected chairman on the motion of Mr. N. Webb, seconded Mr. Eisink.

ELECTION OF SECRETARY

Mr. Czynski agreed to retain position of secretary for this meeting provided another secretary was elected for future meetings.

ELECTION OF DELEGATES

Miss Norma Breen, who had read the paper submitted by the James Cook Society, was elected delegate of that organisation.

VOTING

It was unanimously decided that only one delegate from each State would be entitled to vote.

MINUTES

Minutes of the delegates meeting, following the second convention held at Port Macquarie at Easter 1968 were read by Mr. Czynski in the absence of the then secretary.

MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD AT SECOND DELEGATES MEETING

1. That an Association of Clubs be formed - No action has been taken.
2. That a Convention should be held annually

Moved Mr. Webb, seconded Mr. Trevor Kay that a national convention be held annually.

Dr. Richards spoke against the motion.

Mr. Perdrix supported Dr. Richards. He said that each meeting should arrange when the succeeding meeting would be held and not look too far ahead. They could be arranged two meetings ahead, but members should not be committed to holding them annually.

The delegate for S.A. said that to hold a meeting every year was too much of a demand on the host society. S.A. was not in favour of an annual convention and felt it would be better if more time was spent on organisation as this would result in a better attendance if meetings were not held so frequently.

Mr. Trainor, Vic. asked if anybody present had attended all three conventions. Nobody had, with the exception of Mr. Webb.

Mr. Czynski said he doubted if this meeting had the power to say when conventions should be held. He suggested that each convention should fix when the next would be held.

Mr. Webb said members should remember the difficulties in getting people to the conventions and each secretary would have the job for two years and not for one.

Mr. Perdrix pointed out that if the motion was defeated, a meeting could still be held next year.

The motion was carried -

That the national convention be held annually.

Venue - The chairman asked if anyone was prepared to offer their club as host for next year's convention. As no offers were received, the chairman said he had been authorised to offer his own club at Wollongong.

The meeting was in favour of holding the next convention at Wollongong on 27-28-29 March, 1970.

### 3. That a Constitution be Formulated

The chairman was asked to clarify this proposal. Mr. Webb said it had been introduced at Canberra during the first convention - that there was a need for one society, a grand lodge, for the running of national conventions. The feeling then was that a Commonwealth organisation should be formed.

Dr. Richards suggested that during the next year a small group should be formed to do a feasibility study of some sort of a national body. He said that many things would need to be taken into consideration and carefully worked out. He recommended that this meeting consider formation of such a group preferably in the one State, to work on this for one or two years and at the end of that time present a report to all the clubs, and in the light of the data they gathered and if they recommended that such body be set up, that they inaugurate such a body. He did not think it necessary to have more than 3 or 4 people in the group, but it should be in one centre. One of the members of the group should be an accountant with a knowledge of company law. He considered, from his observations of the cross section of Australian societies present at the convention, that the only sufficiently strong groups to form such a committee would be Adelaide and Melbourne.

The chairman said consideration must be given as to whether the meeting was satisfied to accept the proposition of a steering committee, and asked if there was any offer from S.A.

The S.A. delegate said he had no power to commit his S.A. people but he would report back to S.A. He fully supported what Dr. Richards had said and would be more than happy to liaise with him.

Mr. Perdrix, Victoria, suggested that the meeting appoint Dr. Richards to carry out a feasibility study and give him the power to pick out the necessary people.

Dr. Richards said he would be willing to accept the appointment providing he could expect help from the Victorian society. He also said that he would report back at the maximum of two years and would give a progress report at the next Convention.

The president of the A.S.V. assured Dr. Richards of his society's co-operation.

It was moved Mr. Trainor, seconded Mr. Desmond and carried that -

Dr. Richards be given the power to co-opt and conduct a feasibility study on the formation of some sort of national astronomical body, with a progress report at the next convention in 1970 and a final report not later than 1971.

Mr. Trainor, Victoria, informed the meeting that his society would subscribe an amount of \$10 in connection with Dr. Richards feasibility study. Received with acclamation.

[Signature obscured]