





2026 Treasurer Report

Karl Wette, Treasurer
14th Biennial General Meeting, 6th July 2026
Australasian Society for General Relativity and Gravitation



Overview

- Financial position, statement from Auditor
- News & updates
- Proposed change to Society membership fees
- Motions to the BGM



Financial position,
statement from Auditor



Summary of Financial Position

	Bank Account	PayPal Account	Term Deposit	TOTAL	CHANGE
Current Audit Date	31 Aug 2025	31 Aug 2025	31 Aug 2025		
Balance at Current Audit Date	\$8,222.29	\$100.00	\$10,000.00	\$18,322.29	+\$1,033.97
Previous Audit Date	31 Aug 2023	31 Aug 2023	31 Aug 2023		
Balance at Previous Audit Date	\$16,788.32	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$17,288.32	

ASGRG Balance Change over Audit Period



Statement from Auditor (John Schutz)

- Also at <https://www.asgrg.org/governance/>
- Leo Brewin has agreed to take over as Auditor
 - Thanks Leo!
- Motion of thanks to John to follow



ASGRG Treasurer <asgrg.treasurer@gmail.com>

Audit Report ASGRG (2023 to 2025)

John Schutz <J.Schutz@latrobe.edu.au> 5 February 2026 at 16:22
To: ASGRG Treasurer <asgrg.treasurer@gmail.com>

To: The General Meeting,
Australasian Society for General Relativity and Gravitation
From: John Schutz (auditor ASGRG)
Subject: Audit Report ASGRG (2023 to 2025)

Date: 5 February 2026

I have examined the records of accounts of the ASGRG for the period 31 August 2023 to 31 August 2025.
I am completely satisfied as auditor of the ASGRG that they are up-to-date and in order.

Additionally, the "Notes to Audit 2023-2025" made the audit process very clear and efficient.

Karl, Leo and Todd have successfully completed the the transfer of banking from the Commonwealth Bank to Bank Australia, so the banking should be very much simpler from now on.

John Schutz
(auditor ASGRG)
j.schutz@latrobe.edu.au

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PO Box 199, Bendigo, Victoria 3552, Australia

La Trobe University | TEQSA PRV12132 - Australian University | CRICOS Provider 00115M



News & updates



News & Updates

- The Society has a new bank account with Bank Australia, opened in December 2023
 - Motivation for new account: Commonwealth Bank (CBA) requirement that change of signatories be done in person impossible to satisfy
- The Society's former bank account with CBA has been closed (!)
 - Attempt by Leo Brewin and Todd Oliynyk to close account were unsuccessful due to signatory problem
 - After I withdrew last \$100 from account, Leo received notification that CBA would close the account
 - October 2025: Leo reported that CBA account was no longer visible to him, presume it has been closed

News & Updates

- The Society has a rolling term deposit with Bank Australia, first opened in March 2025
 - 6 month term, interest paid on maturity, set to auto-renew at prevailing interest rate
 - Instructions changed by BA without consent (!), now interest is reinvested on maturity
 - Interest is being taxed at ~47% (no TFN?)
- New membership portal
 - Fees now collected through PayPal subscriptions (yearly billing) instead of one-off payments
 - Does not require members to have a PayPal account; can pay with debit/credit card
 - <https://www.asgrg.org/membership/>



- Home
- Membership
- Conferences
- Kerr Prize
- Newsletters
- Resources
- Governance
- Contact

Membership

Membership of the Society is open to anyone interested in general relativity and gravitation. We particularly welcome applications from post-graduate students and early career researchers.

A list of the current membership of the Society may be found [here](#).

To join the Society, please complete and submit the following form. If you wish to modify an existing membership, please [contact the Society](#).

The Society also offers a **Life Membership** for a one-off payment of **250.00 AUD**. If you are interested in this option, please do not fill out this form; instead, please [contact the Society](#) directly.

Your details

Name:

E-mail:

Institute:

Postal address:

I am a: Member of the Australian Institute of Physics (AIP).

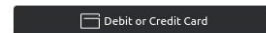
Your membership

- Ordinary:** 40.00 AUD per year.
Yearly rate, no AIP member discount.
- Student:** 20.00 AUD per year.
No AIP member discount.
- Retired/Unwaged:** 20.00 AUD per year.
Retired/unwaged rate, no AIP member discount.

Confirmation

Please double-check that the above information is correct.

To proceed, please click one of the buttons below. You will be redirected to PayPal to complete your subscription.



Powered by **PayPal**

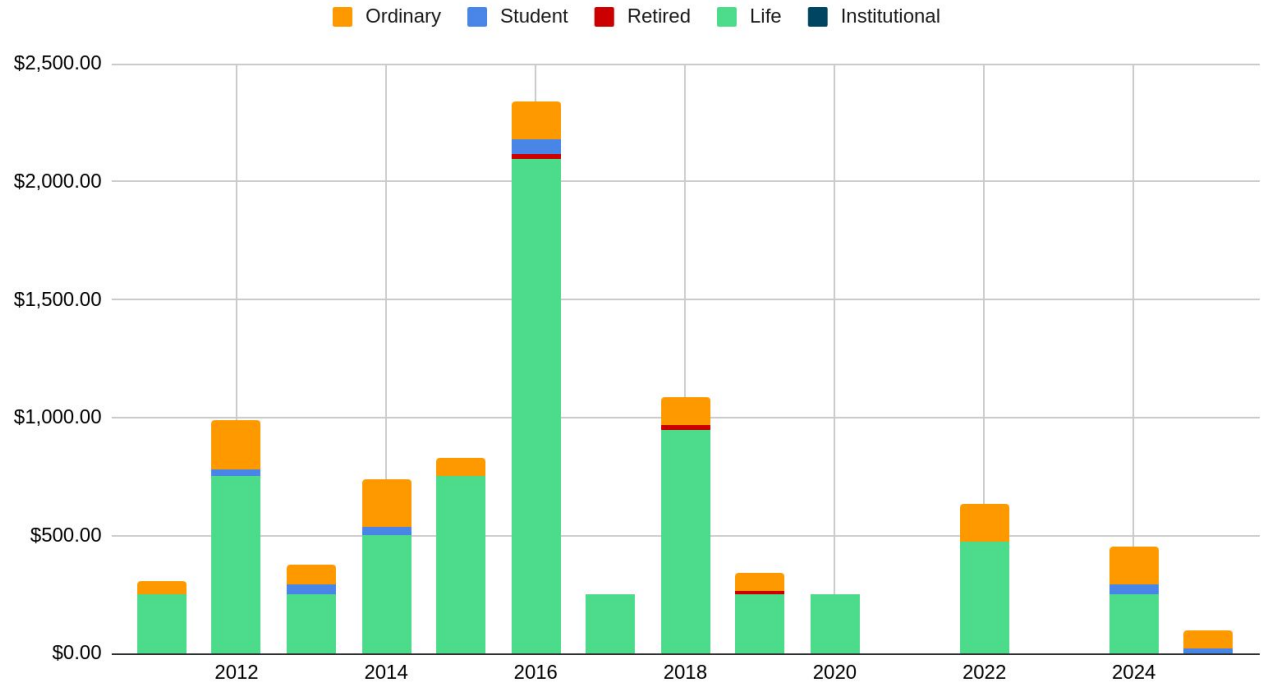


Proposed change to Society membership fees



- Membership fees generally <\$500/yr with exceptions (e.g. ACGRG years)
- Decline noticeable in recent years; average fees <\$200 (2000–)
- Dominated by life memberships
- Current membership:
 - 63 life
 - 5 ordinary
 - 0 student
 - 1 retired
 - **69 total**
- Back in 2001:
 - 21 life
 - 20 ordinary
 - 15 student
 - 7 retired
 - **63 total**

ASGRG Membership Income per Financial Year



Annual Subscription

8.

- (i) Every member must pay an annual subscription.

Motivation for change to membership fees

- The Society should obey its own Constitution
 - Life memberships (with no annual fee) are clearly incompatible with Section 8(i)
- The Society should, in principle, have sufficient income to cover ongoing expenses
 - Kerr Prize: \$200 prize money + \$100 expenses every 2 years = \$300 per year
 - Little scope for other activities, e.g. providing financial support to ACGRG
- The Society has little recourse to other source of income, apart from membership fees
 - Interest: typically a few \$100/yr at best, even with term deposit
- With very little income, the Society cannot afford to spend without eroding capital
 - Society funds will continue to evaporate through inflation

Historical membership fees (AUD)

Year	Ordinary Membership Fee		Life Membership Fee		Ratio Life/Ordinary
	<i>Raw</i>	<i>CPI Adjusted</i>	<i>Raw</i>	<i>CPI Adjusted</i>	
1996	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	8.33
2012	\$40.00	\$60.21	\$250.00	\$376.31	6.25
2025	\$40.00	\$84.98	\$250.00	\$531.11	6.25

- Student/Retired membership: 50% of Ordinary membership fee

Proposed new membership fees (AUD)

	Ordinary (yearly)	Ordinary (reduced) <i>(NEW, cf. Life)</i>	Life (existing)	Student	Retired	Institutional
Setup Fee	\$0.00	\$120.00 <i>(NEW)</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Annual Fee	\$45.00 <i>(+\$5.00)</i>	\$30.00 <i>(NEW)</i>	\$30.00 <i>(NEW)</i>	\$15.00 <i>(-\$5.00)</i>	\$15.00 <i>(-\$5.00)</i>	\$500.00 <i>(NEW)</i>
First Year Fee	\$45.00	\$150.00 <i>(-\$100.00 cf. Life)</i>	\$30.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$500.00

- Will no longer use “life membership” nomenclature for new members to avoid confusion
- Ordinary (reduced) membership becomes cheaper than Ordinary (yearly) membership after 8 years

Current benefits of Society membership

- Australasian Conference on General Relativity and Gravitation (ACGRG)
 - Primary venue in Australia/New Zealand dedicated to general relativity and gravitational physics
 - Multi-disciplinary format brings together theory, numerical, experiment, data analysis, astrophysics, etc.
 - Kerr Prize - opportunity for students to be recognised for giving excellent talks by their research community
 - Members receive discounted registration for ACGRG (*should ensure this is applied consistently*)
- Australian Institute of Physics (AIP)
 - Members receive a 10% discount on AIP membership
 - ASGRG has the right to propose a plenary speaker for biennial AIP Congress (*not always realised*)
 - Important platform to promote study of general relativity and gravitation
 - Past speakers have been international / ASGRG members
- Reliable membership income would help the Society build on these benefits

How many members would pay new fees?

- Recent community/membership engagement (sources: Committee reports):
 - ACGRG12 (2023, Hobart):
 - 28 attendees (18 in person, 10 online), 4 members (excl. invited speakers)
 - 30 year anniversary (2024, Canberra):
 - 51 attendees (28 in person, 23 online), 22 members (14 in person, 8 online)
- Current membership: 69 members (1 in arrears): 63 life, 5 ordinary, 0 student, 1 retired
 - Member demographics (source: email addresses, best guesses):
 - 38 Aus, 8 NZ, 11 international, 11 unknown
- To aid year-on-year retention, fees now collected exclusively through PayPal subscriptions

1. The annual subscriptions for membership of the Society shall be as follows:
 - a. The subscription amount for an Ordinary Member who is employed shall be, at the discretion of the Member, either:
 - i. AUD 45 per year (“yearly rate”); or
 - ii. AUD 30 per year, plus a AUD 120 setup fee (“reduced rate”).
 - b. The subscription amount for an Ordinary Member who is retired or unwaged shall be AUD 15 per year.
 - c. The subscription amount for a Student Member shall be AUD 15 per year.
 - d. The subscription amount for an Institutional Member shall be AUD 500 per year.
 - e. The Society will continue to offer a 10% discount on all annual subscriptions (except for Institutional Members) to members of the Australian Institute of Physics.
 - f. Regarding Life Memberships:
 - i. The Society shall cease to offer new Life Memberships in the Society.
 - ii. It is noted that, per the Constitution [Sec. 8(i)], existing Life Members must pay an annual subscription to continue their membership in the Society.
 - iii. The subscription amount for a Life Member who is employed shall be AUD 30 per year. A Life Member who is retired or unwaged shall pay the same annual subscription as an Ordinary Member who is retired or unwaged.
 - iv. A Life Member who fails to pay the annual subscription given in clause 1(f)(iii) by 11:59 pm, 31 December, 2026 shall be considered to be in arrears. A Life Member whose subscription is more than one year in arrears shall be deemed to have resigned from the Society per the Constitution [Sec. 10]. A Life Member who has resigned for the Society in this manner shall remain eligible to rejoin the Society, subject to the Constitution [Sec. 6], at the same subscription amount as other existing Life Members.
 - v. Except for the provisions in clauses 1(f)(iii) and 1(f)(iv), Life Members shall otherwise be considered Ordinary Members of the Society.
2. The annual subscriptions shall take effect immediately upon ratification [per the Constitution, Sec. 8(ii)] of this Resolution by the Society.

For motion - Resolution on Annual Subscriptions

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For motion - Resolution on Annual Subscriptions



Motions to the BGM



Motion 1:
The Society sincerely thanks John
Schutz for his diligent service as
Auditor for the past 25 years
(2001–2026)



Motion 2:
The Society adopts the
Resolution on Annual
Subscriptions
(as listed in slide 18)