



MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 2009

Presidents Report – John Rombi

Well here we are with another year gone by. I have enjoyed my second year as president with quite a few matters creating a challenge for me.

Our guest speaker line up was like a Who's Who of Astronomy:

2008

- May: Prof Bryan Gaensler (Syd Uni)
- June: Dr Laszlo Kiss (Syd Uni)
- July: Chris Malikoff (Webmaster)
- August: Daniel Ross (V.P)
- September: Andrew Jacob (Syd Uni)
- October: Dr Lisa Harvey-Smith (Syd Uni)
- November: Dr Greg Madsen (Syd Uni)

2009

- January: Chris Malikoff (webmaster)
- February: Ian Cook (Member)
- March: Dr Andrew Hopkins

We have been very fortunate that these experienced speakers have been able to give us time to pay us a visit. And of course, the ever reliable locals (members) that are always available to share their passion with others. A BIG thanks to all of you!!

The Forest

We are very fortunate as a club to have access to the cabin; I would like to thank International House (through Charlene Griffith's, Director) and Sydney University for this great facility.

At the beginning of 2009 a new fee structure was put into place by I.H.

The fee went from \$8 per person per night, to a flat fee of \$110 per weekend.

This new fee would have placed a very heavy burden on member's pockets.

After some discussions with I.H, and bringing to their attention the long time partnership between IH & MAS the fee was reduced to \$77 per weekend.

The fee for members will continue as before, if there is a short fall MAS will make up the difference. This arrangement is ONLY for the New Moon weekends, any Lunar sessions will have to be paid in full by the members.

This may be reviewed in the future.

The cabin is used by many members on the New Moon weekend of each month; the pristine skies (down to Mag 7.5 in winter) are a real attraction.

I would also like to thank the M.A.S caretakers Ned Pastor & Lloyd Wright for collecting & returning the keys (from Syd Uni) and making sure that the cabin is in ship shape condition for use.

Without their tireless efforts, these weekends would not be possible, Thanks Ned & Lloyd.

Stargard

Has been a great asset for M.A.S to have under its belt. We are an official user of this field (along with pony the club); so we have a stake in the decisions made for this area. It is only ½ hour from Campbelltown with very good dark skies.

U.W.S Campbelltown,

Continues to be our home for our monthly meetings (I think we are up to 12 years)

After an initial period where we had to pay (at a reduced cost) for the room, we now no longer pay for its use.

With the I.Y.A upon us UWS/MAS have entered into a new era of cooperation.

After an initial meeting with Prof Anne Cusick and Dr Beryl Hesketh, we agreed on monthly open nights for the rest of the year, with a big effort being placed on the visit of Prof Fred Watson in September.

Our first open night was a big success, with approx 200 people attending.

Along with this cooperation, UWS has agreed to waive all costs to MAS.

This will certainly help our bottom line at the end of each year.

As I'm writing this, 6 members are being trained in the use of the Observatory equipment.

This will allow Dr Ragbir Bhatl (Observatory Director) to not have to attend all open nights; this will certainly lessen his work load.

Merchandising

Last year we started producing our first real piece of in house merchandise, our MAS Shirts. After holding a competition to accept the best design for our logo, our orders were placed with Pan Merchandising (Narellan)

Varying styles and sizes were made available. Approx 95% of all members have a least one shirt to their collection and I must say it makes us all look very smart and professional.

We are now in the process of taking delivery of our next item (in time for winter) our Beanie.

Refreshments

I would like to thank Kate & Daniel Ross for providing our social lubricants throughout the year.

With Kate & Daniel unable to continue with this task, Debra Taylor has taken over this very important part of our meetings, Thanks Deb!!

Prime Focus

Well, a casualty of the times I suppose. The last hard copy of Prime Focus was produced in March 09.

With the introduction of our new website, we have also made P.F available electronically each month.

With an almost 100% ownership of computers by members, this was an inevitable progression.

Thankyou, Thankyou, Thankyou

Where do I begin!!

Firstly, I would like to thank my Secretary;

Roger Powell

He has been a great support to me over the last year.

Roger's capability with the written word, whether dealing with the media or bringing a point to the attention of the necessary powers that be, has been a great asset to MAS.

We couldn't have achieved the results at hand without Roger's commitment.

Dick Everett

Another long time member, and our treasurer. Dick has used his extensive business skills to keep the M.A.S. finances in a healthy position; he is also responsible for the mailout of Prime Focus.

Dick has been the clubs D.I.Y.S guru for many years now, and has helped many members with observing chairs, dew heaters and any technical information needed.

Dick is standing down as treasurer and from the committee after 7 years of service.

We will miss his advice and humour at our committee meetings.

Kate Ross

Kate has quietly worked in the background producing our monthly injection of "*Prime Focus*"

With a new baby to look after, going back to work and finishing off a degree we haven't seen much of Kate lately, but I know that her heart is still amongst the stars and MAS.

Unfortunately, due to all the above workload Kate will step down as Editor after the May issue.

Thank you for your talents Kate (they are numerous) and for adding that female touch to the mix.

Daniel Ross

Is another 10 year member, he has been on the committee for number of years.

Daniel has been our long time computer guru, name badge maker and the first person to have a really big (and the first truss) telescope in the club.

As with Kate, Daniel's workload has increased greatly and unfortunately he will be stepping down from the committee at this meeting.

As with Dick, I'll miss your council and sense of humour, Thanks mate.

Chris Malikoff

Our Webmaster and astrophotographer extraordinaire has been a great asset to MAS. Our website has changed and grown exponentially since its inception and this has been due to Chris's hard work.

Chris has also been available to help the large influx of new astroimagers come to grips with the steep learning curve that this subject produces.

Lloyd Wright

Well what can I say about Lloyd?

Lloyd works very quietly and below the radar, he is not the sort of person to draw attention to himself. He has a very selfless approach to life and is ALWAYS the first person to offer help to me or any member regardless of the situation.

If you would like to make a mould that encompasses all the positive attributes of a member, it's Lloyd.

Ivan Fox

Joined the committee last year and has been an active member. Due to ill health, Ivan's involvement in club activities was limited. I am happy to report that Ivan's recovery has been very positive and that we will see a lot more of him in the future.

Stewart Grainger

Also joined the committee last and has taken on the role of custodian of Macdob and Merchandising Officer. I'm thankful that Stewart was able to relieve me of the responsibility of Merchandising Officer; this is an area that needs more attention than I was able to give it.

Stewart has done this admirably; his first major contribution was the new beanies.

Last but not least

I would like to thank you the members. You have entrusted to me the responsibility of making sure that M.A.S has an ongoing and bright future, with your help I know that this can be achieved.

If I have missed anyone, I truly apologise.

John Rombi

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The **Annual General Meeting** of Macarthur Astronomical Society will be held on Monday 20th April 2009 at 7.30 pm. in Room 5, Building 22, University of Western Sydney, Campbelltown, NSW. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Opening of Meeting, welcome and apologies.
2. Minutes of previous AGM, 21st April 2008.
3. Business arising out of the minutes.
4. Presentation of Annual Reports.
5. Appointment of Returning Officer.
6. Election of Management Committee for 2009-2010.
7. Presentation of Ten Year Awards.
8. Other Business.
9. Close of Meeting.

Nominations for election closed on 6th April 2009 and are listed on the Website.

Roger Powell, Secretary, 7th April 2009

Macarthur Astronomical Society
Statement of Financial Performance
For year ended 28th February, 2009

| | 2009 | 2008 |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Income | | |
| Membership Fees | 2,299.00 | 1,925.00 |
| Donations | Nil | 166.00 |
| Interest | 20.77 | 16.47 |
| Sales of Goods - | | |
| Publications | 863.00 | 731.16 |
| DVD's | 10.00 | 484.00 |
| Club Shirts | 1,260.00 | Nil |
| Tea & Coffee | 388.90 | 124.00 |
| Magellan Fees | Nil | 665.00 |
| Fund Raising - Raffle | 523.00 | |
| | <u>5,364.67</u> | <u>4,111.63</u> |
| Expenditure | | |
| Depreciation | 418.00 | 456.00 |
| Filing Fees | 44.00 | 43.00 |
| Insurance | 729.38 | 738.00 |
| Miscellaneous Expenses | Nil | 53.00 |
| Postage & Printing | 135.15 | 147.71 |
| PO Box Rental | 70.00 | 65.00 |
| Purchase of Goods for Sale | 2,296.35 | 926.00 |
| Domain Registration / Web | 192.00 | Nil |
| Security | Nil | Nil |
| Belangalo/Starguard | Nil | 79.00 |
| Magellan Costs | Nil | 610.00 |
| Room Hire | 315.00 | Nil |
| Guest Speakers | 111.14 | 298.00 |
| Badges - 10 year | Nil | Nil |
| Campbelltown Show Expenses | 416.68 | Nil |
| | <u>4,727.70</u> | <u>3,415.71</u> |
| Operating Profit/(Loss) | 636.72 | 695.92 |
| Less Transfer to Asset Replacement reserve | 200.00 | 200.00 |
| Unappropriated Profit/(Loss) for year | <u>436.72</u> | <u>495.92</u> |

**Macarthur Astronomical Society
Financial Statement
As at 28th February, 2009**

| | 2009 | 2008 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Accumulated Funds | | |
| Asset Replacement Reserve | 2260.00 | 2,060.00 |
| Funds at beginning of year | 3804.70 | 3,308.78 |
| Profit/(Loss) for the year | <u>436.72</u> | <u>495.92</u> |
| | <u>6501.42</u> | <u>5,864.70</u> |
| Represented by: | | |
| Current Assets | | |
| Cash at bank | 5823.42 | 4,768.70 |
| Non - Current Assets | | |
| Plant & Equipment (Cost) | 3799.23 | 3,799.23 |
| Less: Accumulated Depreciation | <u>-3121.23</u> | <u>-2,703.23</u> |
| | <u>678.00</u> | <u>1,096.00</u> |
| Total Assets | <u>6501.42</u> | <u>5,864.70</u> |

Independent Audit Report

I have audited the financial statements, being the statement of financial position and statement of financial performance. The Astronomical Society Committee is responsible for the financial statements. The audit has been conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. My procedures including examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with accounting standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Astronomical Society's financial position and the results of its operation. The audit opinion expressed has been formed on the above basis.

Note 1 - Accounting principles and methods adopted in accounts

The accounts have been prepared on the cash basis, and in accordance with applicable statements of accounting concepts and accounting standards issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB). They have also been prepared on the basis of historical costs. The accounting policies have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated.

Note 2 - Non-Current Assets

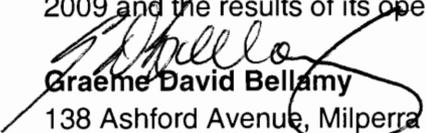
Non-Current assets are included at cost or at independent valuation. All non-current assets are depreciated over their estimated useful lives commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Note 3 - Fund Raising

One raffle for a club telescope was conducted during the year as an adjunct to club activities at Campbelltown Show. An amount of \$523.00 was collected but offset by show operating expenses of \$417.00.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statement of Macarthur Astronomical Society present fairly in accordance with applicable accounting standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements. The financial position of Macarthur Astronomical Society as at the 28th February, 2009 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.


Graeme David Bellamy

138 Ashford Avenue, Milperra

Dated this seventh day of March, 2009