



# **ANNUAL REPORTS**

**APRIL 2020**

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April 2020

## **President's Report to the 24th AGM of the Macarthur Astronomical Society Inc.**

Dear MAS Members

This will be my only President's Report as I am stepping down for personal reasons. We have an excellent selection of candidates standing for the committee and hopefully the current committee will allow an additional committee member, making eight altogether.

We have had a very mixed year and it was very busy as usual.

Our major event was, "Apollo 11 to STEM and The Next Giant Leap", with eight scientists from NASA attending and giving lectures. The event went off very well and all who attended were pleased with the event.

We have to thank our sponsors (in no specific order), Australian Botanic Gardens, Mount Annan (via Inspiring Australia), Tulich Family Communities, Campbelltown Council, Camden Council, Vintage FM, ABC Wollongong, Campbelltown Rotary Observatory, Cutaway Hill Wines, Powerhouse Casula and Commonwealth Bank Employees. Without our sponsors we would not have been able to run the event. We were also partnered with One Giant Leap Australia who organised the NASA scientists.

We must also thank Dr Ragbir Bhathal for his organising of the lecture theatres at the WSU for this event and the continual use every month for our Forums.

We had a string of public nights for the Apollo 11 event, split over the Australian Botanic Gardens, Mount Annan, Tulich Family Communities, Campbelltown Council, Camden Council, Cutaway Hill Wines and the Powerhouse, Casula which went a long way to defraying our expenses from the Apollo 11 event. Surprisingly, all of these events went ahead very successfully.

For those of us who like to go out observing, the past year has seen a poor year generally. Winter was best as usual, but since November it has been miserable!

We managed to have some nights in Belanglo Forest, including the International House students' night where they cooked up dinner for all and we also had a few nights at Stargard.

We had 4 nights planned for Campbelltown Rotary Observatory (The Domes). Two were cancelled due to bad weather and the other two may as well have been cancelled as the weather was poor.

We also had a couple of private viewing nights for the scouts and guides which were very successful.

### **Thank you**

I would like to thank all the committee members and our assistants for all their great work behind the scenes throughout the year.

I'd especially like to thank our Vice President, John Rombi, who took over when I was on holiday in New Zealand in March this year and took care of everyday business at a very bad time with the coronavirus in full swing. John has been a real asset to me.

Treasurer, Andy Milton, has had a difficult year with the loss of his wife and shortly after he was involved in a serious car accident. Barry has been standing in assisting Andy and together they have kept our accounts fully detailed and up to date, a great job. I am pleased to see he is nominating for a further year. Graeme Bellamy, our auditor thinks highly of him.

Secretary, Barry Moore – also our Public Officer dealing with DOFT 's requirements has had a lot to keep up with this year. Barry decided last year to continue this year to keep us in line, but he is standing down this year due to other commitments.

Membership Officer, Henry Swierk, has continued to maintain excellent records of the comings and goings of our members. Our newcomers have been keeping him busy. At the close of the year we had 140 members. A reminder that renewals should be finalised before the end of April or a re-joining fee will apply.

John Rombi - our Speaker Liaison – another great year with astronomers old and new visiting us. Thank you all for your great presentations. Ric Forster gave us an excellent talk in January, which was the second part of the talk that he began last January. The students from Broughton Anglican that we mentored did great things, winning several science prizes and gave great talks alongside Prairiewood High School in December.

Greg Bradford has worked very hard in ensuring our loan telescopes have been brought up to scratch. We have four now. He also worked on last year's major event 'Apollo 11 to STEM and the Next Giant Leap' and was also responsible for setting up the "Request for Services & Support" and our "Return and Earn" programs.

Phil Kidd worked hard with Mike Nicholas and Mark Brakenbury on the schools mentoring program and has now taken the reigns with Mike and Mark's retirements.

### **MAS could not run without the backroom boys!**

Roger Powell, keeping our material up to date on the website and running our Twitter account. He has had issues with updating our website to newer software but hopefully this will be resolved in 2020, with Chris Malikoff giving us a completely new web site in the second half of 2020.

Our auditor Graeme Bellamy, another speedy audit of our accounts, ensuring we are complying with our reporting requirements.

Noel Sharpe, Stargard liaison with Wollondilly Council – we have great flexibility with when we choose to go. There are development proposals in progress for the whole of Dudley Chesham Oval area. It still remains to be seen if and when this will be implemented.

Ned Pastor for assisting with the Cabin and International House.

Ric Forster has been assisting Frank Lauterbach with photographing at the Forums.

I have been ensuring we get tea, coffee and biscuits after our Forums, but now we have a permanent replacement, Steph Murray, who was volunteered by her son Julian.

Thanks of course to our amazing astronomers, without whom we could not function. Prof. Bryan Gaensler our Patron; Prof. Annemarie Hennessy, Provost of WSU and to Dr Ragbir Bhathal.

### **Retirements this year**

President – Allan Hobbs

Secretary – Barry Moore

Merchandising – Brendon Watehouse +

Public Outreach - Mike Nicholas +

Public Outreach – Mark Brakenbury +

+ We need members to fill vacant positions, please.

Prof. Bryan Gaensler, our Patron, has retired as such due to his overseas posting commitments and has now been replaced by Geraint Lewis. Geraint will make a special visit to one of our forums to officially take up the position.

### **Fundraising**

Our major event for this year was "Apollo 11 to Stem and The Next Giant Leap" on Sunday July 21.

### **Members trips**

The China trip departed with 17 people on May 15, returning May 30. An excellent time was had by all.

## **Public Outreach**

Thanks must go to Mike Nicholas for running the program in 2019 and keeping in contact with the schools. Mike retired from the mentoring program in January this year and handed the reigns over to Phil Kidd for the 2020 season. This year is going to be great too! More new names are visiting, and another school being mentored.

We were going to support three schools: Broughton Anglican college in Semester 1, Picton High School and St Benedicts College in Semester 2, but that's all now changed due to the current COVID-19 issue.

## **In Summary**

I'd like to thank all the members for supporting us last year and hope you will support us again this year.

We had a reduced program last year with our normal events since Apollo 11 due to the usual weather issues, then the horrific fires, the floods and now the COVID-19 which has finally brought Australia and the whole world into a full lockdown. When this will end, no one really knows. Please keep safe from this dreadful virus.

It has been a privilege to be President this year and I'd like to thank all of you for coming to our Forums. I'll still be around and hope to get more involved in viewing nights when they resume.

Allan Hobbs

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allan Hobbs', written in a cursive style.

President, Macarthur Astronomical Society Inc.

**Macarthur Astronomical Society**  
**Annual General Meeting Report**  
**Treasurer's Report for year to 29 February 2020**

I am pleased to present the audited Financial Statements of Macarthur Astronomical Society (the Society) for the year ended 29 February 2020. These Financial Statements have been audited by Graeme Bellamy, our Honorary Auditor. I thank him for his advice and assistance in the preparation of the financial statements.

The Society has made a surplus on its activities of \$4528.89 (2019 \$5706.08). As a result the Society's Net Members Equity is \$35474.74. The attached Balance Sheet and Statement of Financial Performance provide a breakdown of movement of balance sheet and income expense categories that make up and explain the increase in Members Equity.

**Balance Sheet as at 29 February 2020**

The excess of income over expenditure (surplus) for the year to 29 February 2020 has ensured the Society has a positive year end cash balance of \$15990.71 (2019 \$10607.68). The Society continues to hold a term deposit of \$21,000 with the Commonwealth Bank. Interest on the deposit is credited to the Society bank account at the maturity date.

The Society now recognises membership fees paid in advance. An amount of \$2611.10 (2019 \$2608.78) has been recognised as a liability in the Balance Sheet.

**Statement of Financial Performance**

The Society's Major Event was held in July 2019. The Society, in conjunction with One Giant Leap Australia, hosted 'Apollo 11, Stem and the Next Giant Leap'. Ticket sales for the event, together with donations and grants received to undertake this successful event, ensured the Society did not have to subsidise the occasion.

The Society was allocated a Bunnings fund raising day. As a result of the Bunnings event and other minor fund raising activity the Society made a surplus of \$1229.45 (2019 \$2340.40) on these activities. The Society was allocated a three month opportunity to raise funds through the Woolworths bottle bank initiative. An amount of \$662.00 was collected for the Society from this opportunity and is included as a separate item of income.

The Society upgraded and changed some member recognition awards. An amount of \$793.60 has been included in Miscellaneous Expense representing these awards. With approval of the membership the Society made three Donations to third parties last year amounting to \$2141.66. These donations were: Asbestos Disease Foundation \$334.00; Dark Sky Alliance Australia \$513.66; and The Oaks Rural Bush Fire Brigade \$1294.00.

The Society now has four telescopes and a set of binoculars available for member's use that have been donated at no cost. As a result this equipment is not recognised as an asset in the

Financial Statements. The Society expended \$614.35 (2019 \$967.73) in repair and upgrade of these assets and other equipment. On behalf of all members I acknowledge the time and effort of Greg Bradford in his active stewardship of this equipment.

### **Other Acknowledgements**

Brendon Waterhouse, our Merchandising Officer is stepping down from the role. Brendon developed a data base of information that provides accurate information as to all matters affecting merchandise. This data base represents a significant benefit to the Society Committee and myself as Honorary Treasurer.

Barry Moore is vacating the role of Society Secretary after three years. For several months of the year I was unable to fulfil the role of Treasurer of the Society. Barry took responsibility for the Treasurer's role during that time. I thank him for taking on responsibility of Treasury matters and more generally for his service to all members as Society Secretary.

The success of our financial year to February 2020 is a result of the Society Committee and many other member's time and effort to support all the Society activities. I congratulate you all on a successful outcome.

Andy Milton

Honorary Treasurer

Macarthur Astronomical Society

29 March 2020

**MACARTHUR ASTROMONICAL SOCIETY**  
**Financial Statement**  
**Year End 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**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 accruals basis, and in accordance with applicable statement 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 life commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

**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 to reflect the financial position of Macarthur Astronomical Society as at the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020 and the results of its operations for the year ended.

Graeme David Bellamy  
29 Eucalyptus Drive, Dalmeny NSW 2546  
Dated 8<sup>th</sup> April 2020

**Macarthur Astronomical Society**  
**Financial Statement**  
**Year ended 29 February 2020**

	2020	2019	Movement
<b>Balance sheet</b>			
<b>Accumulated funds</b>			
Funds at beginning of year	\$30,945.58	\$ 25,239.50	\$ 5,706.08
Surplus (Deficit) for year	\$ 4,528.89	\$ 5,706.08	\$ (1,117.19)
<b>Net members equity</b>	<b>\$35,474.47</b>	<b>\$ 30,945.58</b>	<b>\$ 4,528.89</b>
<b>Represented by</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Merchandise stock	\$ 894.86	\$ 1,032.79	\$ (137.93)
Cash at bank and in hand	\$16,040.71	\$ 10,607.68	\$ 5,433.03
Fixed term deposit	\$21,000.00	\$ 21,000.00	\$ -
Prepaid insurance	\$ -	\$ 784.38	\$ (784.38)
Petty cash advances	\$ 150.00	\$ 190.00	\$ (40.00)
Members deposits re China	\$ -	\$ 1,595.52	\$ (1,595.52)
Interest receivable	\$ -	\$ -	
	<b>\$38,085.57</b>	<b>\$ 35,210.37</b>	<b>\$ 2,875.20</b>
<b>Non Current Assets</b>			
Plant and equipment	\$ 6,016.23	\$ 6,016.23	\$ -
Depreciation	\$(6,016.23)	\$ (6,016.23)	\$ -
		\$ -	
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$38,085.57</b>	<b>\$ 35,210.37</b>	<b>\$ 2,875.20</b>
<b>Less Current Liabilities</b>			
Membership fees in advance	\$ 2,611.10	\$ 2,608.78	\$ (2.32)
Members deposits held in trust	\$ -	\$ 1,559.52	\$ 1,559.52
Accrued expenditure	\$ -	\$ 96.49	\$ 96.49
	<b>\$ 2,611.10</b>	<b>\$ 4,264.79</b>	<b>\$ 1,653.69</b>
<b>Total Assets less Liabilities</b>	<b>\$35,474.47</b>	<b>\$ 30,945.58</b>	<b>\$ 4,528.89</b>

**Macarthur Astronomical Society  
Statement of Financial Performance  
Year Ended 29 February 2020**

	2020	2019	Movement
<b>Income</b>			
Membership fees	\$ 5,283.01	\$ 5,061.13	\$ 221.88
Donations	\$ 1,628.56	\$ 1,195.62	\$ 432.94
Interest	\$ 400.51	\$ 348.69	\$ 51.82
Sales of merchandise	\$ 1,105.54	\$ 3,314.24	\$ (2,208.70)
Ground Belango and Starguar	\$ 135.00	\$ 509.18	\$ (374.18)
Major event income	\$ 8,694.87	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,694.87
Bunnings and other fund raisi	\$ 2,232.65	\$ 3,619.90	\$ (1,387.25)
Bottle Return Income	\$ 662.00	\$ -	\$ 662.00
Miscellaneous revenue	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ (400.00)
	<u>\$ 20,142.14</u>	<u>\$ 19,448.76</u>	<u>\$ 693.38</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Filing fees	\$ 46.00	\$ 78.00	\$ 32.00
insurance	\$ 784.38	\$ 784.38	\$ -
Miscellaneous expense	\$ 894.05	\$ 305.90	\$ (588.15)
Postage printing and stationar	\$ 86.94	\$ 563.85	\$ 476.91
Po box rental	\$ 130.00	\$ 132.00	\$ 2.00
Donationsto to third parties	\$ 2,141.66		\$ (2,141.66)
Photo display and banner	\$ 556.34	\$ 784.76	\$ 228.42
Equipment repairs and service	\$ 614.35	\$ 967.73	\$ 353.38
Cost of goods sold	\$ 776.28	\$ 1,877.14	\$ 1,100.86
Domain Registration/ Web	\$ 219.94	\$ 203.65	\$ (16.29)
Grounds	\$ 379.82	\$ 980.00	\$ 600.18
Major events expenditure	\$ 6,595.51	\$ 4,448.08	\$ (2,147.43)
Forum expenses diners and gi	\$ 1,384.78	\$ 1,237.49	\$ (147.29)
Bunning expense	\$ 1,003.20	\$ 1,379.50	\$ 376.30
Depreciation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	<u>\$ 15,613.25</u>	<u>\$ 13,742.48</u>	<u>\$ (1,870.77)</u>
<b>Operation Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<u>\$ 4,528.89</u>	<u>\$ 5,706.08</u>	<u>-\$ 1,177.19</u>

**Macarthur Astronomical Society****Year Ended 29 February 2020****Stock Reconciliation and Profit on Sale of Merchandise**

		<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Opening Stock as at 1 March 2019		\$ 1,032.79	\$ 1,336.97
Add Purchases		\$ 1,212.00	\$ 2,120.62
Less Closing stock at 29 February 2020		-\$ 894.86	\$ (1,032.79)
Less Speakers Gifts		-\$ 573.65	\$ (547.66)
<b>Net Cost of Sales</b>		<b>\$ 776.28</b>	<b>\$ 1,877.14</b>
Sales		\$ 1,105.54	\$ 3,314.24
Less Cost of Sales		-\$ 776.28	\$ (1,877.14)
<b>Surplus on Sales of merchandise</b>		<b>\$ 329.26</b>	<b>\$ 1,437.10</b>

**Bank Balances and Reconciliation as at 29 February 2020**

No 1 Society Cheque Account		\$ 15,990.71	\$ 10,607.68
No 2 Bank Account - Deposits held in trust re China		\$ 3.64	\$ 1,595.52
Outstanding Deposits		Nil	Nil
Outstanding Cheques to be presented		Nil	Nil
Society Interest Bearing Deposit		\$ 21,000.00	\$ 21,000.00