



PO Box 17 MINTO NSW 2566

MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY  
Minutes of MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Scheduled for online conference, Monday 23 November 2020 at 19:30

**Committee Attending in the online conference:** John Rombi (President), Andy Milton (Treasurer), Greg Bradford (Committee Member), Henry Swierk (Membership Officer), Phil Kidd (Committee Member), Richard Curley (Secretary).

**Apologies:** Noel Sharpe, Dave Manning

NOTE: The Government restrictions surround the COVID-19 pandemic prevent any face to face meetings or activities. This meeting was held by committee members in a "Zoom" conference with full interaction.

**1. OPENING OF MINUTES AND APOLOGIES: meeting opened at 19:08**

**2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES** for committee meeting held 26/10/2020 Proposed by John Rombi, seconded by Richard Curley, Passed.

**3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

**3.1 Proposal for Changes to Constitution and By-laws**

- 3.1.1 Discuss document to put to members – discuss further changes (feedback from members), use Greg's latest document as a starting point.
- 3.1.2 Discuss and approve Greg's by-law changes. Final discussion held over until the next Committee meeting after the Constitution vote.

**3.2 Cloud File Storage - On Hold**

- 3.2.1 Discuss cloud storage, on hold while we go live with new website. There is an opportunity to 'piggy-back off' the website cloud storage.

**4. REGULAR BUSINESS**

**4.1 Treasurer's Report:** Report from Andy, emailed 23/11/2020.

The Macastro Financial report for the period to 31 October 2020. As of 31 October 2020 the Society Cheque Account Balance was \$16134.20. The PayPal Account Balance was \$60.02. Since that date, the following transaction have to 22 November 2020.

Bank Account: Bank Balance as of 22 November \$15739.20. Payments and receipts since 1 November- 2/11 membership payments Tim Jenkinson \$31.00; 10/11 Transfer to PayPal \$500.00; 15/11 Forest payment Masayoshi Nagaya \$35.00; 17/11 membership payment Goran Maric \$39.00.

PayPal Account: Balance as of 22 November \$67.06. Payments and receipts since 1 November- 7/11 Transfer from Bank \$500.00; 13/10 Payment to John Rombi \$359.68; 17/11 Payment to Anthony law re Forest \$127.45; 18/11 Payment to Zoom Video \$23.09; 22/11 TOMRA receipts \$15.40.

The Society Deposit Account of \$21,000.00 was renewed for another twelve-month period. The interest rate is less than 1%. Interest earned on the previous period of \$209.73 was credited to the Society bank account.

Moved by Andy Milton Seconded by Phil Kidd, Passed.

#### **4.2 Membership:** Henry Swierk

Membership at the end of September 2020.

We have 145 Financial members in total including 6 Hon. and 2 Assoc.

New November members: Tim Jenkinson, and Goran Maric with Nicole Zanella.

Moved by Greg Bradford Seconded by Phill Kidd.

#### **4.3 Merchandise:** no report as we have not had a forum. - On Hold

Currently Andy is storing the merchandise.

New merchandise table will be needed when we start up 'live' forums again. Andy to source closer to that date.

#### **4.4 Forum Speakers** - On Hold

Until further notice, all future forums will be held online via 'Zoom' web app. All presenters are keen and willing to participate online.

7th Dec TBA Dr Brad Tucker (NO Students night this year)

At present there is no forum speaker for January 2021.

#### **4.5 General Business**

4.5.1 Noel Had a meeting with a council representative and new planting for the east side of the pony club has been approved.

4.5.2 Camden Library – New person in charge at Oran Park library.

**Action:** John and Greg to assess the scopes and suggest repairs and maintenance needed to scopes, no repairs to be carried out by MAS.

**4.6 Regular Viewing** – All regular Viewing is restricted due to Covid-19 pandemic to 20 people at Stargard and 10 people at The Forest cabin. - On Hold

4.6.1 Stargard – viewing November 10<sup>th</sup>.

Future dates.

December 5<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup>.

"Beginners Stargard", so laser pointing doesn't interfere with imaging, committee has discussed the possibility of a Beginners night at Stargard.

4.6.2 The Forest viewing

Future dates.

December 12<sup>th</sup>.

#### **4.7 Other Public Outreach** - On Hold

4.7.1 Governor Brisbane Observatory exhibition – John, Noel, and possibly other MAS members to attend Nation Trust Astronomy event in early June 2021 to Parramatta park. MAS will help in whatever way is suitable when considering COVID restrictions that might prevail at the time.

#### **4.8 Members' Trips** – None planed due to COVID-19. - On Hold

- 4.9 Fundraising - Return and Earn** – The Earn & Return card have just arrived; Greg will test to make sure the barcode on them works before mailing to members. Members can request a second card if needed, the surplus will be kept for replacements and possible events in the future. Cards have been sent out.
- 4.10 Website, Facebook** – Chris is working on this, in progress - On Hold
- 4.10.1 Our webmaster Roger Powell inform the committee on the problems involved in keeping the current website operating on a day to day basis, to this end Chris and Roger have been working on a new website on a WordPress platform, the website is still not finished but Roger is confident that we will soon be able to go-live with the new website.
- 4.10.2 Presentation of our Facebook page, making the benefits of financial membership more obvious. We have ten times more Facebook friends than financial members. We should show off the society's event's on Facebook to try and attract me members.
- 4.10.3 Allowing other organisations to advertise on our Facebook site. Facebook admins to change settings and/or policies on Facebook to allow no advertising.
- 4.11 Storing all our display photographs** – currently with Tony. A is home needed and person to manage new photo publishing. Still looking for assistance - On Hold
- 4.12 Publicity and Secretary report** - On Hold  
Mail checked, no mail.  
No publicity has been sent for future public forums or public observing due to Covid-19 pandemic.  
Richard is storing MAS roll-up advertising stands.
- 4.13 Loan Scopes.** - On Hold  
The committee is looking to procure a solar scope for public outreach only. John to canvas if any member is interested in selling a solar scope. Currently on hold for a few months.  
  
All scopes are currently out on loan.  
  
Greg to manage telescope loans and returns regarding COVID-10 virus.
- 4.14 Changes to MAS Constitution and By-laws**
- 4.14.1 Discuss adult children being members on family memberships and possible change to MAS constitution to clarify this type of membership.  
  
The committee agreed on the following wording for changes to family membership definition:  
  
'Family membership is open to couples and single parents / guardians, and their dependent children under the age of eighteen. Voting rights are limited to adults.'  
  
The committee agreed on the following wording for changes to student membership definition:  
  
'Student membership is any person eighteen years of age or older studying at university or college. Full membership will be required when student status is no longer held by the student member'  
  
The committee agreed on the following wording for changes to pensioner membership definition:  
  
'Pensioner membership with the right to vote includes any person receiving a government support or aged pension, also a retired person over the age of sixty years old.'  
  
Current membership status will remain until the end of the current financial year.

4.14.2 Discuss minor amendments to tidy up By-Law references to the committee.  
Greg has rewritten the by-laws around committee structure and positions, committee to review.

#### **4.15 Zoom / Online Meeting - On Hold**

4.15.1 The committee will start to investigate the benefits of using Zoom when there is an end to the COVID-19 pandemic and if there is a demand from the members for these services.

4.15.2 We will offer the use of the society's Zoom facility to any member that may wish to train, educate or meet and the committee deems acceptable.

4.15.3 John needs to organise for at least one other person to be able to login in and administrate Zoom for the society's requirements.

### **5. NEW BUSINESS**

### **6. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:**

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – 19:30, online Zoom meeting.

### **7. CLOSE OF MEETING,**

Typed by Richard Curley on 25/01/2021.

Approved by Richard Curley          Date 2/02/2021