



PO Box 17 MINTO NSW 2566

MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY  
Minutes of MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Scheduled for online conference, Monday 01 February 2021 at 19:30

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

**Apologies:**

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 7:17pm**

2. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES** for committee meeting held 23/11/2020 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 Finalise Constitution changes (DoFT). RC to prepared document for DoFT.

3.1.2 Finalize by-law changes. Committee voted and passed By-laws unanimously.

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 31/01/2021.

The Macastro Financial Report for the months of January 2021.

As of 31 December, Society main bank account balance was #16402.20. There will be a requirement to pay our insurance premium for 2021/22 before 28 February 2021. The PayPal balance is \$256.72.

During the period 16 members have paid their 2021 membership fees.

I am having trouble with the PayPal reporting system. As a result, there is no printed confirmation of the value of the PayPal Account as of 31 January.

Moved by John Rombi, seconded by Richard Curley, Passed.

**4.2 Membership:** Henry Swierk

Membership at the beginning of February 2021.

We have 147 Financial members in total including 6 Hon. and 2 Assoc.

Greg Bradford to update Application form.

New members since November: Ellen Dwyer, also re-joining Elizabeth Arcadi.

Moved by John Rombi , seconded by Phil Kidd, Passed .

#### **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.

John, to advise of speakers for 2021.

#### **4.5 General Business**

##### **4.5.1 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.

Future dates.

Please advise viewing dates for the year and last viewing date.

6<sup>th</sup> Feb & 13<sup>th</sup> Feb.

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

##### **4.6.2 The Forest viewing**

Future dates.

Currently un-able to use forest.

#### **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.

##### **4.7.2** Due to COVID 19, no mentoring this year.

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

#### **4.9 Fundraising** - Return and Earn – TOMRA. Cards have been sent out and some donation have come thru, need to encourage membership to use card. Need to prime members to donate.

#### **4.10 Website, Facebook –** Chris is working on this, in progress - On Hold.

##### **4.10.1** Our webmaster Roger Powell informs 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. John to investigate cycling membership benefits and coming speakers to pin on Facebook.

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, notices have been sent out.

**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

Look at adding the latest member photos.

**4.12 Publicity and Secretary report** - On Hold

Mail checked, Bank statement dropped off to Andy, no other 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.

Greg has requested the following for the Hybrid ETX telescope: dew shield, dew controller, heating bands. Also, light pollution filters for all scope and a 1.25 UH-C filter.

Estimated cost for all \$480.

**4.14 Changes to MAS Constitution and By-laws**

4.14.1 Special meeting of the society held with 23 members present, quorum present, (will update this attendance figure and add an attendance list). Vote on constitution changes passed unanimously, changes need to be registered with DoFT with a payment for registration fee.

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**

5.1 Noel Sharpe is seeking to ask Camden Council if they can repair / replace the fence on the eastern side of Stargard as to keep the cattle of the field.

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

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 – 19:00, online Zoom meeting.

## **7. CLOSE OF MEETING, 8:54 pm.**

Typed by Richard Curley on 1/03/2021.

Approved by Richard Curley

Date 2/03/2021