



PO Box 17 MINTO NSW 2566

MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY  
Minutes of MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Scheduled for online conference, Monday 01 March 2021 at 19:00

**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 7:00 pm**

2. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES** for committee meeting held 01/02/2020 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, 1/03/2021.

The Society's main bank account has a balance of \$16941.82. The PayPal account balance is \$611.75. There is a difference to the PayPal statement of \$0.52. This is yet to be identified.

There are no outstanding bills to be paid as of 28 February. Insurances for the 2021/22 year have been paid. There is a contingent liability to Mount Annan Botanic Gardens to attend three functions with telescopes at a future date. payment has already been received to complete these events.

During the period 39 members renewed their individual, family or student memberships for 2021/22 membership.

The financial accounts for the year to 28 February 2021 now must be prepared and audited. I am uncertain as to the status of our current auditor. It is possible we will need to find a new auditor.

Moved by John Rombi, seconded by Noel Sharpe, Passed.

**4.2 Membership:** Henry Swierk

Membership at the end of February 2021.

We have 84 Financial members that have renewed in total including 6 Hon. and 2 Assoc.

There has been one new student and two limited family members renew.

Greg Bradford has updated the Membership Application form.

Moved by John Rombi, seconded by Greg Bradford, 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.

Remaining speakers for 2021.

April	Dr Angel Rafael Lopez Sanchez
May	Dr Asley Ruitter (UNSW Canberra)
June	Prof Naomi McClure Griffiths (ANU)
July	Dr Jonty Marshall (ASIAA)
August	Prof Tim Bedding (USYD)
September	Dr Kirsten Banks
October	TBA
November	TBA
December	Prof Geraint Lewis (USYD)

#### **4.5 General Business**

##### **4.5.1 Camden Library** – New person in charge at Oran Park library.

**Action:** John and Greg have carried out the audit and suggested repair and pointed the library toward Bintel.

##### **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.

3<sup>rd</sup> April & 10<sup>th</sup> April

8<sup>th</sup> May & 15<sup>th</sup> May

5<sup>th</sup> June & 12<sup>th</sup> June

3<sup>rd</sup> July, 10<sup>th</sup> July & 31<sup>st</sup> July

7<sup>th</sup> August & 28<sup>th</sup> August

4<sup>th</sup> September

2<sup>nd</sup> October, 9<sup>th</sup> October & 30<sup>th</sup> October

6<sup>th</sup> November & 27<sup>th</sup> November

4<sup>th</sup> December & 25<sup>th</sup> December

Current hire agreement is for two night per month.

#### 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 on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2021 to Parramatta park. MAS will help in whatever way is suitable when considering COVID restrictions that might prevail at the time. It is possible 5-6 MAS members to attend.

4.7.2 Due to COVID 19, no mentoring this year, Phil Kidd contacted school and they are keen to start in 2022. We may be able to run a combined night later in 2021. PLC have made a request for June – August.

#### 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 donations 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.

The committee thanks Dave Manning for his kind donation of a Dew-heater controller and a UH-C filter.

Greg procured the balance of the parts.

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

4.14.1 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.

4.14.2 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.

4.14.3 John needs to organise for at least one other person to be able to login in and administrate Zoom for the society's requirements. Decide Richard Curley to admin the IT part of meeting and Noel Sharpe to Host meeting in John's absence. Technical info to be passed to RC.

#### **4.15 East Fence Stargard**

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. Risk Assessment from council is that the fences are fine.

### **5. NEW BUSINESS**

5.1 Council will plant 1,000 trees on western boundary of Stargard, will need volunteers to help plant the sapling.

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

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 – 19:00, online Zoom meeting.

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

Typed by Richard Curley on 1/04/2021.

Approved by Richard Curley

Date 12/04/2021.