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Annual Reports

April 2021

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President's Report

Dear Members,

Well, it's AGM time again, and the beginning of a new year for The MAS. At the close of nominations for Committee positions, Monday April 5th, we had 8 nominations for the eight positions available. So, for the 25th year in a row, we have avoided an election!

I would like to thank, Noel Sharpe (VP) Richard Curley (Secretary), Andy Milton (Treasurer), Henry Swierk (CM, Membership Officer), Phil Kidd (CM, Outreach Officer), Greg Bradford (CM, Telescope Loan Wrangler), Dave Manning (CM, Astro imager Extraordinaire). I value their friendship, humour and dedication to The MAS. Their hard work & service has kept The MAS, strong, relevant and financially secure, during these covid times.

Thank you must also go to our Auditor Graeme Bellamy.

My sincere thank you goes to Roger Powell, our webmaster. Whilst our new website was under construction, Roger kept two versions "live". This is no mean feat, as our previous site was unstable & prone to crashing.

I would also like to thank our IT manager, Chris Malikoff for assisting Roger in the final changeover of sites, earlier this year.

COVID Year

The last year has been a huge challenge for all of us, privately, financially and work related.

The MAS has also suffered, with the great loss of two long time friends and members, Ned Pastor & Bob Bee. These men personified The MAS; both gave gladly of their time, knowledge and mostly of themselves. They are forever in our minds & hearts. Vale.

Our monthly Forums continue, but with one difference, we are bound to our screens via the Zoom app. Whilst a great concept, I know that we are all anticipating our return to WSU and holding our Forum's in person.

Western Sydney University

The MAS continues to have an ongoing association with the assistance of our member, Dr Ragbir Bhatl. Dr Bhatl is looking forward to our ongoing Forums and public nights, when the University reopens.

Constitution

It has been twenty years since our constitution was brought to fruition. To keep up with our ever changing world, the committee decided that it needed to be brought up to date. After many months of fine tuning, our refreshed constitution was presented to the members, and passed.

MAS Forum Speakers

A big thank you to all our Professional Astronomers & astrophysicists, from all disciplines of science. They have informed & educated us at our Forums, as they took us through a trip through the Universe.

I would also like to acknowledge our Patron, Professor Geraint Lewis (USYD) for his continuing support of The MAS.

Public Outreach

I had a recent discussion with Dr Ragbir Bhatl, and he informs me that it could be the end of 2021 before the university reopens. That will mean that our "Night under the Stars" at The Campbelltown Rotary Observatory, will more than likely not return until 2022.

School mentoring has also taken a backseat this year. Hopefully 2022 will bear fruit in this area. The Mt Annan Botanical Gardens & The MAS will be holding a "Star Night over the Gardens" on Saturday May 15th, the first Outreach for this year.

Financial Status

Apart from our Public Liability Insurance, The MAS has had little to no expenses this last year, and we have had a positive take up of renewals. Our financial position has improved by approx \$3,000 over the last year. (See MAS Financial report).

'Return & Earn' and other things

I would like to thank Greg Bradford for all his hard work, in putting together the R&E system & cards. Your recyclable glass, plastic bottles & cans will earn money for The MAS; all you have to do is take your bottles & cans to the nearest TOMRA recycle plant.

You can use this service throughout NSW, and still collect monies for The MAS. Unfortunately, this service has not had the traffic that we had anticipated! So, please support YOUR CLUB!

Our Bunnings BBQ's have also taken a hiatus, hopefully once we are all vaccinated we will recommence this great fundraising/social event.

Our Observing nights

Have continued over the last year, though I must say the weather has had a great impact on the cancellation of quite a few of our sessions.

Stargard is now our only observing site, and continues to produce good dark skies for our observers and astro-imagers.

The Forest cabin for the foreseeable future, WILL NOT be available to The MAS. I will continue to pursue this matter and hopefully we will have some good news, later in the year.

In the meantime, if you have/or are aware of any property that is situated under dark skies, and prepared to host some desperate astronomers, please let me know.

Social Media

The MAS is active in this area with a healthy Facebook presence as well as a profile on Twitter. Visit our new website www.macaastro.org.au with its clearer and added features. Our Members Albums has made a return. There are two areas, one for dedicated high quality astro images and another for general images of our scopes and most importantly, OUR Members!

Membership

Despite the conditions, our membership status continues around the 140 mark. If you haven't renewed, please contact Henry Swierk and he will help you with this.

Henry, thank you for keeping our very important ledger up to date.

Loan Telescopes

You would love to buy a telescope, but don't know which one? The MAS has a large & diverse selection of telescopes for financial members to borrow. Contact Greg Bradford, our telescope wrangler to secure your scope.

I would also like to thank Greg, for not only storing the scopes, but for also servicing & repairing our equipment.

Big Thanks

Apart from the "Official people" in The MAS, I would like to thank others for their untiring dedication to our society. Tony Law & Mike Nicholas, whilst standing down from official duties have been the backbone to our society.

MAS Awards

At this time of year we acknowledge the continuous support of our members. Congratulations to all the recipients. Your certificate/Badge will be sent to you, or you may collect it at the next observing night. Please let Henry know your preference.

20 Years Badge/Certificate

Phillip Kidd	20-Mar-2000
Michael Wells	6-May-2000

15 Years Certificate

Nil

10 Years Badge/Certificate

Jack Giles	10-Mar-2010
Anthony Jelich	5-Jan-2011
Robyn Jelich	5-Jan-2011
Rahmi Jackson	2-Feb-2011
Bruce Butters	17-Feb-2011

5 Years Certificate

Nicole Ireland	7-Apr-2015
Peter Godwin	1-Jun-2015
Ric Forster	6-Jul-2015
Robert McGoven	7-Sep-2015
Mark Sellars	29-Sep-2015
Andy Milton	2-Nov-2015

As you can see, that even in a "Quiet Covid year" there is still much to do at The MAS. As our country begins to emerge from the disarray of the last 15 months, I hope that The MAS's footprint will continue to flourish, with your help, of course!

Best Regards, John.

John Rombi
President

Treasurer's Report for year to 28 February 2021

I am pleased to present the audited Financial Statements of Macarthur Astronomical Society (the Society) for the year ended 28 February 2021. These Financial Statements have been audited by Graeme Bellamy, our Honorary Auditor. I thank him for advice and assistance in the preparation of the financial statements.

The Society has made a surplus on its activities of \$2190.39 (2020 \$4528.89). As a result the Society's Net Members Equity is \$37664.86.

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.

Statement of Financial Position as at 28 February 2021

The excess of income over expenditure (surplus) for the year to 28 February 2021 has ensured the Society has a positive year end cash balance of \$16945.46 (2020 \$16040.71) plus \$612.27(2020 \$ nil) in a Paypal account. 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 \$2722.11 (2020 \$2611.10) has been recognised as a liability in the Balance Sheet.

During the year to 28 February 2019 the Society received a payment of \$1000.00 from Mount Anna Botanic Gardens in lieu of providing astronomical support at three functions to be held during the following year. Due to Covid 19 these events did not take place. The Society has an existing obligation to provide the agreed support in the coming year.

Also during the year the Society purchased a new telescope for the use of members. The amount, being under \$500.00, was expensed to Equipment Repairs and Service Costs.

The Society now has five telescopes and two sets of binoculars available to members to loan. Details of these items are included in Society's web site.

Statement of Financial Performance

As a result of Covid 19 the Society operated on a restricted basis during the year to 28 February 2021. The Society held no major events, undertook no outreach, did no fundraising except as noted below and all Forums were held via Zoom, not face to face.

There were no merchandise sales during the period and no donations to third parties.

As a fund raising activity the Society decided to participate in the Return and Earn bottle bank initiative. All members were issued with cards that credit 10 cents for any bottle bank deposit referencing the Society. The fund raising initiative, established by Greg Bradford, is ongoing and members are encouraged to participate.

Notwithstanding Covid 19, the success of our financial year to February 2021 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 positive outcome.

Andy Milton

Honorary Treasurer

29 March 2021

Statement of Financial Position

Year ended 28 February 2021

Balance sheet	2021	2020	Movement
Accumulated funds			
Funds at beginning of year	\$35,474.47	\$30,945.58	\$4,528.89
Surplus (Deficit) for year	\$2,190.39	\$4,528.89	-\$2,338.50
Net members equity	\$37,664.86	\$35,474.47	\$2,190.39
Represented by			
Current Assets			
Merchandise stock	\$894.86	\$894.86	\$0.00
Cash at bank and in hand	\$16,945.46	\$16,040.71	\$904.75
Fixed term deposit	\$21,000.00	\$21,000.00	\$0.00
Paypal balance	\$612.27	\$0.00	\$612.27
Prepaid insurance	\$784.38	\$0.00	\$784.38
Petty cash advances	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$0.00
	\$40,386.97	\$38,085.57	\$2,301.40
Non Current Assets			
Plant and equipment	\$6,016.23	\$6,016.23	\$0.00
Depreciation	-\$6,016.23	-\$6,016.23	\$0.00
Total Assets	\$40,386.97	\$38,085.57	\$0.00
Less Current Liabilities			
Membership fees in advance	\$2,722.11	\$2,611.10	-\$111.01
Total Assets less Liabilities	\$37,664.86	\$35,474.47	\$2,190.39

**Bank Balances and
Reconciliation as at 28
February 2021**

	2021	\$2,020.00
No 1 Society Cheque Account	\$16,941.82	\$15,990.71
No 2 Bank Account - Deposits held in trust re China	\$3.64	\$3.64
Outstanding Deposits	Nil	Nil
Outstanding Cheques to be presented	Nil	Nil
Society Interest Bearing Deposit	\$21,000.00	\$21,000.00
Paypal Account Balance	\$612.27	\$0.00

Statement of Financial Performance

Year Ended 28 February 2021

	2021	2020	Movement
Income			
Membership fees	\$5,399.57	\$5,283.01	\$116.56
Donations	\$54.00	\$1,628.56	-\$1,574.56
Interest	\$209.71	\$400.51	-\$190.80
Sales of merchandise	\$920.00	\$1,105.54	-\$185.54
Ground Belango and Starguard	\$95.00	\$135.00	-\$40.00
Major event income	\$0.00	\$8,694.87	-\$8,694.87
Bunnings and other fund raising	\$0.00	\$2,232.65	-\$2,232.65
Bottle Return Income	\$71.20	\$662.00	-\$590.80
Miscellaneous revenue	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
	\$6,849.48	\$20,142.14	-\$13,292.66
Expenditure			
Filing fees	\$47.00	\$46.00	-\$1.00
insurance	\$784.38	\$784.38	\$0.00
Miscellaneous expense	\$364.53	\$894.05	\$529.52
Postage printing and stationary	\$549.28	\$86.94	-\$462.34
Po box rental	\$134.00	\$130.00	-\$4.00
Donations to to third parties	\$0.00	\$2,141.66	\$2,141.66
Photo display and banner	\$0.00	\$556.34	\$556.34
Equipment repairs and service	\$1,086.70	\$614.35	-\$472.35
Cost of goods sold	\$871.65	\$776.28	-\$95.37
Domain Registration/ Web	\$177.66	\$219.94	\$42.28
Grounds	\$356.90	\$379.82	\$22.92
Major events expenditure	\$0.00	\$6,595.51	\$6,595.51
Forum expenses, dinners and gifts	\$286.99	\$1,384.78	\$1,097.79
Bunning expense	\$0.00	\$1,003.20	\$1,003.20
Depreciation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$4,659.09	\$15,613.25	\$10,954.16
Operation Surplus (Deficit)	\$2,190.39	\$4,528.89	-\$2,338.50

Financial Statement

Year End 28th February 2021

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.

Note 3 - Covid19 2020 Implications

This whole accounting period has the affect of mandatory Covid19 government requirements as regard social distancing and group participation. This has had an operational affect as to the activities of the Society. In order to comply with regulatory requirements the Society committee was required to introduce 'ZOOM' online communication and increased utilisation of non bank transactions with 'PayPal'. The Treasurer has put in a considerable effort in controlling and reconciling these activities and these transactions have been incorporated into these financial statements and are consequently included within the audit report.

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 28th February 2021 and the results of its operations for the year ended.

Graeme David Bellamy

29 Eucalyptus Drive, Dalmeny NSW 2546

Dated 28th March 2021