



PO Box 17 MINTO NSW 2566

MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY  
Minutes of MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Scheduled for online conference, Monday 12 April 2021 at 19:00

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

**Apologies:** Henry Swierk

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 01/03/2020 Proposed by John Rombi, seconded by Richard Curley, Carried.

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

**3.1 Cloud File Storage - On Hold**

3.1.1 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, received 4/04/2021.

Macastro Financial Report for the period to 31 March 2021. The cash balance on the Society main account was \$17812.61. The PayPal account balance was \$831.14.

An amount of \$136.00 is owed to the Treasurer for payment of the PO Box facility at Minto. There are no other outstanding amounts I am aware of. An additional 29 members paid their membership fees in the period (21 via the Bank and 8 via PayPal)

Once the AGM is complete, we will need to renew the bank authorities for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Moved by John Rombi, seconded by Greg Bradford, Carried.

**4.2 Membership:** Henry Swierk

In Henry's absence, John read out membership figures prepared by Henry.

Membership at the end of March 2021.

We have 114 Financial members that have renewed in total including 6 Hon. and 2 Assoc, 28 previous members from last financial year are yet to renew.

For the upcoming AGM the following awards are due:

Six 5-year certificates,  
Five 10-year badges and certificates,  
Zero 15-year certificates,  
Two 20-year badges and certificates.

Moved by John Rombi, seconded by Dave Manning, Carried.

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

Currently Andy is storing the merchandise. Andy to source a merchandise table closer to 'live' forum start 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	Kirsten Banks (UNSW) PhD candidate
October	TBA
November	Devika Kamath (MQ)
December	Prof Geraint Lewis (USYD)

#### **4.5 General Business**

4.5.1 None.

#### **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.

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

Workshop scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> April 4:00 pm, Lunar eclipse to occur 26<sup>th</sup> May 6:40 pm to last 18 minutes.

Current hire agreement is for two night per month.

4.6.2 The Forest viewing

Currently un-able to use forest, currently the forest site is dead. John to make another attempt to contact Sydney University about taking over the forest site.

#### **4.7 Other Public Outreach**

- 4.7.1 Early setup for event on 15<sup>th</sup> May at The Australian Botanic Garden, details of paperwork still to be confirmed.
- 4.7.2 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.
- 4.7.3 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, there has been no follow-up from PLC on this request.

#### **4.8 Members' Trips – None planned 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.

New server has gone live and is a great success, many thanks for the hard work put in by Roger Powell and Chris Malikoff, pictures required for the server library.

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 more 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.

Three scopes to go to new members next Stargard.

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

4.14.1 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**

4.15.1 Wollondilly Council will supply 50 saplings to plant on eastern boundary of Stargard, will need volunteers to help plant the sapling.

#### **5. NEW BUSINESS**

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

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021 – 19:00, online Zoom meeting.

#### **7. CLOSE OF MEETING, 8:34 pm.**

Typed by Richard Curley on 04/05/2021.

Approved by Richard Curley, Date 21/05/2021