



PO Box 17 MINTO NSW 2566

MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY  
Minutes of MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Scheduled for online conference, Monday 10 May 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), Henry Swierk (Membership Officer).

**Apologies:** Richard Curley (minutes taken by Greg Bradford)

NOTE: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this meeting was held by committee members in a "Zoom" conference with full interaction.

**1. OPENING OF MINUTES AND APOLOGIES: meeting opened at 7:05 pm**

2. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES** for committee meeting held 12/04/2020 Proposed by John Rombi, seconded by Dave Manning, Passed.

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

3.1 Cloud File Storage - On Hold

3.1.1 Discuss cloud storage, on hold while new website is fully operational. There is an opportunity to "piggy-back off" the website cloud storage.

**4. REGULAR BUSINESS**

**4.1 Treasurer's Report:** Report from Andy, received 7/05/2021.

Macastro Financial Report to the period to 30 April 2021. The cash balance on the Society main account was \$18052.61. The PayPal account balance was \$905.86.

An amount of \$36.00 was paid into the Society bank account on 23 April. There is no reference as to who the payment was from (Henry advised that this was from Laura Bach). A member Bruce Butters has paid his membership fee of \$36.00 twice, once via the bank and once via PayPal (Henry will discuss repayment options with Bruce).

Two payments were received via the mailbox but not banked before 30 April: \$59.00 from a new member Mr Rob Waterhouse, and \$48 membership fees from James Wall. A payment of \$63 from Mark Fisher was received without a new member application form or contact details. John to post on our FB page to attempt contact.

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

**4.2 Membership:** Henry Swierk

Membership at the end of April 2021.

We have 125 Financial members that have renewed in total including 6 Hon. and 2 Assoc, 26 previous members from last financial year are yet to renew. This includes several long-term members.

Moved by John Rombi, seconded by Phil Kidd, 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.

May	Dr Ashley Rüter (UNSW Canberra)
June	Prof Naomi McClure Griffiths (ANU)
July	Dr Jonty Marshall (ASIAA)
August	TBA
September	Kirsten Banks (UNSW) PhD candidate
October	Prof Tim Bedding (USYD)
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.

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. Wollondilly Council will accommodate extra dates as needed.

4.6.2 The Forest viewing

Currently un-able to use forest, currently the forest site is dead. John awaiting further news from Sydney University about taking over the forest site.

## **4.7 Other Public Outreach**

4.7.1 Early setup (1545 for 1600 start) for event on 15<sup>th</sup> May at The Australian Botanic Garden.

4.7.2 Governor Brisbane Observatory exhibition – John, Noel, Tony and possibly other MAS members to attend Nation Trust Astronomy event on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 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. Organisers will provide Covid Marshalls. Currently 100 guests likely. Noel will scout out the site this coming Friday from an observing point of view.

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 but more likely 2022. PLC have made a request for June – August, there has been no follow-up from PLC on this request.

**4.8 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. Phil Kidd reported Gregory Hills machine only giving cash returns – Greg to investigate with Tomra.

## **4.9 Website, Facebook**

4.9.1. New server has gone live and is a great success, many thanks for the hard work put in by Roger Powell and Chris Malikoff. Final tweaking and PM system on hold due to Roger's convalescence. Some members have already submitted images for the server library. More required.

4.9.2 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 events on Facebook to try and attract me members. John to investigate cycling membership benefits and coming speakers to pin on Facebook.

4.9.3 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.

**4.10 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.

**4.11 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.

**4.12 Loan Scopes.**

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 telescopes currently on loan. Fourth allocated for upcoming loan.

## **4.13 Zoom / Online Meeting**

4.13.1 In the Presidents absence, Richard Curley to admin the IT part of meeting and Vice President to host meeting.

#### **4.14 East Fence Stargard**

4.15.1 No further news from Wollondilly Council. They will supply 50 saplings to plant on eastern boundary of Stargard, will need volunteers to help plant the sapling.

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

There was a brief discussion on the logistics of non-mentoring public outreach in the future.

It was suggested that due to the on-going influence of the pandemic, there should be a hiatus after the current events at Australian Botanical Gardens and Parramatta Park, and a re-evaluation of our involvement in public outreach pending updated information from authorities. Deferred pending event reports at the next committee meeting.

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

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021 – 19:00, online Zoom meeting.

#### **7. CLOSE OF MEETING: 8:04 pm.**

Typed by Greg Bradford on 11/05/2021.

Approved by: Richard Curley                  Date: 15/06/2021