

Macarthur Astronomical Society Annual Report



President:	Noel Sharpe
Vice President:	John Rombi
Secretary:	Ian Cook
Treasurer:	Dick Everett

Elected Members:

Lloyd Wright
Bob Bee
Daniel Ross

2006-2007

Presidents AGM Report

Noel Sharpre

Well another year has passed for the society and in reflecting back over the last 12 months all I can say is that it was a very successful year for the club. We had lots of great guest speaker and some excellent public nights as well as the standard member viewing nights.

Myself as President and Ian Cook as Secretary indicated previously that we would not be seeking nomination for positions. My thanks on behalf of the society go to Ian who has continually supported the society throughout his tenure. In knowing Ian I am sure that like myself we will both be seen at many Star, Field and Public nights as well as meetings.

The elections for positions will occur as an order of business after all reports have been tabled. Then at the end of the AGM we will hand over to the new President to continue with the night.

Guest Speakers



17/04/06 Ian Cook,

Society member. Talk was on double stars observing, various double star catalogues and prominent historical astronomers who contributed to this field.

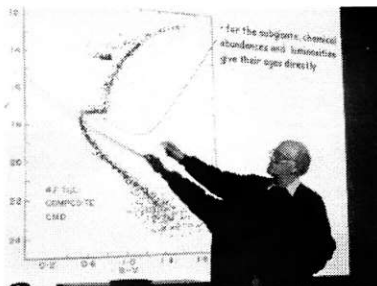
15/05/06 Don Whiteman,
Head technician from Bintel, talk was on overseas trips to the Meade and Nagler factories in the USA, as well as his experiences at Stellaphne, sight of the worlds first official star party and birthplace of amateur telescope making





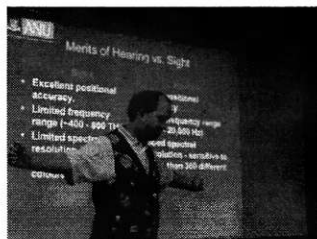
19/06/06 *Melissa Hulbert*
 From the Sydney Observatory and Sutherland Astronomical Society, presentation was on imaging using film and digital cameras as well as web cams.

17/07/06
Professor Ken Freeman
 Australian National University Canberra, his topic was the formation of Galaxies, talk included topics like cold dark matter, transparent dust and chemical tagging.



21/08/06 *Doug MacEachern,*
 Doug is a member of the society and his presentation was on imaging celestial objects with high dynamic range processing using photo shop CS2

18/09/06 *Paul Francis*
 From the ANU Canberra, topic was listening to the universe, Paul played us various sounds of celestial objects, which can help us to further our understanding in a way that visual observations cannot. Paul was a very accomplished and enthusiastic lecturer who commented about how well our members asked questions on the night.



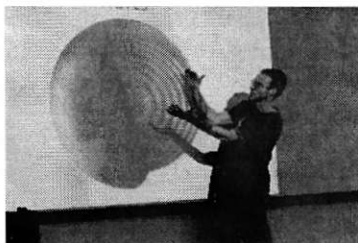


16/10/06 *George Descala,*

Senior physics teacher at Pairiewood shared his expertise as how amateur astronomers can participate and assist the professional astronomical community. It was a great talk with information given about several websites and how we can go about contributing to research. I am aware that several members will be undertaking such tasks, which is just fantastic.

20/11/06 *Tim Bedding,*

Tim was our end of year speaker and his topic was Astro Helioseismology. Tim is the associate Professor of the school of Physics, Faculty of Science at Sydney University. It was a comprehensive talk covering his research into the various pulsations of nearby stars.

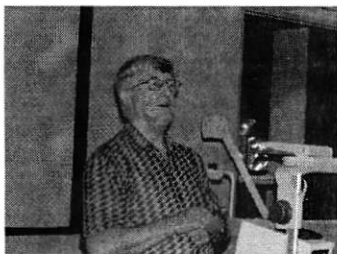


19/02/07 *Mike Salway,*

Mike is the founder of the "Ice In Space" website and coordinator of the LOSTOCK star parties. The website has some great information on it and provides a wonderful resource of information to amateur astronomers via the community forum. Mike's talk was on imaging with a dobsonian telescope.

19/03/07 *Bob Evans,*

Bob is one of this country's most esteemed Astronomers, at last count he has amassed 40 sightings of Super Novae, this is remarkable as Bob relies only his memory of star fields to detect an exploding star, and of course a telescope. No other technology is used. Bob showed us slides and the original sky survey plates that he had obtained.



Field Nights.

We have held many field nights throughout the year, namely at our Forest and Stargard sites, weather has certainly played a factor in keeping member numbers down on the field, however we did have some fantastic nights when the skies were clear. We are fortunate to have three sites that we can use, I remember back to the early days when we struggled just to secure one observing field.

Stargard Field.

When the weather is clear we get a great turnout of members enjoying the clear dark skies that Stargard has to offer. It's a field that is mostly light protected and relatively close by with dates being scheduled in advance with the cooperation with the local council sportsground management committee.

We did receive a verbal offer to purchase a large telescope to house on the site but unfortunately we were unable to obtain funding for the proposal. Indeed it has been much more frustrating than I would have thought to obtain small grant funding for our proposal. Stargard plays an important role for the society and perhaps in the future such ideas like a small observatory or large telescope on site could be visited again.

The Airfield

We use the site for any mid week viewing or one off nights that are not on the schedule, we advise our members of these via the Critical Mas emails. We are most fortunate to have use of the airfield and it works wonderfully well on a casual basis if needed. Certainly it's an excellent site to keep in reserve.

The Forest

This is a really dark site and has the attraction of the opportunity for an overnight stay in a fully self-contained log cabin. It's just over an hour to get there from Campbelltown but the trip is very worthwhile for deep space observations or just to get away from it all and share good company. We always have plenty of regular members in attendance. The forest is a major feature of our field trip observing programme.

Special Events

12/05/06 Campbelltown Rotary Observatory Night, despite poor weather an excellent crowd turned out for this event, weather cleared later that night and Jupiter and Saturn were excellent targets, which thrilled many people.

27/07/06 Magellan Observatory visit and weekend stay over, weather poor but some observing completed, a great weekend for socialising by all accounts.

18/07/06 Macarthur Anglican College, star night held for students as part of science week, lots of telescopes and eager students.

22/08/06 Mary Immaculate School at Eaglevale, John and Lloyd held some daytime solar observing through Lloyds special Coronado telescope.

26/08/06 Mary Immaculate School, great night supported by many members, over 60 very excited and knowledgeable students in attendance.

02/09/06 Macastro Open Night, held at the Dudley Chesham Sportsground at The Oaks, one of our most successful public nights yet, over 70 in attendance, great turnout of members with their scopes. Despite partial cloud Jupiter and the Moon put on a dazzling show. A night to remember!

14/10/06 Macastro Open Night, Dudley Chesham Sportsground, the cloudy weather no doubt kept some people away however about 50 odd members of the public came along, Jupiter and Mercury framed the western sky in between the cloud banks. A sky tour was held as well a binocular viewing workshop held by Bob Bee. A very successful and interactive night with the public despite the cloud.

18/11/06 Narellan Scout Group, the star night was held at the Dudley Chesham Sportsground with well over 40 eager stargazers in attendance. It was a great night and thanks to the members that made it so successful.

20/01/07 Comet McNaught, what an awesome comet this was, a huge turnout of members made their way to the forest to view the comet whilst some members viewed from the Lostock star party. MAS members were kindly invited to gain a clearer view from a nearby property just up from the cabin. Apart from seeing auroras this comet was the most spectacular thing I have witness in the night sky, and I am not alone in that opinion.

31/03/07 Campbelltown Rotary Observatory, This was a special event night to work in with "Earth Hour" in which Sydney and surrounds were invited to switch off the lights for an hour. This was a great success for the club and we had over 150 members of the public attend.

MAS members did themselves proud in discussing all things astronomic with the public. The director of the observatory Dr Ragbir Bhathal was very successful in promoting the night with articles in the local papers as well as the Sydney Morning Herald. Many members have confirmed that this was one of the best nights at the domes in recent memory.

Appreciations and Thanks

At this time of year I extend appreciations on behalf of the society to various members who have made major and ongoing contributions to the society. It's a task I am most happy to do however I am ever mindful that in the course of tabling the report I may inadvertently overlooked someone's efforts. This always gives me some trepidation in compiling these acknowledgements. I ask for your forgiveness in advance if I have missed anyone.

In the last couple of Prime Focus journals I made detailed mention of the excellent and long term contributions of **Bob Bee** and **Ian Cook**, certainly from the comments I received afterwards it would appear that many members also agree with my sentiments.

Bob was the editor of our journal Prime Focus for over 11years, Bob writes for the Chronicle and holds dinner and star nights at the Botanical gardens. Ian supports our public nights and is a confident and gifted speaker, even at the recent Earth Hour night he was handing out the societies business cards to the public. Ian concludes his duties as the societies Secretary tonight.

So again I pass on our great appreciations to these two gentlemen who have played such an instrumental part in placing the society into the successful position we have today. Please refer to previous journals for more details concerning Bob and Ian's contributions.

At this point I would like to take this opportunity to include some other members to the list.

John Rombi.

John has played a very strong role for the club this year, he has organised nearly all our guest speakers and has scheduled the field nights. He has attended the community nights we have had and sends out the Critical Mas emails. John always has given me such strong support and I thank him sincerely.

Lloyd Wright and Ned Pastor

These two members have taken it upon themselves to run our Forest programme, all the little details are taken care of, such as Ned collecting and returning the keys. In conjunction with Lloyd they maintain the cabin and report back to International House on any issues. Both give strong support to field and community nights. My thanks to both Ned and Lloyd.

Dick Everett

Being treasurer contributes to one of the most important and responsible jobs in any organisation; Dick has carried these duties with distinction and reliability. Also he has assisted many members with their equipment maintenance and upgrades. Dick supports our field and community nights and is always available to assist anyone in the field. Thanks Dick on doing such a great Job.

Martin Felito

Martin is our Web Master and I congratulate him on a job well done, Martin is an enthusiastic member always given fantastic help and assistance to many members, even at the expense of his personal time and own observing programme. Martin is certainly a great asset to the club. Thanks Martin.

Daniel Ross

Daniel has organised the design and ordering of our 10 year badges, as well as our new and existing member badges. Daniel's expertise in all things to do with computers is very appreciated, also Daniel and Kate, our new editor supply the tea and coffee to our meetings. It's a lot of work and greatly appreciated. Thanks Daniel and Kate.

In Closing

I would like to make the point that our society is so well supported by the way individual members contribute to a team effort. Over the last 11 years I have been witness time and time again to how well we play as a team. We are a successful organisation, efficiently run in an atmosphere of cooperation and friendliness. The results we see can only come about by great team work and effort by such talented and enthusiastic members, like those I have just mentioned.

The Last and Most Important Point

To the many new and existing members who show there support time and time again by turning up to the meetings, community nights and field trips. Without your membership and support we would not have a club to run.

In my last official capacity as President of the Macarthur Astronomical Society I sincerely thank all members for making this club such a pleasure to be part off.

Kind Regards, All the best.

Noel Sharpe
President

MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY ACCOUNTS

1/3/2006 to 28/2/2007

Opening Balance	3734.12	5252.86
Income		
Membership Fees	1560.00	1880.00
Donations	42.35	210.00
Guessing Competition		315.00
Sales	595.00	546.00
Bank Interest	14.35	15.51
Tea and Coffee	110.65	65.00
Belanglo Fees		126.00
Magellan Fees	275.00	320.00
AS&T (from D Wijesinghe)		61.90
	<u>2597.35</u>	<u>3539.41</u>
Expenditure		
Public Liability Insurance	776.96	748.44
Domain Registration	251.90	218.90
Trading Stock	405.50	436.30
Belanglo Costs		126.00
Dept Fair Trading Fee	39.00	39.00
PO Box Hire	60.00	56.00
Security at Public Nights	39.70	40.00
Postout of Prime Focus	76.66	98.51
Paper for Prime Focus		21.97
Presentations to Guest Speakers	73.19	71.00
Miscellaneous Expenses & Phone Calls	113.38	90.85
Projector Purchase		2408.79
DVD Player Purchase		190.49
Magellan Rental	280.00	315.00
AS&T (for D Wijesinghe)		61.90
Raffle Prize Purchase		35.00
Donation AAO		100.00
Travel Expenses for Guest Speakers	224.40	
Room Hire, Space Cadets	72.00	
Field Access Fee	55.00	
Badges, 10yr Members	210.00	
	<u>2677.69</u>	<u>5058.15</u>
Closing Balance	3653.78	3734.12