



PO Box 17 MINTO NSW 2566

MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
Minutes of MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Scheduled for online conference, Monday 9 August 2021 at 19:00

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

Apologies: John Rombi

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

With apologies from John Rombi (President) and Noel Sharpe (Vice President) attending after the start of the meeting, Richard Curley (Secretary) chaired the meeting.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES for committee meeting held 12/07/2021, changes required to minutes from July, the changes to be made and minutes resubmitted.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

3.1 Cloud File Storage

- 3.1.1 We all agree on the need to store the society's digital assets in the cloud with some backup held by nominated committee members. A shared google account seems a good candidate, John to investigate.

4. REGULAR BUSINESS

4.1 Treasurer's Report: Report from Andy, received 8/08/2021.

MacArthur Astronomical Society Financial Report for the period to 30 June 2021. The Society main bank account balance as of 30 June was \$18361.71. The PayPal Account balance was \$788.54. As far as I am aware there are no outstanding amounts due to be paid to others.

It is noted that PayPal Here is no longer valid and that the society will need to find another payment system before our 'live' meeting resume.

Moved by Greg Bradford, seconded by Phil Kidd - Passed.

4.2 Membership:

Membership at the end of June 2021.

We have 126 Financial members that have renewed in total including 6 Hon. and 2 Assoc, 28 previous members from last financial year are yet to renew.

Dave Manning has come forward to become the society's new Membership officer after Henry's passing, the transition will be completed once all of Henry's materials have been collected.

The society acknowledges the tremendous work Henry leaves behind as Membership Officer for a long period of time, as a colleague and friend Henry will be greatly missed.

James Wall possible double payment, Richard Curley to ask John if money is owing to James Wall and what will be next action.

Moved by Dave Manning, seconded by Richard Curley - Passed.

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 – Via Zoom.

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.

August Emil Lenc (ASCAP)
September Kirsten Banks (UNSW) PhD
October Prof Tim Bedding (USYD)
November Devika Kamath (MQ)
December Prof Geraint Lewis (USYD)

4.5 General Business

4.6 Regular Viewing – All regular Viewing is restricted due to Covid-19 pandemic to 20 people at Stargard, currently all observing suspended due to COVID-19.

4.6.1 Stargard – viewing.

Future dates.

Please advise viewing dates for the year and last viewing date.

28th August

4th September

2nd October 9th October & 30th October

6th November & 27th November

4th December & 25th December

Current hire agreement is for two night per month.

4.6.2 The Forest viewing

There is current no prospect for using the forest, this is not expected to change anytime soon. We will need to remove our cabinet out of the forest cabin, John will chase up access from Sydney University.

4.7 Other Public Outreach

4.7.1 The event on 15th May at The Australian Botanic Garden was well received, with separate sessions taking turns at the scopes. Dave displayed images on a large screen, this went well. One more event owing.

4.7.2 The event on 5th June at Governor Brisbane Observatory exhibition Parramatta Park was received and well organised, Noel Sharpe relayed about two hundred people attend and the organisers looked after MAS attendees. There is a possibility of more collaboration in the future.

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.

4.7.4 Broughton College has asked MAS to attend Science Day on 17th August, this will run for a couple of hours and MAS will provide a display with images and some scopes. This day has been cancelled due to COVID -19.

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. Recycle stations are temporarily shutdown due to COVID-19.

4.10 Website, Facebook – Chris is working on this, in progress - On Hold.

4.10.1 Richard Curley reported an issue when re-issuing password from the website, Roger Powell needed to authenticate the user again. Roger had update WordPress, Richard to test if password can be changed online.

4.10.2 There is no messaging system in the new website, Roger and Chris are looking at a solution.

4.10.3 The new photo gallery is working we on the new website, members are encouraged to upload new photos.

4.11 Storing all our display photographs – currently with Tony. A home is needed and person to manage new photo publishing. Still looking for assistance - On Hold

When the society starting meeting again, we will look at printing new 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, two scopes currently available.

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.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Greg Bradford raised the idea of business cards for committee members, MAS did have a generic business card before. Greg submitted samples to the committee, we agree that Greg select two images and order 1000card of each.

5.2 Noel Sharpe raised the issue of QR code compliance, society to review this closer to starting 'live' meeting.

5.3 Dave Manning raised the idea of not collecting membership subscription for the financing year 2021-22, the committed agreed unanimously that this was the correct response to the COVID-19 for our members. More discussion to follow and Greg Bradford to look if covered by societies By-laws.

6. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:

Monday 13th September 2021 – 19:00, online Zoom meeting.

7. CLOSE OF MEETING, 7:57 pm.

Typed by Richard Curley on 13/09/2021.

Approved by, Richard Curley Date 14/09/2021