

President's AGM Report.

In review of the last 12 months since and including the previous AGM I have listed the various activities that can be produced for public record.

Annual General Meeting

15/04/02, Reports tabled and elections held. Guest speaker was Dr Ragbir Bhathal.

Monthly General Meetings

20/05/02 Bob Bee on Cosmology
 17/06/02 Various Discussion Groups
 15/07/02 Dr Doug Vatoch, SETI California
 19/08/02 Dr Andrew Hill, Astrobiology
 16/09/02 Peter Druery, Latest Discoveries and news
 21/10/02 Ian Cook, quiz and Bob Bee, The Kuiper Belt Objects. Noel Sharpe Astrophotography
 18/11/02 Dr Michael Burton, Uni of NSW Antarctic research
 20/01/03 Bruce Reardon, Solar Eclipse. Dick Everet, latest news. Ursula Braatz and telescope
 17/02/03 Dr Fred Watson, Radial Velocity of stars research and latest fibre optical instrumentation and application
 17/03/03 Daniel Ross, Messier Hunting techniques, observations and record keeping.

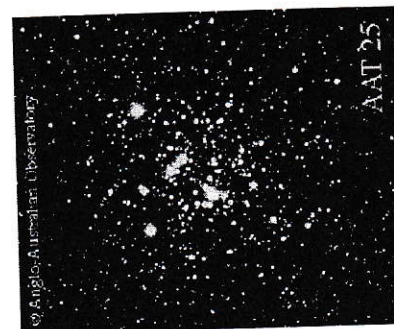
An excellent and diverse range of topics as presented

by our guest speakers. This has contributed very well to the overall knowledge of the membership in the subject of Astronomy. The meetings were all held at the University of Western Sydney Campbelltown Campus, Building 22 room 5, where members and guests were made most welcome.

Field Nights

The Oaks: We held 7 field nights at the Oaks, as well as some nights that were not advertised. Our visits to the Airfield were affected by the large number of public presentations held and some problems with the keys. Also some scheduling considerations needed to be made around the use of the Belanglo site.

The Forest: 7 nights were held in the Belanglo forest. The use of the log cabin and grounds is by arrangement with International House, University of Sydney. Peter Druery collects the keys on our behalf and this is greatly appreciated. Thanks Peter.



A crowd pleasing favourite, the Jewel Box, NGC4755.

Public Nights and other Presentations

27/04/02 Macarthur Association of Girl Guides, Austral
 07/05/02 Evening View Club, Campbelltown
 16/05/02 St Marys Catholic School, Eaglevale
 22/06/02 Festival of Astronomy North Sydney
 10/07/02 UFO Society of Western Sydney
 23/07/02 Women of All ages, Picton
 06/08/02 Japanese exchange students, Kentlyn
 08/08/02 Combined Camden Probus Club
 10/08/02 International House students, Belanglo
 13/08/02 Broughton Anglican College and St Patricks High School
 16/08/02 Nepean Observatory open night
 13/09/02 William Carey Christian School
 14/09/02 Minto Cub Guides, Silverdale
 15/10/02 Leumeah First Cub Scouts
 19/10/02 Girl Guides Jamboree, Kentlyn
 04/11/02 Over 55 Group, Harrington Park
 16/11/02 Narellan Library Telescope Workshop

Without doubt a most expansive program. The society passes on its recognition and appreciation for all those members who gave of their time and expertise in educating the general public and community groups.

Observatory Public Nights

18/05/02 Open night including Japanese visitors and Rotary members
 15/06/02 Open night, includes advertising on local radio
 17/08/02 Open night, good turnout
 12/10/02 Open night, clouded with intermittent lunar observations

These nights were held at the University of Western Sydney Campbelltown campus.

Comments, Reviews and Appreciations

It's been a big year. It's also been a year of hard work and some consternation. The Public Liability issue could have had considerable impact on how we operate as a club. Fortunately we have now obtained insurance cover. The number of presentations to the general public stretched our resources at times. We do not actively seek engagements as such and it is a compliment to our society that we can accommodate as many request as possible.

We seem to have a knack of obtaining some fantastic guest speakers at our meetings. It is a credit to the society that we have established ourselves so well in the wider astronomical community that we can attract such high profile speakers. The talent and experiences of our own membership is of the highest order. When called upon to act as keynote

speakers the presentations have been not only informative but professionally conducted. Very well done indeed!

At the end of our meetings tea and coffee are available for a modest cost. The refreshments are provided by Daniel Ross, very much appreciated indeed!

I have had the honour and pleasure of being the society's President over the past 12 months, a task that could not have been completed without the great support I have received from all of you.

The outgoing committee in particular needs to be paid my personal recognition. They have opened up their homes for our meetings and gladly taken on responsibilities given. Here is a brief snapshot of some of their duties.

John Koster: John has performed the duties of Treasurer for 2 years now. At all times he has conducted our financial affairs in a most able and adept way. It is a times at thankless job which requires a lot of behind the scenes activity. John has assisted with many public events and liaised with various community groups and organisations. Thanks for all your hard work.

Bob Bee: Bob rides on the wave of public recognition with his very popular "Heavens Above!" series of articles in the Chronicle newspaper. The society

benefits from this immensely, especially at open nights. Bob also is the editor and the man responsible for our journal "Prime Focus". Bob attends meetings with the Festival of Astronomy North Sydney organisers. Thank you Mr Bee.

John Rombi: the man with a big hammer, he conducts the opening of our general meetings with great authority and always attends to the little tasks, like controlling the lights and providing water for our guests. John has been at nearly every public night and field night and is the society's contact for the Oaks observing site. He gives very willingly of his time to assist newer members with their observing. He is the one to contact about the Messier hunting process. John is always available when I need to delegate any tasks at the last minute. Great work and thanks.

Ian Cook: Ian has assisted with the many public nights, Ian is the writer of "What IC This Month." It's a great read every edition of our journal. Ian also runs our electronic mail delivery system, i.e. the email. As Secretary, Ian is very prompt with providing minutes of our meetings and is responsible for the telescope workshops. He also handles many phone calls on behalf of the society. Thanks Mr Cook.

Lloyd Wright: Lloyd handles the library books for the society and is always very

keen to invite his friends and work colleagues along to our events. Lloyd has been outstanding in his efforts to attend nearly every public night we have. He strongly supports the society whenever the chance presents itself. Great work.

If I have forgotten anyone please accept my sincere apologies. I hope the information in this report has been useful in providing a background into how the last 12 months have been for our society. This now concludes my report to the membership.

Yours sincerely
Noel Sharpe - President. ■

Vice President's Report

Well folks, another year in the life of M.A.S. has passed and our society through its members has been very active.

Belangalo.

We started off the year with our new site at the Belangalo State Forest. Apart from the great dark sky, we are privileged to have a fully serviced cabin at our disposal. For the members that would like to stay overnight, the cabin has beds for twelve, but you can rough it by camping on the grounds or sleep in your car.

The Oaks.

Our second site was only used sporadically during the year, mainly because of the

popularity of Belangalo, and unfortunately due to the bad weather that coincided with our observing nights. Even though this site is not as dark as Belangalo it is only half the distance. Its main advantage is that it has a very low northern horizon (good for Messier hunting).

To all members, remember these sites are for your observing pleasure so please use them!

Public observing nights.

The enthusiasm of quite a few of our members made sure that the nights for the general public were very successful. The positive comments and hundreds of questions asked by all made up for the lack of voice and sore feet by nights end.

Monday night meetings.

Our Monday meetings have had their share of great speakers, mainly made up of our own members, but with the odd exception, namely Fred Watson. He is a speaker of exceptional knowledge and charm; I hope that we are able to experience his presence again soon.

F.A.N.S. 2002.

The warm up for this year's event was held at North Sydney oval. M.A.S. had seven scopes on the field out of the seventy in total. We had approx 4,000 people come through the gate between 6.00pm - 10.00pm. WOW!! Lets hope this year is just as

successful and a great boost for Astronomy.

Messier hunting.

We have eight members involved in Messier hunting and most have attained a very large number to date. Keep up the good work! We can always do with more so please join in. By the way, I shouldn't forget the astrophotographers. Keep those shutters clicking guys but PLEASE DON'T FORGET THE FILM.

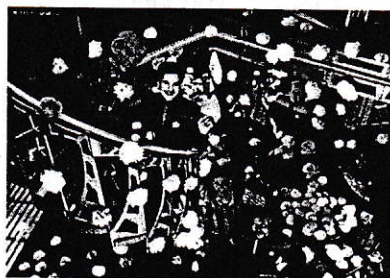
New Members

The society has had a large influx of new members that are also new to astronomy. This has presented a new and ongoing challenge to the experienced members to make sure that the transition from inexperienced beginner to experienced beginner is as smooth as possible.

Committee.

Last but not least, I would like to thank all the members of the committee; they have all worked very hard to ensure the smooth running of the society. Remember all this fun doesn't just happen on its own.

John Rombi. ■



The Committee

Macarthur Astronomical Society Incorporated

Income & Expenditure Statement for the Year ending 28 February 2003

	2003 \$	2002 \$	2001 \$
Income			
Membership Fees	1660.00	1395.00	1705.00
Donations	0	40.00	20.00
Raffles	0	268.00	300.30
Sale of Goods	586.50	417.00	
Tea & Coffee	67.20	96.80	
Interest	5.09	7.43	11.75
Other	35.00		
	<u>2353.79</u>	<u>2224.23</u>	<u>2037.05</u>
Expenditure			
Equipment Purchases	0	127.74	564.90
Bank Charges	0	8.34	7.96
Filing Fees	37.00	69.00	37.00
Insurance - Public Liability #	1116.50	338.80	279.95
Miscellaneous Expenses	198.54	56.99	36.50
Postage	110.44	141.40	70.80
Printing of Prime Focus	353.98	431.41	528.96
P.O. Box Rental	52.00	49.50	48.35
Telephone	35.00	9.20	20.70
Purchase of Goods for Sale	587.00	375.90	
	<u>2490.46</u>	<u>1608.28</u>	<u>1595.12</u>
# Insurance for 2003/04 (Paid early)	-693.00		
Operating Profit	<u>556.33</u>	<u>615.95</u>	<u>441.93</u>
Other Appropriations			
Asset Replacement Reserve	350.00	300.00	250.00
Unappropriated Profit at 28 February	206.33	315.95	191.93
Bank Balance at 28 February	3218.75	3355.42	2739.47

Notes

Membership Fees are inclusive of \$110.00 Advance membership renewals for 2003/4

John Koster
Treasurer

28 February 2003