



Issue	Date	Details	Issued by
1	15 th February 2022	Issued for comments.	RP
2	17 th February 2022	Numbering & word improvements. Final.	RP

PRESENT: John Rombi (JR); Noel Sharpe (NS); Andy Milton (AM); Greg Bradford (GB); Phil Kidd (PK); Dave Manning (DM); Roger Powell (RP).

1 OPENING OF MEETING

The meeting opened at 7.00 pm.

1.1 Apologies

None. All present.

1.2 Resignation of Secretary

JR advised that Richard Curley tendered his resignation from the committee on 7th February for personal reasons.

JR placed on record the kindness, friendship, enthusiasm, high standards and dedicated service which Richard applied during his seven years on the committee, as Treasurer from 2014-2018 and as Secretary from 2020-2022.

The committee endorsed JR's comments and we all hope to see Richard at Stargard soon.

1.3 Appointment of new Secretary

Motion: JR nominated Roger Powell as Secretary, seconded by GB and carried unanimously.

RP is to notify DOFT regarding change of Public Officer.

RP noted that he and Joan are remaining self-isolated during the covid pandemic. The mail box will be checked by AM. He will send the second key to JR.

2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

2.1 November 2021 Minutes

A draft of the minutes was previously circulated by Richard. Some corrections were suggested by GB but the minutes need to be reissued. RP will incorporate the suggested changes and reissue the minutes for approval. No other corrections were requested.

2.2 December 2021 Minutes

No minutes were circulated. Richard has sent RP some notes regarding this meeting. RP will issue a draft for approval.

2.3 January 2022 Minutes

No meeting was held.

3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None.

4 REGULAR BUSINESS

4.1 Treasurer's Report for December 2021 and January 2022

The report details were e-mailed to committee members prior to the meeting.

AM reported that at 31 January 2022 the Society's three account balances were as follows:

Bank	\$15,896.56
PayPal	\$324.38
Deposit	\$21,138.18
TOTAL	\$37,359.12

The bank is now crediting interest to the deposit account on a twice monthly basis.

During the last two months the following membership payments have been made: via Bank – 7/12 Jan Hands \$27.00, 4/01 Vishal Gaikwad \$27,00, 6/01 Lizzie Harley \$27.00, 17/01 Colin Pettit \$71.00 (refund due?): via PayPal 2/01 Malcolm Ellis \$27.00, 12/01 Naomi Cooper \$36.00.

We have received an invoice for \$\$784.30 (unchanged from previous year) for our Local Insurance premium renewal for 2022-23. This will be paid in the next week.

Payments outstanding are DM expenses and insurance premium. Colin Pettit is due a refund for over-payment, which he declined. MAS to credit Colin at next renewal.

Motion: That the Treasurer's report be adopted. Moved JR. Seconded PK. Carried unanimously.

4.2 Membership Report

DM reported that the total membership is now 150, including honorary and associate memberships

As per previous decision, membership fees will be waived for 2022-23. The meeting determined that members joining after 6th December 2021 would be liable to pay for membership renewal for 2022-23.

4.3 Merchandise Report

Merchandise sales have been suspended since February 2020, when Forums at WSU were suspended due to the arrival of the covid-19 pandemic.

Currently AM is storing the merchandise. (refer to item 5.8 below).

AM to source a merchandise table when a return to forums at WSU is announced.

4.4 Correspondence

Apart from bank statements, no other correspondence was received.

5 GENERAL BUSINESS

5.1 Forum

5.1.1 Last month's Forum

Dr Devika Kamath (Maq.U) - "Unravelling the Chemical Diversity that Shapes our Universe"

The meeting endorsed concerns raised by NS that the numbers attending Zoom Meetings were lower than those who attended previously at WSU. It is hoped that higher attendances will follow a return to WSU.

5.1.2 Upcoming Speakers

JR reported:

This month	Dr Brad Tucker (Australian National University): "Shocking Supernova and discovering their progenitors of exploding stars"
March	Prof Roberto Soria (University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences).
April	Dr Tayyaba Zafar (Macquarie. University) + AGM.
August	Prof Joss Bland- Hawthorn.
Invitations	Kirsten Banks, waiting for a response.

5.1.3 Western Sydney University

JR has been in recent contact with Dr Bhathal and there is no decision from WSU yet on when the auditorium will be made available to us again.

5.2 Stargard

5.2.1 Field Nights

Recent successful events	31 st Dec 2021
Recent cancelled events	8 th & 29 th Jan, 5 th Feb (weather).
Upcoming dates	26 th Feb, 5 th Mar.

5.2.2 New Members Workshop at Stargard 12th March

The event was originally scheduled for 15th January but was postponed for weather and health reasons.

With continuing high covid-19 infection rates, the meeting agreed that caution is still required. If the event is to proceed, we will require attendees to be triple vaccinated. We may possibly accept very recently double vaccinated. If any of this creates an issue, the event is to be postponed again.

5.2.3 Covid compliance & safety issues

MAS covid-19 procedures are guided by current NSW Public Health Orders but we will maintain our own cautious approach.

Members wishing to attend Stargard will continue to be required to check-in on-site using the *Service NSW* QR code and show proof of full vaccination or exemption to an MAS marshal.

NS suggested that we might consider raising the minimum number at Stargard from two to three. The safety aspects of having at least three present late at night were noted. No firm decision was made.

5.3 Public Outreach Events

The committee continues to take a cautious approach to any public outreach in 2022. No events are planned, due to the covid-19 pandemic.

We owe the Australian Botanic Garden one more free night but have not received any further request from them.

5.4 Mentoring

The committee continues to take a cautious approach in 2022. No mentoring is planned due to the covid-19 pandemic.

PK will advise the three schools with which we have had engagement that we are opting out of mentoring this year unless the outlook improves later.

PK has been approached by Green Valley Islamic College but for the same reasons he will advise them that we cannot assist at this time.

5.5 Fund-raising

5.5.1 NSW Return and Earn Recycling Scheme

Money is coming in from R&E.

5.5.2 Other Fund-raising

No other fund-raising activities taking place at present.

5.6 Loan Telescopes

GB advises that one telescope is in storage and three are on loan. One has been on loan for an extended period and he will seek its return.

5.7 Members excursions

None planned due to covid-19 pandemic.

5.8 Equipment Storage & Inventory

NS is collating MAS equipment for storage at the *Narellan Self Storage* facility.

Richard Curley is storing MAS roll-up advertising stands, which may be retrieved to go into storage.

AM has some boxes of paperwork and has been holding merchandise during the pandemic. NS & AM will arrange to meet to handover for storage.

5.9 IT Matters

5.9.1 Cloud File Storage

JR has identified a *Google* package that will accommodate the society's needs. It may also be desirable to use *Google Meet* instead of *Zoom* conferencing.

5.9.2 Website

The website has been live on WordPress since March 2021 and has received 32,135 hits from 12,439 visitors in 11 months.

5.9.3 Social Media

The meeting confirmed the policy of acceptance to the MAS Facebook group, requiring an answer to all three questions and agreeing to abide by the rules. It was also agreed that the Facebook group should preference images which have been taken using their own personal telescopes, rather than by hiring remote gear or utilising NASA raw data.

5.10 Publicity

None due to covid-19 pandemic.

5.11 Photography Awards

JR will organise a panel of judges, consisting of members who are not eligible for an award. The judges will choose their own award criteria and decide how many awards they will make. Images must be taken with their own equipment, not by hiring remote equipment or by processing NASA data.

5.12 Annual General Meeting 18th April

5.12.1 Nominations:

Notice of meeting has been posted on the website, with a link to nomination forms. Nominations will close on 4th April. JR is collecting nomination forms. All current members of the committee have indicated that they will be re-nominating.

5.12.2 Annual reports:

Reports from President, Treasurer and Auditor. Reports to be sent to Secretary by 10th April for collation into a single document which will be issued to members one week ahead of AGM.

5.12.3 Auditor & Returning Officer

JR to contact Graeme Bellamy to act as Auditor.

JR will select a Returning Officer. Dick Everett was suggested.

5.12.4 Annual Membership Awards:

5/10/15/20/25 Years. DM will provide list for next meeting. PK will organise the certificates.

5.13 Forest Cabin

JR is trying to contact Sydney University to organise retrieval of the MAS filing cabinet.

6 NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 14th March, Zoom

7 CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed approximately 9.15 pm.