

MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

PO Box 17 Minto, NSW 2566

MINUTES

of

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGOnline conference
Monday 11th April 2022 at 7.00 pm

Issue	Date	Details	Issued by
0	12 th April 2022	Initial issue.	RP

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

1 OPENING OF MEETING

The meeting opened at 7.04 pm. Apology: Noel Sharpe (NS)

2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Motion: That the Minutes dated 14th March 2022 be accepted. Moved RP, Seconded GB. Motion carried unanimously.

3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**3.1 Bank Signatories**

Ongoing

4 REGULAR BUSINESS**4.1 Treasurer's Report for March 2022**

The report details were circulated to committee members by AM prior to the meeting.

Term deposit	\$21,139.14
Cash & cheques on hand	-
Merchandise float	\$100.00
Membership Officer float	\$50.00
Coffee tea club float	-
PayPal	\$404.99
Main cheque account	\$15,266.95
2 nd cheque account-China trip	\$3.64
Grand total	\$36,964.72
Total cash at bank	\$36,409.73

There is one outstanding payment due to A Milton for \$144.00 re renewal of Post Office Box; and a donation of \$40.00 has been received from Allen Williams.

AM advised that the Annual *Statement of Financial Performance* issued in the Annual Report indicates that \$5,513.63 was received in membership fees for 2021-22 and that the operation surplus for the year was \$1,414.54. Having determined that membership fees would be waived for existing members in 2022-23 the committee should expect a very considerable operation deficit in next year's report. Noted.

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 153, including honorary and associate memberships but excluding two non-responsive memberships expected to expire on 30th April.

Motion: That the Membership Report be accepted. Moved JR, seconded PK, carried unanimously.

4.3 Merchandise Report

John will be seeking a Merchandise Officer. Merchandise sales remain suspended and currently AM is storing the merchandise (refer to item 5.8).

AM to source a merchandise table when a return to forums at WSU is announced (refer to item 5.1.3).

4.4 Correspondence

4.4.1 Term Deposit

AM has received correspondence from the Commonwealth Bank regarding the term deposit, which is on permanent roll-over at very low interest. AM said he does not recommend changing the term deposit until interest rates become more attractive. Noted.

4.4.2 Camden Library

The Library has advised JR it is having difficulties with the loan telescopes they own and is intending to retire them. They may decide to replace them with another type. MAS is happy to help.

5 GENERAL BUSINESS

5.1 Forum

5.1.1 Last month's Forum

Online: Prof Roberto Soria (University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences). "Revisiting the expansion of the universe"

RP commented that Prof Soria's talk was one of the best in recent months because it was aimed at an intermediate audience; lower than professional level but higher than general public. Some of our speakers have been speaking to us at a very high level, which can turn off newcomers. Noted.

5.1.2 Upcoming Speakers

JR reported:

This month	AGM then Dr Tayyaba Zafar (Macquarie. University): "Distant faint galaxies hunt, like an Easter Egg hunt."
May	
August	Prof Joss Bland- Hawthorn.
Invitations	G. Lewis, E. Lenc.

5.1.3 Western Sydney University

A decision on return to WSU is still pending. In preparation, we need to consider: appointing catering manager, appointing a merchandise officer, retrieving advertising stands from Richard Curley, determine responsibility for attendance register and the purchase of merchandise table (from item 4.3).

5.2 Stargard

5.2.1 Members Field Nights

Last successful event:	31 st December 2021
Recent cancelled events:	5 th Mar. 26 th Mar; 2 nd April; (all due to weather)
Upcoming events:	23 rd April; 30 th April;

5.2.2 New Members Workshop at Stargard

The event scheduled for 9th April was postponed on 7th April, due to further heavy rain and flooding in the Macarthur area. Another attempt to hold this workshop is scheduled for 7th May.

5.2.3 Covid compliance & safety issues at Stargard

Ongoing.

5.2.4 Development of Dudley Chesham Sports Ground

NS has received notification from Wollondilly Shire Council that Council has identified funds to enable them to start implementing improvements in accordance with the adopted master plan, linked on MAS website. Their first priority is the design of the proposed new multi-purpose amenities facility and they anticipate engaging an architect over the coming months to commence the design of the building.

Prior to this, council will conduct more consultation with the key stakeholders on this particular stage of the master plan. An on-site meeting scheduled for 7th April but was postponed.

RP noted that the Master Plan does not include toilet facilities for MAS at the Southern end of the site, which is vital if we want to make Stargard attractive to women members.

5.3 Public Outreach Events

No events planned. We owe the Australian Botanic Garden one more free night.

5.4 Mentoring

5.4.1 Broughton College

Telescope display on Tuesday 16th August from 3pm to 4.30 pm. PK is in contact with the school. Further mentoring may be considered later in the year.

5.5 Fund-raising

PK noted that Bunnings have recommenced weekend barbecues. JR said he would review whether we have the resources to participate in the near future.

Small amounts coming in from Return & Earn.

5.6 Loan Telescopes

GB advises that three telescopes are now in storage. One of the stored Dobsonians is going on loan to a new member at the upcoming Beginners Workshop and the GoTo already out on loan.

5.7 Members excursions

None planned. Ongoing.

5.8 Equipment Storage & Inventory

The roll-up advertising stands, currently with Richard Curley, should go to the storage facility prior to the Forum returning to WSU.

AM has some boxes to be stored, as well as merchandise stock.

Another set of shelves is needed at the lock-up.

5.9 Digital Matters

Nothing to report.

5.10 Publicity

None due to pandemic.

5.11 First Annual Photographic Awards

JR will judge the awards.

5.12 Annual General Meeting 18th April

5.12.1 Nominations for Committee

Nominations closed on 4th April. All current committee members have re-nominated. No further nominations were received. Nomination forms are with the Returning Officer, Tony Law.

5.12.2 Annual reports

The 2022 Annual Report document is online and the link was issued to members on 11th April. The document was originally posted with one page of the financial statement missing. This was corrected online a couple of hours later.

5.12.3 Annual Membership Awards:

DM advised the following membership awards.

Five year certificate:	Richard Barwell, Sharyl Scott, Ron Radzieta, Neil Weerasinghe, Sharmini Weerasinghe Annemarie Henessey
Ten Year badge and certificate:	Allan Hobbs, Peter Scott, James Scott, Mark Johnston
Fifteen year certificate:	Chris Malikoff, Graeme Bellamy
Twenty year badge and certificate:	Bob Monkcom
Twenty-five year certificate:	Phillip Ainsworth, Noel Sharpe, Roger Powell, Ragbir Bhathal, Ian Cook, Dick Everett

PK has printed the certificates.

5.12.4 Quorum

Starting at 6.45 pm, after a quorum of 15 members reached. It will require reminders to members leading up to the AGM.

5.13 Forest Cabin

JR has been in contact with the new Property Manager at Sydney University and was advised that MAS assets can be retrieved but not until the University is in a position to send someone to meet us there.

5.14 Wooglemai

Potential use of Wooglemai Environmental Education Centre, at Sheehys Creek Rd, Oakdale, for observing nights. A daytime inspection is scheduled for 19th April.

5.15 Any Other Business

5.15.1 Membership Form

The membership form will be amended. MAS will no longer require date of birth but will need to confirm the age of a person is under eighteen.

6 NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 9th May, Zoom.

7 CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 8.02 pm.