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# Annual Reports

April 2022

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# 1. Notice of Meeting

## 2022 Annual General Meeting

Notice is given that the Annual General Meeting of Macarthur Astronomical Society will be held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2022, commencing at **6.45 pm**.

Please logon at the **early start time**, in order that we may get proceedings underway quickly.

Due to pandemic precautions, the meeting will be held online. A link will be e-mailed to all members.

## Agenda

1. Opening of meeting, welcome and apologies.
2. Minutes of previous AGM, 20th April 2021 (appended).
3. Business arising from the minutes.
4. Presentation of Annual Reports for 2021-2022.
5. Presentation of Membership Awards.
6. Appointment of Returning Officer.
7. Election of Management Committee for 2022-2023
8. Other Business directly relevant to the AGM.
9. Close of Meeting.

Nominations for election to the committee closed on Monday 4th April.

Kindly note that to be eligible to vote at the AGM you must be a financial member for 2022-23.

Following the conclusion of the AGM, the meeting will continue as an Ordinary General Meeting (Macarthur Astronomy Forum).

**Roger Powell**  
Secretary  
Macarthur Astronomical Society

10<sup>th</sup> April 2022

# Annual President's Report 2022



Dear Members,

Well, it's AGM time again, and the beginning of a new year for The MAS.

At the close of nominations for Committee positions, Monday April 4th, we had 7 nominations for the seven positions available. So, for the 26th year in a row, we have avoided an election!

I would like to thank, Noel Sharpe (VP) Richard Curley & Roger Powell (Secretary) Andy Milton (Treasurer) Henry Swierk & Dave Manning (CM, Membership Officer) Phil Kidd (CM, Outreach Officer) Greg Bradford (CM, Telescope Loan Wrangler) Dave Manning (CM, Membership Officer)

I value their friendship, humour and dedication to The MAS. Their hard work & service has kept The MAS, strong, relevant and financially secure, during these covid times.

Thank you must also go to our Auditor, Graeme Bellamy.

Due to personal matters, our Secretary Richard Curley had to step down from the committee in January. I would like to thank Richard for his tireless work as Treasurer and Secretary. He held these positions from 2014 to January 2022.

My sincere thank you goes to Roger Powell, our Webmaster. Roger has kept our website up to date, and easy to use. Roger also took over the position of Secretary from February 2022.

## **Covid Year**

The last year has been a huge challenge for all of us, privately, financially and work related. We all hope for a brighter future.

## **Henry Swierk**

The MAS has also suffered, with the great loss of our Membership Officer, Henry Swierk. He was our MO since 2012. A great friend and a passion filled astronomer. Henry personified The MAS; he gave gladly of his time, knowledge and mostly of himself.

He is forever in our minds & hearts. Vale.

## **Western Sydney University**

The MAS continues to have an ongoing association with WSU with the assistance of our member, Dr Ragbir Bhatal. Dr Bhatal is looking forward to our ongoing Forums and public nights, when the University reopens.

Our monthly Forums continue, via the Zoom app. Whilst a great concept, I know that we are all anticipating our return to WSU and holding our Forum's in person. We are looking forward to a return to WSU by May-June this year.

## **MAS Forum Speakers**

A big thank you to all our Professional Astronomers & astrophysicists, from all disciplines of science.

They have informed & educated us at our Forums, as they took us through a trip through the Universe.

I would also like to acknowledge our Patron, Professor Geraint Lewis (USYD) for his continuing support of The MAS.

## **Public Outreach**

Our "Night under the Stars" at The Campbelltown Rotary Observatory, will more than likely not return until the latter half of 2022. This will depend on WSU and any current covid regulations.

School mentoring has also taken a backseat this year. Hopefully 2023 will bear fruit in this area.

The MAS held a very successful. "Star Night over the Gardens" at Mt Annan Botanical Gardens on Saturday May 15th, the first Outreach for 2021.

"Stars over Parramatta" was held at Parramatta Park on Saturday June 5<sup>th</sup> 2021. Whilst we had the usual light cloud cover, we entertained 200 people about the wonders of the Universe, and the instruments that we use to explore this vastness.

## **Financial Status**

Apart from our Public Liability Insurance, we had a new yearly expense for our new storage facility. Postage bags and postage for Astronomy 2022 was paid by The MAS, instead of the individual purchaser.

## **Storage Facility**

In November 2021 the committee decided to rent a storage facility to house all of The MAS's assets. Over the years the assets have been spread through different committee members houses. This made it almost impossible to keep track of each item.

We now have key holders for the unit, and most of our assets are stored there. We still have some housekeeping to bring everything together.

## **Return & Earn and other things**

I would like to thank Greg Bradford for all his hard work, in putting together the R&E system & cards.

Your recyclable glass, plastic bottles & cans will earn money for The MAS; all you have to do is take your bottles & cans to the nearest TOMRA recycling plant. You can use this service throughout NSW, and still collect monies for The MAS.

Unfortunately, this service has not had the traffic that we had anticipated! So, please support YOUR CLUB!

Our Bunnings BBQ's have also taken a hiatus; we will recommence this great fundraising/social event, in the near future.

### **Our Observing nights**

These have continued over the last year, though I must say the weather has had a great impact on the cancellation of quite a few of our sessions.

Stargard is now our only observing site, and continues to produce good dark skies for our observers and astro-imagers.

The Forest cabin: In discussions with USYD it appears that our long association with this great observing site has come to an end. Whilst I will continue to keep in touch with the appropriate people, it appears that the cabin will be demolished.

### **Wooglemai Education Centre**

Recently I received correspondence from one of our long time members, Barry Moore. Barry has been a volunteer for many organisations over many years.

He is currently on the committee for this organisation. This centre is approx 20 mins s/w of The Oaks/Stargard. I have visited this site many times over the years and it certainly has sky conditions (darkness/clarity) somewhere between Stargard and The Forest.

The committee will inspect the site in the April school holidays, and a decision will be made then.

### **Social Media**

The MAS is active in this area with a healthy Facebook presence as well as a profile on Twitter.

Visit our new website [www.macaastro.org.au](http://www.macaastro.org.au) with its clearer and added features.

Our Members Albums has made a return. There are two areas, one for dedicated high quality astro images and another for general images of our scopes and most importantly, OUR Members!

### **Membership**

I would like to thank Dave Manning for taking over this very important position in The MAS, after Henry's passing. Despite the ongoing covid disruptions over the last year, our membership status continues around the 140 mark. If you haven't renewed, please contact Dave Manning on [membership@macastro.org.au](mailto:membership@macastro.org.au) and he will help you with this.

Dave, thank you for keeping our very important ledger up to date.

The influx of new members has been surprising, considering the lack of public exposure for the society.

### **Fee Free Membership for one year**

As a reward for a rather lacklustre year of activities, the committee decided to freeze dues for the MAS financial year from March 2022, until the end of February 2023.

To receive this benefit you had to be a member before the cut-off date of December 6th, 2021.

### **Loan Telescopes**

You would love to buy a telescope, but don't know which one? The MAS has a large & diverse selection of telescopes for financial members to borrow.

Contact Greg Bradford, our telescope wrangler on [macdob@macastro.org.au](mailto:macdob@macastro.org.au) to secure your scope.

I would also like to thank Greg, for servicing & repairing our equipment.

## MAS Awards

At this time of year we acknowledge the continuous support of our members. Congratulations to all the recipients.

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

Your certificate/Badge will be sent to you, or you may collect it at the next observing night. Please let Dave know your preference.

## Big Thanks

Apart from the "Official people" in The MAS, I would like to thank others for their untiring dedication to our society. Without volunteers, The MAS would grind to a halt!

## Conclusion

As you can see, that even in a "Quiet Covid year" there is still much to do at The MAS.

As our country begins to emerge from the disarray of the last 2 years, I hope that The MAS's footprint will continue to flourish, with your help, of course!

Best Regards, John.

## John Rombi

President,  
Macarthur Astronomical Society

29<sup>th</sup> March 2022

### **3. Annual Treasurer's Report 2022**

#### **Treasurer's Report for year to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

I am pleased to present the audited Financial Statements of Macarthur Astronomical Society (the Society) for the year ended 28 February 2022. These Financial Statements have been audited by Graeme Bellamy, our Honorary Auditor. I thank him for advice and assistance in the preparation of the financial statements.

The Society has made a surplus on its activities of \$1,414.54 (2021 \$2190.39). As a result the Society's Net Members Equity is \$39,079.40. The attached Balance Sheet and Statement of Financial Performance provide a breakdown of movement of balance sheet and income expense categories that make up and explain the increase in Members Equity.

#### **Statement of Financial Position as at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

The excess of income over expenditure (surplus) for the year to 28 February 2022 has ensured the Society has a positive year end cash balance of \$15,116.60 (2021 \$16,945.46) plus \$351.90 (2021 \$612.27) in a PayPal account. The Society continues to hold an ongoing deposit with the Commonwealth Bank of \$21138.66 as at 28 February 2022. Interest on the deposit is credited to the Society term deposit account on a regular basis.

The Society recognises membership fees paid in advance. An amount of \$383.00 (2021 \$2722.11) has been recognised as a liability in the Balance Sheet. The Society Management Committee has decided that there will be no membership fees payable during 2022/23 for all existing members as at 10 December 2021. As a result the Society will incur a loss for the year to 28 February 2023, but it is anticipated the current cash balance will be sufficient to cover future expenditures in the period.

During the year the Society acquired a second hand Coronado Solar Scope for \$750.00 the cost being expensed to Equipment Repairs and Service Costs. Unlike other scopes the Society maintains, the solar scope will not be available to members but reserved for outreach events and used under the supervision of a suitable member. The Society now has five telescopes and two sets of binoculars available to members to loan. Details of these items are included in the Society's web site.

#### **Statement of Financial Performance**

As a result of Covid 19 the Society operated on a restricted basis during the year to 28 February 2022. The Society held no major events, except for one event undertook no outreach, did no fundraising except as noted below and all Forums were held via Zoom, not face to face. With the exception of sales of Astronomy 2022 there were no merchandise sales during the period and no donations to third parties.

The Society participates in a return and earn bottle bank initiative. All members have been issued with cards that credit 10 cents for any bottle bank deposit referencing the Society. The fund raising initiative, established by Greg Bradford, is ongoing and members are encouraged to participate.

Notwithstanding Covid 19, the continued operation of the Society during our financial year to February 2022 is a result of the Society Committee and many other member's time and effort to support all the Society activities. I congratulate you all on a positive outcome.

#### **Andy Milton**

Honorary Treasurer

Macarthur Astronomical Society

8<sup>th</sup> April 2022

## 4. Annual Financial Statements

### Macarthur Astronomical Society Statement of Financial Position Year ended 28 February 2022

	2022	2021	Movement
<b>Balance sheet</b>			
<b>Accumulated funds</b>			
Funds at beginning of year	\$37,664.86	\$35,474.47	\$2,190.39
Surplus (Deficit) for year	\$1,414.54	\$2,190.39	-\$775.85
<b>Net members equity</b>	<u>\$39,079.40</u>	<u>\$37,664.86</u>	\$1,414.54
<b>Represented by</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Merchandise stock	\$894.86	\$894.86	
Cash at bank and in hand	\$15,116.60	\$16,945.46	-\$1,828.86
Fixed term deposit	\$21,138.66	\$21,000.00	\$138.66
Paypal balance	\$351.90	\$612.27	-\$260.37
Prepaid insurance	\$784.38	\$784.38	
Prepaid storage rental	\$1,026.00		\$1,026.00
Petty cash advances	\$150.00	\$150.00	
	<u>\$39,462.40</u>	<u>\$40,386.97</u>	-\$924.57
<b>Non Current Assets</b>			
Plant and equipment	\$6,016.23	\$6,016.23	
Depreciation	-\$6,016.23	-\$6,016.23	
Total Assets	<u>\$39,462.40</u>	<u>\$40,386.97</u>	-\$924.57
<b>Less Current Liabilities</b>			
Membership fees in advance	-\$383.00	-\$2,722.11	\$2,339.11
<b>Total Assets less Liabilities</b>	<u>\$39,079.40</u>	<u>\$37,664.86</u>	\$1,414.54

### Bank Balances and Reconciliation as at 28 February 2022

	2022	2021
No 1 Society Cheque Account	\$15,112.95	\$16,941.82
No 2 Bank Account -	\$3.64	\$3.64
Outstanding Deposits		Nil
Outstanding Cheques to be presented		Nil
Society Interest Bearing Deposit	\$21,138.66	\$21,000.00
Paypal Account Balance	\$351.90	\$612.27



**Macarthur Astronomical Society  
Statement of Financial Performance  
Year Ended 28 February 2022**

	2022	2021	Movement
<b>Income</b>			
Membership fees	\$ 5,513.63	\$5,399.57	\$114.06
Donations	\$ 181.10	\$54.00	\$127.10
Interest	\$ 138.36	\$209.71	-\$71.35
Sales of merchandise	\$ 1,048.10	\$920.00	\$128.10
Ground Belango and Starguard		\$95.00	-\$95.00
Bottle Return Income	\$ 125.40	\$71.20	\$54.20
Miscellaneous revenue		\$100.00	-\$100.00
	<u>\$ 7,006.59</u>	<u>\$6,849.48</u>	\$157.11
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Filing fees	\$ 100.23	\$47.00	-\$53.23
insurance	\$ 784.38	\$784.38	\$0.00
Miscellaneous expense	\$ 272.15	\$364.53	\$92.38
Postage printing and stationary	\$ 496.11	\$549.28	\$53.17
Po box rental	\$ 136.00	\$134.00	-\$2.00
Storage costs and fit out	\$ 795.30	\$0.00	-\$795.30
Equipment repairs and service	\$ 750.00	\$1,086.70	\$336.70
Cost of goods sold	\$ 1,611.48	\$871.65	-\$739.83
Domain Registration/ Web	\$ 369.32	\$177.66	-\$191.66
Grounds		\$356.90	\$356.90
Forum expenses diners and gifts	\$ 277.08	\$286.99	\$9.91
	<u>\$ 5,592.05</u>	<u>\$4,659.09</u>	-\$932.96
<b>Operation Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<u>\$ 1,414.54</u>	<u>\$2,190.39</u>	-\$775.85

## 5. Auditor's Statement

Financial Statement to members for Macarthur Astronomical Society  
Year End 28th February 2022

### Independent Audit Report

I have audited the financial statements, being the statement of financial position and statement of financial performance. The Astronomical Society Committee is responsible for the financial statements. The Audit has been conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

My procedures including review or source and application of funds and other disclosures relating to assets and liabilities are reflected in the financial statements. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with accounting standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Astronomical Society's financial position and the results of its operation. The Audit opinion expressed has been formed on the above basis.

### Note 1

(a) The accounts have been prepared on the accruals basis, and in accordance with applicable statements of accounting concepts and accounting standards issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB). They have also been prepared on the basis of historical costs. The accounting policies have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated.

(b) As by its constitution the society is registered as a non reporting not for profit entity which is primarily funded by members subscriptions for application to member pursuits in astronomy. Importantly it is not allowed to borrow or lend. As from 1st July 2021 AASB 2020-21 came into effect regarding not for profit entities which basically simplified disclosures and no need for comparisons. It has always been the society's policy for full disclosure to members and therefore we will continue to use AASB1060 to maintain reporting integrity to members where comparisons are used against the previous year's performance. (This to identify and explain significant movement).

### Note 2

Covid restrictions in this financial year have had an adverse effect on participation of members' activities. I have been informed that the committee has waived subscriptions for current members for the financial year 2022/23. Subscriptions are paid in advance and any members that have paid will have these funds held in a prepayments account for offset in the future year.

### Note 3

No activity has occurred in the inventory account. Purchases of the astronomy guide were subsidised by the cost of the postage as there could not be a collection at the forums.

### Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statement of Macarthur Astronomical Society present fairly in accordance with applicable accounting standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements to reflect the financial position of Macarthur Astronomical Society as at the 28th February 2022 and the results of its operations for the year ended.


### Graeme David Bellamy

Hon. Auditor

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2022

## 6. Minutes of 2021 AGM

Minutes of last year's AGM, submitted for formal acceptance at 2022 AGM

 <p>PO Box 17 MINTO NSW 2566</p>	<p>MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2020-2021</p> <p>Held by Zoom conference, hosted by John Rombi President MAS 2019-20</p> <p>Scheduled for Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 6:45pm</p> <p>Total Financial members attending 17, Total Visitors attending 0</p>
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### 1. OPENING OF MINUTES, WELCOME AND APOLOGIES:

The annual general meeting opened at 7:02pm. Present were the following members: John & Jenny Rombi, Roger & Joan Powell, Greg & Karyn Bradford, Andy Milton, Dave Manning, Phil & Jennie Kidd, Henry Swierk, Noel Sharpe, Dick Everett, George Cruickshank, Barry Moore, Mike Nicholas, Carol McVeigh. The retiring President, John Rombi chaired the meeting. Apologies received from Richard Curley, Suzanne Adijans, Sam Mathanarajan & Tony Law.

### 2. PRESENTATION OF MEMBERSHIP AWARDS:

John Rombi announced the following membership awards. Awards will be posted to the awardees.

**Five year certificate:** Nicole Ireland, Peter Godwin, Ric Forster, Robert McGoven, Mark Sellars, Andy Milton.

**Ten Year badge and certificate:** Jack Giles, Anthony Jelich, Robyn Jelich, Rahmi Jackson, Bruce Butters.

**Fifteen year certificate:** Nil.

**Twenty year badge and Certificate:** Phillip Kidd, Michael Wells.

### 3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM for 20th APRIL 2020

**Motion:** that the previous minutes from the AGM dated 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020 be taken as read and accepted as an accurate record of the 2019-2020 Annual General Meeting was moved by John Rombi, seconded by Dave Manning. Motion carried.

The President ordered that the minutes be filed in the secretary's formal records.

### 4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

There was no business arising from previous minutes

### 5. PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2020-2021

The 2020-2021 annual report was distributed to the members prior to the meeting. John Rombi read the Presidents Annual Report. He thanked the team of many people who keep MAS moving forward.

The Treasurer, Andy Milton tabled the annual report as the Treasurer. The Auditor's report was distributed and taken as read. Graeme Bellamy's audit report showed that the Society is in good shape with total assets of \$37,664.86 compared with \$35,474.74 twelve months ago.

**Motion:** "That the Annual reports presented by the President, Treasurer and Auditor for 2020-2021 be accepted" was moved by John Rombi, seconded by George Cruickshank. Motion carried.

There was no business arising from the reports.

The President ordered that the 2020-2021 Annual Report be filed in the secretary's formal records. The annual report will also form part of these minutes.

#### **6. APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER:**

Roger Powell was endorsed by the meeting as returning officer and John Rombi vacated the chair.

#### **7. ELECTION OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR 2019-2020**

The returning officer, Roger Powell declared all management committee positions for the Macarthur Astronomical Society Inc. vacant and advised that nominations had closed. The following nominations had been received prior to the cut off date of 5<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

<b>Position</b>	<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Nominator</b>	<b>Secunder</b>
President	John Rombi	Jenny Rombi	Richard Curley
Vice President	Noel Sharpe	Richard Curley	John Rombi
Secretary	Richard Curley	Marie Curley	John Rombi
Treasurer	Andy Milton	John Rombi	Jenny Rombi
Committee Position	Henry Swierk	Richard Curley	John Rombi
Committee Position	Greg Bradford	Karyn Bradford	Richard Curley
Committee Position	Phil Kidd	Jennie Kidd	Richard Curley
Committee Position	Dave Manning	Richard Curley	John Rombi

There being no duplicate nominations, the returning officer declared the following persons duly elected.

The duly elected executive committee of the Macarthur Astronomical Society Inc for the period:  
20<sup>th</sup> April 2021 to the AGM on Mon 18<sup>th</sup> April 2022

President - John Rombi  
Vice President – Noel Sharpe  
Secretary – Richard Curley  
Treasurer - Andrew Milton  
Membership Officer - Henry Swierk  
Committee member1 - Greg Bradford  
Committee member2 – Phil Kidd  
Committee member3 – Dave Manning

On behalf of the membership, Roger Powell, congratulated the new committee and wished them well for the coming year. He then vacated the chair for the incoming President John Rombi.

#### **8 CLOSE OF MEETING**

The Incoming President, John Rombi thanked the membership for their support and attendance. The Annual General Meeting closed at 7:23pm

Richard Curley, Secretary  
20<sup>th</sup> April 2021

John Rombi, President  
20<sup>th</sup> April 2021