

**MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**



PO Box 17 Minto, NSW 2566

**MINUTES**

of

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

Online conference  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 7.00 pm  
Issue 0

**1 OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting opened at 7.01 pm.

Present: John Rombi (JR); Noel Sharpe (NS); Greg Bradford (GB); Phil Kidd (PK); Roger Powell (RP).

Apologies: Dave Manning (DM); Andy Milton (AM).

**2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Motion: That the Minutes dated 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022 be accepted. Moved RP, Seconded JR. Motion carried unanimously.

**3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**3.1 BANK SIGNATORIES**

Ongoing

**4 REGULAR BUSINESS**

**4.1 TREASURER'S REPORT FOR APRIL 2022**

The report details were circulated to committee members by AM prior to the meeting. There are two outstanding payments to be made: \$144.00 to Andy Milton for GPO Box 17 Minto and \$48.21 to Roger Powell for DOFT charges.

As at 30<sup>th</sup> April the Society balances were:

Term deposit	\$21,139.52
Cash & cheques on hand	-
Merchandise float	\$100.00
Membership Officer float	\$50.00
Coffee tea club float	-
PayPal	\$388.00
Main cheque account	\$15,397.05
2 <sup>nd</sup> cheque account-China trip	\$3.64
Grand total	\$37,078.31
Total cash at bank	\$36,540.41

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

## 4.2 MEMBERSHIP

Membership is now 156, including honorary and associate memberships.

Amendments to membership form: date of birth to be replaced by age. Age/occupation to be optional.

Website to be amended to include all declared direct family dependents as members.

## 4.3 MERCHANDISE

Merchandise activity remains suspended.

## 4.4 CORRESPONDENCE

No formal correspondence reported.

## 4.5 MACARTHUR ASTRONOMY FORUM

### 4.5.1 Speakers

JR reported:

Last month:	Dr Tayyaba Zafar (Macquarie. University): "Distant faint galaxies hunt, like an Easter Egg hunt."
16 <sup>th</sup> May	Prof. Charley Lineweaver (ANU)
20 <sup>th</sup> June	tba
18 <sup>th</sup> July	tba
15 <sup>th</sup> August	Prof Joss Bland- Hawthorn. (Sydney Uni)

### 4.5.2 Return to Western Sydney University

JR received a reply from Dr Ragbir Bhathal to the effect that whilst he still supports the Society, he is now leaving the hiring of a WSU lecture theatre to us. He said that if there are difficulties in securing the facilities under our previous fee free arrangement, to let him know.

JR has submitted the venue form and also sent an email to WSU Venues to bring them up to speed on the relationship between MAS and the University since 1996.

In preparation for a return, we need to: appoint a catering manager, appoint a merchandise officer, retrieve advertising stands from Richard Curley, determine responsibility for attendance register and purchase a merchandise table.

## 4.6 STARGARD

### 4.6.1 MEMBERS FIELD NIGHTS

Last successful event:	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2021
Recent cancelled events:	2 <sup>nd</sup> April; 23 <sup>rd</sup> April; 30 <sup>th</sup> April; (weather & site conditions)
Upcoming events:	21 <sup>st</sup> May; 28 <sup>th</sup> May; 4 <sup>th</sup> June
Potential event:	11 <sup>th</sup> June (FQM)

NS noted that 4<sup>th</sup> June is a rugby seniors night, which may affect us, especially if due to poor ground conditions we may be forced to use other areas of the sports ground.

#### **4.6.2 BEGINNERS WORKSHOP AT STARGARD**

The event was successfully held on 7<sup>th</sup> May. Started about 15.45 and finished a bit before 23.00. Conducted by NS, PK and GB as mentors and attended by seven new members. Seven others, including five females who expressed an interest, were unable to attend.

Next event, which may include astro-imaging, is being considered sooner rather than later, preferably near a first quarter Moon. NS to look for a non-Stargard date which is not being used by other user groups.

#### **4.6.3 COVID COMPLIANCE & OTHER STARGARD ISSUES**

No change. Ongoing.

#### **4.6.4 DEVELOPMENT OF DUDLEY CHESHAM SPORTS GROUND**

Wollondilly Council is conducting stakeholder consultations for the design of a Multi-Purpose Building (MPB). An on-site meeting was held on 21<sup>st</sup> April, attended by NS and GB.

The MPB will have a storage room on the southern side, an adjoining meeting room and small kitchen, which is shared by all groups and community organisations. NS requested to have our storage accessed from outside. We would also gain access to the meeting room and toilets. Also discussed was the ability to control outside lighting and limit light intrusion as far as possible. They are using Wilton as a design template for the MPB, no plan available yet.

Wollondilly Council has advised that amendments to the plan to include toilets near Stargard field is not possible, their aim is to consolidate all amenities into the MPB. However further discussion may place down the track to look at some alternatives for us, they are sympathetic to our concerns.

#### **4.7 WOOGLEMAI**

We are evaluating potential use of Wooglemai Environmental Education Centre, at Sheehys Creek Rd, Oakdale, including overnight accommodation, for monthly New Moon observing nights. Public nights with up to 15 people may be included as part of the deal with Wooglemai. Members will need to bring their own adequate battery power for the night as 240v is not available.

A daytime inspection was conducted on 19<sup>th</sup> April by GB, NS and Barry Moore and a preliminary test night was carried out by NS and Barry Moore on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. A full appraisal for committee members is scheduled for the night of 28<sup>th</sup> May. There may be some Wooglemai people there. The cost is \$30.00 per head (or may be free of charge).

Downsides are: (a) potential vehicle damage along a rugged access road; (b) cost of \$30 per night may be prohibitive to some members; and (c) precautions need to be taken to illuminate ground hazards.

Stargard will still be listed for 28<sup>th</sup> May and for potential future Wooglemai nights.

### **5 GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **5.1 PUBLIC OUTREACH EVENTS**

Dr. Bhathal has sought our participation in an event at Tebbut Observatory, Windsor. No other events are planned. We owe the Australian Botanic Garden one more free night.

#### **5.2 MENTORING**

##### **5.2.1 BROUGHTON COLLEGE**

Telescope display on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> August from 3pm to 4.30 pm. Ongoing.

### **5.3 FUND-RAISING**

Nothing to report. Ongoing.

### **5.4 LOAN TELESCOPES**

GB advises that one telescope is going on loan next week. Three are already out.

### **5.5 MEMBERS EXCURSIONS**

None planned. Ongoing.

### **5.6 STORAGE & ASSETS**

The roll-up advertising stands, currently with Richard Curley, should go to the storage facility prior to the Forum returning to WSU. Another set of shelves is needed at the lock-up.

Retrieval of MAS assets from the Forest – ongoing.

### **5.7 DIGITAL MATTERS**

Moderators to delete inappropriate Facebook posts and block authors.

### **5.8 PUBLICITY**

None.

### **5.9 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 18<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

#### **5.9.1 COMMITTEE ELECTED FOR 2022-23**

President: John Rombi	Vice-President: Noel Sharpe
Treasurer: Andy Milton	Secretary: Roger Powell
Committee Members: Dave Manning, Phil Kidd & Greg Bradford	

#### **5.9.2 AGM DOCUMENTS**

The 2022 Annual Report document and AGM minutes are posted on the website.

#### **5.9.3 Department of Fair Trading**

The Annual Summary of Financial Affairs form has been submitted to the Dept of Fair Trading on 30<sup>th</sup> April, with the prescribed fee of \$48.21.

### **5.10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

## **6 CLOSE OF MEETING**

Next meeting	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June, Zoom.
This meeting closed at	8.22 pm
Minutes by	Roger Powell, Secretary