

MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY



PO Box 17 Minto, NSW 2566

MINUTES

of

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Online conference
Monday 13th June 2022 at 7.00 pm
Issue 0

1 OPENING OF MEETING

The meeting opened at 7.10 pm with John Rombi (President) in the chair.

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

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

2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Motion: That the Minutes dated 9th May 2022 be accepted. Moved RP, Seconded JR. Motion carried unanimously.

3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

3.1 BANK SIGNATORIES

Bank signatories are now JR/NS/AM with two out of three signatures required.

3.2 CORRECTION

It was noted that DM also attended the Beginners Workshop on 7th May and PK also attended the Wooglemai inspection on 19th April.

4 REGULAR BUSINESS

4.1 TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MAY 2022

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

31 st May 2022	Balance
Term deposit	\$21,140.49
Main cheque account	\$15,267.84
2 nd cheque account-China trip	\$ 3.64
Total	\$36,411.97

Receipts:	3 rd May Peter Bentley membership:	\$55.00
	14 th May Mustapha Hassanaly membership:	\$45.00
	19 th May Joan Lowe membership:	\$55.00
Payments:	Wollondilly Council for Stargard:	\$134.00
	R Powell for payment to DOFT:	\$48.21
	A Milton for P.O. Box 17 Minto:	\$144.00

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

4.2 MEMBERSHIP

New membership applications approved by the committee via e-mail since the last meeting:

Madeleine Small	2022-04-30
Mengsi He	2022-04-30
Peter Bentley	2022-05-04
Moustapha Hassanaly & son, Adam, age 9	2022-05-17
Joanne Lowe	2022-05-17

Membership is now 159, including honorary and associate memberships.

The membership application form has been updated by GB to indicate a PO box address is not accepted as an address; age and occupation are optional. Now online.

New badges ordered by DM have been received.

4.3 MERCHANDISE

Merchandise activity remains suspended.

4.4 CORRESPONDENCE

No formal correspondence received.

4.5 MACARTHUR ASTRONOMY FORUM

4.5.1 Speakers

JR reported:

Last month	Prof. Charley Lineweaver (ANU) <i>The Origin of the Universe from 'Nothing'</i>
20 th June	Prof. Roberto Soria (UCAS) <i>The Sagittarius A* Black Hole</i>
18 th July	Dr Simon Ellis (Mac Uni)
15 th Aug	Prof Joss Bland- Hawthorn (Sydney Uni)
19 th Sept	Dr Luke Barnes (WSU)
17 th Oct	Dr Emil Lenc (ATNF)
21 st Nov	Malcolm Ellis (MAS)
5 th Dec	Prof. Geraint Lewis (Sydney Uni)

4.5.2 Return to Western Sydney University

WSU has not responded to the formal application and supplementary e-mail submitted by JR and Dr Bhathal did not respond to a follow up e-mail from JR.

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

JR suggested that if we are unable to return to WSU we may look at alternate locations such as Campbelltown Arts Centre, which would cost \$95.00 per night.

4.6 STARGARD

4.6.1 MEMBERS FIELD NIGHTS

Last successful events:	29 th May; 5 th June
Recent cancelled events:	21 st May; 28 th May
Next scheduled events:	25 th June; 2 nd July
Potential event:	9 th July

Sunday 29th May was the first successful observing session since 31st Dec 2021. Several new members unfamiliar with the venue attended. The ground was still boggy and some ground surface damage occurred - the first time such an issue has occurred since we began using Stargard nearly twenty years ago. NS is liaising with Wollondilly Council and the Pony Club.

JR e-mailed all members on 31st May to reinforce MAS field requirements.

A second Stargard session was held on Sunday 5th June.

4.6.2 BEGINNERS WORKSHOP AT STARGARD

Next workshop is potentially Saturday 6th August, the day after first quarter Moon.

4.6.3 COVID COMPLIANCE & OTHER STARGARD ISSUES

One member has complained about our current covid requirements. Our safety stance was reaffirmed on the basis of keeping other members healthy. JR will check vaccination certificates.

The requirement to advise attendance to JR in advance was also reaffirmed.

NS advised that the longtime sports ground liaison officer is leaving Wollondilly Shire Council.

4.6.4 DEVELOPMENT OF DUDLEY CHESHAM SPORTS GROUND

Ongoing. Next stakeholder's meeting will be in a few months.

4.7 WOOGLEMAI

We are evaluating potential use of Wooglemai Environmental Education Centre, at Sheehys Creek Rd, Oakdale for monthly New Moon observing nights.

A full overnight appraisal for committee members, scheduled for 28th May, was cancelled and will be rescheduled for 2nd or 9th July.

Admittance will be \$30.00 per member, who will pay into MAS account. AM will pay the required total fee to Wooglemai.

5 GENERAL BUSINESS

5.1 PUBLIC OUTREACH EVENTS

Dr. Bhathal has sought our participation in an event at Tebbut Observatory. A decision will be made when details are available. No other events are planned.

We owe the Australian Botanic Garden one more free night.

5.2 MENTORING – BROUGHTON COLLEGE

Telescope display on Tuesday 16th August from 3pm to 4.30 pm. Ongoing.

5.3 FUND-RAISING

GB reported: Return and Earn are migrating from a MyTomra account to a Return and Earn account but there is no visible change to users. Our PayPal connection, contact@macastro.org.au remains.

5.4 LOAN TELESCOPES

GB advises that two dobsonian and a newtonian telescope are loaned to members. The hybrid 'goto' is not currently loaned out. GB requested we abolish the three months membership period before loaning a telescope. Agreed.

5.5 MEMBERS EXCURSIONS

None planned. Ongoing.

5.6 ASSETS & STORAGE

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. JR will again attempt to arrange a date.

5.7 DIGITAL MATTERS

RP has updated the website observing site information pages (Notice Board page; Field Night page; and Stargard page) to reinforce our protocols to new members. Committee Members are invited to view the requirements and submit comments to RP.

5.8 PUBLICITY

None.

5.9 WSU PENRITH OBSERVATORY

NS and GB heard a comment at the Beginners Night that the observatory at WSU Penrith would be decommissioned and demolished. The comment was initially reported informally by NS at the May committee meeting but not minuted. JR arranged a meeting with Prof Miroslav Filipovic (WSU Penrith) and Chris Matthew (Vice president of WSAAG) to investigate it.

JR reported: The Penrith facility is a stand alone two level building. The lower level has a kitchen, toilets and a lecture theatre, the upper level is the observatory. However the structure has deteriorated and will eventually need to come down. It is also understood that the WSU Penrith campus will be redeveloped to include residential and commercial components. A new observatory is expected to be included in the master plan. There is nothing that MAS can contribute to this situation for now.

5.10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

6 CLOSE OF MEETING

This meeting closed at	8.20 pm
Next meeting	Monday 11th July.
These minutes by	Roger Powell, Secretary

Note: The committee is in regular e-mail contact between meetings. As a consequence, certain reports to the committee and/or decisions made by the committee during the period may not be fully discussed at the next meeting. The minutes may include such items for the record and for context.