

MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY



PO Box 17 Minto, NSW 2566

MINUTES

of

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Online conference meeting
Monday 11th July 2022 at 7.00 pm

1 OPENING OF MEETING

The meeting opened at 7.04 pm with John Rombi (President) initially in the chair but handing over to GB for part of the meeting.

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

Apologies: Noel Sharpe (NS);

Resignation: JR confirmed that Dave Manning has resigned from the committee but has expressed a desire to continue as Membership Officer, which will require modifying the by-laws. See item 5.8

The third additional committee member position is now vacant.

2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Motion: That the Minutes dated 13th June 2022 be accepted. Moved RP, Seconded JR. Motion carried.

3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

There was no business arising.

4 REGULAR BUSINESS

4.1 TREASURER'S REPORT FOR JUNE 2022

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

Main bank account: one receipt in the period: \$42.00

PayPal account: Tomra receipts \$6.20. Zoom payment \$23.09.

Month to 30 th June 2022	Balance
Term deposit	\$21,141.39
Main cheque account	\$ 15,267.84
PayPal account	\$ 378.12
Travel account	\$3.64
Total	\$36,790.99

There is one outstanding cheque to be banked: \$51.00 for membership from Paul Sillato.

Motion: That the Treasurer's report be adopted. Moved AM, seconded RP Motion carried.

4.2 MEMBERSHIP

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

Iris Arundell & son Owen Arundell	2022-06-19
-----------------------------------	------------

Membership is now 162, including honorary and associate memberships. This excludes Paul Sillato who has paid but did not sign his application form.

4.3 MERCHANDISE

Merchandise activity remains suspended.

4.4 CORRESPONDENCE

JR has received a request from Dr Bhatal to assist with telescopes at a large event but proposes to decline the invitation on this occasion due to the deteriorating covid situation.

4.5 MACARTHUR ASTRONOMY FORUM

4.5.1 Speakers

JR reported that the speaker list for the rest of the year is full:

Last month	Prof. Roberto Soria (UCAS) <i>The Sagittarius A* Black Hole</i>
This month	Dr Simon Ellis (Mac Uni) <i>The Origin of Galactic Positrons</i>
August	Prof Joss Bland- Hawthorn (Sydney Uni)
September	Dr Luke Barnes (WSU)
October	Dr Emil Lenc (ATNF)
November	Malcolm Ellis (MAS)
December	Prof. Geraint Lewis (Sydney Uni)

4.5.2 Future Face-to-face Forums

Dr Bhatal has advised JR that WSU have not relaxed their covid policy regarding face-to-face occupation of lecture theatres and there is no prospect of us returning there soon.

JR has canvassed widely with members. Some are saying that because we are mostly vaccinated, we should open up, while others wish to be more careful.

Our role as a committee is to manage the Society from day to day without placing our members in harms way. Based on the current high covid infections, plus flu and colds in our environment at this time it means that face to face Forums and joining any large gatherings is on the back burner (apart from our school visit in August for science week) until at least the warmer months, when these diseases are less rampant.

It was noted that while covid vaccinations may reduce the severity of the disease, they do little to prevent it from being transmitted from person to person.

4.6 STARGARD

4.6.1 MEMBERS FIELD NIGHTS

Recent events - successful:	29 th May; 5 th June; 25 th June
Recent events - cancelled:	2 nd July; 9 th July
Next scheduled events:	23 rd July; 30 th July

Our normal observing field will be referred to as Stargard 1 (SG1), while the old public night area will be called Stargard 2 (SG2) and used if SG1 is unavailable.

Depending on inspections, our next sessions are most likely to be at SG2 – if it has dried sufficiently – but defaulting to SG2 is not automatic because of sports nights and carnivals.

4.6.2 BEGINNERS WORKSHOP AT STARGARD

Scheduled for Saturday 6th August, the day after first quarter Moon. One beginner has so far enrolled.

4.6.3 COVID COMPLIANCE

Six members attended a recent Stargard session, all maintaining a distance. One attendee later reported as covid positive but all other attendees tested negative.

Whilst several members have individually contracted covid-19 this year, no transmission has yet occurred at any of our events and we remain committed to prevention.

We will continue to require members attending MAS outdoor events to be fully vaccinated and boosted. Where this is not the case, we may accept a RAT test conducted that day.

During outdoor sessions, members will be required to maintain responsible distancing. Masks are optional but not mandatory. Members must not attend if they exhibit covid or flu symptoms.

4.7 WOOGLEMAI

Full overnight appraisals at Wooglemai Environmental Education Centre scheduled for 2nd July then 9th July were cancelled. Due to days of torrential rain the field and main access road is likely to be unsuitable this lunar cycle. NS has now submitted a request for 20th or 27th August.

5 GENERAL BUSINESS

5.1 PUBLIC OUTREACH EVENTS

On hold.

5.2 MENTORING – BROUGHTON COLLEGE

Telescope display on Tuesday 16th August from 2.30pm to 4.30 pm. PK reported that the school has enquired about the number of MAS attendees. It is believed that JR, GB, PK and DM will be sufficient.

5.3 FUND-RAISING

Ongoing.

5.4 LOAN TELESCOPES

GB advised that two Dobsonians and a Newtonian telescope are loaned to members. The hybrid 'goto' is not currently loaned out.

5.5 ASSETS & STORAGE

The roll-up advertising stands are with Richard Curley. Another set of shelves is needed at the lock-up.

Retrieval of MAS assets from the Forest – ongoing.

5.6 DIGITAL MATTERS

RP reported:

Until a suitable cloud data storage is found, we should all do MAS data back ups individually. This could take the form of automatic back ups to free cloud facilities such as I-cloud, Google Drive or One Drive. Alternatively, backing up to a USB drive using back up software such as File History (included in Windows settings).

A Facebook first time poster had approval to comment rescinded because he was a scammer posting an advertisement for unauthorised tee-shirts with the MAS logo.

The website was updated following the decision last month to rescind the three month waiting list requirement for loan telescopes.

Image Gallery #1, for astro-images, is going well.

Gallery #2: images taken of telescopes at home or at MAS events are requested. Group photos at Stargard or Wooglemai, images of members with their scopes, etc. To be utilised around the website.

5.7 PUBLICITY

None.

5.8 BY-LAWS

Following the resignation of Dave Manning from the committee, it is necessary to amend the by-laws to permit the post of Membership Officer to be a non-committee position. At the same time it is proposed to confirm the existing practice that the number of additional committee members is three but that the committee may from time to time increase that number to four if it is deemed necessary.

Motion: “That clauses 5, 7 and 8 of the By-laws be amended in accordance with the draft circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.”

Moved GB, seconded RP. Motion carried. Greg to update and issue in pdf format.

5.9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

6 CLOSE OF MEETING

This meeting closed at	7.45 pm
Next meeting	Monday 8 th August
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.