

**MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**



PO Box 17 Minto, NSW 2566

**MINUTES**

of

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

Online conference meeting  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2022 at 7.00 pm

**1 OPENING OF MEETING**

**1.1 OPENING REMARKS**

The meeting opened at 6.59 pm with John Rombi (JR) (Chair); Noel Sharpe (NS); Andy Milton (AM); Greg Bradford (GB); Phil Kidd (PK); Roger Powell (RP).

JR thanked the committee for its management of MAS affairs while he needed to take time away.

**1.2 APOLOGIES**

No absentees

**2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**2.1 ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

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

**2.2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

No business arising.

**3 REGULAR BUSINESS**

**3.1 TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

<b>Month to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Term deposit	\$21,142.26
Main cheque account	\$15,318.94
PayPal account	\$357.53
Total	\$36,818.73

Cheque Account income: \$51.00 for membership fees (Paul Sillato).

PayPal Account income \$2.50 (Tomra).

PayPal Account expenditure \$23.09 (Zoom payment).

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

### 3.2 MEMBERSHIP

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

Candice Collaco	2022-08-05	Approved by e-mail.
Paul Sillato	~	Has mailed new form with signature.

Dave Manning reported that membership is now 163, including honorary and associate memberships. Excludes Paul Sillato who has paid but did not sign his application form. AM will check mailbox asap.

Motion: That the Membership report be adopted. Moved JR, seconded NS. Motion carried.

### 3.3 MERCHANDISE

Merchandise activity remains suspended.

### 3.4 CORRESPONDENCE

No formal correspondence received.

### 3.5 MACARTHUR ASTRONOMY FORUM

#### 3.5.1 Speakers

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

Last month	Dr Simon Ellis (Mac Uni) <i>MAVIS: Deeper than the Hubble Space Telescope, Sharper than the James Webb Space Telescope</i>
This month	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)

#### 3.5.2 Future Forums

Based on the current high covid infection rate, there is no prospect of us returning to face to face Forums soon.

### 3.6 COVID COMPLIANCE

No change to outdoor events policy: *“members attending MAS to be fully vaccinated and boosted. Members to maintain responsible distancing. Members must not attend if they exhibit covid or flu symptoms. Masks are optional”.*

### 3.7 STARGARD

#### 3.7.1 MEMBERS FIELD NIGHTS

Recent successful event:	30 <sup>th</sup> July
Recent cancelled event:	23 <sup>rd</sup> July
Next scheduled events:	20 <sup>th</sup> Aug; 27 <sup>th</sup> Aug
Potential opportunity:	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept

Stargard 1 (SG1), the ground is still damp. Four members attended the last session, held at SG2.

### **3.7.2 BEGINNERS WORKSHOPS AT STARGARD**

GB & NS reported: held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August, one day after first quarter Moon. Commenced at 1600 and ended about 2230. Six new members attended, along with six mentors. There were four Covid cancellations due to close contact isolation. Two others who booked didn't show up.

A further workshop is being considered for 1<sup>st</sup> October.

### **3.7.3 ANY OTHER STARGARD ISSUES.**

NS advised that Wollondilly Council is happy for us to liaise with the Pony Club regarding usage of SG1 but if any further wheel damage occurs they may need to reassess their position.

NS advised that the Pony Club want us to prevent vehicles from driving diagonally onto and off the field from Gate 3. When using SG1 we are requested to drive along the fence line before turning at right angles towards the setup location.

GB authorised to purchase witches hats and the means of securing them if left on site. NS authorised to purchase a flashing light.

NS advised that Wollondilly council have notified him that a contractor for stage 1 construction will be announced in a few weeks. It was noted that the construction work may affect potential MAS activity in that vicinity.

### **3.8 WOOGLEMAI**

NS approved to act as coordinator for Wooglemai sessions.

Full overnight appraisal at Wooglemai Environmental Education Centre is expected to be held on 27<sup>th</sup> August.

### **3.9 MENTORING**

PK reported that our telescope display at Broughton College, scheduled for a school event on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> August, has been postponed by the school due to covid awareness. Now rescheduled for 8th November.

### **3.10 PUBLIC OUTREACH EVENTS**

On hold for foreseeable future.

### **3.11 WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK**

PK noted that some members WWCC clearances will need to be renewed before the November event at Broughton College.

### **3.12 RETURN & EARN**

Ongoing.

### **3.13 LOAN TELESCOPES**

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

### 3.14 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. This may include some lighting equipment. All ongoing

### 3.15 DIGITAL MATTERS

RP reported: the website Payment page has been amended by removing "Cheque by Post" as one of the listed main options. It is available only as a note that to avoid very long delays the PO Address should only be used as a last resort, as it is infrequently checked.

Gallery #2: Photos of Workshop received from GB and Tony Law. Need more photos at events, to be utilised around the website.

The website has developed poor response times recently and is being reported to DreamHost.

GB reported that the person blocked by RP a few weeks ago was back on our Facebook page again, flogging unauthorised MAS brands. Blocked again by GB.

## 4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### 4.1 Campbelltown Rotary Observatory

JR received a report from Barry Moore that the Campbelltown Rotary Observatory has recently been enclosed by a fence due to break in attempts.

### 4.2 Macquarie University Astronomy Night

This will be held on Saturday September 17th. MAS previously decided not to be involved with public nights for the near future, due to the covid pandemic. JR informed the committee that he will attend the evening in a private capacity.

### 4.3 AGM

Whilst the next AGM is a long way off, JR requested committee members to consider their positions in time for replacements to be secured if necessary.

## 5 CLOSE OF MEETING

This meeting closed at	8.25 pm
Next meeting	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> Sept
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.*