

MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

PO Box 17 Minto, NSW 2566

MINUTES

of

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGOnline conference meeting
Tuesday 6th September 2022 at 7.00 pm**1 OPENING OF MEETING****1.1 OPENING REMARKS**

The Zoom meeting opened at 7.08 pm with John Rombi (JR) (Chair); Andy Milton (AM); Greg Bradford (GB); Phil Kidd (PK); Roger Powell (RP).

1.2 APOLOGIES

Noel Sharpe (NS)

2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**2.1 ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Motion: That the Minutes dated 8th August 2022 be accepted. Moved RP, Seconded PK, 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.

August 2022	Incoming	Outgoing	Balance 31st August 2022
Term deposit	Interest: \$2.68	~	\$21,144.95
Main cheque account	\$30 x 3 Wooglemai deposits.	G. Bradford \$627.86 shelving and Stargard expenses.	\$14,780.98
PayPal account	Tomra \$20.40; Candice Collaco membership \$43.00	Zoom \$23.09; R. Powell web site expenses \$172.70	\$222.72
Travel account	~	~	\$3.64
Total	~	~	\$36,152.29

NS (or deputy) to communicate Wooglemai attendees to AM to check that attendees have each paid.

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

3.2 MEMBERSHIP

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

Paul Sillato	2022-08-09	Confirmed after delayed receipt of signature
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Dave Manning reported that membership is now 164, including honorary and associate memberships.

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

3.3 MERCHANDISE

MAS merchandise activity remains suspended.

Astronomy 2023 and planispheres: refer to items 3.20 and 4.1

3.4 CORRESPONDENCE

No formal correspondence received. John has received some e-mails enquiring when we will recommence public outreach. See item 3.14.

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	Prof Joss Bland-Hawthorn (Sydney Uni): <i>Giant waves across the Milky Way</i> Postponed from 15 th August due to speaker's illness. Subsequently held on 29 th August.
This month	Dr Luke Barnes (WSU): <i>Aristotle, Newton, Einstein</i>
October	Dr Emil Lenc (ATNF)
November	Malcolm Ellis (MAS)
December	Prof. Geraint Lewis (Sydney Uni)

JR is working on the speaker list for 2023.

3.5.2 Future Forums

No change. Covid daily case numbers are declining but there seems little prospect of us returning to face to face Forums before next year.

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 MEMBERS FIELD NIGHTS

Most recent successful event:	21 st Aug
Recent cancelled event:	27 th Aug;
Next scheduled events:	17 th Sept; 24 th Sept

Seven members attended on Sunday 21st August.

Following the Pony Club request to prevent vehicles from driving diagonally onto and off the field from Gate 3, GB purchased witch hats to channel incoming vehicles close to the hedge before turning at right angles into the central setup location.

The new entry method worked well but members should park in two outward facing rows and leave in a forward direction past the other cars so they don't reverse over people and equipment.

3.8 STARGARD: BEGINNERS WORKSHOPS

A further workshop will be held on 1st October. Currently 9 bookings have been made.

Mentors: JR, PK, GB, NS.

3.9 STARGARD: ANY OTHER ISSUES.

No new issues were raised but we all need to take care if the ground is potentially damp.

3.10 WOOGLEMAI: APPRAISAL

Appraisal of Wooglemai Environmental Education Centre was held on 27th August. NS circulated this report:

“ Last night Barry, Mark and I attended Wooglemai, Barry and I stayed overnight and I'm now reasonably familiar with the various procedures, opening and closing the site, where things are etc.

I wish to thank Barry for all his hard work in giving us this opportunity as an addition to our Stargard observing schedule.

Yes, it rained, was very cloudy however Mark and I had about 30 mins of amazing viewing, black velvet skies and millions of stars, Mark sourced a great location for set up, the Milky way extended nearly all the way across the sky. Barry went out in the small hours and grabbed some views as well, I had an amazing view of the entire sky around 4am, Mars was spectacular, visually stuck between the Pleiades and Hyades

The 3 of us believe that this is an excellent site, many of us have visited before, whilst not quite the darkness of the Forest it's significantly darker than Stargard. The accommodation and all the amenities are excellent and far more extensive than the forest.

Now is the time to take advantage of this opportunity as bookings are filling quickly, from what I see there are 3 opportunities this year to go but thinking we should book out the next year new moon dates.

Cost is \$30 per member, cost to MAS is \$300.00 per outing, yes more than the forest, but that is for our own exclusive use so even just 5 regular attendees would bounce that cost down, we can cancel without penalty up to late Saturday morning, arrival and leave times are generous. I have more info but that's about it for now, feel free to reply with any questions.

Happy to run this by the membership at Monday's meeting, see how it sits and take to committee for an outcome.”

NS was unable to attend tonight due to a family emergency. His report was noted and it was agreed that Wooglemai be adopted as our prime new moon dark sky site, using the Saturday closest to the full moon, where available. Stargard may be run concurrently with Wooglemai.

3.11 WOOGLEMAI DATES

New Moon Saturdays for the remainder of 2022 are as follows:

24th September	22nd October	26th November	tbc December
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Bookings to be made. Some unresolved uncertainty whether November 19th may be preferred to 26th.

3.12 WOOGLEMAI: ANY OTHER ISSUES

No security risk, obstructions or hazards have been identified.

3.13 MENTORING

A telescope display at Broughton College is scheduled for a school event on 8th November. Ongoing.

3.14 PUBLIC OUTREACH EVENTS

Public outreach remains on hold for the foreseeable future but JR noted that he has been asked about scheduling public nights. If the current decline in covid infections continues, it may be possible to organise an event, although the late sunsets will not be conducive for family events during summer.

Decision deferred. It is not yet possible to predict when it might be safe to hold a public night and any such event would be dependent on getting enough members who would be prepared to face the public at such an event.

3.15 WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK

Some members WWCC clearances need renewal.

3.16 RETURN & EARN

PK reported that an error occurred when he recycled bottles, the credit did not go to MAS.

3.17 LOAN TELESCOPES

GB advised no change. The two Dobsonians and a Newtonian telescope remain loaned to members. The hybrid 'goto' is not currently loaned out.

3.18 ASSETS & STORAGE

The roll-up advertising stands are with Richard Curley.

Additional shelving has been installed in the storage unit.

Traffic cones, locking chains and padlock have been purchased for Stargard by GB.

Retrieval of MAS assets from the Forest. International House continues to deny MAS the right to access the cabin to retrieve our filing cabinet and other property which was stored at the Forest cabin prior to IH terminating our rental arrangement over two years ago. JR will continue to press IH.

3.19 DIGITAL MATTERS

RP reported: The website issue of poor web page response times, reported at the last committee meeting, was resolved on 9th August.

The new website domain macastro.au has been registered for two years and will ultimately succeed the current domain www.macastro.org.au. No time frame has been set. The existing domain has been renewed for two years.

The Annual Planner for 2023 is on the website under the "What's On" menu. Comments appreciated.

3.20 ASTRONOMY 2023

JR reported that the annual publication will be available early to mid October. Recommended retail price is \$32.95 plus shipping if applicable but astronomical societies are offered a bulk discount.

Orders for a quantity of 20-49 are costed at \$22.80 per book by Quasar Publishing, plus shipping. For 50-99 copies we would be charged \$21.70 each plus shipping.

MAS currently has an order list of 30 copies and this is expected to increase.

It was proposed that, in a year when MAS membership fees were waived, we would not subsidise the cost to members. The price which MAS will sell individual books to members will be determined after considering the final number of copies to be ordered, estimated Quasar bulk shipping cost and our own projected distribution costs.

4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 PLANISPHERES

Quasar Publishing are also offering star wheels.

The 22 cm wheel price for a quantity 5 or more is \$26.95. For 10 or more the price is \$23.95. The number of firm sales to be looked at before price to members is determined.

4.2 BANKING

JR held talks with the Commonwealth Bank to seek a way for two bank signatories to be able to verify a payment from their own devices, rather than having to meet and collaborate from a single device. The bank suggested we approach CommBiz to arrange it. JR will explore this.

5 CLOSE OF MEETING

This meeting closed at	8.14 pm
Next meeting	Monday 3 rd October
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.