

MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

PO Box 17 Minto, NSW 2566

MINUTES

of

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGOnline conference meeting
Tuesday 4th October 2022 at 7.00 pm**1 OPENING OF MEETING**

The Zoom meeting opened at 7.04 pm with John Rombi (JR) (Chair); Noel Sharpe (NS); Andy Milton (AM); Greg Bradford (GB); Roger Powell (RP). Apologies: Phil Kidd (PK)

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

Motion: That the Minutes dated 6th September 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.

August 2022	Incoming	Outgoing	Balance 31 st Sept 2022
Term deposit	Interest earned \$2.69		\$21,147.64
Cheque account	16 th Sep. Wooglemai usage fees: 3 x \$30 = \$90.00. 18 th Sep. Wooglemai fees: N. Sharpe & T. Law \$30.00 ea	Wooglemai deposit fee: \$300.00	\$14,450.98
PayPal account	G. Bradford: Wooglemai usage net of fees \$28.92 Hammond membership net of fees \$37.69 Tomra receipts \$9.50 Difference not identified \$0.60	Zoom fee: \$23.09	\$276.34
Travel account	~	~	\$3.64
Total	~	~	\$35,878.60

AM plans to investigate an improved interest rate for the term deposit. Currently 0.15%.

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

3.2 MEMBERSHIP

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

Mike Hammond	2022-09-12
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Dave Manning reported that membership is now 165, including honorary and associate memberships.

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

3.3 MERCHANDISE

MAS merchandise activity remains suspended.

3.4 CORRESPONDENCE

3.4.1 Letter from Narellan Self Storage

NS circulated a letter received from Narellan Self Storage, dated 29th September. The cost of storage will be raised from \$135 per month to \$150 per month – or \$1,800 pa -about \$15 per member per year.

3.4.2 E-mail from Department of Fair Trading

RP circulated correspondence from DOFT, dated 19th September, advising changes to the model constitution (which does not apply to MAS) and certain items which must be included in any alternative constitution (which does apply to MAS).

The requirements which must be included in an alternative constitution include: limitation of liability of members, the maximum no of terms in office for committee members, custody of records and possibly other matters. A sub-committee needs to be formed to address the issues raised by DOFT and at the same time other potential changes may also be addressed.

Motion: That a constitution sub-committee be formed to review the constitution and that the sub-committee members be GB and RP. Agreed.

3.4.3 E-mail from National Parks and Wildlife Service

RP advised he has received correspondence from NPWS dated 14th September, advising a Plan of Management for Dharawal National Park. This was in response to the MAS proposal, a decade ago, to build an observatory at the North Cliff Mine inside the Park. As our proposal has since been permanently dropped, the new management plan is of no consequence to us. Astronomy did not appear in the list of approved activities for the Park.

3.4.4 Bank statement

3.5 MACARTHUR ASTRONOMY FORUM

3.5.1 Speakers

JR reported the guest speaker list for the rest of the year:

Last month	Dr Luke Barnes (WSU): <i>Aristotle, Newton, Einstein</i>
This month	Dr Emil Lenc (ATNF): <i>SKA</i>
November	Malcolm Ellis (MAS)
December	Prof. Geraint Lewis (Sydney Uni)

3.5.2 Future Forums

No change. Covid daily case numbers have declined but there seems no prospect of face to face Forums this year.

3.6 COVID COMPLIANCE

Outdoor events policy reaffirmed: *“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:	17 th Sept; 24 th Sept
Next scheduled events:	22 nd Oct; 29 th Oct

Keys to witches hats are allocated to gate key-holders.

3.8 STARGARD: BEGINNERS WORKSHOPS

Eleven bookings were made for a workshop scheduled for 1st October. The event was postponed due to weather until next day but then cancelled. New date set for 3rd December, First Quarter Moon.

3.9 WOOGLEMAI MEMBERS FIELD NIGHTS

Most recent successful event:	17 th Sept
Recent cancelled event:	~
Next scheduled events:	19 th Nov; 17 th Dec

Three members attended on 17th Sept GB, NS & T.Law.

NS reported: there are some hazards we will have to mark out with red lighting, mainly the entry exit points to the viewing oval. He will try out some cheap red marker lights.

AM asked who is liable in event of accidental injury. NS responded that all parties are responsible but we need to be sure that members are aware the facility is totally dark and recommended only for intermediate and advanced astronomers. It is not recommended for beginners or sight-seers.

3.10 MENTORING

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

3.11 PUBLIC OUTREACH EVENTS

Public outreach remains on hold but we might start holding some events as conditions improve, if we can muster enough members willing to attend.

An event will be held at Camden Airport with the Air League group on Friday 4th November. JR and GB will attend.

JR will organise a visit next month to provide assistance to Robert Waterhouse with his observatory, located at Alpine, north of Mittagong.

3.12 RETURN & EARN

Ongoing.

3.13 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.

3.14 ASSETS & STORAGE

Refer to correspondence, item 3.4.1

NS will instigate insurance aspect of storage at Narellan.

3.15 DIGITAL MATTERS

RP reported: Wooglemai has recently been added to the list of observing sites on the meteogram section of Cloud Free Night website.

3.16 ASTRONOMY 2023

Recommended retail price is \$32.95 plus shipping if applicable but astronomical societies are offered a bulk discount. We have received 49 orders from members and JR placed an order with Quasar for 52 books for a unit cost to MAS of \$21.70. Quasar freight cost plus MAS postage cost to be factored into price to members.

3.17 PLANISPHERES

JR reported that we have received 17 orders from members and he has placed an order with Quasar for 22 star-wheels for a unit cost to MAS of \$23.95 each plus shipping. Quasar will advise freight cost next week and MAS postage cost also to be factored in.

3.18 BANKING

JR is exploring CommBiz, to seek a way for two bank signatories to verify a payment from their own devices, rather than having to meet and collaborate from a single device. This may result in additional fees and may not be worth pursuing.

4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 BUDGET APPRAISAL

RP proposed a review of our financial budget. This year we have foregone \$5,000 membership income and added an estimated recurring annual expenditure of \$3,600, which consists of Narellan Storage (\$1,800 pa) and the Wooglemai event subsidy (an estimated \$1,500 to \$1,800 pa). These two items equate to \$25 per member each year, based on 150 members. The options are to raise the income or cut the expenditure.

The meeting noted this and a decision was made to consider the options during the next month and review again at the November meeting. Some suggestions were:

- Spend our capital.
- Hold more fund-raising events (but are there enough active members?).
- Wait until next year and review it then.
- Investigate storing our equipment at Dudley Chesham Sports Ground.
- Seek more attendees at Wooglemai.
- Schedule Wooglemai every second month.

- Increase membership by up to \$25.00
- Increase membership fees in two annual stages.

It was noted that a decision on membership fees for 2023-24 will need to be made at either the November or December committee meeting. The last membership fee increase was in 2018, with no increase for five consecutive financial years.

5 CLOSE OF MEETING

This meeting closed at	8.40 pm
Next meeting	Monday 7 th November
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.