



1 OPENING OF MEETING

The Zoom meeting opened at 7.05 pm with John Rombi (JR) (Chair); Noel Sharpe (NS); Greg Bradford (GB); Phil Kidd (PK); and Roger Powell (RP).

A written apology was received from Andy Milton (AM), which also requested that his support for a membership fee increase (item 3.18) and the proposed changes to the constitution (item 3.19) be recorded.

2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1 ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion: That the Minutes dated 4th October 2022 be accepted. Moved RP, Seconded JR. Motion carried.

2.2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

No business arising.

3 REGULAR BUSINESS

3.1 TREASURER'S REPORT

AM apologised by e-mail for the lack of a financial report due to illness and will deal with this for both October and November in the next week or two.

JR reported that the following bills were paid recently: Wooglemai fee; second Quasar order for star-wheels and Astronomy 2023; and postage reimbursement to JR.

3.2 MEMBERSHIP

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

Nicholas Wall	2022-10-09
Anthony Muscio	2022-10-10
Tony Nguyen	2022-10-28
Ces Cuadro	2022-11-06

It was noted that the name on the form is Ces Cuadro, not Ces Blanco as listed in membership list.

Membership is now 169, including honorary and associate memberships.

3.3 MERCHANDISE

MAS general merchandise activity remains suspended.

3.4 CORRESPONDENCE

None

3.5 MACARTHUR ASTRONOMY FORUM

Last month:	Dr Emil Lenc (ATNF): <i>SKA update</i>
This month:	Malcolm Ellis (MAS): <i>Neutrinos</i>
Next month:	Prof. Geraint Lewis (Sydney Uni) <i>Most of Our Universe is Missing!</i>
January 2023:	Dr Brad Tucker (ANU)

JR reported that other universities, including Sydney Uni, have returned to face-to-face teaching but that WSU has not. NS suggested Oran Park Library or Campbelltown Arts Centre and JR suggested Mary Immaculate school hall might be options if WSU does not open up to us next 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:	20 th Nov (6 attendees)
Recent postponed event:	26 th Nov
Next scheduled events:	17 th Dec; 14 th Jan; 21 st Jan

3.8 STARGARD: BEGINNERS WORKSHOPS

To be held on 3rd December, a First Quarter Moon. So far nine members have registered for attendance. JR, GB, Tony Law and possibly NS will lead the workshop.

3.9 WOOGLEMAI MEMBERS FIELD NIGHTS

Most recent successful event:	26 th Nov (3 attendees)
Recent cancelled event:	~
Next scheduled 2022 events:	~
Next scheduled 2023 events:	25 th March, 22 nd April

The 19th November event was postponed to 26th November to align with a Guntawang working bee. A clear night. Three members attended out of the seven who expressed an interest.

MAS/Guntawang Agreement Status:

Offer	Status	Guntawang fee to MAS	MAS attendee fee
Offer #1	On hold, not signed	\$300 per night	\$30
Offer #2*	Activated verbally, not signed	\$30 per attendee	\$30

* Offer #2 events are held in conjunction with a Guntawang working bee.

3.10 MENTORING

A daytime telescope display for a school event at Broughton College on 8th November was attended by JR, PK and Tony Law. Two scopes were taken to look at and two more to look through.

PK is hoping to initiate some low key mentoring activities in 2023, probably with Broughton College, depending on how many mentors are available.

3.11 PUBLIC OUTREACH EVENTS

An evening event was held for the Camden Squadron Air League group at Camden Airport on Friday 4th November. JR and Tony Law attended. A success despite the clouds.

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

NS is in communication with Richard Curley regarding return of the roll up banners.

3.15 DIGITAL MATTERS

RP apologised for issuing an e-mail cancelling Stargard to approximately half the membership without using the BCC facility.

3.16 ASTRONOMY 2023

JR ordered 57 books from Quasar. One remains unsold.

3.17 PLANISPHERES

JR ordered 27 star-wheels from Quasar. Three remain unsold.

3.18 MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2023-24

With the need to cover increased outlays it was agreed that a fee rise was both inevitable and responsible. Whilst no-one wanted to raise membership fees, it was noted that the last increase was in 2018 and fees have remained static for five consecutive financial years. It was also noted that the current year's fees for existing members were waived.

At the 4th October committee meeting, RP pointed out that a fee increase of \$25.00 would be required to cover the cost of subsidising Wooglemai and also the annual fee for the Narellan Storage facility. Fortunately the new deal with Guntawang (3.9) avoids subsidising Wooglemai for the foreseeable future. Based on the current individual membership fee of \$48.00, increases ranging between \$8.00 and \$15.00 pa were considered and the committee formed a consensus to limit the rise to \$10.00 for 2023-24, on the basis that a further review would be conducted in twelve months time.

Motion: That for 2023-24 (i) the individual membership fee be increased to \$58.00; (ii) the other memberships be increased pro-rata; and (iii) the joining fee be raised to \$17.00: Moved RP, seconded JR. Motion carried unanimously.

Membership	Current Fee	New Fee
Individual:	\$48.00	\$58.00
Full Family:	\$72.00	\$87.00
Limited Family:	\$36.00	\$43.50
Student 18+ :	\$36.00	\$43.50
Pensioner:	\$36.00	\$43.50
Joining Fee:	\$15.00	\$17.00

See Appendix 1 for the full monthly table, which will be posted on the website in January.

3.19 CONSTITUTION SUB-COMMITTEE

The sub-committee formed in September submitted a report which recommended a number of changes to the constitution, along with a timeline for seeking membership comments and presenting a motion for members approval at the next AGM. The Report was circulated prior to the meeting and is appended to these minutes.

RP outlined the reasoning for the proposed changes and explained the proposed timeline, which leads to a vote by members attending the next AGM.

PK commented that in clause 4.1 we should clarify that associate members do not have voting rights. The committee agreed with this proposal, subject to actual wording to be drafted by the sub-committee.

(Note: this suggestion was endorsed on 30th November and a revised **final committee approved draft constitution V291122-1** was circulated to committee members).

Motion: that the Management Committee accepts the report and approves the proposed amendments to the constitution. Moved: RP, Seconded: GB. Motion carried unanimously.

4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MAS has been advised by Dr Rahmi Jackson (Broughton College) of a NSW government proposal to eliminate astronomy in school curricula.

5 CLOSE OF MEETING

This meeting closed at:	8.34 pm
Next meeting:	Monday 9th January, 2023
These minutes by:	Roger Powell, Secretary

Note: The committee is in regular 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.

APPENDIX 1 : MEMBERSHIP FEES

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP FEE TABLE FOR 2018-19 TO 2022-23								
	Months to Pay For	Individual	Full Family	Limited Family	Student 18+	Pensioner	Joining Fee	
Jan	2	\$8.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$15.00	
Feb	1	\$4.00	\$6.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$15.00	<< monthly
Mar	12	\$48.00	\$72.00	\$36.00	\$36.00	\$36.00	\$15.00	<< annual
Apr	11	\$44.00	\$66.00	\$33.00	\$33.00	\$33.00	\$15.00	
May	10	\$40.00	\$60.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$15.00	
Jun	9	\$36.00	\$54.00	\$27.00	\$27.00	\$27.00	\$15.00	
Jul	8	\$32.00	\$48.00	\$24.00	\$24.00	\$24.00	\$15.00	
Aug	7	\$28.00	\$42.00	\$21.00	\$21.00	\$21.00	\$15.00	
Sep	6	\$24.00	\$36.00	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$15.00	
Oct	5	\$20.00	\$30.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	
Nov	4	\$16.00	\$24.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$15.00	
Dec	3	\$12.00	\$18.00	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$15.00	
Ratio		1.000	1.500	0.750	0.750	0.750	0.313	
AGREED NEW MEMBERSHIP TABLE FOR 2023-24								
	Months to Pay For	Individual	Full Family	Limited Family	Student 18+	Pensioner	Joining Fee	
Jan	2	\$9.67	\$14.50	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$17.00	
Feb	1	\$4.83	\$7.25	\$3.63	\$3.63	\$3.63	\$17.00	<< monthly
Mar	12	\$58.00	\$87.00	\$43.50	\$43.50	\$43.50	\$17.00	<< annual
Apr	11	\$53.17	\$79.75	\$39.88	\$39.88	\$39.88	\$17.00	
May	10	\$48.33	\$72.50	\$36.25	\$36.25	\$36.25	\$17.00	
Jun	9	\$43.50	\$65.25	\$32.63	\$32.63	\$32.63	\$17.00	
Jul	8	\$38.67	\$58.00	\$29.00	\$29.00	\$29.00	\$17.00	
Aug	7	\$33.83	\$50.75	\$25.38	\$25.38	\$25.38	\$17.00	
Sep	6	\$29.00	\$43.50	\$21.75	\$21.75	\$21.75	\$17.00	
Oct	5	\$24.17	\$36.25	\$18.13	\$18.13	\$18.13	\$17.00	
Nov	4	\$19.33	\$29.00	\$14.50	\$14.50	\$14.50	\$17.00	
Dec	3	\$14.50	\$21.75	\$10.88	\$10.88	\$10.88	\$17.00	
Ratio		1.000	1.500	0.750	0.750	0.750	0.293	

APPENDIX 2 : CONSTITUTION REVIEW

MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Review of Constitution November 2022: Report

Following receipt of a letter from Department of Fair Trading in September, the committee formed a sub-committee of Greg Bradford and Roger Powell to review the constitution and recommend proposed amendments.

We are now recommending a number of alterations be made, in part because of the DOFT requirement to include certain items but also because further improvements are required to bring the Constitution in line with current practice and methods within the Society.

The **Current Constitution** is available on the website [> HERE <](#)

The **Proposed New Constitution**, with proposed amendments marked in red, accompanies this message to Management Committee Members.

The following **Time-line** is proposed, based on the committee proposing a motion at the next AGM to approve the final proposal.

22 nd November 2022	Proposal circulated to Management Committee Members for review, with request for questions and comments prior to meeting.
29 th November 2022	Proposal amended/agreed at Management Committee.
29 th December 2022	Deadline for any minor changes from Management Committee.
1 st January 2023	Committee approved proposal to be posted on website with reasons for amendments.
1 st January 2023	Secretary e-mails members, opening date for members comments.
28 th February 2023	Closing date for members comments.
1 st March - 5 th March 2023	Sub-Committee: final review of members comments.
6 th /7 th March 2023	Members comments final review. Proposal to be amended if deemed appropriate. Final motion to Management Committee.
16 th March 2023	Deadline for final proposal to be posted on website and members e-mailed.
17th April 2023	Yes/No Motion to accept Proposed Amended Constitution at AGM. (75% Yes vote required).
15 th May 2023	28 day deadline for submission of new Constitution to DOFT.
Receipt of DOFT approval	New Constitution comes into force.

It is hoped that the committee will formally agree to the proposal at the next meeting on 29th November. Any suggestions, comments or questions may be directed to Roger & Greg before the meeting.

Detailed comments on proposals

Reasons: DOFT = NSW Department of Fair Trading. CP = Bring in line with Current Practice
GI = General Improvement

CLAUSE	DESCRIPTION	Reason
1.2 Definitions	Modified the definitions of Management Committee, Office Bearers & Committee Members. Added definition for Returning Officer.	CP
3.1 Powers	Added "Society"	GI
4.1 Membership	Redefined the meaning of "Full Member" to include Family, Student, Pensioner and Honorary memberships (but not Associate Membership)	GI
4.6 Membership Register	Limitations on the availability of members private information	DOFT & GI
4.8	Limitations on membership liabilities.	DOFT
5.1	Added role of Returning Officer at AGM ballot. Placed no limit of consecutive terms served by an office bearer or committee member. Added a specific time for nominations for election to be lodged. Added required action by committee in event of no candidacy for a position. Relaxed the strict requirement to terminate a committee member who does not attend committee meetings.	DOFT, CP & GI
5.5	Clarified procedure for committee minutes approval.	CP
5.7	New clause to confirm power of committee to determine the use of electronic methods where deemed appropriate.	GI
6.1 to 6.4	General revision to formalise the current practice that Ordinary General Meetings (i.e. Macarthur Astronomy Forum) are informal meetings where formal business is not conducted and which are exempt from the strict formal procedures required for Annual General Meetings and Special General Meetings	DOFT & CP
6.4 (v)	Permits the chairperson to over-rule a request for a formal ballot when such a ballot would be impracticable.	DOFT & GI
7	Added clause describing income sources.	DOFT

Proposed amendments and this report jointly prepared by:

Roger Powell (*Sub-committee Member and Secretary*)

and

Greg Bradford (*Sub-committee Member and Management Committee Member*)

Dated: 21st November 2022