

MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

PO Box 17 Minto, NSW 2566

MINUTES

of

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGOnline conference meeting
Monday 9th January 2023 at 7.00 pm**1 OPENING OF MEETING**

The Zoom meeting opened at 7.00 pm with John Rombi (JR) (Chair); Noel Sharpe (NS); Greg Bradford (GB); Phil Kidd (PK, from 7.50); and Roger Powell (RP).

Apology: Andy Milton (AM)

JR spoke about the tragic death of Dr Ragbir Bhathal (WSU) on 30th November and the outstanding work that Ragbir had done on behalf of the Society. As to the future, JR is in contact with Miroslav Filipovic, Head of Astronomy at WSU and will follow up with him in regard to public nights, use of the observatory and booking a lecture theatre for meetings.

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

Motion: That the Minutes dated 29th November 2022, as circulated, be accepted.
Moved RP, Seconded G.B. Motion carried.

2.2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

No business arising.

3 REGULAR BUSINESS**3.1 TREASURER'S REPORT**

AM was absent for health reasons and there was no Treasurer's report for the meeting. However, next day (10th Jan) AM submitted the following report for the month of December:

December 2022	Incoming	Outgoing	Balance 31st Dec 2022
Term deposit	\$20.88 Interest.	~	\$21,193.41
Cheque account	\$7.00 Ric Forster (postage). \$60.00 J. Carpenter (merchandise). \$60.00 JL Harding (merchandise).	~	\$12,522.79
PayPal account	\$15.10 Tomra \$58.00 Regan Campbell	\$18.45 JR expenses \$23.09 Zoom	\$410.57
Travel account	~	~	\$3.64
Total	~	~	\$34,130.41

JR advised that he had recently withdrawn \$6.40 (postage costs) from the PayPal account.

3.2 MEMBERSHIP

Membership applications received and approved via e-mail since the last meeting were:

Regan Campbell	2023-01-02
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Membership is now 169, including honorary/associate memberships adjusted for death of Dr. Bhathal.

3.3 MERCHANDISE

58 Astronomy 2023 books were ordered from Quasar Publishing and are now all sold. 27 star-wheels were also ordered from Quasar and three remain on sale.

Boris Muratovic has volunteered to be Merchandise Officer. The committee endorsed this appointment.

3.4 CORRESPONDENCE

Insurance annual premium renewal invoice for \$748.38 has been received by NS and is due 5th March.

3.5 MACARTHUR ASTRONOMY FORUM

Last month's talk by our Patron, Prof. Geraint Lewis was titled: "*Most of Our Universe is Missing!*"

This month:	David Nelson (MAS) <i>meteorites</i>
February	Dr Jonty Marshall (Academia Sinica)
March	Sarah Caddy (Mac Uni)
April	AGM (to begin early)
May	Prof Jonti Horner (USQ)
August	Prof Joss Bland-Hawthorn (USYD)

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.*"

Compliance for future public nights and potential return to Western Sydney University was discussed but decision deferred on compliance, masks, ticketing or security etc. for indoor events.

3.7 STARGARD

Most recent successful event:	20 th Nov (6 attendees)
Recent postponed event:	26 th Nov; 17 th Dec
Next scheduled events:	14 th Jan; 21 st Jan

NS advised that the ground is now dry and hard.

NS said that the redevelopment plans now include a new option which removes the MAS storage cupboard. He will attend a meeting on site, scheduled for 19th January and will raise this as an issue.

3.8 STARGARD: BEGINNERS WORKSHOPS

Held on 3rd December. JR, GB, and Tony Law mentored the workshop. Four members attended out of nine members who registered for attendance. Four members apologised for health reasons.

Next Workshop will be held on 11th March from 6.00 pm.

3.9 WOOGLEMAI

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

MAS/Guntawang Agreement Status (Amended):

Offer	Status	Guntawang fee to MAS	Individual fee
Offer #1	On hold, not signed	\$300 per night	\$30 per person
Offer #2*	Formalised by e-mail	\$30 per attendee	\$30 per person

3.10 MENTORING

PK has received a request from Cobbity Public School and will suggest an afternoon presentation with a couple of telescopes on display. Date to be arranged.

3.11 PUBLIC OUTREACH EVENTS

No events planned so far for 2023.

3.12 RETURN & EARN

Ongoing.

3.13 LOAN TELESCOPES

GB advised no change. Three telescopes on loan to members. The hybrid 'goto' is not currently loaned.

3.14 ASSETS & STORAGE

NS will contact Richard Curley to retrieve the roll up banners.

3.15 DIGITAL MATTERS

Nothing to report.

3.16 CONSTITUTION SUB-COMMITTEE

The committee approved draft constitution V291122-1 was posted on the website 1st January with a request for members comments before 28th February.

Four comments have been received from members. Two members indicated support for the proposal. Two members submitted constructive comments. The Constitution Sub-committee circulated a report for the Committee to consider (see Appendix 1). The report recommendations were adopted.

4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 AGM

JR asked all committee members to advise their position with regard to standing for re-election in April.

4.2 Mailouts

RP said that every mass e-mail he has sent to members has resulted in rejection of messages sent to Lou Timpano. A follow up SMS message received no response. NS volunteered to contact Lou direct.

5 CLOSE OF MEETING

This meeting closed at:	8.26 pm
Next meeting:	Tuesday 7th February, 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

RESPONSE TO MEMBERS COMMENTS ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

	SUMMARY OF COMMENT	RESPONSE
1. Ric Forster	Honorary members to be exempt from annual fees.	Agreed: <i>(current practice). Honorary members shall be exempted from paying annual membership fees. (either in 4.1 (vi) or in 4.2)</i> <i>Apply same too for associate members.</i>
	We should clarify the duration and or termination of honorary memberships.	Agreed: <i>Honorary memberships shall be for lifetime but may be revoked, (i) by resignation of the member; or (ii) by resolution of the Management Committee.</i> <i>Apply same too for associate members.</i>
	We should limit the number of honorary memberships conferred by the committee (to prevent a future committee from gathering support for contentious projects or other nefarious reasons).	Agreed: <i>The number of honorary members shall be limited to a maximum of <u>eight</u> and not more than <u>one</u> honorary membership shall be conferred in a single financial year.</i>
	We should limit the eligibility of honorary members to become office bearers and vice versa. (This would prevent a future committee from conferring free memberships on themselves).	Agreed: <i>Honorary members may not serve as an office bearer or committee member.</i>
2. Tony Law	4.1(vi) Associate memberships may only hold this type of membership by invitation of the Management Committee.	Agreed: <i>add the words "by invitation"</i>
	5.5 (a) last sentence not required as (b) begins with it.	Agreed

	6.4 (v) last sentence, I don't understand the chairperson potential veto, it's easy to set up a secret ballot in a ZOOM meeting (the returning officer only is given access to 'chat' and all members send their vote to that person).	<i>This may be true, depending on which software is utilised but we cannot foresee every situation, nor can we foresee whether the chairperson will understand the technology!</i> <i>So we propose to permit the chairperson an option to deny a request for a secret ballot if it seems impracticable at the time.</i>
3. Mike Nicholas	The changes being proposed are justified and acceptable.	Noted
4. Ellen Dwyer	Approve and agree all changes listed in the proposal.	Noted