

MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Incorporated



PO Box 17 Minto, NSW 2566

MINUTES

of

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Online conference
Monday 17th April 2023 at 6.30 pm

1. OPENING OF MINUTES, WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

President John Rombi opened the meeting at 6.40 pm. Thirty-one members were present:

Jenny Rombi	John Rombi	Noel Sharpe	Karyn Bradford	Greg Bradford
Jenny Kidd	Phillip Kidd	Joan Powell	Roger Powell	Andy Milton
Carol McVeigh	Tony Law	Suzanne Adijans	Masa Nagaya	Dick Everett
Ric Forster	Frank Alvaro	Bob Monckom	Allen Williams	Stephen Edwards
Robert McGoven	Mike Nicholas	Mark Fisher	Gusztav Belanszky	Colin Pettit
Neville Arnott	Ursula Bratz	Richard Curley	George Cruikshank	Anthony Muscio
Damien Case				

All attendees bar one had renewed for 2023-24. There was one apology, received from Dave Manning (Membership Officer). John Rombi thanked members for attending and proposed that Roger Powell be appointed to take the minutes. Accepted.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The minutes of the 2022 AGM were circulated to members prior to the meeting and were taken as read.

Motion: *That the minutes be accepted as a true record of the 2022 AGM*, moved by Roger Powell, seconded by Stephen Edwards. Motion carried unanimously. The President ordered that the minutes be filed in the Society's formal records.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

There was no business arising from the previous minutes

4. MOTION TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION

Motion: *"That the proposed amendments to the constitution as displayed on the website be adopted"*. Moved: Roger Powell, seconded: Greg Bradford.

John Rombi advised that members who have not renewed for 2023-24 may not vote and if they do, their votes will not be counted. The motion was carried unanimously by a show of hands.

5. PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2022-2023

The 2022-2023 Annual Report document was distributed to members prior to the meeting. It included reports from the President (John Rombi), Treasurer (Andy Milton), Auditor (Graeme Bellamy), Vice-president (Noel Sharpe), Secretary (Roger Powell) and Telescope Curator (Greg Bradford).

John Rombi read his President's Report and the remaining reports were taken as read. Noel Sharp commented on his Vice-president's Report.

The Treasurer's Financial Statement by Andy Milton indicated that total assets were \$41,136.14 compared to \$39,462.40 twelve months ago.

Graeme Bellamy's Auditor's report certified that the financial statements comply with all necessary Australian Accounting Standards and reflect a true and fair view of Macarthur Astronomical Society for the year.

Andy Milton said that it was much more difficult to prepare the financial statements this year, due to a catastrophic data loss. He will be proposing the purchase or rental of new accounting software. He also warned that it would be necessary to provide substantial funding beyond membership fees to match the expected expenditure.

The latest membership report from Dave Manning indicated that the current membership for 2023-24 is already 130. Three members have indicated they will not renew and 43 members have not yet renewed.

Motion: "That the Annual reports for 2022-2023 be accepted".

Moved by John Rombi seconded by Suzanne Adijans. Motion carried unanimously.

There was no business arising from the reports. The President ordered that the 2023 Annual Report be filed in the secretary's formal records.

6. PRESENTATION OF MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

John Rombi announced the following membership awards, which will be posted to the awardees or presented in person where possible:

Five year certificate:	Karyn Bradford, Greg Bradford, Jackie Carpenter, Craig Elson, Carole Ann Lane, Sam Mathanarajan, Nenad Arsovic, Paul Myhill, Debra Taylor, Dave Manning.
Ten Year badge and certificate:	Laura Bach, Richard Curley, Paul Auer, Mark Johnston.
Fifteen year certificate:	Jessie Clark, Michael Clark, Ray Armstrong.
Twenty-five year certificate:	Daniel Ross.

7. APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER:

John Rombi thanked all members for their support during the year and proposed Carol McVeigh as the Returning Officer. The proposal was endorsed by the meeting and John Rombi vacated the chair.

8. ELECTION OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR 2023-2024

Carol McVeigh took the chair and thanked John for his truly outstanding leadership of the Society. She declared all management committee positions for Macarthur Astronomical Society Inc. vacant and advised that six nominations had been received prior to the closing of nominations on 3rd April 2023.

POSITION	NOMINEE	NOMINATOR	SECONDER
President	John Rombi	Jennifer Rombi	Roger Powell
Vice-President	Noel Sharpe	John Rombi	Roger Powell
Treasurer	Andy Milton	Jennifer Rombi	John Rombi
Secretary	Roger Powell	Joan Powell	John Rombi
Committee Member	Greg Bradford	Karyn Bradford	John Rombi
Committee Member	Phillip Kidd	Jennie Kidd	Roger Powell

The validity of the six nominations were certified. There being no duplicate nominations, Carol McVeigh declared each of the six nominees duly elected to the Macarthur Astronomical Society Inc. Management Committee for 2023-24. The declarations were unanimously endorsed by the meeting.

On behalf of the membership, Carol McVeigh congratulated the new management committee and wished them well for the coming year. She then vacated the chair for the incoming President John Rombi.

9. OTHER BUSINESS DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO THE AGM.

There was no other business.

10. CLOSE OF MEETING

The President, John Rombi thanked the membership for their participation and support. The Annual General Meeting closed at 7.13 pm and continued as a Monthly General Meeting (Macarthur Astronomy Forum).

APPENDIX

Amendments to Constitution Roger Powell & Greg Bradford

The changes proposed are a mix of the requirement of DOFT to address certain matters and the committee's desire to improve the Society's practice.

Section	Proposed alteration
1	Improved definitions.
4.6	Redefined the meaning of "Full Member" to include Family, Student, Pensioner and Honorary memberships (but not Associate Membership).
4.8	New clause to tighten limitations on the availability of members private information.
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 three committee meetings.
5.7	Confirms the power of the committee to determine the use of electronic methods where deemed appropriate.
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. Permits the chairperson to overrule a request for a formal ballot when such a ballot would be impracticable.
7	Added a description of income sources.

Minutes:
Roger Powell,
Secretary
18th April 2023

Chair:
John Rombi
President
18th April 2023