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# Annual Reports

April 2023

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# 1. Notice

## 2023 Annual General Meeting

Notice is given that the Annual General Meeting of Macarthur Astronomical Society will be held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2023, commencing at **6.30 pm**.

The meeting will be held online and a link will be e-mailed to all members.

Please logon at the **early start time**, in order that we may get proceedings underway quickly and enable us to proceed in a timely fashion to our normal monthly Macarthur Astronomy Forum.

## Agenda

1. Opening of meeting, welcome and apologies.
2. Minutes of previous AGM, 18th April 2022\*\*
3. Business arising from the minutes.
4. Motion to amend the Constitution\*\*
5. Presentation of Annual Reports for 2022-2023.\*\*
6. Presentation of Membership Awards.
7. Appointment of Returning Officer.
8. Election of Management Committee for 2023-2024.
9. Other Business directly relevant to the AGM.
10. Close of Meeting.

\*\* Minutes, constitution proposal & annual reports documentation are compiled in this single document.

Nominations for election to the committee closed on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Six nominations were received for six positions.

To be eligible to vote at the AGM you must be a financial member for 2023-24 prior to the meeting.

Following the conclusion of the AGM, the meeting will continue as an Ordinary General Meeting (Macarthur Astronomy Forum).

**Roger Powell**  
Secretary

5th April 2023



## 2. President's Annual Report 2022-2023

John Rombi



Dear Members,

Well, it's AGM time again, and the beginning of a new year for The MAS.

At the close of nominations for Committee positions, Monday April 3rd, we had 6 nominations for the 6 positions available. So, for the 27th year in a row, we have avoided an election! I would like to thank, Noel Sharpe (VP) Roger Powell (Secretary) Andy Milton (Treasurer) Phil Kidd (CM, Outreach Officer) Greg Bradford (CM, Telescope Loan Wrangler) and Dave Manning (Membership Officer).

My sincere thank you goes to Roger Powell, our webmaster. Roger has kept our website up to date, and easy to use. Thank you must also go to our Auditor, Graeme Bellamy.

I value their friendship, humour and dedication to The MAS. Their hard work & service has kept The MAS, strong, relevant and financially secure.

Covid has released its grip on us, and with a large percentage of the population vaccinated, it has allowed us to carry out more of our activities.

### **Western Sydney University**

At the end of November 2022, I received the sad news that our former Patron and Director of The Campbelltown Rotary Observatory, Dr Ragbir Bhatl had passed away. Ragbir was a member of The MAS since its very early years, and helped us to acquire a room at WSU for our monthly Forums.

With Ragbir's assistance we held many nights of public outreach at The Domes. In our 20+ years of outreach, we have had many thousands of people, come face to face with our beautiful Universe.

The observatory will be re-opened in due course, as soon as a new Director can be appointed. A new Director will also be instrumental in The MAS being allocated a room at WSU for our Forums.

### **MAS Forum Speakers**

A big thank you to all our Professional Astronomers & Astrophysicists, from all disciplines of science. They have informed & educated us at our [Forums](#), as they took us on a trip through the Universe.

I would also like to acknowledge our Patron, Professor Geraint Lewis (USYD) for his continuing support of The MAS.

### **Public Outreach**

We took our first tentative steps in the latter half of 2022. We manned a display at the Broughton College Science Week on November 8th. A gaggle of scopes plus the passion & knowledge that Tony Law & Phil Kidd and I shared with the students.

On November 4th, Tony & I visited The Air League at Camden A/P with the intent to show them the night sky. Unfortunately the weather did not comply, but we showed them the different types of scope and were asked many questions. We actually ran over time, but we didn't mind.

Monday February 20th was a special occasion, we were asked by WSU to hold an observing night for a group of their language students from Japan. The sky was clear and we had 10 telescopes on the ground. The night was a resounding success, and I also had to time to speak with the head of committee of the neighbourhood surrounding the observatory. They were heavily involved with The MAS pre-covid and have missed our nights at the domes. They are looking forward to our return.

I would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to the members that made themselves available.

### **Financial Status**

Due to the "fee free" year, and the payment of insurance and our storage facility, The MAS will have had a loss this last financial year. This current financial year 2023-2024 will be better with the reinstatement of fees, and participating in fund raising like the Bunnings BBQ.

### **Storage Facility**

In November 2021 the committee decided to rent a storage facility to house all of The MAS's assets. Over the years the assets have been spread through different committee members houses. This made it almost impossible to keep track of each item.

We now have key holders for the unit, and most of our assets are stored there. We still have some housekeeping to bring everything together.

### **Return & Earn and Bunnings**

I would like to thank Greg Bradford for all his hard work, in putting together the R&E system & cards. Your recyclable glass, plastic bottles & cans will earn money for The MAS; all you have to do is take your bottles & cans to the nearest TOMRA recycling plant. You can use this service throughout NSW, and still collect monies for The MAS. Unfortunately, this service has not had the traffic that we had anticipated! So, please support YOUR CLUB!

After a hiatus of 3-4 years, I hope to be able to hold a Bunnings BBQ Fund Raiser, some time this year. As always we will need your help!

### **Our Observing nights**

These have continued over the last year, though I must say the weather has had a great impact on the cancellation of quite a few of our sessions. With a more stable weather pattern forecast for Autumn & Winter, hopefully the number of successful observing nights will increase.

### **Beginners Nights**

A BIG thank you goes to Greg Bradford for commencing this service for our members. We have had many successful nights of mentoring our new members and also some of our long-time members, that needed to remove the rust from their astro sessions.

## Wooglemai Education Centre

Had a rocky start last year, the initial agreement was going to place an un-needed financial burden on The MAS. With further discussions a simpler payment method was agreed to. If you would like to visit our new observing site, the cost is \$30 per member, whether you stay for the evening or the full night. There are sleeping quarters, kitchen and toilets/showers for your use. Please contact our VP, Noel Sharpe for further information.

## Social Media

The MAS is active in this area with a healthy Facebook presence as well as a profile on Twitter. Visit our website [www.macastro.org.au](http://www.macastro.org.au) with its clearer and added features.

Our Members Albums has made a return. There are two areas, one for dedicated high quality astro-images and another for general images of our scopes and most importantly, OUR Members!

## Membership

I would like to thank Dave Manning for managing our very important membership list. If you haven't [renewed](#), please contact Dave Manning on [membership@macastro.org.au](mailto:membership@macastro.org.au) and he will help you with this. You have until April 30th, otherwise a joining fee of \$17 will apply.

Dave, thank you for keeping our very important ledger up to date. The influx of new members has been surprising, considering the lack of public exposure for the society.

## Merchandise

We had a large intake of the yearly ephemeris, Astronomy 2023. At last count 60 copies were purchased, and 21 of the large planispheres.

## Loan Telescopes

You would love to buy a telescope, but don't know which one? The MAS has a large & diverse selection of telescopes for financial members to borrow. Contact Greg Bradford, our telescope wrangler on [macedob@macastro.org.au](mailto:macedob@macastro.org.au) to secure your scope. I would also like to thank Greg, for servicing & repairing our equipment.

## Big Thanks

Apart from the "Official people" in The MAS, I would like to thank others for their untiring dedication to our society. Without volunteers, The MAS would grind to a halt!

## MAS Awards

At this time of year we acknowledge the continuous support of our members. Congratulations to all the recipients. Your certificate/Badge will be sent to you, or you may collect it at the next observing night. Please let Dave know your preference. There are no contenders for the 20 year badge or 25 year Certificate.

5 Years Certificate: Karyn Bradford, Jackie Carpenter, Craig Elson, Carole Ann Lane, Sam Mathanarajan, Nenad Arsovic, Paul Myhill, Greg Bradford, Debra Taylor

10 Years Badge & Certificate: Laura Bach, Richard Curley, Paul Auer, Mark Johnston

15 Years Certificate: Jessie Clark, Michael Clark, Ray Armstrong

## John Rombi

### President

5<sup>th</sup> April 2023



### **3. Treasurer's Annual Report 2022-2023**

**Andy Milton**

Treasurer's Report for year to 28 February 2023

I am pleased to present the audited Financial Statements of Macarthur Astronomical Society (the Society) for the year ended 28 February 2022. These Financial Statements have been audited by Graeme Bellamy, our Honorary Auditor. I thank him for advice and assistance in the preparation of the financial statements.

The Society has made a loss on its activities of \$2706.20 (2022 surplus \$1414.54). As a result the Society's Net Members Equity is \$36373.20 The attached Balance Sheet and Statement of Financial Performance provide a breakdown of movement of balance sheet and income expense categories that make up and explain the decrease in Members Equity. The reason for this loss was a decision of the Committee to waive memberships fees for all persons who were financial members of MacArthur Astronomical Society as at 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021 for the 2022/23 financial year.

Statement of Financial Position as at 28 February 2023

As at 28 February 2023 the society has a cash balance of \$14661.05 (2022 \$15112.05) plus \$2176.61 (2022 \$ 2176.61) in a PayPal account. The Society continues to hold an ongoing deposit with the Commonwealth Bank of \$21236.63 as at 28 February 2022. Interest on the deposit is credited to the Society term deposit account on a regular basis. The Society recognises membership fees paid in advance. An amount of \$4762.94 (2022 \$383.00) has been recognised as a liability in the Balance Sheet.

The Society now has five telescopes and two sets of binoculars available to members to loan. Details of these items are included in Society's web site. This equipment is expended as acquired.

Statement of Financial Performance

As a result of Covid 19 the Society has continued to operate on a restricted basis during the year to 28 February 2023. The Society held no major events undertook no outreach, did no fundraising except as noted below and all Forums were held via Zoom, not face to face. With the exception of sales of Astronomy 2023 and planispheres there were no merchandise sales during the period.

The Society participates in a return and earn bottle bank initiative. All members have been issued with cards that credit 10 cents for any bottle bank deposit referencing the Society. The fund raising initiative, established by Greg Bradford, is ongoing and members are encouraged to participate.

Notwithstanding Covid 19, the continued operation of the Society during our financial year to February 2022 is a result of the Society Committee and many other member's time and effort to support all the Society activities. I congratulate you all on a positive outcome.

**Andy Milton**

**Honorary Treasurer**

**Macarthur Astronomical Society**

5th April 2023



## 4. Annual Financial Statements 2022-23

Andy Milton

### Macarthur Astronomical Society Statement of Financial Position Year ended 28 February 2023

	2023	2022	Movement
<b>Balance sheet</b>			
<b>Accumulated funds</b>			
Funds at beginning of year	\$39,079.40	\$37,664.86	\$1,414.54
Surplus (Deficit) for year	-\$2,706.20	\$1,414.54	-\$4,120.74
<b>Net members equity</b>	<u>\$36,373.20</u>	<u>\$39,079.40</u>	<u>-\$2,706.20</u>
<b>Represented by</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Merchandise stock	\$894.86	\$894.86	nil
Cash at bank and in hand	\$14,661.06	\$15,116.60	-\$455.54
Fixed term deposit	\$21,236.63	\$21,138.66	\$97.97
Paypal balance	\$2,126.61	\$351.90	\$1,774.71
Prepaid insurance	\$784.48	\$784.38	nil
Prepaid storage rental	\$1,282.50	\$1,026.00	\$256.50
Petty cash advances	\$150.00	\$150.00	nil
	<u>\$41,136.14</u>	<u>\$39,462.40</u>	<u>\$1,673.74</u>
<b>Non Current Assets</b>			
Plant and equipment	\$6,016.63	\$6,016.23	nil
\$ 41,136.14 Depreciation	\$6,016.63	-\$6,016.23	nil
\$ (4,762.94)			
\$ 36,373.20 Total Assets	<u>\$41,136.14</u>	<u>\$39,462.40</u>	<u>\$1,673.74</u>
<b>Less Current Liabilities</b>			
Membership fees in advance	-\$4,762.94	-\$383.00	-\$4,379.94
<b>Total Assets less Liabilities</b>	<u>\$36,373.20</u>	<u>\$39,079.40</u>	<u>-\$2,706.20</u>

### Bank Balances and Reconciliation as at 28 February 2023

	\$2,023.00	\$2,022.00
No 1 Society Cheque Account	\$14,657.41	\$15,112.95
No 2 Bank Account -	\$3.64	\$3.64
Outstanding Deposits	nil	nil
Outstanding Cheques to be presented	nil	nil
Society Interest Bearing Deposit	\$21,236.63	\$21,138.66
Paypal Account Balance	\$2,126.61	\$351.90

**Macarthur Astronomical Society**  
**Statement of Financial Performance**  
**Year Ended 28 February 2023**

	2023	2022	Movement
<b>Income</b>			
Membership fees	\$ 1,305.00	\$ 5,513.63	-\$ 4,481.73
Donations	\$ 40.00	\$ 181.10	-\$ 141.10
Interest	\$ 97.97	\$ 138.36	-\$ 40.39
Sales of merchandise	\$ 2,067.50	\$ 1,048.10	\$ 1,019.40
Ground Belango and Starguard	\$ 240.00		\$ 240.00
Bottle Return Income	\$ 146.90	\$ 125.40	\$ 21.50
Miscellaneous revenue			
	<u>\$ 3,897.37</u>	<u>\$ 7,006.59</u>	<u>-\$ 3,109.22</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Filing fees	\$ 48.21	\$ 100.23	\$ 52.02
insurance	\$ 784.38	\$ 784.38	nil
Miscellaneous expense		\$ 272.15	\$ 272.15
Postage printing and stationary	\$ 303.40	\$ 496.11	\$ 192.71
Po box rental	\$ 144.00	\$ 136.00	-\$ 8.00
Storage costs and fit out	\$ 2,081.36	\$ 795.30	-\$ 1,286.06
3897.37 Equipment repairs and service		\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00
-6603.57 Cost of goods sold	\$ 1,928.01	\$ 1,611.48	-\$ 316.53
Domain Registration/ Web	\$ 423.13	\$ 369.32	-\$ 53.81
Grounds	\$ 614.00		-\$ 614.00
Forum expenses diners and gifts	\$ 277.08	\$ 277.08	nil
	<u>\$ 6,603.57</u>	<u>\$ 5,592.05</u>	<u>-\$ 1,011.52</u>
<b>Operation Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<u>\$ (2,706.20)</u>	<u>\$ 1,414.54</u>	<u>-\$ 4,120.74</u>

**Andy Milton**  
**Treasurer**  
5th April 2023





## **5. Auditor's Statement 2022-23**

**Graeme Bellamy**

**Macarthur Astronomical Society  
Audit Report  
Year Ending 28th February 2023**

The Committee is responsible for compiling and supplying information supporting the financial statements.

I have reviewed and examined this data and in my opinion it complies with all necessary Australian Accounting Standards and reflects a true and fair view of Macarthur Astronomical Society for the year completed.

The enclosed accounts and supporting qualification statements by the Society Honorary Treasurer reflect the true movements of performance in income and expenditure and reconciled to balance sheet depicting members equity.

### **Governance**

It has been evident over the last few years that there has been marked changes in computer hardware operating systems and particularly software and privacy issues. The Management Committee has their own personal systems that they utilise at their own expense particularly operating system and security against "Hackers".

I have advised the Committee that they should now look to a proprietary small business integrated accounting system that meets Australian Accounting Standards and is easily understood by all. This is particularly beneficial when we have changes in our committee and it ensures smooth changeover and transition.

As we are in a strong and secure financial position I am sure that the members will see a marked acceleration in activities now that Covid 19 is off the map. I encourage you all to participate which will afford you all a vibrant and exciting society and further your friendships.

**Graeme Bellamy  
Hon. Auditor  
6 April 2023**



## **6. Committee Members Reports**

### **6.1 Vice President's Report 2022-23**

**Noel Sharpe**

**Vice President and Stargard Liaison Office**

Firstly I wish to thank our members and current committee for all their amazing help and assistance given to The MAS and in particular to myself over the last year. I am fortunate as well to have a long term and great working relationship with our President Mr John Rombi. My main responsibility to the MAS is to assist our President in all matters concerning the running of the society, and to act as President when the situation requires, chair meetings and act as a reference point to the team.

I am also the societies Stargard Liaison Office and lately have been organising our assessments of a new dark sky site with on field accommodation. This is the Wooglemai site, more on that later.

Also, I have been the society's contact to the Wollondilly Shire Council not only for organising Stargard but also for the redevelopment of the Sports Ground.

Our constitution details to my duties as Vice President and the by-laws details the role of the Stargard Liaison Officer.

#### **OBSERVATION FIELDS**

##### **A Brief Bit of History**

Our primary observing field is at the Dudley Chesham Sports Ground, The Oaks NSW, we named this field STARGARD, as homage to the early 19th Century astronomer Dr Carl Rumker. Rumker was one of the astronomers at the then Parramatta Observatory, in recognition for his body of work he was granted a large parcel of land at Picton by Governor Macquarie, he named this property Stargard after his birth place in Germany, It is believed he had a small observatory of sorts at the property, he was a very colourful character and a very gifted astronomer. There is also a housing estate in Picton called Stargard which also contributes to the story

Picton is in the Wollondilly council area as well as The Dudley Chesham oval, I have a good working relationship with council, hence Stargard fits well with the overall theme and has been in use by the MAS since 2006.

My responsibility is to liaise with council over the use of Stargard, book the dates by using an on line portal, contact various user groups, arrange payment of hire fees and provide a Certificate of our Public Liability Insurance.

I also work to provide to The MAS alternative areas when Stargard is impacted by soggy ground or is unavailable.

The extremely poor weather has meant only a handful successful of nights were held over the 12 month period. It was brought to my attention that we need to mitigate damage to the field by having a protocol to enter and leave the field when driving in and out, this must be strictly followed or we could lose permission to drive our cars into the field, details about the location of Stargard is on the website as well as protocols and planned observing dates.

#### **REDEVELOPEMENT OF THE DUDLEY CHESHAM OVAL**

There are big plans for the redevelopment of the oval, starting with a New Multi-Purpose Building, I am strongly advocating for access to this building by way of a storage room, I have advised council we would like access to toilets and the kitchen etc. in this new building. We also have a provision on the

plans for an observing pad at the southern end of the building, if our storage area is large enough and close to the pad then perhaps a large roll out Dobsonian telescope could be purchased for public outreach and for our own purposes. This is my personal vision, when the time is right it will be more formally discussed at the committee level, but I believe it never hurts to have a plan for the future, especially when opportunities arise.

Several building designs and plans have been drafted and funding has now been obtained by council, I have attended many meetings, I am very aware of things like the lighting from new car parks, position of the storage area and observing area etc. So we are hoping for a start this year or early next, however at this stage we need to work in with the wishes and requests from the large sporting bodies and other groups, Council has now closed off submissions and will proceed on their time frame. Exciting times ahead for our long-term future at the Oval.

### **NEW OBSERVING SITE WOOGLEMAI, OAKDALE NSW**

Last year we accepted an opportunity to see if we could add a new dark sky site to our schedule. The MAS was already familiar with Wooglemai precinct as we have held star nights with guest speakers there on a couple of occasions. The site has excellent on field accommodation, it has a tree lined observing field, is quite level and only a short walk to accommodation.

The site is owned by the Guntawang Catholic Youth Centres Incorporated, the area is officially referred to as Wooglemai.

They have hire arrangement in place for all interested groups, school camps, hikers, various community groups etc., the hire fee has been discounted for The MAS and stands at \$300 per booking.

MAS long term member and previous committee member Barry Moore has made the initial introductions and we thank him for his efforts in making Wooglemai available to us. Last year we held some trial nights and a couple of nights which were available to the wider membership, unfortunately the attendance was very low, perhaps too low to make the hire viable. We cannot discount the fact that this has been the worst year weather wise which would have impacted all our observing programmes.

So as a workaround we have, at time of writing, the dates 25/3 and 22/4 which will be open to all members, we will be joining the Wooglemai working bee group on these weekends. From last year's working bee there will be only a handful of Guntawang committee members attending, they have a keen interest in astronomy and enjoy looking through our telescopes. The hire fee will be waived on these occasions, however the arrangement is MAS attendees will need to pay \$30.00 for our attendance, this can be deposited to the MAS bank account or paid in cash to myself or another committee member on the night.

Please refer to our website for details concerning Wooglemai. We still need to see how this new site will work, having around say 10 regular users will give us the confidence to enter into a sole use hire agreement, we will see where we land after 22/4.

**Noel Sharpe**  
5th April 2023



## 6.2 Secretary/Webmaster Report 2022-23

### Roger Powell

Despite the ongoing covid-19 disrupting our activities, the last year has seen active work by the committee. John and the other committee members will detail all this in their individual reports but I think it is fair to record here that whilst each committee member endured periods of health concern during the year, the enthusiasm has remained undimmed.

I thank my fellow committee members John Rombi, Noel Sharpe, Andy Milton, Greg Bradford and Phil Kidd plus Dave Manning our Membership officer, for their teamwork and dedication to our great Society. Particular appreciation to John Rombi, who has now completed seven annual terms as our leader.

Developing a proposal to amend the constitution was conducted by Greg Bradford and myself and this is detailed elsewhere in this document. Suffice to say, the committee urges your support for the proposal which will put to the members attending the AGM.

Our former patron Dr Ragbir Bhathal died suddenly in November. His obituary is available on the [Members Articles](#) page of the website. Ragbir was our liaison with WSU and Director of Campbelltown Rotary Observatory. He was still working as a lecturer at the University when he died at the age of 86.

Our membership exceeded 170 for the year, which is a record for the Society.

One “under the radar” task I have been handling is document scanning. By way of background, the last time I saw the late Bob Bee was at the last pre-covid Forum at WSU in February 2020. Seemingly unwell, he gave me his entire collection of MAS *Prime Focus* magazines and said “You’ll know what to do with them”. When I became aware of his terminal illness, I contacted Bob and promised that all his magazines and articles would be published on our upcoming new website.

Scanning almost 2,000 pages has taken me three years but I have fulfilled my promise to Bob. His magazines and web articles are all uploaded for members to enjoy. Bob knew how to write!

Now to the website itself. I want to thank every member for their visits to the Macastro website and a special thank you to those members who have contacted me to advise a dead link or some other error. I really do appreciate it when someone lets me know if something goes wrong.

The [website photo-gallery](#) has been a great success and I want to thank in particular the members who have posted their images to the gallery. Comets and nebulae, planets and clusters, galaxies and planetary nebulae. They’re all there. Thank you for so many amazing astro-images!

The members private messaging system was disabled last year as it was crashing the site. I am planning to test it again soon, as it is a great way for members to contact each other.

Other than that, the website has performed very well and is a pleasure to administer, so here is a table of website statistics since the move to WordPress in March 2021:

Financial Year	Page visits	Visitors	No of Web Pages	Articles Uploaded	Images uploaded
2022-23	47,700	14,966	67	11	109
2021-22	34,450	13,233	na	122 (since 2008)	122

### Roger Powell

5th April 2023



## 6.3 Telescope Curator's Report 2023

**Greg Bradford**

### Loan Telescopes

Our telescopes and binoculars may be [loaned](#) to members for free, except when being used for mentoring purposes.

Last year the society purchased a second 15cm dobsonian telescope. This complements the original 15cm "MacDob" which is now 25 years old, but still in great working order.

The third primary loan telescope is a Meade ETX-125 optical tube mounted on a basic Celestron GOTO mount. This is a great telescope to learn the basics of using a GOTO telescope.

We also have a smaller 13cm AstroMaster Newtonian on an Alt/Az mount.

All the telescopes now come with a standard accessories kit for eyepieces etc, as well as a red light torch and adapter to mount a mobile phone camera to the eyepiece.

We also purchased a pair of waterproof Saxon 10 x 50 binoculars. These are in addition to the Olympus 8-16 x 40 Zoom binoculars donated in 2019.

### Return and Earn

This continues to provide a small extra income. [MAS return and Earn](#) scan cards are issued to all new members.

### Workshops


[Workshops](#) were introduced in March 2022. They are aimed at new members and those wishing to expand their basic astronomical and equipment skills. They are run at one of the Stargard fields with experienced MAS observers as mentors.

**Greg Bradford**

5th April 2023



## 7. Minutes of 2022 AGM

<p><b>MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY</b> Incorporated</p>  <p>PO Box 17 Minto, NSW 2566</p>	<p><b>MINUTES</b></p> <p>of</p> <p><b>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</b></p> <p>Online conference Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 6.45 pm</p>
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### 1. OPENING OF MINUTES, WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The AGM opened at 6.49 pm. The meeting was held online due to the on-going pandemic. President John Rombi had lost his voice and vacated the chair in favour of Vice-President Noel Sharpe.

Twenty-two members were present at the commencement of the AGM: Jenny Rombi, John Rombi, Tony Law, Noel Sharpe, Karyn Bradford, Greg Bradford, Barry Moore, Dick Everett, Ursula Bratz, Robert McGoven, Jenny Kidd, Phillip Kidd, Dave Manning, Nicole Ireland, Carol McVeigh, Allen Williams, Michael Wells, Mark Fisher, Peter Scott, Michael Nicholas, Joan Powell, Roger Powell & Kerri Reynolds.

It was noted that more members joined as the AGM progressed, including: Andy Milton, Frank Alvaro, George Cruikshank, Peter Elston, Ric Foster, Carole Lane, Stewart Grainger & Jean Haavasalu.

Apology received from Sam Mathanarajan.

Noel Sharpe thanked members for attending and recorded the meeting's sorrow at the sudden loss of Membership Officer Henry Swierk during the year. Noel proposed that Roger Powell be appointed by the meeting to take the minutes. Accepted.

### 2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The minutes of the 2021 AGM were circulated to members prior to the meeting. Motion: "That the minutes from the AGM dated 20th April 2021 be taken as read and accepted as an accurate record." Moved by Noel Sharpe, seconded by John Rombi. Motion carried unanimously. The Vice-President ordered that the minutes be filed in the secretary's formal records.

### 3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

There was no business arising from previous minutes

### 4. PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2021-2022

The 2021-2022 Annual Report document was distributed to the members prior to the meeting. John Rombi's Presidents Report was taken as read. Andy Milton's Treasurer's report and Graeme Bellamy's Auditor's report was read by Noel Sharpe. Total assets were \$39,079.40 compared to \$37,664.86 twelve months ago.

Motion: "That the Annual reports for 2021-2022 be accepted". Moved by Roger Powell seconded by Jenny Rombi. Motion carried unanimously. There was no business arising from the reports. The President ordered that the 2021-2022 Annual Report be filed in the secretary's formal records.

## 5. PRESENTATION OF MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

Noel Sharpe announced the following membership awards, which will be posted to the awardees or presented at an observing session:

Five year certificate:	Richard Barwell, Sharyl Scott, Ron Radzieta, Neil Weerasinghe, Sharmini Weerasinghe, Annemarie Hennessey
Ten Year badge and certificate:	Allan Hobbs, Peter Scott, James Scott, Mark Johnston
Fifteen year certificate:	Chris Malikoff, Graeme Bellamy
Twenty year badge and certificate:	Bob Monkcom
Twenty-five year certificate:	Phillip Ainsworth, Noel Sharpe, Roger Powell, Ragbir Bhathal, Ian Cook, Dick Everett

John Rombi briefly thanked all members for their support during the year.

## 6. APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER:

The outgoing Vice-President, Noel Sharpe proposed Tony Law as the returning officer and the proposal was endorsed by the meeting. Noel Sharpe then vacated the chair.

## 7. ELECTION OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR 2022-2023

Tony Law declared all management committee positions for Macarthur Astronomical Society Inc. vacant and advised that the following nominations had been received by the Secretary prior to the closing of nominations on 4th April 2022.

POSITION	NOMINEE	NOMINATOR	SECONDER
President	<b>John Rombi</b>	Jennifer Rombi	Greg Bradford
Vice-President	<b>Noel Sharpe</b>	Tony Law	Chris Malikoff
Treasurer	<b>Andy Milton</b>	John Rombi	Jennifer Rombi
Secretary	<b>Roger Powell</b>	John Rombi	Jennifer Rombi
Committee Member	<b>Dave Manning</b>	John Rombi	Jennifer Rombi
Committee Member	<b>Greg Bradford</b>	Karyn Bradford	John Rombi
Committee Member	<b>Phillip Kidd</b>	Jennie Kidd	Jennifer Rombi

There being no duplicate nominations, Tony Law declared each nominee duly elected to the Macarthur Astronomical Society Inc. Management Committee for 2022-23. The declaration was unanimously endorsed with applause by the meeting.

On behalf of the membership, Tony Law congratulated the new management committee and wished them well for the coming year. He then vacated the chair for the incoming Vice-President Noel Sharpe.

## 8. OTHER BUSINESS DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO THE AGM.

There was no other business.

## 9. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Incoming Vice-President, Noel Sharpe thanked the membership for their attendance and support. The Annual General Meeting closed at 7.05 pm and the meeting continued as a Monthly General Meeting (Macarthur Astronomy Forum).

*Roger Powell,  
Secretary 19th April 2022*

*John Rombi  
President 19th April 2022*



## 8. Amendments to Constitution

### Roger Powell & Greg Bradford

A sub-committee was formed in September 2022 to address a requirement from NSW Department of Fair Trading (DOFT) for certain items to be addressed and to consider other clauses which needed to be updated. The changes proposed by the sub-committee were endorsed by the committee and displayed on the website between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 for members to review and comment.

Several helpful suggestions relating to the proposed amendments were received from members during that period. Comments are now closed. The final proposal has been amended to accommodate these new perspectives and the inclusions were endorsed by the committee on 13<sup>th</sup> March. The updated proposal has been visible on the website from 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

Motion for the Annual General Meeting: *“That the proposed amendments to the constitution be adopted.”*

Moved: Roger Powell, seconded: Greg Bradford.

[Link](#) to current constitution and [Link](#) to proposed new constitution.

The changes proposed are a mix of the requirement of DOFT to address certain matters and the committee’s desire to match 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.

