



PO Box 17 Minto, NSW 2566

## MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

### MINUTES

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Online conference meeting  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 7.00 pm

## 1 OPENING OF MEETING

The Zoom meeting opened at 7.03 pm.

Present were: John Rombi (JR) (Chair); Noel Sharpe (NS); Andy Milton (AM); Greg Bradford (GB); Phil Kidd (PK); Roger Powell (RP).

## 2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

### 2.1 ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES DATED 17<sup>th</sup> MAY 2023

Motion: That the Minutes dated 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023, as circulated and posted, be accepted.

Moved: RP, Seconded NS. Motion carried.

### 2.2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

No business arising.

## 3 REGULAR BUSINESS

### 3.1 TREASURER'S REPORT

#### 3.1.1 Financial status

AM: a financial status report was circulated prior to the meeting. The financial status at 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023 was as follows:

Account	Balance
Term deposit	\$21,298.83
Cheque	\$15,895.11
PayPal	\$2,193.70
Tour Account	\$3.64
Total	\$39,391.28

Motion: that the financial report be accepted. Moved: JR, seconded PK Motion carried.

#### 3.1.2 Term Deposit

Comm Bank offers 3.25% p.a. for 6 months and 3.95% for for 12 months. The Committee agreed:

- to terminate the existing monthly rolling 1% term deposit on maturity (24<sup>th</sup> June);
- to arrange a new term deposit of 12 months duration at 3.95% or thereabouts;
- that the amount to be deposited will be \$25,000 or thereabouts;
- the arrangements to be made prior to 24<sup>th</sup> June by JR and AM at Commonwealth Bank.

## 3.2 MEMBERSHIP

### 3.2.1 Report

There have been no new memberships since the previous meeting. The Membership register submitted by Dave Manning (MO) showed a current membership of 138.

Motion: “*That the membership report be accepted*”.

Moved JR, seconded PK. Motion carried.

### 3.2.2 Bank Account Access

It was agreed at the March meeting that for the purpose of verifying payment of membership fees, Membership Officer Dave Manning needs to be added as a signatory to the Commonwealth Bank and PayPal accounts. This can be done when arranging the term deposit.

### 3.2.3 Member hardship

One member who was granted dispensation for hardship has now paid.

## 3.3 MERCHANDISE

Merchandise remains non-active.

## 3.4 CORRESPONDENCE

JR: E-mail correspondence received regarding proposed public outreach events. Refer to item 3.11.

## 3.5 MACARTHUR ASTRONOMY FORUM

(i) April’s talk by Prof Jonti Horner (USQ) was titled: *The Search for Alien Worlds*

(ii) June’s talk by Dr Brad Tucker (ANU) will be: *Space Telescopes, Exploding Stars, and Dark Energy*.

(iii) Upcoming speakers lined up by JR are:

July	Prof Matthew Bailes	Swinburne
August	Prof Joss Bland-Hawthorn	USYD
October	Prof Geraint Lewis	USYD
November	Dr Luke Barnes	WSU
December	Dr Lucyna Chudczer	AAL

## 3.6 COVID COMPLIANCE

Outdoor events policy reaffirmed: “*Members attending MAS to be vaccinated. Members must not attend if they exhibit covid or flu symptoms. Members to maintain responsible distancing. Masks are optional*”.

## 3.7 WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

JR: reviewed the situation with future public nights at The Domes and a return to WSU for the Forum.

We will make representations to the WSU Campbelltown Provost, Professor Gregory Kolt, to remind him how important and productive our mutual association has been over the last 27 years.

A document has been prepared by RP documenting the historical partnership between the two organisations. JR, NS and Tony Law contributed. When John returns from Gladstone, a meeting will be sought with WSU.

### 3.8 STARGARD

#### 3.8.1 Recent and Upcoming Events

Most recent successful event:	21 <sup>st</sup> May	Attendees (7): P.Kidd, T. Law, D. Manning, Cec Cuadro, M. Nicholas, M. Fisher, B. Shepherd.
Recent postponed events:	13 <sup>th</sup> May	~
Next scheduled events:	10 <sup>th</sup> June, 17 <sup>th</sup> June	JR will be absent. PK to coordinate and open up both events.
	15 <sup>th</sup> July	~
	22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Tony Law to bring a group from Macarthur Photographic Society to attend Stargard.

#### 3.8.2 Proposed Purchase of trolley

GB requested purchase of a small trolley to wheel out the traffic cones. Deferred.

#### 3.8.3 Sports Ground redevelopment

The architectural design is progressing. An engagement session will be held in a few months at Picton.

### 3.9 STARGARD: BEGINNERS WORKSHOPS

GB: Next event is on 24<sup>th</sup> June. Backup date is 8<sup>th</sup> July. There may be a juniors sports match on this day. We have 9 attending the workshop and 4 mentors. GB, JR, Tony Law and Mark Fisher.

### 3.10 WOOGLEMAI

Most recent successful event:	22 <sup>nd</sup> April
Last cancelled event:	25 <sup>th</sup> March
Next scheduled events:	24 <sup>th</sup> June, 22 <sup>nd</sup> July, 19 <sup>th</sup> August

NS: Further dates to be arranged.

### 3.11 MENTORING & PUBLIC OUTREACH EVENTS

#### 3.11.1 Mentoring

PK: Mentoring will only proceed with a guarantee of more mentors.

#### 3.11.2 Narellan Library: July

The Library has invited MAS to a proposed public event proposed for an unspecified date sometime in the first 2 weeks of July.

#### 3.11.3 Campbelltown Guides: 27<sup>th</sup> July

A private outreach event for 25 people.

#### 3.11.4 Warragamba Public School: August

A private evening for one hundred students on a date to be arranged in the second last week in August.

JR is liaising with the School, which has submitted a non-commercial Request for Services form.

### **3.11.5 The Australian Botanic Garden: Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August**

JR received an invitation for MAS to attend a Science Day fair at Mt Annan, from 10.00am - 3.00pm on the forecourt and surrounds of the new National Herbarium of NSW. This would mean setting up our marquee, with information, a couple of scopes and maybe our solar scope.

### **3.11.6 Scouts: November**

An approach has been made for us to show the night sky at a location to be determined in the Southern Highlands sometime in November.

### **3.12 RETURN & EARN**

GB: The MAS account has been moved from PayPal to direct Bank Transfer. Return and Earn classifies MAS as a charity. We are currently a preferred beneficiary at various locations until the end of October.

### **3.13 LOAN TELESCOPES**

GB: all loan telescopes are available for loan or for use at the Beginners Workshop.

The 8" f/6 Dobsonian telescope which was donated to the Society by Jenny and Greg Blackburn will be used as a future loan telescope. MacDob will probably be retired.

### **3.14 ASSETS & STORAGE**

Ongoing.

### **3.15 MATTERS ARISING FROM AGM AND ANNUAL REPORT**

#### **3.15.1 Constitution**

RP: DOFT approval was sought on 19<sup>th</sup> April, with no response yet. RP has written to DOFT to seek urgent approval.

Should there be no response received within eight weeks of submission, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023, RP proposed that MAS formally deems that the constitution has been approved by DOFT, adopts a commencement date of 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and DOFT to be informed accordingly. Agreed.

#### **3.15.2 Fund-raising**

AM warned in his Annual Treasurer's Report *"that it would be necessary to provide substantial funding beyond membership fees to match the expected expenditure."*

AM was requested to provide a forward financial projection for the end of 2023-24 to evaluate if there is still a financial problem. It was noted that additional income from a term deposit might assist.

### **3.16 PAYPAL ALTERNATIVES**

It was agreed that, whilst retaining PayPal, members need to be steered towards using Direct Bank Transfer to pay membership fees. RP to amend website. GB to amend new members application form.

### **3.17 BY-LAWS**

Ongoing.

### 3.18 WEBSITE

RP: Private Messaging System has been restored to the website and setup has been tested. It will enable members to contact other members without knowing their e-mail address. Still a problem using emojis.

Website statistics to Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June:

Period	Visitors	Page visits
Last 30 days	2,121	4,664

### 3.19 SOCIAL MEDIA

Ongoing

### 4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

### 5 CLOSE OF MEETING

Meeting closed: 8.35 pm

Next meeting: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023

Minutes by: Roger Powell, Secretary	Minutes issued: 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2023
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*Note: The committee is in regular contact between meetings. As a consequence, certain reports to the committee and/or decisions made by the committee by e-mail or other means during the period may not be fully discussed at the next meeting. The minutes may include such items for the record and for context.*

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