



PO Box 17 Minto, NSW 2566

## MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

### MINUTES

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Online conference meeting  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 at 7.00 pm

#### 1 OPENING OF MEETING

The Zoom meeting opened at 7.07 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 5<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023

Motion: That the Minutes dated 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023, as circulated and posted, be accepted.

Moved: RP, Seconded GB. 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 as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 was circulated prior to the meeting.

Account	Balance
Term deposit	\$25,021.71
Cheque	\$ 12,384.14
PayPal	\$2,162.76
Tour Account	\$3.64
Total	\$39,572.25

During the month \$3701.17 was transferred from the main account to the deposit account. One new member paid \$60.50, \$90.00 was received re Wooglemai and \$34.00 merchandise for the sale of the last star wheel. \$90.00 is payable to Wooglemai.

Interest received for the month on deposit was \$21.71.

PayPal - Two payments were made via PayPal; \$6.40 postage costs for the star-wheel, and Zoom \$24.63. A transfer of about \$1,162 from the PayPal account to the main account was agreed.

23/24 Budget will be prepared for the July meeting.

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

### 3.1.2 Term Deposit

As approved at the previous meeting, the rolling monthly low interest term deposit was terminated in June. A new Commonwealth Bank term deposit of 12 months duration was opened, at 3.95% pa for the amount of \$25,000. The account will accrue interest after six and twelve months.

### 3.1.3 Publishing account details on website for logged on members

It was agreed that the MAS working account number and BSB can be published on the website to enable prospective members to join and current members to renew, without needing to ask for bank details.

### 3.1.4 Bank Account Access

NS advised that the Commonwealth Bank require a formal motion to add a person as a signatory. The motion format was supplied to him by the Bank:

**Motion:** *That the committee of Macarthur Astronomical Society hereby authorise Dave Manning in his capacity of Membership Officer to be added to the Society's Commonwealth Bank account authority as an additional signatory to the working account only. The committee also reaffirmed that the method of operation is to be maintained at two signatories required per transaction.*

Moved: Noel Sharpe. Seconded: John Rombi.

Ayes: (6) John Rombi, Noel Sharpe, Andy Milton, Roger Powell, Greg Bradford & Phil Kidd.

Nos: (0) nil.

Motion carried unanimously.

## 3.2 MEMBERSHIP

### 3.2.1 Status

There has been one new membership since the previous meeting:

Darren Nicol	Approved by e-mail 24 <sup>th</sup> June
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The Membership register submitted by Dave Manning (MO) showed a current membership of 139.

**Motion:** *"That the membership report be accepted".*

Moved JR, seconded GB. Motion carried.

## 3.3 CORRESPONDENCE

### 3.3.1 Constitution

RP: DOFT approval was received on 16th June 2023 and the amended constitution is now in force.

Reason for delay was that DOFT had responded with a misspelled e-mail address. Also, because the AGM motion was for approval of amendments (not approval of a new constitution), DOFT required an itemised list of each change, which was submitted on 9<sup>th</sup> June.

## 3.4 MACARTHUR ASTRONOMY FORUM

(i) June's talk by Dr Brad Tucker (ANU) was: *Space Telescopes, Exploding Stars, and Dark Energy*. JR reported that he had been informed by Zoom that a recording is not available.

(ii) This month's guest speaker will be Prof Matthew Bailles (Swinburne) astrophysicist at the Centre for Astrophysics and Supercomputing, Swinburne University of Technology and Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Gravitational Wave Discovery. Shaw Prize Winner in Astronomy, 2023

(iii) Upcoming speakers lined up by JR are as follows:

August	Prof Joss Bland-Hawthorn	USYD
September	Dr Doris Grosse	ANU
October	Prof Geraint Lewis	USYD
November	Dr Luke Barnes	WSU
December	Dr Lucyna Chudczar	AAL

### 3.5 WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

#### 3.5.1 Forum Return to WSU

JR has contacted the WSU Campbelltown Provost, Professor Gregory Kolt, to review the WSU/MAS association over the last 27 years. Prof Kolt advised that he will immediately action our request for a free lecture theatre for the Macarthur Astronomy Forum and asked us to advise the dates required.

A meeting with Prof Kolt will be arranged soon to review this and other matters, including public nights, student nights, WSU covid policy and technical advice regarding a potential Zoom broadcast of a Forum.

Potential date for return: 21<sup>st</sup> August, Prof Joss Bland-Hawthorn (USYD).

#### 3.5.2 Issues relating to Forum Return to WSU

Covid policy – MAS and WSU  
MAS roll-up advertising stands  
Open to public?  
Merchandise officer  
Tea and coffee manager  
Zoom setup at WSU

### 3.6 COVID COMPLIANCE

With the imminent return to WSU, the policy needed to be updated to match current circumstances. It was agreed that the following new policy will apply to all future events, indoors and outdoors:

Motion: That the existing MAS covid policy be replaced with:

*"Members must not attend MAS events if they, or a close contact, are feeling unwell or exhibiting covid or flu-like symptoms. We recommend up to date vaccinations and maintaining responsible distancing. Masks are optional"*

Moved: RP, seconded PK. Motion carried

### 3.7 STARGARD

#### 3.7.1 Recent and Upcoming Events

Most recent successful events:	10 <sup>th</sup> June	NS, PK and Cec Cuadro
	18 <sup>th</sup> June	NS, PK, T.Law, M.Fisher, M.Ellis, P.Sillato
Recently postponed:	~	~
Next scheduled events:	15 <sup>th</sup> July	~
	22 <sup>nd</sup> July	~

#### 3.7.2 Sports Ground redevelopment

Ongoing. An engagement session for stakeholders will be held in a few months, in Picton.

### 3.8 STARGARD: BEGINNERS WORKSHOPS

GB: Workshop proposed for 24<sup>th</sup> June was postponed to 8<sup>th</sup> July, due to adverse weather. We have 4 registrations for the event and 4 mentors, GB, JR, PK and Tony Law..

### 3.9 WOOGLEMAI

Most recent successful event:	24 <sup>th</sup> June	NS, Barry Moore, Troy Hippe and Eric Kingston. Clear but some cloud interrupted the evening
Last cancelled event:	25 <sup>th</sup> March	~
Next scheduled events:	22 <sup>nd</sup> July, 19 <sup>th</sup> August	~

NS: Events can be held on the night of a scheduled Wooglemai working bee, traditionally always the last Saturday of each month. However, NS has received a message from Guntawang advising that they may be open to aligning their working bee weekends with New Moon nights to suit MAS. Their committee is happy to trial this concept next year. It was agreed that this is a very generous offer which MAS would be happy to accept.

In the meantime, there are no more favourable working bee nights this year after August and it was agreed that we would try to book up to two New Moon nights under the original agreement of MAS paying \$300 per session.

### 3.10 MENTORING & PUBLIC OUTREACH EVENTS

#### 3.10.1 Mentoring

PK: Mentoring suspended.

#### 3.10.2 Narellan Library: Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July

The Library has invited MAS to a proposed public event. Seven or eight members will attend with telescopes. JR will hold a meeting with the library prior to the event to establish requirements.

#### 3.10.3 Campbelltown Guides: Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July

A private outreach event for 25 people. Three members will attend with telescopes.

#### 3.10.4 Warragamba Public School: Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August

PK is liaising with the School. A private evening for students and parents, limited to one hundred people between 6.30 and 8.30 pm. Barbecue provided. Seven volunteers so far.

#### 3.10.5 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.

#### 3.10.6 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. No communication since the last committee meeting.

### 3.11 MERCHANDISE

Merchandise remains non-active.

### 3.12 RETURN & EARN

GB: Ongoing.

### 3.13 LOAN TELESCOPES

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

### 3.14 ASSETS & STORAGE

Ongoing.

### 3.15 WEBSITE

RP: Private Messaging System is now fully functional.

Website statistics to Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July:

Period	Visitors	Page visits
Last 30 days	2333	5625

## 4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### 4.1 Potential Observing Site

JR reported that he is investigating a new observing location on a large property roughly south of the Oaks and south east of Wooglemai.

## 5 CLOSE OF MEETING

Meeting closed: 8.30 pm

Next meeting: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Minutes by: Roger Powell, Secretary	Issued: 4 <sup>th</sup> July 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.*