



PO Box 17 Minto, NSW 2566

MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Online conference meeting
Tuesday 17th October 2023 at 7.00 pm

1 OPENING OF MEETING

The Zoom meeting was opened at 7.03 pm by John Rombi. Also present: Noel Sharpe (NS); Greg Bradford (GB); Phil Kidd (PK); Roger Powell (RP). Apology: Andy Milton.

2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1 ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion: *That the Minutes dated 19th September 2023, as circulated and posted, be accepted.*

Moved: RP Seconded JR, Motion carried.

2.2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

No business arising.

3 REGULAR BUSINESS

3.1 FINANCIAL REPORT

3.1.1 Monthly Treasurer's Report for September

Account Transactions during month to 30 September 2023

No 1 a/c	7/9	Dean Anthony Murphy membership \$46.00 other \$14.50
	9/9	Lindsay Skeetbeet membership \$46.00
	14/9	Tomra \$6.80
	17/9	Tony Law & Noel Sharpe Wooglemai \$60.00
	18/9	Barry Moore Wooglemai \$30.00
	19/9	Warragamba donation \$76.00: Forum donations \$42.00
	20/9	Transfer Wooglemai -\$190.00, -\$60.00
	20/9	Transfer from no2 account \$30.00
No 2 a/c		Transfer to main account -\$30.00
Deposit a/c	~	no change in balance
PayPal a/c	7/9	John Rombi -\$19.20 (speaker's dinner)
	18/9	Zoom -\$24.63
	19/9	Suzanne Adijans -\$20.10 (Refreshment supplies)

31st September 2023 Account Status

Commonwealth Bank: Account 1	\$13,943.14
Commonwealth Bank: Account 2	\$3.66
Commonwealth Bank: Term Deposit	\$25,021.75
PayPal account	\$306.29
TOTAL	\$39,274.84

Motion: That the Treasurer's Report for September 2023, as circulated, be accepted.

Moved: JR Seconded NS, Motion carried.

3.1.2 Bank Account Access

Dave Manning (MO) access to bank details. Ongoing.

3.2 MEMBERSHIP

There have been no new membership approvals by e-mail since the previous meeting. The Membership register submitted by Dave Manning (MO) indicates a current membership of 147.

3.3 CORRESPONDENCE

RP: received an e-mail from Channel 10, seeking a dog-loving astronomer to participate in a tv show. E-mail was circulated to the committee.

3.4 MACARTHUR ASTRONOMY FORUM

Prof Geraint Lewis was our guest speaker at the Forum last night, 16th October. His topic was: "*Super Massive Black Holes and Time in the Early Universe*". Due to unforeseen circumstances, Geraint opted to speak via Zoom.

There were some minor issues to be resolved relating to (i) A/V system and (ii) door unlocking times.

Upcoming speakers are:

20 th November	3 rd Monday	WSU	Dr Luke Barnes (WSU)	In person
4 th December	1 st Monday	WSU	Dr Lucyna Chudczer (AAL)	In person
15 th January	3 rd Monday	WSU	tbc	tbc
19 th February	3 rd Monday	WSU	Dr Stefania Barsanti (ANU)	In person
18 th March	3 rd Monday	WSU	Prof Ray Norris (WSU)	Zoom
15 th April	3 rd Monday	WSU	AGM	
20 th May	3 rd Monday	WSU	Laura Driesson (USYD)	In person

3.5 STARGARD

Events since last committee meeting and upcoming events:

7 th October	4 attendees	NS, PK, Ces Cuadro and Bryan Pablo. Clouded out. Went home early.
14 th October	5 attendees	PK, Cec Cuadro, Bryan Pablo, two Belanskys. Cloudy but cleared later
4 th November	upcoming	
11 th November	cancelled	To encourage members to try Wooglemai.

7th Nov: The flag reel found in a real mess covered in mud and completely tangled on the reel, PK agreed to clean the flags and restore the reel. NS has taken the witches hats, chain and padlock and

will clean the mud off the hats, liaise with Phil and will put our gear away in storage until needed. These items of equipment were found blocking the entrance to the field, along with a council sign.

NS has circulated his email to Wollondilly Council regarding this. The response was that they don't believe the activity would be a result of Council staff.

Key holder list was reviewed.

There are no recent developments regarding the ongoing sports ground redevelopment.

3.6 BEGINNERS WORKSHOPS

GB: Next date: 21st October at Stargard. The back up date will be 18th November. So far six going. JR will issue one more reminder.

3.7 WOOGLEMAI

No events since last committee meeting. Next scheduled event: 11th November, a stand-alone night, which means we will be there by ourselves. Normal \$30 per MAS attendee and a hire fee of \$100.00 has been agreed upon, cancellation due to wet/clouded out weather applies with no fee payable. No other nights are booked yet.

To encourage members to sample the facilities at Wooglemai, Stargard will not be held on 11th November. Food will be provided using the facility's gas barbecue. PK will organise food but numbers will need to be known in advance.

For 2024 we are still invited to working bee nights but no costings have been discussed or agreed upon re stand alone nights for 2024.

3.8 MENTORING & PUBLIC OUTREACH EVENTS

3.8.1 Mentoring

Ongoing.

3.8.2 St John the Evangelist Catholic Primary School in Campbelltown

A request was received for a potential outreach incursion event, for third year students. (JR sent them information on organising a session for 2024).

3.9 RETURN & EARN

GB: Ongoing. Money is trickling in. \$6.80 income during September. Our period of being a local provider in the scheme has expired.

3.10 LOAN TELESCOPES

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

3.11 ASSETS & STORAGE

The annual fee for the storage facility is due in November. JR to move the new Dobsonian to storage.

3.12 NEW BANNERS

GB: Banners are approx 200 x 80cm. The better quality ones are about \$200. Three to be purchased. The three images to be used have been selected.

3.13 ASTRONOMY 2024 AND STAR-WHEELS

JR: has received an offer from Colin Pettit to provide Astronomy 2024 at a lower cost than charged by Quasar Publishing. JR to review pricing to members accordingly if we accept Colin's offer.

3.14 GENERAL MERCHANDISE

Frank Alvaro is our new Merchandise Officer.

3.15 WEBSITE

RP: Observing Planner document for 2024 is on the website for comment. Forum and Stargard dates are listed. Wooglemai dates to be added when available.

Website page visit statistics to 17th October:

Last 30 days: 4,324

Year to date: 44,115

The Public Night page seems to be attracting plenty of attention. JR has also received questions about this. Noted.

3.16 MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE

Committee members to respond to GB with any suggestions about the questions which he circulated.

GB investigated Survey Monkey as a method of conducting the survey. Cost is \$380. Alternatively the cost for postage might be similar. It was agreed to conduct the survey by JR e-mailing a questionnaire pdf file to each member, asking them to respond to the questions. JR and GB will analyse the responses.

3.17 MEMBERSHIP FEES

Motion: *"That the current membership fees be adopted for the 2024-2025 financial year"*

Moved RP, seconded JR. Motion carried.

4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

5 CLOSE OF MEETING

Next meeting: Tuesday 28th November. Meeting closed: 8.03 pm

Minutes by: Roger Powell, Secretary	Issue 0: 18 th October 2023
<i>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.</i>	
<i>Amendment 1: 18th October 2023. Clause 3.7 final paragraph corrected.</i>	