

President's A.G.M. Report

Dear Members, Our A.G.M. is the forum in which we hold ourselves both responsible and accountable to officially report to the membership the activities, outcomes and achievements since our last A.G.M. in March 2000, and I might say when reviewing the year we have been very active indeed.

Our Field Nights

These nights are dedicated to the hands on use of telescopes and provide invaluable experiences in object location, general astronomy, Messier hunting, photography and networking with other members who share similar interests. It's also a great time to socialise. You don't need to own a telescope to attend. However, you must be a member of M.A.S. or be an invited guest. We have arranged 20 such nights, however the weather has forced some last minute cancellations and has constantly been a thorn in our sides.

Meetings and Speakers

Not including tonight, 11 monthly General Meetings have taken place, all were well attended with some fantastic guest speakers who provided us with a diverse range of astronomical topics.

eg. **In 2000:** 17/4 Aboriginal astronomy, **Dr Ragbir Bhathal**;
15/5 Anglo-Australian Telescope 2DF research project **Dr Russell Cannon**;
19/6 Ancient astronomy, comets and the solar system, **Attila Kaldy**;
17/7 Video presentation of "The Sun" courtesy of **John Rombi**;
21/8 Astrophotography and the Magellan observatory farm stay, **Zane Hammond**;
18/9 S.E.T.I. research project attached to the Parks Radio Telescope, **Dr Frank Stootman**;
23/10 Cosmic Controversies, **Dr Fred Watson**;
20/11 Spectroscopy, analysing star light and various experiments, **Don Neely**;
In 2001:
15/1 Capturing the faint stuff, advanced astrophotography, **Peter Druery**;
17/2 Third Dimension of Gravity, personal theories by **Robert Zindler**;
19/3 Historical Greenwich Observatory, **Dick Everett**.

Special Events

6/5/00 Astronomy, **Life in the Universe**, University open night Dr Russell Cannon. Over 400 people in attendance. The first public workout of the Campbelltown Rotary Observatory.
29/6/00. **Night Skies, The Art of Deep Space**. Campbelltown Bicentennial Art Gallery, guest speaker, **David Malin**.

July to December 2000, regular Friday night viewing at the observatory, bookings were required and all the sessions were booked months in advance. Ragbir Bhathal organised M.A.S. members to assist with this program.

Other Activities

The new Public Observatory Program is working very well with four events being held, as you know the dates are planned for the rest of the year and we have been getting some great crowds. We have also held presentations as follows: Leumeah Scout Group, Japanese Students, Cawdor Public School, and the Narellan Congregational Community. Our Christmas Party around the Observatory domes was held on the 9th of December and was well attended.

Acknowledgments

We have done remarkably well this year and this is directly attributable to the wonderful efforts of our members. I'm very mindful that I might miss someone and if so please accept my apologies in advance. For the public record, I wish to thank the following people: **Phillip Ainsworth**, for having the courage and enthusiasm in starting our club and being President from 1996 to April 2000. Our Society would not exist without Phillip.

Daniel Ross, Vice President specialising in telescope design, membership badges, website and technical support for the Observatory.

John Koster, Our Treasurer, at times a thankless position, but not tonight!. John, thanks for all your on-field help with our newer members and guests, and for your strong support of our club.

Peter and Bobbie Elston, thanks for all your hard work with the new constitution, the Messier hunting and providing us with some great guest speakers, also for promoting M.A.S. far and wide and for all the input you have given me. We also appreciate the tea and coffee that you provide for our meetings, as well as opening up your home for the committee meetings.

John Rombi. Apart from attending nearly every event and field night and providing assistance to new members, I would like to express my special thanks for the hours of work you put into copying my reports and stories onto computer disk for Prime Focus, (embarrassed!! JR) as well as providing this service for other members that don't own a computer.

Peter Druery, for all your support and help in guest speaking, astrophotography and for making yourself available at all times to assist Ragbir with the observatory. Thanks Peter.

Ragbir Bhathal, Director of the Campbelltown Rotary Observatory and providing us with the room we meet in

every month, Ragbir also has many new ideas and I appreciate everything he has done for our society.

Bob Bee, We are very fortunate that we have a monthly journal of such quality, a lot of hard work goes into Prime Focus, not only the writing but formatting, printing and compilation as well. Bob's regular articles in The Chronicle called "Heavens Above" not only provide public education, but also promote our Society. What can I say except, thanks Bob!
Dick Everett, He not only has a great knowledge of the night sky, but is also a talented inventor. His binocular stand, Dobsonian tracker and low light camera scenes provide an excellent and fun way for members of the general public to view the heavens at our observatory open nights. Thanks Dick!

Ian Cook, for writing "What's to see this Month" in Prime Focus this year (*there. Ian, the secret's out - Ed*), he also has provided assistance on our field and public open nights and he has also been a strong supporter of our club.

Other Acknowledgments

The public education events, eg schools, scouts etc have been organised and attended by (from memory) John Koster, John Rombi, Dick Everett, Phillip Kidd, Ian Cook and Bob Bee. My thanks also to Terry Storey for his strong support

of our Society. Two other members, Attila Kaldy and Lloyd Wright for always lending an ear when needed.

In Conclusion

As you can see many members contribute in various ways to make our society successful and I'm sure that the coming year will be just as great as the one just past.

Noel Sharpe. ■

Official M.A.S. Program

Key:

Oaks = Airfield (members only)

GM = Monday General Meeting

OPN = Observ. Public Night
(TBA) = To Be Advised

23rd April	GM plus A.G.M
21st April	Oaks
28th April	OPN
- Plus guest Dr Fred Watson	
19th May	Oaks
21st May	GM
26th May	OPN
18th June	GM
23rd June	Oaks
30th June	OPN
16 th July	GM
July Oaks	(TBA)
28 th July	OPN
20 th August	GM
August Oaks	(TBA)
25 th August	OPN
17 th September	GM
22 nd September	OPN
September Oaks	(TBA)
13 th October	OPN
15 th October	GM
October Oaks	(TBA)
10 th November	OPN
19 th November	GM
November Oaks	(TBA)

Income & Expenditure Statement for the Year ending 28 February 2001

	2001	2000
	\$	\$
Income		
Membership Fees	1705.00	1590.00
Donations	20.00	102.00
Raffles	300.30	155.00
Interest	11.75	2.21
	<u>2037.05</u>	<u>1849.21</u>
 Expenditure		
Equipment Purchases	564.90	136.97
Bank Charges	7.96	7.51
Filing Fees	37.00	50.00
Insurance - Public Liability	279.95	254.96
Internet Registration		250.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	36.50	56.00
Postage	70.80	82.74
Printing of Prime Focus	528.96	252.25
P.O. Box Rental	48.35	45.00
Telephone	20.70	18.89
Other (Depreciation - last Year)		173.00
	<u>1595.12</u>	<u>1327.32</u>
 Operating Profit	<u>441.93</u>	<u>521.89</u>
 Other Appropriations		
Asset Replacement Reserve	250.00	200.00
 Unappropriated Profit at 28 February 2001	191.93	321.89

Notes

Membership Fees are inclusive of \$455.00
Advance membership renewals for 2001/2

Equipment Purchases relates to Red Flashing
Lanterns, Extension Lead & Earth Leakage Unit,
35mm Projector.

Miscellaneous Expenses relates to purchase of
Raffle Prize and Ex Gratia payment for last years
Audit.

Printing of Prime Focus increase is as a result of
Printing by a commercial firm.

Bank Balance at 28 Feb 2001 was **\$2739.47**