



Amateur Astronomers in South Western Sydney, Australia

Macarthur Astronomical Society

Annual Report 2025

Macarthur Astronomical Society Incorporated. Founded in 1996

Contents

- 1. Notice of 2025 Annual General Meeting**
 - 2. President's Report**
 - 3. Treasurer's Report**
 - 4. Financial Statements**
 - 5. Auditor's Statement**
 - 6. Vice-President's Report**
 - 7. Secretary/Webmaster Report**
 - 8. Membership Report**
 - 9. Telescope Curator's Report**
 - 10. Minutes of Previous AGM**
-



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6.30 pm Monday 21st April, 2025

Lecture Theatre 6, School of Science, Building 21,
William Downes Avenue, University of Western Sydney
(Campbelltown Campus).

1. Notice of 2025 Annual General Meeting

Please join the meeting at the earlier than usual start time, so that we may proceed in a timely fashion to our normal monthly Macarthur Astronomy Forum.

This AGM will also be conducted online via Zoom and a link will be e-mailed to all members.

To be eligible to vote (in person or online) you must be a member for 2025-26 prior to the meeting.

Agenda

1. Opening of meeting, welcome and apologies.
2. Minutes of previous AGM, 15th April 2024¹
3. Business arising from the minutes.
4. Presentation of 2024-25 Annual Reports¹
5. Presentation of Membership Awards¹
6. Appointment of Returning Officer.
7. Election of Management Committee for 2025-26.²
8. Other Business directly relevant to the AGM.
9. Close of Meeting.³

¹ Minutes, annual report documents and membership awardees are included in this single document.

² Seven positions are available on the committee. Nominations for election to the committee closed at noon on Monday 7th April. Nominations received were: President: John Rombi; Vice President: Noel Sharpe; Secretary: Roger Powell; Treasurer: Suzanne Adijans; Membership Officer; Frank Alvaro; Committee Members: Greg Bradford & Phil Kidd.

³ Following the conclusion of the AGM, the meeting will continue as an Ordinary General Meeting (Macarthur Astronomy Forum).

Roger Powell
Secretary
12th April 2025

2. President's Annual Report 2024-2025

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, as of Monday April 7th, we have 7 nominations for the 7 positions available. So, for the 29th year in a row, we have avoided an election!

I would like to thank, Noel Sharpe (VP) Roger Powell (Secretary) Sue Adijans (Treasurer) Phil Kidd (CM, Outreach Officer) Greg Bradford (CM, Telescope Loan Wrangler & Director) Frank Alvaro (Membership Officer). Sue & Frank just completed their first year in their respective positions and I would like to thank them for taking on their responsibilities with great zeal.

My sincere thank you goes to Roger Powell, our webmaster. Roger has kept our website up to date, and easy to use, and chock full of great information.

Thank you must also go to our Auditor, Graeme Bellamy. His assistance year in and year out is invaluable. Unfortunately, this will be Graeme's last year as our auditor. I would like to thank Graeme for his guidance and assistance in making sure that our accounts are a complete, concise and a true picture of our finances.

To all of these members, I want you to know that I value your friendship, humour and dedication to The MAS. Your hard work & service has kept The MAS, strong, relevant and financially secure.

Western Sydney University

I would like to thank WSU provost Prof Sarah Lewis, for her invaluable assistance to The MAS in compiling a contract between WSU/MAS. We now have access to a lecture theatre on a permanent basis every month to hold our MAS Forums.

Negotiations will begin this year to obtain access to The Campbelltown Rotary Observatory, otherwise known as "The Domes". Quite a few matters have to be discussed before we can hold an open night there. I hope that at least one night will be held before the end of the year.

WSU & The MAS have a 29 year coalition and I know that any problems can be ironed out sooner rather than later.

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

Zoom

Has been a life saver for the last 5 years, it has kept us in touch with one another.

We now have an audience of members that for one reason or another cannot be at the Forums. The service allows all members to watch our speakers and keep up with all the latest MAS information from home. It also allows us to source speakers that would not normally be present with us at WSU. Zoom has been a great success for us.

I would like to thank Greg & Tony for mining through all the difficulties in producing a broadcast to all. We are very fortunate to have their expertise.

Public Outreach

Has taken some time to get moving but, we did hold a few events in the last year. For science week in August 2024, we held a public night in conjunction Western Sydney Parklands, Abbotsbury. A great event, we had 140 people attend, and enjoyed by all.

We also had an outreach event with Ingleburn Scouts in September. A group of 20 scouts & Joey's enjoyed observing the Moon and several bright deep sky objects.

Financial Status

The MAS bottom line is a very healthy one, and will certainly allow us the scope to take up new ventures. For further information, please refer to the financial report by our Treasurer, Sue Adjians..

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.

This facility has been a great asset to The MAS, but in the next couple of months we will be moving our assets to the new facility at The Oaks. More information will be in our VP's report. Thank you, Noel.

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 SOCIETY!

Our Observing nights

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 Night

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 longtime members, that needed to remove the rust from their astro sessions.

Wooglemai Education Centre

Has been a great deep sky facility and I hope that you will continue to make use of this great site. 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. And new for 2024, the road had been graded, making the trip to Wooglemai a lot safer & smoother. Please contact our VP, Noel Sharpe for further information. I would like to thank Barry Moore & Noel for taking care of all the behind the scenes discussions, in making this site available to The MAS.

The Forest

After a 6 year absence, the Belanglo Forest cabin became available to The MAS. I would like to thank International House representative Iqbal Qureshi for making this great observing site available to us. I would also like to thank Tony Law (former MAS president) for taking over the running & booking part of this site. So far we have not visited the site for a weekend, due to the weather. Let's hope this changes as the more stable (atmospheric) part of the year begins.

Social Media

The MAS is active in this area with a healthy Face book presence as well as a profile on X. Visit our website www.macaastro.org.au with its clearer and added features. There are two image galleries, 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 Frank Alvaro for managing our very important membership list. If you haven't renewed, please contact Frank on membership@macastro.org.au and he will help you with this. You have until April 30th; otherwise a rejoining fee of \$17 will apply.

Merchandise

We had a large intake of the yearly ephemeris, Astronomy 2025 + Large Planispheres. I would like to thank MAS member, Colin Pettit for providing this merchandise at an exceptionally low price. If you wish to purchase a book(s) on any subject. Please go to Dymocks at Neutral Bay or visit them on the web. Unfortunately, due to a down turn in sales, Astronomy 2025 will be the last edition, after a successful 30 year print run.

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 macdob@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 you, our members for making this a great society. Your friendship and easy going manner is a great draw card to others. Thank you for renewing your membership. We will be more active in the community and I will be calling on your help. 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 maybe collected at our next Forum or observing night. Otherwise it will be mailed to you. Please let our membership officer know of your preference.

5 year awards	10 year awards + badge	15 year awards	20 year awards + badge
Jean Haavasalu	Stephen Edwards	Dave Wijesinghe	Tony Law
Jennie Kidd	Roberto Soria	Pete Elston	Stewart Grainger
David Nelson		Michael Nicholas	
Geraint Lewis			
Ramon Erasmo			
Greg Cain			

Cheers,

John Rombi

12th April 2025

3. Treasurer's Annual Report 2024-2025

Suzanne Adijans

I took over the Treasurers position after the elections at the AGM in April 2024.

The reports have been audited by Graeme Bellamy, our Society's Auditor, and we are grateful for his assistance.

Also, Noel Sharpe assisted me throughout the year with the monthly reports.

Statement of Financial Performance

INCOME

Membership Fees.

We carried over \$343.25 from the previous year that was paid in advance of the 2024-25 year.

Add to that, membership fees paid were \$6,540.63, with another \$229.75 paid in advance for the following financial year and a further \$154.45 was paid into the Society's PayPal account earlier in the year.

\$229.75 appears in the report as a liability and will be carried into the following financial year.

Donations

We are deeply appreciative of the donation from Andy Milton's family, to the value of \$5000.00. It will be well spent in the following financial year.

After participating in an Outreach night at Western Sydney Parklands, MAS received a donation of \$1000.00. These two donations were set aside in the MAS Special Purpose Bank Account. This was done so that we could purchase something to honour Andy Milton.

Other donations were collected at our forum nights, totalling \$314.71.

Interest

Our Term Deposit Account received \$505.35 in interest, and a sum of \$9.88 in interest in our General Bank Account.

The Term Deposit Account matured in June, 2024, and it was then decided to add another \$10,000 to the account and run it for another twelve months at 4.55% pa. This will mature in June, 2025. Total investment is \$36,022.59.

Sale of Merchandise

The Sale of Merchandise is represented by the sales of Astronomy 2025, and Planispheres. This amounted to \$963.00.

MAS is grateful to Colin Pettitt for ordering and supplying the magazine at cost price.

It is also with great sadness that we farewell the Astronomy Magazine. The publishers have decided that it is no longer a viable production for them. It will be a great loss to many members.

Ground Hire

Hire fee for Wooglemai amounted to \$1,101.50, with reimbursements adding up to \$760.00. This leaves a deficit of \$341.50, which MAS contributes in support of our members.

Tomra Return and Earn

This continues to be an easy source of revenue and members are always encouraged to contribute. This financial year, \$1,048.50 was raised through the donation of bottles into the Tomra Return and Earn collection points. MAS members are issued with a card to make it easier to nominate the society as a recipient of donations.

EXPENDITURE

Storage Costs and Fit Out

An amount of \$855.00 for 6 months storage shed hire was paid. In 2025, MAS will take on a storage area at our Stargard site.

The idea of having a storage shed is to have all MAS related equipment and material in one place instead of scattered across several members households.

Equipment Purchased

MAS was gifted a scope which was in good order but needed the mirrors replaced. This cost \$530.32 and was organized by Greg Bradford. As part of continuing to run zoom sessions for our forums, a laptop was purchased for that purpose at a cost of \$997.00.

Subscriptions

Subscription to the mobile data network, Zoom, and DreamHost for our web site amounted to \$850.44. It is noted that the Telstra subscription for the mobile data has increased in price from \$20 to \$25 per month, as of August 2024.

Dinners, Gifts and Catering – Forum Expenses

We were finally welcomed back to face-to-face forums, and with that, MAS hosted our guest speakers to dinner, and members to tea and coffee. A small gift was also given to our speakers. Total costs were \$271.31, \$62.60 for tea and coffee, etc. and \$208.71 for our speakers dinner and gifts.

Advertising

Costs for advertising include an initiative from Greg Bradford to have small flyers printed which can be handed out at public events. The cost was \$178.95

OVERVIEW OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Macarthur Astronomical Society can boast a surplus of \$9,495.57, in part boosted by the donations from the Milton Family and Western Sydney Parklands, \$6,000.00.

Some savings are expected as the rent for the Storage Unit expires in the near future. Although, it must be noted that there is an increase in mobile data charges.

Some charges for miscellaneous goods included purchasing tubs, etc. to contain MAS property in the storage shed. These will be transferred to the Stargard site in the near future.

Our Term Deposit is expected to mature on 24th June, 2025.

Overall, net members equity has increased by \$9,500.57 from the previous year.

Suzanne Adijans
12th April 2025

4. Annual Financial Statements 2024-25

Suzanne Adijans

Macarthur Astronomical Society
Statement of Financial Performance
Financial Year Ended 28th February, 2025

		2025	2024	Movement
Income				
	Membership Fees	\$6,924.83	\$7,069.17	-\$144.34
	Donations	\$6,314.71	\$423.00	\$5,891.71
	Interest	\$515.23	\$579.84	-\$64.61
	Sales of Merchandise	\$963.00	\$1,517.29	-\$554.29
	Ground Hire	\$760.00	\$780.00	-\$20.00
	Tomra Return & Earn	\$1,048.50	\$1,266.90	-\$218.40
	TOTAL INCOME	\$16,526.27	\$11,636.20	\$4,890.07
Expenditure				
	Filing Fees	\$54.00	\$106.44	-\$52.44
	Insurance	\$894.22	\$784.38	\$109.84
	Miscellaneous Expenses	\$243.48	\$27.09	\$216.39
	Postage, printing & stationary	\$424.05	\$438.26	-\$14.21
	Storage Costs and Fit out	\$855.00	\$1,282.50	-\$427.50
	Equipment Purchase	\$1,527.32	\$780.42	\$746.90
	Cost of goods sold	\$630.00	\$856.80	-\$226.80
	Subscriptions	\$850.44	\$673.49	\$176.95
	Ground Hire	\$1,101.50	\$980.00	\$121.50
	Dinner, Gifts and Catering	\$271.31	\$352.33	-\$81.02
	Advertising	\$178.95	\$409.96	-\$231.01
	Bank Fee/Paypal	\$0.43		\$0.43
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$7,030.70	\$6,691.67	\$339.03
Reconciliation	Total Income	\$16,526.27	\$11,636.20	\$4,890.07
	Less Total Expenditure	\$7,030.70	\$6,691.67	\$339.03
Operational Surplus/Deficit		\$9,495.57	\$4,944.53	\$4,551.04

Macarthur Astronomical Society
Statement of Financial Position
Financial Year ended 28th February, 2025

Balance Sheet		2025	2024	Movement
Accumulated Funds				
	Funds at beginning of year	\$41,317.73	\$36,373.20	\$4,944.53
	Surplus (Deficit) for year	\$9,495.57	\$4,944.53	\$4,551.04
	Net Member Equity	\$50,813.67	\$41,317.73	\$9,495.94
Represented by				
	Current Assets			
	Merchandise Stock	\$755.84	\$724.86	\$30.98
	Cash at bank and in hand	\$11,463.30	\$11,382.02	\$81.28
	Fixed Term Deposit	\$36,022.59	\$25,517.24	\$10,505.35
	Paypal balance	\$125.32	\$1,211.38	-\$1,086.06
	Prepaid Insurance	\$894.22	\$784.48	\$109.74
	Prepaid Storage Rental	\$570.00	\$1282.50	-\$712.50
	AV and other Equipment	\$1,527.32	\$758.60	\$768.72
		\$51,358.59	\$41,660.98	\$9,697.61
	Non Current Assets			
	Plant and Equipment	\$8,302.15	\$6,774.83	\$1,527.32
	Depreciation	-\$8,302.15	-\$6,774.83	-\$1,527.32
	Total Assets	\$51,358.59	\$41,660.98	\$9,697.61
	Less Current Liabilities			
	Membership fees in advance	\$544.93	-\$343.25	\$201.67
	Total Assets less Liabilities	\$50,813.69	\$41,317.73	\$9,495.94

Macarthur Astronomical Society
End of Financial Year Banking Reconciliation 28th February, 2025

	2025	2024	Movement
General Bank Account	\$5,449.76	\$11,378.36	-\$5,928.60
Special Purpose Bank Account	\$6,013.54	\$3.66	\$6,009.88
Term Deposit Account	\$36,022.59	\$25,517.24	\$10,505.35
Paypal Account	\$125.32	\$1,211.38	-\$1,086.06
	\$47,611.21	\$38,110.64	\$9,500.57

Suzanne Adijans
12th April 2025

5. Auditor's Statement 2024-25

Graeme Bellamy

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. They have been presented on the Full Disclosure principle.

Note 1

The Honorary Treasurer, Suzanne Adjans should be congratulated on a sterling job in the preparation of these seamless accounts.

Note 2

Regrettably this will be my last report due to age and health issues. I would like to thank all those who have offered me support and friendship over the years. It has been a real privilege to participate and I wish the Society every future success.

Graeme Bellamy
28th March 2025

6. Vice President's Annual Report 2024-25

Noel Sharpe

It is hard to believe that another year has gone by, in reflection the past year has had both challenges and its rewards. Firstly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our President John Rombi, it has been my pleasure to work closely with John for many years now. I would like to think we make a great team, we share the same view that the society works best when we do not take things too seriously, and more importantly we have fun, it is a hobby after all.

I also wish to thank our Secretary Roger Powell, who I have a lot of dealings with, as well as our amazing committee members, Phil and Greg, and our newer committee members Sue and Frank who joined us last year, they have brought in not only fresh faces but lots of new ideas. We have also continued to receive excellent support from our fellow MAS members, Tony Law and Barry Moore.

Western Sydney University

We had a change in the location for our Forums back to a lecture theatre we used for many years previously. Thanks must go to Tony Law and Greg Bradford for their incredible expertise in facilitating the Zoom presentations at our Forums, whilst it is a smaller lecture theatre it can still seat just over a hundred if needed and has a big car park. We also have an option to switch to a larger room if the need arises.

I wish to thank WSU Campbelltown for their support of the society, and in particular John and Roger's hard work over a long period to secure an official agreement for the lecture theatre hire.

We now have in place a formalised agreement signed off on by both John and Myself. We continue to hold our monthly forums free of any hire costs, have access to the audio-visual equipment, free car parking, a kitchenette and a meet and greet area.

Now the agreement is in place it should make the following years bookings a more streamlined matter. The use of the Campbelltown Rotary Observatory is not included in the agreement as it is the Universities responsibility to organise and facilitate its use, we stand ready if any approach comes our way to assist the University with any future programme.

Stargard

Stargard is still our main general purpose observing field, the night sky remains dark enough for useful observations and imaging, despite the increase in the great urban light spill.

The new Multi-Purpose Building at the Dudley Chesham Oval has now been completed, at time of writing we have been allocated a storage room on the western side of the building adjacent to the netball courts where we hold our workshops, we are actively working with the Wollondilly Shire Council and will be looking forward to the official handover sometime at the end of this month.

The weather has unfortunately been a real shocker, despite scheduling twice monthly visits over the past year we could only manage five successful outings.

Wooglemai

Wooglemai is a bit darker then Stargard and is very private and has overnight accommodation, large under cover areas, lounge area with fireplace, kitchen, toilet facilities and nature walks. The access road is graded and after a recent visit is easily accessible by car. Due to the many weather-related cancellations, we could only manage three visits over the past year.

I wish to thank Barry Moore for opening the site as due to my work commitments I cannot arrive in time to open the gate, also thanks to Phil and Tony for their continued support of Wooglemai, we have another couple of visits planned for this year.

The Forest

It is great to think that we have access to three great observing sites, the challenge is how to build a workable roster. The Forest offers the darkest of all the sites, stars everywhere and a log cabin to stay in.

However, despite gaining permission to use the Forest last year we have yet to pay a visit, again the weather has been very uncooperative. Nevertheless, we will plan the rosters and hope for the best.

Congratulations to Tony Law for organizing our return to The Forest and acting as the MAS liaison.

The Year Ahead

In late breaking news I canvassed the idea to our committee to waive the fees for all members if they wish to attend The Forest and Wooglemai dark sky sites. This includes staying overnight, I'm pleased to say that my proposal was accepted in full, effective immediately. We are in a strong financial position; however, we will still need to be prudent with our spending so will monitor how this initiative proceeds.

The new building at The Oaks is going to work out great, but we are not quite ready to move in just yet, also I'm looking at getting a quote for insurance to cover at least our more valuable telescopes, and equipment.

We have lots happening, looking to start up again some public nights out at The Oaks, visits to a private Observatory in the Southern Highlands, more workshops, outreach at Sydney Parklands, the Astro Imaging group and increasing member turnouts at The Forest and Wooglemai now the Society is picking up the tab.

The Campbelltown Rotary Observatory has always been on our wish list to have up and running on an ongoing basis, and we are happy to assist the University if we are approached, I'm sure we can adjust our schedule to suit, but until then our attention will be focussed on the activities that I have listed above.

Kind Regards

Noel Sharpe
12th April 2025

7. Secretary/Webmaster Annual Report 2024-25

Roger Powell

The Society is now well into its thirtieth year - and what an exciting time it is to be an astronomer!

I begin by expressing my appreciation for the friendship and unwavering commitment of my fellow committee members, John, Noel, Suzanne, Phil, Greg and Frank. Their dedication to running the Society has met high standards and it has been an honour to serve MAS alongside them.

Nominations for election to the committee closed on 7th April with just one nomination for each position, so once again a ballot is avoided. Several of the committee have served for many years but we cannot go on forever. Soon it will be time for some new faces to step up and run this great Society. Already we are seeking a new Auditor, with Graeme Bellamy retiring from this important role after seventeen years.

Despite the recent pandemic and the current cost of living difficulties, our membership levels remain at a consistently high level. As Frank reports, we had 164 members registered in 2024-25, although unfortunately, we lost two during the year, due to the deaths of our friends Dick Everett and Peter Scott, who are remembered on our [Roll of Honour](#).

One of the current aims of the committee is to rebuild member participation in field night activities following the pandemic downturn. Poor weather has hampered our efforts but more opportunities will come. I hope more members - experienced and beginners alike - will be encouraged to come out to our evening sessions and experience the joy and serenity in the darkness under the stars.

Our other core monthly activity is the Macarthur Astronomy Forum, which is held in collaboration with WSU and its Campus Provost, Professor Sarah Lewis. It's exciting to see the attendance numbers slowly building up again after covid. Entry is free and John has lined up some very exciting speakers!

A new initiative conceived during the year is the creation of a sub-group, the MAS Astro Imaging Group, which is lead by Frank Alvaro. The first meeting will be held next month and full details are available on the website.

The Universe is expanding and so is the Macarthur Region we live in. So it is with pleasure that I can report that MAS website patronage is also increasing in patronage:

Financial year:	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Annual Page visits:	34,450	47,700	57,424	60,560
Increase:		+38.5%	+20.4%	+5.5%

While the website primarily serves as a resource for members, it also formally represents MAS to a broader audience, including prospective members, local institutions, community leaders, professional astronomers and the general public - locally & world wide.

It encourages me that the most popular web page during the year (after the home page) was the [Members Photo Gallery](#). This is where you can see the exciting work of our members. MAS is at the forefront of the astro-photography revolution and the gallery is for you, to use it and to peruse it.

As always, if you see a dead link or other error among the seventy plus pages of the MAS website, please let me know so I can correct it.

Roger Powell
12th April 2025

8. Membership Report 2024-25

Frank Alvaro

The MAS membership experienced positive growth during the 2024-2025 year (March 1, 2024, to February 28, 2025), ending with 164 members, up from 150 at the end of the 2023-2024 year. This growth is notable, while we also remember with deep sadness the passing of Dick Everett and Peter Scott, valued members of the MAS community.

Membership composition as of year-end:

- 1 Associate
- 24 Family (56 members)
- 3 Limited Family (6 members)
- 62 Individual
- 5 Honorary
- 32 Pensioner/Retired
- 2 Student

The year saw steady growth, with 16 new memberships (22 new members, 13 in January and February alone) recorded. This momentum has continued into the new membership year, with an additional 6 memberships (9 members) in March 2025.

In my first year as Membership Officer and committee member, I am grateful for the guidance of my colleagues and the excellent handover from Dave Manning.

Frank Alvaro

12th April 2025

9. Telescope Curator's Report 2024-25

Greg Bradford

Loan Telescopes

Our telescopes and binoculars may be loaned to members for free, except when being used for mentoring purposes.

We have two 15cm Dobsonians and a 20cm Dobsonian telescope recently donated by Jenny and Greg Blackburn.

Also available 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.

Chris Malikoff has generously donated a GSO 15cm Cassegrain OTA, which is available to advanced users.

Western Sydney University has donated a Baader Zoom lens.

All telescopes 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 loan 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.

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 on one of the Stargard fields with experienced MAS observers as mentors.


This financial year we were only able to run two workshops due to weather.

Greg Bradford

12th April 2025

10. Minutes of 2024 AGM

Submitted for approval at the 2025 AGM

<p>MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY Incorporated</p>  <p>www.macaastro.org.au</p>	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>of</p> <p>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</p> <p>Held at Western Sydney University with online participation via Zoom Monday 15th April 2024 at 6.45 pm</p>
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1. OPENING OF MINUTES, WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

President John Rombi opened the meeting at 6.50 pm and welcomed participants at WSU and online.

Those attending at WSU			Those attending on Zoom	
John Rombi	Jenny Rombi	Greg Bradford	Joan Powell	Roger Powell
Phil Kidd	Tony Law	Daniel Ross	Neville Arnott	Ric Forster
Frank Alvaro	Lloyd Wright	Lou Timpano	Robert Duncan	Jean Haavasalu
Colin Pettit	Robert McGoven	Ray Armstrong	Anthony Muscio	Peter Scott
Noel Sharpe	Mike Nicholas	Noel Sharpe	Mark Fischer	Roberto Soria
Carol McVeigh	Barry Moore	Suzanne Adjans	Darren Nichol	Dick Everett
Ian Cook	George Cruikshank	Ben Southwell	Michael Clark	Richard Curley

Apologies received from Gusztav Belansky and Stewart Grainger. John Rombi thanked members for attending. The meeting accepted his proposal that Roger Powell be appointed to take the minutes.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The minutes of the 2023 AGM were circulated to members prior to the meeting and were taken as read.

Motion: _____ moved by John Rombi,
seconded by Jenny Rombi. Motion carried unanimously. The President ordered that the minutes be filed in the Society's formal records.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

There was no business arising from the previous minutes

4. PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2022-2023

The 2023-2024 combined Annual Report was published eight days before the meeting. It includes reports from the President (John Rombi), Treasurer (Noel Sharpe), Auditor (Graeme Bellamy), Vice-president (Noel Sharpe), Secretary (Roger Powell) and Telescope Custodian (Greg Bradford).

John Rombi read his President's Report. Noel Sharpe read his Treasurer's Report and Vice President's Report. The remaining reports were taken as read.

Motion: . Moved John Rombi, seconded Roger Powell. Carried unanimously.

There was no business arising from the reports. The President ordered that the 2024 Annual Report be filed in the secretary's formal records.

5. PRESENTATION OF MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

John Rombi announced the membership awards, which were presented in person if in attendance and will be posted to those who were not present at WSU.

- 5 Year Awards Howard Pew; Joan Powell, Marie Curley; Isabella Curley; David Kind; Sanjay Sengupta; Manisha Basu; Damian Case; Neville Arnott; Rita Currie; Eric Kingston; Alison Ford; Eric Brown; Sarkis Garabedian; Andre Sarkis.
- 10 Year Awards Masayoshi Nagaya; Suzanne Adijans; Allen Williams; James Wall; Rob Moscrop; Ralph Imber; Shirley Imber; Phillip Carey; Bob Siegel.
- 15 Year Awards Mohammed Baddah; Jennifer Rombi; Carol McVeigh.
- 25 Year Awards Lou Timpano; George Cruickshank; Ursula Braatz, John Rombi, Lloyd Wright.

6. APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER:

John Rombi thanked all members for their support during the year and proposed Tony Law as the Returning Officer. The proposal was endorsed by the meeting and John Rombi vacated the chair.

7. ELECTION OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR 2024-2025

Tony Law took the chair and thanked John for his strong leadership of the Society. He declared vacant all management committee positions and advised that one nomination had been received for each vacancy, prior to the closing of nominations on 1st April 2024. The validity of the seven nominations was certified.

Position	Nominee	Nominator	Seconder
President	John Rombi	Jennifer Rombi	Roger Powell
Vice-President	Noel Sharpe	Tony Law	Barry Moore
Treasurer	Suzanne Adijans	John Rombi	Jennifer Rombi
Secretary	Roger Powell	Joan Powell	John Rombi
Membership Officer	Frank Alvaro	John Rombi	Greg Bradford
Committee Member	Phillip Kidd	Jennie Kidd	John Rombi
Committee Member	Greg Bradford	Karyn Bradford	Roger Powell

There being no duplicate nominations, Tony Law declared each of the seven nominees duly elected to the Macarthur Astronomical Society Inc. Management Committee for 2024-25. The declarations were unanimously endorsed by the meeting.

On behalf of the membership, Tony Law congratulated the new management committee and wished them well for the coming year. Tony then vacated the chair for the re-elected President John Rombi.

8. OTHER BUSINESS DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO THE AGM.

There was no other business.

9. CLOSE OF MEETING

The President, John Rombi thanked the membership for their participation and support. The Annual General Meeting closed at 7.42 pm and continued as a Monthly General Meeting (Macarthur Astronomy Forum).