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[macastro.org.au](http://macastro.org.au)

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6.30 pm Monday 20th April, 2026

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

# 1. Notice of 2026 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 2026-27 prior to the meeting.

## Agenda

1. Opening of meeting, welcome and apologies.
2. Minutes of previous AGM, 21st April 2025<sup>1</sup>
3. Business arising from the minutes.
4. Presentation of 2025-26 Annual Reports<sup>1</sup>
5. Presentation of Membership Awards<sup>1</sup>
6. Appointment of Returning Officer.
7. Election of Management Committee for 2026-27.<sup>2</sup>
8. Other Business directly relevant to the AGM.
9. Close of Meeting.<sup>3</sup>

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

<sup>2</sup> Seven positions are available on the committee. Nominations for election to the committee closed at noon on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April. Nominations received were: President: John Rombi; Vice President: Noel Sharpe; Secretary: Phil Kidd Treasurer: Suzanne Adijans; Membership Officer; Frank Alvaro; Committee Members: Greg Bradford, David Meiklejohn & Irene Maranan

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

**Phillip Kidd**  
**Secretary**  
**12<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

## 2. President's Annual Report 2025-2026

John Rombi



**Dear Members,**

Well, it's AGM time again, and the beginning of a new year for The MAS.

### **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The MAS has turned 30.

It is a time that we should celebrate, the success of our great society.

The MAS has come a long way from the first meeting that was held in our founding president's garage in Ingleburn, in February 1996.

We owe a lot to our founding members, especially our founding President, Phillip Ainsworth.

His passion & vision went from an idea, to the great society that we all enjoy today.

In those early times, one of our long time members Daniel Ross (who was attending WSU as a student) invited Prof Ragbir Bhatal (astronomer/astrophysicist) to our meeting "in the ole garage" He was so impressed by what he saw, that he invited The MAS to hold their meetings at WSU, and we have been there ever since.

The MAS was able to fill a void in the astronomical community. Most of the societies in greater Sydney were in the City, North Shore or Sutherland area.

We will be honoring three of founding members at The AGM, Phil Ainsworth, Roger Powell and our current Vice President, Noel Sharpe.

Thirty years later, and The MAS is thriving, especially in these difficult times.

### **Committee & Nominations**

At the close of nominations for Committee positions, as of Monday April 6th, we have 8 nominations for the 8 positions available.

So, for the 30th 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, Secretary) Greg Bradford (CM, Telescope Loan Wrangler & Director) Frank Alvaro (Membership Officer)

A big thank you to all the CM's, they have supported me without reservation. I value your council & friendship.

Special thanks goes to Noel, our VP.

He has worked tirelessly behind the scenes and has been a rock for me.

With a few personal problems through out the year for me, Noel has stepped up and into my responsibilities. I would be lost without him.

A big thank you to Phil Kidd who took over the position of Secretary late in 2025. Phil has decided to continue on as Secretary for 2026.

For this year we welcome two new committee members, David Meikljohn & Irene Maranan. David has taken over the position of Webmaster, and Irene as general committee member.

We now have a committee of 8, The MAS is in good hands.

My sincere thank you goes to Roger Powell, our former Secretary & Webmaster. Roger had to step down from his positions late in 2025, due to health concerns. He has bounced back from those very difficult times, and you will see him and his wife Joan on our Zoom Forums each month.

Roger is one of our founding members; he joined The MAS in September 1996.

I would like to thank Roger for his guidance, assistance & friendship in making sure that The MAS always came first.

The committee has decided to bestow onto Roger, our highest award, Honorary Membership, for his many contributions to the society, whether it was committee/and or subcommittee work, public outreach, and assistance in workshops and member field nights.

His great contributions over nearly 30 years have been invaluable, thank you Roger for your service.

### **Western Sydney University**

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

### **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 6 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**

We have joined with **Western Sydney Parklands**.

For science week in August 2026, we will hold a public night in conjunction Western Sydney Parklands, Abbotsbury.

Greg & I visited one their new sites at Mulgoa recently, and it seems like it will be another great site for public outreach.

Our regular site at The Oaks won't be utilized until the end of 2026.

We need to wait until the car park has been resurfaced with tar, before we can use the area.

### **Financial Status**

I would like to thank our treasurer Sue, her knowledge of financial systems and the implementation of new procedures, will keep The MAS bottom line in a healthy position. For further information, please refer to the financial report by our Treasurer, Sue Adijans..

### **Storage Facility**

Last July we moved all our physical assets from our storage area at Narellan, to the all purpose facility at The Oaks.

This is all part of our partnership with Wollondilly council, Stargard, Dudley Chesham Oval, and the all purpose facility.

## **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, there are sleeping quarters, kitchen and toilets/showers for your use. 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**

A great dark sky observing site, like everywhere else has suffered lack of use due to the poor weather conditions. I would like to thank Tony Law (former MAS president) for taking over the running & booking part of this site. Let's hope the weather forecasts are more stable as Autumn takes hold..

## **Social Media**

The MAS is active in this area with a healthy Face book presence. Visit our website [www.macaastro.org.au](http://www.macaastro.org.au) with its clearer and added features. There are two areas, 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](mailto:membership@macastro.org.au) and he will help you with this. You have until April 30<sup>th</sup>; otherwise a rejoining fee of \$17 will apply.

## **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](mailto: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!

## Chris Malikoff

In May last year, I received a very distressing call that our dear friend Chris Malikoff had passed away. Chris joined The MAS in 2006 and quickly showed the enthusiasm that the society had benefited from the beginning.

Chris was our VP for a year from 2011, and held the mantle of President for 3 years. He was also instrumental in starting up the modern website that we have today. You would see Chris's smiling face where ever The MAS needed him, Members night's at Stargard and The Forest and also with our public outreach at "The Domes".

Chris was also responsible for the running of our first solo production for the society, "Magnitude" that was held over a 2 year period, at The Campbelltown Art Gallery.

We will miss him, but we are also privileged to have known him.

*"Ad Astra"*

## MAS Awards

At this time of year we acknowledge the continuous support of our members. Congratulations to all the recipients. Your certificate/Badge will be presented to you at The AGM, otherwise it maybe collected at our next Forum or observing night or 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	25 year awards	30 year awards + badge
Robyn Reynolds	Peter Godwin	Jack Giles	Phillip Kidd	Phillip Ainsworth
George Mosca	Ric Forster	Anthony Jelich	Michael Wells	Noel Sharpe
Ellen Dwyer	Robert McGoven	Robyn Jelich		
Lillian Ireland-Smith	Mark Sellars			

Cheers,

**John Rombi**  
12<sup>th</sup> April 2026

# 3. Treasurer's Annual Report 2024-2025

**Suzanne Adijans**

This report has been reviewed by Maria Corso, Financial Reporting Accountant, Campbelltown Council, and we are grateful for her assistance.

## Statement of Financial Performance

### INCOME

#### Membership Fees

We carried over \$154.45 from the previous year that was paid in advance of the 2025-26 year.

There was also \$121.00 that was pre-paid for the 2026-27 year. This will be reported as a liability and carried into the following financial year.

New and renewed membership fees amounted to \$7,724.52, bringing the total membership fees for 2025-26 to \$7,878.97.

#### Donations

Donations collected from our forums amounted to \$146.30.

#### Interest

Our Term Deposit Account earned \$1,904.83 in interest. The account matured in June, 2025, and it was decided to continue with the investment for another 3 months, then 12 months at 3.45%pa. Maturity date is 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2026.

The General Bank Account earned \$10.70.

#### Tomra Return and Earn

Members are given a card to use at a Return and Earn site which directs funds into MAS account. This year, \$224.50 was raised.

#### Sale of Merchandise

With new members joining MAS, we ordered MAS branded clothing: polo shirts, jackets, and, beanies. Only garments that were ordered by members were supplied. This was to avoid having unsold stock.

Some old stock was sold, \$255.00 There are still a few items to be sold amounting to \$487.00. It is hoped that we can move more stock during the colder months.

The cost of purchasing new stock was \$702.46. Total sales were \$667.00. We have stock of extra beanies and caps that will either be sold, or given as gifts to our guest speakers (7 new beanies are valued at \$126.00).

### EXPENDITURE

#### Storage Costs and Fit Out

This year saw MAS move their items, that were in storage, to an allocated room within the newly built complex at Dudley Chesham Sportfield, The Oaks.

This sees a substantial saving in storage costs to the Society, \$581.87 for 2025-26.

## Equipment Purchased

The Committee decided to use the money gifted the previous year, from Andy Miltons family, to purchase two AEDs and first aid kits. These will be taken out of storage when we hold observing nights. Given that these sights are at some distance from medical help, it was agreed that they were important purchases.

The AEDs cost a total of \$3,794.50. Two First Aid kits, complete with snake bite bandages cost \$214.98.

Another purchase was a right-angled finder for a gifted telescope for \$99.00.

Specialized batteries for the AEDs, \$180.00, were purchased only to find that the AEDs already had them installed. These were returned and refunded from the supplier.

## Subscriptions

In previous years, Greg Bradford paid for the **Telstra** account through his personal account and MAS reimbursed the cost to him. Greg no longer wants to do this so it was arranged that the Telstra fees be directly debited from the MAS account. There was also a price increase from \$25 to \$30 per month. The Telstra account allows MAS to run the zoom account for the forum. The yearly cost was \$365.00.

Our forums are still using **zoom** as well as members attending in person. This has been a great bonus for those that are unable to attend the forums. Previously, the zoom payment came out of the MAS **Paypal** account. It became problematic to get the control of this account changed to the current Treasurer. It was decided to close the Paypal account in October, 2025. Zoom payments now come out of the Treasurers personal account and reimbursed by MAS. Unfortunately, zoom will not accept a direct debit, only payment from a credit account, which MAS does not have. This seemed the simplest solution.

An amount of \$45.17 was transferred from the Paypal account back into the MAS account.

MAS pays a yearly subscription to **DreamHost**, \$32.00, for the webpage.

## Guest Dinners, Gifts, Accommodation, AIG and Forum Catering Expenses

MAS offer to buy our guest speakers dinner before presenting at the forums. Some are offered accommodation if travelling a distance to present. Prof. Fred Watson has a fee of \$250.00 for his presentations and MAS are more than happy to pay for his talks.

Each guest presenting in person is given a small gift in appreciation.

This year MAS saw the beginning of the Astro Imaging Group. This will be discussed in other reports. MAS does provide tea and biscuits for those attending either/or AIG and forums. In 2025-26, the cost amounted to \$1,125.37 for this category.

## Ground Hire

It was decided that MAS would cover the costs of members using **Stargard, Wooglemai and The Forest** facilities, although \$90.00 had already been paid. Previously, MAS charged a nominal fee if a member chose to stay overnight at either Wooglemai or The Forest.

A fee to Wollondilly Shire Council of \$154.00 for Stargard; The Forest – International House, University of Sydney, \$360.00; Wooglemai, \$260.00.

## **Advertising**

MAS did not have an advertising campaign, this year. However, a banner was purchased, to set up at our forums, as a meeting point for new members or guests. This was purchased for \$35.00.

## **OVERVIEW OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

Macarthur Astronomical Society can declare a surplus of \$1,631.05 for the financial year 2025-2026, ending 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2026.

At the end of the financial year, MAS had a total of \$49,242.26 in the three bank accounts.

Total assets amount to \$11,967.50.

## **Other Notes regarding MAS Finances**

First, it must be explained that with the closing of the PayPal account, it was decided that a working account, with \$2,500.00 be used so that only one committee members signature is required to transfer or pay small amounts. It was also stipulated that a member NOT pay themselves. Receipts are forwarded to either the Treasurer for payment, or, if it was the Treasurers expense, another committee member forward reimbursement.

This has been working very well. At the beginning of the financial year, the account is topped up to see us through the next year.

All other fund movement require the signatures of Two committee members.

Currently, John Rombi, Suzanne Adijans, Frank Alvaro and Noel Sharpe are signatories on MAS accounts

## **Suzanne Adijans**

**12<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

## 4. Annual Financial Statements 2025-26

Suzanne Adijans

**Macarthur Astronomical Society**  
**Statement of Financial Performance**  
**Financial Year Ended 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2026**

		2026	2025	Movement
<b>Income</b>				
	Membership Fees	\$7,845.52	\$6,924.83	\$920.69
	Donations	\$146.30	\$6,314.71	-\$6,168.41
	Interest	\$1,917.51	\$515.23	\$1,402.28
	Sales of Merchandise	\$1,453.23	\$963.00	\$490.23
	Ground Hire	\$90.00	\$760.00	-\$670.00
	Tomra Return & Earn	\$224.50	\$1,048.50	-\$824.00
	Correction	\$267.36		\$267.36
	(Transfer to Paypal)	(\$1,270.00)		(\$1,270.00)
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$13,214.42</b>	<b>\$16,526.27</b>	<b>-\$3,311.85</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
	Filing Fees DOFT	\$56.00	\$54.00	\$2.00
	Insurance	\$0.00	\$894.22	-\$894.22
	Miscellaneous Expenses	\$12.36	\$243.48	-\$231.12
	Postage, printing & stationary	\$417.42	\$424.05	-\$6.63
	Storage Costs	\$581.87	\$855.00	-\$273.13
	Equipment Purchase	\$4,108.48	\$1,527.32	\$2,581.16
	Cost of goods sold	\$702.46	\$630.00	\$72.46
	Subscriptions Zoom	\$337.39	\$850.44	-\$513.05
	Stargard/Move/Fit	\$554.00	\$1,101.50	-\$547.50
	Dinner, Gifts and Catering	\$1,125.37	\$271.31	\$854.06
	Advertising	\$0.00	\$178.95	-\$178.95
	Telstra	\$365.00		\$365.00
	Forest Hire	\$360.00		\$360.00
	Wooglemai Hire	\$260.00		\$260.00
	Library Hire	\$810.08		\$810.08

	Bank Fee/Paypal	\$4.54	\$0.43	\$4.11
	(Paypal top-up)	(\$1,270.00)		(\$1,270.00)
	(Transfer to Imprest Ac)	(\$586.40)		(\$586.40)
	Dream Host	\$32.00		\$32.00
	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>\$11,583.37</b>	<b>\$7,030.70</b>	<b>\$4,552.67</b>
<b>Reconciliation</b>	Total Income	\$13,214.42	\$16,526.27	-\$3,311.85
	Less Total Expenditure	\$11,583.37	\$7,030.70	\$4,552.67
<b>Operational Surplus/Deficit</b>		<b>\$1,631.05</b>	<b>\$9,495.57</b>	<b>-\$7,864.52</b>

**Macarthur Astronomical Society**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**Financial Year ended 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2026**

<b>Balance Sheet</b>		<b>2026</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>Movement</b>
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>				
	Funds at beginning of year	\$47,611.21	\$41,317.73	\$6,293.48
	Surplus (Deficit) for year	\$1,631.05	\$9,495.57	-\$7,864.52
	<b>Net Member Equity</b>	<b>\$49,242.26</b>	<b>\$50,813.30</b>	<b>\$1,571.04</b>
<b>Represented by</b>				
	<b>Current Assets</b>			
	Merchandise Stock	\$487.00	\$755.84	-\$268.84
	Cash at bank and in hand	\$11,314.84	\$11,463.30	-\$148.46
	Fixed Term Deposit	\$37,927.42	\$36,022.59	\$1,904.83
	Paypal balance	\$0.00	\$125.32	-\$125.32
	Prepaid Insurance	\$0.00	\$894.22	-\$894.22
	Prepaid Storage Rental	\$0.00	\$570.00	-\$570.00
	AV and AEDs	\$0.00	\$1,527.32	-\$1,527.32
		<b>\$49,729.26</b>	<b>\$51,358.59</b>	<b>-\$1,629.33</b>
	<b>Non Current Assets</b>			
	Plant and Equipment	\$11,967.50	\$8,302.15	\$1,527.32

	Depreciation	-\$11,967.50	-\$8,302.15	-\$1,527.32
	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$49,729.26</b>	<b>\$51,358.59</b>	<b>-\$1,629.33</b>
	<b>Less Current Liabilities</b>			
	Membership fees in advance	\$121.00	\$544.93	-\$433.93
	<b>Total Assets less Liabilities</b>	<b>\$49,608.26</b>	<b>\$50,813.69</b>	<b>-\$1,205.43</b>

### Macarthur Astronomical Society

#### End of Financial Year Banking Reconciliation 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2026

	2026	2025	Movement
General Bank Account	\$10,720.88	\$5,449.76	-\$5,928.60
Special Purpose Bank Account	\$593.96	\$6,013.54	\$6,009.88
Term Deposit Account	\$37,927.42	\$36,022.59	\$10,505.35
Paypal Account	\$0.00	\$125.32	-\$1,086.06
	<b>\$49,242.26</b>	<b>\$47,611.21</b>	<b>\$1,631.05</b>

**Suzanne Adijans**  
12<sup>th</sup> April 2026



**Memorandum**

To: The President, Macarthur Astronomical Society Inc.  
From: Maria Corso, Financial Services (02) 4645 4410  
Date: 23 March 2026  
Regarding: Review of the Macarthur Astronomical Society Inc. accounts for the year ended 28 February 2026

My review was conducted in accordance with the requirements and practical expectations applicable to NSW incorporated associations that are non-commercial and volunteer-run. Income and Expenditure Statements for the accounts were supplied with the books, making the review process straightforward for balancing purposes.

The review included:

A review of bank reconciliations for all accounts held by the Association. Agreement of recorded balances to bank statements as at year end. Review of supporting documentation available for expenditure. Consideration of the consistency and reasonableness of classifications and disclosures.

Subject to this limitation, in my opinion the financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Association as of 28 February 2026 and the results for the year then ended.

Overall, the books for Macarthur Astronomical Society Inc. have been kept in an excellent condition, and the Treasurer should be congratulated for her efforts.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "MC", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Maria Corso  
Financial Reporting Accountant

**Campbelltown City Council**  
91 Queen Street, Campbelltown  
PO Box 57, Campbelltown NSW 2560

**campbelltown.nsw.gov.au**  
T 02 4645 4000  
E council@campbelltown.nsw.gov.au

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131 450

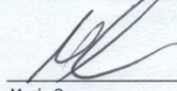
**Macarthur Astronomical Society Inc.**  
**Income and Expenditure Report**  
**for the period 01 March 2025 to 28 February 2026**



	<b>Current Year</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Memberships Fees	\$ 7,794.69
Donations	\$ 197.13
Interest	\$ 1,917.51
Sales of Merchandise	\$ 1,453.23
Ground Hire	\$ 90.00
Tomra Return & Earn	\$ 224.50
Corrections	\$ 267.36
Transfer to Paypal	\$ 1,270.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 13,214.42</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Filing Fees DOFT	-\$ 58.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	-\$ 144.23
Postage, printing & stationary	-\$ 417.42
Equipment purchase	-\$ 4,108.48
Cost of good sold	-\$ 975.46
Subscriptions/Zoom	-\$ 131.75
Ground Hire	-\$ 327.47
Dinner, Gifts and catering	-\$ 852.37
Storage Shed/Telstra	-\$ 715.00
Forest Keys	-\$ 400.00
Misc Expenses/Forest/Library hire	-\$ 958.05
Subscription/Room Hire	-\$ 646.20
Bank fee/Paypal	-\$ 400.94
Paypal top-up	-\$ 1,270.00
Transfer to term deposit/Special account	-\$ 180.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>-\$ 11,583.37</b>
<b>Net Result for the Year</b>	<b>\$ 1,631.05</b>

I have examined the books and records of the Association and, as is common with many NSW incorporated associations that are non-commercial and volunteer-run, it is not practicable to establish full accounting control over a substantial proportion of receipts and certain expenditure transactions prior to their being recorded by the Treasurer. Accordingly, my examination of income and expenditure from those sources was limited to the amounts recorded in the Treasurer's records.

Subject to the foregoing limitation to the scope of my review, in my opinion, the attached Statements present fairly the financial position of the Association as at 28 February 2026 and the results of the Macarthur Astronomical Society for the year ended on that date.

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Maria Corso  
 Financial Reporting Accountant  
 23-March-26

**Campbelltown City Council**  
 91 Queen Street, Campbelltown  
 PO Box 57, Campbelltown NSW 2560

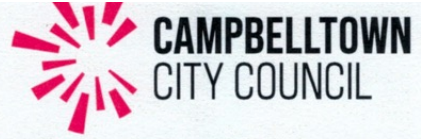
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ABN: 31 459 914 087



131 450

Macarthur Astronomical Society Inc.  
**Bank Reconciliation**  
**As at 28 February 2026**



	<b>Cash Book Reconciliation</b>	<b>Bank Reconciliation</b>
	As at 28 February 2025	As at 28 February 2026
<b>Balance per Bank Statements</b>		
General Bank Account Balance	\$ 5,449.76	\$ 10,720.88
Special Purpose Bank Account	\$ 6,013.54	\$ 593.96
Term Deposit	\$ 36,022.59	\$ 37,927.42
Paypal Account	\$ 125.32	\$ -
<b>Movements</b>		
Receipts	\$ 13,214.42	
Expenses	-\$ 11,583.37	
<b>Balance as at 28 February 2026</b>	<b>\$ 49,242.26</b>	<b>\$ 49,242.26</b>

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Maria Corso  
 Financial Reporting Accountant  
 23-March-26

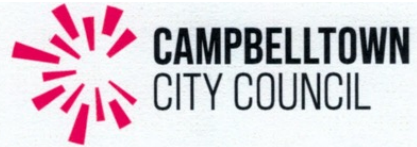
**Campbelltown City Council**  
 91 Queen Street, Campbelltown  
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131 450

**Macarthur Astronomical Society Inc.  
General Bank Account  
As at 28 February 2026**



<b>Balance as at 28 February 2025</b>	\$	5,449.76
<b>Deposits</b>		
Bank Interest		
Membership Fees	\$	7,707.69
Donations	\$	197.13
Ground Hire	\$	90.00
Tomra Return & Earn	\$	224.50
Sale of Merchandise	\$	1,102.00
Error/Correction/Overpayment	\$	61.01
<b>Withdrawals</b>		
Ground Hire	-\$	327.47
Postage, printing & stationary	-\$	243.28
Transfer to term deposit/special account	-\$	180.00
Transfer to Paypal	-\$	1,270.00
Forest Keys	-\$	400.00
Storage shed/Telstra	-\$	715.00
Cost of goods sold	-\$	975.46
	\$	5,271.12
<b>Balance as at 28 February 2026</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>10,720.88</b>

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Maria Corso  
 Financial Reporting Accountant  
 23-March-26

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Macarthur Astronomical Society Inc.  
Special Purpose Bank Account  
As at 28 February 2026



<b>Balance as at 28 February 2025</b>	\$	6,013.54
<b>Deposits</b>		
Bank Interest	\$	10.70
Deposit 1	\$	206.35
Deposit 2 Merchandise	\$	351.23
Deposit 3		
<b>Withdrawals</b>		
Bank Fees	-\$	351.23
Misc Expenses/Forest/Library hire	-\$	958.05
Postage, printing and stationary	-\$	114.59
Equipment purchased	-\$	4,009.48
Subscriptions	-\$	131.75
Dinner, gifts and catering	-\$	422.76
	-\$	<u>5,419.58</u>
<b>Balance as at 28 February 2026</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>593.96</u></b>

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maria Corso", written over a horizontal line.

Maria Corso  
Financial Reporting Accountant  
23-March-26

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Macarthur Astronomical Society Inc.  
Term Deposit  
As at 28 February 2026



<b>Balance as at 28 February 2025</b>	\$	36,022.59
<b>Deposits</b>		
Interest	\$	1,904.83
<b>Withdrawals</b>		
Bank fees		
Withdrawal 1		
	\$	1,904.83
<b>Balance as at 28 February 2026</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>37,927.42</b>

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maria Corso", written over a horizontal line.

Maria Corso  
Financial Reporting Accountant  
23-March-26

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Macarthur Astronomical Society Inc.  
Paypal Account  
As at 28 February 2026



<b>Balance as at 28 February 2025</b>	\$	125.32
<b>Deposits</b>		
Bank Interest	\$	1.98
Transfer from General account	\$	1,270.00
Reimbursement (overpayment)		
Membership Fee	\$	87.00
Deposit 4		
<b>Withdrawals</b>		
Bank fees	-\$	49.71
Filing Fees DOFT	-\$	56.00
Miscellaneous	-\$	144.23
Postage, printing and stationary	-\$	59.55
Equipment purchased	-\$	99.00
Subscriptions/room hire	-\$	646.20
Dinner, gifts and catering	-\$	429.61
	-\$	<u>125.32</u>
<b>Balance as at 28 February 2026</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>-</u></b>

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maria Corso", written over a horizontal line.

Maria Corso  
Financial Reporting Accountant  
23-March-26

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# 6. Vice President's Annual Report 2025-26

Noel Sharpe

The Year in Review.

Over the period from 1st of March 2025 to 28 February 2026, the MAS been affected by shocking weather conditions, cancellations galore! Worst I have seen in my 30 odd years! However, we have not been sitting around cursing the clouds and rain.

What was not affected by the weather was our Forums, we had some amazing guest speakers and presentations. enacted some great new ideas, like the Astro Imaging Group, continued organising MAS Workshops, grown our membership and relocated to a new storage facility.

We renewed our hire arrangements for The Forest, Wooglemai, Stargard and renewed our room hire contract with WSU Campbelltown.

I appreciate the great cooperation and friendships that I have enjoyed over the last year, we have a great team led by our President John Rombi, it has been great working with John indeed all the MAS Committee over the last 12 months.

It's a great team effort for which we get paid very little, well maybe a coffee and biscuits at our Forum.

Unfortunately founding member and MAS Secretary Roger Powell had to step down from his duties during the year, due to ill health. I will miss his wise counsel and invaluable contributions, we wish well for his continuing recovery.

We have great support from our fellow MAS team members, Tony Law who manages The Forest and Barry Moore who has been a great help with Wooglemai.

We want to thank WSU Campbelltown for their continued support of the society; we have now signed a new Lecture Theatre hire agreement for 2026, we also acknowledge and thank Wollondilly Council for all their help with Dudley Chesham Oval, Stargard and especially with our new storage room.

## **Stargard**

Stargard continues to be our main general purpose observing field, the new storage room is now being utilised, located in the new building at the oval, we moved our assets out of Narellan Self Storage in the middle of last year, we have yet to make use of the MPB, Multi-Purpose Building, however we intend to do so this year, the Oval is still undergoing redeveloped. Latest information is that the carpark should be started after the football clubs have finished their season later this year.

The weather has been a shocker for stargazing and imaging on our field nights, unfortunately we could only manage four nights at Stargard and two successful workshops at the Oval with an additional workshop abandoned on field due to gale force icy blasts. I congratulate Greg Bradford for all his hard work in organizing these workshops, and being the custodian of the loan telescopes, also for being our technician at the Forums to enable us to reach out to members via Zoom.

## **Wooglemai**

Wooglemai is a bit darker then Stargard, is very private, has overnight accommodation, large under cover areas, lounge area with fireplace, kitchen, toilet facilities, and nature walks. The access road is graded and accessible by car. Due to weather-related cancellations, we could only manage just one visit over the period, this is very disappointing.

I wish to thank Barry Moore for his ongoing support with Wooglemai, also thanks to Phil Kidd and Tony Law for their continued advocacy and assistance with Wooglemai, hopefully with better weather we will enjoy some great nights there over the next 12 months.

## **The Forest**

The Forest offers the darkest of all the sites, stars you could reach out and touch, a log cabin to stay in with bunk beds, a kitchen and dining area. We just cannot believe that over the period only two weekends were held, against the weather, nevertheless we will still plan the rosters and hope for the best outcomes.

We thank Tony Law for organizing The Forest schedule and acting as the MAS liaison to Sydney University, also I congratulate Tony for his technical support, alongside Greg at the Forum zoom out to members.

Let us hope for clear skies!

Kind Regards

**Noel Sharpe**  
12<sup>th</sup> April 2026

## 7. Secretary/Webmaster Annual Report 2025-26

**Phil Kidd**

The Society is well into its thirtieth year. In a few days we honour two founding members for 30 years of continuous membership. This year we also see huge advances in astronomy with Artemis 2 mission around the Moon, to advances in software making imaging the heavens far easier than just a few years ago.

Unfortunately, this past year marks the end of service to MAS by its long term Secretary Roger Powell. Roger has been a steadying hand in the management of MAS, and as incoming Secretary I am indebted to the organisation he left behind. I only hope that I can keep up the standard Roger has set.

I thank my fellow committee members John, Noel, Suzanne, Frank and Greg for their friendship, support and continuing dedication to MAS and welcome new members David and Irene to the management committee.

Nominations for election to the management committee closed on 6<sup>th</sup> April with just one nomination. For each position, so once again a ballot is avoided. It is gratifying to see new members become part of the management of our Society, but it is important that more members take on more active roles be it management, participating in public outreach, or even attending workshops and observation nights.

MAS is working on engaging the broader public through our outreach by working with Western Sydney University, Western Sydney Parklands and through the amazing presenters John organises for our monthly forums. Some members take advantage of the Zoom presentations, but it seems that those attending are too often the same faces. We simply need more people to attend to keep our Society healthy.

Observing nights at Stargard, Wooglemai and The Forest are regularly planned, and unfortunately in the past year cancelled due to inclement weather. These are free events with the Society meeting the costs and we need more members to take advantage of these events, regardless of their confidence or equipment.

As astrophotography takes off throughout astronomy, our Astro-imaging group, managed by Frank Alvaro, is rising to meet the challenge. Those that attend leave with greater skills and knowledge to apply to their own craft. No experience is needed, so any member interested in recording the night sky should take advantage of this initiative.

Our workshops, managed by Greg Bradford, provide opportunities for all members regardless of their confidence at using their equipment to get hands on support. Again more members should be involved

in this. Greg also manages our loan telescopes to support members that do not yet have the equipment they might want to use.

### **Webmaster Report.**

MAS thanks Roger Powell for his ongoing dedication as webmaster, a technical task involving every MAS member and those belonging to our Facebook pages. I welcome David Meiklejohn to this role and know that Roger has given generous support for David.

Our website continues as a resource for members, prospective members, the public reaching out for our support. The Members Photo Gallery continues to be popular, and demonstrates the prowess of members in capturing the night sky. This has been recently expanded to include the images from the Image Of The Month challenges from the MAS Astro-imaging Group, and presentations used at AIG meetings.

Our Facebook pages continue to be very popular, posting items of astronomical interest, images from a wide range of telescopes and informing members of current MAS events such as the status of field nights. The people belonging to our Facebook group range from local amateurs to international academics.

**Phil Kidd**

**12<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

## 8. Membership Report 2025-26

**Frank Alvaro**

MAS membership continued to grow during the 2025-2026 year (1 March 2025 to 28 February 2026), with 47 new members joining. After accounting for non-renewals from the previous year, this brings total MAS membership to 180 members - up from 164 members at the end of the 2024 year and from 150 members at the end of the 2023 ye

From April 2025 we asked new members, as part of their application for membership, how they heard of MAS and why did they decide to join. Most of the new members heard about MAS on the internet, either via Google or the MAS Facebook page, but there were quite a few who came to us via friends, family or other contacts, which is pleasing to see. As to why they joined, as expected there were a multitude of reasons - an interest in astronomy and astrophotography; wanting to learn more, especially at the guest speakers' Forum presentations; how to set up and use their equipment; and as a social/community engagement. All very worthwhile reasons.

Membership type composition as of 28 Feb. 2026:

Family membership: 25 (58 members)

Honorary membership: 5

Individual membership: 69

Limited Family membership: 4 (8 members)

Pensioner/Retired membership: 37

Student membership: 3

Years of membership as of 28 Feb 2026:

0 - 1 yr: 47 (26%)

1 - 5 yrs: 50 (28%)

5 - 10 yrs: 31 (17%)

10 - 20 yrs: 37 (21%)

20 - 25 yrs: 3 (1.7%)

25+ yrs: 12 (6.7%)

I would like to thank my fellow Committee members for their support and guidance, and to all members - old and new - for keeping me busy during the year, especially at membership renewal time!

**Frank Alvaro**

**12<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

## **9. Telescope Curator's Report 2025-26**

**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 and one 20cm Dobsonian telescopes for loan.

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.

We also have a GSO 15cm Cassegrain OTA and a Baader Zoom lens available to advanced users.

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 and Olympus 8-16 x 40 Zoom binoculars.

### **Workshops**

Workshops were introduced in March 2022 and have become a popular event.

Whilst they are aimed at new members, they are open to all members and skill levels. They are run the 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.


It is hoped there will be greater integration of workshops with the recently formed Astroimaging Group.

**Greg Bradford**

**12<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

# 10. Minutes of 2024 AGM

Submitted for approval at the 2026 AGM

<p><b>MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY</b> Incorporated</p>  <p><a href="http://www.macaastro.org.au">www.macaastro.org.au</a></p>	<p><b>MINUTES</b> of <b>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</b></p> <p>Held at Western Sydney University with full online participation via Zoom Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2025 at 6.30 pm</p>
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## 1. OPENING OF MINUTES, WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Vice President, Noel Sharpe, opened the meeting at 6.30 pm sharp and welcomed participants, both at

WSU and online. The quorum was exceeded. Noel informed the meeting that he will chair the meeting, as the President John Rombi and wife Jenny were sick and were unable to attend in person but will witness the AGM on Zoom.

Apologies were received from: Tony Law and Mark Sellars.

### 1.1 Attendance at AGM at WSU

Members in attendance

Noel Sharpe	Bob Monkcom	Greg Bradford	Mark Johnson	Pete Elston
Allen Williams	Ces Cuado	Daniel Ross	Michael Jupe	Robert McGoven
Jennie Kidd	Phil Kidd	Lou Timpano	Carol McVeigh	Suzanne Adijans
Barry Moore	David Meiklejohn	Martin Ferlito	Colin Pettitt	Lloyd Wright
Christian Jacobs	Ruth Jacobs	Joe Boustani		

Visitors in attendance

Roco Foti	Ivanka Foti	Lorenzo Foti	Joseph Foti	Emilia Foti
Rosie Sultana	Brendan Sultana	Pasquale Arcadi	Angela Arcadi	Zane Taseski
Fortuna Foti	Terry Mullane	Rosemary Abdul		

Members present who signed register:	23
Visitors present who signed register:	13
Total present	36

## 1.2 Members attending AGM on Zoom

Number of external logins:	13
Members present at least:	15
Members positively identified:	11
Members identified by first name only:	3
Members identified as a device name:	1

John & Jenny Rombi, Roger & Joan Powell; Masa Nagaya; Craig Elson; Roberto Soria; Stephen Edwards; Mike Nicholas; George Cruikshank; Frank Alvaro; Mark; David; Lindsay; and one unidentified Samsung device.

Zoom logon details were distributed only to members. Participant video was switched off.

## 1.3 Minute Taker

Noel Sharpe thanked members for attending and advised that Roger Powell will record the minutes.

## 2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The minutes of the 2024 AGM were circulated to members prior to the meeting and were taken as read.

**Motion:** *“That the minutes be accepted as a true record of the 2024 AGM”*, moved by Roger Powell, seconded by Noel Sharpe. Motion carried unanimously.

## 3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

There was no business arising from the previous minutes

## 4. PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2024-2025

The 2025 combined Annual Report was published seven days before the meeting. It included reports from the President (John Rombi), Treasurer (Noel Sharpe), Auditor (Graeme Bellamy), Vice-president (Noel Sharpe), Secretary (Roger Powell) and Telescope Custodian (Greg Bradford).

Noel Sharpe read out the President’s Report and moved its acceptance. This was seconded by Stephen Edwards and the motion was carried unanimously.

The Treasurers Report and Financial Statements were taken as read. The Treasurer, Suzanne Adijans expressed her appreciation for the advice that Graeme Bellamy had provided her during the preparation of the report and to previous Treasurers over the last eighteen years. Noel Sharpe moved acceptance of the report. This was seconded by Peter Elston and the motion was carried unanimously.

Noel Sharpe read out the Auditor’s Statement and moved its acceptance. This was seconded by Suzanne Adijans and the motion was carried unanimously.

Noel Sharpe read out his own Vice-President’s Report. Acceptance was moved by Sue Adijans and seconded by Barry Moore. The motion was carried unanimously.

The remaining reports from other committee members, including Secretary/Webmaster, Membership Officer and Telescope Curator, which were taken as read. Noel Sharpe moved their acceptance. This was seconded by Phil Kidd and the motion was carried unanimously.

**Motion:** *That the 2025 Reports as a whole be accepted.* Moved by Noel Sharpe. Seconded by Roger Powell, Motion carried.

There were no specific questions nor was there any business arising from the reports. The Treasurer, Suzanne Adijans offered to answer questions from members after the meeting.

## 5. PRESENTATION OF MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

Noel Sharpe 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	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		Michael Jupe	
Ramon Erasmo		Barry Moore	
Greg Cain		Borislj Muratovic	

## 6. APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER:

Noel Sharpe thanked all members for their support during the year and proposed Carole McVeigh as the Returning Officer. The proposal was endorsed by the meeting and Noel Sharpe vacated the chair.

## 7. ELECTION OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR 2024-2025

Carol McVeigh took the chair and declared all management committee positions vacant. Carol advised that one valid nomination had been received for each vacancy, prior to the closing of nominations on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

Position	Nominee	Nominator	Seconded
President	<b>John Rombi</b>	Jennifer Rombi	Phil Kidd
Vice-President	<b>Noel Sharpe</b>	Barry Moore	Phil Kidd
Treasurer	<b>Suzanne Adijans</b>	Roger Powell	Joan Powell
Secretary	<b>Roger Powell</b>	Joan Powell	Greg Bradford
Membership Officer	<b>Frank Alvaro</b>	Noel Sharpe	Phil Kidd
Committee Member	<b>Phillip Kidd</b>	Jennifer Kidd	Jennifer Rombi
Committee Member	<b>Greg Bradford</b>	Karyn Bradford	John Rombi

There being no duplicate nominations, Carol declared each of the above nominees duly elected to the Macarthur Astronomical Society Inc. Management Committee for 2025-26. Each declaration was unanimously endorsed by acclamation.

On behalf of the membership, Carol congratulated the new management committee and wished them well for the year ahead. Carol then vacated the chair for the re-elected Vice President Noel Sharpe.

## **8. OTHER BUSINESS DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO THE AGM.**

Mark Johnson enquired whether we have lined up a successor to Graeme Bellamy as Auditor. Suzanne Adijans said that we will be seeking a new auditor and we also have in mind that a community auditing service exists through Campbelltown Council.

## **9. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The Vice President, Noel Sharpe thanked the membership for their participation and support. The Annual General Meeting closed at approximately 7.20 pm and after a few minutes break continued as a Monthly General Meeting (Macarthur Astronomy Forum).

*Minutes: Roger Powell, Secretary*

*Chair: Noel Sharpe, Vice President*

*20<sup>th</sup> April 2025*

*20<sup>th</sup> April 2025*