



MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 2008

Presidents Report – John Rombi

Well here we are with another year gone by. I have enjoyed my first year as president with quite a few matters creating a challenge for me.

Our guest speaker line up was like a Who's Who of Astronomy:

2007

- May: Melissa Hulbert, Egyptology & Astronomy.
- June: Workshop on Collimation.
- July: Workshop on Drift Alignment.
- August: Ian Cook, Skyview 2007.
- September: Prof. Fred Watson, Tomorrows Telescopes.
- October: Mark Suchting, Binocular Telescopes.
- November: Don Whiteman, Charles Messier and "That List"

2008

- January: Chris & Jenny Malikoff, The Narrabri Telescope Array.
- February: Associate Prof. Geraint Lewis, Galactic Cannibalism + a Little Bit of Cosmology.
- March: Dr Miroslav Filipovic, Structure of the Universe.

The Forest

We are very fortunate as a club to have access to the cabin; I would like to thank International House (through Jessica Carroll, Director) and Sydney University for this great facility.

The cabin is used by many members on the New Moon weekend of each month; the pristine skies (down to Mag 7.5 in winter) are a real attraction.

I would also like to thank the M.A.S caretakers Ned Pastor & Lloyd Wright for collecting & returning the keys (from Syd Uni) and making sure that the cabin is in ship shape condition for use. Without their tireless efforts, these weekends would not be possible, Thanks Ned & Lloyd.

Stargard

Has been a great asset for M.A.S to have under its belt. We are now one of the official users of this field (along with pony the club) and through our representative Noel Sharpe, we have a stake in the decisions made for this area. It is only ½ hour from Campbelltown with very good dark skies.

U.W.S Campbelltown.

Continues to be our home for our monthly meetings (I think we are up to 11 years) Unfortunately as of this year they have decided to charge M.A.S for its use; our costs will be \$385 per annum. We will not need to raise or introduce a new fee to pay for this, but I encourage everyone to enjoy the \$2 coffee & tea available at our meetings. Not only is it a great social lubricant, but it also helps to pay for the room.

Public Outreach

Was a little thin on the ground this last year, but the one that made up for it all was the total Lunar Eclipse on Saturday August 28th. Not only did we have one of the deepest eclipses for a number of years but is also a clear night!!

We had a rough estimate of 200 people at The Rotary Observatory site with 18 M.A.S members feeding the frenzy brought on by the event.

Quite a few members recorded the event with film and digital cameras.

Chris Malikoff put together a montage of images taken over the five hours of the eclipse, they were so good that they made it into the local papers.

We were fortunate to have a Daily Telegraph reporter in the crowd, and yours truly was approached for a few comments on the night. We were the only Astronomical Society to make it into the big time!!

Thankyou, thankyou, thankyou - Where do I begin!!

Firstly, I would like to thank my Vice President Martin Ferlito.

He has been a driving force of new ideas: Workshops, Our very successful DVD, the upcoming T-Shirts and caps, and the revamp of the website a couple of years ago. And the ever present helping hand for any one that needed it, even to the detriment of his own observing schedule.

Bob Bee

Well what can I say, 12 years on the committee and editor for *Prime Focus*. Always available to enchant the public at open nights with a combination of astronomical mythology and fact. Bob's prowess with the written word, sees him as a columnist for The Chronicle with "*Heavens Above*" and of course his much loved book on Binocular Astronomy. When we speak of assets to our club, Bob is at the top.

Dick Everett

Another long time member; and our treasurer. Dick has used his extensive business skills to keep the M.A.S. finances in a healthy position; he is also responsible for the mailout of Prime Focus.

Dick has been the clubs D.I.Y guru for many years now, and has helped many members with observing chairs, dew heaters and any technical information needed.

Both Dick and Bob were the co-ordinators of the recent M.A.S. stand at the Campbelltown Show. My spies tell that it was one of the most successful exhibits there!!

He's also very good at finding those elusive objects. The dreaded Shapely 1 comes to mind!!

Kate Ross

Kate became our only second editor and first female committee member last year.

She has stamped her own mark on the "*New Prime Focus*" With an engineering degree and a degree in I.T. law, Kate has been a guiding star when advice on legal matters was needed. She also puts together a mean set of Raffle tickets!! When you have six males ranting on at a committee meeting, its good to have a level headed person like Kate to keep the peace.

Daniel Ross

Is another 10 year member, he has been on the committee for number of years.

Daniel has been our long time computer guru, name badge maker and the first person to have a really big (and the first truss) telescope in the club. Both Daniel and Kate have always been there on the public nights, sharing their enthusiasm and knowledge.

Chris Malikoff

I'm very grateful that Chris has decided to take over the reigns of the website, his artistic flare and sound knowledge of the I.T. industry is a great asset to our club.

Lloyd Wright

Well what can I say about Lloyd?

Lloyd works very quietly and below the radar, he is not the sort of person to draw attention to himself. He has a very selfless approach to life and is ALWAYS the first person to offer help to me or any member regardless of the situation.

If you would like to make a mould that encompasses all the positive attributes of a member, it's Lloyd.

Last but not least

I would like to thank you the members. You have entrusted to me the responsibility of making sure that M.A.S has an ongoing and bright future, with your help I know that this can be achieved.

Macarthur Astronomical Society
Statement of Financial Performance
For year ended 29th February, 2008

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
Income		
Membership Fees	1,925.00	1,480.00
Donations	166.00	42.35
Interest	16.47	14.35
Sales of Goods -		595.00
Publications	731.16	
DVD's	484.00	
Tea & Coffee	124.00	110.65
Magellan Fees	665.00	275.00
	<u>4,111.63</u>	<u>2,517.35</u>
 Expenditure		
Depreciation	456.00	506.00
Filing Fees	43.00	39.00
Insurance	738.00	776.96
Miscellaneous Expenses	53.00	113.38
Postage & Printing	147.71	74.66
PO Box Rental	65.00	60.00
Purchase of Goods for Sale	926.00	404.50
Domain Registration	0.00	251.90
Security	0.00	39.70
Belangalo/Starguard	79.00	0.00
Magellan Costs	610.00	280.00
Room Hire	0.00	127.00
Guest Speakers	298.00	297.59
Badges - 10 year	0.00	210.00
	<u>3,415.71</u>	<u>3,180.69</u>
 Operating Profit/(Loss)	695.92	-663.34
Less Transfer to Asset Replacement reserve	<u>200.00</u>	<u>200.00</u>
Unappropriated Profit/(Loss) for year	<u>495.92</u>	<u>-863.34</u>

**Macarthur Astronomical Society
Financial Statement
As at 29th February, 2008**

	2008 \$	2007 \$
Accumulated Funds		
Asset Replacement Reserve	2,060.00	1,860.00
Funds at beginning of year	3,308.78	4,172.12
Profit/(Loss) for the year	495.92	-863.34
	<u>5,864.70</u>	<u>5,168.78</u>
Represented by:		
Current Assets		
Cash at bank	4,768.70	3,616.78
Non - Current Assets		
Plant & Equipment (Cost)	3,799.23	3,799.23
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	-2,703.23	-2,247.23
	<u>1,096.00</u>	<u>1,552.00</u>
Total Assets	<u>5,864.70</u>	<u>5,168.78</u>

Independent Audit Report

I have audited the financial statements, being the statement of financial position and statement of financial performance. The Astronomical Society Committee is responsible for the financial statements. The audit has been conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. My procedures including examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with accounting standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Astronomical Society's financial position and the results of its operation. The audit opinion expressed has been formed on the above basis.

Note 1 - Accounting principles and methods adopted in accounts

The accounts have been prepared on the cash basis, and in accordance with applicable statements of accounting concepts and accounting standards issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB). They have also been prepared on the basis of historical costs. The accounting policies have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated.

Note 2 - Non-Current Assets

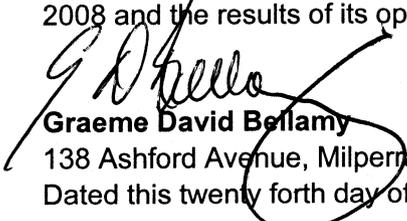
Non-Current assets are included at cost or at independent valuation. All non-current assets are depreciated over their estimated useful lives commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Note 3 - Fund Raising

There was no fund raising activities carried out during the year

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statement of Macarthur Astronomical Society present fairly in accordance with applicable accounting standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements. The financial position of Macarthur Astronomical Society as at the 29th February, 2008 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.


Graeme David Bellamy

138 Ashford Avenue, Milperra

Dated this twenty fourth day of March, 2008