

April 2010

President's Report:

John Rombi

Well, 2009 what can I say, but WOW!!

With 2009 designated as The International Year of Astronomy by the U.N, astronomy societies world wide were run off their feet, MAS was no exception.

Our main focus was placed on holding Open Nights at The Campbelltown Rotary Observatory. This was held in conjunction with UWS's assistance (Dr Ragbir Bhatla & Mr Mark Johnston). We had approximately 20 – 25 members (with equipment) attend each outing. I would estimate that we had 1200 – 1500 members of the public attend these nights over the year. The feedback I received from the public through various forums was of "wonder and excitement" and a big thank you to the members for their time, knowledge and enthusiasm shown.

We also took our "show" on the road, in April we took part in co celebrations with The Historic Societies of Campbelltown and The Oaks. Starting off with a day long setup of scopes at "Glenalvon" in Campbelltown. Our resident golden tonsils, Bob Bee gave two talks on astronomy and was met with a full house both times. Late afternoon, we set off for The Oaks for our next session with The Oaks society. Bob backed up to give another presentation, with the crowd primed for astronomy, they were released into the court yard to be greeted by 20 astronomers keen to show them "What was out there".

In June we visited Tudor House at Moss Vale, we were welcomed with a hot dinner and a group of very enthusiastic children. Bob Bee again entertained the children first, but when it became our turn with the telescopes.....all we could show them was a cloudy sky. It was very disappointing for all involved.....but they have asked us to return this year!!

At the end of June, we travelled to Cawdor Public School for an observing night, Bob as usual wowed all in attendance with his presentation, when it came time for telescope viewing the sky was clear! We kept a group of 40 children, parents and teachers enthralled with the images of the night sky for the following hour.

Our next outing was at The Wollondilly Anglican College at Tahmoor. Dave Reneke (Sky & Space Mag) gave a presentation on Astronomy to the Students. He asked if we could supplement the talk with telescopes. we again supplied 10 scopes. After David's talk, we were swamped by approx 60 eager novice astronomers keen to put into practice what they had learned.

Prof Fred Watson

Was our Keynote speaker of the year. In September he was greeted by over 100 members of the Public at the new Medical Facilities buildings at UWS Campbelltown.

His presentation was on "Why is Uranus Upside down?" After a successful evening, I took Fred up to the Observatory where we were greeted by a plethora of MAS astronomers, all manning their scopes with an ever inquisitive (and ever growing) "public" presence. Thanks Fred!!

Prof Bryan Gaensler

One of the world's top astrophysicists made two visits to MAS over the period of a year. He was received with such enthusiasm by the society that we decided to invite Bryan to become our Patron, a position that he accepted gratefully. We will be able to welcome Bryan into the MAS fold officially later in the year.

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

2009

- May: Prof. Bryan Gaensler (University of Sydney).
 June: Bob Bee (Macarthur Astronomical Society)
 July: Chris Malikoff (Macarthur Astronomical Society).
 August: Prof. Geraint Lewis (University of Sydney)
 September: Prof. Fred Watson (Anglo Australian Observatory).
 October: Chris Malikoff (Macarthur Astronomical Society)
 November: Dr Tim Robishaw (Sydney University)

2010

- February: Dr David Malin
 March: Professor Fred Watson AM (Anglo-Australian Observatory)

We have been very fortunate that these experienced speakers have been able to give us time to pay us a visit.

And of course, the ever reliable locals (members) that are always available to share their passion with others.

A BIG thanks to all of you!!

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. Unfortunately The Forest facility was sparsely used, due to the rotten weather thrown up for most of the year. Our fee is still \$8 per person per night, very reasonable. 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 an official user of this field (along with pony the club); so we have a stake in the decisions made for this area. It is only ½ hour from Campbelltown with very good dark skies.



President's Report:

John Rombi

U.W.S Campbelltown,

Continues to be our home for our monthly meetings for the last 14 years. After an initial period where we had to pay (at a reduced cost) for the room, we now no longer pay for its use.

Observing Nights "See Above"

Merchandising

We now have a full compliment of items: shirts, caps, beanies, books.

Refreshments

I would like to thank Debbie Taylor for providing our social lubricants throughout the year, there's nothing like a good cuppa with a chat after the meeting.

Thanks Deb!!

Prime Focus

I would like to thank Geoff Young for taking over (as Editor) for this important part of MAS.

P.F has been provided from the beginning of MAS in 1996, so it's good to see it continue in good hands. As always, PF can't continue without your contribution!!

Thankyou. Thankyou. Thankyou

Where do I begin?!!

Firstly, I would like to thank my Secretary; Roger Powell. He has been a great support to me over the last year. Roger's capability with the written word, whether dealing with the media or bringing a point to the attention of the necessary powers that be, has been a great asset to MAS. We couldn't have achieved the results at hand without Roger's commitment.

Trevor Rhodes. Along with Roger, Trevor has been my little voice of reason over the year, apart from being a very good friend; I appreciate greatly, Trevor's council.

Tony Law. Another long time member and our treasurer Tony has used his extensive business skills to keep the M.A.S. finances in a

healthy position. As always his enthusiastic ideas and keen sense of humour keep our meetings alive.

Chris Malikoff. Our Webmaster, and astrophotographer extraordinaire has been a great asset to MAS. Our website has changed and grown exponentially since its inception and this has been due to Chris's hard work. Chris has also been available to help the large influx of new astroimagers come to grips with the steep learning curve that this subject produces.

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.

Ivan Fox. Ivan has been on the committee for two years, unfortunately he has decided to step down as of the AGM. Ivan has worked quietly in the background and was always ready to help at a moments notice.

Stewart Grainger. I'm thankful that Stewart was able to take on the responsibility of Merchandising Officer. Stewart has done this admirably, setting up the Merchandising stand at all of our outings this year, and making stock available at our monthly meetings. I would also like to thank Carol McVeigh for assisting Stewart during the year as well.

Graeme Bellamy. Each year as our AGM approaches, Graeme is given the task of auditing MAS's books and accounts. I would like to thank Graeme for using his extensive knowledge as an auditor in carrying out this important job.

Last but not least

I would like to thank you, the members.

If I have missed anyone, I truly apologise.

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.

John Rombi

MERCHANDISE REPORT:

Stewart Grainger

Macarthur Astronomical Soc. stock list as of 8/04/10.

Prices listed are per item and total of that amount

DVD 'Magnitude'	3 x copies	\$4.50 ea.	\$13.50
Star Wheels (L)	14	\$19.20 ea.	\$268.80
Starwheels (S)	2	\$12.50 ea.	\$25.00
Patches (White)	20	\$7.00 ea.	\$140.00
Patches (Black)	14	\$7.00 ea.	\$98.00
Beanies	19	\$11.22 ea.	\$213.18
Baseball caps	5	\$15.30 ea.	\$76.50
Astronomy 2010	5 x copies	\$17.11 ea.	\$85.55
Emu Dreaming	11 x copies	\$10 00 ea.	\$110.00
Heavens Above	15 x copies		(on loan)

Shirts:

Mens white: M x 2; L x 3; XL x 2; XXL x 1

Mens Navy: M x 4; L x 1; XL x 2

Mens Black: S x 1; M x 4; L x 4; XL x 0; XXL x 0; XXXL x 1

Ladies: Navy: 12 x 1; 14 x 1

Total 27 shirts. All shirts priced at \$28.44 ea. \$767.88

Total all stock 8/04/10 \$1798.41

I have done a count of everything we have and we are 1 short in the DVD's and also the shirt numbers didn't add up. The DVD's were all accounted for at last meeting but it appears one had been lifted as receipt sales and money collected added up.

Another problem has also come to light with the tallying of shirts. I have been altering the stock amounts as they had been sold. What I haven't done is count the shirts gifted to speakers as such.

I will from now on write on the receipt the shirt size and colour to make it easier to track them.

MERCHANDISE REPORT:**Stewart Grainger**

There was also some extra cash in the float that I can't account for. It may have been from when Carol did the merchandise earlier this year. The amount there equals the cost of one shirt so that accounts for another.

I hope that is all.

Stewart Grainger
Merchandise Officer
8th April 2010

AGM Notice of Meeting:**Roger Powell****Notice of Annual General Meeting**

The Fourteenth **Annual General Meeting** of *Macarthur Astronomical Society* will be held on Monday 19th April 2010 at 7.30 pm in Room 5, Building 22, University of Western Sydney, Campbelltown, NSW.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Opening of Meeting, welcome and apologies.
2. Minutes of previous AGM, 20th April 2009.
3. Business arising out of the minutes.

4. Presentation of Annual Reports.
5. Appointment of Returning Officer.
6. Election of Management Committee for 2009-2010.
7. Presentation of Ten Year Awards.
8. Other Business.
9. Close of Meeting.

Nominations for election closed on 5th April 2010.

Roger Powell
Secretary
6th April 2010

MAS Treasury & Membership Annual Report 8th April 2010
Treasury for year ending 28th February 2010

Macarthur Astronomical Society
Statement of Financial Performance for year ended 28th February, 2010

	2010	2009
	\$	\$
Income		
Membership Fees	\$ 3,521.00	\$ 2,299.00
Donations (public nights)	\$ 909.35	\$ —
Interest	\$ 0.78	\$ 20.77
Sales of Goods -	\$ 2,177.75	\$ 2,133.00
Dinners (Members contribution).	\$ 414.00	\$ —
Grounds	\$ 85.00	\$ —
Tea & Coffee	\$ 455.00	\$ 388.90
Fund Raising - Raffle	\$ —	\$ 523.00
	\$ 7,562.88	\$ 5,364.67
Expenditure		
Bank Fees	\$ 2.50	\$ —
Depreciation	\$ 418.00	\$ 418.00
Filing Fees	\$ 45.00	\$ 44.00
Insurance	\$ 729.38	\$ 729.38
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ 148.85	\$ —
Postage & Printing	\$ 330.00	\$ 135.15
PO Box Rental	\$ 75.00	\$ 70.00
Purchase of Goods for Sale at cost	\$ 1,632.98	\$ 2,296.35
Domain Registration / Web	\$ 75.00	\$ 192.00
Telephone expenses	\$ 70.00	\$ —
Belangalo/Starguard	\$ 370.00	\$ —
Room Hire	\$ —	\$ 315.00
Guest Speakers and Dinners	\$ 847.80	\$ 111.14
Badges - 10 year	\$ 55.31	\$ —
Campbelltown Show Expenses	\$ —	\$ 416.68
	\$ 4,799.82	\$ 4,727.70
Operating Profit/(Loss)	\$ 2,763.06	\$ 636.72
Less Transfer to Asset Replacement reserve	\$ —	\$ 200.00
Unappropriated Prof it/(Loss) for year	\$ 2,763.06	\$ 436.72

MAS Treasury & Membership Annual Report 6th April 2010 Treasury for year ending 28th February 2010

This has been my first year as treasurer and first of all I would like to thank all of my colleagues on the committee for their help and enthusiasm. With major events most months it was extremely busy.

The attached audited report, thanks to Graeme Bellamy, shows that your club is healthy and geared to meet anything the economy has to throw at us this year. Current balance \$6285.00, with about 50% of renewal fees still to be collected.

Merchandising has been added to our armoury this year, Stewart Grainger has been instrumental in making this a success, and Chris Malikoff has done wonders with the website to en-

courage new members and to allow purchasing of merchandise via PayPal.

Membership

We have increased our membership by 50% this year, to 97, due to our outreach, public nights and website. Suspect we will have approximately 20 who will not renew but already have two more members joined in March.

Tony Law
Treasurer

Macarthur Astronomical Society Financial Statement As at 28th February, 2010	2010 \$	2009 \$
Accumulated Funds		
Asset Replacement Reserve	\$ 2,260.00	\$ 2,260.00
Funds at beginning of year	\$ 4,241.42	\$ 3,804.70
Profit/(Loss) for the year	\$ 2,763.06	\$ 436.72
	\$ 9,264.48	\$ 6,501.42
Represented by:		
Current Assets (Stock)	\$ 1,950.45	-
Cash at bank	\$ 7,054.03	\$ 5,823.42
	\$ 9,004.48	\$ 5,823.42
Non - Current Assets		
Plant & Equipment (Cost)	\$ 3,799.23	\$ 3,799.23
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	-\$ 3,539.23	-\$ 3,121.23
	\$ 260.00	\$ 678.00
Total Assets	\$ 9,264.48	\$ 6,501.42

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**

In conjunction with the University of Western Sydney public open nights were held during the year and unsolicited donations of \$909.35 were received.

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 28th February, 2010 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

Graeme David Bellamy

138 Ashford Avenue, Milperra, 2214

Dated this twenty ninth day of March, 2010

