

## April 2011

### President's Report:

John Rombi

Well, as I sit here contemplating my final presidents report, I'm going back in my mind for the last year.

I would have to describe it as passionate, determined and focused.

MAS has gone from strength to strength. We shown that we were capable of holding a major event in our own right. The culmination of all this was "magnitude"

I would like to thank Campbelltown Council through (then) Mayor Aaron Rule and General Manager Paul Tosi. They provided the facility for us to hold our exhibition at The Campbelltown Arts Centre.

Having said that, a bare hall does not constitute an exhibition, a lot of hard work and dedication by you the members gave us the success that "magnitude" turned out to be.

A particularly BIG thank you must go to Chris Malikoff, without his input, it would have been less than it was.

Also a big thank you must go to UWS, for providing us with a room to hold our Macarthur Astronomy Forums each month. This setting certainly enhances the presentations given by our speakers.

Did I mention speakers? MAS has been very privileged to have had the top scientists in their field be available for our meetings. This is something that we should never take lightly.

They are very busy people, but they still take time out from their research to visit us. I must congratulate you... the members for making them feel at home and always welcome.

I have been given many compliments (toward MAS) from our guests, concerning our conduct; "A professional outfit" was just one of the quotes. Well done!!

Our membership has touched 100 over the last 12 months...and it is very gratifying to see our new members flourish as astronomers or astro-photographers.

Our finances have enjoyed a steady climb over 2010-2011, with just on \$12,000 in our coffers.

We have also placed \$7000 of this amount in a higher interest rate account.

Our website continues to be updated on a daily basis, and is one of our main tools for communication between members and the public. If you have not visited the site for a while, please do so soon.

Our observing nights, whilst greatly anticipated each month, have been the victim of our cloudy weather.

We have enjoyed many great nights at our Stargard Field, unfortunately The Forest has suffered the most "Off Nights"

We enjoy a great partnership with Wollondilly Council and our use of Stargard will continue for many years to come. This also applies to Dudley Chesham Oval (for our public nights) as well.

I must also thank Jessica Carroll (Director) of International House, Sydney University, for allowing us the continued use of their cabin. The Forest weekends are very well attended, and it is a great comfort to be able to "chill out" or "warm up" after an extended session of astronomy, in the cabin with a cuppa and good conversation.

The fees are very reasonable at \$8 per person per day or part thereof.

Even with a change of Venue (from The Domes) to D.C.O, our public nights have continued with great success, even the cloudy weather did not keep the enthusiasts away. Holding the nights at D.C.O has allowed MAS to remove the restrictions that were placed on us previously.

Well done to all the volunteers!!

Within the last month we have been approached by "Extravision" a Brisbane based importer of astronomical equipment, to advertise in P.F and our website. This will be a welcome boost to MAS finances.

This has not been finalised and is still under discussion.

I would like to thank Geoff Young for assembling and contributing to Prime Focus each month as its Editor.

I would also like thank Graeme Bellamy for his time (and expertise as an Auditor) in "looking over" our books each year.

I must thank a group of fantastic people, The MAS Committee!! I have never worked with a more professional group!! This society would not be in the great shape it is, without their tireless efforts!!

We owe this group a lot!!

In particular, I would like to thank Roger Powell (Secretary) not only has Roger become a very close friend, but also the voice of reason over many things, just in case I over reacted ( who me??)

Finally, Thank you for placing your faith in me as your President to keep MAS on the right course for the last four years, I hope I have been worthy of your trust.

John Rombi



## AGM Notice of Meeting:

Roger Powell

### NOTICE OF 2011 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Lloyd Wright, Stewart Grainger & Carol McVeigh.

Notice is given that the Fifteenth Annual General Meeting of Macarthur Astronomical Society will be held as follows:

Date: Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2011

Time: 7.30 pm.

Venue: Lecture Room 5, Building 22, University of Western Sydney, Campbelltown Campus.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Opening of Meeting, welcome and apologies.
2. Minutes of previous AGM, 19th April 2010.
3. Business arising out of the minutes.
4. Presentation of Annual Reports.
5. Motion: "That: (i) the current Constitution of Macarthur Astronomical Society be rescinded; and (ii) the proposed Draft Constitution, as displayed on the Society's website for the last six weeks be adopted as the new constitution of Macarthur Astronomical Society; and (iii) the old constitution shall remain in force until such time as the new constitution is accepted in writing by The Department of Fair Trading and at least until 1st June 2011."
6. Presentation of Membership Awards.
7. Appointment of Returning Officer.
8. Election of Management Committee for 2011-2012. Nominations have closed and the following were received: President: Trevor Rhodes; Vice-President: Chris Malikoff; Secretary: Roger Powell; Treasurer: Tony Law; Three Committee Members:

9. Other Business.

10. Close of Meeting.

**The proposed changes to the Constitution have been published on the website for the last three months and in the March edition of *Prime Focus* magazine.**

**Proxy votes are permitted under the MAS constitution. Members unable to attend the AGM but still wishing to vote may appoint a person to vote at the meeting on their behalf. Contact Roger at [secretary@macastro.org.au](mailto:secretary@macastro.org.au) or 4627 2838 for a proxy voting form. The returned form needs to be in the hands of the Secretary or Treasurer prior to the commencement of the meeting.**

**Kindly note that to be eligible to vote or stand for election at the AGM you must be financially up to date.**

**Following the conclusion of the AGM, the meeting will continue as an Ordinary General Meeting, with a talk by MAS member Daniel Ross about his trip to 'Space Camp.'**

*Roger Powell*

*Secretary*

*4<sup>th</sup> April 2011*


**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE for year ending 28th February 2010**

	2011	2010
	\$	\$
<b>Income</b>		
Membership Fees	\$ 4,135.59	\$ 3,521.00
Donations (public nights)	\$ 271.45	\$ 909.35
Interest	\$ 194.50	\$ 0.78
Sales of Goods -	\$ 2,970.75	\$ 2,177.75
Dinners (Members contribution)	\$ 909.00	\$ 414.00
Grounds	\$ 48.00	\$ 85.00
Tea & Coffee	\$ 200.00	\$ 455.00
AAO Trip	\$ 6,660.00	\$ -
	<u>\$ 15,389.29</u>	<u>\$ 7,562.88</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Bank Fees	\$ 2.50	\$ 2.50
Depreciation	\$ 260.00	\$ 418.00
Filing Fees	\$ 47.00	\$ 45.00
Insurance	\$ 734.88	\$ 729.38
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ 72.72	\$ 148.85
Postage & Printing	\$ 111.50	\$ 330.00
PO Box Rental	\$ 79.50	\$ 75.00
Purchase of Goods for Sale at cost	\$ 2,207.02	\$ 1,632.98
Domain Registration / Web	\$ 83.00	\$ 75.00
Telephone expenses	\$ -	\$ 70.00
Belangalo/Starguard	\$ 70.00	\$ 370.00
Room Hire	\$ -	\$ -
Guest Speakers and Dinners	\$ 1,552.80	\$ 847.80
Badges - 10 year	\$ -	\$ 55.31
Campbelltown Show Expenses	\$ -	\$ -
AAO Trip	\$ 5,862.71	\$ -
	<u>\$ 11,083.63</u>	<u>\$ 4,799.82</u>
Operating Profit/(Loss)	\$ 4,305.66	\$ 2,763.06
Less Transfer to Asset Replacement reserve	\$ -	\$ -
Unappropriated Profit/(Loss) for year	<u>\$ 4,305.66</u>	<u>\$ 2,763.06</u>

## MAS Balance Sheet for year ending 28th February 2011

### BALANCE SHEET

	2011	2010
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>		
Asset Replacement Reserve	\$ 2,260.00	\$ 2,260.00
Funds at beginning of year	\$ 7,004.48	\$ 4,241.42
Profit/(Loss) for the year	\$ 4,305.66	\$ 2,763.06
	<u>\$ 13,570.14</u>	<u>\$ 9,264.48</u>
Represented by:		
Current Assets (Stock)	\$ 2,182.88	\$ 1,950.45
Cash at bank (Note 1)	\$ 3,353.90	\$ 7,054.03
Fixed Term Deposit	\$ 7,000.00	\$ -
Pre Paid Insurance	\$ 745.88	\$ -
Petty Cash Advances	\$ 140.00	\$ -
Pay Pal Account	\$ 147.48	\$ -
	<u>\$ 8,033.36</u>	<u>\$ 9,004.48</u>
Non - Current Assets		
Plant & Equipment (Cost)	\$ 3,799.23	\$ 3,799.23
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	-\$ 3,799.23	-\$ 3,539.23
	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 260.00</u>
 Total Assets	 <u>\$ 13,570.14</u>	 <u>\$ 9,264.48</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

In conjunction with the University of Western Sydney public open nights were held during the year and unsolicited donations of \$271.45 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, 2011 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

Graeme David Bellamy 138 Ashford Avenue, Milperra, 2214

Dated this 31st March 2011





## Notes of Recommendation Audit 2010/2011 Financial Accounts

### The Management Committee

The audit revealed that an amount of \$1,117.05 was banked in excess of receipts issued. This was caused by non issue of receipts on direct deposits of Pay Pal payments. The cash book does reconcile to the bank and all payments and receipts agree with the bank statement at the end of the financial year.

### Internal control

On discussion with the Treasurer it was agreed:

1. Receipts be issued to members who make Pay Pal deposits
2. Deposit stubs to the bank will have notated which receipts they cover.
3. New spread sheets will be created with a break up (by column) of income categories and likewise for expense categories which will incorporate any payments that are allocated to the balance sheet (this would be prepayments of memberships, insurance, fixed deposits, advances etc). The object is to give a clearer understanding of activity.

### Stock

1. A recount of current stock on hand will be made with a write back of items purchased since close off at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011 as a double check. This will be performed by the Merchandise Officer and the Treasurer. Any variation will be taken up next year as an adjustment and is of no real significance to the bottom line.

The Merchandise Officer currently issues receipts separately to the Treasurer and does not co-relate to the cash book. To address this problem the total of these receipts when handed over to the Treasurer will have a receipt issued by the Treasurer to the Merchandise Officer and then banked by the Treasurer as merchandise sold and allocated accordingly.

Stock is a fickle item when it comes to reconciliation at year end, particularly as there are "give aways" and possible write offs. These are picked up in the cost of goods sold at year end in movements between opening stock and purchases less closing stock (critical) and the difference is posted to expense as cost of sales. The difference between sales and cost of sales is the profit content.

This action will tidy things up and make it easier for the future.

Graeme Bellamy  
31<sup>st</sup> March, 2011

## MAS Annual Treasury and Membership Report dated 28th Feb 2011

Cash float for coffee & biscuits \$40.00

There is \$100.00 cash float for merchandising

PayPal account \$147.48

Term deposit \$7,000.00 for 7 months @ 6.00%/annum, maturing 23/07/2011

Bank Account balance is \$3053.35.

See Audited accounts for full breakdown. The salient points are as follows:

As you can see MAS is in good shape. We had a very successful trip to Coonabarabran, although we did not plan for a profit, we realised nearly \$800.00 because we changed to a smaller coach so that two members, Lloyd Wright and Geoff Young could share the driving. This reduced the fuel and other add on costs, we also got a discount from the Motel.

Depreciation costs were lower, in fact all items on the asset register are now written off.

Postage and printing costs much reduced due to electronic mail.

Belangalo Forest cost show as much reduced as we were paying cash from revenue collected, this is now switching to cheque as requested by International House.

### Membership

We had more than 20 members not renew last year (from a total of 97) but we have seen a steady increase during this year and currently have 93, these numbers include our two Patrons and Honorary Member. You may know that Ragbir Bhatl has stood down from being our Patron.

At the date of writing, 02/04/2011, we have 21 members who have not renewed this year and 3 new members awaiting verification by the committee.

Tony Law  
Hon. Treasurer



## MERCHANDISE REPORT:

Stewart Grainger

Macarthur Astronomical Soc. Stock list as of 6/04/11

DVD Magnitude	1 x copy	\$4.50 ea.	\$4.50
DVD Magnitude II	4 x copies	\$2.50 ea.	\$10.00
Star Wheels			
	Large x 5	\$19.20 ea.	\$96.00
	Small x 1	\$12.50 ea.	\$12.50
Sew on Patches			
	White x 17	\$7.00 ea.	\$119.00
	Black x 14	\$7.00 ea.	\$98.00
	Beanies x 14	\$11.22 ea.	\$157.08
	Baseball Caps x 6	\$15.30 ea.	\$91.80
	Coffee Mugs x 73	\$8.50 ea.	\$620.50
	Astronomy 2010:- 2 x copies	\$17.11 ea.	Nil value
	Astronomy 2011:- 9 x copies	\$17.30	\$155.70
	Emu Dreaming:- 7 x copies	\$10.00 ea.	\$70.00
	Heavens Above:- 10 x copies		on loan
	Compendium:- 12 x copies (plus 1 x one sample) on loan		
Shirts			
Mens White	Mens Navy	Mens Black	Womens Navy
M x 2	M x 4	S x 1	12 x 1
L x 2	L x 1	M x 4	14 x 1
XL x 2	XL x 2	L x 2	
		XL x 2	
Total of 24 shirts @ \$28.44 ea. \$682.56			
Total value of stock as of 6/04/11 \$2117.64			