

13th April 2015

Dear M.A.S. Members



Another great year at MAS has passed - our eighteenth as a group, and the honour of my third as President of the Macarthur Astronomical Society. I am stepping down this AGM, and letting someone else have a run as President of the Society. They'll be taking over management of the affairs of one of the best groups of people I've ever had the pleasure to be amongst.

The hard work and dedication, as seen from all within the core committee as well as general members, has resulted in another momentous year that heralds even more great things to come over the next twelve months.

As always, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our academics. Thank you, our Patron, Prof. Bryan Gaensler, for your continuing support from afar in Canada. We miss you and would hope to see you some time again within the coming year. I'd also like to thank Prof. Vaughan Macefield, Deputy Dean and Director of Research, UWS again this year as well as the always wonderful Krystal Upston and her team. Our own management committee have further built upon a great relationship with UWS that sees our society maintain an allotted room for Forum nights throughout the next year, as well as provisioning several events throughout the year in celebration of UWS's commitment to the local community at large. Again, we look forward to an ever greater collaborative relationship this year with UWS. Our monthly Forum meetings are held in one of the best meeting rooms that any astronomical society around the country is fortunate to have access to. I'd also like to thank Dr Ragbir Bhathal, who continues to help us greatly in securing and coordinating the resources required by MAS to function effectively within UWS. Ragbir has also presented a couple of great talks during the year in lieu of weather-affected events otherwise taking place. Thank you all.

As a society, we owe a precious few people a great deal again this year. The year before last our committee structure changed and it resulted in a flatter management profile within the group. We've all worked to take on several hats each and this new arrangement has again worked very well. Rather than society news and views being President-centric, all committee members share the responsibility equally. Tony Law has again served simultaneously as Vice President, trip organiser, Observatory Committee member, UWS liaison, Forest key organiser and much, much more. To Tony, I thank you most sincerely for your undying dedication and effort, and the extra miles put on your car every year for us.

I'd like to personally thank the rest of our team. On the committee, I've had the pleasure of serving with Richard Curley as Treasurer, Stewart Grainger as our intrepid Merchandise Officer, Jack Goralewski as Secretary, Mike Nicholas and Henry Swierk as general committee members. Added to Henry's task list this year was the role of Membership Officer, and to Mike's, New Member Liaison. Everyone had such a lot to contribute this year, and we knitted well as a team. Thankfully, all committee members have re-nominated

for yet another year, and we thank you all for that. It's been great working with you and I all thank you for your fine contributions. I will certainly miss the camaraderie we all share during our time with each other on committee nights. Great fun!

To those outside our core committee who have also made this Society what it is. Our Observatory Sub-Committee comprising of Tony Law, Debra Taylor and Michael Jupe has stayed in touch with the key stake holders in relation to our proposed use of land embedded within a National Park. Thank you all - our observatory project is in excellent hands, even though the hoops we are having to jump through sometimes seem to shrink. We are working well with government on all levels, and we have their general backing for the project to go forward.

Roger Powell's time and effort is also instrumental in keeping our Society website up to date with the freshest of information on upcoming events and news. His meticulous and ultra-timely attention to detail ensures us that the website is professionally presented and this reflects well on us. To ex-President John Rombi, without whom we'd be sitting there listening to me instead of a list of sought-after speakers whom he manages to convince to speak to us every month. John has orchestrated our guest speaker list for many years now, and as a result of his very hard work we've been fortunate to witness a slew of top-notch speakers throughout the year, always with more to come. Ex President Noel Sharp is our Stargard Liaison Officer. We thank you as well as you interact with the Wollondilly Council on our behalf to ensure that we have constant access to Stargard, our home observation field at The Oaks.

Financially, we are in a healthy state. Our Treasurer, Richard Curley, will highlight our position in his own report. Our current reserves are working hard to earn us interest, in an effort to be able to one day realise many of our dreams to provide our membership with, amongst other things, a top-flight observatory facility close to home. We acknowledge that our goal is long term, but our efforts are constant. We will endeavour to keep you all posted on developments as they happen. Thanks must go to active Society member and auditor, Graeme Bellamy. Graeme has performed this task for us over several years and his efforts are thankfully acknowledged.

Our website will hopefully be updated over the following few months, and our Facebook presence has established itself even more this year. We enjoy very good general communications with each other via these two portals and will continue to rely on them to disseminate information on behalf of M.A.S. along with email. Our Facebook site now has 319 members, and many more visit it regularly - particularly people who are finding out what we are about and have an opportunity to ask questions of us in a public space prior to joining. Both our website and Facebook offer our members a way of staying in tune with what our society is doing and has planned. My work in the real world has prevented me from spending much time on the website to improve it, but I hope to find the time over the coming year to re-develop parts of it and introduce, finally, a photo gallery for members as well as members' blogging area and shop.

The year before last, our committee instigated an exiting programme to benefit everyone who is a financial member. Each and every one of you has access to one free weekend at The Forest. You will receive new membership cards at the AGM that feature a small star printed in the bottom right hand corner. Bring this membership card with you when you decide to come along on a new moon weekend, and this star will be punched, signifying that you've taken your allocated weekend. The Forest is a fabulous weekend away - even if the weather isn't wonderful the whole time. There's a friendly atmosphere and many

stories (both true and untrue!) are told by the fire in winter - as well as valuable things learned. Bring your equipment and observe or photograph our Forest sky which really has to be seen to be believed on a clear night. Clear nights have been a bit of a rarity lately, but the weather is completely out of our control, as always. Sometimes it seems as it will never perform for us, but patience will fix that.

We have many more public outreach nights planned for this coming year, so please do your part and volunteer to help with as many as you can.

In closing, I'd like to re-iterate what I've written, and thank the current and up-coming committees, and other members who have worked tirelessly to provide us with a vibrant and fun place to be. Thank you too, the members, for supporting us and making M.A.S. what it is - one of the most, if not most, active astronomical societies in the country. I am very honoured to have been able to serve as President for the past three years and look forward to serving again in whatever capacity I may in the future. It's been a blast.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Malikoff', written in a cursive style.

Chris Malikoff
President M.A.S. 2013-2015

Macarthur Astronomical Society

Annual General Meeting, 20th April 2015

Treasurer's Report

I'm pleased to present the audited financial statements of the MAS for the period ending 28th February 2015.

This was my first year as treasurer and committee member for MAS, I would like to thank Barry Moore (previous treasurer), for handing over a simple and effective set of records and my fellow committee members for their help and guidance throughout the last financial year. I would also like to thank Graeme Bellamy for once again auditing the societies' accounts in an efficient and professional manner.

Firstly the society remains in a solid position with net member equity increasing to approximately \$25,000. The societies operating profitability is down on 2014 levels and has returned to 2013 levels due to some extraordinary items in 2014, namely:

Income

- A gift of consignment stock in 2014.
- Above normal donations in 2014 (large event).
- Merchandise sales down from 2014 (reducing stock levels to reduce liabilities).

Expenditure

- The guest dinners and gifts are combined and have increased on the previous year (speakers fees have increased and gifts for large events contributed to the increase).
- Double filing fees, as we did not file with DoFT in 2014 FY.

Also note both income and expenditure is increased by approximately \$11,000 due to the trip to Tamworth and the honorarium paid to Greg Chamitoff.

The society still maintains a fixed term deposit which increased by \$2,000.00 to \$16,000.00 during the financial year. This deposit will be maintained and increased to provide a strong base for future plans of the society.

At the time of writing this report there is still 25% of membership subscriptions past due, I would like to thank the members this year for being patient with me during the renewal period and for the majority of the members paying the correct amount and paying on time, it makes my job easier.

The committee and officers are working to make 2015-16 another memorable year with events and guests, the societies finances are in a very strong position to be able to support this and grow.

Finally I would like to thank Chris Malikoff for his support and guidance as President of MAS, all would agree Chris has done a great job to lead and represent MAS, committee meetings will not be the same!

Richard Curley

Honorary Treasurer, Macarthur Astronomical Society.

MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
Statement of Financial Performance
Year ended 28th February, 2015

	2015	2014
Income		
Membership Fees	\$ 3,906.43	\$ 4,184.63
Donations	\$ 546.40	\$ 1,106.27
Interest	\$ 519.30	\$ 694.51
Sale of Merchandise	\$ 933.00	\$ 1,399.95
Dinners (Members contribution)	\$ -	\$ 125.40
Grounds (Bellangalo Forest)	\$ 935.00	\$ 975.00
Tea & Coffee	\$ 107.10	\$ 308.70
Stock Donation	\$ -	\$ 860.00
Bunnings Fund Raiser	\$ 1,895.00	\$ 1,627.00
Tamworth Trip	\$ 7,464.00	\$ 45.00
University of Western Sydney Donation	\$ 3,500.00	\$ -
	<u>\$ 19,806.23</u>	<u>\$ 11,326.46</u>
Expenditure		
Filing Fees	\$ 136.00	\$ -
Insurance	\$ 762.93	\$ 754.13
Miscellaneous Expenses (Bequeath)	\$ 256.00	\$ 100.00
Postage, Printing & Stationery	\$ 519.07	\$ 345.14
PO Box Rental	\$ 107.00	\$ 104.00
Cost of Goods Sold	\$ 1,064.39	\$ 2,343.21
Domain Registration / Web	\$ 273.30	\$ 202.50
Belangalo/Starguard	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,546.59
Guest Speakers Gifts included in Cost of Goods Sold	\$ -	\$ 443.90
Dinners (Members and Speakers incl Gifts)	\$ 1,608.64	\$ 480.76
Bunnings Expenses	\$ 900.00	\$ 793.63
Prime Focus Expense	\$ -	\$ 249.02
Depreciation	\$ 443.40	\$ 443.40
Tamworth Trip Expenses	\$ 7,405.00	\$ -
University of Western Sydney Special Speaker Fee	\$ 3,500.00	\$ -
	<u>\$ 18,275.73</u>	<u>\$ 7,806.28</u>
Operating Profit/(Loss) for year	<u>\$ 1,530.50</u>	<u>\$ 3,520.18</u>

MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
Financial Statement
Year ended 28th February, 2015

BALANCE SHEET

	2015	2014
Accumulated Funds		
Funds at beginning of year	\$ 23,464.08	\$ 19,943.90
Asset Replacement Reserve	\$ -	\$ -
Profit/(Loss) for the year	\$ 1,530.50	\$ 3,520.18
	\$ 24,994.58	\$ 23,464.08
Represented by:		
Current Assets (Stock)	\$ 674.48	\$ 1,123.58
Cash at bank (trading account)	\$ 5,599.86	\$ 5,163.17
Fixed Term Deposit	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 14,000.00
Pre Paid Insurance	\$ 773.38	\$ 762.93
Petty Cash Advances	\$ 190.00	\$ 140.00
Pay Pal Account	\$ -	\$ 39.97
Hawaii Deposit Account	\$ -	\$ 3.55
Chilli Deposit Account	\$ 2,806.75	\$ -
Interest Receivable	\$ 426.66	\$ 460.83
	\$ 26,471.13	\$ 21,694.03
Non - Current Assets		
Plant & Equipment (Cost) *see note 2	\$ 6,016.23	\$ 6,016.23
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	-\$ 4,686.03	-\$ 4,242.63
	\$ 1,330.20	\$ 1,773.60
Current Liabilities		
Members deposit account Chilli	-\$ 2,806.75	-\$ 3.55
Total Assets (net members equity)	\$ 24,994.58	\$ 23,464.08

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 accruals 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 life commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

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 to reflect the financial position of Macarthur Astronomical Society as at the 28th February, 2015 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.


Graeme David Bellamy
 138 Ashford Avenue, Milperra, 2214
 Dated this 27th March, 2015

Macarthur Astronomical Society
Stock Reconciliation
For year ended 28th February, 2015

Opening Stock at 1 st March, 2014	\$1,123.58
Add: Purchases	\$ <u>843.95</u>
	\$1,967.53
Less: Closing Stock	\$ <u>674.48</u>
Cost of Goods Sold	\$1,293.05
Net Cost of Sales	<u>\$1,293.05</u>

Sales	\$	933.00
Less: Cost of sales	\$	<u>1,293.05</u>
Loss on Sales	(\$	<u>360.05</u>) Speakers Gifts

Bank Reconciliation
As at 28th February, 2015

Balance as per Statement 28 th February, 2015	\$5,599.86 Cr
Add: Outstanding Deposits	\$ <u>Nil</u>
Balance as per Cash Book 28 th February, 2015	<u>\$5,599.86</u> Cr



PO Box 17 MINTO NSW
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MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY MINUTES FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at UWS Campbelltown
Building 30, Main Lecture Theatre
23rd April, 2014 at 7.45pm.

1. OPENING OF MEETING, WELCOME & APOLOGIES

The Annual General Meeting opened at 7.45pm. Present were all members noted in the attendance register. The retiring President, Chris Malikoff, chaired the meeting and the Retiring Acting Secretary, Jack Goralewski, was appointed to take the minutes. Apologies were received from the following members: Stewart Grainer, Jenny Rombi, Debora Taylor, Bryan Pablo.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: 15th APRIL 2013

The minutes were distributed to all members three weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting. A show of hands by members present indicated that an overwhelming majority had read the minutes. A Motion: "That the minutes be taken as read and accepted as an accurate record of the 2013 Annual General Meeting," was moved by Tony Law, seconded by Laura Bach, and carried unanimously. The President ordered that the minutes be filed in the Secretary's formal records.

3. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

There was no business arising.

4. PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2012-2013

The 2013 Annual Report was distributed to the members prior to the meeting. Chris Malikoff read the President's Annual Report. He thanked the Committee and other members who had contributed during the year, Prof Brian Gainsler, Vaughn Macefield, Crystal Upton and her team, our Auditor Graeme Bellamy and the members who had attended meetings, observing sessions, fundraising events and assisted with public outreach.

The Annual Financial Reports by the Treasurer and Auditor were taken as read. Graeme Bellamy's audit report showed that the Society is in good shape with total assets of \$23464.08, compared with \$19943.90 twelve months ago. Membership for the year peaked at 108, (an increase of 8 on last year) including three honorary members.

A Motion: "That the Annual Reports presented by the President, Treasurer and Auditor be accepted," was moved Chris Malikoff, seconded Tony Law, carried unanimously.

There was no business arising from the reports. The President ordered that the 2013 Annual Report be filed in the Secretary's formal records. The Annual Report will also form part of these minutes.

5. PRESENTATION OF MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

Chris Malikoff presented the following membership awards:

Five year awards: Dave Wijesinghe(presented), Steve Nicaora(presented), James Tuckwell(posted), Christine Tuckwell(posted), Sarkis Garabedian(posted), Wade McCartney(posted), Peter Elston(posted), Mike Nicholas(presented), Robert Leonard(posted), Sue Leonard(posted), Michael Jupe(presented), Christine Jupe(presented), Ahmad Alcheikh(posted), Barry Moore(presented)

Ten year awards: Stewart Grainger(posted), Tony Law(presented)

Fifteen year awards: Lloyd Wright(presented), Bruce Reardon(posted)

6. APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER

John Rombi was endorsed by the meeting as Returning Officer and Chris Malikoff vacated the chair.

7. ELECTION OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR 2013-2014

John Rombi declared all positions vacant and advised that nominations closed on 17th April and only one nomination was received for each position. Accordingly, the following were each duly declared elected and the meeting endorsed each by acclamation:

President: Chris Malikoff;

Vice-President: Tony Law;

Secretary: Jack Goralewski;

Treasurer: Richard Curley;

Committee Members: Stewart Grainger, Henry Swierk and Mike Nicholas.

On behalf of the members, John Rombi congratulated the new committee and wished them well for the coming year. He then vacated the chair for the incoming President, Chris Malikoff.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business directly relating to the Annual General Meeting

9. CLOSE OF MEETING

Chris Malikoff took the chair and thanked the members for their confidence in him. He congratulated the new committee and assured the members that the new committee will continue with their best efforts on behalf of the Society. He thanked the members for attending.

The Annual General Meeting closed at 8.14pm.

Members reconvened as a General Monthly Meeting, with a Q&A Session as well as an introduction to the new MAS website by Chris Malikoff.

Jack Goralewski
Secretary

24th April 2014