



01 May 2016

President's Report to the 20th AGM of the Macarthur Astronomical Society Inc.

Dear M.A.S. Members

Another great year at MAS has passed, culminating in the celebration of our twentieth birthday on 16 February. Our founder, Phil Ainsworth, was able to join us at the official party on March 21, the event also attended by our local MP's Laurie Ferguson and Russell Matheson.

First I would like to thank all of your committee members for a sterling job over the last year.

Stewart Grainger, VP and Merchandising officer, new stock is available;

Richard Curley, Treasurer (and new Dad!), keeping us on the financial straight and narrow;

Jack Goralewski, Secretary and Public Officer, ensuring we comply with DOFT's requirements;

Henry Swierk, membership officer, ensuring our membership records are kept up to date and our renewals are processed in a timely fashion;

Mike Nicholas, new member liaison, helping our latest members find their feet and serving on the Observatory sub-committee;

Carol McVeigh who took on the task of organizing our trip to Astrofest 2015 at Coonabarabran, and looking ahead to finding a spot to visit this year and in 2017 (likely to be in WA).

Then there are the other members who do invaluable work alongside the elected committee who deserve a special mention:

John Rombi, speaker liaison, without whom we would not be able to present top notch astronomers at our Macarthur Astronomy Forums, he is already working on another spectacular list for next year, with several new names!

Roger Powell, keeping our website front page looking crisp, updating our events as they become known and generally keeping an eye on the rest of us!

Noel Sharpe, Stargard liaison to Wollondilly Council, ensuring we can access Stargard as and when required.

Graeme Bellamy, who speedily audits our accounts and offers continuing advice.

Chris Malikoff, Webmaster, ensures functionality of the website as required by committee. Honour Roll to be added and further tinkering needed behind the scenes to sort a couple of menu items this year.

Ned Pastor, International House/Belanglo Cabin liaison

Michael Jupe, Observatory sub-committee – has been a quiet year in 2015 but about to ramp up again!

As always, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our academics.

Our Patron, Prof. Bryan Gaensler, for his continuing support from afar in Canada. We hope to see you some time again within the coming year.

Our astronomers from near and far who give of their time and energy to ensure our Forums are filled with the latest information from their research.

I'd also like to thank Prof. Rhonda Griffiths, Provost here at WSU, for continuing to allow us to use this great facility.

Dr. Ragbir Bhathal, one of our earliest members, who continues to help us greatly in securing and coordinating the resources required by MAS to function effectively within WSU. In particular, for having the Campbelltown Rotary Observatory refurbished and running again to allow us to put on a winter public viewing program to target local school children.

Thank you all.

Bye Laws

I would like to bring to your attention the redrafting of our By-Laws which the committee has reviewed over the last few months. The major changes are

- a) Formally acknowledging the need for a Membership Officer
- b) Instituting 20 year awards
- c) Setting 1st March as the beginning of an award year

The draft has been circulated alongside the documentation for this AGM and will be voted on at the resumption of our general meeting.

Communication issues – are we doing enough?

Looking at the number of members accessing our website personal messaging system, over 20% of members have never accessed their messages or not within the last 12 months! However, our Facebook page now has been up and running for nearly four years and has over 440 members worldwide. How many of you are interested in the Facebook page but worry about security? Please contact one of the committee for assistance or let us know if you have any other concerns.

The Forest.

Your new membership cards 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, value \$35.00. The Forest is a great weekend away even if the weather is not so good. There's a friendly atmosphere and many topics discussed over a glass or two!

As mentioned earlier we have more public outreach nights planned for this coming winter, so please do your part and volunteer to help with as many as you can, with or without telescope.

In closing, I'd like to thank you too, the members, for supporting us and making MAS what it is - one of the most active astronomical societies in the country. It has been an honour to be President this year.

Tony Law

President, Macarthur Astronomical Society Inc

Macarthur Astronomical Society

Annual General Meeting, 16th April 2016

Treasurer's Report

I'm pleased to present the audited financial statements of the MAS for the period ending 29th February 2016.

Firstly, I would like to thank Graeme Bellamy for once again auditing the societies' accounts in an efficient and professional manner, his time and help has been invaluable and is greatly appreciated.

Firstly the society remains in a solid position with net member equity increasing to above \$25,000. The societies operating profitability is down (MAS, Statement of Financial Performance 2016), but the societies' underlying profitability is very similar to last year. The late deposit in the bank of membership fees and merchandise sales from February to March has left the operating profit short by \$733.10, to what would have been a yearly profit of \$1563.45. These late deposits will be prepayments for FY 2016-17, and give our accounts for that period a head start.

Financial Performance

The main factors affecting the financial performance of 2016 against 2015 are:

- A drop off in income generated from the Belanglo observing events, caused by poor weather.
- Superior sales (qty) for this year Bunning fundraising event.
- Coonabarabran trip subsidy.
- Greg Chamitoff Honorarium (2015).
- The societies' twentieth birthday celebration.

Financial Statement

The main factors affecting the financial statement of 2016 against 2015 are:

- The increased deposit into the societies' term deposit from \$2000 to \$3000.
- The increase in new merchandise acquired for sale.

The society has been very active this year, with trips and events driving a constant amount of cash flow. To make it easier for members transact with MAS we now have a card reader linked to the societies' PayPal account. With the carder reader we can accept in person Visa and MasterCard payments, the fee for PayPal payments (including card reader) have been waived for normal transactions, but we reserve the right to charge this fee for any large transactions (trips etc.)

The committee has been active in obtaining new and different merchandise to sell to its members and guests, we currently have stock that should last two years.

The society still maintains a fixed term deposit which we intent to increase by \$2,000.00 to \$21,000.00 during the new 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 20% of membership subscriptions past due, I would like to thank the members this year for being patience 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.

Finally I would like to thank the new president Tony Law and my fellow committee members for giving their time and efforts in supporting me and MAS this year.

Richard Curley

Honorary Treasurer, Macarthur Astronomical Society.

MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
Financial Statement
Year ended 29th February, 2016

BALANCE SHEET

	2016	2015
Accumulated Funds		
Funds at beginning of year	\$ 24,994.58	\$ 23,464.08
Asset Replacement Reserve	\$ -	\$ -
Profit/(Loss) for the year	\$ 831.15	\$ 1,530.50
	\$ 25,825.73	\$ 24,994.58
Represented by:		
Current Assets (Stock)	\$ 1,057.38	\$ 674.48
Cash at bank (trading account)	\$ 2,709.18	\$ 5,599.86
Fixed Term Deposit	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 16,000.00
Pre Paid Insurance	\$ 784.38	\$ 773.38
Petty Cash Advances	\$ 190.00	\$ 190.00
Pay Pal Account	\$ 313.30	-
cash on hand	\$ 419.80	-
Chilli Deposit Account	\$ 0.89	\$ 2,806.75
Interest Receivable	\$ 464.00	\$ 426.66
	\$ 24,938.93	\$ 26,471.13
Non - Current Assets		
Plant & Equipment (Cost) *see note 2	\$ 6,016.23	\$ 6,016.23
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	-\$ 5,129.43	-\$ 4,686.03
	\$ 886.80	\$ 1,330.20
Current Liabilities		
Members deposit account Chilli		-\$ 2,806.75
Total Assets (net members equity)	\$ 25,825.73	\$ 24,994.58

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 20th April, 2016