

The meeting opened at 7:45pm in Martin & Linda Ferlito's home

- 1. Present** John Rombi, Martin Ferlito, Bob Bee, Dick Everett, Lloyd Wright, Kate Johnston, Daniel Ross,
Apologies Nil

2. Reading of Minutes Past Mtg.

Minutes were read by John Rombi. Moved and seconded as true record. Carried.

3. Business Arising from past Minutes

3.1 Review of the Magellan Observatory week-end: It was agreed that the cancellation of the event was appropriate as the weather at Magellan was bad all week-end. The money (\$150) for the deposit to be paid to Zane was handed to Dick Everett, Treasurer, for mailing to Zane.

3.2 Position and Role Description for Stargard Liaison Officer as representative on Dudley Chesham 355 Management Committee: The draft wording supplied at meeting was discussed. One minor correction made. Committee agreed to it as amended, for it to be incorporated in the Society's By-laws. Moved/Seconded/Carried.

It was Moved & Seconded that Noel Sharpe be appointed as Representative on the Dudley Chesham Sportsground 355 Management Committee – Carried.

Noel is to be formally advised (via email) of his appointment, with a copy of the final Position Description.

3.3 Review of Status of DVDs: Four (4) were sold on the Macquarie Public night. Martin reported on the current situation. It is proposed for another 50 copies to be printed. This will require \$50 for the cost of printing these 50 copies.

Moved & Seconded that \$50 expenditure be authorized. Carried.

Martin will contact Bintel to arrange for them to sell the DVDs.

Bob will give Martin contact details for Skywatch Observatory (Coonabarabran).

3.4 Library Resources: After discussion, it was agreed that all copies of Sky & Telescope Magazine be passed to Dick Everett who collects them. All other material (books etc) will be brought to the next general meeting (21st May) for display so members may take them with a voluntary donation.

3.5 Review of Macquarie University Public Night on 28th April: Bob reported on the event. Tony Law, Lloyd and Bob represented MAS. Initially poor sky kept crowd and possibly other society displays away. MAS was one of 6 displays and it looked impressive. Modest number of public (say 30 – 40) attended the stall. Still a good experience. We will do it again in the next event in October.

3.6 Matters needing attention from changes in Executive Officers:

3.6.1 Contact person for Domain registration: The web-host company has Ian Cook's name as the Contact Person. After discussion, it was:

Moved & Seconded that – Martin Ferlito be the official Contact Person. Carried.

Martin will contact the company and make necessary arrangements.

3.6.2 Night Sky magazine (by Bintel): Bob reported that this had been arranged, with confirmation received from Bintel.

3.6.3 Quasar Publishing (for Astronomy 2008 etc): Bob reported he had emailed the changes required to Quasar and had verbal confirmation it had been received and noted. It was suggested that they be asked to add MAS's website details to the information. Bob will ask if this is possible.

3.6.4 Astronomical Society of Australia: MAS's contact is on their website. Bob will contact them and request that details be updated.

3.6.5 Prime Focus: Kate has the changes in hand.

3.6.6 Department of Fair Trading: Bob reported that Ian Cook had given verbal advice of resignation from position of Public Officer from 30th April. The Meeting ratified the acceptance of Ian's resignation, with thanks for past services. The Meeting approved the

appointment of Bob Bee as the new Public Officer. Form 9 for advising DoFT of change in Public Officer needs to go in within 14 days of Ian's resignation.. Bob will arrange tomorrow.

Form 12 for Annual Statement needs to go in inside 4 weeks after AGM. Dick handed Bob the Audit report. Bob will arrange for return of the form to DoFT this week.

- 3.6.7 **Department of Gaming & Racing:** Not clear what, if any, contacts exist. Bob will investigate and act as appropriate.
- 3.6.8 **Public Liability Insurance:** Bob will advise the insurance company of changes in contact details.
- 3.6.9 **Clarify responsibilities of Office Bearers:** Some practical meeting to meeting logistics need to be clarified to ensure processes work smoothly with no misunderstandings:
e.g. **Register of Members:** It was agreed that the Members Register would be maintained and retained by the Treasurer, Dick Everett.
Attendance book: The following process was agreed to – John Rombi holds the book and takes it to each General Meeting for people to sign-on; Dick Everett takes it home from the General meeting to use for posting-out Prime Focus to those who didn't attend (and on Post-out); Dick will bring it to the next Management Committee Meeting and return it to John.
- 3.6.10 **Banking signatures:** It was agreed that President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary should be signatories. Dick will make arrangements in time for the next General Meeting. May need a letter to the bank removing Noel and Ian as signatories. To be confirmed.

Note: At this stage, 9:00pm, Lloyd Wright retired from the meeting as not feeling well.

4. Regular Business

- 4.1 **Treasurer's Report.** Dick tabled the report. Also a current list of members who had not paid for renewed membership was tabled. These have had letters sent to them and will be followed up. Renewal is due, at latest, by the end of May.
- 4.2 **Speakers** – As per the minutes of April. Still need to fill June, July, August, October and November. One will be Ian Cook, one Don Whiteman, one Peter Reid. The months for these are to be allocated.
Possible workshops were discussed. E.g. Polar alignment; columnation of scopes. Possibly sky identification for novices? Months for workshops have to be decided.
Prime Focus Editor will put a note requesting members to indicate what type of workshops they would like.
- 4.3 **Prime Focus.** Kate indicated there is very little copy for the next issue at present. Encouraged people to contribute.
It was agreed that Kate would be our photographer at Public Nights.
- 4.4 **Rotary Observatory report.** The three dates 25/5, 17/8 and 19/10 are still firm.

5. Correspondence

- 5.1 A letter from Stuart Cant to Prime Focus Editor for inclusion in Prime Focus.

6. Membership

- 6.1 **New Members:** Application from Ray Armstrong. His membership fee has already been received. Moved & Seconded that his acceptance be ratified. Carried.
An email of acceptance is to be sent by Bob to Ray.
- 6.2 **Current Membership** status. This had been dealt with under Treasurer's report 4.1.
- 6.3 **Name badges.** Daniel reported that badges for both members and committee are being prepared. They will be available at the next General Meeting.

7. New Business

- 7.1 **Continued need for Auditor.** Noel had passed on advice received from Department of Fair Trading that an Auditor's report is no longer required for an incorporated body with MAS's annual turn-over. However, our constitution currently says that we will provide an audited report. To discontinue this practice, will need appropriate amendment to the constitution, requiring an

appropriate Special meeting with notice etc. This is to be considered at the next Management Committee Meeting.

7.2 **Accessing of emails to MAS website** – how is this to be done? The current process is very complex. It was decided that Martin amend the website so that connecting to caontact@macastro.org.au would result in the email being forwarded to Bob, without actually putting Bob's email address on the homepage.

7.3 **A special welcome** was extended to Kate as MAS's first female committee member.

8. Business for Next Committee Meeting

- 8.1 Arrangements for amending constitution to remove need for Audits.
- 8.2 Consideration of joint meetings with other astronomical societies.
- 8.3 Workshops for 2007.
- 8.4 Outcome of library resource distribution.
- 8.5 Issues arising from Contact Person issues.
- 8.6 Membership renewal status.
- 8.7 Speaker/month allocations.

9. NEXT MEETING Tuesday 5th June at Martin's home, 7.30 pm

Meeting Closed **9:50 pm**