

Meeting location: Martin & Linda Ferlito's – 13 Pine Ave. Bradbury

1. **Present:** John Rombi, Martin Ferlito, Dick Everett, Kate Johnson, Daniel Ross, Bob Bee
Apologies: Lloyd Wright
2. **Minutes of Previous meeting** dated 4th September 2007 (October Meeting was deferred.): Moved/Seconded that they be adopted. CARRIED
3. **Business Arising from Minutes:**
 - 3.1 **Progress on distribution extra keys for Stargard.**

John Rombi reported the keys have been distributed. The following now have keys to Stargard: John Rombi, Martin Ferlito, Dick Everett, Lloyd Wright, Chris Malikoff.
 - 3.2 **Proposal for sponsorships levels and benefits.**

This has been held over until 2008.
 - 3.3 **Outcome of talks with C'town Library re loaning MacDob telescope.**

John reported he has talked to the Library management who indicated they aren't able to accept MAS's offer, probably because of difficulty of managing the telescope etc. Committee discussed the possibility of raffling MacDob which after 10 years of use owes the society nothing, while we now have an excellent 8" Dob to loan to members. It was Moved/Seconded that MacDob would be raffled (at \$10 per ticket) over a number of General Meetings in 2008. Tickets would also be available to non-members to maximize the benefit of the raffle. CARRIED
 - 3.4 **Status of website domain hosting.**

Martin reported that the website has been migrated to the new company. There had been a minor hiccup with the payment agreement which is being sorted out with Dick Everett's assistance. It is noted that the domain name is still with the old company (Domain Registration Services) until the end of 2008.

With the new services provider, there is significantly more capacity for content on our website. A new layout for the website is being arranged jointly by Martin and Chris Malikoff. A mock layout will be emailed shortly to committee members for their review and comments.

There was discussion about placing a pdf version of Prime Focus on the website, mostly for the purpose of giving members the option to get PF of the website (if convenient) rather than pay \$5 pa for mail out. It was still intended to produce the normal number of printed copies, however, if members become used to reading PF on the website, the number of printed copies may be reduced gradually. Various pros and cons of this were discussed and will be considered further.

A suggestion was made about the possibility of a Chat Room facility on macastro website. This could be either in the members-only section and/or in the public section. This would be to encourage interaction and communication between members. Concerns about legal issues were discussed, including a need to have a moderator of forum entries. Were there any real benefits for MAS outweighing possible risks? Kate, who has had some experience in this area offered to help Martin and Chris work through these issues and report back at the December Committee meeting.
 - 3.5 **Outcome of 'gold coin donations' at Fred Watson night.**

Dick Everett reported a total of \$61 in collected donations, plus two (2) DVDs being sold. These incomes helped to cover the higher cost of having Fred Watson as a guest speaker.
 - 3.6 **Outcome of Magellan weekend in October.**

Martin reported that 11 members attended and had a great time. See his report on the week-end in the October Prime Focus.

4. Regular Business:

4.1 Treasurer's report

Dick E tabled the statement to 30th October 07.

Moved/Seconded that it be adopted. CARRIED

Dick circulated a copy of the Asset Register. He noted that some items need to be returned by current holders of the assets. Appropriate members will be contacted.

4.2 Speakers for remainder of year (November)

John R confirmed that Don Whiteman will be speaking at the November meeting, subject currently not known.

4.3 Rotary Observatory Report

Currently there are no nights scheduled for the remainder of 2007.

4.4 Prime Focus Editor report

Kate reported that the November issue is full, no new items are required.

Kate expressed appreciation to Martin for arranging the completion of compilation and printing for the October issue in her absence.

5. Correspondence

Inwards:

- 5.1 Account from Domain Registration Services – this had been passed on to Martin at the October General meeting. (This is not to be paid due to change of provider).
- 5.2 Australia Post (re redirection of mail if required). No action required as it doesn't apply to MAS.
- 5.3 Flyer for Wollindilly Directory – no action to be taken.

Outwards:

- 5.4 Email/letter to Domain Registration Services re new Host. Copy of email with letter advising that www.macaastro.org.au is being hosted by a new company was tabled for information.

6. Report on Membership status and applications

Application for Full Membership by Wayne Harrison (ACT) was received and approved. It is noted that membership will be carried forward to February 2009. Bob to advise Wayne of acceptance of his application.

7. New Business

- 7.1 It was reported that 30 copies of Astronomy 2008 and 10 planispheres have been ordered and should be available at the November General Meeting.
- 7.2 MAS Christmas party – where and when? After discussion, agreed it will be held at the Forest on Saturday 8th December as a lunch/dinner.
- 7.3 Section Leaders: John suggested we should re-introduce the system of having identified 'Section' leaders – people who can provide advice and leadership on different aspects of astronomical interest. It was agreed the committee will consult and decide on a list of categories, present them to a general meeting and invite volunteers to lead each section.
- 7.4 Agreed there would be a December Management Committee meeting but no General Meeting. There will be no guest speaker for the January meeting but discussion and other activities will be arranged.

8. Business for Next Committee Meeting

N/A

9. Next Meeting: Tuesday 4th December at Martin Ferlito's

10. Closing of Meeting: 9:45pm

11. Action Items for Next/Future Meetings

Item No.	Action By:	Action
3.2	Martin Ferlito	Draft scale (\$) and benefits of sponsorships – for 2008
3.3	John Rombi	Arrange raffle of 6" MacDob scope over multiple meetings – for 2008
3.4	Martin Ferlito	Arrange distribution of mock-up website to Committee for feedback.
3.4	Martin Ferlito, Kate Johnson, Chris Malikoff	Consider issues regarding macastro 'chat rooms' and report back to Committee for December meeting.
4.1	Dick Everett	Contact appropriate members for return of MAS assets.
6	Bob Bee	Write to Wayne Harrison advising approval of membership
7.3	John Rombi	Liaise with Committee re list of proposed categories for Section Leaders to be sought – for Nov. 07 General Meeting