

1. **MEETING OPENED at 7:35 pm at Roger Powell's residence, Leumeah.**
Present: John Rombi (Chair), Daniel Ross, Dick Everett, Ivan Fox, Stewart Grainger, Roger Powell. Chris Malikoff (part time). **Apologies:** Lloyd Wright.
2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING DATED 2nd JUNE 2008:**
 The Minutes were taken as read. Motion to adopt the minutes as a true and accurate record: moved DR, seconded IF, carried unanimously.
3. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:** **ACTION**
- 3.1 **Guessing Competition:** Sales are continuing. The possible postponement of the draw until after the rearranged Public Open Night was discussed. It was decided that RP would investigate any statutory implications first and review with JR. RP
- 3.2 **Tee Shirts and Headgear Orders:** No further orders have been placed by members and it was decided that this matter be held until next month.
- 3.3 **Laser Pointer Legislation:** RP advised NSW Summary Offences Amendment Act is now law; NSW Weapons Prohibition Act Regulations yet to be assented, prohibited weapons permits may be introduced but the regulation may exempt Astronomical Societies. Federal Import restrictions are in place. Need to put all this information on the website for members. RP
- 3.4 **Commonwealth Bank Signatories.** The new form is signed. DR to take it to Bank with four forms of identification this week. DR
- 3.5 **Stargard Toilet Facilities.** JR to discuss MAS access to existing facilities with Noel Sharpe and/or Wollondilly Council. JR
- 3.6 **Ten Year Badge – Thomas Flint.** JR found earliest recording of Thomas in the attendance register was “early 2000”. RE advised membership records are consistent with that. JR will advise Thomas by e-mail that MAS records show he has an approx. eight year membership. JR
- 3.7 **Stargard Liaison Officer's June Report:** Matters arising. Possible benefactor provision for facilities upgrade. No new development. JR to review with N. Sharp. JR
- 3.8 **ASA “Designated Observatory Status”:** RE to follow up before next meeting. RE
- 3.9 **Any Other Business Arising From Minutes:** SG advised that he can arrange for a local shooter to brief us at the next meeting about hunting in the Forest. Agreed. SG
4. **REGULAR BUSINESS**
- 4.1 **Financial Report:** RE circulated a Financial Report, indicating a current balance of \$5306.21. Since the last meeting, income was \$205.00 from membership fees & tea money. Outgoings were \$44.45 for guest speaker expenses. Motion to adopt the Report: moved RP, seconded JR, carried unanimously.
- 4.2 **Membership Applications & Renewals:** RE advised that membership at the close of 2007-08 was 66 and that the current membership for 2008-09 is 63. There was one renewal this month and there were no new applications.
- 4.3 **General Meetings - Room Bookings & Guest Speakers:** Room 22 is booked until September. Confirmed speakers: July: Movie; Aug: Ian Cook; Sept: Andrew Wood (Siefert Variables); Oct: Dr. Lisa Harvey-Smith; Nov: Dr. Craig Madson. For 2009: JR is trying to get F.Watson, Geraint Lewis & Bryan Gaensler again. JR
- 4.4 **Public & Community Education Nights:** Last public night was postponed due to poor conditions. New date to be fixed this week. If the Guessing competition draw can be changed, the event could be on 9th August. Otherwise may be Sept. JR
- 4.5 **Prime Focus:** Kate has requested articles to be submitted to her by 14th July. All
5. **WEBSITE**
- 5.1 **Presentation of new Website:** Chris presented the new website. He chose the

'Joomla' Content Management System due to its flexibility and modular construction. It consists of public and private areas. Chris spent ninety minutes presenting the website, demonstrating its capabilities and answering questions and listening to suggestions. The new site comes at no cost to MAS.

5.2 Website Administration: RP proposed motion: "That Chris Malikoff be appointed Webmaster of MAS. Seconded RE. Carried Unanimously.

5.3 Website Content: The committee had many questions on content but this would be reviewed later. The site content is backed up nightly by the ISP and weekly by Chris. Copies of the old website will be permanently retained by JR and Chris for archival reasons.

5.4 Website Approval and transition date: RP moved "That the new website be adopted". Seconded DR. Motion carried unanimously. Chris said that the website would replace the old one immediately. RP to register with Google if necessary. The President congratulated Chris on the superb quality of the new site and the committee affirmed their appreciation of Chris's efforts.

CM
RP

6 CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Inwards:

Letter: Pat Farmer MP, advising he has made representations, dated 29th May.
Magazine: Sutherland Observer, May-Jun issue.

Letter: Sutherland Astronomical Society re exchange of journals, 3rd June
Magazines: Night Sky May edition (x10) from Bintel.

E-mail: ASA re positions vacant at AAT, 16th June.

Letter: Minister for Home Affairs re importation of laser pointers, 18th June.

Form: Database update for Tourism Wollondilly, 23rd June.

Letter: Details of Open Day 19th July at Australia Telescope, Narrabri.

Wollondilly Tourism (re membership)

Police Minister re Weapons Prohibition Regulation (via G.West).

Police Minister re Weapons Prohibition Regulation. (via G.Corrigan).

Macquarie Uni – details of Astronomy School 16th – 17th August.

--o---Replies are to be sent to Sutherland Ast. Soc. and Wollondilly Tourism.---o--

RP

6.2 Outwards:

Media Statement: re Open Night, dated 2nd June.

E-mail: To Quasar Astronomy re MAS details on their Website, 9th June.

E-mail: To MAS Membership re ASA positions at AAT, 17th June.

E-mail: To MAS Membership re "Star Stuff" and Open Day at AAT, 23rd June.

Form: To Tourism Wollondilly re database update, 23rd June.

7 NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Discussion and adoption of Chris Malikoff's symbol as the official MAS logo

Following member correspondence in favour of the symbol, JR moved, RE seconded motion "That the symbol be adopted as MAS logo but that the Official Seal not be changed." Motion carried unanimously.

All

8 BUSINESS FOR THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Benefactor, public night, Stargard toilet facilities.

9. NEXT MEETING: Monday 4th August 2008 at Daniel Ross's residence. JR will be absent and DR will be chair.

DR

10. CLOSE OF MEETING: The meeting closed at 10.08 pm

Roger Powell
Secretary
9th July 2008