

1. **MEETING OPENED: at 7.39 pm at John Rombi's residence, Eagle Vale.** **ACTION**
Present: John Rombi (Chair), Dick Everett, Lloyd Wright, Ivan Fox, Stewart Grainger, Roger Powell.
Apologies: Daniel Ross.

2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING DATED 1st SEPTEMBER 2008:**
The minutes were issued in advance and were taken as read.
Motion to adopt the minutes moved JR, seconded IF, carried unanimously.

3. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**
 - 3.1 **Appointment of Merchandising Officer**
It was agreed to appoint a Merchandising Officer, who would ultimately take over the ordering and sale of all merchandise, including tee-shirts, winter wear, star wheels, books and DVDs, currently handled by JR and RE.
Motion: That Stewart Grainger be appointed to the position of Merchandising Officer. Moved JR, seconded IF. Carried unanimously.

 - 3.2 **Merchandise: Tee shirts**
JR advised that shirts have been ordered and will cost \$30.00 to members. The order should be available for the Public Night. JR/SG
Profit per shirt will be \$5.50, however the initial setup cost of \$80.00 is excluded.

 - 3.3 **Merchandise: Astronomy 2009**
RE has ordered 35 copies this year at \$16.00 each and is awaiting a response from Quantum Publishing. RE

 - 3.4 **Stargard Toilet Facilities.**
N. Sharpe expects to attend a meeting of the Sports Ground users next week and will report to JR on the outcome of MAS request for access to toilet facilities. JR/NS

 - 3.5 **Stargard Liaison Officer's June Report:**
The matters reported by N. Sharpe to the June committee meeting will be further reviewed at the Sportsground users meeting next week. NS will report to JR. JR/NS

 - 3.6 **Laser Pointers:**
RP advised that a formal response is awaited from the Firearms Registry for listing as an approved astronomical society. However, the Police website has listed us, exempting individual members from applying for permits for astronomical use. Introductory letters sent to Campbelltown and Camden Police Local Area Commands. A verbal response had been received from the Camden Duty Officer, requesting that we ask members to register laser pointer usage in advance, each time. RP to advise members. RP
The MAS voluntary Register of members possessing laser pointers now has five members recorded.

 - 3.7 **Membership identity cards:**
Item held over to next meeting.

 - 3.8 **Hunting at Belanglo State Forest**
Following the address by Mr. Cordin at the last committee meeting, it was agreed that no action would be required but that, should nearby shooting be heard, the details should be logged.

3.9 Any other business arising from the minutes:

ACTION

There was no other business arising.

4. REGULAR BUSINESS

4.1 Financial Report:

RE circulated a Financial Report, which indicated the following:

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Previous balance: | \$5702.61 |
| Artwork/meeting expenses: | <u>\$124.75</u> |
| Current Balance: | <u>\$5577.86</u> |

Motion to adopt the Report: moved JR, seconded SG, carried unanimously.

4.2 Membership Report:

New membership application received in mail from Neville Lavers, 109/1 Hyde Parade, Campbelltown was approved. Application came with \$35.00 cash. RP to write to Neville and enclose receipt.

RP

Including N.Lavers, the current membership for 2008-09 now stands at 66.

4.3 General Meetings - Room Bookings & Guest Speakers:

JR has booked Room 22 up to November & asked UWS to invoice for Oct. & Nov. JR has also sought bookings for Jan. to Nov. 2009.

Confirmed speakers:

Oct: Dr. Lisa Harvey-Smith;

Nov: Dr. Greg Madsen.

Dec: No meeting.

Jan: No speaker. Possible DVD.

Feb: tba.

Mar: Geraint Lewis.

Apr: AGM.

May: Bryan Gaensler

Jun: Bob Bee.

Tba: Ian Cook

JR

4.4 Members Observing Nights:

6th September: Stargard – was cancelled due to weather.

20th September: Stargard – nine members attended.

27th September: Stargard – (in lieu of Forest) approx fifteen members attended.

25th October: Stargard – Scheduled.

1st November: The Forest – Scheduled.

4.5 Public & Community Education Nights:

9th September: Mary Immaculate School, Eagle Vale was a success.

4th October: Public night at Rotary Observatory, 6 pm. Rotary will hold a barbecue. Jenny Rombi and Jessie Clark will be on information desk. DVDs for sale, charts to give out. RE to bring PA system. Long power lead needed. As many telescopes as possible are needed. JR to e-mail membership. Good publicity in press so far. RE has forwarded media release to radio station.

RE/JR
All

11th October: Macquarie University, Open Night, 6 pm. Tony Law and Geoff Young have volunteered to be at MAS Information Desk. RE suggested a sign be printed, JR will provide.

JR

4.6 Prime Focus magazine:

Prime Focus September edition was not published, due to the early arrival of Izabella Ross. JR to contact Kate to enquire regarding the October edition.

JR

October issue deadline for contributions is 13th October.

All

4.7 Website & Forum: administration & content:

ACTION

Added features recently have been: Website disclaimer, Campbelltown weather. Website was disabled by a hacker in August and security has since been tightened. Guest book feature has been removed due to abuse.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 Mail Inward:

Graham West MP: Letter enclosing report of Weapons Prohibition Act & Regulations.
Bintel: Night Sky magazine (x10) for September.
Linak Australia, introducing telescopic mount electric linear actuators.
Fairfield City Council: information about City Farm function rooms.
Chris Hayes MP (Werriwa): Letter about 2008 Volunteers Grants Programme.
Neville Lavers: Membership application form, including \$35.00 cash.
Office of Liquor, Gaming & Racing: Renewal form for fund-raising 2008 – 2013.

5.2 Mail Outward:

Letter To The Editor: re Public Night on 4th October.
E-mail to Graham West MP (Campbelltown): Thanks for sending Weapons Review.
Letter to Campbelltown Police LAC: Introducing MAS as Laser Pointer users in area.
Letter to Camden Police LAC: Introducing MAS as Laser Pointer users in area.
Media Statement: re Public Night on 4th October.

6 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Fishers Ghost Festival:

SG suggested that MAS may like to consider entering a float at next year's Festival. The committee agreed in principle to this idea and will follow this up at the next meeting.

6.2 Rotary Observatory:

JR is expecting to hear from Campbelltown Rotary soon, regarding under-utilisation of the Rotary Observatory.

7 BUSINESS FOR THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Stargard facilities and other Stargard issues; Membership cards; Merchandise; Public Events; Fisher's Ghost.

8 NEXT MEETING: Monday 3rd November at Stewart Grainger's new residence.

9 CLOSE OF MEETING: The meeting closed at 9.17 pm.

Roger Powell
Secretary
30th September 2008