

1. **MEETING OPENED: at 7.40 pm at Stewart Grainger's residence, Englorie Park.** **ACTION**
Present: John Rombi (Chair), Daniel Ross, Dick Everett, Stewart Grainger, Roger Powell. **Apologies:** Lloyd Wright, Ivan Fox.

2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING DATED 29th SEPTEMBER 2008:**
The minutes were issued to committee members in advance & were taken as read.
Motion to adopt the minutes moved JR, seconded RE, carried unanimously.

3. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**
 - 3.1 **Merchandise: Tee shirts**
JR advised these have been very popular. Order #1 (23) has been fulfilled. Order # 2 JR/SG (43) is in progress, 23 sold plus 20 spares.
JR is considering giving a shirt to guest speakers, in lieu of a bottle of wine. JR

 - 3.2 **Merchandise: Astronomy 2009**
RE has received 35 copies. SG to sell to members at the November meeting. SG

 - 3.3 **Stargard Toilet Facilities – approach to Pony Club.**
JR to seek progress report from N. Sharpe regarding request for access to toilets. JR/NS

 - 3.4 **Stargard Liaison Officer's June Report:**
NS to attend Sportsground users meeting this month. NS will report to JR. JR/NS

 - 3.5 **Membership identity cards:**
DR provided samples and the design was approved. Cards will be laminated and will include laser pointer policy on rear. Some discussion occurred on the implications of printing the 'expiry' date. RE requested membership number to be included. DR

 - 3.6 **Fishers Ghost Festival**
Discussed: entry applications (RP); flat-back truck (SG); write up notes for commentator; decoration; display. JR to ask the membership for suggestions. It was decided not to provide a public observing night in conjunction with the festival. JR

 - 3.7 **Rotary Observatory**
JR, RP & R. Bee attended a dinner-meeting with Campbelltown Rotary Club earlier today. Rotary were represented by President David Symonds; President-elect George Ward; and Secretary Kevin Garrick.
This was a 'kick-off' meeting to discuss usage of telescopes at the Domes. Rotary are concerned at no return on their investment in the observatory. It is not being used for public education, as per their agreement to fund the project in 2000, when they expected that school children would be given access every week.
MAS offered to advise & assist Rotary in an approach to the University and remained willing to assist UWS with an astronomical outreach programme, at no cost to us.
D. Symonds will approach UWS, set up a meeting with them and inform MAS of progress. The committee endorsed this approach and reviewed the probability of maintenance upgrade requirements to equipment. JR/RP
RP to write to Rotary, thanking them for their hospitality. RP

 - 3.8 **Any other business arising from the minutes:** No other business arising.

4. REGULAR BUSINESS

4.1 Financial Report:

Previous balance:	\$5577.86
Shirt order:	- \$562.35
Membership income:	+ \$35.00
Shirt sale income:	+ \$570.00
UWS for Oct/Nov Meetings:	- \$70.00
Presentations & DVD cases:	- \$26.95
Membership income via Paypal:	+ \$44.00
<u>Current Balance:</u>	<u>\$5567.56</u>

RE advised accounts further to above: postage: \$19.95; Astronomy 2009 \$570.50.

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

RP asked if our capital is interest bearing. RE advised that it is in an interest bearing cheque account but it may be worthwhile considering options for next financial year.

4.2 Membership Report:

The current membership for 2008-09 remains at 66.

4.3 General Meetings - Room Bookings & Guest Speakers:

JR has booked the room with UWS for Jan-Nov 2009.

Confirmed speakers are: Nov: Dr. Greg Madsen. Dec: No meeting. Jan: Chris M.

(website). Feb: Ian Cook. Mar: Bryan Gaensler Apr: AGM. May: Geraint Lewis.

Jun: Bob Bee. Aug: Andrew Hopkins. Chris M? (astro-imaging) – suggested for July. JR

4.4 Members Observing Nights:

25th October: Stargard – Attendance: thirteen.

1st November: The Forest – 4 attendees but cancelled due to weather.

22nd November: The Oaks Airfield. (Northern Horizon observing) – scheduled.

29th November: The Forest – (New Moon Xmas Party) – scheduled.

6th December: The Forest – (Lunar & planetary observing night) – possible.

20th December: Stargard – scheduled.

27th December: The Forest – scheduled.

Trevor Rhodes has suggested additional “unscheduled” observing nights.

Agreed to permit this with no more than one guest per member. Trevor to get a key.

Other key-holders are: John R., Dick E., Chris M., Lloyd W., Noel S. & Geoff Y. JR

4.5 Public & Community Education Nights:

4th October: Public night at Rotary Observatory - was cancelled due to weather.

11th October: Macquarie University, Open Night - a great success. John thanked Anne, Debbie, Christiane, Bob, Lloyd, Chris, Trevor, Tony & Michael for attending with him. He said he was proud of MAS contribution, the biggest & the best there.

6th December may become a public night, in lieu of observing at the Forest.

4.6 Prime Focus magazine:

JR asked for more contributions for final issue for 2008. Deadline is 10th November. All

Electronic Prime Focus has barely reduced the size of the print run and we need to appeal to members to read the electronic version before the meeting.

Members to be advised by Private Message when each issue is posted. JR

The \$5.00 annual fee for posting will be phased out over a period. This applies to approx 12-15 per month. RE asked RP to write to those affected, advising that we are reviewing the service; and asking for their views on this. RP

4.7 Website & Forum: administration & content:

ACTION

Added list of appointed officers to committee page and links to guest speakers (JR asked for Ned to be added). Amended SG's phone number. Sundry announcements.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 Mail Inward:

Dept of Fair Trading: Receipt for lodgment of annual fee.

Bintel: Nightsky October (x10).

Quasar Publishing: Society offer for Astronomy 2009.

Astronomical Society of Australia: E-mail advice re Science Week August 2009.

YHA: Group getaway guide.

Phillip Ainsworth (Former President): Letter, photographs and returned DVDs (x2).

Royal Australian Mint: Letter advising coins for International Year of Astronomy.

OLGR: Letter advising E-news service for authorised fund raisers.

OLGR: Letter extending fundraising approval to Nov 2013, certificate, conditions.

5.2 Mail Outward:

Neville Lavers: Membership acceptance.

NSW Office of Liquor, Gaming & Racing: Letter, attachments re fund raising renewal.

Media Statement: Nov. meeting. M.Baddah Milky Way image to Camden Advertiser.

6 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 2009 – International Year of Astronomy:

We will hold more public nights and possibly hold lectures in conjunction with UWS.

JR

6.2 Campbelltown & Airs Historical Society:

RP was approached by CAHS for us to assist them with their project "Our Place In Space – Under The Southern Cross" 4th-19th April 2009 locally and Statewide, under National Trust. JR to contact President of CAHS to further review participation.

JR

RE suggested they investigate local astronomer Christian Rumker (1788-1862), Private Astronomer to the Governor of NSW, who lived at Stargard near Picton.

6.3 Campbelltown City Show

It was decided to participate in the Show again in 2009. Use existing banners & pictures stored by Tony, Lloyd & Bob. JR will contact Bintel to book the coffin. RP to contact Campbelltown Show Society re booking. Must test all extension cables.

JR

RP

6.4 Other business

On the Forum, Bob Bee requested business cards be provided for members at public events. JR will arrange new cards, with PO address added.

JR

7 BUSINESS FOR THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Stargard issues; Membership cards; Merchandise; Fisher's Ghost, Rotary Observatory, Campbelltown & Airs Historical Society, Campbelltown Show.

8 NEXT MEETING: Monday 1st December at Roger Powell's home.

9 CLOSE OF MEETING: The meeting closed at 9.32 pm.

Roger Powell
Secretary
4th November 2008