

1. **MEETING OPENED: at 7.40 pm at Roger Powell's residence, Leumeah.** **ACTION**
Present: Daniel Ross (Chair), Dick Everett, Lloyd Wright, Stewart Grainger (part-time), Roger Powell. **Apologies:** Stewart Grainger will be late. Ivan Fox & John Rombi unable to attend.

2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING DATED 3rd NOVEMBER 2008:**
The minutes were read by DR.
Motion to adopt the minutes moved DR, seconded LW, carried unanimously.

3. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**
 - 3.1 **Stargard Toilet Facilities – approach to Pony Club.**
Pony club do not want our ladies to use the adjacent on-site facilities. JR may talk to them direct or contact Council about using the other toilets. JR

 - 3.2 **Stargard Liaison Officer's June Report:**
This matter will be protracted and no further action required at this time.

 - 3.3 **Rotary Observatory**
Rotary are concerned that observatory is not being used for public education, as per their agreement to fund the project in 2000. MAS has offered to help Rotary in an approach to the University and we are still awaiting a response from Rotary following our meeting on 3rd November. MAS has written to Rotary reaffirming our willingness to assist UWS with an astronomical outreach programme, especially in IYA 2009. JR is following up with Rotary. MAS may make an independent approach. JR/RP

 - 3.4 **MAS Business Cards**
JR has asked Chris Malickoff to design business cards. JR

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

4. **REGULAR BUSINESS**
 - 4.1 **Treasurer's Report:**
RE circulated a report which showed the following:

Previous balance:	\$5557.56**
Pan Sports – Shirts	- \$978.00
Quasar Publishing – Astronomy 2009	- \$570.50
R.Powell – postage	- \$19.95
Dreamhost – Website hosting (JR)	- \$159.00
Shirt Sales	+ \$570.00
Astronomy 2009 Sales	+ \$580.00
Membership	+\$50.00
<u>Current Balance:</u>	<u>\$5030.11</u>

 - ** N.B. RE advised a \$10.00 correction to amounts listed in previous minutes.

 - RE advised that one cheque for \$57.00 paid in November 2007 had not been presented to the bank and it would be written off. **RE**
RP advised that an invoice will come soon for use of Stargard.
Motion: That the Treasurer's Report be adopted, moved DR, seconded RP, carried unanimously.

4.2 Membership Report:

Motion: That Steve Nicoara's membership be approved. Moved RP, seconded RE, RP
carried unanimously. RP to confirm in writing, with receipt. RE
The current membership for 2008-09 now stands at 67. RE
RE recommended that the early membership numbers were random and should be
rearranged to better reflect the initial joining date.
Membership Cards: it was agreed that members need not sign the cards before they DR
are laminated. DR is ready to provide the cards for the next financial year.

4.3 Merchandising Report:

SG advised:
Tee Shirts: 1 shirt sold since meeting, 1 reserved for pickup, 1 given to guest SG
speaker. Total recent sales \$570.00.
Astronomy 2009: 2 books sold since meeting, now only 2 books left out of 35. Total SG
recent sales \$580.00. Agreed not to place a second order unless there is sufficient
firm interest.
Star Wheels: RE still has these.
Magnitude DVDs: SG has 2 copies left of 'Magnitude' DVD.
RE suggested that receipts may not be necessary for merchandise sales and that a RE/SG
simply method be devised.
SG suggested that our next merchandise be beanies. SG

4.4 General Meetings - Room Bookings & Guest Speakers:

JR now has two forms to formally lodge with UWS. for Jan-Nov 2009 bookings.
No meeting this month.
Jan: Chris M. (website). Feb: Ian Cook. Mar: Bryan Gaensler Apr: AGM.
May: Geraint Lewis, Jun: Bob Bee. Jul: Chris M? (astro-imaging) – suggested. JR
Aug: Andrew Hopkins.
SG may be able to arrange a speaker on 'Dark Matter'. SG/JR

4.5 Members Observing Nights:

22nd November: Stargard. – was cancelled due to weather.
29th November: The Forest – was cancelled due to weather (but six attended).
30th November: Stargard (Unscheduled) – was clear. (Seven attended).
6th December: The Forest – (Lunar & planetary observing night) – scheduled.
20th December: Stargard – scheduled.
27th December: The Forest – scheduled. (May also have Stargard same night).
Trevor Rhodes is now a Stargard key holder.
RE requested we follow up the Airfield key, as Northern horizon viewing is important JR/RE
for certain Messier objects. Agreed that it would be worthwhile pursuing.

4.6 Public & Community Education Nights:

Public & community education: events during International Year of Astronomy:
(i) Campbelltown Show: Fri 3rd & Saturday 4th April 2009.
RP contacted the organisers on 24th Nov. re booking and has been informed that a RP
response will be forthcoming. Agreed that we participate in this event.
(ii) "100 Hours of Astronomy": Thur 2nd , Fri 3rd , Sat 4th , Sun 5th April 2009.
We are uncertain of how to proceed with this and feel our resources may be over-
stretched – further debate adjourned until the next meeting.
(iii) Campbelltown & Airds Historical Society: Sat. 18th April 2009.
R.Bee to deliver lecture twice to 2x40 people. Members stall outside, with
telescopes. LW to bring his antique telescope. CAHS organising attendees. JR
(iv) Fishers Ghost Parade: November 2009. Applications for entry due middle of the
year. Further debate adjourned until then. However, we may need to solicit float

design ideas from members.

ACTION

(v) Public events.

We would like to hold one per month but this does not seem feasible without Rotary Observatory. Maximum two events could be held at Chesham Oval.

JR

(vi) Camden Historical Society

They have asked whether we could repeat the CAHS event in April. Not sure if resources sufficient to do it.

JR

4.7 Prime Focus magazine:

There will be no Dec. issue. Deadline for next issue is 5th January (NB: 1st Mon.)

All

JR appealed to members at Dec meeting to use Electronic Prime Focus.

\$5.00 annual fee for posting service: letter sent to twenty-five members affected, advising that we are reviewing the service; and asking for their views on this. Four responses were received, all happy to use the electronic version. No members expressed views against. Motion: that the Prime Focus posting service be abandoned for next financial year. Moved RE, seconded DR, carried unanimously. Special cases would be considered on merit.

4.7 Website & Forum: administration & content:

It was noted that CM may propose limited external Forum access, to be considered next year.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 Mail Inward:

Quasar Publishing: Statement of Account

Bintel: Nightsky November (x10).

5.2 Mail Outward:

Rotary Club of Campbelltown: Letter committing MAS to public nights at the Rotary Observatory.

Twenty-five MAS Members: Letter seeking views on reducing/eliminating the Prime Focus postal service for non-attendees at meetings.

6 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Magellan Observatory

LW proposed a weekend at Magellan in mid-year. He will contact observatory for available dates, before the next meeting.

LW.

7 BUSINESS FOR THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Stargard facilities; Rotary Observatory; business cards; all events; Airfield; Magellan.

8 NEXT MEETING: Monday 12th January at Lloyd Wright's home. (NB: Second Mon.)

9 CLOSE OF MEETING: The meeting closed at 9.22 pm.

Roger Powell
Secretary
2nd December 2008