

1. **MEETING OPENED: at 7.43 pm at Lloyd Wright's residence, Mt. Annan.** **ACTION**
Present: John Rombi (Chair), Daniel Ross , Dick Everett, Lloyd Wright, Stewart Grainger, Ivan Fox, Roger Powell. Chris Malikoff (invitee), Tony Law (invitee)
Apologies: No absentees.

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

3. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**
 - 3.1 **Rotary Observatory.**
JR provided an update on events over the last month, regarding concerns that the Rotary Observatory may not be the focal point of our IYA2009 events. The fears were confirmed when an e-mail from R. Bhathal indicated his focus was on events not at Campbelltown but at Werrington. A battle was expected and a letter was sent to UWS Vice-Chancellor. Local politicians were lobbied. Following this, Ragbir & John got into protracted negotiations and finally agreed to hold 1QM open nights at the Observatory in 2009. JR/RP to meet UWS in Feb. The dates are not final and RP is to contact Prof. Hesketh for date confirmation. R.Bhathal will attend our next committee meeting. RP

 - 3.2 **Stargard Toilet Facilities.**
JR is trying to talk to the Pony Club direct. In the meantime he has contacted Council and arranged for use of the toilets located between the main entrance and the tennis courts. JR & RP carried out a day-time inspection on 5th Dec. and found them to be in acceptable condition. JR

 - 3.3 **The Oaks Airfield**
JR spoke to representative at Airfield. The last padlock and chain were stolen but JR needs to contact new owner for new padlock arrangement. JR

 - 3.4 **MAS Business Cards**
Card will be usable by all committee members. CM to design, SG to arrange printing. CM
SG

 - 3.5 **Magellan Observatory**
LW has approached Magellan but they are unable to set a date. LW to follow up. Date should be close to 3QM. LW

 - 3.6 **Membership Numbers:**
JR undertook to sequentially renumber membership numbers of existing members, based on date of joining. Needed for 2009-10 membership cards. JR

 - 3.7 **Any Other Business Arising From The Minutes:**
RE advised the outstanding cheque had now been presented 2 days before expiry.

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

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Previous balance: | \$5030.11 |
| Interest | + \$10.81 |
| Sales - Astronomy 2009 | + \$40.00 |

Sales – Shirts +\$60.00
Current Balance: \$5140.92

ACTION

\$34.05 postage account presented by RE for payment. Motion: That the Treasurer's Report be adopted and account for \$34.05 be paid, moved JR, seconded DR, carried unanimously. RE

4.2 Membership:

Motion: That membership of Mike Goerisch (Minnesota, USA) be approved. Moved JR, seconded LW, carried unanimously. RP to confirm in writing, with receipt. As this is our first Pay Pal new membership, no form was received. JR to e-mail Mike for form. RP

Current membership for 2008-09 now stands at 68.

Membership Cards: Waiting for membership numbers then ready to go. JR

4.3 Merchandising:

SG advised:

Tee Shirts: 1 sold ready for collection. No more sold. JR also has one for collection. SG

Astronomy 2009: Two left.

Star Wheels: RE handed these to SG for sale.

Magnitude DVDs: SG now has 37 copies left of 'Magnitude' DVD.

Receipts not necessary for purchaser but docket to be given to Treasurer with cash.

Sky & Telescope bulk subscriptions: JR now has 2. Will keep open until next gen. mtg. JR

4.4 General Meetings - Room Bookings & Guest Speakers:

Room is reserved for 2009.

Jan: Chris M. (website). Feb: Ian Cook. Mar: Geraint Lewis. Apr: AGM. JR

May: Bryan Gaensler, Jun: Bob Bee. Jul: Chris M. (astro-imaging).

Aug: Andrew Hopkins. Sep: light meeting. Oct/Nov: Workshops (telescope basics)

2010 Feb: Rob McNaught possible.

4.5 Members Observing Nights:

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

20th December: Stargard – postponed (3 went on 21st & 6 went on 22nd).

27th December: The Forest – cancelled.

31st December: Stargard (unscheduled NYE) 8 went. Last out at 3.30 am.

24th January: Scheduled - The Forest.

31st January: Scheduled – Stargard.

JR sent e-mail to International House re Forest dates for 2009 & will follow up. JR

4.6 Public & Community Education Events for IYA2009:

(i) Rotary Observatory Public Nights:

Dates which have been given the “ok” by Ragbir but which UWS final approval is awaited: 7th March; 4th April; 2nd May; 30th May; 4th July; 1st August; 29th August; 26th September; 24th October; 28th November. (26th Sept includes F.Watson lecture). JR/RP

(ii) Public Observing Nights at The Oaks: Deferred.

(iii) Campbelltown Show: Fri 3rd & Saturday 4th April 2009:

RP advised organisers we will participate. May need to defer open night on 4th April. RP

(iv) “100 Hours of Astronomy”: Thur 2nd , Fri 3rd , Sat 4th , Sun 5th April 2009:

This will be Campbelltown Show 3rd/4th only.

(v) Campbelltown & Airds Historical Society: Sat. 18th April 2009:

R.Bee to deliver daytime lecture twice to 2x40 people (11 am and 1 pm). Members stall outside, with antique and solar telescopes. CAHS organising attendees.

ACTION

(vi) The Oaks Historical Society:

R.Bee to deliver evening lecture to 80 people. Members stall outside, with telescopes for night sky viewing. TOHS organising attendees. (Note this is a scheduled Stargard night). RP to contact TOHS for a 6.00 pm start.

(vii) Fred Watson Lecture 26th September:

Fred Watson will give a public lecture at UWS in conjunction with public night.

(viii) Fishers Ghost Parade: November 2009.

Applications for entry due middle of the year. Further debate adjourned until then.

4.7 Prime Focus magazine:

Deadline for January issue has passed. DR said not many contributions so Kate used articles drawn from the website. Will be posted up soon. Next deadline is 9th Feb.

Phasing out printed copies. Due to Australia Post losing two parcels sent to RE, the Dec. issue was not posted out. No complaints received. Jan/Feb will be last mail-outs. We will have to offer \$5.00 refund to Steve Nicaora.

Archiving of old issues on Website: work in progress, CM & Kate.

RE
CM/KJ

4.8 Website & Forum: administration & content:

Added during the month: Biography page for Patron, Ragbir Bhathal; News Statement re Observatory in IYA2009; Speaker's Notes (Dr. Madsen); Ten Year Award Recipients page; Menus rearranged.

Private Message system possibly still not fully understood.

CM to give talk to next meeting to promote use of the website and PM.

Review of PayPal use for new membership fees. CM to consider and report on shopping cart systems and possibility of not using PayPal for new memberships.

Merchandising transactions to be automatically e-mailed to Merchandising Officer and Treasurer. CM to set up, with merchandise@macastro.org.au.

CM
CM

5 CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 Mail Inward:

Bintel: Night sky December (x10).

Campbelltown City Council: Community Report.

UWS Executive Dean, Professor Hesketh: Letter re proposed meeting in February.

Local Community Insurance Services: Public Liability Insurance Renewal.

5.2 Mail Outward:

Steve Nicaora: Membership acceptance letter.

University of Western Sydney: Forms re 2009 meeting room.

Advertiser & Chronicle: Media Statement.

Graham West MP: Letter seeking support for open nights at the Rotary Observatory.

Pat Farmer MP: Letter seeking support for open nights at the Rotary Observatory.

Mayor Russell Matheson: Letter seeking support for open nights at the Rotary Observatory.

Vice Chancellor - UWS: Letter seeking support for open nights at the Rotary Observatory.

Dean Beryl Hesketh: Letter to UWS re: their agreeing to our request for a meeting.

6 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Annual General Meeting: 20th April

Annual Reports: President, Vice-President & Treasurer to provide annual reports. The deadline will be the April Prime Focus deadline.

Nominations: RE will stand down as Treasurer at AGM. Tony Law will nominate for the position. Nominations not due until 6th April. RP will provide nomination forms for Feb. meeting.

Auditing: JR will invite Graeme Bellamy to carry out this task again.

Returning Officer: JR will nominate a returning officer.

Membership Fees for 2009-10: No change. Financial health is good.

Ten year Awards: JR to handle. There will be three, including LW.

ACTION

JR

DR

RE

RP

JR

JR

JR

6.2 Hot Stars, Cool Jazz 20th February:

An evening with James Morrison & Fred Watson at Conservatorium of Music.

Members going are: JR, TL, GY, CM and spouses. We will be mentioned in the official programme and CM will write the contribution.

CM

6.3 Renewal of Public Liability Insurance

Due for payment in April. \$10M cover, premium held without increase at \$729.38. This will be paid closer to deadline and following a review of 2009 public activities. UWS insurance will cover the public nights as previously.

JR/RP

6.4 Photographic Competition

RE advised that an astronomy photographic competition was being organised by Campbelltown Council.

7 BUSINESS FOR THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Rotary Observatory, Stargard Toilet, Website PayPal arrangements, Magellan, Membership numbering, all IYA2009 activities.

8 NEXT MEETING: Monday 2nd February at John Rombi's home.

9 CLOSE OF MEETING: The meeting closed at 10.03 pm.

*Roger Powell
Secretary
13th January 2009*