

1. **MEETING OPENED: at 7.40 pm at John Rombi's residence, Eagle Vale.**

ACTION

Present: J. Rombi (Chair), D. Ross, R. Everett, S. Grainger, I. Fox, R. Powell, R. Bhathal (until 8.30). **Apologies:** Apologies received and accepted from Lloyd Wright.

2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING DATED 2nd FEBRUARY 2009**

The minutes were previously distributed and were taken as read.

Motion to adopt the minutes moved JR, seconded RE, carried unanimously.

3. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

3.1 Rotary Observatory:

JR & RP attended a meeting at UWS on 5th February, to resolve the use of the observatory. Others present were Prof. Beryl Hesketh (Dean); Prof. Anne Cusick (Provost); Dr. R. Bhatal; and M. Johnston. Nine FQM public nights approved. The question of room hire for General Meetings was raised and we await UWS confirmation that fees will be waived. Six members to train for observatory: C. Malikoff, R. Powell, G. Young, D. Taylor, R. Armstrong and M. Clark.

3.2 Stargard Toilet Facilities:

JR has had discussions with the Pony Club but they are reluctant to share their facilities.

3.3 The Oaks Airfield:

JR will buy a new padlock and arrange with Sydney Ultralight Flying Club to have it fitted.

JR

3.4 The Forest Hiring Fee:

International House raised the weekend cost to \$77.00 (from \$8.00 pp/weekend). This is discounted from initial \$110.00 request. Last weekend receipts were \$96.00.

It was agreed to charge a flat fee of \$8.00/evening for all attendees, whether sleeping over or not. Where necessary, MAS would subsidise the shortfall. N. Pastor to take the money.

3.5 Magellan Observatory:

Proposed weekend on hold as Observatory may close permanently. JR will monitor.

JR

3.6 Hot Stars, Cool Jazz:

Members who went were: J. Rombi (2), T. Law (2), G. Young (4), C. Malikoff (2). Total 10.

3.7 Business Cards:

Proposed design to go ahead, SG will arrange quotes for 1000 & 2000.

3.8 Public Liability Insurance:

Renewal due in April. No better offer received. It was agreed to pay LCIS premium of \$729.38.

3.9 AGM 20th April:

Annual Reports: Will be printed. Deadline with April Prime Focus.

Nominations: These will close on 6th April with the Secretary. Forms are available. So far one nomination each has been received for President, Treasurer and Secretary. Two nominations have been received for the three committee positions. No nomination received for VP.

RP

Auditing: RE will arrange for G. Bellamy to audit the accounts.

Ten year Awards: will go to Lloyd Wright & Bruce Rearden.

RE

Election of Office Bearers: JR is arranging a Returning Officer.

JR

Agenda: to be confirmed.

3.10 Any Other Business Arising From The Minutes:

No other business arising.

4. REGULAR BUSINESS

ACTION

4.1 Treasurer's Report:

RE circulated a report which showed the following:

<u>Previous balance:</u>	<u>\$5422.42</u>
Sale of Planispheres:	+\$25.00
Campbelltown Show:	-\$74.00
Sale of Astronomy 2009:	+\$40.00
Memberships:	+\$410.00
<u>Current Balance:</u>	<u>\$5823.42</u>

Motion: "That the report be adopted" moved JR, seconded RP. Carried unanimously.
The financial year ended on 28th February. RP gave RE Australia Post account for \$77.00.

RE

4.2 Membership:

Motion: "That the membership applications for Mark Johnston, Dennis Cartwright, Bruce Butters and Christopher Whicker be accepted" moved JR, seconded IF. Carried unanimously.

Mike Goerisch: Committee approved his membership in January. RP has not written formal membership acceptance letter, pending receipt of membership form from Mike.

4.3 Merchandise:

SG advised current merchandise stock is as follows:

Tee Shirts: 16 (assorted sizes, 5 ladies and 11 mens).

Astronomy 2009: 0

Star Wheels: 3 small & 4 large.

Magnitude DVDs: 39.

Beanie Hats: Quotes for acrylic/polar fleece lined: \$10.20 each, incl GST, plus embroidery cost.

Hold order till next month.

SG to provide full annual stock take report to RE, as at 1st March.

SG

4.4 General Meetings - Room Bookings & Guest Speakers:

Room is reserved for 2009 – invoice held pending item 3.1 above.

Mar: Andrew Hopkins. Apr: AGM followed by Astro-Quiz (T&A Rhodes). May: Bryan Gaensler.

Jun: Bob Bee. Jul: Chris M. (Astro-imaging). Aug: Geraint Lewis. Sep/Oct/Nov: Workshops

(telescope basics). Agreed to invite B. Gaensler and G. Lewis to dinner before the meeting.

4.5 Members Observing Nights:

Since last meeting: 7th Feb: Forest (Lunar); 21st Feb: Stargard (cancelled); and 28th Feb: Forest (10 attendees but cloudy).

Coming up: 21st March: Stargard; 28th March (Forest).

4.6 Public & Community Education Events for IYA2009:

(i) Rotary Observatory Public Night : 7th March

Next Saturday. Both domes will be used. As many members telescopes as possible . Be there 6.00 pm for 7.30 start. JR will ask if anyone wants to take MacDob. Lecture Theatre 6, Building 21 will be used if cloudy, for a SETI presentation. Telescopes still needed. Rotary cannot come.

JR

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

Entry form received by Show. JR to get 'coffin' from Bintel. Need 2-4 people throughout. JR, RP and SG to coordinate this event. JR has 6 volunteers for roster. Power needed for coffin, laptop, projector, DVD player. Backdrop needed (weed mat?), banner, RP to ask for a similar spot to last time, backing on to a wall. Ladder required.

JR

RP

SG

(iii) Campbelltown & Airs Historical Society - Sat. 18th April 2009:

R.Bee lectures at 11 am and 1 pm. Members stall outside. Details confirmed with CAHS.

(iv) The Oaks Historical Society - Sat. 18th April 2009:

R.Bee lecture 6.30 pm. Members stall outside. Details confirmed with TOHS. Stargard follows.

ACTION

(v) Rotary Observatory Public Night : 2nd May. Rotary likely to attend.

(vi) Australian Geographic Shop: 23rd April

Bob Bee at Macarthur Square 7 pm. MAS to try to build on Bob's relationship with the shop.

4.7 Prime Focus magazine:

Deadline for February issue. 9th March.

Printed copies. No more.

Electronic version: Stats – Jan. edition: 19 requests; February edition: 29 requests.

Editor: DR advised that Kate wishes to stand down so we need to seek a new editor asap.

4.8 Website & Forum: administration & content:

Added during the month: Clarification that new members must submit a membership form, even if paying by PayPal. Regular changes to front page, including image of the week.

On-line Shop: CM has reviewed shopping cart systems. None suitable for our requirements. Chris will make the membership form interactive.

Website usage. Reviewed logon statistics. Many members do not logon. Need to encourage them more, especially as logon is necessary to get Prime Focus.

RP

5 CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 Mail Inward:

Membership applications: Bruce Butters, Dennis Cartwright.

E-mail from Astronomical Society of Australia: grants up to \$1,500.00 for new public activities.

Australia Post: PO Box renewal. (RE to pay).

Letter from Sydney Observatory inviting participation in 'Sydney's Largest Star Party' in May.

5.2 Mail Outward:

Entry Form and Cheque to Campbelltown City Show.

Letter to Rotary regarding Observatory dates and barbecue.

6 NEW BUSINESS

Fund Raising: R. Bhathal has proposed a big MAS fund raising drive for educational programmes; disadvantaged students; and upgrading the Observatory. Discuss at next meeting.

Stargard Liaison: Noel Sharpe resigned this position today. JR will take this on.

7 BUSINESS FOR THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Rotary Observatory, Stargard Toilet, Website PayPal, Magellan, IYA2009 activities, proposed fund raising drive.

8 NEXT MEETING:

Monday 6th April, 7.30 pm at Ivan Fox's residence.

9 CLOSE OF MEETING:

The meeting closed at 9.57 pm.

Roger Powell
Secretary
3rd March 2009