

1. **MEETING OPENED: at 7.45 pm at Ivan Fox's residence, Mt. Annan.**

ACTION

Present: J. Rombi (Chair), R. Everett, S. Grainger, I. Fox, R. Powell,

Apologies: Apologies received and accepted from Daniel Ross, Lloyd Wright.

Condolence: John wished to record the sincere condolences of the committee and all MAS members to long term member and friend Lloyd Wright, following the sudden passing of his wife Mary Lou. John said that 17 members showed their support to Lloyd at the funeral. The financial appeal to assist Lloyd's family raised \$1,580 directly from MAS members.

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

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 Telescope Training:

Six members to train for observatory use: C.Malikoff, R.Powell, G.Young, D.Taylor, R. Armstrong and M.Clark. First session to be 14th April 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm. Geoff and Ray are the only doubts. JR to confirm with Ragbir if it will proceed under inclement weather conditions.

JR

3.2 Fund Raising Drives Proposed by R. Bhathal

The proposals presented to MAS are appended. In summary, they are: (i) School astronomy education programmes (\$30,000); (ii) Astronomy programmes, disadvantaged students (\$30,000); (iii) Upgrade of Rotary Observatory telescope (\$35,000).

Concerns were expressed at the extent of the proposals, which go beyond our existing charter and exceed our abilities as an organisation. The fund raising techniques likely to be employed will probably exceed the inclinations of our members to participate. It was noted that Dr. Bhathal was not present to explain or promote his proposals, nor to move their adoption.

Motion: Moved RP, seconded RE: "That the MAS Management Committee: (a) takes note of the three proposed UWS fund raising objectives proposed by R.Bhathal; & (b) will review UWS requests for assistance in raising funds on a case by case basis." Carried unanimously. RP to write to Ragbir.

RP

3.3 Annual General Meeting 20th April:

(i) Meeting Agenda: On the website since 17th March and to be published with Annual Reports.

RP

(ii) Minutes of 2008 AGM: Business arising: the suggestion that we approach Sydney University for a permanent key for the Belanglo Forest cabin. It was agreed subsequent to AGM by all parties that the key pick-up arrangement suited all parties. See 5th May 2008 committee minutes.

(iii) Annual Reports, printing deadline. The deadline for submissions is 13th April, to Kate. SG will provide a merchandise status report.

JR/DR
RP/RE

(iv) Nominations for election. Forms have been available at the last three general meetings. Nominations must close with Secretary today. PO box was cleared after COB. One nomination has been received for each of the seven positions. Constitution requires nominations to be advertised at our 'usual place of meeting'. This is interpreted as the website.

SG

(v) Appointment of Returning Officer. JR advised that he had asked Jenny Rombi to do this.

RP

(vi) Ten year Awards. Two recipients, Lloyd Wright & Bruce Reardon.

(vii) Any other matters. Will need someone to bring a camera.

TBC

3.4 Public Liability Insurance:

Certificate of Currency/Tax Invoice from LCIS received and e-mailed to Committee members.

3.5 Business Cards:

Cards have been printed for distribution & use by committee members and members.

3.6 The Oaks Airfield:

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

JR

3.7 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:

Balance at start of 2009-10:	\$5864.70
Public liability insurance premium:	-\$729.38
PO Box hire:	-\$75.00
Stationery/postage:	-\$14.30
Bank Fee:	-\$2.50
Membership	+\$395.00
Merchandise sales:	+\$95.00
Public donations (Star Night 7 th March):	+\$164.45
Current Balance:	\$5697.97

RE presented an account of \$7.70 for postage and circulated Auditor's report. Motion: "That the report be adopted and account paid" moved JR, seconded IF. Carried unanimously.

4.2 Membership:

Mike Goersch membership form has been received and approval of membership letter sent. It was noted that Paul O'Neill had rejoined. Final membership for 2008-09 was 73 and renewals outstanding are 34. RE reported difficulties withdrawing some membership monies from PayPal.

4.3 Merchandise:

SG advised current merchandise stock is as follows:

Tee Shirts: 14

Astronomy 2009: 0. (Superseded versions to be given away, rather than destroyed).

Star Wheels: 3 small & 4 large.

Magnitude DVDs: 38. (Agreed to reduce price to \$5.00).

Beanie Hats: Cost will be approx \$15.00. Sale price will be \$20.00. Initial order of 20 approved.

SG

Next meeting: gauge members needs for beanies and shirts and promote use of star wheels.

SG

4.4 General Meetings - Room Bookings & Guest Speakers:

UWS have confirmed that rooms for all meetings and events will be provided to MAS free.

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).

Future speakers: B.Gaensler dinner at Catholic Club \$20.00 per head. Rob McNaught no reply.

JR

4.5 Members Observing Nights:

Since last meeting: 21st March: Stargard (clear, 9 members); 28th March: Forest (clear, 6).

Coming up: 18th April: Stargard; 25th April: Forest

4.6 Public & Community Education Events for IYA2009:

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

Participation was cancelled due to insufficient resources.

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

R.Bee lectures at 11 am & 1 pm. Members stall 10am to 3 pm. SG to pick up coffin this week.

SG

Power leads to be tested.

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

R.Bee lecture 6.30 pm. Members stall outside. Stargard follows.

(iv) Rotary Observatory Public Night - 2nd May.

ACTION

UWS are attending to OH&S matters and Rotary's interest in attending.

SG will improve merchandise table with chair, 12v lighting, lap top for DVD, banner, cash box.

SG

(v) Australian Geographic Shop - 23rd April:

Bob Bee at Macarthur Square 7 pm. One or two members (only) needed in support.

4.7 Prime Focus magazine:

Deadline for April issue. 13th April, including Annual Reports.

All

4.8 Website & Forum: administration & content:

Added during the month: New 'What's On' page. Reduced home page.

On-line Shop: Chris will make the membership form interactive and investigate PayPal matters.

JR

5 CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 Mail Inward:

Australia Post: receipt for mail box cheque.

Bintel: 'Night Sky' magazine for March (x10).

Journeys Worldwide: Letter and 2 brochures for upcoming eclipse tours.

Campbelltown City Show: Letter enclosing trade passes to the Show.

Campbelltown City Council: Community Information database update request. RP to respond.

RP

Macquarie University: Letter and handouts re Open Night at Uni on 9th May.

Bintel: 'Night Sky' magazine for April (x10).

LCIS: Certificate of currency and Tax Invoice received by e-mail.

5.2 Mail Outward:

Membership acceptance letters to Bruce Butters, Christopher Whicker, Dennis Cartwright, Mark Johnston and Mike Goerisch.

Letter to LCIS enclosing cheque for 2009-10 public liability insurance.

E-mail to Campbelltown City Show advising that we were pulling out of the Show.

6 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Pending resignation of Kate Johnston as Editor. Geoff Young appointed from June edition.

6.2 SG has offered to clean the Observatory domes and JR is awaiting a response from UWS.

SG

7 BUSINESS FOR THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Public nights, new committee, fund raising, ID cards, Rotary involvement at public nights.

8 NEXT MEETING:

Monday 4th May, 7.30 pm, at Roger Powell's residence.

9 CLOSE OF MEETING:

The President thanked the two retiring committee members, Dick Everett and Daniel Ross for their outstanding commitment to the Society over many years.

The meeting closed at 9.29 pm.

Roger Powell
Secretary
7th April 2009

UWS CAMPBELLTOWN ROTARY OBSERVATORY PROPOSED PROGRAMS

Please find below a number of astronomical programs that the Macarthur Astronomical Society can contribute to assist in the development of public and school astronomy programs for the Macarthur region. It is important that we build on the present facilities to enhance the programs that can be run at the Observatory over the next several years.

It is proposed that the funds be sought from the following possible sources:

- (a) from the Dean's office and /or the Campbelltown Provost's Office, University of Western Sydney
- (b) raised by members of the Macarthur Astronomical Society through a fund raising drive
- (c) from the Rotary Club of Campbelltown

School astronomy education programs (\$30 000)

The members of the Macarthur Astronomical Society could develop astronomy educational materials for use in the schools in the Macarthur region. The materials could be trialed initially in a couple of schools. If successful they could be distributed for use by schools in the region. The programs need to be tied closely to the current school curriculum.

Astronomy programs for disadvantaged students (\$30 000)

There are large number of Aboriginal, Pacific Islander and other disadvantaged kids in the Macarthur region. The members of the Society could develop special astronomy programs for the disadvantaged students.

Upgrade of Observatory telescope (\$35 000)

The telescope at the Observatory is based on 1990s technology. It is almost ten years old and the manufacturer has stopped building parts to this telescope. Over the last year it has from time to time malfunctioned but has been repaired successfully. It is important to get the latest and most up-to-date telescope which uses new technology (GPS, etc), optics and software. This will ensure that the Observatory remains at the forefront of technological developments.

The above is submitted for discussion.

Dr Ragbir Bhathal
5 February 2009

