



PO Box 17, Minto, NSW 2566

MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY Inc.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Held at 1 Brewster Place, Leumeah, NSW
on Wednesday 6th May 2009.

Meeting Opened 7.40 pm, Closed 9.58 pm

1. OPENING OF MEETING & APOLOGIES

JR opened the meeting at 7.40 pm and welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new committee.

Present: J. Rombi (Chair), T. Rhodes, R. Everett, S. Grainger, R. Powell, R. Bhathal.

Apologies: Apologies received and accepted from T. Law, I. Fox, Lloyd Wright.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING DATED 6th April 2009

The minutes were previously distributed and were taken as read.

Motion: "That the Minutes of 6th April Management Committee Meeting be adopted" moved JR, seconded RE, carried unanimously.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

3.1 Management.:

New Committee: JR welcomed TR to his first meeting and thanked RE for continuing to act as Treasurer until Tony Law returns.

Motion: Moved RP, seconded JR, "That Chris Malikoff be reappointed Webmaster; Geoff Young be appointed Editor (from June); Stewart Grainger be reappointed MacDob Custodian and Merchandise Officer; John Rombi be reappointed Stargard Liaison Officer; Roger Powell be reappointed Public Officer; Graham Bellamy be reappointed Auditor; Dick Everett be appointed Acting Treasurer in the absence of Tony Law; & Ragbir Bhathal be reappointed Patron." Carried unanimously.

Bank signatories: Authorised signatories will be JR, TR, RP & TL. A new authority form was signed by JR, RP & TR and given to RE to pass on to TL when the books are handed over.

DOFT statement: RE provided \$45.00 cheque to RP to accompany the annual DOFT Form 12.

3.2 AGM:

The minutes had been circulated and there were no matters arising out of the AGM. JR confirmed that 10 year awards would be presented at May general Meeting.

3.3 Open Nights:

2nd May – matters arising: The event was very successful and well attended by members and public. Many complimentary remarks were received. The big dome was closed due to a fault. The 6.00 to 9.00 time slot worked well.

30th May – next event: A coordination meeting will be held between UWS and MAS on 14th May. Bookings will be essential. It was noted that the public generally stayed for up to about 1½ hours and that if those making bookings were told to either arrive at 6.00 or 7.30, the numbers limit need not remain at 120. RB is trying to arrange toilet facilities in the Common Room.

Future: The possible extension of the paved area around the domes was reviewed and RB undertook to discuss this with UWS Public Works.

3.4 Rotary Observatory Telescope:

Observatory training: First session took place 5th May, earlier session was postponed due to electrical storm. The training consisted of an overview of both domes by RB. RP said that the six members need an operational session to complete their training, which might take the form of three sessions of two members each. RB says this could not be soon, due to his work load. JR proposed that Mark Johnson conduct the sessions. RB was against this and preferred to do it himself.

Dome cleaning: UWS declined SG's offer to clean the observatory domes free and did it themselves.

3.5 Fund Raising Drives Proposed by R. Bhathal:

The proposals are: (i) School astronomy education programmes (\$30,000); (ii) Astronomy programmes, disadvantaged students (\$30,000); (iii) Upgrade of Rotary Observatory telescope (\$35,000). It was resolved last month: "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."

RB suggested that MAS could play a significant role in creating astronomy educational programmes for NSW. The observatory upgrade would consist of a state of the art 16" replacement telescope. JR said that for a small club, MAS is already doing a lot for public outreach. Although we want to assist, it is beyond our experience to develop statewide educational programmes and we cannot raise the money proposed - but there are many other ways we would be agreeable to provide support as needs arise.

RB advised that Mark Johnston is proposing to automate the small dome for schools to access remotely.

RB also suggested that MAS could buy a 10" telescope. He said that it could be installed at the Observatory, in a third dome (3m dia.) to be provided by UWS, which is already in his care.

3.6 The Oaks Airfield:

JR has fitted a new padlock to re-enable MAS observing on site.

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:

<u>Balance at last meeting:</u>	<u>\$5697.97</u>
Membership:	+\$360.00
Belanglo fees surplus:	+\$19.00
Postage:	-\$7.70
<u>Current Balance:</u>	<u>\$6,069.27</u>

Accounts payable: Trivia Night prizes: \$20.94; DOFT: \$45.00; Pan Sports: \$204.00; Printing of Business cards: \$308.00.

Motion: "That the Treasurer's report be adopted and accounts passed for payment" moved RP, seconded JR. Carried unanimously.

4.2 Membership:

Membership renewals: are coming in slowly. Approx membership 45. Reminder notices will be sent out after May General Meeting. Time limit is 31st May.

Membership ID cards and name tags: JR has all the details from D. Ross and will ask TR to take over this task. A current membership list will be provided by Treasurer at the appropriate time.

4.3 Merchandise:

Stock: SG advised current merchandise stock value of Tee-shirts, star wheels, DVDs and beanie hats is \$791.30 currently and was \$623.00 at the end of the last financial year.

Beanie Hats: Now available. Cost to MAS \$10.00. Selling price will be \$15.00.

Public Night: Donations received amounted to \$157.75 and eight DVDs were sold at \$5.00 each. DVDs: Chris Malikoff is proposing to produce a new DVD of images.

4.4 General Meetings - Room Bookings & Guest Speakers:

Room is booked to end of year.

May: Bryan Gaensler. (dinner for committee at Catholic Club); Jun: Bob Bee; Jul: Chris Malikoff;

Aug: Geraint Lewis. Sep/Oct/Nov: tba.

The Fred Watson talk will be held in the Medical Conference Room. Fred's expenses will be \$100.00.

4.5 Members Observing Nights:

Since last meeting: 18th April: 6 attended Stargard after Historical Society; 25th April: Forest.
Coming up: The Forest: 23rd May.

4.6 Public & Community Education Events for IYA2009:

- (i) Historical Societies 18th April: Both events very successful and well supported.
- (ii) Australian Geographic Shop - 23rd April: Bob Bee at Macarthur Square. Approx 30 public attendees.
- (iii) 13th June – Tudor House School: Bob Bee presentation, followed by students viewing. RP to arrange a prior visit with JR.

4.7 Prime Focus magazine:

Deadline for May issue. Next Monday 11th May. Kate Johnston's last issue as Editor. Kate and Geoff have been communicating.

4.8 Website & Forum: administration & content:

On-line Shop: Chris will make the membership form interactive. John is investigating PayPal. \$80.00 is held in the PayPal account which is not being released. This 'asset' has not been recorded in the Treasurer's Reports. We now have 2 Terabytes available to us.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 Mail Inward:

Renewal Cheque from Matt & Jack White.

Letter & Form from Wollondilly Shire Council re sportsground conditions. Contents were read and noted.
Copy of "Sydney Annual" from Sydney University.

5.2 Mail Outward:

Campbelltown City Council: Community Information Database form.
Wollondilly Shire Council: Sportsground Users Agreement signed.

6 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Telescope Optics:

A gift was received from former member Claris Stretch, a set of mirror blanks and grinding pads which her husband was working on before he died. RP has possession. Agreed to advertise on the website.

6.2 Telescopes for Beginners:

SG raised the issue of young beginners needing help learning how to use a telescope. It was agreed that we seek 'registrations of interest' to gauge the viability of holding a beginners help course.

7 BUSINESS FOR THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Public nights, Tudor House, Membership ID cards and name tags, PayPal.

8 NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday 3rd June, 7.30 pm, at John Rombi's residence.

9 CLOSE OF MEETING:

The meeting closed at 9.58 pm.

Roger Powell
Secretary
7th May 2009