



PO Box 17, Minto, NSW 2566

MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY Inc.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Held at 49 Grandview Drive, Campbelltown
on Wednesday 4th November 2009.

Meeting opened 7.30 pm, closed 9.08 pm

1. OPENING OF MEETING & APOLOGIES

Present: J. Rombi (Chair), T. Rhodes, S. Grainger, I. Fox & R. Powell.

Apologies: T.Law (interstate), L. Wright..

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The previously distributed minutes were taken as read. Motion: "That the Minutes of 7th October Meeting be adopted" moved JR seconded IF, carried unanimously.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

3.1 Telescopes for Beginners

The last session was held prior to the October meeting. The attendees appreciated the advice tendered by members. There were no more enquiries but another next session will be held in 2010.

3.2 Consideration of a second MAS Patron

An invitation has been sent to Professor Bryan Gaensler (Sydney University) to become a joint MAS Patron, along with Dr. Ragbir Bhathal (UWS). Bryan has been away and has not yet responded.

3.3 Relationship with UWS

There has been no recent formal contact with UWS. A meeting is expected before the end of the year.

3.4 Any Other Business arising From The Minutes

Item 4.8: It was subsequently discovered that the new membership form is still not online.

4. REGULAR BUSINESS

4.1 Treasurer

(i) Financial Report: A report was provided by TL prior to his absence, which is appended to these minutes. The report showed cash account receipts for October of \$318.00, with no expenditures.

Cash account balance: \$5287.72

PayPal account: \$55.00 approx.

Tea & biscuit float: \$37.25

Merchandise float: \$160.00+

A \$499.75 refund is in progress for return of telescopes.

Total of above assets: \$6039.72 approx.

It was noted that in addition to this total would be (a) merchandise stock value and (b) the cash receipts from the 24th October Public Night (Carol McVeigh).

It was also noted that the 'Dreamhost' Web Hosting payment from the PayPal account has to be transferred by MAS, it is not automatically deducted by Dreamhost. Now done.

(ii) Twelve month 'term deposit' investment discussion was held over for discussion at the next meeting.

(iii) Motion: "That the Treasurer's report be adopted " moved RP, seconded SG. Carried unanimously.

4.2 Membership

(i) Current Membership Status: TL reported we have 86 paid up members and 2 honorary members. The total is 88, including one application to be considered at this meeting.

(iii) Motion: "That the membership application for Ahmad Alcheikh be approved." Moved: RP, seconded JR. Motion carried unanimously.

4.3 Merchandise

(i) Sales & Stock: Recent sales: Only a couple of items were sold at the last Public Night. The detailed stock report was held over to the December committee meeting. Last month's big order for shirts, caps and beanies has been received, all sizes are available. Only two ladies shirts are currently available. SG proposes to e-mail all members, asking them to pre-order their purchases before each meeting.

(ii) Quotations, orders, pricing: SG will immediately order 'Astronomy 2010' from Quasar Publishing and try to get them delivered to JR's home address before 16th November. SG will also order forty white mugs with blue MAS logo @\$7.00 each, for sale at \$10.00 each.

(iii) ASAW Booklet: We have been given permission to use the ASAW booklet as a template for a similar one by MAS, if we so desire. SG volunteered to get the booklet costed.

4.4 General Meetings - Room Bookings & Guest Speakers

(i) Room bookings for 2010 meetings to be arranged with UWS. A room fee could be reinstated.

(ii) Guest Speaker List:

Nov: Dr. Tim Robishaw (Parkes).

January: no guest speaker.

February: Dr. David Malin.

March: Workshop.

April: AGM and Trivia.

May: Dr. Ragbir Bhatal.

June: Prof. Geraint Lewis.

July: Prof. Fred Watson.

August: TBA.

September: Dr. Naomi McLure-Griffith.

October: TBA.

November: TBA.

Two other speakers have agreed, without fixing a date: Prof. Gaensler and Peter Tuthill. SG is still trying to contact Patrick Tisserand (Dark Matter).

4.5 Members Observing Nights

(i) Since last meeting: Stargard 10th Oct. (cancelled); The Forest 17th Oct. (cloudy). Chris M. & Ned P. were there for very clear skies on Friday 16th.

(ii) Coming up: The Forest: 14th Nov.; Stargard 21st Nov.

(iii) Schedule for 2010: JR will provide a schedule of observing nights and proposed public nights asap.

4.6 Public Outreach Events

(i) Campbelltown City Council have offered us free use of any facility (Art Gallery, Civic Hall, Ingleburn Library etc.) for a function. Following correspondence to CCC regarding an astroLoGer giving a talk to celebrate IYA2009 at the Library, JR, TR & RP attended a meeting with Campbelltown Mayor Aaron Rule and General Manager Paul Tosi. CCC offered council venue for an astronomy event at no cost to MAS. Council will fully support this event. MAS accepted the offer and will come up with a proposal to CCC. MAS now proposes a free event in 2010, to include a talk by a top astronomer (possibly David Malin); a planetarium (if CCC will pay for it); non-stop displays of MAS images on screens; and telescope displays. JR will arrange to take up the CCC offer to view the Art Gallery facilities within the next week.

(ii) 24th October: Public Night at UWS – approx fifty to sixty people, clear most of the evening.

(iii) 28th November: Public Night at UWS – final public event of the year. UWS advised that it is booked out. It will be preceded by a Ragbir Bhatal talk. We need to get as many members there as possible.

(iv) 2010 Public nights: MAS will propose four dates to UWS. One public night at The Oaks.

(v) Student night at Tudor House, Moss Vale, mid-year date to be selected after other dates are fixed.

(vi) 16th Oct. Mamre Homestead: JR, TR, TL, DT & RP with telescopes. Attended by many local Western Sydney dignitaries (including CCC Mayor). Sky was clear and we have been asked to return next year.

4.7 Prime Focus magazine

The deadline for contributions to the next issue is Monday 9th November.

4.8 Website:

(i) General administration, general content, forum & web shop: No issues except updating the shop page.

(ii) Active membership form: JR will ask Chris M. to post new membership form asap.

(iii) CM has added an MAS 'Facebook' page, mainly for public interfacing. RP/JR will update the 'Events'

5 CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 Correspondence In

Bintel: Night Sky October edition (10x).

Quasar Publishing: Letter advising pricing for 'Astronomy 2010'.

Ahmad Alcheikh: Membership Application & Cheque for \$35.00.

Councilor Julie Bourke: E-mail response (23rd Oct), suggesting we comment on the Campbelltown Council 'Sustainable City Development Control Plan' next year (re: light pollution).

5.2 Correspondence Out

4th October: E-mail to Campbelltown Library re: astroLoGer celebrating IYA 2009.

9th October: E-mail to Mayor of Campbelltown (A. Rule) re: supporting astroLoGer celebrating IYA 2009.

13th October: E-mail to Mayor of Campbelltown (A. Rule) seeking a meeting with him & General Manager.

13th October: Letter inviting Professor Bryan Gaensler to become an MAS Patron.

14th October: E-mail to Councilor Julie Bourke, thanking her for expressing her support in Council for improving light pollution measures.

25th October: Membership approvals to Peter & Bobby Elston, Michael Nicholas, Michael & Christine Jupe, Mark Livingstone, Robert & Sue Leonard.

5.3 Media Statements

Media Statements: no media statements.

Media diary notices: for November meeting (Advertiser & Chronicle).

Electronic diary notices: for November meeting (Advertiser & Chronicle).

6 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Dinner with Tim Robishaw before next meeting 16th November:

Committee Members are invited to pre-meeting dinner at the Catholic Club. JR will reserve table. Members to pay TL. MAS to pay for Tim.

6.2 Membership of a related adult:

TR suggested that a member should be able to arrange for another adult family member (e.g. son-in-law) to join the Society without having to pay a joining fee. The committee agreed to this in principle, subject to confirmation that this is not contrary to the constitution.

7 BUSINESS FOR THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Full 2010 date schedule for Stargard, The Forest, public nights at UWS and The Oaks, Tudor House and any other engagements; UWS room hire; UWS relations; Campbelltown Council function; stock valuation; Patron; new membership form; related adult joining fee.

8 NEXT MEETING

7.30 pm on Wednesday 2nd (or 9th) December, at John Rombi's residence.

There will be no meeting in January unless unforeseen circumstances arise.

9 CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 9.08 pm.

Roger Powell
Secretary
5th November 2009

MAS Treasury & Membership Report 30 October 2009

Treasury

Apologies for my absence.

Cash Account movements from Oct 1st 2009 - 30th October 2009:

1/10/2009	Cash in hand from open nights	\$ 177.00	5146.72
4/10/2009	Caps sold	\$ 40.00	5186.72
28/10/2009	Surplus from Cabin hire	\$ 66.00	5252.72
28/10/2009	Membership Fee - Ahmad Alcheikh	\$ 35.00	5287.72

Debra is holding a cash float of \$37.25 for coffee etc.

Stuart has \$160.00+ cash float for merchandising – to be updated

PayPal account \$55.00approx – paid for web hosting US\$119.40

\$499.75 refund in progress from Ozscopes – TL transferred 30/10

Membership

At today's date we have 88 members including 2 honorary – assuming approval given to the current application.

*Tony Law
Treasurer
31st October 2009*