



PO Box 17, Minto, NSW 2566

MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY Inc.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Held at 33 Hickson Circuit, Harrington Park
on Wednesday 2nd December 2009.

Meeting opened 7.40 pm, closed 10.03 pm

1. OPENING OF MEETING & APOLOGIES

Present: J. Rombi (Chair), T. Rhodes, T. Law, L. Wright, S. Grainger, I. Fox & R. Powell.
Invitees: C. Malikoff (Webmaster) and G. Young (Editor).

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The previously distributed minutes were taken as read. Motion: "That the Minutes of Meeting 4th November 2009 be adopted," moved JR, seconded SG, carried unanimously.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

3.1 Second MAS Patron

The invitation sent to Professor Bryan Gaensler (Sydney University) to become a joint MAS Patron, in addition to Dr. Ragbir Bhathal (UWS), has been formally accepted by Bryan. It was agreed that Bryan would be presented with a token of appreciation when he next visits MAS.

3.2 Relationship with UWS

We received an e-mail from UWS, which those present have seen. It advised that we would be asked to sign a memorandum of understanding; hinted that we would be expected to pay for the room after February; and that members would be expected to pay for parking. Public night attendances have been run down by bureaucratic decisions. Other issues with UWS include double bookings of the meeting room; poor communications between themselves that get blamed on MAS; and running down of the observatory.

We decided to separate the issues and have sent them a letter on the issue of core concern: room bookings for 2010. In the meantime JR has made tentative enquiries about alternative locations and consulted his counterpart at WSAAG. RP will follow up the letter with Anne and inform R. Bhathal.

3.3 Schedule of Events for 2010

JR has issued a schedule for members observing nights. He is in contact with International House re dates for 2010, which they expect to formally confirm in January.

3.4 Membership Form Availability on Web Site

Chris M has posted the new membership form.

3.5 Telescopes for Beginners

There have not been any recent enquiries.

3.6 Digital Projector

Bob Bee returned the projector to RP, indicating that its colour rendering had deteriorated. RP tested and it seemed ok. CM offered to take it and give a second opinion.

3.7 Heaven's Above

Bob Bee asked "is it possible for me to give MAS's Paypal details to customers, and I'd be happy for a part of the payment to stay with MAS as a commission." It was decided not to proceed with this, as TL saw problems with taxation and other issues.

3.8 Any Other Business arising From The Minutes

There was none.

4 REGULAR BUSINESS

4.1 Treasurer

(i) Financial Report: TL provided a report for November that is attached to these minutes. In summary:

Banked: \$1412.00

Expenditures: \$928.15

Cash Account Balance: \$5751.65

Tea & Coffee Float: \$37.25

Merchandise Float: \$100.00

PayPal Account: \$55.00

Total financial assets: **\$5943.90**

Since this report, TL has written a cheque to The Oaks Sportsground (\$175.00).

(ii) Twelve month 'term deposit' investment TL reported that term deposits require a minimum deposit of \$5,000. It was agreed to reassess this at a future date.

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

4.2 Membership

(i) Motion: "That the membership application for Ross Jones, Scott Nickless, Charlene & Roderick Harrison & be approved." Moved: TL, seconded RP. Motion carried unanimously.

(ii) Current Membership Status: TL reported we have 90 paid up members and 3 honorary members. The total is 93, including applications just approved.

4.3 Merchandise

(i) Sales & Stock: Recent sales: \$125.00 merchandise and donations for 28th Nov public night. Current stock includes: Astronomy 2010 (9); shirts (33); caps (10); Heaven's Above (15); Starwheels (2); and Magnitude 1 DVDs (7).

(ii) Quotations, orders, pricing: CM will obtain an alternative quote for frosted mugs.

4.4 General Meetings - Room Bookings & Guest Speakers

(i) UWS have e-mailed approval of room bookings only up to February. They are hinting at charges for room hire and even car parking for room bookings beyond February. MAS has responded by writing a letter to UWS, stating reasons why we believe the room should be provided free and attaching room booking form and fee waiver form.

(ii) January Meeting Format: general get-together, with no specific format determined yet.

(iii) Guest Speaker List:

January: no guest speaker. February: Dr. David Malin. March: Prof. Fred Watson.

April: AGM and Trivia. May: Dr. Ragbir Bhatla. June: Prof. Geraint Lewis.

July: Assoc. Prof Peter Tuthill August: *tba. September: Dr. Naomi McLure-Griffith.

October: *tba. November: *tba.

*Prof. Bryan Gaensler & Dr Andrew Hopkins have agreed for 2009 but date to be fixed.
Tim Robshaw has been booked for 2011.

4.5 Members Observing Nights

(i) Since last meeting: The Forest 14th Nov. (cancelled); Stargard 21st Nov. (cancelled).

(ii) Coming up: The Forest: 12th Dec.; Stargard 19th Dec.

4.6 Public Outreach Events

(i) Campbelltown City Council JR, TR & RP viewed the Art Gallery facilities. CCC will make it available for a lecture or other event free of charge. The committee discussed image projections, telescope displays, speakers, planetarium, Geoff Zenner (Skyworks Planetariums), Dave Reneke and the possibility of a series of events. It was suggested that Full Moon would be preferable, say Sat. 24th April or Sat. 29th May (flexible).

(ii) 28th November Public Night at UWS – only approx thirty people, partially clear all evening.

(iii) Student night at Tudor House, Moss Vale, mid-year date to be selected in February. CM indicated he had a book he would like to present to the students.

4.7 Prime Focus magazine

The deadline for contributions to the next issue is Monday 11th January.

4.8 Website:

(i) General administration, general content, forum & web shop: No issues. CM will obtain web log-on statistics and 'Prime Focus' download statistics.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 Correspondence In

Professor Anne Cusick (UWS): E-mail advising a 'sustainable approach' to MAS activities in 2010.

Professor Bryan Gaensler (Univ. Syd): Letter accepting MAS invitation to become Patron.

Chris Hayes MP (Werriwa): Letter advising applications open for Jobs Fund.

5.2 Correspondence Out

Ahmad Alcheikh: re membership approval.

Professor Anne Cusick (UWS): letter seeking free use of meeting room for 2010.

5.3 Media Statements

There has been one media statement since the last meeting. This was the announcement of Bryan Gaensler as MAS Patron. It was published in the Advertiser two weeks ago and in this week's Chronicle.

6 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Laser Pointer Register

The voluntary register now has 15 members listed as laser pointer owners.

6.2 Power House Museum

CM suggested a society outing to the Power House Museum and Sydney Observatory.

7 BUSINESS FOR THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Art Gallery function, UWS relations, digital projector.

8 NEXT MEETING

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

There will be no meeting in January.

9 CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 10.03 pm.

Roger Powell
Secretary
4th December 2009

MAS Treasury & Membership Report 28th November 2009

Treasury Cash Account movements from Nov 1st 2009 - 28th November 2009: Balance 30/10/2009

18/11/2009	Meal - Tim Robinshaw	282		\$ 277.95	\$4989.85
20/11/2009	Banking slip 23112009		\$ 1,412.00		\$6401.85
20/11/1900	Quasar Publishing - 38 Astronomy 2010	283		\$ 650.20	\$5751.65

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

Stuart has \$100.00 cash float for merchandising

PayPal account \$55.00approx

Banking 23/11/2009

Merchandising:	\$788.00
Coffee	\$150.00
TR Dinner	\$260.00
Cabin	\$35.00
Membership	\$105.00
Donations	\$74.00

Banked **\$1,412.00**

13/07/2009	Pan Sports-Patches	269		\$350.00	6354.29	148
20/07/2009	Trevor Rhodes - for badges	270		\$43.45	6310.84	148
3/08/2009	Tony Law - Aluminium Case	271		\$27.99	6282.85	149
3/08/2009	New Memberships, Donations & Merchandising			\$778.00	7060.85	149
11/08/2009	The Oaks Sportsground for 2008	272		\$80.00	6980.85	149
17/08/2009	CCC- Geraint Lewis Dinner	273		\$206.90	6773.95	149
17/08/2009	Ned Pastor - owed for Forest	274		\$37.00	6736.95	149
24/08/2009	Membership - Elstons			\$70.00	6806.95	149
24/08/2009	Membership - Michael Nicholas		30811	\$35.00	6841.95	149
24/08/2009	Part payment dinner			\$123.00	6964.95	149
27/08/2009	Quasar Publishing - 20 Starwheels	275	4468	\$384.00	6580.95	149
16/09/2009	Bintel	276	53598	\$99.00	6481.95	150
17/09/2009	John Rhombi, Phone, copier etc	277	487915	\$70.00	6411.95	151
19/09/2009	Ned Pastor - owed for Forest	279	58	\$45.00	6366.95	150
21/09/2009	Pan Sports Merchandise	278	12906	\$1,257.50	5109.45	150
21/09/2009	Mark Livingstone Membership - Money order			\$45.00	5154.45	150
21/09/2009	R & S Leonard Membership- cheque		30812	\$70.00	5224.45	150
21/09/2009	M & S Jupe membership -cheque		30813	\$70.00	5294.45	150
21/09/2009	Caps sold		30814-30817	\$80.00	5374.45	150
23/09/2009	Ozscopes - 5X Celestron Firstscopes	280		\$518.73	4855.72	150
25/09/2009	Cap -Geoff		30819	\$20.00	4875.72	151
25/09/2009	Part payment dinner			\$94.00	4969.72	151
1/10/2009	Cash in hand from opennights			\$177.00	5146.72	151
4/10/2009	Caps sold			\$40.00	5186.72	151
21/10/2009	Trevor Rhodes - for cardholders	281		\$19.92	5166.80	151
28/10/2009	Surplus from Cabin hire			\$66.00	5232.80	151
28/10/2009	Membership Fee -Ahmad Alcheikh			\$35.00	5267.80	151
18/11/2009	Meal - Tim Robinshaw	282		\$277.95	4989.85	
20/11/2009	Banking slip 23112009			\$1,412.00	6401.85	
20/11/1900	Quasar Publishing - 38 Astronomy 2010	283		\$650.20	5751.65	

Membership

We have two new applications to consider: Ross Jones, Scott Nickless.

At today's date we have 91 members including 2 honorary – assuming approval given to the current applications.

Tony Law
Treasurer