



PO Box 17, Minto, NSW 2566

MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY Inc.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Held at 13 Namatjira Close, Eagle Vale
on Wednesday 3rd February 2010.

Meeting opened 7.35 pm, closed 9.46 pm

1. OPENING OF MEETING & APOLOGIES

Present: J. Rombi (Chair), T. Rhodes, T. Law, L. Wright, S. Grainger & R. Powell.

Apologies: I. Fox.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The previously distributed minutes were taken as read. Motion: "That the Minutes of Meeting 2nd December 2009 be adopted," moved JR, seconded TL, carried unanimously.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

3.1 Room Bookings for 2010

A letter was sent to UWS (1st Dec) applying for free use of the room throughout 2010. Professor Cusick confirmed this (18th Dec). We are keeping an eye out for a suitable alternative in case it is needed. It was agreed that we need to contact UWS and try to obtain a ground floor room, with at least the same capacity, due to ageing membership and problems members have negotiating two flights of stairs.

3.2 Relationship with UWS

No recent meeting has been held with UWS and the situation is unchanged.

3.3 The Forest

The proposed dates for 2010 have been approved by Jessica Carroll of International House and the Students night will be held on 21st August. IH fees are unchanged, so members fees are unchanged.

3.4 Digital Projector

Bob Bee returned the projector to RP, indicating that its colour rendition had deteriorated. RP tested it and it seemed ok. CM subsequently tested it and his opinion was that it is performing normally.

3.5 Powerhouse Museum & Observatory

Proposed visit will be put to the members to determine the level of interest.

3.6 Any Other Business Arising From The Minutes

There was no other business.

4. REGULAR BUSINESS

4.1 Treasurer

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

Income:	\$2407.19
Expenditures:	\$1223.15
Cash account balance:	\$6451.84
Tea & coffee float:	\$37.25
Merchandise float:	\$100.00
PayPal Account:	\$64.41
Total financial assets:	\$6565.35

Since this report, \$220.00 has been received for merchandise sales and two membership renewals. We have also purchased a folding table and trolley for Stewart to use at public nights. TL advised this would be an appropriate time to invest \$5000 in a term deposit. Agreed.

There is uncertainty whether we have an asset register. TL and JR will check to see if one exists and if not, TL will create one.

Motion: "That the Treasurer's report be adopted " moved TL, seconded JR. Carried unanimously.

(ii) Membership Fees for 2010-11. It was agreed that (a) to help ensure our cash balance improves rather than declines; and (b) because of uncertainty with the UWS relationship; we should consider a modest increase to membership fees to balance our costs.

Motion: "That all membership fees be raised by \$5.00 for the financial year 2010-11." Moved TL, seconded JR.

An amendment to the motion was proposed by TL, seconded RP "that the Family Membership rise by \$10.00". The amendment was voted on, resulting in three affirmative votes and three negative votes. As the vote was tied, the Chair exercised a casting vote, which was negative. The amendment was defeated.

A vote was then conducted on the original motion, which was carried unanimously.

The old and agreed new membership fees are recorded as follows:

	<u>2009-10</u>	<u>2010-11</u>
Full membership:	\$35.00	\$40.00
Family Membership	\$60.00	\$65.00
Student Membership:	\$25.00	\$30.00
Pensioner Membership:	\$25.00	\$30.00
Joining Fee:	\$10.00	\$10.00* unchanged*.

4.2 Membership

(i) Motion: "That the membership applications for Barry Moore, Borislav Muratovic & Rachael Blandin De Chalain be approved." Moved TL, seconded JR, motion carried unanimously.

(ii) Current Membership Status: TL reported we have 93 paid up members and 3 honorary members. The total is 96, including applications just approved.

4.3 Merchandise

(i) Sales & Stock:

Recent sales: two 'Astronomy 2010' and one starwheel were sold during January. Current stock includes: Astronomy 2010 (8); shirts (33); caps (5); beanies (19); Patches (34); Heaven's Above (15); Starwheels (16); Magnitude DVDs (8); Emu Dreaming (14).

(ii) Quotations, orders, pricing: CM obtaining an alternative quote for frosted mugs. JR will check with CM.

(iii) Merchandise display at meetings: Agreed we need to have a display of all items at the meetings. Carol McVeigh has been asked to assist Stewart. We hold stock to the value of \$2069.88 and we need to sell it.

4.4 General Meetings - Room Bookings & Guest Speakers

(i) February: Dr. David Malin. March: Prof. Fred Watson. April: AGM, Trivia & Movie 'What Time Is It?'
May: Dr. Ragbir Bhatl. June: Prof. Geraint Lewis. July: Assoc. Prof Peter Tuthill
August: Dr Andrew Hopkins. September: Dr. McLure-Griffith. October: *tba. November: *tba.

*Prof. Bryan Gaensler has agreed but date not fixed. Tim Robishaw agreed for 2011. Speakers Malin & Watson will incur \$100 expenses fees and will be entertained at the Catholic Club prior to the meeting. Bob Bee may be asked to talk about his European Astronomy Tour in October or November.

4.5 Members Observing Nights

(i) Since last meeting: Stargard 12th Dec. (Clear, 25); The Forest 19th Dec. (cloudy); Stargard 9th Jan. (Clear, 25); The Forest 16th Jan. (Cloudy); Unscheduled Stargard 19th Jan. (10).

(ii) Coming up: Stargard 6th Feb; The Forest 13th Feb.

4.6 Public Outreach Events

(i) 3rd-10th October: Campbelltown City Council event at the Art Gallery. JR will ask David Malin to participate. Chris Malikoff has been co-opted to assist running this event.

(ii) 27th March Public Night at UWS. No details received from UWS. A total of four public nights this year at UWS. Plans for a public night at The Oaks have been placed on hold.

(iii) Student night at Tudor House, Moss Vale, provisionally on 19th June, subject to JR hearing from Marnie Ogg about item 6.4.

4.7 Prime Focus magazine

The deadline for contributions to the next issue is Monday 8th February.

4.8 Website:

Concern about the number of members who do not regularly logon to the Website, meaning they do not read Prime Focus or access the 'What's On' page. It was agreed that we would increase the reglarity of Private Messages sent to members and that other committee members would do this as well as JR. It was also agreed that 'Prime Focus' would be e-mailed in future, to get it to all members.

4.9 Telescopes For Beginners

No recent enquiries. Leave item on front page for now.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 Correspondence In

26th Nov: Letter from Wollondilly Shire Council about padlocking the gate at Stargard.

Barry Moore: (9th Dec) membership application & cheque.

Journeys Worldwide: Eclipse tour leaflets.

Bintel: Nightsky magazine for December x10.

Professor Anne Cusick (UWS): (18th Dec) E-mail approving our recent application for free room usage.

Mamre Project: (31st Dec) Thank you letter for participation at 100 Mile Dinner.

Local Community Insurance Services: (12th Jan) renewal for for 2010-11.

Rachael Blandin de Chalain: (4th Jan) membership application and money order.

Bintel: (3rd Feb) Nightsky magazines for January x10

5.2 Correspondence Out

4th December: Confirmation of membership to Ross Jones, ScottNickless, Charlene & Roderick Harrison.

6th December: Details of MAS activities during IYA2009, with media cuttings.

18th December: E-mail to Professor Cusick (UWS) Thanking her for facilitating the meeting room.

5.3 Media Statements

Diary notices to both Advertiser & Chronicle newspapers & their web events pages for January and February meetings. Media statement to Advertiser & Chronicle for February meeting. Also submitted Bob Leonard's image of four members in front of the enlarged Moon to the Chronicle.

JR advised he had been contacted by Chronicle following the Media Staement.

6 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Annual General Meeting 19th April

Deadline for reports: 12th April.

Deadline for nominations: 5th April.

Auditing of annual accounts (to 28th Feb) and stock: Graeme Bellamy to be approached by JR.

Returning Officer: JR to ask Dick Everett to do it.
Ten Year Awards: There will be two this year.

6.2 Public Liability Insurance

The annual policy with LCIS expires on 5th March and renewal payment is due 19th March. The premium is \$734.88. (Last year \$729.38). TL received an equivalent check quote together with a suggestion that we also take out indemnity insurance for committee members. Whilst we believe this additional insurance is not necessary, provided all necessary preventative steps have been taken, it was decided to defer this until March.

6.3 Laser Pointer Use at Observing Nights

Chris Malikoff advised on the Forum that laser pointers can ruin long exposure imaging and asked for care in their usage. It was agreed that this would be addressed on the website and by PM from JR. Other related 'Observing Site' etiquette would be included.

6.4 Proposed Trip to AAO

A weekend trip to Coonabarabran was proposed and JR will approach Fred Watson to see if he would be prepared to host our visit. LW offered to drive a bus.

6.5 Magnitude DVD

CM has advised that his 'Magnitude 2' DVD is now very advanced.

7 BUSINESS FOR THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Insurance, AGM, Art Gallery function, UWS relations, Asset Register, Powerhouse visit, Coonabarabran visit, The Oaks.

8 NEXT MEETING

7.30 pm on Wednesday 3rd March, at Roger Powell's residence.

9 CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 9.46 pm.

Roger Powell
Secretary
4th February 2009

Banking slip 23112009

2/11/2009 Refund from Firstscopes			\$499.75			5767.55	152
18/11/2009 Meal - Tim Robbinshaw	282			\$277.95		5489.60	152
20/11/2009 Banking slip 23112009			\$1,412.00			6901.60	152
20/11/1900 Quasar Publishing - 38 Astronomy 2010	283			\$650.20		6251.40	152
1/12/2009 The Oaks Sportsground for 2009 & 10	284			\$175.00		6076.40	153
1/12/2009 Credit Interest			\$0.44			6076.84	153
8/12/2009 Thrive - Emu Dreaming Books				\$120.00		5956.84	153
14/12/2009 Membership - BS Moore		30829	\$45.00			6001.84	153
14/12/2009 Membership- Nickless via T Rhodes			\$35.00			6036.84	153
14/12/2009 Memberships - C & R Harrison			\$70.00			6106.84	153
14/12/2009 Donations			\$125.00			6231.84	153
18/01/2010 Membership Renewal - Dick Everett		30825	\$25.00			6256.84	
18/01/2010 Membership App - Rachael B,de Chalain		30826	\$35.00			6291.84	
18/01/2010 Membership App - Borislav Muratovic		30827	\$45.00			6336.84	
18/01/2010 Merchandising - Stewart		30830	\$60.00			6396.84	
18/01/2010 Astro 2010- G Bellamy		30831	\$20.00			6416.84	
18/01/2010 Membership Renewal - Richard Finch		30832	\$35.00			6451.84	

MAS Treasury & Membership Report 31st January 2010
Treasury

Cash Account movements from Nov 1st 2009 – 31st Jan 2010:

2/11/2009	Refund from Firstscopes			\$ 499.75		5767.55
18/11/2009	Meal - Tim Robinslaw	282		\$ 277.95		5489.60
20/11/2009	Banking slip 23112009					6901.60
20/11/1900	Quasar Publishing - 38 Astronomy 2010	283		\$ 650.20		6251.40
1/12/2009	The Oaks Sportsground for 2009 & 10	284		\$ 175.00		6076.40
1/12/2009	Credit Interest			\$ 0.44		6076.84
8/12/2009	Thrive - Emu Dreaming Books	285		\$ 120.00		5956.84
14/12/2009	Membership - BS Moore		30829	\$ 45.00		6001.84
14/12/2009	Membership- Nickless via T Rhodes			\$ 35.00		6036.84
14/12/2009	Memberships - C & R Harrison			\$ 70.00		6106.84
14/12/2009	Donations			\$ 125.00		6231.84
18/01/2010	Membership Renewal - Dick Everett		30825	\$ 25.00		6256.84
18/01/2010	Membership App - Rachael B,de Chalain		30826	\$ 35.00		6291.84
18/01/2010	Membership App - Borislav Muratovic		30827	\$ 45.00		6336.84
18/01/2010	Merchandising - Stewart		30830	\$ 60.00		6396.84
18/01/2010	Astro 2010- G Bellamy		30831	\$ 20.00		6416.84
18/01/2010	Membership Renewal - Richard Finch		30832	\$ 35.00		6451.84

Debra is holding a cash float of \$37.25 for coffee etc.
 Stuart has \$100.00 cash float for merchandising
 PayPal account \$64.41

Membership

We have two new applications to consider: Borislav Muratovic & Rachael Blandin de Chalain
 At today's date we have 96 members including 3 honorary – assuming approval given to the current applications.

Renewals – letter to go out this week – do we keep fees the same as last year?

Tony Law
 Treasurer