



PO Box 17, Minto, NSW 2566

MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY Inc.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Held at 1 Brewster Place, Leumeah
on Wednesday 3rd March 2010.

Meeting opened 7.37 pm, closed 9.28 pm

1. OPENING OF MEETING & APOLOGIES

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

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The previously distributed minutes were taken as read. Motion: "That the Minutes of Meeting 3rd February 2010 be adopted," moved TL seconded SG, carried unanimously.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

3.1 Clarification of Procedure in the event of a tied vote

A vote on a motion at the last meeting (item 4.1) was tied. The meeting agreed on the chairman having the casting vote. Our constitution (5.5d) provides for a tied vote to be settled in the negative. As John's casting vote was negative, it was agreed that the decision stands and no further action is necessary.

3.2 Motion to amend By-laws

Motion: "That the by-laws be amended to incorporate the new annual fees". (Fees agreed last month). Moved RP, seconded SG. The motion was carried unanimously. By-law 1 is to be amended as follows:

| | <u>Replace:</u> | <u>With:</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 |

Second motion: "That by-law 1 also be amended to remove the postage fee for Prime Focus, which is now delivered electronically." Moved RP, seconded TL. Carried unanimously.

3.3 Joint MAS-UWS activities

We have had no recent response from Anne Cusick or Ragbir Bhathal. The situation is unchanged.

3.4 Meeting Room

JR will approach UWS (Vanda Whitworth) to change the meeting room to a more accessible location, preferably Room 6 in Building 21. JR said relations with Vanda are excellent.

3.5 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). Motion: "That the existing policy be renewed", moved RP, seconded JR. Carried unanimously. TL provided cheque to RP for mailing to LCIS. Consideration was given to additional insurance indemnifying committee members (\$250.00). It was agreed not to proceed with this.

3.6 Asset Register

TL advised that he is updating the existing asset register.

3.7 AGM 19th April

Reports: Deadline 12th April. Reports expected from President, Treasurer and Merchandise Officer.

Nominations: The secretary has received six nominations for seven positions. Nominations will close on 5th April. Ivan Fox has declined re-nomination.

Auditor & Returning Officer: Graeme Bellamy and Dick Everett have agreed.

Ten Year Awards: JR has advised Phillip Kidd and Michael Wells. No response from MW.

3.8 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:

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Main bank account: | \$7,184.03 |
| Tea & coffee float: | \$37.25 |
| Merchandise float: | \$20.00 (not \$100.00) |
| PayPal Account: | \$59.43 |
| Total financial assets: | \$7,300.71 |

TL advised that he had received a letter from Commonwealth Bank advising that accounts would be mailed quarterly in future. This is inconvenient and TL will approach the bank about it. A suitable alternative might be 'read only' computer access.

TL advised that PayPal are charging on membership fee deposits and recommended a surcharge be added to cover this. It was agreed that the PayPal surcharge would be set at \$1.50 for full membership; \$2.00 for family; and \$1.00 for pensioner/student membership. CM to be advised urgently.

TL will proceed to invest \$5000 in an appropriate term deposit.

TL provided a cheque for \$79.50 for the Australia Post Mail Box rental.

RP provided Family membership renewal cheque and form for the Tuckwells, noting it was \$5.00 short.

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

4.2 Membership

(i) Motion: "That the membership application for Alan George be approved." Moved TL, seconded LW, motion carried unanimously.

(ii) Current Membership Status: TL reported the final membership for 2009-10 was 94 paid up members and 3 honorary members. The total is a record 97, including application just approved.

Membership for 2010-11: About fourteen renewals have been received to date.

4.3 Merchandise

(i) Sales, stock, quotations, orders, pricing: Since the last meeting we have sold: 2 - 'Emu Dreaming' books; 2 - Astronomy 2010; and 3 - shirts. Current stock includes: Astronomy 2010 (6); shirts (30); caps (5); beanies (19); Patches (34); Heaven's Above (15); Starwheels (16); Magnitude DVDs (8); Emu Dreaming (12). We hold stock to the value of about \$1960. We are nearly out of Ladies shirts.

CM obtaining an alternative quote for frosted mugs. JR will check with CM.

(ii) Merchandise display at meetings: Carol McVeigh is assisting Stewart.

4.4 General Meetings - Room Bookings & Guest Speakers

March: Prof. Fred Watson.

April: AGM, Trivia & Movie

May: Dr. Ragbir Bhatla.

June: Prof. Geraint Lewis.

July: Assoc. Prof Peter Tuthill

August: Dr Andrew Hopkins.

September: Dr. McLure-Griffith. October: Bob Bee.

Nov: Prof. Bryan Gaensler.

T. Robishaw & L. Harvey-Smith have agreed for 2011. Possibilities: Les Dalrymple & Gary Kopff. Room is booked to end of 2010. November meeting may be a dinner meeting, costing \$30.00 pp. JR urged all committee members to talk to new and prospective members before and after the meetings.

4.5 Members Observing Nights

(i) Since last meeting: Stargard 6th Feb (cancelled); The Forest 13th Feb. (cancelled). Unscheduled Stargard was held on 17th February after several repeated cancellations. About eleven attended.

(ii) Coming up: Stargard 13th March and The Forest 20th March.

4.6 Public Outreach Events

(i) 3rd-10th October: Campbelltown City Council event at the Art Gallery. JR, RP & CM visited Morgan Randal at the Gallery. David Malin has agreed to do the talk on Saturday 9th October.

- (ii) 27th March Public Night at UWS. No details received from UWS. A total of four public nights this year at UWS have been agreed but this may change. Concern about lack of response from UWS. No booking details. Running out of advertising time. Agreed to give UWS more time and allow JR to take appropriate action if still no response. 27th March is also 'Earth Hour'.
- (iii) 21st August: International House. Students night. Speaker to be determined.
- (iv) Proposed visits to Powerhouse Museum and AAO: Possible visit to AAO on 14th August. TL to cost the trip. JR to contact Coonabarabran Astronomical Society. The Powerhouse visit put on hold.
- (v) Student night at Tudor House, Moss Vale, provisionally on 19th June. No response from School.

4.7 Prime Focus magazine

The deadline for the next issue is Monday 8th March. Prime Focus is now being e-mailed to members.

4.8 Website, Webshop, Forum & Facebook:

PayPal membership page is off-line and CM is changing it to reflect the new fees. JR to advise CM of additional surcharges. We are getting members through Facebook but the Forum is quiet.

4.9 Telescopes For Beginners

No recent enquiries.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 Correspondence In

Bintel: Nightsky magazine for February x10.

Camden Council: letter requesting we participate in Library display.

Mamre Project: invitation to morning tea.

Chris Hayes MP (Werriwa): letter advising community grants.

ASAW: Email re Border Stargaze.

Christine & Jim Tuckwell: membership renewal cheque for \$60.00 (\$5.00 short).

Australia Post: PO Box renewal form (\$79.50).

5.2 Correspondence Out

There was no outgoing mail.

5.3 Media Statements

Diary notices to Advertiser & Chronicle newspapers & their web events pages for March meetings.

Media statement to Advertiser & Chronicle for March meeting.

6 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Light Pollution

Motion: *"That a light pollution policy be adopted and councils informed."* Moved JR Seconded LW.

Carried unanimously. The draft policy was reviewed and accepted. RP to send to mayors of four local councils, local MPs and relevant opposition spokespersons. Copy of policy is attached to these minutes.

7 BUSINESS FOR THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

AGM, Art Gallery function, UWS relations, Coonabarabran visit, Tudor House, Membership.

8 NEXT MEETING

7.30 pm on Wednesday 7th April, at Ivan Fox's residence.

9 CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 9.28 pm.

Roger Powell
Secretary
4th March 2010

MAS Treasury & Membership Report 28th February 2010

Treasury

Cash Account movements from 1st Feb - 27th Feb 2010

| | | | | | |
|------------|--|-----|-----------|-----------|---------|
| 3/02/2010 | Trevor Rhodes - badges | 286 | | \$ 11.86 | 6439.98 |
| 18/02/2010 | Dinner David Malin | 287 | | \$232.95 | 6207.03 |
| 18/02/2010 | David Malin | 288 | | \$100.00 | 6107.03 |
| 18/02/2010 | Geoff Young -Membership/dinner | | 30833 | \$66.00 | 6173.03 |
| 18/02/2010 | Christiane Gurney- Membership | | 30834 | \$40.00 | 6213.03 |
| 18/02/2010 | Michael Clark - Family Membership | | 30835 | \$65.00 | 6278.03 |
| 18/02/2010 | Bob Monkomb - Pensioner Membership | | 30836 | \$30.00 | 6308.03 |
| 18/02/2010 | David Jones - Pensioner Membership | | 30837 | \$30.00 | 6338.03 |
| 18/02/2010 | Ursula Braatz -Pensioner Membership | | 30838 | \$30.00 | 6368.03 |
| 18/02/2010 | Paul O'Neil - Pensioner Mem., Astro 2010, Tshirt | | 30839/849 | \$85.00 | 6453.03 |
| 18/02/2010 | Eddie Bagnall - Full Membership | | 30840 | \$40.00 | 6493.03 |
| 18/02/2010 | Carol - Merchandising | | 30841/846 | \$120.00 | 6613.03 |
| 18/02/2010 | Chris Whicker - Full Membership | | 30842 | \$ 40.00 | 6653.03 |
| 18/02/2010 | Ray Armstrong - Full Membership | | 30843 | \$ 40.00 | 6693.03 |
| 18/02/2010 | Phillip Kidd - Family Membership | | 30844 | \$ 65.00 | 6758.03 |
| 18/02/2010 | Carol McVeigh - Full Mem. | | 30845 | \$ 40.00 | 6798.03 |
| 18/02/2010 | Roger Powell - Pensioner Membership | | 30846 | \$ 30.00 | 6828.03 |
| 18/02/2010 | Alan George - New Pensioner Member + Joining | | 30849 | \$ 35.00 | 6863.03 |
| 18/02/2010 | Lloyd Wright - Full Membership | | 30850 | \$ 40.00 | 6903.03 |
| 18/02/2010 | Deb - Emu Dreaming | | 30851 | \$ 15.00 | 6918.03 |
| 18/02/2010 | TR Rhodes - dinner X 2 | | 30852 | \$ 52.00 | 6970.03 |
| 18/02/2010 | John & Ivan dinner X 2 | | | \$ 52.00 | 7022.03 |
| 18/02/2010 | Loan to C Malikoff | | | -\$ 75.00 | 6947.03 |
| 22/02/2010 | Ivan Fox - Full Mem. | | 30853 | \$ 40.00 | 6987.03 |
| 18/02/2010 | Tony - dinner | | 30854 | \$ 27.00 | 7014.03 |
| 27/02/2010 | Ex Paypal, CM loan, MAB & M White Memberships | | | \$170.00 | 7184.03 |

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

Stuart has \$100.00 cash float for merchandising

PayPal account \$59.43

Membership

We have one new applications to consider: Alan George

At today's date we have 97 members including 3 honorary – assuming approval given to the current applications.

Renewals – update today

Tony Law

Treasurer

LIGHT POLLUTION POLICY

Macarthur Astronomical Society draws attention to the growing threat to the once spectacular night skies of the Macarthur region.

Light pollution is wasted energy that consists of two main components:

- Direct glare from street lights, floodlights and general building lighting that spills from the intended task into adjacent areas.
- Uncontrolled light that indiscriminately escapes upwards and contributes to 'sky-glow'.

We are encouraged that the night sky has been Heritage Listed by the NSW National Trust, however we remain deeply concerned about:

- The relentless spread of light pollution with continuing urban sprawl.
- The escalating loss of the cultural heritage that is our window on the Universe.
- The potential complete loss of the night sky to future generations that may grow up never to see the Milky Way or other magnificent night objects.
- The unsustainable waste of energy and resources used to generate misdirected light.
- The financial loss to the public purse, due to wasted energy.
- The damage to the environment due to wasted burning of fossil fuels.
- The dangers posed by uncontrolled glare to motorists and pedestrians.
- The lack of awareness and understanding of the problem at all three tiers of government.

We recognise the need for well designed public and private lighting to prevent accidents, fight crime and to facilitate general convenience. However, bad lighting can be overcome by:

- Stronger regulation and implementation of existing standards by our councilors and members of parliament.
- Thoughtful design of building architecture, to reduce spillage.
- Careful design of external lighting to eliminate glare and spillage.
- A new inspection regime at local level.
- Remedial action to replace or improve existing lighting.
- Introduction of more electrical and mechanical energy control devices.

We call upon our elected representatives, architects, building owners, lighting design engineers and the community in general to take heed of the implications of light pollution and to embrace strong measures to reverse the trend.