



PO Box 17, Minto, NSW 2566

**MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Held at 107 Westmoreland Road, Leumeah, NSW
on Wednesday 2nd February 2011

Meeting opened 7.33 pm, closed at 9.59 pm

1 OPENING OF MEETING & APOLOGIES

Present: John Rombi (Chair), Trevor Rhodes, Tony Law, Lloyd Wright, Stewart Grainger, Carol McVeigh, Chris Malikoff & Roger Powell. Apologies: Stewart Grainger (prior appointment, will be late.)

2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The previously distributed minutes were taken as read. Motion: "That the minutes dated 5th January be adopted". Moved: JR, seconded: Carol, carried unanimously. The minutes were signed.

3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

3.1 General Meetings:

(i) UWS room bookings & location for 2011: The meetings will be held in Room 5, Building 22 throughout the year (except June and Nov.)

(ii) Options for 2012 accommodation: JR has reviewed the situation with Prof. Gaensler. He says we are on the right track by making positive moves to fund a room. Possible use of Sydney Uni building at Camden or Arts Centre. List of options to be drawn up, with costs and availability. However, we need to wait for responses to recent correspondence to UWS from MAS and from Cr Matheson MP.

3.2 Macarthur Astronomy Forum:

(i) Launch of the Forum by Professor Fred Watson: The event has been publicised. A Forum logo has been prepared by Chris, to be sent to all guest speakers, requesting it be the preliminary image of each presentation.

(ii) Future sponsorship of the Forum:

We need to draw up a list of possible sponsors of the Forum which might include an advert on the website, preferably slanted towards astronomy. Also see item 6.1 below. We also need to have the donation box available well in advance of the start of the meeting, for public donations.

(iii) meeting with MP for Macarthur: JR, TR & RP met with Cr. Matheson MP (Macarthur) on 17th January concerning eligibility for a government grant. He has no news on that yet. However, Cr Matheson advised today that he sent a letter to UWS after the meeting, requesting they waive our fees. He is waiting for a response. It was noted that the meeting with him was not to seek his intervention but to seek grants.

3.3 Review of Constitution: review of members comments to date. Comments were received from Geoff Young, Anthony Jelich, Dick Everett, Michael Clarke and Ian Cook. Most of Geoff's comments had been dealt with at last month's meeting. The rest were discussed and determined as listed in the document "Comments on Proposed Constitution Changes" (appended). A new constitution proposal will be posted on the website in the next few days, reflecting the accepted members comments. Members comments will close on 1st March. Ian Cook's comments suggesting the committee communicate it's decisions more to the members were noted. It was agreed that decisions would continue to be announced in Prime Focus, on the website and at the monthly meetings and that members views would be welcomed on all matters. It was decided to add the minutes to the website and the committee will review Ian's comments again next month.

3.4 Proposed Photographic Competition: It was agreed that the competition be a fairly informal "Image of the Year", to be judged by JR & Chris from the images on the Members gallery on 1st April. Winner to be announced at the AGM.

3.5 Commonwealth Bank:

The incorrect tax deduction by the bank had been restored and the incorrect term deposit reinvestment had

been reviewed. The Term deposit had been increased by \$2,000.

3.6 Any other business arising from the minutes: None.

4 REGULAR BUSINESS

4.1 Treasurer:

(i) Monthly financial report: a cash report (dated 2nd February) was provided by TL (attached). Summary:

Term deposit:	\$7,000.00
Cash account:	\$3,175.53
PayPal account:	\$267.35
Refreshment float:	\$40.00
Merchandise float:	\$100.00
TOTAL CASH ASSETS:	<u>\$10,582.88</u>

(ii) motion: "That the The LCIS invoice for \$745.88 be paid" moved: JR, seconded: TR, carried unanimously.

(iii) motion: "That the Treasurer's Report be adopted" moved: TL, seconded: JR, carried unanimously.

4.2 Membership:

Motion "That the membership applications from Bruce Butters & Rahmi Jackson be approved"; moved JR, seconded LW, carried unanimously. Membership for 2010-11 has reached 92.

4.3 Merchandise:

(i) sales and current stock holding: Sales at January meeting were \$105.00. See attached report by SG. Total stock value **\$2182.68**

(ii) acquisition of new stock: New MAS shirts are available for pickup. It was suggested we have shirts with the Astronomy Forum logo but no decision was made.

4.4 General meetings:

Guest speaker list 2011: Feb: Fred Watson; Mar: Les Dalrymple; Apr: AGM and Daniel Ross; May: Andrew Hopkins; Jun: Lisa Harvey-Smith; Jul: Mike Ireland ; Aug: Geraint Lewis; Sep: tba; Oct: Gary Kopff; Nov: Bryan Gaensler. Dates to be agreed: Tim Robishaw, Rob McNaught.

4.5 Members observing nights:

(i) Since last meeting: The Forest: (8th Jan); Stargard: (29th clear, 23); Forest: 4thFeb (good 3) 5th Feb (poor, 7). On arrival at The Forest it was found the cabin had been broken into, damaged and property stolen by thieves. This was immediately reported to International House and an attempt to secure the windows was made before leaving on 6th. They did not want MAS to report it to the police. LW advised he has mislaid his Stargard key.

(ii) Coming up: Stargard: (26th Feb).

4.6 Public outreach events in 2010:

(i) proposed photographic display at Braidwood: This is now on hold.

(ii) public night at The Oaks: Has been arranged for 12th March.

(iii) proposed SKA public night at UWS: Ragbir Bhathal has been asked to arrange a joint MAS/UWS event.

(iv) proposed SKA public lecture at UWS: Ragbir Bhathal has been asked to arrange a joint MAS/UWS event, with Lisa Harvey-Smith being a possibility.

4.7 Prime Focus magazine: the deadline for contributions is 9th February. Converting old issues to PDF format was discussed. JR will review this with Geoff Young and/or Kate Ross.

4.8 Website, Web Shop, Forum and Facebook: Going well. Nothing to review.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 Correspondence in:

LCIS Insurance policy renewal.
Bintel Night Sky for January & February.
Membership application from Rahmi Jackson.
Wollondilly Shire Council letter re Special Rate Variation.
Wayne Harrison: membership renewal cheque.
Copy of letter sent by R.Matheson MP to UWS Pro-Vice Chancellor.

5.2 Correspondence out:

Anthony Jelich & Robin Haywood membership application.
Formal e-mail to Russell Matheson's Office.
Formal e-mail to UWS Vice Chancellor's Office.

5.3 Publicity:

Inaugural Forum 21st Feb: Media Statements: diary notices & electronic diary notices.

6 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Proposed sausage sizzle: Bob Bee forwarded a suggestion to raise money with a barbecue at Bunnings. It was agreed that JR and TR will investigate and report to the next meeting.

6.2 Appointment of auditor: JR has secured the services of Graeme Bellamy.

6.3 Annual General Meeting 18th April:

Election: 2011 nomination forms are available. Nominations close 4th April. Proxy voting: Form was approved.

Annual reports: President, Treasurer and Auditor to prepare annual reports.

Ten year badges: Recipients: Bob Monckom and Ned Pastor.

Five & fifteen year certificates: JR to arrange these in conjunction with Chris.

6.4 Payment of International House: TL gave RP a cheque for International House payment (\$70.00) for February.

6.5 Observing at Wedderburn: TL has had some informal discussions with Wedderburn Airfield management about the possibility of using the airfield for observing. MAS is waiting for an invitation from them.

6.6 Stargard Fees: Noel Sharpe has foreshadowed a possible increase in fees by Wollondilly Council.

6.7 Magnitude Image Album: Chris was given permission to purchase a suitable album to safely keep the A3 images.

7 NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Will be held on Wednesday 2nd March at John Rombi's house. Business to include UWS, Photo Competition, Fund Raising for Room, Forum, Observing Nights and Public Night.

8 CLOSE OF MEETING The meeting closed at 9.59 pm.

*Roger Powell, Secretary
10th February 2011*

Signed: J.Rombi (President) R. Powell (Secretary)

APPENDIX 1: MAS Treasury & Membership Report 2nd Feb 2011

Treasury

Barry Moore is holding a cash float of \$40.00 for coffee etc.
Stewart has \$100.00 cash float for merchandising
PayPal account \$267.35
Term deposit \$7,000.00

January Transactions

6/01/2011	Deposit - tax refund	\$ 89.00		4625.18
10/01/2011	Transfer to Term Deposit		\$ 2,000.00	2625.18
17/01/2011	Deposit, Merchandising, Coffee	\$ 120.35		2745.53
31/01/2011	Deposit, Memberships to be detailed	\$ 430.00		3175.53

Membership

We have two new application to consider for Membership from Rahmi Jackson and Bruce Butters. Rahmi is a Physics Teacher from Werrington and Bruce rejoining after 2 year's absence. Should these memberships be approved we will have 89 members and 3 Honorary – if all renew!!

Tony Law

Hon. Treasurer

APPENDIX 2 – MAS Merchandise Stock List at 9th February 2011

DVD's			
Magnitude x 1	\$4.50	\$4.50	
Magnitude II x 9	\$2.50	\$22.50	
Star Wheels			
Large x 6	\$19.20	\$96.00	
Small x 1	\$12.50	\$12.50	
Sew on Patches			
White x 17	\$7.00	\$119.00	
Black x 14	\$7.00	\$98.00	
Beanies x 16	\$11.22	\$179.52	
Baseball Caps x 10	\$13.90	\$125.10	
Coffee Mugs x 78	\$8.50	\$663.00	
Astronomy 2010 x 2 nil value			
Astronomy 2011 x 17	\$17.30	\$242.20	
Emu Dreaming x 8	\$10.00	\$80.00	
Heavens Above x 11 (on loan)			
Shirts			
Mens White	Mens Navy	Mens Black	Womens Navy
M x 2	M x 4	S x 1	12 x 1
L x 1		M x 4	14 x 1
XL x 2		L x 2	
		XL x 1	

Total of 19 shirts @ \$28.44 ea. = \$540.36

Total stock value **\$2182.68**

S.Grainger

Merchandise Officer

APPENDIX 3: COMMENTS ON PROPOSED CONSTITUTION CHANGES

MEMBER'S COMMENTS	RESPONSE
1. Geoff Young: 4th December 2010	~
Page 5, "3. Powers", 3.17 "To print and publish and newspapers, periodicals, books, ...". Does this need to be expanded to include electronic media and our website?	Considered by Committee 5 th January. It was decided to change the Draft. DONE
Page 6, "4. Membership of the Society", 4.1.d) Pensioner membership. Should this definition of a pension state a restriction to Government-paid pensions? My superannuation payment is referred to as a "Pension" by the Fund and the Federal Government.	Considered by Committee 9 th Feb. It was decided not to change the Draft. NFA
Page 11, "6. Meetings", 6.4 a) Quorum. The quorum number is twice the number of members on the Management Committee plus one. The Management Committee number is only referenced in the bylaws. (5.1.a) Can we reference the size of the quorum to a number not contained in the Constitution?	Considered by Committee 9 th Feb. It was decided not to change the Draft. NFA
Page 11, 6.3.d. Second sentence - no idea what it means or its intention.	Considered by Committee 5 th January. It was decided to change the Draft. DONE
Page 12, 8 "Funds and Accounts". Permanent Building Societies are getting very thin on the ground. Use a general term such as a "Non-Banking Financial Institution (NBFI)? This will then cover any future changes to financial institution structures.	Considered by Committee 5 th January. It was decided to change the Draft. DONE
Page 13, 8.b. Allow for computerised recording of accounts?	Considered by Committee 5 th January. It was decided to change the Draft. DONE
Page 13, 8.d. "monies" in place of "moneys"?	Considered by Committee 5 th January. It was decided to change the Draft. DONE
Anthony Jelich: 6th January 2011	~
*Removal of Proxy Voting While I can understand that for ease of running the meetings of the association, removing proxy voting at general meetings may be a good idea, for items of greater importance that require a special resolution such as a change in the constitution or winding up the association perhaps it should be retained to ensure that all members get to have their say? For example, I can tell you now that I will be out of the country honeymooning when the AGM is held to vote on the adoption of the new constitution. If the constitution were adopted I would have no way of casting my vote in such a circumstance. Perhaps as an alternative, a clause requiring such special resolutions to be voted for by a majority (or some minimum number) of total financial membership could also be required to ensure that a sufficient majority of the membership agree to any proposed major changes to protect the interest of members.	Considered by Committee 9 th Feb. The committee felt that Proxy Voting is an unnecessary complication in our context. The issue was canvassed at the January meeting and received no additional support. It was decided not to change the Draft unless it receives further support from members. NFA
*Documents It may be a good idea to include a section about maintaining backups of computerised data. The only reason I mention this is because you have added a section about approval for the disposal & destruction of	Considered by Committee 9 th Feb. It was decided not to change the Draft. It was felt that this is covered by "safe custody of computer files" and if

records and "accidental" data loss would be an easy way to sidestep this requirement.	necessary, could be included in a new bylaw. NFA
<p>*Removal of Librarian Office</p> <p>I'm a new member so don't know much about this one but doesn't the club still own a loan scope? What is the existing practice referred to in the reason for change? Isn't it a good idea to retain some form of codified rules in the constitution for borrowing equipment that belongs to the club that members are bound by? Eg, a list of equipment available to members, a maximum loan period, responsibility for safety & maintenance of equipment, who is liable for lost/damaged equipment, keeping a record of who has what, ensuring members who leave the society return all loan equipment in working order, etc. Is the intent of the change that the club is trying to phase out loaning of club equipment?</p>	<p>Considered by Committee 9th Feb. It was decided not to change the Draft. The loan telescope has a "Custodian" and it was felt that it is not a "library" item. By law 6 covers it.</p> <p>NFA</p>
<p>*Item 14 - Dissolution.</p> <p>I think the current associations act requires a special resolution passed by 75 percent of adult members present to wind up an association, not the two thirds listed here.</p>	<p>Considered by Committee 9th Feb. It was decided not to change the Draft as the clause also states that dissolution shall comply with relevant legislation.</p> <p>NFA</p>
<p>Michael Clarke 12th January 2011</p>	~
3.9 required should read require.	Considered by Committee 9 th Feb. It was decided to change the Draft. CHANGE
3.13 objects should read objectives per other clauses.	Considered by Committee 9 th Feb. It was decided to change the Draft. CHANGE
4.1a should read Full membership..	Considered by Committee 9 th Feb. It was decided to change the Draft. CHANGE
4.1b should read Family membership..	Considered by Committee 9 th Feb. It was decided to change the Draft. CHANGE
4.1e should read Associate membership	Considered by Committee 9 th Feb. It was decided to change the Draft. CHANGE
4.2d should include substantiated by the Management Committee	Considered by Committee 9 th Feb. It was decided not to change the Draft. NFA
4.2g per above	Considered by Committee 9 th Feb. It was decided to change/not to change the Draft. NFA
4.4c .. to present their case to the Management Committee and if the ...	Considered by Committee 9 th Feb. It was decided not to change the Draft. NFA
8b ..mandatory professional and statutory...	Considered by Committee 9 th Feb. It was decided to change the Draft. CHANGE
8h ...the Treasurer shall cause to be prepared a.. reads funny. Should this be the Treasurer shall have cause to prepare....	Considered by Committee 9 th Feb. It was decided not to change the Draft. NFA

<p>Dick Everett 17th January 2011</p>	<p>~</p>
<p>Membership applications: Dick verbally indicated that we may be required by DOFT to seek the membership fee and joining fee for new members only AFTER the application has been approved.</p>	<p>E-mail response to Dick 2nd February 2011: <i>Hi Dick,</i> <i>You will recall telling me that you know some organisations which do not take membership fees from their applicants until the committee has approved the application. You wondered whether this was a DOFT requirement.</i> <i>I sent DOFT an e-mail a week ago, asking them about it. A lady called Robyn rang me back this morning. I put the question to her and she said she never heard of that requirement. She went away to ask someone and came back with the response that it is up to us to word the constitution the way we want it. Whatever is in our constitution is what has to be followed.</i> <i>On that basis I am confident that our constitution does not have to be changed to accommodate such a requirement. I would not want to have the committee approve the application and then someone has to go get the money.</i> <i>Regards, Roger</i> Considered by Committee 9th Feb. It was decided not to change the Draft. NFA</p>
<p>Ian Cook 30th January 2011</p>	<p>~</p>
<p>3.19 This certainly is one of the powers of the Society; but why mention the Management Committee! Honorary patrons are appointed by the Society, end of story! The Management Committee may propose patrons based on reasons beneficial to the Society, which would then be brought to a general meeting for agreement before approaching the person with a written proposal, but so can anybody else! Incidentally I am not aware that either of our two patrons were presented to the society in a meeting before they were invited to take up their role. There were announcements to the fact of their invitation, but there was no vote in an ordinary general meeting where such business is supposed to be transacted! If I remember in error, then I stand corrected. I am not in disagreement with our present two patron's appointment but if this is the Constitution then it should spell out the process of appointing them.</p>	<p>Considered by Committee 9th Feb. It was decided to change the Draft. CHANGE</p>
<p>4.1.f I have never been happy about honorary memberships!! They seem like a good idea to recognise someone's contribution to the Society but cause problems when it comes to voting. Full members rights, for ever and ever? How can a person who perhaps does not live in the area and will rarely attend regularly, understand what is relevant to our needs. If they are regular attenders then why are they not regular members? If an ordinary member does not pay their fee,</p>	<p>Considered by Committee 9th Feb. It was decided not to change the Draft. Further honorary memberships are unlikely. The committee agrees with decisions of former committees to offer these three particular honorary memberships.</p>

<p>they get booted after a mere two months. If we must keep them then let's restrict honorary memberships to a full 12 month period from the date conferred, after which they lapse!</p>	<p>NFA</p>
<p>6.3 Ordinary General Meetings & 6.4 General Meetings What is the difference between these two? ?? The General Meeting seems to imply business is conducted and decisions taken. This is not common practice in our monthly meetings. Except for the AGM (which should involve more business decisions than at present), decisions rarely take place in the members arena. But they should!</p>	<p>Considered by Committee 9th Feb. It was decided not to change the Draft. It was felt that the existing constitution and the draft represented the practice that had been followed since 1996. The meeting types are clearly defined in clause 1.2 "Definitions" NFA</p>
<p>8. FUNDS AND ACCOUNTS The following paragraph needs at least to be broken up into three or four? b) j) The income and property of the Society whencesoever derived shall be used and applied solely in promotion of its objects objectives and in the exercise of its powers as set out herein and no portion thereof shall be distributed, paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise by way of profit to or amongst the members of the Society provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent the payment in good faith of interest to any such otherwise owing by the Society to him or her of remuneration to any officers or servants of the Society or to any member of the Society or other person in return for any services actually rendered to the Society provided furthered that nothing herein contained shall be construed so as to prevent the payment or repayment to any member of out of pocket expenses, money lent, reasonable and proper charges for goods hired by Society or reasonable and proper rent for premises demised or let to the Society.</p> <p>Recently a sum of money was contributed out of Society funds to the trip to Coonabarabran. Previously there was strong feeling against funding any event where only a portion of the membership chose to participate. Was this unwittingly in contravention of the Constitution? Perhaps the majority of members were in favour, but no recommendation was made to a meeting of members but an announcement was made at a meeting that the Committee had agreed. Does this indicate that the "management" committee is taking a more "executive" role?</p>	<p>1. Considered by Committee 9th Feb. It was decided to change the Draft by breaking it up as Ian rightly suggested. CHANGE</p> <p>The Management committee did agree to a small subsidy of the Coonabarabran trip if required. This was communicated to members at a monthly meeting. However, ultimately the subsidy was not required.</p>
<p>5.4 Functions of the Management Committee a) Except as otherwise provided by these rules this constitution and subject to resolution of the members of the Society carried at any Special General Meeting the Management Committee: (i) shall have the general control and management of the administration of the affairs, property and funds of the Society; and general (my emphasis) (ii) shall have authority to interpret the meaning of these rules this constitution and any matter relating to the Society on which these rules are this constitution is silent. (REASON: consistency) a) b) The Management Committee may exercise all the powers of The Society: (REASON: there were previously two subs headed as "a") No double "a"s in my copy of the Const. you must be working from a draft copy.all decisions made under this section are only valid after a resolution by the members. "management" to handle day to day affairs. Perhaps there should be a verbal report by the Secretary in each general/ ordinary meeting to</p>	<p>Considered by Committee 9th Feb. It was decided not to change the Draft. The subcommittee considered obtaining a copy of the lodged constitution from DOFT. However, it decided that, because the motion to be put to members at the AGM will be to replace the existing constitution with a new one, it would avoid the DOFT fee and work with the official document posted on the website.</p> <p>The management committee has, since 1996, had charge of the Society's day to day affairs. During this time, each committee has kept members well informed and this has even improved over time with the introduction of the</p>

<p>get assent for any MC decision committing club funds or resources. Few people bother to read the minutes on the side table.</p>	<p>web site and regular reports by the President and Secretary in Prime Focus. NFA (to constitution) COMMITTEE TO CONTINUE TO REVIEW IT'S COMMUNICATIONS TO MEMEBERS.</p>
<p>Public Meetings vs. General Meetings I have thought over the last twelve months that we do not have actual "club meetings" any longer! The usual type of speaker we have had recently could be invited on a two monthly basis or even on another night in another place altogether. And we could charge entry to cover costs. There are several of our members who can address our group on various astronomy related matters and then give time for socialising after, without it being a late night. We used to have some news items shared. Workshops have disappeared; new equipment is only shared in the dark field nights. Trevor's ever popular quiz. Committee matters should be shared to the members and a sense of popular direction gained. Other astronomy clubs could be canvassed to suggest ordinary members who have a speciality. We have had some good speakers and some not so good. Like any industry, high education or position does not automatically make good speakers. I am for a little more variation if possible!</p>	<p>Considered by Committee 9th Feb. This does not appear to be a request for a specific change to the proposed new Constitution. However, it is a matter that needs to be reviewed separately by the Management Committee. The speakers for 2011 are already determined but the committee is aware of the need to include amateur astronomers in the mix of presentations, alongside the professionals. NFA (to constitution) COMMITTEE TO MONITOR DEVELOPMENT OF GUEST SPEAKER LIST.</p>

Roger Powell
Secretary

10/02/11