

Macarthur Astronomical Society

Minutes for Management Committee Meeting

Held at Hollyhock Ave, COBBITY

Monday 9 May 2016

In attendance: Tony Law, Henry Swierk, Richard Curley, Mick Nicholls, Stewart Grainger, Carol McVeigh.

John Rombi (Visitor)

Apology: Jack Goralewski

1. Opening of Meeting and Apologies. Meeting opened at 7.30pm

2. Adoption of Minutes:

Amendments to minutes of previous meeting.

Incorrect date showing on minutes, should be 4 April 2016.

Amend total of honorary members to read 4.

Include 2 associate members.

Proposed TL Seconded CM

3. Business Arising.

Discussion on detail included in minutes to be factual.

Copies of minutes to be made available at all Society Forums as per regulations.

4. Regular Business

4.1 Treasurers Report. Report Tabled

It was agreed to deposit a further \$2,000 in a Term Deposit at current rate available.

Discussion on member payment not yet received into society bank account although advised by member (Peter Elston). HS to check with Peter that confirmation of payment has been received.

Proposed RC Seconded MN

4.2.Membership.

Renewals

Henry advised that the period of grace has now expired for those members who have not forwarded payment for renewal of their membership and as such they will be denied access to the members link on the Society Website.

Tony tabled two emails from members each of whom were apologising for non renewal due to illness/ incapacity from surgery. These were Laura Bach and Kira Leon. Tony suggested under these circumstances the committee can agree to waive the membership fee for these two members as an act of goodwill. Agreed by committee to waive fee for 2016 membership for Laura and Kira.

Discussion re number of members who have not yet renewed their membership. It is suggested that they may not renew. Steven Edwards is to be contacted to check if he is still intending to renew.

Certificates for members achieving milestones:

20 Years	1996 founders	6
15 Years		2
10 Years		1
5 Years		7

Ned Pastor advised he would prefer to have his name showing as Nicholas on the certificate. Cheryl Scott, wife of Peter Scott has now joined and it was agreed by the committee for Cheryl to be included as a family member on Peter's Membership. No written application was received.

Member count now is:

Financial Members	102
Late Payment Pending	3
Fee Waived for 2016	2

Register of Laser Pointers Held by Members.

All members are required to advise if they are current holders / owners / users of laser pointers and if their status has changed from that previously recorded.

This is a requirement of our society.

Henry asked where we are up to with the Honour Roll on the Website. This will be discussed under Website point 4.4.

Tony will be emailing all current members a copy of the Minutes of the 2015 AGM as well as the current Society By-Laws for members to acquaint themselves with prior to the AGM on 16 May 2016.

4.3 Merchandise

Donations from previous event/meeting	\$ 26.00
Cash Sales	\$116.00
Paypal Payment	<u>\$ 30.00</u>
Total	\$172.00

Coin donation from Ann Pate of \$29.55 will be included in funds for May.

Tony requested we provide a selection of merchandise for sale to the public on Saturday night public night at the Domes.

Tony will provide red light for the merchandise table for better viewing and commented that we are also permitted to display and sell merchandise at events such as Bunnings BBQ as well as sell raffle tickets as a fund raising activity.

4.4. General Business

- a. Discussion on presentation from members who have returned from trip to Atacama.
- b. Confirmation of Andy Thomas attending as a guest speaker is still pending. Tony may be able to contact on his trip to USA later this year.
- c. John Rombi advised that Dr Ed Kruzins has consented to attend as a guest speaker but has indicated that he may be committed to a NASA commitment at short notice and that may impede this and has apologised in advance if this occurs.

Guests invited and accepted for 2016 are:

June	Dr Andrew Green
July	Dr Lisa Harvey Smith
Aug	Dr Roberto Soria
Aug	Special Event Dr Ed Kruzins
Sept	Prof Garry Da Costa
Oct	Prof Geraint Lewis
Nov	De Lee Spitler
Dec	School Students to Present

Guests for 2017 to date are:

March	Dr Vanessa Moss
TBA	Dr Mathew Colless

John also tabled the suggestion of inviting a panel of female astronomers with Fred Watson acting as mediator. This event would be held as a special event and John has been in discussions with Dr Lisa Harvey Smith who is very supportive and has indicated she is happy to assist John with this proposal.

John will liaise with Lisa and Fred with regards the subject matter for the panel to present and discuss. A date for this event will be advised further into the year.

The committee agreed that this is an event that would warrant publicity well in advance and contact will be made with all local media, politicians, libraries, WSU, schools etc.

The committee commended John for his efforts which are appreciated. We are fortunate to have a member in John, who is so committed to ensuring our society is exposed to quality guest speakers who are specialists in their fields and who are happy to be part of the Macastro family.

4.5 The Forest.

Cancelled due to weather conditions
Next weekend 3 / 4 June

4.6 Stargard

Will not be held in June.
Next date is 9 July

4.7 Public Outreach

It was noted that while every public school and high school were sent an email inviting participation in the recent Public Evening at the WSU domes, there was, sadly, a total lack of response. The Public Night scheduled for Saturday 14 May maybe cancelled. Tony will liaise with Ragbir with regards this and will advise members. Tony has arranged a photo shoot with the Chronicle.

Tony has also contacted Robert Lockey WSU Capitol Works Manager with regards the changes made in and around the new observatory at WSU. Fencing has been erected that now impedes all vehicular access and therefore creating safety issues for members wishing to take telescopes to the viewing platform area. It also impedes wheelchair access.

Diagrams tabled clearly shows that in previous plans there was a definite road to be included to give vehicle access to the site. It seems the road leading from the student accommodation has now been redirected.

There is a meeting scheduled on 10 May at WSU to discuss current situation with regards members transporting equipment to the site. Tony communicated with Robert Lockey from WSU re the major concerns with safe access for vehicles and wheelchair access to the viewing area.

It was suggested that should the Public Night go ahead as planned on Saturday night the fence may need to be opened to allow access.

However, should the grass be wet from recent rain this could also cause concerns with driving vehicles to the site.

Wooglemai event is scheduled for 25 June. Luke Barnes will be guest speaker.

4.8 Members Trips.

- Atacama** Tony and other members will give a presentation on their recent trip.
- SKA Tour** Dr Lisa Harvey Smith is to be contacted to confirm dates for proposed trip with preference to not conflict with Science Week.
- Tours Policy** Mike tabled a draft Tour Guidelines Policy document for discussion and comment. Will be issued to all members with By-laws when completed.
- UWS Penrith** Visit is scheduled for 6 July
Numbers to be finalised.
- Sydney
Observatory** Visit is scheduled for 24 July.
Deadline to book is 1 July

4.9 Fundraising

BBQ at Bunnings raised \$1,032.11 after costs.

A check list will be made up for future events. This will be in conjunction with the list issued by Bunnings. Items to be included will be raffle to be held on the day, merchandise to be displayed and sold, Macastro banner to be on display etc.

DOFT Form (for fund raising authority) not yet received.

4.10 Website, Webshop, Forum, Facebook, Prime Focus Blog

Tony advised that the Gallery is now operational for members to upload images. Some fine tuning adjustments from the system developers have not yet been finalised.

Honour Roll. This will be included in the Members Only section of the Website.

AGM Minutes. Will be placed on the website in the Members Only Section

Monthly Meeting Minutes will also be placed on the Members Only section of the website.

Henry asked for clarification on how a member receives their login when joining. Who generates the login? Tony will investigate and advise.

The Time Zone is to be adjusted on website to real time.

One Line shop. Will not be included at this point in time.

4.11 Correspondence.

IN:

Newsletters from Laurie Ferguson

Thank you let from Cancer Council for our donation.

Information on AstroFest. Invite to attend and have a booth to advertise Macastro and sell merchandise. Tony to include on Macastro Website and Facebook with an invitation to all members asking them to attend. Need to enquire if power is available to show slides. (eg: Magnitude).Tony to update current Macastro information handout prior this event.

4.12. Technical Advancement

Nothing planned at this stage

4.13 Publicity

Article for Chronicle and Advertiser

4.14 Future Observatory at Dharwal National Park

Tony received and tabled an email from Jason Bruff with regards the proposal and who the correct contacts are at the NSW Aboriginal Land Council.

Tony will issue and email to Anne Robledo and Troy Lancaster at NSW ALC to introduce our proposal.

Our current draft proposal will require updating.

5. New Business

a.The current Mayor of Campbelltown Council Paul Hawker featured in an article in Chronicle dated May 4 2016 stating their intention to purchase the lights currently owned and maintained by Endeavour Energy.

With this, it would seem prudent for Macastro to contact the council to advise the need to consider the effect light spill has on the night sky and the subsequent effect it has on astronomers in the Macarthur region if not for existing lights but any further installations of lighting in the Campbelltown region

b. Panel discussion with female astronomers. Dealt with in 4.4 General Meeting earlier in meeting.

6. Next Committee Meeting.

6 June 2016 at Carol's.

7. Close of Meeting 22.27pm