

## Macarthur Astronomical Society

### Minutes of Committee Meeting

Wednesday 5 October 2016

Held at Community Centre Hollyhock Ave Cobbitty

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#### Meeting opened 7.30pm

**In attendance:** Tony Law, Mike Nicholas, Richard Curley, Stewart Grainger, Henry Swierk, Carol McVeigh

**Apology:** Jack Goralewski

1. **Opening. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Apologies.**
2. **Adoption of Minutes Moved Tony Law. Seconded Mike Nicholas.**
3. **Business Arising. Nil**
4. **Regular Business.**

#### 4.1 Treasurers Report

**Report Tabled**

**Moved: Richard Curley**

**Seconded: Stewart Grainger**

Stewart is to contact all members by email to advise that orders are being taken for Astronomy 2017 and members can purchase from Macastro online via PayPal.

#### 4.2 Membership.

Henry advised that we now have a total of 111 members and advised that our two honorary members Vaughan Macefield and Rhonda Griffiths will not be continuing as members. Vaughn has relocated to Dubai and Rhonda is retiring from her position as Provost at WSU.

#### Grace Period for Membership.

Discussion re providing a grace period for any new member who joins outside of the societies membership renewal period any year will be required to pay a fee per month for each outstanding month until the Society financial year. Pensioners and students will pay \$3.00 per month. All others will pay \$4.00 per month. This change will be discussed at the next Macastro Forum, 17 October to elicit comments from members.

#### 4.3 Merchandising.

**Report Tabled**

\$38.00 received for sales of goods

\$20.50 received as donations

Pricing for current merchandise will be:

Pens	\$2 for \$5.00 or 1 for \$3.00
Beanies	\$15.00
Caps	\$20.00

Stickers	2 for \$5.00
Patches	\$5.00 each
Shirts	\$30.00
Mugs	\$10.00

## 5. General Business

### a. Camden Library.

Any member of Camden Library who borrows a telescope and indicates they would like to join MAS will have the joining fee waived.

Tony advised that the Mayor of Camden indicated that they would also have a telescope lending program at the newly opened library at Oran Park Town Centre.

### b. MAS October Forum.

Guest speaker is Geraint Lewis. Tony advised he had also invited Luke Barnes to attend as a guest.

MAS November Forum.

Guest speak is Mohammad. Talk will be on Aurora chasing

MAS December Forum.

Student presentation.

The panel for the Female Astronomer Panel will be announced at the October forum.

## 6. The Forest

Weekend 30Sept – 1 Oct a total of eight people attended over the weekend.

Next weekend s 28 and 29 October 2016.

## 7. Starguard

24 September was cancelled due to the weather.

Next night will be 22 October 2016

The 2017 program is being prepared co-jointly by Tony Law and Roger Powell.

The date planned for International House weekend 2017 is 5 August 2017.

## 8. Public Outreach

- Tony and Roger Powell held preliminary discussion with Jeff Lawrence from Campbelltown City Council on the possibility of Campbelltown becoming an Astro Tourism destination.  
Council have included Macastro on their Tourism Campbelltown website and brochure.
- Tony also advised that 2016 was the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passing of Bobby Vale who was the youngest astrophysicists.
- Tony commented on the communication he had with Ragbir Bhathal regarding the safety requirements to be considered for the members of Macastro if we are to continue to be involved with the public nights arranged at the Domes. Going forward it is suggested that a minimum of six members with telescopes, three members to

assist on the large telescopes and two to be at each end of the public footpath to collected donations and guide visitors to the scopes.

Tony tabled a copy of the email received from Ragbir.

#### **9. Members Trips.**

- Mike advised that the updated Trip Policy is now uploaded to the website.
- Tony advised that Lisa Harvey Smith will be organising for Macastro members to visit astronomy sites outside of MWA 2017. More details will be provided at a later date.
- China trip will be arranged for 2019.
- Sutherland Astronomical Society Inc (SASI) has organised a trip to view the total solar eclipse from the vantage point in USA and includes visits to Astronomical and Aerospace facilities in 2017. Any members interested are to make contact with SASI if they are interested in going on the trip. They must commit by end of October 2016.

#### **10. Fundraising**

- Bunning BBQ is suggested for 2017

#### **11. Website**

Items requiring attention on the website are:

- Honour Roll to be established
- Minutes of meetings are to be included in Members Only viewing area.
- Print quality of the newsletter ( readability ) is to be improved ie. change the grey print.
- Donation link / Paypal and Bank Details to be made more easily accessible.
- Change the Time Zone
- Henry advised that the Laser Point document is not appearing on the website. This should be included. "Under Laser Usage Policy/Laser Links there is a reference, and a link, to a document called Macarthur Astronomical Society Members Laser Pointer Registration Form. There is no such a form showing on the site and so the link generates "Not Found" response.

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#### **12. Correspondence.**

**Tabled**

- Bank Statements
- DVD from NACA 2014 2015

#### **13. Technical Advancement**

Remove this item from future agendas.

#### **14. Publicity**

Issued for next meeting by Tony.

#### **15. Attendance Analysis**

**Report Tabled**

**Next Meeting Monday 7 November 2016**

**Ellis Lane, ELLIS LANE**

**Meeting Closed: 21.40pm**

