



PO Box 17 MINTO NSW 2566

MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
Minutes of the MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Held at
33 Hickson Circuit Harrington Park
Monday 07th August 2017 at 7.30pm
Attending: Tony Law, Carol McVeigh, Henry Swierk, John Rombi, Mike
Nicholas, Barry Moore, Stewart Grainger, Richard Curley

1 OPENING OF MINUTES AND APOLOGIES: meeting opened at 7:32pm

2 ADOPTION OF MINUTES for July 2017 Proposed by Tony Law

seconded by Barry Moore. **Accepted**

3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

- An evening with the Stars-
- 1. Booking so far. Mike Nicholas reported currently nearly all booked out. Total possible bookings with eventbrite are 344, there are 17 spaces left. Some schools may have over booked.
- 2. A total of six Guest are invited. We expect a possible of 10 no shows from schools.
- 3. August 9th SW Sydney science teacher's forum. We are not attending this time.
- 4. Tony will transport the 6 chairs.
- 5. Microphones have been ordered. Total audio hire cost \$375. Tony will liaise with Smithy's Audio Hire (St Peters) this week. Peter will pick up audio gear Monday morning. Set up time allowed in 30mins.
- 6. ESSEN (restaurant) dinner has been booked for 20. We are looking into payment by cheque. Our nine guests will be paid out of club funds. Executive members and others are to reimburse Macastro. Executive members to assist in transport to ESSEN restaurant.
- 7. Accommodation has been booked (John Rombi) and is in good order.
- 8. Other astronomy clubs have been notified by Tony. Wollongong only possible attendees.
- 9. For the audience participation colours blocks for the members/public/schools groups will be used and has been done.
- 10. Camera House has provided 3 lucky draw prizes (vouchers for digital prints/posters) for the 3 groups shown in item 9. The prizes will be awarded based on the best question from the audience groups.
- 11. Refreshments of biscuits, tea and coffee is ready. 2 X 20 litre urns will be hired by carol.
- 12. A new attendance book is available by this event but the delays in signing in means we will use four sign in stations and forms. These forms will be carefully glued into the new attendance book after the event. Barry to organise (25 guest per page, minimum 14 sheets needed).
- 13. Venue setup: - members have been asked to assist at 4.00pm (Hall access from 5.00pm - leave for dinner at 5.30pm) for set up. Extra camping table to be brought along (Stewart and Barry). Tony has issued the running sheet and allocated the ushers, doorman, guest ambassador, sound, sign on table, catering and merchandising jobs.
- 14. Five black Jackets are embroidered and ready to go. Cost \$57 each.
- 15. Fluorescent jackets have been purchased
- 16. Bryan Gaensler (our patron) has provided a short video message acknowledging the event.
- 17. Handout for all visitors on the night, which includes information on joining MAS and the details for all the guest speakers is ready.
- 18. Event costing is now at approx \$2900
- 19. Carol to bring extension cords for urns
- 20. Stewart or Tony to bring boards for photos

21. Ushers are to get everyone seated by 7.30pm. Late comers are to enter and turn directly into the seating area to avoid as much disturbance as possible.
22. Note entrance to the event is by ticket only. Mike Nicholas will provide the eventbright alphabetical list of all those who have tickets. Schools (teachers) will have their own sheet with students on them.
23. The 2nd MAS banner is to be placed in front of the stairs.

3.1 Other business: *(these two items involve Mike Nicholas who is attending committee meeting)*

- Outreach support for Picton High School event 8Aug – Mike Nicholas and John Rombi plus others are attending.
- Ingleburn High School request Multicultural day Tuesday 19th Sept – cannot assist as lead time is too short. Mike will contact them accordingly.

4 REGULAR BUSINESS

4.1 Treasurer’s Report: Richard Curley

July Report from Richard Curley was tabled.

Proposed by Richard Curley, Seconded by Henry Swierk. **Received.**

\$5676.43 in bank accounts and cash in hand.

Roll over of the investment account \$21000 was done for 10 months at 2.5%

Any **Outstanding Invoices:** nil

Any **Outstanding Cheques** nil

Projected total cost for “An Evening with the Stars”, \$2900

4.2 Membership: Henry Swierk

- New Members: 2 Names Sue Ellis and Lisa Buttigieg
- Current membership/update: 119 members in total

4.3 Merchandise: Stewart Grainger

- Merchandise Sales: from July forum...

Cash \$ 35 , EFT \$ 0 ,Donations: \$ 70.60

- Public night donations \$49.00

Sub Total \$ 105.60

Grand Total \$ 154.60

4.4 General Business

- Next forum speaker: Aug 14 – Speakers X 5 for “An evening with the Stars”
- Sept 18th forum speaker is Johnti Marshall
- Alan Williams has produced a flyer for consideration by committee. It was tabled and is under consideration. On going item.
- Macastro is to pay for the 9 guests/presenters at August 14th dinner at ESSEN.
- Succession planning – all committee members are to look at a shadow person to assist in their absence. All committee members should seek out a shadow member. Ongoing reminder.

4.5 The Forest

- Last: July 21/22 excellent viewing
- International house weekend August 4/5. Five scopes and 50 students. Initially good viewing but then cloudy 1 hour before students left at 8.30pm
- Next: 18/19 August

4.6 Stargard

- Last: Sat 15 July was cloudy. Night was moved to following Thurs which was very windy but good viewing.
- Next: Sat 26 Aug

4.7 Public Outreach

- Rotary Observatory 29 July 2017. Good attendance with 12 scopes and largish public attendance. A “Break in” at the smaller dome meant it was not available for a some of the night.
- Next and final night at the domes will be Sat Sept 30th.
- Camden Library public night was postponed due to bad weather. It will now be held on Wed 6th Sept from 4.30pm till 8.00pm. Members help needed. Parking down lane way off Elyard st, Narellan.
- New photos are still needed due to deterioration. On going item

4.8 Members’ Trips

- China 2019 costs and details to be determined. On going item.
- Proposed 2020 Space X rocket launch in California is to be considered. On going item
- Parkes visit. John Sarkissian from Parkes observatory has suggested a Macastro trip.

4.9 Fundraising

- Bunnings fundraiser will be a Saturday in Sep-Dec block. Date TBC

4.10 Website, Facebook

- Any errors seen are to passed on to Roger Powell for attention. Website is in excellent order and well laid out. Credit to Roger for his on going efforts.

4.11 Publicity – Barry Moore

- An evening with the stars blurb has been seen in the local papers.
- Secretary has sent An evening with the stars event date reminder.
- Secretary is collecting our publicity from local newspaper should you want to see it again.
- Secretary will forward minutes as soon as they are approved by committee to Roger (webmaster) for member’s perusal. Approved Minutes to include digital signatures of Secretary and President.

4.12 Future Observatory at Dharawal National Park

- The committee discussed identifying and evaluating alternate sites for a future observatory. No further progress
- Stop Press from NSWALC– no further response from TLALC, Troy trying another route. No further progress

5. NEW BUSINESS

- Broughton Anglican – Rahmi Jackson from Broughton Anglican College has chatted about need for mentors for 3 students projects. Under consideration to find the Mentors. Project revolves around astro-photography. On going

- Tuesday 15 Aug science fair at Broughton. We will have a place for a table and photos on boards. Photos will need to be reprinted but this will not occur until after event. Setup from 3.00 pm with table and photos till 8.00pm.
- Possibility of a viewing night was discussed at Broughton. Need a very good lead time to organise. Mike Nicholas to liaise in future. On going
- LED strips need to be fixed – with Barry to repair ASAP.
- Mike suggested we write a document elaborating our general response to requests for assistance from schools – Mike to draft a response letter and present to committee. On going

IMPORTANT ACTION POINT

- Working With Children Check (WWCC). ALL members dealing with public and potentially children will need to provide a WWCC number. This is to be kept on file with the membership officer. The WWC is free for volunteers to obtain. Link to obtain this check is <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-working-children-check>
Once your check is complete forward the email to Henry Swierk.
Tony Law (President) with draft a change to Bylaws regarding this item.

6. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: 04 September 2017 at Barry Moore's, 9 Herborn place Minto.

7. CLOSE OF MEETING 9.32 pm

Written by Secretary – Barry S. Moore (8 Aug 2017)

Authorised by President – Tony Law