



PO Box 17 MINTO NSW 2566

**MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**  
**Minutes of the MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

Held at 9 Herborn Place, Minto  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 7.30pm  
Attending: Tony Law, Carol McVeigh, Henry Swierk, Barry Moore, Stewart  
Grainger, Richard Curley  
Apologies John Rombi, Mike Nicholas,

**1 OPENING OF MINUTES AND APOLOGIES:** meeting opened at 7.31pm

**2 ADOPTION OF MINUTES for August 2017** Proposed by Barry Moore  
seconded by Tony Law **Accepted**

**3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

3.1 An evening with the Stars- review by Mike Nicolas ( His report was received and essential content in italics below)

*1. An Evening with the Stars, what did we learn?*

- \* eleven visitors have advised me it was an outstanding success,*
- \* MAS greatly enhanced its reputation with the public, some schools and the five speakers,*
- \* A Wednesday is a more appropriate day for a major event, we learnt many organisations use Monday evening for their management meetings, e.g., politicians, schools and some social clubs.*
- \* the attendance book numbers indicate the signed in/booked number (the difference are no shows) were: public 113/170, members 56/73, schools 58/75.*  
*(One school cancelled at -2 days as the teacher had influenza, 26 seats were returned, their number is excluded from the 75 booked above).*
- \* The check-in desks need more careful planning and servicing next event.*

*Concerning the schools, we have learnt:*

- \* they are adept at ignoring our approaches, teachers have a widely known reputation for this,*
- \* four follow up emails sent 24 August to the schools, that attended Stars, have gone unanswered.*
- \* I have since had suggestions to encourage school attendance, ie, schools charge their students and retain the funds, and/we complete their compulsory risk analysis for our event.*

*2. The Direction of our Outreach Service to Schools.*

*After our major learning experience with schools, the most promising avenues to emerge are with member Rahmi Jackson at Broughton Anglican College and the P STEM activity of Marc Noakes.*

*The following background information is useful here.*

*First. The NSW Educational Standards Authority (NESA) is an independent body and sets the curriculum and standards for all NSW schools. The Dep. of Education delivers on those standards. (NESA is responsible for marking the annual HSC Exam).*

*Second. From 2018 NESA directs that all teachers at all levels must undertake 100 hours of professional development every five years to retain their teacher accreditation.*

*This seems a productive avenue for our outreach service, and may offer a financial return. I also see us giving priority to supporting Rahmi's endeavours. This would support any P STEM effort. Rahmi offers to assist us in this latter endeavour if we chose to follow it.*

*Third. Years 9-12 now have a STEM curriculum. In four to eight years all primary schools will also have a Primary STEM curriculum. Funding for primary schools will be made available to them, I am told.*

Finally, I suggest you take a brief look at Marc Noakes' web site [www.accentonachievement.com.au](http://www.accentonachievement.com.au). He says he is a teacher, a biologist and teaches various musical instruments.

Regards, Mike, 0408 259 001

End of Mike's Email.

### 3.2 Committee Discussion on...

3.2.1 What do we do well. We ran an interesting and thought provoking discussion with professional astronomers that was well attended. Our guests made their time available and encouraged younger members of the audience to follow their interests into a science based career. The guest presenters were happy to pose for photos in their Macastro jackets.

### 3.2.2 What could we do better.

- Ticketing was delayed due the early arrival of visitors). (Suggestion is to run a buffet in a private area at the UNI closer to venue next time).
- Obtaining Signatures was difficult to control and is a university requirement for WHS/OHS insurance coverage (At least 2 extra staff are needed at the sign on desks for future events).
- It was a problem to get schools to attend. After significant promotion and hard work from Mike Nichols we still had schools cancel or not attend on the night.
- We should consider Science week 2018 as a target time for the next event and also do a direct emailing to interested groups and individuals to market the event.
- Our donations were very very low considering the numbers attending. We need to consistently say "Entry is by Gold Coin donation" to all of our forums for the public attendees. The donations box needs to be in a prominent position and people encouraged to use it by direct contact.

### 3.3 Other previous business : (*this items involves Mike Nicholas who was absent but sent an email*)

3.3.1 Outreach support for Picton High School event 8 Aug was done

3.3.1 Email quote from Mike Nicholas (non italics words are edited): *The correspondence at the last meeting had a letter from Ingleburn High school inviting us to donate to one of their fund raising events. Following on from our committee meeting I phoned the school and declined their request as our attendance and display would not fit their multicultural event. The office staff understood this. I also offered to support their science effort with our attendance and this was noted and passed to the science master with my contact. There has not been a subsequent response from the school.*

## 4 REGULAR BUSINESS

### 4.1 Treasurer's Report: Richard Curley

**August Report from Richard Curley** was tabled.

Proposed by Richard Curley, Seconded by Stewart Grainger. Accepted.

Approximately in \$4500 in bank accounts and cash in hand. \$21000 in term deposit

Final total cost for "An Evening with the Stars", \$2583.31

### 4.2 Membership: Henry Swierk

New Members: 1. Michael O'Brien

Current membership: 120 members in total.

Two new membership applications have been received and are under consideration.

Nine members have provided their Working with Children details

#### **4.3 Merchandise:** Stewart Grainger

Merchandise Sales: from August evening with stars forum...

Cash \$ 0 , EFT \$ 0 , Donations: \$ 45.25      **Grand Total \$ 45.25**

#### **4.4 General Business**

**4.4.1** Next forum speaker: Sept 18th – Speaker is Jonty Marshall

**Title: "Comets around other stars: the first and last fragments of planet formation."**

**4.4.2** October 16th forum speaker is Dr Angel R Lopez-Sanchez

**4.4.3** Alan Williams has produced a flyer for consideration by committee. It was previously tabled and is under consideration. On going item to be reviewed next month.

#### **4.5 The Forest**

Last: 18/19 August – 50:50 viewing

Next: 15/16 Sept

#### **4.6 Stargard**

Last: cancelled and moved to mid week. Viewing was then good.

Next: 23 Sept

#### **4.7 Public Outreach**

4.7.1 Next and final night at the domes will be Sat Sept 30<sup>th</sup>.

4.7.2 Camden Library public night for Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Sept was cancelled.

4.7.3 New photos are needed due to deterioration. On going item.

4.7.4 Next year's draft observing schedule is to be at the end of this document.

4.7.5 National Science week 2018 (11-19 August) – possible time for a public forum.

4.7.6 Broughton, Picton, Tahmoor Schools have shown interest in our group for ongoing outreach events.

4.7.7 Camden Library at Narellan will have a photo of the month display (June 2018) to include a Macarthur Astronomical photo we can submit.

#### **4.8 Members' Trips**

4.8.1 China 2019 costs and details to be determined. On going item.

4.8.2 JPL 2019 visit to coincide with 50 years since moon landing as possible trip. On Going item

4.8.3 Proposed 2020 Space X rocket launch in California is to be considered. On going item

4.8.4 2 Jul 2019 total solar eclipse in South America (and Chile) suggested trip.

<https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/solar/2019-july-2>

4.8.5 20 April 2023 Total Solar eclipse. Far North West of Western Australian mainland.

<https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/map/2023-april-20>

4.8.5 Parkes visit. John Sarkissian from Parkes observatory has suggested a Macastro trip in 2018. On going item for discussion.

#### **4.9 Fundraising**

Bunnings fundraiser will be a Saturday 20 Jan 2018

#### **4.10 Website, Facebook**

Any errors seen are to be passed on to Roger Powell for attention.

#### **4.11 Publicity – Barry Moore**

4.11.1 Publicity for next forum has been sent to papers (Advertiser and Chronicle).

4.11.2 Secretary will forward minutes as soon as they are approved by committee to Roger (webmaster) for member's perusal.

#### **4.12 Future Observatory at Dharawal National Park**

4.12.1 The committee has had no progress about a future observatory at Dharawal.

4.12.2 A letter from a member has suggested an alternative observing location which is under consideration by the committee.

#### **4.13 Correspondence received**

##### **Thank you letter from Camera House Macarthur Square Wed 16<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

*It was a very good night, we enjoyed the event. We are looking forward to sponsoring more events in the following years. Thanks for having us. Warm regards, Jane Macarthur*  
Camera House Team Shop L78 Macarthur Shopping Centre

T: (02) 4620 5588 M: 0433 288 882 E: sales@macarthurcamerahouse.com.au

F: [www.facebook.com.au/macarthurcamerahouse](http://www.facebook.com.au/macarthurcamerahouse)

Members are encouraged to obtain competitive quotes from our sponsor accordingly

**4.14 Succession planning** – all committee members are to look at a shadow person to assist in their absence. Tony (President) and Richard (Treasurer) have indicated they will not be standing at the 2018 AGM. Tony is stepping down as President and has indicated he wishes to continue on the committee. None of the current committee members are willing to take that role at that point in time either. Barry (secretary) has two significant other personal interest roles and is also considering stepping down at the 2018 AGM.

#### **5. NEW BUSINESS**

**5.1** 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 for 2018

**5.2** Tuesday 15 Aug science fair at Broughton. Good outcome, participation well received.

**5.3** LED strips fixed. 12 V 100mA Supply needed to run them. (Small lead acid gel cell battery or 9 X NiMH batteries in a holder) Done.

**5.4** Mike suggested we write a document elaborating our general response to requests for assistance from schools – standardised letter to be written and presented to committee. On going.

##### **5.5 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.

Draft policy will be presented to members asap.

**6. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:** 02 October 2017 at Stewart Grainger's home, 260 Ellis lane, Ellis Lane 2570

#### **7. CLOSE OF MEETING 9.51**

LUNAR CYCLE No	NEW MOON	FOREST NEW MOON WEEKEND <sup>1</sup>	TIMES <sup>4</sup>	STARGARD NIGHT <sup>1</sup>	TIMES	OPTIONAL NIGHTS FOR PUBLIC <sup>2</sup>	TIMES
1	Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<b>Fri-Sat 12th-13th Jan</b>	SS 20.11 MR 03.37 NM+2	<b>Sat 20th Jan</b>	SS 20.09 MS 22.06 NM-3	~	~
2	Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>Fri-Sat 16th-17th Feb</b>	SS 19.48 MS 20.42 NM+1	<b>Sat 10th Feb</b>	SS 19.55 MR 02.17 NM-6	~	~
3	Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> Mar	<b>Fri-Sat 16th-17th Mar</b>	SS 19.13 MR 7.16 NM	<b>Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>	SS 19.22 MR 00.56 NM-7	~	~
4	Mon. 16 <sup>th</sup> Apr	<b>Fri-Sat 13th-14th Apr</b>	SS 17.35 MR 5.03 NM-2	<b>Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Apr</b>	SS 17.27 MS 21.54 NM+5	<b>Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Apr</b> FM-2 Domes	SS 17.19 MR 16.34
5	Tue 15 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Fri-Sat 18th-19th May</b>	SS 17.01 MS 20.47 NM+4	<b>Sat 12<sup>th</sup> May</b>	SS 17.06 MR 03.48 NM-3	<b>Sat 26th May</b> FM-4 Domes	SS 16.58 MR 15.10
6	Thur 14 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Fri-Sat 15th-16<sup>th</sup> June</b>	SS 16.54 MS 19.37 NM+2	<b>Sat 9<sup>th</sup> June</b>	SS 16.54 MR 02.32 NM -5	<b>Wed 20 Jun</b> FM+8 Narellan Libry	SS 16.53 MR 12.04
7	Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Fri-Sat 13th-14th July</b>	SS 17.05 MS 18.24 NM+1	<b>Sat 7<sup>th</sup> July</b>	SS 17.01 MR 01.19 NM-6	<b>Sat 21st July</b> FQ+1 Domes	SS 17.09 MR 12.22
8	Sat 11 <sup>th</sup> Aug	<b>Fri-Sat 10th-11th Aug</b>	SS 17.24 MR 7.12 NM	<b>Sat 4th Aug</b>	SS 17.19 MR 00.09 NM-7	<b>Science Week</b> <b>11-19 August</b>	18 or 25th viewing for IH students
9	Mon. 10 <sup>th</sup> Sept	<b>Fri-Sat 7th-8th Sept</b>	SS 17.43 MR 5.45 NM-2	<b>Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Sept</b>	SS 17.38 MS 23.04 NM-9	<b>Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Sep</b> FQ-2 Domes	SS 17.48 MS 23.29
10	Tue 9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<b>Fri-Sat 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	SS 18.03 MR 5.20 NM-3	<b>Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	SS 19.08 MS 23.14 NM+4	~	~
11	Thur 8 <sup>th</sup> Nov	<b>Fri-Sat 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	SS 19.33 MS 21.58 NM+2	<b>Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov</b>	SS 19.26 MR 03.57 NM-5	~	~
12	Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>Fri-Sat 7th-8th Dec</b>	SS 19.59 MS 20.43 NM+1	<b>Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Dec</b>	SS 19.53 MR 02.35 NM-6	~	~
13	Sun 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<b>Fri-Sat 4th-5th Jan 2019</b>	SS 20.12 MR 5.47 NM	<b>Sat 29<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	SS 20.11 MR 01.13 NM-8	~	~

RP

1. The best Saturday night of the cycle (i.e. closest to New Moon) is allocated to The Forest & second best to Stargard.

2. Public nights are usually scheduled close to FQM. This suits the public who wish to view bright objects; the moonlight satisfies public safety concerns; and avoids cancellation of members observing nights. There is also potential for public nights to be nominated on a night when the Moon spectacularly rises during the event. *e.g. 2nd June.*
3. The annual International House Students Night is normally held in August and the dates proposed, to avoid clashing with regular observing nights, are *18<sup>th</sup> August or 25<sup>th</sup> August.*
  
4. The times allocated to The Forest relate to the Saturday.