

<p>PO Box 17 MINTO NSW 2566</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY</b>  <b>Minutes of the MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Held at 55 Wyangla Cres, Leumeah (host Andy Milton)  Monday 30th April 2018 at 7.30pm</p> <p>Committee Attending: Tony Law (President), Ray Armstrong (Vice President), Barry Moore(Secretary), Andy Milton (Treasurer) Henry Swierk (Membership Officer), John Rombi (Committee member1), Greg Bradford (Committee Member2)</p> <p>Members Attending to assist committee: Mike Nicholas (Schools Liaison),  Apologies:</p>

**1. OPENING OF MINUTES AND APOLOGIES:** meeting opened at 7.32pm

**2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES for April 2018** Proposed by Tony Law, seconded by Andy Milton, passed

**3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

None

**4. REGULAR BUSINESS**

**4.1 Treasurer's Report:** Andy Milton

Hand over with Richard. Vote of thanks for his work as treasurer was passed by the committee. We now have four signatories (Tony, Andy, Barry and Ray).

Change of signatories was done at Commonwealth Bank on the 27/4/2018 with Treasurer, President, Secretary and VP as signatories with any two to sign. Approximately \$7500 in bank accounts and cash in hand. \$21,000 in term deposit, total \$ 28500

PO Box annual payment has been paid \$127  
The DOFT AGM and annual report was lodged on 26/4 with payment by cheque of \$45  
The Term deposit will need to be renewed in 23 May. Awaiting bank notification of the Rates. Will roll over the balance plus interest.

**4.2 Membership:** Henry Swierk

New Members: 2 new members who are Shue Zhang and Nina Zhang (family membership)  
Membership at the end of April: 111 members in total including 6 Hon. 3 Assoc.  
Renewals for 2018, 104 members have renewed. 7 new members since March  
Currently 24 members did not renew (includes a Chinese family of 5 and another family of 4). Clarkes family (3) are due 10 years membership badges but we need more badges urgently. Henry will follow up getting new badges.

**4.3 Merchandise:** (Tony reported on this Brendon Waterhouse is looking after this role)

We have limited stock and need to decide on the quantities to reorder.  
Outreach night at the domes \$51 donations, \$147 sausage Sizzle

Total \$ 198  
Tea Money float of \$ 168 and has been banked.

The club purchased a DVD player for Stewart to enjoy whilst he is in hospital and recovering from his recent injuries.

- 4.3.1** Red light torches are now on sale for \$10. 2 left, Tony to purchase 10 more.
- 4.3.2** President requested we all push the sale of merchandise to members and also wear our t-shirts and other items to meetings.

#### **4.4 Speakers**

- 4.4.1** This month's forum is May 21<sup>st</sup>, guest presenter is Dr Lee Spitler, Senior Lecture at Macquarie University and the Australian Astronomical Observatory in Sydney
- 4.4.2** Next month's forum Mon June 18<sup>th</sup> speaker is Serge Antonov (Astro Devices)
- 4.4.3** Full list of future presenters is listed below

16/7 Amy Shira Teitel (Vintage Space) and Geoff Notkin "The Meteorite Man"  
20/8 Dr Ed Kruzins (NASA)  
17/9 TBA  
15/10 Prof Geraint Lewis (USYD)  
19/11 Prof Fred Watson AM (AAO)  
10/12 TBA

#### **4.5 General Business**

- 4.5.1** Macastro brochure. We will revert to old flyer.
- 4.5.2** Possible telescope viewing area at Katoomba Airfield as a dark site. As per email from Alexander Massey. Proposed visit to Katoomba with Alexander Massey, Barry to coordinate. Some concerns about fogs and airplanes at night.
- 4.5.3** Policy document for Telescope loan procedure. A draft loan agreement was circulated and was agreed to be used. A copy has been circulated and written by Greg Bradford. Roger to add this document to the members area on our website.

#### **4.6 Regular Viewing**

##### **4.6.1 The Forest**

Report: 13/14/15 April 75% cloudy – poor seeing  
Next: 18/19/20 May (note this coincides with the Parkes member's trip) Ned to arrange for Key, Chris might attend along with students and mentors working on the Broughton Outreach.

##### **4.6.2 Stargard**

Report: 21st April Moved to the Sunday Poor Saturday, better on Sunday  
Next : 12th May – Mentors and Students will be attending

## 4.7 Public Outreach

4.7.1 Glenfield Scouts, Mon 9<sup>th</sup> April - Thanks to Henry, Dave, Mike and Tony for attending. Well received with a hearty “Bravo”. Patchy viewing.

4.7.2 MDSI: Sustainable living & Natural Environment day. Held on the **Saturday 14th April in Macarthur Heights**. Good afternoon but windy and one of our signs got bent. The sausage sizzle went well.

4.7.3 MDSI (Caitlin Manganaro, facilitator from Macarthur Heights Community Development unit – Macarthur Diversity Services Initiative) is running a joint DOMES events on **Sat 28 April, Sat 26 May, Sat 21 July and Sat 15 Sept 2018**. July 21 will be called “Mars Night”

**Sat 28 April** 150 people attended. A port-a-loo was in use. The sausage sizzle was good. Good evening and lots of enthusiasm.

4.7.4 **Saturday, 05 May** - illuminARTE Wollondilly, at Picton. Was agreed to attend (we attended last year) details to follow and forwarded to committee members 1/5/2018. Ray and Mike possibly attending. Members can also help please.

4.7.5 **Wed May 23rd** STARGAZING world Record attempt – Links on Macastro Facebook site, register via link to eventbrite. Ray is contact person. Brad Tucker is ANU contact person. Tony and Ragbir met with reporter from Macarthur Chronicle to create publicity. Independent observers needed and possibly SES to assist with registration. Viewing 8.00pm to 9.00pm. Opens by 7.00pm. Roped off area required. Barry to follow up SES to get independent observers and set up roped off area. Ray to check eventbrite registrations and receive telescopes.

4.7.6 **Wed 20 June 2018** Camden Library public night. A set of images from original set have been used plus new ones. 27 or 30 images are to be printed. Chris found the original files. Harvey Norman will print at \$22 per image mounted at A3 size.

4.7.7 Cobbitty Scout Hall: Joey Scouts Mob (via Kerry Wallace) requested for astronomy night. Approved for **Mon 25th June**. Help needed. 2 or 3 people required.

4.7.8 Invite from Marc Noakes to attend the PSTEM (Primary Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) EXPO meeting for **Tues June 26th 2018**. Will be held in daytime at Tahmoor public school. Theme “Accent on Achievement”. What is required is a 30min explanation of a possible lesson that teachers could use with public school students. 500 teachers have already registered to attend. Committee discussed and approved. Help needed. Mike visited curriculum coordinator at Broughton for Primary School leads. Has done some research on the web.

4.7.9 **Mon 16 July 2018** Macarthur Astronomy Forum “Special Event” Amy Shira Teitel – Geoff Notkin (The Meteorite Man). Space History and Planetary exploration are the topics. Venue will be Australian Botanical Gardens (ABG), plant bank is the venue. Both speakers have agreed to be joint presenters on the night. \$3000 has from granted from “Inspiring Australia”. ABG but we will be setting a cover charge, suggested \$10 for ABG and MACASTRO members, \$15 for public. Overnight accommodation for our guests will be at our expense. MACASTRO members will be

subsidised approx 50% off the ticket price with the refund to be given after the event at any forum meeting.

4.7.10 **Sat 28 July**, Joint viewing at Werrington with WSAG and viewing of the WSU telescope. Set up from 4.00pm. More to follow.

4.7.11 **Sept** Date to be determined– 1<sup>st</sup> Camden Scout viewing night request by Kerrie Flynn. On going item. Will try to fit in towards end of September.

4.7.12 **2018 (11-19 August) – Monday 20 August** National Science week, our normal monthly Forum with Ed Kruzins.

4.7.13 Broughton Anglican College 8 members have expressed an interest in mentoring students-meeting held at the school on **Wednesday 11 April** – was successful and well received. Carol met with Mentors. Students will present their final reports during STEM week on the Aug 14<sup>th</sup>. Lots of work and high praise from the committee to Mike

## **4.8 Members' Trips**

4.8.1 Parkes visit - Dave Manning is organiser. Date set for 18,19,20 May. 17-19 people going in. Car pooling in own cars. On Going

4.8.2 Murchison Radio Astronomy Observatory WA - 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> October 2018 – Possible visit depending on numbers. See Macastro web page for more info. Accommodation would need to be in Geraldton but no further progress on this item.

4.8.3 China 11th May to 23rd May 2019, 12 nights, 13 days: Approx Cost \$4000 inc airfare Draft itinerary has been determined. Tony Law is organising. Roberto Soria is our in-house contact at the Chinese observatories. China Odyssey tours are possible tour leaders, Breakfast and lunches are included. 18 people have registered their interest. Draft Itinerary passed on to Roberto for approval. Dates may shift + or – a few days. Extra day needed for sightseeing.

4.8.4 JPL July 2021 Estimate \$4000 needs to be increased. Will promote and ask interested members to start saving in our “trip” bank account. Could be combined with a Space X launch. On going item. No further progress.

**4.9 Fundraising** – looking into other grants. Members can advise of any they heard of and pass to committee.

## **4.10 Website, Facebook**

Calendar is not filled with Forum speakers for May and beyond yet (as at 23/4/2018) Tony and Ray will update.

## **4.11 Publicity – Secretary Barry Moore**

4.11.1 Publicity for the next forum and the Stargazing Live event (May 23<sup>rd</sup>) has been sent to Advertiser and Chronicle “what’s on” pages.

4.11.2 Publicity for Domes events what is required is to continue to do same as we have Tony and Barry to action.

- 4.11.2 Secretary will forward minutes as soon as they are approved by committee to Roger (webmaster) for member's perusal. On going item
- 4.11.3 Mail box was has been checked each week - no correspondence except advertising blurbs.

#### **4.12 Correspondence received.**

Email from Alexander Massey regarding Katoomba Airfield - see item 4.5.2

Email from 1st Camden Scout – see item 4.7.11

Email from Ragbir detailing his latest astronomical accolade and he requested possibility for appointment as new patron. Tony to regretfully decline as we already have appointed a patron for the current period.

#### **4.13 Succession planning**

Any ideas to get members more involved and assisting?  
Introduce more Space Content (speakers), ask members at each forum what they can do to help.

### **5. NEW BUSINESS arising at the Meeting**

### **6. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:**

7.30pm Mon 4th June 2018 John Rombi is host. 13 Namatjira Close Eaglevale.

### **7. CLOSE OF MEETING 10:17pm**

Minutes Taken By Barry Moore 30 April 2018  
Written by Secretary Barry Moore on 1/5/2018  
Edited by Barry Moore 4/6/2018  
Approved by Tony Law Date 4/6/2018