



PO Box 17 MINTO NSW 2566

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

Held at 13 Namatjira Close Eaglevale. (host John Rombi)

Monday Mon 4th June 2018 at 7.30pm

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)

Members Attending to assist committee: Mike Nicholas (Schools Liaison), Mark Brackenbury (MAS member)

Apologies: Brendon Waterhouse (Merchandising officer)

**1. OPENING OF MINUTES AND APOLOGIES:** meeting opened at 7:26 pm

**2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES for May committee meeting held 30/4/ 2018** Proposed by Barry Moore seconded by John Rombi

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

none

**4. REGULAR BUSINESS**

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

Approximately \$7591 in bank accounts and cash in hand.  
\$21,000 in term deposit, total \$ 28,591

The Term deposit was reinvested for 9 months on 23/5/2018.

Request for invoice for \$3000 to Australian Botanic Gardens.

We are registered as a not for profit organisation. Details for committee to note are

**MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY INCORPORATED - Y2418036**

**4.2 Membership:** Henry Swierk

New Members: 11 new members in total, who are: Joan Powell, Jonathan Hines with 4 family members, Angela Jansz with 4 family members.

Membership at the end of May: 124 members in total including 6 Hon. 3 Assoc.

**4.2.1** Henry is following up getting new 10 year badges. Daniel has tried to contact the last company to no avail. Ray provided the name of a QLD company doing badges. A Quote of \$242.10 for 25 badges was obtained. Henry is to place Order as Agreed by committee.

**4.2.2** Henry requested reimbursement of postage approx \$65.

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

We have limited stock and need to decide on the quantities to reorder.

Stargazing (23/5) night at the domes \$ 0 donations.

Outreach(26/5) night at the domes \$65 donations.

**4.3.1** Request to stock Lisa Harvey-Smith's book for sale was approved by committee

**4.3.2** There was discussion about Beanies, long sleeved shirts and Jackets. The quantities are under review by Tony and members will be asked if interested to purchase. Committee members asked to wear their MAS items at all events. A shop mannequin is required to show off items.

**4.3.3** Red light torches are now on sale for \$10. 2 left, Tony is to purchase 10 more and will look into red headlights as well.

### **4.4 Speakers**

**4.4.1** This month's forum is Mon June 18<sup>th</sup> speaker is Serge Antonov (Astro Devices)

**4.4.2** Next month's forum 16/7 Amy Shira Teitel (Vintage Space) and Geoff Notkin "The Meteorite Man". Register via Facebook and Eventbrite, cost is \$10 to members. Held at Australian Botanic Gardens.

**4.4.3** Full list of future presenters is listed below

20/8 Dr Ed Kruzins (NASA)

17/9 TBA

15/10 Prof Geraint Lewis (USYD)

19/11 Prof Fred Watson AM (AAO)

10/12 Broughton Anglican College (mentored students) and Prairiewood high school students

### **4.5 General Business**

**4.5.1** Possible telescope viewing area at Katoomba Airfield as a dark site. New email from Alexander Massey to committee addresses many advantages of the site and any disadvantages. Proposed visit date was moved and Barry could not attend. Alex expressed his wish to have an open discussion (5 min) with the membership at the next forum on 18 June. *No further progress at this stage.*

**4.5.2** 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. *On going*

**4.5.3 Macarthur Astronomical Society Brochure** – Tony is looking after this item.

### **4.6 Regular Viewing**

#### **4.6.1 Parkes visit**

Report: 18/19/20 May - Great time had by all.

Forest did not run this weekend.

#### **4.6.2 Stargard**

Next: 9 June – May change as needed and with the weather.

#### **4.6.3 The Forest**

Next: 15-16 June

### **4.7 Public Outreach**

**4.7.1 MDSI** (Caitlin Manganaro, facilitator from Macarthur Heights Community Development unit – Macarthur Diversity Services Initiative) is running a joint DOMES events on **Sat 26 May, Sat 21 July and Sat 15 Sept 2018**.

**Sat 26 May** 200 plus people – well liked with queues up to 20 deep at times – Caitlin ran a sausage sizzle. Next event on July 21 will be called “Mars Night”.

**4.7.2 Saturday, 05 May** - illuminARTE Wollondilly, at Picton. Good event with many people in attendance.

**4.7.3 Wed May 23rd** STARGAZING world Record attempt – Links on Macastro Facebook site, Barry organised SES to assist with stewards (2) and timer(1). Caitlin Manganaro and two WSU students were also stewards. Ray organised the registration desk and two helpers. He also dealt with the upload of evidence. Barry set up ropes with Ray. Barry also brought along the LCD TV. Barry liaised with WSU security and managed to get the red footpath lights fixed on the night. Armbands only just arrived in time. 182 people officially were stargazing the moon. The record was broken with 44,000 over all of Australia.

As of **4/6/2018**, 46453 are the official numbers of star gazers from Guinness world records.

**4.7.4 Wed 20 June 2018** Camden Library public night. A set of images from original set have been used plus new ones. 27 plus images have been printed from the original files. Camden Picture Framing bill has been paid. Photos will go up on 2 July due to a double booking at the library

**4.7.5 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. *On going*

**4.7.6 pSTEM Expo.** 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”. 700 teachers and students have registered to attend.

We will do two exhibitions on the day:- A table of telescopes and other astronomical devices and two 30 minute presentations on the day from MAS (20 min for presentation and 5 min questions and then changeover time 5min).

Mike and Mark met with Broughton Anglican College curriculum person (Kate Bradley) to review the research done by Mike. It was well received.

At the Expo, Mike intends to present in his 20 min presentation a small subset of the many and varied educational resource that are to found on the web with careful searching. The MAS presentation will also present our organisation as a professional group interested in extending astronomical knowledge to its members. Teachers interested in improving their personal knowledge of astronomy are encouraged to joining our Astronomical Society.

At the committee meeting, Mike facilitated the discussion and described his research. It was noted that we cannot run any training as a money making operations but only accept donations. No committee members have current TAE qualifications therefore the committee felt that the membership was not able to provide any training directly to primary school classroom.

Maybe a 'package' of suggestions and links to assist teachers in formulating their lessons.

We will support the Tahmoor pSTEM Event on 26 June and reach a conclusion after feedback from this day.

**4.7.7 "Space Rocks" 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 is the Australian Botanical Gardens (ABG), Plant Bank is the venue. Both speakers have agreed to be joint presenters on the night. \$3000 has been granted from "Inspiring Australia" via ABG is setting a cover charge of \$10 for ABG and MACASTRO members. Non MAS members and public is \$15. 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. Publicity has been provided on our website and Facebook site with links to register on Eventbrite. The registration link is reproduced below... <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/space-rocks-a-space-night-with-the-rock-stars-of-science-geoffrey-notkins-and-amy-shira-teitel-tickets-46246909752?aff=efbeventix>

**4.7.8 Sat 28 July**, Joint viewing at Werrington with WSAG and viewing of the WSU telescope. Set up from 4.00pm. *On going*

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

**4.7.10 2018 (11-19 August) – Monday 20 August** National Science week, our normal monthly Forum with Ed Kruzins. *On going*

**4.7.11 Broughton Anglican College mentoring.** The mentoring students project is going well. 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. Two Extra viewing sites have been identified to assist students with their observations. *On going*

## **4.8 Members' Trips**

**4.8.1 Parkes visit** – on 18,19,20 May. 17-19 people went in own Cars. Excellent trip enjoyed by all members.

**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. *On going*

**4.8.3 China 11th May to 23nd May 2019**, 12 nights, 13 days: Approx Cost \$3500 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. *On going*

**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.*

**4.9 Fundraising** – looking into other grants. Members can advise of any they heard of and pass to committee. *No further progress at this time*

**4.10 Website, Facebook** – all up to date

**4.11 Publicity – Secretary Barry Moore**

4.11.1 Publicity for the next forum June 18th has been sent to Advertiser and Chronicle "what's on" pages.

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

4.11.4 Macarthur Advertiser had an article about the successful stargazing event

4.11.5 email CONTACTS REDIRECTIONS list has been updated and sent to webmaster Roger.

**4.12 Correspondence received.**

- a) 2<sup>nd</sup> Email from Alexander Massey regarding Katoomba Airfield - see item 4.5.1
- b) Term deposit role over letter for \$21,000 plus interest
- c) Bank account statement
- d) Web enquiry from Oxley college. Request for an astronomy night (near Bowral?) – Ray to reply and say we are fully booked and to ask them to reapply early next year for a visit in 2019

**4.13 Succession planning** – nothing to report

**5. NEW BUSINESS arising at the Meeting** - nothing to report

**6. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:**

7.30pm Mon 2nd July 2018 Tony Law is host. 33 Hickson Circuit, Harrington Park.

**7. CLOSE OF MEETING 9:58 pm**

Minutes Taken By Barry Moore 4 June 2018

Written by Secretary Barry Moore on 4/6/2018, Edited by Barry on 7/6, 8/6, 13/6, 23/7/2018

Approved by Tony Law, Date 2 July 2018