



PO Box 17 MINTO NSW 2566

**MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY  
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

Held at Greg's place, at Glen Alpine  
Monday Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept 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), Mike Nicholas (Schools Liaison)  
Apologies:

- 1. OPENING OF MINUTES AND APOLOGIES:** meeting opened at 7.35pm
- 2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES for August committee meeting held 6/8/2018** Proposed by Barry Moore seconded by John. Approved.

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

none

**4. REGULAR BUSINESS**

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

MACASTRO Financial Report for August 2018.

Due to the number of transactions and receipt books being used it has not been possible to reconcile the cash receipts banked to receipt book entries.  
Grant money from Space Rocks (Mount Annan Botanic Gardens \$3000) and Camden Council Community Grant (\$2000) has been deposited 6/9/2018  
Details discussion was made regarding orders and purchase reconciliation, the ABC telescopes and the multiple receipt book and different prices. Andy is working through multiple receipt books to track down any anomalies. He requested the members reduce the number of receipt books to assist him. Andy presented (via email) the cash book and bank account transactions for approval.

Cash balances (as at 6/9/2018) Term Deposit \$21000 Cheque Acc \$7954.86

Report proposed by Andy, Tony seconded, Passed

**4.2 Membership:** Henry Swierk

New Members: 3 new members in total, who are: Martin Ferlito, Michael Gribbin and Marc Margot.

Membership at the end of August: 135 members in total including 6 Hon. 3 Assoc.

**4.3 Merchandise:** (reported from Brendon Waterhouse via email)

Stock Spreadsheet tabled. Andy will be liaising with Brendon on items and changes required.

Sixty dollar items must be paid for to order and must be recorded for reconciliation of payments - smaller items we keep in stock. Order form for Astronomy 2019 has not been received in mail yet.

Money transactions /donations Summary as follows

- Forum Donations \$36.90
- Sales \$115

Astronomy 2019 to be ordered at next forum 17/9/18

**4.3.1** Request to stock Lisa Harvey-Smith's book for sale was approved by committee (John has ordered 25 books – available at next forum 17/9/18).

#### **4.4 Speakers**

**4.4.1** This month's forum is 17/9 Dr Lucyna Chudczer "Clouds in Alien Skies"  
Next month's forum 15/10 Prof Geraint Lewis (USYD)

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

19/11 Prof Fred Watson AM (AAO)

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

Jan 2019 Ric Foster

Feb 2019 Prof Lisa Harvey Smith

Mar 2019 TBA

Apr 2019 TBA

May 2019 TBA

June 2019 TBA

**4.4.3** July 2019 moon landing STEM event (possible Prof Lisa Harvey Smith or an NASA Astronaut)

#### **4.5 General Business**

**4.5.1** Possible telescope viewing area at Katoomba Airfield as a dark site. Contact Alexander Massey to visit. Committee and all members are encouraged to visit especially as the forest has clear felling of the pine trees around it. On Going item

**4.5.2** Thanks to Greg for the work on the Telescope – Tony provided some older documentation. Looking into a replacement mount (AZ3) for our 130mm Newtonian loan telescope.

**4.5.3** Camden library (Oran park) wishes to hold Stargazing event in June 2019. More pictures will need to be printed.

**4.5.4** **New Member development** (item heading is placed here from new business for discussion at Oct committee meeting)

## 4.6 Regular Viewing

### 4.6.1 Stargard Sat 1 Sept cancelled

Next: 13 Oct

- Tues 11 Sept, Camden Council liaison meeting - Dudley Chesham sports ground. Tony is intending to attend. We also need to check with Noel if we have a key for the Toilets.

### 4.6.2 The Forest 10-11 Aug – poor viewing

**17-18 Aug International house weekend (Sat with Students)** Great weekend

Next: **8-9 Sept and 5-6 Oct**

## 4.7 Public Outreach

**4.7.1** 15 Sept 2018 MDSI (Caitlin Manganaro, facilitator from Macarthur Heights Community Development unit – Macarthur Diversity Services Initiative) has the final joint DOMES events on **Sat 15 Sept 2018**. Tony to talk to Caitlin regarding a coffee van.

**4.7.2 STEM** Mike reported there is a Google community website/forum we can fill with Macastro details. Two primary schools have expressed genuine interest in Macastro community outreach. Mike is awaiting a formal approach from them. Mike is preparing an interest paper for primary schools on how to introduce astronomy concepts to students.

**Broughton Mentoring:** Rahmi at BAC reports excellent results from the students science projects and a good response from parents. Rahmi intends to get all mentors together for a Q & A session and feedback/thankyou night. A year 12 honours course is under proposal for next year. He also wants to run the same program next year as was run this year.

**4.7.3 Sept** Cancelled – 1<sup>st</sup> Camden Scout viewing night request by Kerrie Flynn. No response to a recent email. For 2019 we intend to do 1 scout night in the year rather than individual nights for individual groups.

**4.7.4** Bunnings Narellan community event on 25 Aug , 5 members attended - good response from public to displayed photos and telescope on show.

**4.7.5** Sept 11 Goulburn Primary school – 3-4 members going

**4.7.6** Sept 13 – Picton School and council Skytrails event, Day and evening – 6 or 7 members going.

**4.7.7** Oxley College (Burradoo) – seeking more information (2019 date needed) – Ray has followed up and is waiting on response.

## 4.8 Members' Trips

**4.8.1 China 15 May to 29 May 2019**, 13 nights, 14 days: Approx Cost \$4000 inc airfare. Awaiting confirmation on Airfare. 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. 19 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. *Deposit 30 Nov needed, Will need to grab plane tickets ASAP \$717 each best price so far.*

**4.8.2 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*

#### **4.9 Fundraising**

- Inspire Australia (Mt Annan Botanical Gardens) and Camden Council have given us grants – forms are being progressed.
- Bunnings BBQ date to be advised.

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

eMailing to members via website is still under repair (problem for Dreamhost).

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

4.11.1 Publicity for the next forum September 17 has been sent to Advertiser and Chronicle and local radio stations "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 – bank statement received

#### **4.12 Correspondence received. - nothing to report**

#### **4.13 Succession planning – nothing to report**

**4.14 "2019 Calendar dates"**. Programming event dates for next year – observing schedule to be done by next month – Draft has been done and is to be published ASAP.

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

Membership drive email tabled from Mike Nicholas – general discussion especially for new members. *On going for discussion next committee meeting in October*

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

7.30pm Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 2018,– Ray's Place in Picton (5 Jacinta Place Picton) (advance apology from Tony for this meeting).

### **7. CLOSE OF MEETING 22:25**

Minutes Taken by Barry Moore 3 Sept 2018

Written by Secretary Barry Moore on 4/9/2018, Edited by Barry 9/10/2018

Approved by Ray Armstrong (per Tony Law) Date Oct 2, 2019