



PO Box 17 MINTO NSW 2566

MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Held at Ray's, Picton

Monday Mon 2nd Oct 2018 at 7.30pm

Committee Attending: Ray Armstrong (Vice President), Barry Moore (Secretary), Andy Milton (Treasurer), Henry Swierk (Membership Officer), Greg Bradford (Committee Member2),

Apologies: Tony Law (President), John Rombi (Committee member1), Mike Nicholas (Schools Liaison)

1. OPENING OF MINUTES AND APOLOGIES: meeting opened at 7.41pm

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES for October committee meeting held 3/9/2018 Proposed by Barry Moore seconded by Ray. Approved.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

none

4. REGULAR BUSINESS

4.1 Treasurer's Report: Andy Milton

MACASTRO Financial Report for September 2018.

Three invoices have been paid to Macastro during the month: Botanic Gardens \$3000, Camden Council \$2000, and Skytrails Goulburn \$400.

There are no un-presented cheques and to the best of my knowledge no outstanding amounts to be paid.

Details of the Society's No 2 account are provided. This account is being utilised to receive and pay monies associated with the 2019 China Trip. An amount of \$9500 representing 19 deposits of approx \$500 (Chris M. has paid in full though) has been paid to the trip organisers. The balance of the account (Chris M. Trip Money mainly) is \$3264.11 includes \$1.48 of interest income.

Cash balances (as at 2/10/2018) Term Deposit \$21000 Cheque Acc \$8008.77

Report proposed by Andy, seconded by Greg, Passed

4.2 Membership: Henry Swierk

New Members:

14/9/2018 - Damian Case

19/9/2018 - Jacqueline Peck and family (6 in total) (we are getting here another 2 yr old member)

19/9/2018 - Neville Arnott and family (2 in total)

19/9/2018 - Robyn Reynolds

New members 10 in total.

Membership at the end of September: 145 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 been received as an email.

Committee has agreed that items to be disposed of can be disposed in a suitable manner at your discretion.

Total Monetary transactions by Merchandising.

Initial Balance April 2018	\$ 96
Cash Allotted from Sales Donations	\$155
Cash awaiting Allotment	\$504.40
Total Cash Held by Merchandiser	\$756.40
Total cash till (COH)	\$251.00

Astronomy 2019 to be ordered (Brendon to organise) at next forum 15/10/18 Cost to members ordering via the club will be \$25.

4.3.1 Lisa Harvey-Smith's book for sale has been distributed to members. Limited copies left.

4.4 Speakers

This month's forum on 15/10 by Prof Geraint Lewis (USYD)

October Forum Presentation details.

Will there forever be stars in the sky? Will humanity roam the cosmos for eternity? What does the future hold for our Universe? Join us for a journey through space and time, from galactic collisions and hyperactive black holes, on to the death of the last star.

About the speaker.

Geraint F. Lewis is a Welsh astrophysicist at the University of Sydney. He's best known for his work on dark energy, gravitational lensing and galactic cannibalism.

Next month's forum 19/11 Prof Fred Watson AM (AAO) Title TBA

Full list of future presenters is listed below

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

July 2019 moon landing STEM event possible ideas discussed are

- a) to have Prof Lisa Harvey Smith present,
- b) We are in discussion with Casula Power House regarding a night event
- c) A Macastro trip to Parkes in July 2019
- d) A Movie trip on the Sun 21/7/2019

4.5 General Business

4.5.1 Possible telescope viewing area at Katoomba Airfield as a dark site. Members are to contact Alexander Massey to visit and inspect airfield. 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. A replacement mount (AZ3) for our 130mm Newtonian loan telescope will be purchased.

4.5.3 Camden library (Oran park) wishes to hold Stargazing event in June 2019. More pictures will need to be printed. Members please donate pictures. On going item

4.5.4 Growing Our Club – Report of sub committee meeting in italics below and committee response in **bold**

*Notes of meeting held at Wyangala Crescent, Leumeah, 2560 on Friday 21 September 2018.
Present: John Rombi, Barry Moore, Henry Swierk, Michael Nicholas, Andy Milton*

Meeting called to discuss the general direction of the Society and consider options to find, keep and stimulate member's interest and active involvement into the Society. Informal notes are as below.

1. *The Society has been established since 1996. It currently has 140 members. This includes individuals who are part of a family membership.*
 2. *The average monthly meeting attracts perhaps 40 members and a few guests.*
 3. *The age profile of members is high with a significant number of retirees.*
 4. *The society appears to have a good reputation in respect of its activities and outreach activities.*
- John Rombi provided a brief outline of how the Society has progressed and referred to different strategies that had been previously tried to attract and activate members. John noted that the membership of the Society seemed to be changing. There are less members involved in stargazing at the Forest and Stargard and maybe less members who own a telescopes*
- Discussion was primarily centred on activating/ reactivating interest of existing members rather than the active search for more new members.*

The Committee will consider the following strategies in the next few months

Consider using an i- phone one email reminder email reminder message to members that the monthly meeting is coming up or other events are scheduled (all members or only some?)

Under further consideration, good idea in principle

- a) *Have a routine meet and greet when members and others arrive at the meeting. (who will do it?). Personally invite new people to Stargard or public event nights*

Secretary will take this on at Forum meetings – others can assist from time to time. Highest ranking committee member at Stargard or the Forest to welcome new members and orientate them to what is happening and what to do.

- b) *Introduce a members segment for five/ten minutes to talk about something of interest the member is doing or involved in. (See Mike Nicholas separate e mail initiating this idea.)*

Agreed to by committee to be called “members toolbox talk” and combined with a “Constellation of the month presentation” with stars in the sky this month of interest (as per Astronomy 2019-2019 ephemeris - Mike Nicholas to Proceed see item . Presenters will have a 5min to 7 minutes to present. A max of 10min with questions. Not to impinge on the guest speaker who will commence at 8.00pm at the latest.

- c) Consider developing a beginners course in Astronomy and /or create an information pathway to where good beginners material can be found on the internet.

Under further consideration good idea in principle but experienced members will need to make it known if they can commit to doing this on a regular basis or for a fixed period of time.

- d) Consider a separate course/pathway guide for young members in family membership groups.
Could be part of (d) above

Under further consideration good idea in principle- committee would need to find a pathway director to run this.

- e) Identify people with special interests within the membership e.g. astro photography

Under further consideration good idea in principle (messier hunt, photo of the month?). Messier hunt has been done at least once before. An experienced member will need to be found to run this program.

- f) Consider having a cake and after the Forum a small presentation for a notable achievement or anniversary.

Committee has agreed to trial FREE (repeat "FREE") tea coffee and biscuits until end of December to increase participation in a social setting.

- g) Share running of monthly meeting among Committee or a number of people, Not just left to President.

Under further consideration good idea in principle, but it required a tightly written agenda so that the time allotted to the guest speaker is not stolen.

- h) Encourage members to ask questions or seek advice if required. See 2nd point from above

Combined with Meet and greet item see above item on this

- i) Committee felt social events (e.g. BBQ in January on a Sunday at a local Dam – solar observation) should be added to our calendar.

Under further consideration good idea in principle

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.

On going item (Report from Tony not available at this meeting).

4.6.2 The Forest : 9-10 Sept. Good viewing on the 10th There was issues with new keys windows and screen-door keys. Toilets to be NOT locked from now on

Next: **5-6 Oct** – Forecast not good might be cancelled

4.7 Public Outreach

4.7.1 Sept 11, 2018 Goulburn 3 members attended by about 100 public people

4.7.2 Sept 15, 2018 MDSI (Caitlin Manganaro, facilitator from Macarthur Heights Community. Great event but very windy. About 200 public attended and a dozen or so members with scopes.

4.7.3 **pSTEM Report** Mike Nicolas (by email as shown in italics below and committee response in bold).

I have a request for members' telescopes at Cobbitty Public School on Friday night, 26 October. Three members have advised they will attend the event and I shall seek more help. Ray has the details and will raise this in the meeting. (Greg has offered to help out)

The school is one of four showing keen interest in our pSTEM offer to K-6 pupils. I await a request from the other three: Briar Road PS, St Helens Park PS and The Oakes PS. Next year, perhaps?

Student Mentoring

You will have seen the message notifying of the young scientist award to Peter Godwin's mentee. Peter is chuffed with this and will send me a note of his mentoring method for future use. Several other mentors have received gracious expressions of appreciation from their mentees.

The committee expressed its thanks to all mentors concerned

You will also note in my message there will be a review between the mentors and Rahmi, to be arranged.

November Forum

I am in touch with Giorgi Discala at Prairiewood High and he will attend the Forum and prior dinner with Fred Watson this night. He has seen Fred and wishes to hear him speak again.

Rahmi is marking exam papers (HSC?) on the night, but would have attended.

December Forum

Tony's aspiration to have several schools present at one time will be realised here.

Rahmi has a potential 13 students to each make a 5-10 minute presentation but the number should be less as it is school holiday.

Giorgio Discala shall have two girls (one from last year with a new project) and maybe a party of boys. I shall discuss with Giorgio at the November Forum how we might manage their presentations. My early thought is the two teachers work this out between them and they tell us.

Committee found this an unacceptable time duration - limit is 45 min per school - 5 presentations of 9 min MAX. Projects can be grouped (i.e. 2 or 3 students present together) Needs to be worked out in detail, but max time is 90 min in total.

Rahmi emailed this note to MAS....On behalf of the Young Scientist Committee, it is my pleasure to inform you that the following student has been selected as a prize-winner in the 2018 STANSW Young Scientist Awards.

Jacob Goodridge Determining the Mass of Jupiter

Committee felt this needs to be acknowledge at the December Forum

4.8 Members' Trips

4.8.1 China 15 May to 29 May 2019, 13 nights, 14 days: Approx Cost \$4000 inc 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. Deposit has been paid and airplanes tickets purchased. On going

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

Bunnings BBQ date to be advised. *On going*

4.10 Website, Facebook – all up to date

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

4.11 Publicity and Secretary report 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

4.11.4 Missing Minutes – report from Roger Powell in italics below.

I have recently finished scanning the Archive Documents which Tony provided. I am hoping that you can provide more minutes to fill in the gaps from the Secretarial Records.. I am missing the following:

2014 Jan, Feb, Apr, May, Aug, Oct, Nov.

2015 Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Aug, Sep, Oct.

2016 Mar, Apr.

These are referenced at <http://www.macaastro.org.au/mas/index.php/committee-meeting-minutes> Whilst signed copies may be preferable, you can see from the web index that most of the minutes currently archived are unsigned versions, so I am not going to be fussy about it.

I hope you can feed them through to me when you have time, so that our Digital Archive will be complete for each year since 2005.

Secretary to provide the printed copies he has to Roger for scanning as his scanner is non functional

4.12 Correspondence

received. – email order form for Astronomy 2019 (distributed to all committee)

sent - the Post Event Form has been returned to Camden Council by Tony.

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. *On going*

5. NEW BUSINESS arising at the Meeting

6. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:

7.30pm Mon Nov 5th 2018 at Andy’s place, 55 Wyangla Cres Leumeah

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 2/10/2018, 9/10/2018 and 4/11/2018

Approved by Tony Law President Date 5/11/2018



Macarthur Astronomical Society

Record of Merchandise and Donations

[Overview & Current File Version](#)



Area	Amount
Initial Balance 28-04-2018, Start of this record	\$ 96.00
Cash allotted from sales/donations	\$ 155.00
Cash awaiting allotment	\$ 505.40
Total Cash Held by Merchandiser	\$ 756.40
Total Cash Till (COH)	\$ 252.00

Total Sales	\$ 1,544.00
Less value of Stock Held	\$ (1,596.96)
Less value of Damaged/Written off Stock	\$ (24.90)
Less previous tax year/s	\$ (700.00)
Position of Merchandise Sales 2018/19	\$ (777.86)

Total Cash Donations Collected	\$ 658.10
Less previous tax year/s	\$ (337.05)
Donations Collected 2018/19	\$ 321.05

Total Gifted made by MAS	\$ 391.00
Less previous tax year/s	\$ (109.00)
Value of Gifts made 2018/19	\$ 282.00

Please note: These values only represent known activities as per Merchandiser and / or as advised by others listed in File Version List.

Donations Tin	1
Guest Book, Public Events	1
Backup Sign in book	1
Older order and notes Book	1
Receipt Book	3
NSW Gov., Dark sky pamphlet	1
Sample Astro Book, Old	1
Damaged 20yr Membership P. Ainsworth	1
MAS Reserved seating signs	22
MAS Merch pricing signs	2
specials	1
holder	1

File Version	Date	Action	Member
Excel file creation	02-07-18	Still in progress	B Waterhouse
	21-08-18	Still in progress	B Waterhouse
Continued creation & data entry after Aug Forum	31-08-18	Near complete	B Waterhouse
COMMITTEE-SEPT18	02-09-18	Record Update	B Waterhouse
S_VS_1	16-09-18	Entry	B Waterhouse
S_VS_2	18-09-18	Entry	B Waterhouse
COMMITTEE-OCT18	01-10-18	Record Update	B Waterhouse

Merchandise listing		Stock Movement				Must Order	Low stock
Item	Size	Damaged and Written-off	Sold	Gifted	TOTAL Available		
Black Polo Shirt	L	0	0	(1)	2		
	XL	0	(1)	0	2		
	3XL	0	(2)	0	0		
Black Soft Shell Jacket	14-W	0	0	0	1		
	16-W	0	(1)	0	0		
	Small-W	0	0	(1)	0		
	L	0	(2)	0	4		
	XL	0	(3)	(2)	0		
	3XL	0	0	0	1		
Baseball cap	Black	0	(2)	(2)	4		
Mug	Black	0	0	0	1		
	White	(1)	0	(6)	68		
RED Light Torch	Handheld	(3)	(4)	0	4		
Sew on Patches	Black	0	(3)	0	3		
	White	0	(1)	0	5		
Stickers (strips)	W/B writing	0	(1)	0	0		
	Cr/W writing	(4)	(2)	0	6		
Astronomy Guide		0	0	0	0		
LIS - When Galaxies Collide		0	(16)	0	7		
Black Pens		0	(1)	(4)	259		
Black Beanie		0	(7)	0	3		
ABC Telescope		(2)	(35)	(1)	2		
Black Pen Case		0	0	(6)	16		
MAS Biz Cards	Box	0	0	0	1		

NEW Orders Made For Merchandise					
Date	Paid	Item	Whom	Invoice #	
20-08-18	\$ -	XL Jacket	Dave Manning	N/a	
17-09-18	Exchange	XL Jacket	Ric F		
OLD Orders waiting for collection					
pre 28-04-18	N/a	2018 Astro	Peter Elston	N/a	
20-06-18	\$ -	L Jacket	Alex Massey	N/a	

NOTES TO COMMITTEE FROM MERCHANDISER

- 1 - LAST MEETING, could you please inform - i) Request to dispose of old items held, ii) Damaged 20yr Membership P. Ainsworth, iii) Sample 2009 Astro Book, Old, iv) NSW Gov., Dark sky pamphlet, v) Timber wedge blocks.
- 2 - I request any further information to be provided to maintain donations and merchandise recording, i.e. donations collected / sales at additional events.
- 3 - Collections from September, ii) Donations Forum- \$14.40 Domes \$171.25 and Domes- \$98.50, iii) Sales for month of Sept \$669.00, iv) 2 sales order needed - looking to put an order in.
- 4 - Astro 2019, pricing and timing for order - will interest from members be requested this month?
- 5 - Please provide any feed back regarding this merchandise and donations spread sheet. Use via cloud documents with treasurer under investigation. What other MAS persons would need access?, Additional finetuning of this record will be continued.