



PO Box 17 MINTO NSW 2566

MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Held at Andy's place, Leumeah

Monday Mon 5th Nov 2018 at 7.30pm

Committee Attending: Tony Law (President), Ray Armstrong (Vice President), Barry Moore (Secretary), Andy Milton (Treasurer), Henry Swierk (Membership Officer), Greg Bradford (Committee Member2), Noel Sharp (Liaison Member to Wollondilly Council)

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

1. OPENING OF MINUTES AND APOLOGIES: meeting opened at 7.27pm

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES for October committee meeting held 2/10/2018 Proposed by Barry Moore seconded by Andy Milton.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

none

4. REGULAR BUSINESS

4.1 Treasurer's Report: Andy Milton

MACASTRO Financial Report for October 2018.

There is one outstanding amount I am aware of to John Rombi for Dinner costs of \$18.66. There are no outstanding cheques to be presented. Sales and donations from our October meeting are not included in these statements and are currently held by Brendon Waterhouse.

The Main Account balance as at 31 October was \$8544.17. The No 2 Account balance is \$3265.36 representing amounts paid in advance for our China trip.

Paypal has a balance of \$406.30.

Report proposed by Andy Milton, seconded by Greg Bradford, Passed

4.2 Membership: Henry Swierk

New Members: Eric Kingston

New members 1 in total.

Membership at the end of October: 146 members in total including 6 Hon. 3 Assoc.

4.3 Merchandise: (reported from Brendon Waterhouse via email)

Stock financial Spreadsheet tabled to committee. Brendon has disposed of items as per his September report (This includes an older membership award trophy and the broken ABC scopes).

Total Monetary transactions by Merchandising.

Initial Balance April 2018	\$ 96
Cash Allotted from Sales Donations	\$40
Cash awaiting Allotment	\$337
Total Cash Held by Merchandiser	\$473
Total cash till (COH)	\$136

Monthly Donations for October \$32, Sales for October \$270

Astronomy 2019 is being ordered. 12 ordered so far. Cost to members ordering via the club will be \$25. Orders with Brendon at next forum. Monies must be paid in advance.

Committee believes that the 2 Jackets ordered by members have not been ordered from the supplier. More discussion is required to sort this discrepancy out.

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 19/11 Prof Fred Watson AM (AAO).

Advertised title in paper: To Be or not to Be

Actual Title: Astronomy at Large – what does it mean? (Title arrived after publicity sent to local Newspapers).

Next month's 10/12 Broughton Anglican College (mentored students) and Prairiewood high school students. Mike Nicholas and John Rombi will confer with schools to set agenda

Full list of future presenters is listed below

21st Jan 2019	Ric Foster (MAS member)
18th Feb 2019	Prof Lisa Harvey Smith (CSIRO)
18th Mar 2019	Dr Angel R. Lopez Sanchez (Macq Uni)
15th Apr 2019	AGM NO SPEAKERS
20th May 2019	Dr Emil Lenc (ASKAP)
17th Jun 2019	TBA
15th Jul 2019	TBA
19th Aug 2019	Dr Lee Spitler (Mac Uni + AAO)
16th Sep 2019	TBA
21st Oct 2019	TBA
18th Nov 2019	Dr Brad Tucker (ANU)
9th Dec 2019	TBA

July 2019 moon landing STEM event possible ideas discussed are

- a) to have Prof Lisa Harvey Smith present,
- b) with (in discussion) Casula Power House regarding a night event (photo exhibition is considered and a public night is possible)
- c) A Macastro trip to Parkes in July 2019 (doubtful due to demand on Parkes Telescope for Moon Landing)
- d) A Movie trip on the Sat 20/7/2019.... Greg to contact Dumaresq Cinema regarding costs and booking arrangement.

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 was purchased for \$79 and is ready to be used.

4.5.3 Camden library (Oran park) wishes to hold Stargazing event in June 2019 (date TBA but on a Thurs). More pictures will need to be printed for this **event**. Members are asked to please donate pictures. On going item

4.5.4 Growing Our Club – Report of sub committee meeting held in Sept are in the Oct meeting minutes. Some items are reported below as appropriate.

a) Meet and Greet.

Secretary reports a good response for his contacts with members and visitors at the Forum meetings and he would like others members to assist from time to time.

Highest ranking committee member at Stargard or the Forest is to welcome new members and orientate them to what is happening and what to do. – Visitor Badges to be considered for Forum meetings.

b) members segment for five/ten minutes at forum meetings.

Mike Nicholas will be presenting at next forum in November.

c) Beginners course in Astronomy, and or links to good beginners material on the internet.

On Going (any member able to assist?). Tony has offered to approach Camden Library regarding a Junior Astronomy Club Chapter (or section).

d) This item has merged with (c) above.

e) People with special interests within the membership e.g. astro photography

Consideration has been approved to add member's interests to a website list so members can contact that special interest members However members will need to agree to their put their special interest against their name on our website. (As access to the members names are limited to current financial members and then only email and phone number contacts are visible this should provide sufficient security)

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

The October Forum Free Tea and Coffee appeared to be well attended. On going provision of "cakes" are thought to be a problem though unless catered for outside the lecture room and a clean-up crew can be marshalled.

g) Share running of monthly meeting among Committee or a number of people, Not just left to President. Under further consideration. On going.

h) This item is covered by initiative in parts by (a), (c) and (e)

i) Social events (e.g. BBQ)

There is to be a BBQ in Jan at on a Sunday at the Australia Botanical Gardens – solar observation) to coincide with IAU 100th year event (12th or 13th January are Possible dates)

Summary on (a) thru (i)

Next Presidents newsletter will include a survey to find interested members for these initiatives. The possibility to have different coloured membership cards as a member progresses through their years of membership was discussed. Having members wear their membership card to the Forum meetings and outreach nights should be encouraged by all.

4.6 Regular Viewing

4.6.1 Stargard Sat 13 Oct poor viewing, 3 Nov , Good viewing?

Next: 1 Dec

Noel Sharp gave a report on the redevelopment of Stargard by Wollondilly council. It is included at item 5. New Business in these minutes below.

The Forest : 5-6 Oct. Cancelled – keys to the Forest are with Ray.

Next: 9 10 Nov

4.7 Public Outreach

4.7.1 Cobbitty Public School on Friday night, 26 October.

Night was not successful due to location and cloud.

4.7.2 pSTEM Report Mike Nicolas (by email as shown in italics, committee response in bold).

... From Previous report from Mike in the minutes Oct 2018 and still currently on going
November Forum

I am in touch with Giorgio Di Scala 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. - on going as of Nov meeting.

Report from Mike Nicolas to Nov 5, 2018 committee meeting received by email

Primary Schools

Four local public schools have shown enthusiasm toward availing our four step out into the night (edited BM) viewing options (previously considered by the committee). They are:

St Helens Park, Briar Road, Cobbitty and The Oaks.

However, only Cobbitty Park s has sought our service on a clouded night. Subsequently, they sought and have been supplied with Bob Bee's contact to arrange Bob give a talk to pupils. We await contact by the school.

This month I shall circulate our 2019 WSU viewing schedule to these schools urging they commit to a date and notify us.

Secondary Schools.

Picton High has booked a night in September for night viewing, Broughton will seek our service as is Prarieewood High interested in Broughton's actions.

Mentoring with Broughton Students.

One of our mentees was awarded 2nd prize in physics at this years' school competition. There were 800 submissions. An article on the award appeared in the SMH and prominently named mentoring by MAS.

....N.B. FYI. copied from Oct 2018 minutes....

Rahmi's emailed 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"..... end copy...

Our successful mentoring role will be highlighted to Fred Watson at his coming visit. You may know that Fred is now the federal Ambassador at Large for Astronomy.

President to acknowledge this at December Forum and bring it to attention of Fred Watson at the November 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. The Date the Bunnings gave us in January 2019 was at too short a notice *On going*

4.10 Website, Facebook – all up to date

eMailing to members via website is still under repair (problem for Dreamhost), committee members have been asked to reset their passwords.

4.11 Publicity and Secretary report Barry Moore

4.11.1 Publicity for the next forum November 19 has been sent to Advertiser and Chronicle and local radio stations “what’s on” pages. The title “To be or not to be” was given to them as the abstract of Fred Watson’s Speech was unavailable. Hopefully it might generate additional Public interest.

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 has been checked each week – bank statement received

4.11.4 Missing Minutes –

Secretary has provided the printed copies he has to Tony who has kindly offered to scanning them. Unfortunately two of the months are still missing for a complete record.

4.12 Correspondence

received. – Nothing received directly to secretary. Noel Sharp has received the Draft Wollondilly submission for Dudley Chesham redevelopment.

sent – Nothing to report of significance at this stage.

4.13 Succession planning – nothing to report

4.14 “2019 Calendar dates”. Observing dates have been distributed to Committee. Will be included in email of these minutes (secretary) *On going*

5. NEW BUSINESS arising at the Meeting

Noel Sharp reported to the committee on Stargard’s history. The Dudley Chesham sportsground master plan development at Stargard will have no lighting in car parks and no toilet (too expensive) at Stargard’s current location but a new development proposal is under consideration by Wollondilly Council within the Sportsground. A submission will be sent to Wollondilly council by Friday November 9th. A Draft Submission letter from Noel will be sent to the President for approval, editing and letterhead addition. Noel read his draft submission letter and after some modifications is was approved in “essence” by the committee.

Motion (Nov 5, 2019): That Noel Sharp would act as an authorised delegate to represent the Macarthur Astronomical Society Incorporated interests in the matter of the submission to Wollondilly Council for an Observatory and meeting room building development at Dudley Chesham Sportsground.

Moved by Andy Milton , Seconded by Tony Law, Passed unanimously.

6. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:

7.30pm Mon Dec 3rd, 2018 at Tony's place, Harrington Park

7. CLOSE OF MEETING 23:16

Minutes Taken by Secretary 5/11/2018

Written by Secretary, Barry Moore on 5/11/18, 8/11/18 and draft 2 TL, draft 3 BM dec 1, 2018

Approved by Tony Law Date 3/10/2018