



PO Box 17 MINTO NSW 2566

MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Held at Tony's place, Harrington Park
Monday Mon 3rdth Dec 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 Member 2), Mike Nicholas (Schools Liaison)

Apologies: John Rombi (Committee member 1), Noel Sharp (Liaison Member to Wollondilly Council)

1. OPENING OF MINUTES AND APOLOGIES: meeting opened at 7.34pm

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES for November committee meeting held 5/11/2018 Proposed by Barry Moore seconded by Henry Swierk.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

none

4. REGULAR BUSINESS

4.1 Treasurer's Report: Andy Milton

MACASTRO Financial Report to 30 November 2018.

The Society Account bank balance is \$9043.49. There are no outstanding cheques to be presented or cash to be banked.

There are two outstanding payments to be made. To Quasar Publishing for 27 copies of Astronomy 2019 for \$588.60; and to Tony Law for meals provided to Fred Watson and Georgio for \$43.60.

The bank deposit to the Society Account of 23 November relating to 15 October includes an amount of \$100. This amount has been included as 'other' as its origin is not clear at this time.

The number 2 Account of \$6199.25 represents payments in advance for our trip to China plus a small amount of interest that has been credited.

The PayPal Account has a balance of \$443.40.

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

4.2 Membership: Henry Swierk

New Member Colin Pettitt. 25/11/18

Michael Mirecki of Warragamba. 27/11/18

New members 2 in total.

Membership at the end of November: 148 members in total including 6 Hon. 3 Assoc.

Families with school aged children total 5, child members in total 10

Lindsay Skeetbee - has paid (no membership form) yet to be approved.

Henry reports only 15% of all members have access to our website as a member. (this means 112 members have not renewed their passwords). Committee reminds the Members they need to access the website and change their password.

4.3 Merchandise: (reported by Tony for Brendon Waterhouse via email)

There is unallocated cash of \$473 – some of this money will be allocated to lost Jackets.

To be given out at next Forum: 2 pens and mugs for 12 students.

A 2nd Banner has been ordered by Tony for the club.

A pdf spreadsheet (Nov 2018) from Brendan was emailed to the committee

Total Monetary transactions by Merchandising.

Initial Balance April 2018	\$ 96
Cash Allotted from Sales Donations	\$15
Cash awaiting Allotment	\$0
Total Cash Held by Merchandiser	\$111
Total cash till (COH)	\$111

4.3.1 Lisa Harvey-Smith's book for sale has been distributed to members. 1 yet to be collected. 3 left to be purchased.

4.3.2 Alex Massey's Jacket yet to be picked up.

4.3.3 caps and beanies need to be ordered. Tony will talk to Brendan regarding re stocking.

4.3.4 Astronomy 2019 has being ordered (27) some are unpaid for.

4.3.5 Stickers are to be distributed to new members when they join.

4.3.6 Merchandise will be sent to Brendans PO box from now on.

4.4 Speakers

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

Mike read out his draft agenda to the committee – still being finalised but all in progress.

A guest from the NCAA (National Curriculum Advisory Association) will be attending on the night.

Andy asked that the mentors should be acknowledged on the night.

Next month's : 21st Jan 2019 Ric Foster (MAS member) – Radio Astronomy talk

Full list of future presenters is listed below

18th Feb 2019	Prof Lisa Harvey Smith (CSIRO)
18th Mar 2019	Dr Angel R. Lopez Sanchez (Macq Uni)
15th Apr 2019	AGM NO SPEAKERS – 1 or 2 Members as Guest speaker
20th May 2019	Dr Emil Lenc (ASKAP)
17th Jun 2019	Les Dalrymple
15th Jul 2019	Robert Brand
19th Aug 2019	Dr Lee Spitler (Mac Uni + AAO)
16th Sep 2019	Marnie Ogg – correspondence received regarding Dark Skies.
21st Oct 2019	Prof. Geraint Lewis (USYD)
18th Nov 2019	Dr Brad Tucker (ANU)
9th Dec 2019	Schools Night

July 2019 moon landing STEM event possible ideas discussed are

- a) to have Prof Lisa Harvey Smith present (women in Stem) to be advised
- b) with (in discussion) Casula Power House regarding a night event (photo exhibition is considered and a public night is possible) In Progress
- c) A Movie trip on the Sun 21/7/2019.... Greg to contact Dumaresq Cinema regarding costs and booking arrangement. (see Below 4.7.3 for more discussion)

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 –purchased a newer tripod stand and bolts (spent \$49). A Celestron Power seeker 27 has been donated to the club from Dr Lisa Harvey Smith and RMS Entertainment.

4.5.3 Camden library (Oran park) wishes to hold Stargazing event on Thurs July 11, 2019. More pictures will need to be printed for this event. Members are asked to please donate pictures. Discussion with Peter Main regarding starting a Kids Club under Camden Council Library. *On Going*

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

a) Meet and Greet. – *on going*

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. – New Members Badges are now available for Forum meetings.

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

c) Beginners course in Astronomy, and or links to good beginners material on the internet. *Scope still to be determined. On Going*

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

e) People with special interests within the membership e.g. astro photography - to be asked in the next newsletter. *On Going*

Consideration has been approved to add member's interests to our website list .

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

The November Forum Free Tea and Coffee appeared to be well attended. *On Going* item.

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

h) Social events (e.g. BBQ)

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. *On going*

4.5.5 The Dudley Chesham redevelopment

Nothing to report yet – submission has been sent to Wollondilly Council (see sent correspondence)

4.6 Regular Viewing

4.6.1 Stargard poor viewing, Cancelled

The Forest : 2,3 Nov. Good viewing but vandalism of the site

Next: 8-9 Dec (**Cancelled**)

4.7 Public Outreach – dates are set for 2019. See Calendar sent to members.

Tony is in discussion with Australian Botanic Gardens with regard to “Stars over the Gardens” an event over 2 nights. *On Going*

4.7.2 pSTEM Report Mike Nicolas gave a verbal report. Waiting for replies from the 4 or 5 primary schools concerned.

4.7.3 Sun July 21 Afternoon 12:56pm, 50 years anniversary of the moon landing - Report by Greg... Movie Dumaresq is not possible – Art Gallery costs \$850 theatre plus staff member All up \$5000 with lunch, \$1500 without lunch. Other options are Narellan independent cinema or United Cinema. **WSU main lecture Theatre - On Going**

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*

4.8.3 Broken Hill was a suggestion for a members Trip in 2019

4.9 Fundraising

Bunnings BBQ date to be advised between February and April.

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. All good almost (99% correct)

4.11 Publicity and Secretary report Barry Moore

4.11.1 Publicity for the next forum December 10 has been sent to Advertiser and Chronicle

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 –

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. Tony found another copy. The matter is going only 2 are now missing.

4.11.5 A replacement Letter box key was Purchased (\$12) by Barry (secretary) as the original key was misplaced.... At the conclusion of the meeting it was found at the bottom of his Laptop Bag. We now have two letter box keys and Barry proposes to give one to Andy Milton (Treasurer).

4.11.6 Attendance – November Forum

as per sign-on book: 48 members, 33 Non-members; total 81.

4.12 Correspondence

received. – Nothing of significance (except usual Bank statement and advertisements) received directly to secretary.

1. Southern Highland Botanical Gardens – Earth Hour . Ray responded with an apology as we cannot do this on the suggested dates. No planets would be visible either at that time.
2. Email regarding a USA Bloggers site – offer to place link on our website was declined.

sent –

1. Noel Sharp and Tony Law sent our submission to Wollondilly Council for Dudley Chesham redevelopment. The Dudley Chesham redevelopment is now has a heading under General Business. *no reply yet*
2. Order for Astronomy 2019 via Brendan

4.13 Succession planning – Tony distributed nominations forms to committee members to consider and return at next committee meeting.

4.14 “2019 Calendar dates”. Observing dates are available on the website. No further issues known. *On going*

5. NEW BUSINESS arising at the Meeting

An offer to buy a club telescope has been made by an anonymous member (approx value of \$300).

6. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:

7.30pm Mon Jan 7th, 2018 at Henry's place, Unit 1,30 Kings Street, Ingleburn

7. CLOSE OF MEETING 22:04

Minutes Taken by Secretary 3/12/2018

Written by Secretary, Barry Moore on 3/12/18 edited 6/12/18, 7/1/19.

Approved by Tony Law Date 7/1/2019

