



PO Box 17 MINTO NSW 2566

## MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Held at Henry's place, Ingleburn

Monday Mon 7<sup>th</sup> Jan 2019 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), Brendon Waterhouse (Merchandising)

**Apologies:** Mike Nicholas (Schools Liaison), Noel Sharp (Liaison Member to Wollondilly Council)

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

**2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES** for December committee meeting held 3/12/2018 Proposed by Barry Moore seconded by Andy Milton. Passed.

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

none

### **4. REGULAR BUSINESS**

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

Attached please find MACASTRO Financial Report for the period to 31 December 2018.

The Society Account balance as at 31 December was \$8484.29. There are no outstanding cheques to be presented.

There are outstanding payments to be made as follows:

Tony Law	Wine re Fred Watson	\$10.00
Travel Ogg	Fred Watson expenses	\$250.00

The number 2 Account balance of \$6203.73 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 \$467.35

Andy has looked into a new paypal machine or a Comm Bank unit (costs \$30 per month). Other options are being considered.

Report proposed by Andy Milton, seconded by John Law, Passed

#### **4.2 Membership:** Henry Swierk

New Member - Lindsay Skeetbeet

New members - 1 in total.

Membership at the end of December: 149 members in total including 6 Hon. 3 Assoc.

Zixuan Rong has applied to join - no payment yet

Henry reports only 28 of all members have access to our website as a member and this means 103 members have not renewed their passwords. Committee reminds the Members they need to access the website and change their password.

Annual dues email to be sent out ASAP

**Motion proposed by Henry Swierk** : that fees remain the same as last year, Seconded Tony Law. Passed

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

Donations Dec Forum \$4.00  
Dec Sales \$175.50

#### **Total Monetary transactions by Merchandising.**

Initial Balance April 2018	\$ 96
Cash Allotted from Sales Donations	\$19
Cash awaiting Allotment	\$105.50
Total Cash Held by Merchandiser	\$215.50
Total cash till (COH)	\$115.00

A 2<sup>nd</sup> Banner has been ordered by Tony for the club.

A pdf spreadsheet (07 Jan 2018) from Brendan was emailed to the committee

**4.3.1** Astro 2019 , 1 copy still to be paid for.

**4.3.2** Future Merchandising will be sent to PO BOX 161 Cobbity NSW 2570

**4.3.3** The two large Jackets that are missing have been written off as of 03/01/19

**4.3.4** There are no no counting errors with regards to the stock held

**4.3.5** All old Stickers have been handed over to Membership officer and are to be distributed to new members when they join.

**4.3.6** Hats and other items are to be ordered (separate discussion with Tony on this)

**4.3.7** Old wooden art case has been modified as a display case.

#### **4.4 Speakers**

This month's forum 21 Jan Ric Foster (MAS member) – Radio Astronomy talk

Next month's : 18th Feb 2019 Naomi MaClaw-Griffths (TBA)

Full list of future presenters is listed below

18th Mar 2019	Dr Angel R. Lopez Sanchez (Macq Uni)
15th Apr 2019	AGM – 1 or 2 Members as Guest speaker or Prof Lisa Harvey Smith
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

#### **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 – the Celestron Power seeker 27 (scope number 4) has entered our loan pool of scopes (Originally 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) 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 . *On Going*

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

c) Tea and Coffee to be free until further notice *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** 3 nights excellent viewing in early Jan

Next 26 Jan weekend

**The Forest** : No Power at site at present – Stargard ran instead

Next 1<sup>st</sup> feb

#### **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*

15<sup>th</sup> March Picnic under the Stars ABG

*15 April domes and IAU event*

10<sup>th</sup> may star over the gardens ABG (Australian Botanic Gardens)

#### **4.7.2 pSTEM Report** Mike Nicolas report sent a report as he was an apology (see Below in italics)

Discussion was deferred to next committee meeting

1. *Matters Arising from the recent December Forum.*

*A. Video Recording of Presentations*

*Ric Forster recorded the presentations and has enquired if we, the club, want a copy for our records, so to speak. What is the opinion if the Committee, please? Is a record desirable or necessary? What medium is preferred? Future presentations, by schools and/or special events? These are some questions that come to mind.*

Here is an exert from Ric's message to me.....

Don't you even have a PVR to time slip your TV programming? You may need to buy a much bigger USB stick for me to dump the final full production onto. 11 x 1 to 3GB for each talk + intros ~ = 32 GB stick. I shall let you know exactly how big when I have the first edit. Have now finished all the title page and am still processing the talks proper.

B. Draft by Ric Forster of MAS Consent Form for Parents.

Ric thoughtfully presented each parent attending the recent Forum with a consent form to record their child's presentation. It seems prudent in today's social situation to use the form in future presentations. I have obtained some thoughtful comments (not included here) from Roger Powell on Ric's refined draft below. At this stage, what is the Committee's view, please? Should MAS require and adopt such a document? Should legal advice be sought on the text? (There is no known legal person on our membership). If yes, would any Committee Member like to join me in this task? I am happy to pursue it by myself.

2. Saint Benedicts, Oran Park, Joins our Mentoring Programme.

I sent you advice in December of Brigitte and husband Peter Sterling (Cobbitty PS) joining MAS and of Brigitte seeking to contribute to our our mentoring programme. I expect to bring suggestions to the Committee in the near future. The Committee may wish to discuss this development. The development of our Kids Astronomy Club with the lical library seems relevant gere.

Set out here is detail of Brigitte's intention.

From: Brigitte Bastias

Date: 12 December 2018 at 8:20:59 pm AEDT

To: Michael Nicholas <mnicholas300@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Schools presentation to MAS

Hi Mick,

We have a small group of mainly year 8 students (around 5-7) this year at St Benedict's Oran Park that are part of a science club. They usually meet once a week during lunch at school to do experiments and work on small projects. I would like to introduce this group to some astronomy next year. I am sure that they would be excited to be able to view the moon & other celestial objects during one day/night through telescopes. If this could then coincide with them working on a small project (like the ones you mentioned in your previous email) I think it would be really great to continue to foster these kids interest for science. I really like the idea of some of these kids having the opportunity to work with a mentor and present their work during a forum, like the students did earlier this week.

Anyway the MAS can support us would be greatly appreciated and I would be really happy to work with you guys in whatever capacity big or small next year and in the future.

Kind Regards,

Brigitte Bastias I sent your before Christmas. The Committee might like to discuss the co-ordination aspects that will arise here.

3. Forthcoming Action with Broughton College.

First. I plan to meet with Rahmi this month and hear his view for mentoring this year. Secondly, when school resumes this month I expect to confirm the 28 February date for the review with our mentors on their processes in 2018.

The outcomes of these actions will be notified to the Committee.

Mike.

**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**

Sunday 21 July 2019 "THE DISH" moon landing STEM event - ideas discussed are

One Giant Leap has 7 NASA/JPL specialists available for workshops - need more than 180 seats - looking to Western Sydney Uni for a lecture theatre and/or lecture rooms (344 large lecture capacity - 199 smaller lecture theatre)

replay of the Movie of The Dish and Workshops/Lecture

Campbelltown Library will assist with posters printing and image printing

Campbelltown Library also wants to runs a public observing night at their library.

Also in discussion Casula Power House regarding a night event 20/7/2019(photo exhibition is considered and a public night is possible).

## 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 - decision made to postpone this idea

## 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 working (problem for Dreamhost), committee members have been asked to reset their passwords. All good. MEMBERS NEED TO RESET THEIR PASSWORDS.

## 4.11 Publicity and Secretary report Barry Moore

**4.11.1** Publicity for the next forum Jan 21 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 Attendance – December 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.

**sent** – nil

**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

Form for video release was tabled – deferred until Mike is present.

## 6. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:

7.30pm Mon Feb 4th, 2018 at John Rombi's place 13 Namatjira Cl. Eagle Vale

## 7. CLOSE OF MEETING 22:20

Minutes Taken by Secretary 3/12/2018

Written by Secretary, Barry Moore on 3/12/18 edited 6/12/18, 7/1/19, 21/1/19, 22/1/19, 4/2/19

