



PO Box 17 MINTO NSW 2566

**MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**  
**Minutes of the MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

Held at Unit 1, 30 Kings Road Ingleburn. (host Henry Swierk)

Monday Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Aug 2018 at 7.30pm

Committee Attending: Tony Law (President), Barry Moore (Secretary), Andy Milton (Treasurer) Henry Swierk (Membership Officer), , Greg Bradford (Committee Member2) Ray Armstrong (Vice President), Mike Nicholas (Schools Liaison)

Apologies: John Rombi (Committee member1)

**1. OPENING OF MINUTES AND APOLOGIES:** meeting opened at 7.42pm

**2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES for June and July committee meeting held 2/7/2018** Proposed by Barry Moore seconded by Tony .

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

none

**4. REGULAR BUSINESS**

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

MASTRO Financial Report for July 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. An amount of \$7.50 is still to be banked relating to the cash and coin machine of the Commonwealth bank not accepting the note and coins. There is one outstanding cheque to be presented: Chq 670 for \$19.90.

There is a balance of S 235.18 in the Society Paypal Account to be transferred to the Society bank account. There are some outstanding amounts to be paid in respect of Space Rocks: Meals etc \$160.75, paper \$10.98, Advertising on C91.3 \$407.00 (*invoice has now arrived – secretary*).

Gifts of \$140 may also need to be paid.

Two invoices have been raised: Mount Annan Botanic Gardens re Space Rocks \$3000.00, Camden Council community grant \$2000.00.

An amount of \$7.50 is estimated as cost price of purchasing new Mugs.

An Invoice for Pan Sports \$334.20 (merchandise)

Invoice for Domain Services \$33 (contra payment to Tony)

Telescope refurbishment \$614.75 (contra payment to Greg)

Cash balances Term Deposit \$21000 Cheque Account \$4012

**4.2 Membership:** Henry Swierk

New Members: 2 new members in total, who are: Family membership Sanjay Sengupta

Membership at the end of July: 132 members in total including 6 Hon. 3 Assoc.

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

Nothing has been sold since 16<sup>th</sup> July

Forum

- Donations \$0

Bags for gifts – Tony to look into.

Narellan library

- Donations \$0

**4.3.1** Request to stock Lisa Harvey-Smith's book for sale was approved by committee ( John has ordered 20 books but will get an extra 5)

**4.3.3** Red light torches are now on sale for \$10.

**4.3.4** Barry is donating 5 Red and white table lamps from Kmart which can be used on sales desk.

#### **4.4 Speakers**

**4.4.1** This month's forum is 20/8 Dr Ed Kruzins (NASA)

Next month's forum 17/9 Lucyna Chudczer

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

15/10 Prof Geraint Lewis (USYD)

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

#### **4.5 General Business**

**4.5.1** Possible telescope viewing area at Katoomba Airfield as a dark site. New email from Alexander Massey to committee addresses many advantages of the site and any disadvantages. Members are encouraged to visit. Katoomba (Medlow Bath) is an additional 20min and the location has definite potential. Visit at a date to be decided but all committee members are very busy. On Going item

**4.5.2** Thanks to Greg for the work on the Telescope upgrades – Tony will put pictures in the newsletter and Roger will update the web page with information about the 3 loan telescopes.

**4.5.3** Purchase of new loan telescopes was discussed for the future

#### **4.6 Regular Viewing**

**4.6.1 Stargard** 7 July poor viewing, 1 Aug excellent after cloud went

Next: 1 Sept

- Camden Council liaison meeting awaiting further contact from council.

- Follow up required - Check with Noel if we have a key for the Toilets.

**4.6.2 The Forest 13-14 July** – Good nights viewing but high intensity jet stream  
Next: 10-11 Aug and Sept  
17-18 Aug International house weekend (Sat with Students) (free)

#### **4.7 Public Outreach**

**4.7.1 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**. **July 21** “Mars Night” was well attended with queues of 20 or many of the telescopes.

**4.7.2 pSTEM Expo** PSTEM (Primary Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) EXPO meeting was held **Tues June 26th 2018**. Four recommendations – activities we can do and present to students and teachers and then the things we can tell teachers they can do. Mike is looking into indigenous astronomy as a topic for a presentation. Tony suggested we had a single workshop day that we run and invite schools along to. This would include seeing the moon in daylight. It was suggested that school students attend early on our public outreach nights at the Domes. Another suggestion is the purchase of a planetarium (over \$20,000!)

**4.7.3 “Space Rocks” Mon 16 July 2018** please see appended thank you notes and brief report.

**4.7.4 Sat 28 July**, Joint viewing was held at Werrington with WSAG - poor viewing

**4.7.5 Sept** Date to be determined- 1<sup>st</sup> Camden Scout viewing night request by Kerrie Flynn. Will try to fit in towards end of September. On going.

**4.7.6 Broughton Anglican College mentoring – Science Week.** The mentoring students project is going well. Students will present their final reports during STEM week on the Aug 14<sup>th</sup>. From 2.00pm, setup at 1.00pm, finish at 5.00pm. Boards (panels) are needed to display our photos.

Rahmi at BAC reports. About 2/3 of the students are wrapping up their reports. Some student still are seeing their mentors to complete their observations and report writing.

**4.7.7 Bunnings Narellan** community event on 25 Aug 10am till 2.00pm (table, solar telescopes required, flyers . On going – show and tell.

**4.7.8 13 Sept** – Picton School and council Illuminarte event, Day night event to be confirmed with details

**4.7.9 Oxley College** – seeking more information (2019 date needed) – Ray is to follow up

#### **4.8 Members’ Trips**

**4.8.1 Murchison Radio Astronomy Observatory WA** - 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> October 2018 – Possible visit depending on numbers. See Macastro web page for more info. Accommodation would need to be in Geraldton but no further progress on this item. John has followed up and is awaiting a response.

**4.8.2 China 11th May to 23rd May 2019**, 12 nights, 13 days: Approx Cost \$3500 inc airfare. Draft 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. 18 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. *Awaiting for a response from Roberto.*

**4.8.3 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 and Camden Council have given us grants – forms are being progressed.

Bunnings BBQ date to be advised.

Applications for Grants from Council in 2019 are with Tony and Andy – in progress. Committee members are to consider what we can do as a special event next year. (2<sup>nd</sup> week in August).

**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 August 20th 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.**

Camden council letter re sponsorship grant.

**4.13 Succession planning** – nothing to report

**4.14 2019 Calendar dates.** Programming for next year – observing schedule to be done by next month – Tony and John to do.

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

**6. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:**

7.30pm Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept Aug 2018, Greg’s place, at Glen Alpine – dinner from 6.00pm **ENZOS CUCINA RESTAURANT** (137 Heritage Way Glen Alpine NSW 2560).

**7. CLOSE OF MEETING 22:00**

Minutes Taken By Barry Moore 6 Aug 2018

Written by Secretary Barry Moore on 7/8/2018, Minor Edit by Secretary 10/9/2018

Approved by Tony Law Date 3/9/2018

Appendix to August Minutes Follows.

## Special Event presented by The Macarthur Astronomical Society



### “Space Rocks”

Held on Monday 16 July 2018,  
6.30pm at the Acacia Theatre,  
Plant Bank, Mt Annan Botanic  
Gardens

A big thank you to our speakers and our grantees who made this such a successful night

### Amy Shira Teitel – “The Mercury 13”



Amy Shira Teitel is a spaceflight historian, author, and popular space personality. Her popular U Tube Channel is “Vintage Space. Amy fell in love with spaceflight when seven years old! She started blogging in November 2010, and wrote her first book, *Breaking the Chains of Gravity*, released in 2015(Available at the Event)

Amy’s talk was focused on the thirteen women who took the same physical and psychological tests given to the Mercury astronauts in 1960-61. So why were these thirteen women denied a chance to fly in space?

### Geoffrey Notkin – “Meteorites and Me”



Geoff Notkin -- science writer, two-time Emmy winner --best known for hosting three seasons of Discovery Science's series 'Meteorite Men'. Geoff studied geology, photography, writing, and design in London, Boston and New York, owner of Aerolite Meteorites of Tucson, a leader in space rock recovery and research. In a lively, illustrated talk, 'Meteorites and Me,' Geoff explored the origin and characteristics of space rocks and chronicled his sometimes harrowing, sometimes hilarious expeditions around the world in search of them.

The Event was sponsored by “Inspiring Australia” through the Macarthur Science Hub, Australian Botanic Gardens, Mt Annan and Camden Council, thankyou.



Tony Law

President, Macarthur Astronomical Society

