



PO Box 17 MINTO NSW 2566

MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
Minutes of MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Scheduled for online conference, Friday 17 Apr 2020 at 13:30

Committee Attending in the online conference: Allan Hobbs (President), John Rombi (Vice President), Greg Bradford (Committee Member), Henry Swierk (Membership Officer), Phil Kidd (Committee member), Barry Moore (Secretary).

Apologies: Andy Milton (Treasurer)

NOTE: The Government restrictions surround the COVID-19 pandemic prevent any face to face meetings or activities. This meeting was held by committee members in a "Zoom" conference with full interaction.

1. OPENING OF MINUTES AND APOLOGIES: meeting opened at 13:52

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES for committee meeting held 3/02/2020 - email sent to collate the responses. Result of email poll - No rejections by any committee member. Proposed by Barry, seconded by John, Passed by all attendees in this Meeting

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

- 3.1 The \$1000 donation to Bush fire relief has been made and an email sent by secretary on 3 Mar - no reply from them. **Action** Barry to send another email asking for confirmation of the donation / receipt. Done (18/4/2020)
- 3.2 The public liability insurance cheque for \$784.38 to LCIS Local Community Insurance Services was returned on 16 Mar 2020 un-cashed as we paid the amount by EFT on 11 Mar 2020
Policy number is QM6195-0719 - Quote number 15957188715
Action: Barry to give returned cheque to Andy when possible

4. REGULAR BUSINESS

4.1 Treasurer's Report: (note Andy was an apology) Report for AGM by Andy has been email to all.

Sent to committee are the Macastro Financial Report for the period to 31 March 2020.

The Society Bank Account has a balance of \$16374.69 as at 31 March 2020. There are no outstanding cheques to be presented. A payment has been made of \$784.38 to Local Community Insurance Services representing the Society insurance premium for the year. Two outstanding payments are due to be acquitted: To Henry Swierk for Membership expenses \$63.10; to Andy Milton for renewal of PO Box 17 \$130.00. There may be an amount owing of say \$120.00 to Wollondilly Shire Council for use of Dudley Chesham Oval. The PayPal account has a balance of \$283.57. There is a balance of \$3.64 in the No 2 account which represents sundry interest received.

To facilitate operations for the time being the incoming President has pre signed a few cheques for use by the Treasurer. This will overcome the need to have two signatures or approvals for bank payments. The PayPal account can be operated with one approval.

We are still awaiting Graeme Bellamy's Audit Certificate for the Financial Statements for the year to 29 February 2020. I have spoken with him. I expect an audit certificate to be received in the next couple of days.

Report proposed by Andy Milton, Seconded Barry, Passed

4.2 Membership: Henry Swierk

Membership at the end of Mar 2020: Still in flux as members renew.

We have 115 Financial members in total including 6 Hon. and 2 Assoc.

28 members are waiting from our previous billing year to renew. A final notice has been emailed to all concerned.

The committee endorsed Henry to send membership card to 55 members by Aust. Post. (and more if when needed).

The committee accepted that membership awards certificates/badges will need to be posted to members.

Action: Allan to look at printing the certificates as he needs to sign them

The 2020 AGM awards membership Awards are as follows...

20 year badge and certificate (none – 13 have been awarded so far in previous years)

15 year certificate

Tony Law	31 May 2004
Stewart Grainger	15 Nov 2004

10 years Badge and Certificate

Dave Wijesinghe	19 Jun 2009
Pete Elston	26 Aug 2009
Michael Nicholas	26 Aug 2009
Michael Jupe	21 Sept 2009
Christine Jupe	21 Sept 2009
Bryan Gaensler	11 Nov 2009
Barry Moore	2 Dec 2009
Borislav Muratovic	14 Jan 2010

5 Year certificate

Daryl Salmon	7 Jul 2014
Stephen Edwards	23 Jul 2014
Robert Soria	20 Feb 2015

Moved by Henry, seconded by Allan, passed

4.3 Merchandise: no report as we have not had a forum either.

Luke Williams has offered to take on this role after the AGM

4.4 Forum Speakers

20th Apr Les Dalrymple – cancelled (AGM to go ahead – no presenter)

ALL FUTURE FORUMS are cancelled till further notice due to Covid -19 pandemic – possibility of an online or video presentation is being discussed. All presenters are keen and willing to do an on-line forum.

18th May	Dr Luke Barnes (WSU)
15th Jun	Dr Lucyna Chudczer (AAL) – Australian Astronomical League
20th Jul	Dr Kim-Vy Tran (UNSW)
17th Aug	Dr Emil Lenc (ASKAP)
21st Sept	Prof Michael Wheatland (USYD) – the Sun
19th Oct	Prof Geraint Lewis (USYD)
16th Nov	Prof Charley Lineweaver (ANU)
7th Dec	TBA Dr Brad Tucker (NO Students night this year)

4.5 General Business

4.5.1 The Dudley Chesham redevelopment -- on going

4.5.2 "What we do" or "About Us" – Allan Hobbs – pamphlets – on going

4.5.3 Andy to create a Members attendance record at Public outreach night. Currently designing forms for this. On going

4.5.4 Astrofest. June 27th. – cancelled due to Covid-19 Pandemic.

4.5.5 Camden Library - servicing Telescope collection at Camden Libraries

Action: ON HOLD No Further Progress.

4.6 Regular Viewing – All regular Viewing is cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic

4.6.1 Stargard – viewing March 14th – cancelled

Future dates.

April 18th, May 16th, June 13th

July 11th, August 15th, September 12th, October 10th, November 7th, December 5th/12th

4.6.2 The Forest viewing March 21st - Cancelled

Future dates.

April 25th, May 23rd, June 20th:

July 18th, August 22nd, September 19th, October 17th, November 14th, December 12th:

4.6.3 MAS Outreach Nights at the Domes

Members will need to have current WWC numbers – update with Henry (membership officer)

N.B. All public nights are cancelled due COVID-19 pandemic

May 2nd Public night 1

May 30th Public night 2

June 27th Public night 3

July 25th Public Night 4

August 29th Public night 5

September 26th Public night 6

4.7 Other Public Outreach

4.7.1 Mentoring for 2020. All school mentoring activities are cancelled due COVID-19 pandemic

4.7.2 Broughton Anglican School – Science week display to be determined due to Covid-19 Pandemic

Science week Astronomy display Tues 11/8/2020 1.00pm to 5.00pm– Outreach from submitted –Approved by committee.

4.7.3 Australian Botanical Gardens, Narellan

Friday 29th May – Cancelled due to Covid-19 Pandemic

Friday 14th August (Science Week) - Cancelled due to covid-19 pandemic

Email from ABG 18 Mar 2020

Hi everyone, the safety of visitors, contractors, staff and volunteers is important to us and we are implementing measures to protect those most vulnerable in our community.

The Botanic Gardens and Centennial Parklands will continue to remain open to the public at this time and based on the advice from the NSW Department of Education we have postponed all public education programs until 30 June 2020 in response to COVID-19.

This means that we will not run any programs on any of our sites until then.

We have informed the bookings we have had for your programs and refunded them.

We are closely monitoring and responding to government health advice in this rapidly changing environment and we will be in contact when community programs and events are available again.

If you have any queries around, please get in touch. I will give you a call once the cancellation/refund mayhem is over.

Please make sure you and your families stay safe.

Kind regards, Christian Eckardt, Team Leader Education and Community Programs

4.7.4 Students from International House 22 August 2020, Cancelled due to Covid-19 Pandemic

4.8 Members' Trips

4.8.1 JPL May 2021 Tony has circulated a form, provisional trip details and has names of people interested 17 people interested – cut off is 20. In progress.

4.9 Fundraising Nothing to report

4.10 Website, Facebook – Chris is working on this, in progress

4.11 Storing all our display photographs – currently with Tony. A is home needed and person to manage new photo publishing. Still looking for assistance

4.12 Publicity and Secretary report by Barry Moore

Email from Australian Botanic Gardens – see 4.7.3

Only mail was the returned cheque from insurance company

No publicity has been sent for future public forums or public observing due to Covid-19 pandemic

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Nominations for Management committee Position 2020-2021 have been received for all positions and collected by 5th April 2020.

POSITION	NOMINEE	NOMINATOR	SECONDER
President	John Rombi	Jenny Rombi	Phil Kidd
Vice President	Noel Sharpe	Michael Mirecki	Eric Brown
Secretary	Richard Curley	Tony Law	Allan Hobbs
Treasurer	Andrew Milton	Tony Law	Phil Kidd
Committee Position	Henry Swierk	Phil Kidd	Greg Bradford
Committee Position	Greg Bradford	Phil Kidd	Henry Swierk
Committee Position	Phil Kidd	Roger Powell	Jennifer Rombi
Committee Position	Dave Manning	John Rombi	Barry Moore

Note: Richard Curley also nominated for a committee position.

MOTION: That the Macarthur Astronomical Society By-Laws be changed to increase the number of executive committee members in the Macarthur Astronomical Society be increased to Eight (8) from the current Seven (7).

Moved by John Rombi, Seconded by Barry Moore

Discussion: based on advice from Roger Powell, this change is within the scope of the current executive committee and would allow for the extra Committee Position to be filled without the need for an election.

Passed by all present in this meeting.

5.2 Australasian Dark Sky Alliance (ADSA) – item will not progress due to Covid-19 pandemic

5.3 Help required Hume Area Scouts, 18/3/20 from Allan Hobbs – Part email below.

Subject: Help Date: Tue, 17 Mar 2020 23:08:57 +0000

From: David Miller (Scouts Australia NSW - Hume Region) <David.Miller@nsw.scouts.com.au>

To: president@macastro.org.au <president@macastro.org.au>

Hi, we are looking for programs for scouts to be able to do from home and with what they have in their hands. Given our affinity with the outdoors we are looking for any tasks or exercises that they can do as a single unit or in a small group.

As most youth have a phone in hand, we are looking at using those devices for different things rather than social media (*abbreviated*)

.... Hopefully we can generate more interest in Astronomy

Regards David Miller, Regional Development Officer, Hume Region, Scouts Australia NSW

M 0491 631 006, David.miller@nsw.scouts.com.au

The club is not in a position to help (it has no prepared written resources) but recommends that a good web search will provide many activities suitable for individuals. Also, there are many beginners book to astronomy.

6. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:

Scheduled for a date after the week beginning MON **May 18th, 2020** - **Online method and Time STILL TO BE DETERMINED**

7. CLOSE OF MEETING, 14:31

Typed by Barry Moore on 19/04/2020, edited by Richard Curley on 22/04/2020.

Approved by Richard Curley Date 12/05/2020