



PO Box 17 MINTO NSW 2566

MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
Minutes of MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Scheduled for online conference, Monday 08 June 2020 at 19:30

Committee Attending in the online conference: John Rombi (President), Noel Sharpe (Vice President), Andy Milton (Treasurer), Greg Bradford (Committee Member), Henry Swierk (Membership Officer), Dave Manning (Committee Member), Richard Curley (Secretary).

Apologies: Phil Kidd (Committee Member)

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 19:31**
2. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES** for committee meeting held 11/05/2020 Proposed by John seconded by Dave, Passed.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

3.1 Loan Scopes

- 3.1.1 Greg discussed the need to address terms and conditions for members borrowing MAS's loan scopes, that we should move to a six-month loan period after which the scope is returned for another member to use. The need for recipients of loan scopes to be able bodied was also discussed. Greg to draft updated loan agreement.
- 3.1.2 The committee is looking to procure a solar scope for public outreach only. John to canvas if any member is interested in selling a solar scope.
- 3.1.3 Greg to investigate procuring a right-angled finder scope for new 15cm Dobsonian.

4. REGULAR BUSINESS

4.1 Treasurer's Report: Report from Andy emailed 07/06/2020

Sent to committee are the Macastro Financial Report for the period to 31/05/2020.

The Society Bank Account has a balance of \$16520.14 as at 31/05/2020. There are no outstanding cheques to be presented. There may be an amount owing of say \$120.00 to Wollondilly Shire Council for use of Dudley Chesham Oval and an amount of \$47.19 to Richard Curley for NSW Fair Trading lodgement fee. The PayPal account has a balance of \$469.64. There is a balance of \$3.64 in the No 2 account which represents sundry interest received. John has asked Andy to keep a balance of \$30 in the PayPal account to pay for "Zoom" on a monthly basis. Since 31 May we have acquired and paid for a new Skywatcher 6" Dobsonian telescope at the cost of \$449.00.

Included as income in the 2019/20 Financial Statements was an amount of \$1000 received from the Australian Botanic Gardens. The Society agreed to undertake three events for the Botanic Gardens in respect of this donation. The committee has agreed that this commitment may need to be fulfilled in the future depending on ABG needs, NSW government advice on COVID-19 virus and members responses to COVID-19 situation at the time.

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. Noel, Richard, Andy and John have arranged to visit CBA Ingleburn on the 9/06/2020 to change signatories for new committee members.

Report proposed by John, Seconded Greg. Passed

4.2 Membership: Henry Swierk

Membership at the end of May 2020: Memberships finalised for renewal period 2020.
We have 126 Financial members in total including 6 Hon. and 2 Assoc.

Two new members George Mosca and Joshua Beniston joined during the month, two long term members still not renewed, one is not contactable, and membership has lapsed while one is disputing already paid. This could affect the figure of 126 members.

All membership cards and membership awards certificates/badges have been posted to members.

Moved by Richard, seconded by Noel, 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, currently Andy is storing the merchandise.

4.4 Forum Speakers

Until further notice, all future forums will be held online via 'Zoom' web app. All presenters are keen and willing to participate online.

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

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

4.5.4 Camden Library - servicing Telescope collection at Camden Libraries

Action: Resolved to audit scopes and provide advice on repairs and maintenance needed.

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

4.6.1 Stargard – viewing May 16th – cancelled

Future dates.

June 13th, July 11th, August 15th, September 12th, October 10th, November 7th, December 5th/12th.

4.6.2 The Forest viewing May 23rd - Cancelled

Future dates.

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 2 nd	Public night 1
May 30 th	Public night 2
June 27 th	Public night 3
July 25 th	Public Night 4
August 29 th	Public night 5
September 26 th	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 form submitted –Approved by committee.

4.7.3 Macarthur Anglican School – Proposed 1 hour session late May – early June, to be delivered by Phil Kidd.

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. Tony to be contacted to find out status of trip in regard to COVID-19.

4.9 Fundraising - Richard contacted Department of Fair Trading 12/05/2020, as a registered association we can raise money to fund our operations without a permit. 2020 Return and Earn application submitted – awaiting response from TOMRA.

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

Email from Australian Botanic Gardens – see 4.7.3

Mail checked, no mail.

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

5. NEW BUSINESS

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

5.2 Facebook friends; it was raised that when introducing a new contact on Facebook the term ‘Facebook Member’ has been used causing confusion to some Facebook users that they are financial member of MAS. The reference to Facebook member will not be used moving forward and the pre-amble on Facebook will be changed to let Facebook users know membership of the Facebook user group does not entitle financial membership of MAS.

6. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:

Monday July 13th, 2020 – 19:30, online Zoom meeting.

7. CLOSE OF MEETING, 20:46

Typed by Richard Curley on 09/06/2020.

Approved by Richard Curley Date 16/07/2020