



PO Box 17 MINTO NSW 2566

MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
Minutes of MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Scheduled for online conference, Monday 13 July 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), Phil Kidd (Committee Member), Richard Curley (Secretary).

Apologies:

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 19:30**
2. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES** for committee meeting held 8/06/2020 Proposed by John seconded by Dave, Passed.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

3.1 Loan Scopes

- 3.1.1 The Loan Telescopes page on the Webpage has been updated with information and photos for the new telescope and binoculars. The Telescope Loan Agreement has been updated to reflect the new terms and conditions.
- 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 has purchased a RA finderscope and a pair of Saxon 10x50 binoculars to supplement to our loan equipment, price \$267.00.

4. REGULAR BUSINESS

4.1 Treasurer's Report: Report from Andy emailed 12/07/2020

Macarthur Astronomical Society Financial Report to 30 June 2020. The Society cheque account has a balance of \$16068.14 as at 30 June. The PayPal account has a balance of \$503.82 at month end.

Since 30 June, the following payments have been made from the PayPal account:

Greg Bradford \$267.00 for Binoculars & RA finderscope.

Tony Law \$82.45 for Forest expenses.

There are no other outstanding payments I am aware of at this time.

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.

Moved by John Rombi Seconded by Greg Bradford.

4.2 Membership: Henry Swierk

Membership at the end of June 2020.

We have 127 Financial members in total including 6 Hon. and 2 Assoc.

A new members Naomi Cooper joined during the month; one long term member renewed.

Moved by John Rombi Seconded by Dave Manning.

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.

New merchandise table will be needed when we start up 'live' forums again. Andy to source closer to that date.

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.

20th Jul Prof Roberto Soria (NAOC)
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 site:

4.5.1.1 Wollondilly council was not successful with its grant application to redevelop Dudley Chesham site, although the council will be using its current funds to continue with the planning phase. MAS will still be consulted during this planning phase. The council plans to continue the development when it secures the funds.

4.5.1.2 MAS has request that more trees be planted on the eastern side of the site to minimise suburban lights.

4.5.2 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 June 13th

Future dates.

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

4.6.2 The Forest viewing June 20th - Cancelled

Future dates.

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

4.7 Other Public Outreach

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

4.7.3 Macarthur Anglican School – First session (a study in astronomical calculations) delivered by Phil Kidd in June, possibly one more session to be delivered.

4.8 Members' Trips – None planed due to COVID-19.

4.9 Fundraising - Response from TOMRA was that many organisations have applied and since MAS has already been given a period it was unlikely to be given another soon.

Greg Bradford is working on a delivery link (via barcode) that anyone can use across the state to donate to MAS via 'Return & Earn'. Should be live within the next month.

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

4.10.1 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 known membership of the Facebook user group does not entitle financial membership of MAS.

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

Mail checked, no mail.

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

Richard is storing MAS roll-up advertising stands.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 The Forest, International House Belanglo property is to be closed and bulldozed, this mean we could lose this as an observing site.

The contact at SYD Uni is current on leave so until John can talk to her in a month there is no imminent problem with using the cabin.

5.2 Discuss an award / certificate for Bob Bee: John circulated the certificate / award for Bob, a small group will visit Bob within the next week to present Bob with the award, all our thought are with Bob and his family at this most difficult time.

5.3 The committee will start to investigate the benefits of using Zoom when there is an end to the COVID pandemic and if there is a demand from the members for these services.

6. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:

Monday August 10th, 2020 – 19:30, online Zoom meeting.

7. CLOSE OF MEETING, 20:38

Typed by Richard Curley on 10/07/2020, edited on 04/08/2020.

Approved by Richard Curley Date 10/08/2020