



PO Box 17 MINTO NSW 2566

MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
Minutes of MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Scheduled for online conference, Monday 10 August 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 13/07/2020 Proposed by Dave Manning seconded by Greg Bradford, Passed.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

3.1 Bob Bee

- 3.1.1 On the 15th July, a small contingent from MAS presented Bob with his award at his home, Bob was very grateful, emotional and surprised on receiving the awards.

On the 3rd August Bob Bee passed away, MAS lost a foundering member, great contributor and wonderful friend. All our thoughts are with Bob's family and friends in this most difficult time.

Bob's Funeral service will be held on the 11/08/2020 at Campbelltown Uniting Church, due to COVID-19 regulations a small contingent will be representing MAS.

- 3.1.2 Bob has bequeathed to MAS the intellectual property rights to his books and articles on astronomy, at the appropriate time the society will take ownership and archive the files.

3.2 Zoom / Online meetings post COVID-19

- 3.2.1 The committee will start to investigate the benefits of using Zoom when there is an end to the COVID-19 pandemic and if there is a demand from the members for these services.

The online forum meetings have been running for four months, the attendance from the members has been disappointing.

One of the advantages of continuing with Zoom is the ability to record and archive meeting and lectures, currently we can only store one meeting on Zoom, the committee will investigate an online vendor to store our meeting for member to be able to retrieve.

3.3 The Forest Cabin

- 3.3.1 The Forest, International House Belanglo property is to be closed and bulldozed, this mean we could lose this as an observing site, there is no imminent problem with using the cabin.

After recent discussions with International House, we will look into the feasibility in managing the cabin for them, so that the cabin will continue to be available for our observing weekends.

4. REGULAR BUSINESS

4.1 Treasurer's Report: Report from Andy, emailed 10/08/2020.

Macarthur Astronomical Society Financial Report to 31 July 2020. The Society cheque account has a balance of \$16219.14 as at 31 July. The PayPal account has a balance of \$238.12 at month end.

Since 31 July, the PayPal account has been credited with \$36.00 (net \$34.76) being membership for Phillip Hyamson. An amount of \$50.50 has been paid to Henry Swierk for membership 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 Phil Kidd Seconded by Greg Bradford.

4.2 Membership: Henry Swierk

Membership at the end of July 2020.

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

Two new members Anjanna Sharma and Phillip Hyamson have submitted applications from the start of August.

Moved by Andy Milton Seconded by Richard Curley.

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

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.

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 Noel is having a meeting (11/08/2020) on the field at the pony club to discuss planting on the east side of the field. Requested a new contact at the pony club.

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 restricted due to Covid-19 pandemic to 20 people at Stargard and 10 people at The Forest cabin.

4.6.1 Stargard – viewing August 15th

Future dates.

September 12th, October 10th, November 7th, December 5th/12th.

4.6.2 The Forest viewing August 22nd

Future dates.

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 - Return and Earn barcode photos for wallet and phone have been posted on Facebook and the Website for anyone to use. Greg has tested and reported the link working.

Greg proposed to add Return and Earn barcode to the back of membership cards, need to work out if it can fit with the laser pointer guidelines.

No donations received as of the current date.

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.

4.10.2 Members emails come from Henry's spread sheet; Henry has asked John to confirm that the email list is current with the new members.

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.

4.13 Loan Scopes.

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. Currently on hold for a few months.

Greg to manage telescope loans and returns regarding COVID-10 virus.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Discuss adult children being members on family memberships and possible change to MAS constitution to clarify this type of membership.

The committee agreed on the following wording for changes to family membership definition:

‘Family membership is open to couples and singles parents / guardians, and their dependent children under the age of eighteen. Voting rights are limited to adults.’

The committee agreed on the following wording for changes to student membership definition:

Student membership is any person eighteen years of age or older studying at university or college. Full membership will be required when student status is no longer held by the student member

Current membership status will remain until the end of the current financial year.

5.2 Discuss minor amendments to tidy up By-Law references to the committee.

Greg to review and re-write by-laws.

6. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:

Monday September 14th, 2020 – 19:30, online Zoom meeting.

7. CLOSE OF MEETING, 20:38

Typed by Richard Curley on 04/08/2020.

Approved by Richard Curley Date 29/09/2020