



PO Box 17 MINTO NSW 2566

MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
Minutes of MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Scheduled for online conference, Tuesday 28 September 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), Roger Powell (Webmaster).

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 19:31

2. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES** for committee meeting held 10/08/2020 Proposed by Richard Curley seconded by Phil Kidd, Passed.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

3.1 Bob Bee

- 3.1.1 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.

We will open Zoom up to the general membership if they have any society events they may wish to host on Zoom, John Rombi can help facilitate the meeting setup.

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.

Discussion with Jessica from International House, MAS is the main user of the cabin so we will still be able to use the cabin for our observing weekends. There has been a proposal to be able to use the cabin ad hoc on other weekends, the committee will investigate a solution.

4. REGULAR BUSINESS

4.1 Treasurer's Report: Report from Andy, emailed 03/09/2020.

Attached please find Macarthur Astronomical Society Financial Report for the period to 31 August 2020. The society cheque account has a balance of \$16219.14 as of 31 August 2020. There were no transactions in the society bank account during the month. The PayPal account has a balance of \$201.79.

As far as I am aware there are no outstanding payments that are currently due to be paid.

The society term deposit is due for renewal during the next month or so, treasurer will determine the terms for the next rollover.

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 142 Financial members in total including 6 Hon. and 2 Assoc.

Twelve new members, including Nella Scott, Patrica Hunt Rodney Absolon and Jansz (5) family in August. Also, Davies family (2) and the Crocker family (4) have submitted applications from the start of September.

Moved by Dave Manning Seconded by Noel Sharpe .

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.

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 had having a meeting (11/08/2020) on the field at the pony club, new tree planting approved.

4.5.2 Camden Library - servicing Telescope collection at Camden Libraries, there is a new person in charge at the library.

Action: John and Greg to audit scopes only, it's up to the library to find a third party to carry out maintenance.

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 October 10th

Future dates.

November 7th, December 5th/12th.

4.6.2 The Forest viewing October 17th

Future dates.

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 & Earn – See New Business 5.1

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 know 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.

4.10.3 Roger discussed with the committee the troubles with society's current website and that the new website is close to go-live.

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.

4.14 Changes to MAS Constitution and By-laws

4.14.1 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 single 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'

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

'Pensioner membership with the right to vote includes any person receiving a government support or aged pension, also a retired person over the age of sixty years old.'

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

John and I have had feedback from Roger Powell regarding how to proceed with changes to our constitution. Roger has had previous experience in wide-ranging changes to MAS constitution in 2011.

Richard to write change of constitution proposal for the committee to review of next meeting.

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

Greg has rewritten the by-laws around committee structure and positions, committee to review.

Committee to read and be ready to approve by-law changes by next meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Quote for new members cards

Greg has forwarded quotes for new members cards, committee to discuss.

Committee decided to order five hundred cards.

5.2 Governor Brisbane Observatory exhibition

Discuss correspondence with event organisers

After discussion with event organiser's there is great potential in partnering with the National Trust for this event. If COVID-19 conditions still persist, options are a static display with a talk about Carl Rumker and Stargard. The event is scheduled for 3/06/2021.

5.3 Cloud storage for society files and documents

Richard to investigate vendors for cloud storage.

6. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:

Monday October 26th, 2020 – 19:30, online Zoom meeting.

7. CLOSE OF MEETING 21:34,

Typed by Richard Curley on 28/09/2020.

Approved by Richard Curley Date 26/10/2020

Appendix:

Hi John and Richard,

Thank you both for asking me about the procedures for changing the MAS Constitution. I have based the following comments on my experience as convenor of the Constitutional Review Sub-committee back in 2011 and as mover of the motion to adopt wide-ranging changes at the 2011 Annual General Meeting. I hope it assists in some way.

Step 1. Review

The committee sets up a process of reviewing the Constitution, either by committee as a whole (if changes are small) or by a sub-committee (if a lot of changes are anticipated).

Section 11 governs how the Constitution can be amended.

When the proposed amendments are formulated and agreed in principle by the committee, the membership should be informed of the full details and given (say) two or three weeks to comment in writing. (This is not a constitutional requirement but is an informal way of including the members in the review process and ensuring that the eventual vote becomes more of a formality).

The committee considers the members written comments and votes on a final proposal to be put to a vote of the membership at a Special General Meeting or at an AGM.

Step 2. Notice to Members

Following this committee decision, members must then be given a full month's formal notice of details of the proposed motion to change the Constitution before attending a Special General Meeting - via journal, website and e-mail (section 11b) - and at least 14 days notice of the meeting itself. (section 6.4e).

Under Section 6.2, a Special Meeting can be held by a simple resolution of the committee. The Special General Meeting may be held either separately or as a module inside an Ordinary General Meeting (Forum) - in the same way that the AGM is normally held.

Step 3. Approval

The conduct of all general meetings, (Annual, Special or Ordinary) is described in Section 6.4.

A quorum must be present: double the number of members on the Management Committee plus one, i.e. $(8 \times 2) + 1 = 17$ members must be present at the commencement of the meeting. (6.4a)

Adjournment provisions apply (6.2c) if there is no quorum.

A motion to amend the constitution should be moved and seconded by two committee members and discussion is permitted before the vote.

Whilst general business matters require only a simple majority (6.4g iii) to pass, amendments to the Constitution require 75% of the votes of those members present at the meeting. (11c)

Voting is by show of hands (although provision exists for a secret ballot - tricky at a Zoom meeting).

Every member present may vote and if the vote is tied, the chairperson shall have a second or casting vote. (6.4g v)

The Secretary shall minute the Special General Meeting and if passed, the motion is to be submitted by application to Fair Trading and will become effective on the date of approval of the application.

Best regards,
Roger