



PO Box 17 MINTO NSW 2566

MACARTHUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
Minutes of MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Scheduled for online conference, Tuesday 26 October 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 28/09/2020 Proposed by Phil Kidd seconded by Greg Bradford, Passed.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

3.1 Governor Brisbane Observatory exhibition

3.1.1 John Rombi received an Email from Ragbhir from the Royal Society to help with a function during July 2021, as MAS is already committed to help the National Trust in June 2020, this would be too much for us to commit too so we will respectfully decline the offer.

3.2 Proposal for Changes to Constitution and By-laws

3.2.1 Discuss document to put to members

3.2.2 Discuss and approve Greg's by-law changes

3.3 Cloud File Storage

3.3.1 Discuss cloud storage, on hold while we go live with new website. There is an opportunity to 'piggy-back off' the website cloud storage.

4. REGULAR BUSINESS

4.1 Treasurer's Report: Report from Andy, emailed 25/10/2020.

Attached please find the Macastro Financial Report for the period to 30 September 2020. AS at 30 September the Society Cheque Account balance was \$16270.14. The PayPal Account balance was \$200.67. Since that date the following transactions have occurred to 24 October on the Society Bank Account and PayPal.

Bank Account: Current balance \$17145.14. 35 members have deposited \$25.00 each for a copy of Astronomy 2021. An amount of \$871.65 is payable Quasar Publishing for 39 copies of Astronomy.

PayPal Account: Current Balance \$237.68. On 29 October Luke Williams deposited \$50.00 in the account. I am not sure what this amount represents. \$9.70 has been received from Bottle bank. \$23.09 was paid to Zoom for a meeting.

The society's term deposit is due for renewal, the new rate is around 0.65% for a year.

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

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 Andy Milton Seconded by Dave Manning.

4.2 Membership: Henry Swierk

Membership at the end of September 2020.

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

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____.

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.

16th Nov Prof Charley Lineweaver (ANU)

7th Dec TBA Dr Brad Tucker (NO Students night this year)

At present there is no forum speaker for January 2021.

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 a meeting with a council representative and new planting for the east side of the pony club has been approved.

4.5.2 Camden Library – New person in charge at Oran Park library.

Action: John and Greg to assess the scopes and suggest repairs and maintenance needed to scopes, no repairs to be carried out by MAS.

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, a decision will be made before first term 2021 on the school mentoring program for 2021.

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

4.9 Fundraising - Return and Earn – The Earn & Return card have just arrived, Greg will test to make sure the barcode on them works before mailing to members. Members can request a second card if needed, the surplus will be kept for replacements and possible events in the future.

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

4.10.1 Our webmaster Roger Powell inform the committee on the problems involved in keeping the current website operating on a day to day basis, to this end Chris and Roger have been working on a new website on a WordPress platform, the website is still not finished but Roger is confident that we will soon be able to go-live with the new website.

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.

All scopes are currently out on loan.

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.

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.

4.15 Bob Bee

4.15.1 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.

4.16 Zoom / Online Meeting

4.16.1 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.

4.16.2 We will offer the use of the society's Zoom facility to any member that may wish to train, educate or meet and the committee deems acceptable.

4.16.3 John needs to organise for at least one other person to be able to login in and administrate Zoom for the society's requirements.

4.17 The Forest Cabin

4.17 After talks between John and Jessica the cabin can still be used as we are the main group using the facility. It was proposed that we could use the cabin for extra night during the monthly cycle, this is being investigated.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Presentation of our Facebook page, making the benefits of financial membership more obvious. We have ten times more Facebook friends than financial members. We should show off the society's event's on Facebook to try and attract me members.

5.2 Allowing other organisations to advertise on our Facebook site. Facebook admins to change settings and/or policies on Facebook to allow no advertising

5.3 "Beginners Stargard", so laser pointing doesn't interfere with imaging, committee has discussed the possibility of a Beginners night at Stargard.

6. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:

Monday 23rd November 2020 – 19:30, online Zoom meeting.

7. CLOSE OF MEETING, 09:21 pm.

Typed by Richard Curley on 23/11/2020.

Approved by, Richard Curley

Date 23/11/2020