

BRISBANE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
MINUTES OF THE 2024-25 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MONDAY OCTOBER 21st 2024

LOCATION: Conducted online via Zoom, Monday October 21st, starting at 7:30pm.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: Peter Allison, Paul Baker, Dean Stewart, Nathan Eikenbary, Subbarao Sivakumar, Ken Wishaw, Mike Zupanc

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE APOLOGIES: Nil.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE: 22 BAS general members were in attendance.

The meeting declared open by the President at 7:37pm

The President shared a link to the 2023 AGM Minutes and briefly reviewed the contents. A motion was put to the members to accept the Minutes of the 2023 AGM.

Motion: **Acceptance of the Minutes of the 2023-24 Annual General Meeting**

Proposed : Peter Allison

Seconded : Mike Zupanc

Motion : Carried by member vote.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The BAS President, Peter Allison, reported to members on progress during the preceding 12 months.

Thank you to all BAS Management Committee members for their time and effort to keep BAS operating and progressing.

BAS currently has about 150 members across SE Queensland. The Sunshine Coast now represents at least half of the membership.

BAS has maintained a very active member and public events calendar over the year, but somewhat weather affected:

Many monthly public and member's events scheduled on Sunshine Coast, Brisbane, outer-Brisbane fringe, and Warwick.

Multiple events conducted for the public and for schools.

Currently transitioning public Mt Coot-tha Lookout events to Witton Barracks, Indooroopilly.

The President encourage members to utilise these events or volunteer their time and skills to help deliver future events.

BAS has maintained an active School Night program across metro-Brisbane. However poor weather has had a substantial impact on the program over the last 12 months.

BAS is always seeking more volunteers to deliver its public outreach and schools program.
Thank you, Mike Zupanc, for managing the many school booking inquiries

Rental equipment program - thank you to Siva for making the Viberent system available to BAS to manage our equipment rental program. However, better records of the status, location and users of our equipment is required.

More equipment custodians are required, rather than have equipment sitting idle in our Indooroopilly storage unit.

The provision of improved equipment storage at Witton Barracks, Indooroopilly, has been very beneficial for BAS.

During the year, and following a decision by BAS Committee, the BAS library was disbanded. Books donated to Corinda State High School.

In 2023 at a General Meeting of members, the decision was made to form a Darling Downs branch of BAS. Substantial progress has been made on this initiative via partnership with the Warwick and District Archers (WDA) on their Rosenthal height site.

The President expressed his thanks to Warwick and District Archers and their Committee.

BAS now listed on the Warwick Council WDA site lease. This places BAS in a position to seek grants for site facilities.

WDA has provided excellent site access to BAS for monthly new moon weekends, plus 365-day access for members.

WDA is also providing temporary access to 20ft storage container for equipment storage and overnight accommodation.

Further work is progressing on the WDA site – 12 telescope setup pads are in development.

240V power in process of connection to WDA facilities. Grants will be sought to extend power to the telescope setup area.

BAS now progressing approvals, grant funding, and construction of a site shed for multi-night accommodation for BAS members.

The president encourages BAS members to utilize the site.

BAS is in a very sound financial position. We have the ability to invest for the benefit of members.

Investment projects for improved astronomy facilities will be investigated for Maleny/Obi Obi Valley and the Warwick Archers site.

Members encouraged to actively discuss the future of BAS and investment plans.

Members are also encouraged to be active in BAS and its events, particularly events held in Brisbane, Calvert and Warwick.

MALENY OBSERVATORY REPORT

Ken Wishaw reported on the operation of BAS activities at the Maleny Observatory and on the wider Sunshine Coast.

Sunshine Coast astronomy activities continue to grow.

Our mailing list for events has grown from 56 to 80 over the last 12 months.

Our Facebook follower numbers have grown from 2,300 to 3,100.

Our Society members-only nights typically attract 10-25 members.

Our public nights have exploded. Most nights having in excess of 150 people.

This is largely due to the efforts of Dean Stewart who has created a free ticketing and marketing process.

Paul Baker has successfully recently achieved a grant of \$2,500 from the Sunshine Coast Regional Council for a new overhead projector. This will increase the capacity of the marquee by 20 people.

BAS purchased Dean's 14 inch go-to Dobsonian telescope and it is available for all BAS members to use.

Paul Nathan and Dean have all been active with me in running the presentations at the public nights and it is great to have multiple people who can run the shows.

The Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve process continues to progress, but at a snail's pace. I meet monthly with council officers to keep the project going forward.

The local state member- Andrew Powell, has stated that if the LNP are victorious next week, \$250,000 will be located to improve outdoor and street lighting in Maleny.

Thank you to all who attend Maleny and make it such a success.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial Year - 2023/24

	FY 2023-24	FY 2022-23
Total Income for all months	\$12,594	\$9,915
Total Expenses for all months	\$13,518	\$4,255
Profit/Loss	-\$925	\$5,660

2024 - Main Revenue Items:

Membership	\$2,250
Donations - schools & public nights	\$4,026
Grant - Kedron Wavell for Unistellar Telescope	\$4,250

2024 - Main Expense Items:

Website and email, membership - DP Technologies	\$250
Equipment Purchase – Unistellar Telescope	\$4,695
Equipment Purchase - 14" Dobsonian	\$3,500
Warwick Archers - site maintenance, mowing	\$500
Warwick Archers - contribution towards 240v connection	\$2,000

The main differences between the 2022-23 and 2023-24 financial year performance were:

- Reduced school and public night donations in 2023-24 due to poor weather.
- Increased expenditure on equipment purchases and Warwick observing site development in 2023-24.

As at June 30th 2024, the BAS Bank of Queensland account balances were:

- Cheque Account: \$13,105.22
- Two term deposit Investment accounts: \$35,000.00

The Treasurer declared BAS to be in a strong financial condition and capable of investing in its future.

The Present of BAS has reviewed the Treasurer's Report, all monthly transactions and Bank of Queensland accounts and assesses the above reported information to be true and correct.

- Motion: **Acceptance of the BAS 2024 Management Committee Report**
- Proposed : Peter Allison
- Seconded : Harry Todd
- Motion : Carried by member vote

Election of the 2024-25 BAS Management Committee

All positions on the 2023-24 Management Committee now declared vacant.

Any further nominations from the floor? No further nominations.

BAS members nominated for positions on the 2024-25 Management Committee are as follows:

- Peter Allison – President
- Paul Baker
- Nathan Eikenbary
- Siva Sivakumar - Treasurer
- Dean Stewart – Secretary
- Ken Wishaw
- Mike Zupanc

- Motion: Acceptance of all nominees to the BAS 2024-25 Management Committee
- Proposed : Peter Allison
- Seconded : Dazee Dazeford
- Motion : Carried by member vote

The President declared the 2024 Annual General Meeting closed at 8:03pm