

# Royal Astronomical Society of New Zealand

Minutes of the RASNZ Affiliated Societies meeting held on Friday, May 23th 2008, at Godley Resort Hotel, Lake Tekapo, commencing at 4:00pm.

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The vice-chairman, Dennis Goodman, opened the meeting at approximately 4:00pm.

## **Present:**

Dennis Goodman chairing, Pam Kilmartin (Secretary),

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Society.</u></b>
Euan Mason	Canterbury Astronomical Society
Vicki Irons	Wellington Astronomical Society
Robert Rea	Astronomy Section, Nelson Science Society
Steve Butler	Southland Astronomical Society
Peter Jacquery	Dunedin Astronomical Society
Ross Skilton	Wanganui Astronomical Society
Grant Christie	Auckland Astronomical Society
Graham Palmer	Hawkes Bay Astronomical Society
Duncan Hall	Gifford Observatory Trust
Marc Bos	Northern Observational Astronomy Association

Also present were Brian Loader, (RASNZ Vice President), Pauline Loader (RASNZ treasurer), Paul Rodmell, Jennie McCormick, Gary Sparks, Martin Unwin, Bob Evans, and Rudy Zondag, as observers.

## **1. Apologies:**

Apologies were received from the president Karen Pollard and from the Tauranga, Whakatane and Foxton Beach Astronomical Societies.

**Moved:** That the apologies be accepted. / Dennis Goodman, Pam Kilmartin. Carried.

## **2. Minutes of the previous meeting:**

**Moved:** That the minutes of the previous meeting, held in Manukau, June 2007, be taken as read. /Grant Christie, Ross Skilton. – Carried.

## **3. Matters arising from the minutes:**

3. Capitation fee increase: Pauline Loader reported that the RASNZ council had considered the recommendation of the Affiliated Societies Committee for an increase in the capitation fee from 3% to 5%, the extra to go to the Gifford-Eiby capital. The treasurer sent out notices to the societies inviting discussion. One reply, that the increase was acceptable, had been received.

## **4. Election of vice-chairman**

The chair called for nominations for the vice-chairman of the committee, as this is an election year for RASNZ.

Graham Palmer and Ross Skilton nominated Dennis Goodman.

There being no further nominations, Dennis was declared to be elected.

#### **5. Election of two members to RASNZ Council**

The chair called for nominations for two members of the RASNZ Council.

Euan Mason and Graham Palmer nominated Martin Unwin.

Grant Christie and Ross Skilton nominated Jennie McCormick.

There being no further nominations, Martin and Jennie were declared to be elected.

#### **6. CAS library presentation by Martin Unwin**

Martin Unwin described the cataloguing of the Canterbury Astronomical Society's books at West Melton Observatory using a web site [www.LibraryThing.com](http://www.LibraryThing.com). This was set up for people with private book collections but has also been extensively used by small clubs and groups who need to have their members aware of what is in their collection, but whose caretakers have little time for formal library cataloguing and listing. Up to 500 books can be listed free, over this number there is a fee starting from \$10. The books can be listed privately if this is desired, but most lists are publicly available.

There are Groups which can be added, and Martin has set up a Group for New Zealand Astronomy. Books can be entered as a list in a text file; or if the ISBN is known, that can be used to achieve the catalogue list. Or if you have the same book as in another library, its cataloguing details can be copied.

Discussion at the meeting ranged over the possibilities of interloans, exchange of duplicates, usefulness for other affiliated societies.

Duncan Hall moved a vote of thanks to Martin for sharing this resource.

#### **7. IYA 2009 plans**

It had been hoped that Marilyn Head, RASNZ publicity officer and NZ contact for the International Year of Astronomy 2009, could be present to tell the meeting about the NZ plans, but she was not available.

The chair asked if any society was prepared to share its own plans for the event. Gary Sparks said they planned to have some sidewalk astronomy days, with Dobsonian telescopes and solar filters. Bob Evans said that Southland AS was planning in conjunction with Southland Museum a travelling exhibition of NZ astronomical photographs. Steve Butler spoke of the Dark Sky Group's hopes for IYA as a stimulus for media coverage. Pauline Loader said that RASNZ council had agreed to the Southland AS's initiative, and would like to hear what is planned by other societies. The RASNZ conference will be in Wellington in 2009, and could coincide with talks or displays or lists of events.

It was asked if there is a link to the site [www.astronomy2009.com](http://www.astronomy2009.com) from the RASNZ web page. Brian (RASNZ website controller) replied that there is a link on the front page.

**8 General Business**

- 8.1** Grant Christie relayed a request from Marilyn Head that information on the RASNZ web page about all the affiliated societies should be checked and updated regularly, as one of the difficulties encountered in distributing information about IYA2009 was finding out who in each society could be contacted. Jennie McCormick asked for all present to put their details on a circulated paper, for future reference. Peter Jacquiery remarked that the Dunedin AS had its own entry in Wikipedia, but RASNZ had not.
- 8.2** Steve Butler said that at last year's Affiliated Societies committee meeting he had mentioned that the Dark Sky Group was making a template for societies to use in preparing submissions to local authorities for lighting ordinances. This was now available, and some hard copies would be handed out during the conference. It was suggested that other copies could go out with the minutes of the meeting.
- 8.3** Brian Loader (RASNZ webmaster) remarked that copies of the Annual General Meeting minutes were on the web page, and that the minutes of the Affiliated Societies committee could also be made available there. **Moved:** that the minutes of this committee be placed on the RASNZ web page, Duncan Hall seconded by Peter Jacquiery. Carried.
- 8.4** Jennie McCormick asked if there was a fund for affiliated societies representatives to get CDs of the library presentation by Martin Unwin to send out to the societies, as well as for letters etc to be posted. Pauline Loader replied that RASNZ could cover reasonable costs of such postings.
- 8.5** Future conferences: Dennis Goodman informed the meeting that the 2009 conference would be held in Wellington, probably at about the same time of year, last weekend in May; that it would be longer, probably lasting Friday to Tuesday. The 2010 conference would be held in Dunedin, to coincide with the DAS's centenary year; it would be at the very desirable location of the Otago Museum. The 2011 conference would possibly be at Napier but no definite arrangement had been made yet. Brian Loader said that 2012 being the year of the Venus transit could mean that the conference arrangements might be altered – the transit is midweek, do we hold the conference in that week, or before, or after? Further discussion included the remark from Ross Skilton that local societies probably needed to be at their own places for the transit, which was likely to draw a large public interest.

The meeting closed at 5 pm.

President: .....

Date: .....