

Royal Astronomical Society of New Zealand

Minutes of the RASNZ Affiliated Societies meeting held on Friday, 22 May 2009, at the Quality Hotel, Cuba Street, Wellington , commencing at 5:00pm.

The President Dr Grant Christie opened the meeting at approximately 5:10pm.

Present:

Grant Christie, chairman, also representing Auckland Astronomical Society,
Brian Loader (Secretary),

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Society</u> |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Ian Crumpton | Canterbury Astronomical Society |
| Antony Gomez | Phoenix Astronomical Society |
| Rudy Zondag | Astronomy Section, Nelson Science Society |
| Steve Butler | Southland Astronomical Society |
| Peter Jaquier | Dunedin Astronomical Society |
| Deborah Hambly | Skydome Observers Group |
| Marc Bos | Northern Observational Astronomy Association |
| Andy Dodson | New Plymouth Astronomical Society |
| Ross Skilton | Wanganui Astronomical Society |

Also present were Dennis Goodman, (vice chairman), Pauline Loader (RASNZ treasurer), Jennie McCormick and Martin Unwin (affiliated societies Council representatives) , Bob Evans as observer.

1. Apologies:

Apologies were received from Mary Sandri (North Otago AS), Graham Palmer (Hawkes Bay AS), Whakatane AS and Barbara Ives.

Moved: “That the apologies be accepted.” Grant Christie/ Dennis Goodman, **carried.**

2. Minutes of the previous meeting:

The minutes of the previous meeting held at Tekapo on 23 May 2008 had been placed on the RASNZ web site.

Moved: “That the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record.” Grant Christie/ Jennie, **carried.**

3. Matters arising from the minutes:

Ross Skilton said the Wanganui Society backed the rise in subscriptions

4. Discussion regarding “Staying in Touch” and the Affiliated Society Webpage

Jennie asked for comment on her various communications and if they were useful. She also asked how much was the webpage was used by the affiliated societies?

Dennis asked if they were not being used, why that was so?

Steve (Southland AS) expressed thanks for the improvement in communications.

Jennie said there was a problem knowing who to send “Staying in Touch” to. She also asked that any news which societies wished to advertise should be sent to her for inclusion.

Ian (Canterbury AS) commented on the work put in and the value in knowing what is going on.

Andy (New Plymouth AS) said he had not been receiving the publication, perhaps it was being sent to Rod Austin?

Grant indicated it depended on the action of the people to whom it was sent to make sure it was distributed further.

Antony (Phoenix AS) indicated it should be emailed to him and that it would be distributed from there.

Ross (Wanganui AS) asked about an email address for the Hawera Astronomical Society.

Jennie said that all emails were working.

Deborah (Skydome Observers) suggested that a list of societies should be published in Southern Stars and in the Enews. A list of addresses was needed. The secretary asked for updated addresses for the web site, the membership secretary said she would also like them.

Grant commented on the success of the IYA and the value of promoting astronomy widely. Much of the success of the IYA had been due to the efforts of Jennie.

5 General Business

(i) 2012 Transit of Venus

Peter Jaquiere said that Ash Pennell of the Dunedin Astronomical Society has raised the idea of co-ordinating 2012 activities for example in terms of publicity. He also suggested using live feeds as had been done for the IYA so that any places with a view of the transit could act as a feed to places with cloud. Peter asked Jennie for society contacts. The event should raise worldwide interest.

Bob said that the BAA had produced filters for the 2004 transit, and suggested that societies look at producing filters for the 2012 event. It was a possible project for the RASNZ.

Grant said there was a need for a committee to plan for the event and for overseas visitors.

Deborah commented there had been all day coverage of the 2004 transit in the UK.

Grant commented that a suitable lecture tour should be arranged in conjunction with the coming RASNZ lecture fund.

Moved: "That the meeting recommend that the RASNZ organise a public event round the 2012 transit of Venus involving local societies". Ian Crumpton/ Jennie McCormick, carried unanimously.

(ii) Events in association with the IYA

Gordon (Wellington AS) indicated that a number of evening events were being organised by the Wellington Astronomical Society as part of the IYA events. These included:

- Matariki, a full week of events at the library and at Te Papa starting June 8
- July 21 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Moon Landings
- October 5 a full week on light pollution involving three talks from Steve Butler. The Wellington City Council was supporting this.

Jennie asked to be sent full details.

Steve appreciated the work that Gordon was doing and was very happy to be in a spokesman role. We are not attempting to sell the idea of turning off lighting, because is the control of lighting is much more important. The approach is to get people thinking about the implications of bad lighting.

Gordon said he had been talking to the Porirua City Council regarding cutting down the projected \$200,000 increase in power charges for lighting costs.

Ross spoke of the problem with sports ground lighting on a ground close to the Wanganui Observatory. They were attempting to get the local Council to support good lighting design.

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(iii) Phoenix Astronomical Society

The president, Grant Christie, welcomed the Phoenix Astronomical Society and Antony Gomez their president. We looked forward to working with the society.

(iv) 2012 RASNZ Conference

Dennis Goodman as chair of the RASNZ Standing Conference Committee indicated that the SCC would be inviting application for offers to host the 2012 conference. It would be in association with the Transit of Venus, so is likely to be held just after in mid June, probably the weekend of June 15 to 17.

(v) Eye on the Universe Photography Exhibition.

Bob reminded societies of this exhibition organised by the Southland Astronomical Society and the Southland Museum and Art Gallery. It had or was going to visit Invercargill, Mt Cook, Auckland, Waitakere and was going to Ashburton next year. Were there other places which would be interested? Napier was suggested. Anyone interested should contact Bob.

There being no further business, the chairman thanked the delegates for their attendance and closed the meeting at about 6.15 pm.

President: _____

Date: