



THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

KEEPING IN TOUCH– Please pass on to all your members *Week Ending 7 March, 2010*

1. GLOBE at Night – 3 to 16 March, 2010

GLOBE at Night is an annual 2-week campaign in March. People all over the world record the brightness of their night sky by matching its appearance toward the constellation Orion just after sunset with star maps of progressively fainter stars. They submit their measurements on-line and a few weeks later, organizers release a map of light-pollution levels worldwide. Over the last four GLOBE at Night campaigns, volunteers from over 100 nations have contributed 35,000 measurements.



Thanks to everyone who participated in the 2009 GLOBE at Night campaign during 16-28 March! Through GLOBE at Night, students — alongside teachers, parents and community members — amassed a data set from which they can begin to explore the concept of light pollution and to research the patterns of light pollution across the globe.

A record number of over 15,000 measurements were received in the 2009 campaign!

To participate in this year's campaign - www.globeatnight.org

2. EARTH HOUR , World Wide Fund for Nature – 8.30pm Saturday 27 March, 2010

Plans have been unveiled to plunge New Zealand into darkness at 8.30pm on Saturday 27 March - the first of more than 70 countries taking part in this year's Earth Hour. WWF-New Zealand announced that all the major cities, including Auckland, Manukau, North Shore, Waitakere, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin and Hamilton, will be participating in the one-hour global 'lights out' Earth Hour event.



Over 40 councils around the country support Earth Hour. From the smallest districts to the largest cities, each council partner has committed to leading the way by switching off their own non-essential lighting, and encouraging their community to take part. Some council and community groups are also working to organise celebrations.

In 2009 hundreds of millions of people around the world showed their support by turning off their lights for one hour. Earth Hour 2010 will continue to be a global call to action to every individual, every business and every community. A call to stand up, to show leadership and be responsible for our future. www.earthhour.org.nz

Pledge your support here and turn off your lights for one hour, Earth Hour, 8.30pm, Saturday 27th March 2010.

Sign up and support Earth Hour here - www.wwf.org.nz/earth_hour/sign_up

3. RASNZ Conference 2010 Dunedin – 28 to 30 May, 2010

Just a further reminder regarding the RASNZ Conference in Dunedin to be held at the Otago Museum on 28 to 30 May. Registrations are starting to come in - good to see. We encourage you to register early for Conference. It's also a good idea to book air fares early to get the best deals. Air NZ and Pacific Blue fly to Dunedin. Don't forget you will need to be in Dunedin, at the Railway Station by midday on the Friday if you are coming on the



Taieri Gorge Rail journey.

We also make a further call for papers at this time. There is still room in the programme for papers and poster-papers. There is plenty of great work being done in astronomy in NZ these days, so let's hear about it - Conference is the appropriate gathering for this. Orlon Petterson from the Standing Conference Committee will also be making some approaches to members who have been carrying out good astronomical work.

Further information on Conference, the registration form etc can be found on the RASNZ Webpage - www.rasnz.org.nz

Look forward to seeing you all in Dunedin – **Dennis Goodman, Chair RASNZ Standing Conference Committee**