



THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

KEEPING IN TOUCH– Please pass on to all your members
Week Ending 9 May, 2010

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

Only a few weeks before this year's RASNZ conference gets underway. You can still register for the conference on the RASNZ Webpage - www.rasnz.org.nz

It is always great to catch up with everyone at these conferences – We look forward to seeing you all again in a few weeks.



2. RASNZ Affiliated Societies Committee Meeting – Friday, 5.00pm 28th May, 2010

All financial RASNZ affiliated societies are entitled to send a delegate to this meeting. If possible this should be your society's president, but a deputy may be appointed if the president is unable to attend. Come along and have your say!

For further information please contact the RASNZ Secretary, Brian Loader - secretary@rasnz.org.nz

3. Closure of the International Year of Astronomy 2009 New Zealand Website



It has been decided to put closure to the IYA 2009 New Zealand website. After email discussion with the Royal Society of New Zealand it was decided that there was no further need for this site as the IYA2009 celebrations have now been wrapped up.

On behalf of RASNZ we would like to thank our very dedicated webmaster, **Christopher Henderson** for the many hours of hard work he has put in over the year to maintain the IYA 2009 NZ website to such a high standard – The website has certainly contributed to New Zealand's successful participation in the IYA2009 activities and has been very much appreciated by us all – thanks again Chris.

4. Astronomy Education in New Zealand

Ron Fisher from the Levin Stargazers would like to hear from teachers and or astronomy/science educators interested in forming a dedicated group to look at the best way of serving our NZ schools with regard to promoting and supporting astronomy education. Ron writes;

I am emailing you to gauge your thoughts on how we can best serve our NZ schools (primary and secondary) with regards to astronomy. I know there are and have been many initiatives to do so both locally and nationally over the years.

Since the previous director stood down, RASNZ are currently looking at ways in which they could keep an education section but are looking for something that works and is sustainable over time.

I would love to be involved in something that provided support and resources to schools around the country who are interested in finding out more about teaching astronomy or who are already active and would like to join a network of people to keep in touch and share their experiences.

The way i see it working would be to firstly create a working group. **Are you interested?**

Then we could establish a central website (like the affiliated societies we can link it from the RASNZ site). This could create a place for all involved to come to see what we do and how they can get involved as well as provide a place to see what is happening around the country and we could profile people and schools as examples.

I envisage this as a way of extending our reach to a very large portion of the market that is currently under resourced on the whole - our school aged children.

I see the best way forward from here would be to have a group of dedicated science/astronomy teachers from around NZ playing a part in up-keeping the website and contributing to resources and updates for all schools as well as reporting back to RASNZ and its members.

I would like to hear your **thoughts on this and if you would like to be involved in any capacity.**

I am also requesting that you **send me a list of people and their emails whom you think would like to hear more about this.** Particularly teachers and astronomy educators who are currently active and may want to get involved.

So there is nothing set in stone, just a few ideas so far. We need your experience and ideas so we can create something that works. We are looking to prepare a proposal for the RASNZ committee prior to the conference later this month.

Thank you for your time and all the great work you already do in this area. Please let me know by the end of the week (7th May) if you are interested to stay in the loop with what we will be proposing.

Please Contact Ron Fisher - Email: ron@nightvisionz.co.nz Phone: (06)368-6251 Mobile: 027 6444884

Don't forget to visit the RASNZ Affiliated Societies webpage <http://www.rasnz.org.nz/AffSocs/index.htm>