



100 Hours of Astronomy

The 100 Hours of Astronomy celebration events between April 2 - 5 have come to an end and what an amazing success story it has been! New Zealand groups along with the rest of 99 registered countries showcased astronomy to millions of global citizens through the use of telescopes, webcams, research observatories science centres and our enduring passion for this great science. The IYA organisers are calling this event the largest and most successful public science celebration to date. That is very impressive.



New Zealand astronomical societies, groups, clubs and Universities registered 70 events, making NZ the 5th country behind the USA, Brazil, Iran and India with the most events world wide. I am sure the people who looked through our telescopes will never forget their first view of Saturn or of seeing the craters on the Moon up close for the first time. Thank you to all the NZ societies who took part in this event, your hard work paid off.

I wish to remind you all to log onto the 100HA site and file your final report of your event. This information will allow us to make a final report and to get a better estimate of the numbers of people who took part globally. You can also download your very own participation certificate too

Website: www.100hoursofastronomy.org



International Year of Astronomy 2009 New Zealand Contact

If your society is planning events for NZ IYA 2009 and need help with the activities, please make contact with Marilyn Head, International Year of Astronomy 2009 New Zealand Coordinator and Publicity Officer for RASNZ

Contact: Marilyn Head marilyn@actrix.co.nz



The IYA NZ website is a great place to check out what is happening during the year around New Zealand. It is full of info, pictures and links to IYA sites of interest, as well as a comprehensive list of New Zealand Astronomers past and present

Website: <http://www.astronomy2009.org.nz>



The IYA 2009 is a global celebration of astronomy and its contributions to society and culture, highlighted by the 400th anniversary of the first use of an astronomical telescope by Galileo Galilei. The aim of the year is to stimulate worldwide interest in astronomy and science to people of all ages under the central theme "The Universe, Yours to Discover". Lets get out, join in and have fun.

The Royal Astronomical Society of New Zealand

April 2009



Quarterly Newsletter for Affiliated Societies

Jennie McCormick and Martin Unwin

RASNZ Website: www.rasnz.org.nz



Newsletter for Affiliated Societies Of the Royal Astronomical Society of New Zealand

The aim of this newsletter is to stay in regular contact with all Affiliated Societies by highlighting interesting and informative news regarding RASNZ, its members and astronomy throughout New Zealand in a quarterly newsletter.
We encourage all societies to take advantage of the newsletter for the purposes of advertising any upcoming astronomical event held in your areas.

Welcome The Phoenix Astronomical Society

We wish to welcome The Phoenix Astronomical Society as a newly affiliated society member of the Royal Astronomical Society of New Zealand.



Since its formation in December 1997, the membership has grown to over 600 men, women and children. TPAS welcomes new members of all ages and levels of interest. The Phoenix Astronomical Society members range from absolute beginners, students, experienced teachers and adult educators, telescope-makers, experts in electronics, and optical systems, to various areas of research astronomy and tries to provide for all degrees of astronomical involvement, as some people want to be more active than others. They offer social opportunities such as musical evenings, mid-winter dinners and annual star party camps.

The Phoenix Astronomical Society (located in the lower North Island of New Zealand) is an extremely active and enthusiastic society whose aim is to make astronomy accessible to everyone whatever their level of interest and knowledge; to increase public awareness of astronomy and related sciences, and to share with others the mysteries and wonders of the universe of which we are all a part.

<http://www.astronomynz.org.nz/introduction/the-phoenix-astronomical-society.html>

Phoenix Contact: Antony Gomez (President) a.gomez@niwa.co.nz

2009 RASNZ Conference May 22 - 26th

Hosted by Wellington Astronomical Society

We encourage you all to come along to this years annual conference held at the Quality Inn, Cuba Street, Wellington City. It is sure to be a great weekend away and a good chance to catch up will old friends and make new ones.

Contact John Field for further information jfield@was.org.nz or visit the RASNZ website <http://www.rasnz.org.nz/Conference/09Conference.htm>

Contact Us: The Royal Astronomical Society of New Zealand
Affiliated Societies Representatives
P.O.Box 3181, WELLINGTON

Jennie McCormick: farmcoveobs@xtra.co.nz - **Auckland Astronomical Society**

Martin Unwin: unwinm@xtra.co.nz - **Canterbury Astronomical Society**



Gisborne Astronomical Society Introduction to Astronomy Course 'Introducing the Universe'

Galileo at this telescope, Picture by Otto Gruebl



The Gisborne Astronomical Society would like to announce their new introduction to astronomy course to be run each Thursday night starting on the 23rd April at Cook Observatory. This is a six week course and will cover celestial navigation, telescopes & equipment, astrophotography, the Solar System and beyond as well as cosmology.

The course cost is only \$30 per person and includes a Gisborne Astronomical Society subscription for the rest of 2009.

If you are interested in attending these courses or would like to know more about the course, **Contact** - John Drummond, john_drummond@xtra.co.nz

Dress up as your favorite Astronomer at this years Conference Dinner

We are never too old to have fun and astronomers are no exception. This years RASNZ Conference Dinner has an interesting and fun theme - Come along dressed as your favorite astronomer! It shouldn't be too difficult as we have given you a few choices to help you decide, including a few we all know. Dinner Tickets \$60.00 per person

Contact John Field jfield@was.org.nz for tickets



Tycho Brahe



Caroline Herschel



Patrick Moore



Edmund Halley



Henrietta Leavitt



Carl Sagan



Copernicus



Beatrice Tinsley