

The Royal Astronomical Society of New Zealand

July 2009



Quarterly Newsletter for Affiliated Societies

Jennie McCormick and Peter Jaquierey

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 upcoming astronomical events held in your area.

RASNZ NEWS

The RASNZ Council warmly welcomes our new South Island Affiliated Society Representative Peter Jaquiere from the Dunedin Astronomical Society. Peter replaces Martin Unwin from the Canterbury Astronomical Society who's work commitments require more of his valuable time this year. Our thanks to Martin for his work during the year.

BIO - Peter Jaquiere

I have a long time interest in astronomy, but only really did something about it and became a member of the Dunedin Astronomical Society when our children started showing an interest too.



I'm the current President of DAS and am particularly interested in astronomical public outreach and generally spreading astronomical knowledge and enthusiasm. I'm currently engaged in setting up DAS's new telescope and mount etc for variable star and (probably) MicroFUN use.

In my past I was an electronics technician at the University of Otago and now, I am currently a software engineer for ADInstruments Ltd.

Jocelyn and I have six children, although it's the 6 year old twins who really account for the grey hair. We have two (soon to be three) grand children.

Contact: peter.jaquiere@ihug.co.nz

CONTACT US

The Royal Astronomical Society of New Zealand

Affiliated Societies Representatives

P.O.Box 3181, WELLINGTON

Email: aff.soc.reps@rasnz.org.nz

RASNZ Publicity Officer

This year we say goodbye to Marilyn Head as the RASNZ Publicity Officer. Marilyn is stepping down to take a well deserved break and to concentrate on her many projects and commitments. Our sincere thanks to Marilyn for the many years of hard work and commitment to this role. Marilyn hands the role over to Deborah Hambly from Skydome Observatory. If you require any help or advice with astronomy publicity matters or have the media knocking on your door and you are not sure what to do or what to say, please feel free to contact Deborah.



Contact: astronomy@igrin.co.nz

"An Eye on the Universe"

The astrophotography exhibition known as "An Eye on the Universe" is looking for venues interested in displaying the exhibition from July and as part of The International Year of Astronomy 2009. If you know of a venue near you (Library, Art Gallery etc) who may like to display this exhibition or if you require details to hand on to possible interested venues, please contact Bob Evans as soon as possible. Feedback has been positive from all who have been to see the exhibition and from those who have hosted it. The exhibition is currently displayed at Lopdell House Gallery in Titirangi, Auckland.

Contact: bevans@es.co.nz



Did you know your society can apply for a RASNZ grant to help with visiting speakers? The Gifford-Eiby Fund is available to all affiliated societies - see the RASNZ website

HELPING OUT - SPEAKERS FOR MONTHLY MEETINGS

We have had a number of requests from societies around the country looking for speakers for their meetings. It would be great to compile a list of people interested in visiting other societies and groups to give good quality talks. If your society has a member or members with some spare time, who are happy to help out and are comfortable giving a presentation, we would like to hear from them. We realise how difficult it can be to find speakers and want to see what we can do to help. Send us an email and we will share the info around - aff.soc.reps@rasnz.org.nz

COMING SOON

2009 Auckland Astronomical Society Burbidge Dinner

The annual Auckland Astronomical Society Burbidge Dinner for 2009 will be held in November this year. The date for this event and the price for the dinner tickets have yet to be confirmed. The AAS welcomes all astronomical society or group members from around the country to attend. The After Dinner speaker this year is Professor John Storey from the University of New South Wales. Further information about the event will be available shortly.



Photographic Competition

The 2009 AAS Harry Williams Astrophotography Trophy is up for grabs again in November this year. The competition is open to **ALL** photographers from around New Zealand. You do not have to be a member of the AAS, NZ astronomical society or group to enter. The winners from this competition will be announced at the AAS Burbidge Dinner in November. So start snapping your pictures and assemble your best images now. Entry forms and entry details will be available shortly. I will send details through to everyone as soon they come to hand. I have seen some fantastic images posted on nzastronomers, it would be great to see these as entries in this years competition.



Starting Planning for Next Year - RASNZ Conference 2010

Never been to Dunedin, but always wanted to visit? Well, here is the opportunity you have been waiting for - the 2010 RASNZ annual Conference will be hosted by the Dunedin Astronomical Society (DAS) in Dunedin next year. The organisation for this event is well and truly underway with an exciting venue chosen already, 'The Otago Museum.' Accommodation options are being investigated and key speakers organised. DAS are delighted to announce that two expatriate DAS members, Dr Stuart Ryder and Bill Allen, will be the feature speakers and Fellows speaker respectively. Dr Stuart Ryder is currently the Australian Gemini Scientist with particular interests in stellar life cycles and galactic evolution.

Bill Allen is well known to us all. He combines a strong interest in astronomy and viticulture in his Marlborough vineyard where the Bootes-3 robotic telescope has recently been set up alongside Bill's own observatory.

DAS is looking forward to hosting you all at the 2010 conference. Plan to come along for a few extra days - there will be a lot of non-conference entertainment for everyone to enjoy. Dunedin Astronomical Society is combing this conference with their centennial year.

We will keep you update with further conference details as they come to hand.

Contact: DAS President Peter Jaquery - peter.jaquery@ihug.co.nz



Interested in Hosting the 2012 RASNZ Conference?

The RASNZ conference organising committee are interesting in hearing from any NZ Astronomical Society or group that maybe interested in hosting the 2012 conference. 2012 is the year for the Transit of Venus and as such the conference theme will naturally be, 'The Transit of Venus.' If your society or group could be interested, please make contact with Dennis Goodman.

Contact: astrovino@astrovino.co.nz



NZ Astronomical Groups and Contacts

At the RASNZ Affiliated Societies meeting in May we were asked to put together an updated list of contact details for all RASNZ affiliated societies and groups including non affiliated groups* to enable contact with one another. If the information we have here is incorrect for society or your group, please let us know and we will make the necessary changes. We would kindly ask that this list not be used for commercial purposes to spam one another with unnecessary advertisements.

<u>Affiliated Society / Group</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Contact Details</u>
Auckland Astronomical Society	Grant Christie	grant@christie.org.nz
Canterbury Astronomical Society	Dennis Goodman	astrovino@astrovino.co.nz
Central Otago Astronomical Society	Barry Wills	bjwills2@slingshot.co.nz
Dunedin Astronomical Society	Peter Jaquierey	peter.jaquierey@ihug.co.nz
Foxten Astronomical Society	Ron Fisher	ronaldofisher@hotmail.com
Franklin District Astronomers	Chris Wilson	chriswilson@slingshot.co.nz
Gifford Observatory Trust	Marilyn Head	marilyn@actrix.gen.nz
Hamilton Astronomical Society	Carol Thompson	carol.t@clear.net.nz
Hawera Astronomical Society	Attention Secretary	39 Rata Street, Hawera
Hawkes Bay Astronomical Society	Graham Palmer	gramy@globe.net.nz
Nelson Astronomical Society	Paul Fisher	wildlands.nelson@xtra.co.nz
New Plymouth Astronomical Society	Andy Dodson	a.dodson@clear.net.nz
Northland Astronomical Society	Maree Wedding	mareewedding@hotmail.com
Oamaru / North Otago Astronomical	J Brienesse	marg-hans-briens@xtra.co.nz
Phoenix Astronomical Society	Antony Gomez	a.gomez@niwa.co.nz
Skydome Observatory	Deborah Hambly	astronomy@igrin.co.nz
Rotorua Astronomical Society	Alasdair Jackson	kenrickshire@xtra.co.nz
Southland Astronomical Society	Steve Butler	s_butler@xtra.co.nz
Tauranga Astronomical Society	Ursula MacFarlane	ursa.minor@clear.net.nz
Wanganui Astronomical Society	Ross Skilton	rossaskiton@gmail.com
Wellington Astronomical Society	Gordon Hudson	gordon@kpo.org.nz
Whakatane Astronomical Society	Norman Izett	normanizett@kol.co.nz
* Coromandel Astronomy Group	Alastair Brickell	abrickell@paradise.net.nz
* Palmerston North Astronomical	Ian Cooper	icoops@inspire.net.nz
* Hermitage Astronomy Mt Cook	Leigh Findlay	leigh.findlay@hermitage.co.nz
* Levin Stargazers Group	Ron Fisher	ronaldofisher@hotmail.com

International Year of Astronomy 2009 - NZ Node

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>



If your society or group is planning an event for IYA 2009 and needs help with the activities, please contact Marilyn Head, International Year of Astronomy New Zealand Coordinator for RASNZ
Contact: Marilyn Head marilyn@actrix.co.nz