



2010 Almanac Now For Sale

More than just a calendar, each monthly calendar includes the phases of the moon, the rise and set times of the Sun and Moon, planetary phenomena, meteor activity, solstices and equinoxes, historical astronomical events, ancient star lore pertaining to each month, plus much more. For details & pricing please visit [Phoenix Astronomical Society www.astronomynz.org.nz](http://www.astronomynz.org.nz)



IYA2009 Music CD "Shoulders of Giants"

Whakatane Observatory has copies of "Shoulders of Giants", a CD of 6 songs about astronomy. Released by "The Chromatics" in recognition of International Year of Astronomy.

\$20.00 including postage

To purchase your copies, please make cheques payable to:

Whakatane Astronomical Society

6 Halberg Cres

Whakatane 3120

Contact: **George Odey**

georgeodey@slingshot.co.nz

Upcoming Events

- Galilean Nights – 22 to 24 October, 2009

Over the next few weeks astronomical societies throughout the world, and here in New Zealand, will share their knowledge and enthusiasm for the Universe by opening up their observatories to the public and encouraging as many people as possible to look through their telescopes. The focus for the Galilean Nights is on the observations made by the Italian astronomer Galileo 400 years ago, who revolutionised science with his discoveries using the telescope. Galilean Nights is part of a suite of global events organised for International Year of Astronomy 2009. www.astronomy2009.org

- The Great World Star Count – 9 to 23 October, 2009

The Great World Wide Star Count is on again. It is an international project that allows the astronomical community to report on the level of light pollution in their area. Anyone can participate; to get started visit the Star Count website and find out how. www.windows.ucar.edu/citizen_science/starcount
Don't forget to send in your report so the organisers can compare your view of the night sky with others around the world.

- Auckland Astronomical Society Burbidge Dinner – 7 November, 2009

Tickets to this years Auckland Astronomical Society Burbidge Dinner are for sale. This year, Professor John Storey from the University of New South Wales will give the after dinner talk about Antarctic Astronomy. The Harry Williams Astrophotography winners will be announced at the dinner also. For Information and ticket purchase visit the Auckland Astronomical Society website www.astronomy.org.nz or contact Andrew Buckingham - treasurer@astronomy.org.nz

- Stardate North Island – 14 to 18 January, 2010

Stardate is an annual event organised by the Phoenix Astronomical and held in the Tukituki Valley, Hawkes Bay. This is an astronomical gathering for people who are interested in observing the stars through a variety of telescopes brought along by participants and for those interested in participating in workshops and listening to a variety of interesting and informative talks. Registration and event information can be found here - www.astronomynz.org.nz/stardate/stardate-2.html

- Stardate Staveley South Island – 15 to 18 January, 2010

Make plans now and book for next years South Island Stardate. The organising committee is pleased to announce that David Malin, world famous astronomer and astroimaging pioneer will be a special guest at Stardate South Island 2010. David will provide a range of talks that may include, Galileo, the Southern Cross and his personal journey from microscopes to telescopes. Information and registration details can be found here - www.forestry.ac.nz/euan/stardate

Harry Williams Astrophotography Competition

2009 Competition Now Closed

The Auckland Astronomical Society (AAS) wishes to thank everyone who entered the AAS 2009 Harry Williams Astrophotography Competition this year. 23 astrophotographers from around New Zealand have taken part in this year's competition. All entries were of superb quality, making it very difficult for the judges to find a winner this year.

The winners will be announced at the Auckland Astronomical Society Burbidge Dinner on November 7th at the Novotel Hotel in Ellerslie. If you wish to attend the dinner please contact AAS treasurer Andrew Buckingham - treasurer@astronomy.org.nz Ticket Price \$60.00 pp. The winning entries and a PDF doc showcasing all the entries will be available for download from AAS website on Monday 9th November. We wish all those who entered the very best of luck.

ISSUE

06

October 2009

QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER of
THE RASNZ
AFFILIATED
SOCIETIES

RASNZ



Final Call For Purchasing NZ IYA 2009 Posters

We have fewer than 100 posters left for sale. If you would like a copy, please get your order in as soon as possible. The price per poster is \$7.00 and even cheaper if you purchase more. For further information including pricing and ordering see www.rasnz.org.nz



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This issue

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The All New Hawera Astronomical Society.

The Hawera Astronomical Society has had a revamp. The hard work of all their members is certainly paying off judging by their slick new website. It is full of interesting information regarding what the society has to offer new members and interested public visitors. It also contains a wonderfully comprehensive page about the society's history, which makes for a fascinating read. If you are passing through Hawera call in for a visit or better still offer to give a presentation to their members. Hawera Astronomical Society meets on the second Wednesday of each month and conducts special meetings and observing nights from time to time. Hawera Astronomical Society and their members would love to hear from you

The Hawera Observatory is in King Edward Park on High Street near the centre of Hawera. The dome sits on what was a once a café but has become the home of the Hawera Astronomical Society. The society is growing in numbers and has a relatively new core of enthusiastic members. The major project underway at present is the purchase of a new Catadioptric telescope to compliment the 5" Cook refractor and two reflecting telescopes. The new equipment will make telescope viewing easier especially when the observatory is open on public nights. The observatory opens to the public three times a year and is always swamped with interested visitors. The second project is the full restoration of the Cooke refractor.

Contact: **President – Daniel Hovell**
daniel.hovell@slingshot.co.nz

HAWERA ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
www.haweraobservatory.org.nz



Galilean Nights New Zealand Registered Events

NZ Galilean Nights public observing is fast approaching. There are a number of registered events taking place across NZ. A full list of these events, including time and date can be found on the Galilean Nights website. If you haven't registered your event yet, please do so on the Galilean Nights website.

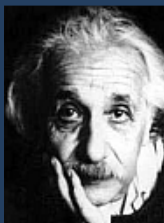
www.galileannights.org



RSNZ 2009 Distinguished Speaker Lecture Series

10 – 12 November. The RSNZ presents Professor Robert Kirshner, Clowes Professor of Science at Harvard University. The topic for this lecture is Einstein's Blunder Undone: Exploding Stars and the Accelerating Cosmos. The lectures are open to the public and admission is free. The talks will be held in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. For further details visit the Royal Society Events page.

www.royalsociety.org.nz



the ROYAL
SOCIETY of
NEW ZEALAND
TE APĀRANGI



Congratulations to Jerry Liu from Botany Downs Secondary College

RASNZ IYA 2009 Secondary
Schools Poster Design
Competition

Seventh Former, Jerry Liu from Botany Downs College in East Auckland has won for his school an Astronaz 8" Dobsonian telescope for his winning design (seen above) in the RASNZ IYA 2009 Secondary Schools Poster Design competition. Jerry produced a simple but stylish design which the judges felt encapsulated New Zealand astronomy for the IYA2009 events. I don't think any of us have seen the Crux and Pointers used this way before? The school has a very enthusiastic astronomy club headed by Gary Brinsden and with 40 students in the club, the telescope will be much needed and very well used I'm sure.



Gary Brinsden and Jerry Liu at the competition presentation in Auckland

Keep An Eye Out For Quality Orionids Display

John Drummond has reported that the Orionids meteor shower this year is tipped to be rather good and worth getting up in the early hours of the morning over the coming days. It is expected to peak on Wednesday morning the 21 October. However, it would be a good idea to check either side of this date just in case. The Orionids meteors are debris from Comet Halley which last passed earth in 1986. Please do let us know if you happen to spot any and maybe send us a report and a picture too. Good luck & fingers crossed for good weather.



Discovery image of SA12009

Ron Fisher from the Levin Stargazers Observing Group is looking for feedback from anyone interested in Astronomy Education.

Ron Fisher writes;

"Here in the Horowhenua we are looking at possible ways to get more astronomy out into the community and in particular, to children.

The most practical way we feel is through NZ schools. Ideally we would like to do is, implement a program that could be carried on for years to come. This would require a small amount of work which may establish a program that would be sustainable and may provide astronomy services in the community.

This would involve those with an interest in reaching out to people who have not yet

discovered the wonder astronomy can bring to their lives. At this conceptual stage we are looking for feedback from people around the country as to how they go about teaching astronomy at a community level.

A few questions to ponder

What does your society do? What do you do personally? What are you planning to do? What do schools/groups ask of you? What works and what doesn't? Do you feel you have the resources you need? What could help you to continue sharing astronomy? What is your best advice to a society going down this track?

It would be interesting to know if there are any teachers within NZ Astronomical societies who could give some thoughts as to

what would be beneficial to you and your students if a local society were to offer its support in any way.

It is just mind blowing sometimes to think just how much astronomy goes on in this country. That is evident in the IYA poster that was produced, that only scratched the surface. So keep up the good work everyone, you just never know the difference that you can make by taking a moment to show someone through your eyepiece."

If you or your members are interested in discussing this issue and perhaps helping move this initiative forward, please contact Ron Fisher
Levin Stargazers Group
a_saucerful@yahoo.com.au

Astronomy in Schools – How do we do it?



2010 RASNZ Conference in Dunedin

The RASNZ annual Astronomical Conference will be held in Dunedin between the 28 and 30 May and is hosted by the Dunedin Astronomical Society (DAS).

The event will be held at The Otago Museum and features two expatriate DAS members as key note speakers.

Submissions to present a conference paper are now being invited. Information and registration details can be found on the RASNZ website.

www.rasnz.org.nz

Royal Society of New Zealand Science Dinner

The RSNZ is delighted to announce that tickets are now available for the 2009 Science Honours Dinner. The dinner celebrates achievements across the science community and marks the International Year of Astronomy 2009.

The dinner will be held in the Princes Ballroom, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Auckland on Wednesday 18 November

The evening commences with drinks and nibbles from 6.15pm. Tickets are \$125.00 pp and can be obtained from

www.royalsociety.org.nz

News from Local Observatories

Possum Observatory

John Drummond is building an observatory for his new Paramount mount and LX200 Meade 14" ACF scope. The equipment will be used to hunt down comets, asteroids and supernova. We look forward to seeing the results John.

Farm Cove Observatory

On Sep 16, Jennie McCormick found a new and extremely faint asteroid (19.5), moving through Aquarius. It has been given the preliminary designation, 2009 SA1. The asteroid can be named when it returns to opposition in approx two years time as long as it can be imaged again.