

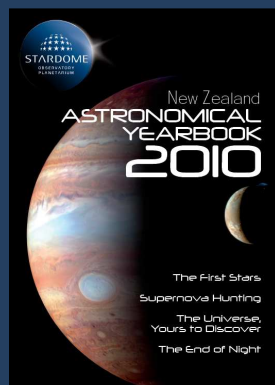


2010 NZ Almanac

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



New Zealand Astronomical Yearbook 2010

The 2010 NZ Astronomical Yearbook is now in stock and looking better than ever. Please order your copies today by contacting Stardome Observatory

Contact: Barbara Leyland

barbaral@stardome.org.nz

The recommended retail price for this book is \$21.95 however all NZ Astronomical Societies can purchase their copies for \$16.50 + \$2.00 postage and packing. Ordered numbers will determine the cost of packaging,

Upcoming Events

- **Richard Dawkins Speaking in New Zealand – March 10 to 13, 2010** **SOLD OUT**

This is not an astronomical subject, but is well worth knowing about in advance, especially for those interested in Evolutionary Biology. Richard Dawkins is in New Zealand and will be giving two only public lectures. (1) Wellington March 10th and (2) Auckland March 13th. Further information and ticket purchase for these events can be obtained through ITICKET <http://apollo.iticket.co.nz/index.asp>

- **2010 Globe at Night – March 3 to 16, 2010**

This Globe at Night is an annual 2-weeks 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 organisers 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.

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

- **2010 Earth Hour – 8.30pm 27 March, 2010**

Show your support this year by turning off your lights for Earth Hour 2010. In 2009, hundreds of millions of people around the world showed their support by turning off lights for one hour. Earth Hour 2010 will continue to be a global call to action to every individual, every business and every community. Pledge your support for this great cause and let's all make a difference.

To sign up and support Earth Hour 2010 www.wwf.org.nz/earth_hour/sign_up

- **Public Day at the New Carter Observatory – 10.00am to 5.00pm, 27 March, 2010**

The newly refurbished Carter Observatory is reopening and ready to take you further into space than ever before. Come and join us for a free day of celebrations. The Carter Observatory is located in the Wellington Botanic Gardens, two minutes from the top of the Cable Car. Free tickets to Carter's digital planetarium shows are available on the day, as well as free space activities happening in and around the Observatory. There are limited spaces so be in quick. <http://carterobservatory.org>

- **2010 RASNZ Conference – Dunedin, May 28 to 30, 2010**

This year's conference will be held in Dunedin and will be hosted by the Dunedin Astronomical Society who will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of their foundation.

For full information and registration www.rasnz.org.nz/conference/2010conference.htm

An exciting non-astronomy activity is an additional highlight. This will be a Friday afternoon trip on the Taieri Gorge Railway, leaving Dunedin at 12.30pm. The fare has been discounted substantially. This is one of NZ's iconic rail journeys. We look forward to seeing you in Dunedin.

2010 RASNZ Conference – A Call for Papers

The standing 2010 conference committee is calling for papers at this time.

There is still room in this year's programme for papers and poster-papers. With so much great work being done in New Zealand astronomy these days, we would love to hear about it and so would the many conference attendees. If you are interested in giving a oral paper presentation or would like to display a poster paper, please make contact with Orlon Petterson - Email: orlon.petterson@canterbury.ac.nz

ISSUE

08

March 2010



QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER of
THE RASNZ
AFFILIATED
SOCIETIES

RASNZ



This issue

2010 RASNZ Conference

2010 Affiliated Societies Committee Meeting

Wrap-Up of recent Astronomy Conferences

Upcoming Events

Conference Dinner "100 Years of Astronomy"

The theme for this year's dinner is 100 Years of Astronomy. The dinner will be held in the atrium of the Otago Museum. In celebration of Dunedin's Astronomical Society Centennial year. Partners, friends and family are most welcome to attend.

The after dinner speaker is Michael Steadman, Natural History New Zealand's chief executive.

He will present the history of the Natural History of NZ's unit and will outline some of the up and coming projects.

Invited Speaker

This year's invited speaker will be Dunedin born Dr Stuart Ryder who is the Australian Gemini Scientist, managing the Australian Gemini Office which is hosted by the Anglo-Australian Observatory in Sydney.

Aff Society Reps Contact Details

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Website
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2010 RASNZ Conference, Dunedin – Register Now

Dunedin 28 - 30 May, 2010

The 2010 RASNZ conference will be held in Dunedin this year and will be hosted by the Dunedin Astronomical Society who will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of their foundation. It has been 35 years since Dunedin last hosted a RASNZ conference and the organising committee has promised to make up for the lapse by offering all attendees a warm welcome and some famous southern hospitality.



The venue for this year's conference is the famous Otago Museum. It is located in the vicinity of the University of Otago (15 minutes walk from the Octagon) with a wide range of nearby accommodation, cafes and bars.

Conference sessions will be held in the Hutton theatre with section, society and council meetings held in the adjacent Kakapo and Takahe room. Morning teas, lunches and afternoon teas will also be served in these rooms.

For further information about the venue www.otagomuseum.govt.nz/home.html

Getting there and Accommodation

Air New Zealand and Pacific Blue fly into Dunedin with a number of early morning flights.

If you contact the conference's local organising committee with your flight details they will arrange a discounted shuttle bus service to from the airport to your accommodation. Make sure you arrive in time to take part in the Taieri Gorge train trip on Friday.

Accommodation is available a few blocks from the



venue, the LOC recommends the following;

- * **Cargills Quality Hotel:** www.cargills.co.nz
- * **Alcala Motor Lodge:** www.alcalamotorlodge.co.nz
- * **Alexis Motor Lodge:** www.alexis.co.nz
- * **Farrys Motel:** www.farrysmotelapartments.co.nz
- * **Budget Kiwis Nest Motel:** kiwisnest@ihug.co.nz.

Further information and a registration form can be found on the RASNZ Webpage - www.rasnz.org.nz

Or contact Ash Pennell. Cell: 021-253459

Email: rasnz2010@vodafone.co.nz

RASNZ wishes to thank their major sponsors for this year's RASNZ conference, Mosgiel Computers and NZ Telescopes.

**See you all in
Dunedin!**



Day Light Savings Ends

Drum roll please... it is almost the end of daylight savings and the start of longer nights for us all to enjoy.

Please remember to turn your clocks back one hour on April 4, at 3.00am

It's about time too!



Earth Hour 2010

Saturday March 27 at 8.30pm



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 communities to take part.

Sign up - www.earthhour.org.nz

2010 RASNZ Affiliated Societies Committee Meeting

RASNZ 2010 Conference

Otago Museum, Dunedin

Friday, May 28th & 5.00pm

This year's RASNZ conference will be held in Dunedin, at the Otago Museum, 419 Great King Street. Conference dates are Friday 28 May to Sunday 30 May. This year, Dunedin Astronomical Society is our host while celebrating its 100th anniversary year.

We would like to notify all New Zealand Astronomical Societies, groups and clubs that the Affiliated Societies Committee will meet prior to the conference on the afternoon of Friday 28 May at the Otago Museum. The meeting is likely to start at around 5.00 pm; the exact time will be confirmed at a later date. Prior to the official conference start, the Dunedin Society has arranged a group booking for the Taieri Gorge rail trip. This optional trip will depart at 12.30 and return at 4.30pm with the committee meeting timed to follow the day trip.

All financial societies are entitled to send a delegate to the meeting, typically your society's president, however a deputy may be appointed if the president is unable to attend.

The RASNZ Secretary, Brian Loader, secretary@rasnz.org.nz would appreciate being notified, by email, of your delegate's attendance once it is known.

It is time to have your say, so please feel free to send any item of business your society would like to have placed on the meeting agenda, by May 1.

At the meeting, the Committee will need to appoint two representatives to sit on the RASNZ Council for 2010 to 2012. The current representatives are Jennie McCormick from Auckland Astronomical Society and Peter Jaquierey from Dunedin Astronomical Society.

If you require further information on the committee meeting, please contact Brian Loader (email above) or if you need conference and programme details, they can be found on the RASNZ web site, <http://www.rasnz.org.nz> Conference registration forms are available there also.



New Zealand's reputation for hosting successful astronomical meetings and events were certainly upheld in late 2009 and early 2010. NZ universities and research groups hosted several important international and local events. Their success has prompted similar events to be held again in the near future. Well done to the organisers and to those of you who supported the events by attending - A quick wrap up of the events are listed below. Apologies if I have missed any out - *Jennie McCormick*



The 5th Australasian Conference on General Relativity and Gravitation

The Sun, the Stars, the Universe and General Relativity

Christchurch 16-18 December, 2009 - Host: University of Canterbury

Presentations and information about this conference can be found here;

<http://www2.phys.canterbury.ac.nz/ACGRG5/>



14th Gravitational Microlensing Workshop

Auckland 18-20 January, 2010

Host: Massey University & MicroFUN NZ

This workshop was a forum to review the latest observational results on microlensing and to address the theoretical implications and to assess future directions of microlensing. Presentations and information about this conference can be found here - <http://microlens2010.massey.ac.nz/index.html>

Free Public Astronomy Symposium

Auckland 22 January, 2010

Host: University of Auckland Faculty of Science

11 international and New Zealand astronomers spoke to a large audience of 450 at the UOA Owen Glenn Building in January on a diverse range of astronomical topics, ranging from extra solar planets to black holes. There was a topic of interest for all astronomy enthusiasts. A special thank you to all our speakers!



10th Torino Workshop on AGB Nucleosynthesis: from Rutherford to Beatrice Tinsley & Beyond

Christchurch 25-29 January, 2010 - Host: University of Canterbury

This meeting continued the series of conferences and provided a focus for the discussion of topics such as AGB and post-AGB observations and stellar evolution theory and heavy element nucleosynthesis, including the role of chemical element evolution in galaxies. Presentations and information about this conference can be found here - www.phys.canterbury.ac.nz/Conferences/torino_xth/index.shtml



Pathways to SKA Science in Australasia

Auckland 16-18 February, 2010 - Host: AUT University

This conference highlighted recent SKA (Square Kilometre Array) developments in Australia and New Zealand and reviewed the main areas of the SKA science.

Information about this conference can be found here;

www.aut.ac.nz/study-at-aut/study-areas/computing--mathematical-sciences/skanz-2010-conference

Astronomical Sciences Committee for RSNZ - Who?

Do you want to find out more about this committee, what it does, who is involved and what they do for New Zealand Astronomy? Information pertaining to the Royal Society of New Zealand Committee of Astronomical Sciences can be found here. www.royalsociety.org.nz/Site/about/our_structure/advisory/astronomy/default.aspx

We would be very interested to know if you manage to find out anything about this committee and what they do.

New Zealand Astronomical Society Events

1. Canterbury Astro Society

Practical Astronomy for All Ages. Where: University of Canterbury Law School.

When: 16 March, 2010 at 7.00pm All Welcome

Contact: president@cas.org.nz

2. Auckland Astro Society

AAS Dark Sky Weekend Where: Waharau Regional Park.

When: 19 to 21 March, 2010 All welcome

Contact: acrux@orcon.net.nz

3. Wellington Astro Society

The Planets by Frank Andrews Where: Carter Observatory.

When: 7 April, 2010 at 7.30pm All Welcome

Contact: gordon@kpo.org.nz

NEW RASNZ AFFILIATED SOCIETY

Society for Maori Astronomy Research and Tourism (S.M.A.R.T)

S.M.A.R.T is a newly formed group dedicated to giving Maori the chance to have hands on learning about cultural astronomy, astrobiology, space exploration celestial observations, and ultimately putting the first Maori on the Moon by 2020. S.M.A.R.T has sourced knowledge from astronomical educators, Maturanga Maori experts and research astronomers to create a trust that has been established to regain the long-neglected knowledge of New Zealand Maori astronomy

Contact: gordon@kpo.org.nz

Web: www.star-smart.maori.nz