

RASNZ 2009 Conference Programme

Friday 22nd May

Session 1: 7:30pm – 8:45pm Chairperson: Marilyn Head

- Opening and Welcome by RASNZ and WAS Presidents (10 min)
- Dr. Helen Anderson, CEO MORST (20 min)
- Dr Tom Richards: Introducing Variable Stars South (40 min)

8:45pm – late: Refreshments and Socialising

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Saturday 23rd May

Session 2: 9:00 am – 10:30am Chairperson: Alan Gilmore

- Alan Plummer and Mati Morel: The VSS RASNZ legacy and the evolving BV Centauri (20 min).
- Dr Melanie Johnston-Hollitt: Understanding cluster dynamics with next generation radio telescopes (20 min)
- Glen Rowe: Tides and the real world (20 min)
- Veronica Miller: A search for variable stars and transiting extrasolar planets in the Galactic Plane. (20 min)

10:30am – 11:00am Morning Tea

Session 3: 11:00 am – 12:40 pm Chairperson: Bill Allen

- Steve Butler: Activities of Dark Sky Section 2008/09 (10 min)
 - Graeme Murray: New Zealand's Starlight Observatory (20 min)
 - Steve Butler: Measuring up (20 min)
 - Dr. Chris Fluke: 3D Astronomy Visualisation: From Data to Documentary (40 min)
- Dr Fluke's visit to New Zealand has been sponsored by the Australian High Commission*

12:40 pm Conference Photo

1:00 pm – 2:00pm Lunch

Session 4: 2:00 pm – 3:40 pm Chairperson: Grant Christie

- Yvette Perrott: Parallax Effects in Gravitational Microlensing (20 min)
 - Professor Phil Yock: Gravitational Microlensing, New Zealand's Contribution (20 min)
 - Dr Denis Sullivan: A Physical Description of Gravitational Microlensing Events. (20 min)
 - Professor Fulvio Melia: Supermassive Black Holes (40 min)
- Professor Melia's visit to New Zealand is supported by the US Embassy*

3:40 pm – 4:10 pm Afternoon Tea

4:15 pm – 5:15 pm RASNZ AGM

7:30 pm Conference Dinner - 'Come as Your Favourite Astronomer'

- Some Presentations and Awards will be announced during the evening.
- After Dinner Speaker: Dr Ilana Feain (CSIRO) Topic ASKAP

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Sunday 24th May

Session 5: 9:00 am – 10:30 am Chairperson: Deborah Hambly

- David Herald: Video Astrometry (20 min)
- Brian Loader: Lunar Occultations of Double Stars (20 min)
- Owen Moore: Building an Amateur Observatory in your own home (20 min)
- David MacLennan: Recent Revelations from Mars (20 min)

10:30 am – 11:00 am Morning Tea

Session 6: 11:00 am – 12:30 pm Chairperson: Jennie McCormick

- Bill Allen: Constructing the new GRB 0.6 m robotic telescope in Marlborough (20 min)
- Dr Grant Christie: Science Objectives for the new BOOTES-3 Observatory (20 min)
- Dimitri Douchin: Analysis of HST images of MOA microlensing event MB07379. (10 min)
- Graham Blow: Occultation Section Activities in 2008/09 (10 min)
- David Herald: Results of Asteroidal Occultations, 2007 and 2008 (20 min)

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm Lunch

Session 7: 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm Chairperson: Tom Richards

- Bob Evans: Aurora Section Activities 2008/09 (10 min)
- Gavin Milne: Education Section Activities 2008/09 (10 min)
- Jennie McCormick : "100 Hours of Astronomy"- Making History - A Global Astronomy Celebration (20 min)
- Bob Evans: The next Aurora Season (20 min)
- Gavin Milne: Secondary School Astronomy Education (20 min)

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm: Afternoon Tea

Session 8: 3:30 pm – 4:40 pm Chairperson: Bob Evans

- Rachel Soja: Dynamics of Resonant Meteoroids (20 min)
- Professor Sergei Gulaev and Tim Natusch: The AUT Radio Telescope: current status and plans (20 min)
- Dr Andrew Rakich: Status of the Large Binocular Telescope (20 min)

4:45 pm – 5:00 pm Conference closure

Poster Papers

- Dr Edwin Budding et al: "Absolute Parameters of Young Stars: V831 Centauri".
- Steve Butler, Poster: "Dark Skies".
- Alan Plummer, Poster: "Visual Observation of Variable Stars".
- Erik Vermaat, Poster: "Nga Whetu Resources; Supporting Astronomy Education"
- Haritina Mogasanu: "SOCIETY FOR MAORI ASTRONOMY, RESEARCH AND TOURISM TRUST dedicated to astronomy education"
