



Royal Astronomical Society of New Zealand Conference 2010 Dunedin: May 28th ó 30th, 2010

Welcome

In celebration of the Dunedin Astronomical Society's 100th year we are delighted to host the RASNZ conference in 2010. Shamed as we are to admit that it is 35 years since we were last hosts to a RASNZ conference we plan to make up for the lapse with a warm welcome and some of our famous southern hospitality!

We are very pleased to have Stuart Ryder as our invited guest. Stuart (a Dunedinite and past DAS member) is the Australian Gemini Scientist managing the Australian Gemini Office hosted by the Anglo-Australian Observatory in Sydney. We are also delighted that Bill Allan (who also has a long association with DAS) will be the Fellows speaker.

In addition to the conference and the events planned around it we encourage you to plan a little extra time while you here to take in some of Dunedin and Otago's attractions.

Ash Pennell

Chairperson, Dunedin Local Organising Committee

Getting to Dunedin

For those of you unfortunate enough to not live on the Mainland we recommend that you fly into Dunedin. If you contact the conference's local organising committee with your flight details we can arrange a discounted shuttle bus service to convey you from the airport to your accommodation. There is a good range of flights into Dunedin in the morning from other centres around New Zealand so you should easily arrange to arrive in time to take part in the Taieri Gorge train trip on Friday.

Accommodation

There is a wide variety of accommodation available within a few blocks of the conference venue. We recommend the following venues for their proximity to the Otago Museum and their quality services.

Cargills Quality Hotel: Phone +64 3 477 7983. www.cargills.co.nz, email cargills@es.co.nz

Alcala Motor Lodge: Phone +64 3 477 9073. Reservations 0800 503 883. www.alcalamotorlodge.co.nz

Alexis Motor Lodge: Phone +64 3 471 7268. Reservations 0800 425 394. www.alexis.co.nz, email stay@alexis.co.nz

Farrys Motel Apartments: Phone +64 3 4779 333 or 0800 109 333. www.farrysmotelapartments.co.nz, email farrys@farrysmotel.co.nz

For the more budget conscious we recommend Kiwis Nest Motel and Traveler Accommodation. Phone 03 471 9540. kiwisnest@ihug.co.nz.

Taieri Gorge train trip

We have arranged a group booking for the Taieri Gorge train as a pre-conference opportunity for you to get a small sampling of Otago scenery and to meet informally with other delegates. The trip is a four hour journey by train through the *ōrugged and spectacular Taieri River Gorge, across wrought iron viaducts and through tunnels carved by hand more than 100 years ago* to Pukerangi and back. Make sure you check the *ōTaieri Gorge train* option on the registration form to ensure a space on this trip. If you have your family or partner with you they are warmly invited to join us. The train departs from Dunedin railway station at 12:30 and returns at 4:30.



Venue: Otago Museum

The Otago Museum is an excellent venue for the RASNZ conference. It is located in the vicinity of the University of Otago (15 minutes walk from the Octagon) with a wide range of near by 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.

We will have internet access available through a wireless network and probably also through a small number of wired network ports in the Hutton theatre.

Parking may be scarce around the Museum during Saturday. We recommend you walk if possible from nearby accommodation. The recommended accommodation is all within two blocks of the Museum.

Friday Registration and the Opening night

Friday registration will commence with the return of the Taieri Gorge train and will be held in the Hutton theatre. Access will be through the main Museum foyer. The registration and information desk will be attended throughout the conference proceedings on Saturday and Sunday.

The official opening session for the conference commences at 7:30 on Friday evening and will be followed by a light supper.

Conference Dinner – 100 years of Astronomy

The conference dinner will be held in the atrium of the Otago Museum. In celebration of DAS's centennial year the dinner theme is 100 years of Astronomy, to be interpreted in whatever way you think appropriate. As usual partners are most welcome to attend the conference dinner.

Our after dinner speaker is Natural History New Zealand's chief executive Michael Steadman. Michael will talk about the history of the unit and some of the projects the unit has in the pipeline.

Contacting the Dunedin Local Organising Committee

Your conference pack will include phone numbers that will allow you to contact the conference organisers during the conference. If you need to contact us before the conference you may email rasnz2010@vodafone.co.nz or send mail to:

RASNZ 2010 Registrations
DAS
PO Box 6019,
Dunedin 9059

If you need to contact us urgently on arrival and before you receive your conference pack you may call 0212534259.

Sponsors and Donors

Thank you to N.Z. Telescopes and Mosgiel Computers for being our major sponsors for the 2010 RASNZ

Conference.

We are also pleased to acknowledge significant funding from the St. Kilda Trust, the Southern Victoria Trust and the Otago Community Trust to assist with the costs of running the conference.



Mosgiel Computers