The RASNZ was founded as the New Zealand Astronomical Society in November 1920, so please come along to the Conference and help us celebrate the Society’s centenary.

Note that the 2020 Conference will be starting at 1:00 pm Friday 8 May. As this is earlier than usual you are encouraged to arrive in Wellington on Friday morning.

Alternatively, arrive in Wellington earlier to attend the Dark Skies Workshop starting at 9:00 am Thursday 7 May. See page 4 for further details.

RASNZ conferences are an opportunity for members, professional and amateur astronomers and interested members of the public to hear up-to-date presentations on a range of astronomical topics. Conferences also provide a chance to renew acquaintances or establish new friendships with like-minded people.

Venue
The Conference will be held in the Wharewaka Function Centre, situated on Wellington’s waterfront near Te Papa.
Registration
An on-line registration form is available by following the link to the conference page from www.rasnz.org.nz. A downloadable registration form is also available at the same link.

Paper submission
The organisers invite and encourage anyone interested in New Zealand astronomy to submit oral or poster papers for the conference programme. Please note that those presenting papers must also register for the conference. An on-line submission form is available by following the link to the conference page from www.rasnz.org.nz.

RASNZ Annual General Meeting
The 97th Annual General Meeting of the Royal Astronomical Society of NZ will be held at 3:30 pm Saturday 9 May 2020 in the Wharewaka Function Centre, Wellington. The meeting will include election of officers for 2020-22.

Invited Speaker – Dr Dom Pesce
Dom obtained a BA in physics and astrophysics from Harvard College in 2012, and a PhD in astrophysics from the University of Virginia in 2018. He is currently a postdoctoral fellow working at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics and a member of the Event Horizon Telescope Collaboration who in April 2019 captured an image of the black hole in the centre of M87 using a virtual Earth-sized telescope.

Dom’s research interests include black holes, active galactic nuclei, astrophysical masers, and the application of statistical techniques to astronomical data.
RAS Bicentenary Lecturer – Professor Chris Lintott

Chris’s trip to NZ is sponsored by the Royal Astronomical Society as they mark their bicentenary during the year that we celebrate our centenary.

Chris is Professor of Astrophysics at the University of Oxford with a background in the chemistry associated with star formation. He is currently focused on galaxy formation and runs citizen science projects to investigate galaxy formation, discover planets and more. Chris is also presenter of The Sky at Night on BBC Four.

2020 BHT Lecturer – Professor Anna Scaife

The RASNZ Lecture Trust is bringing Anna to NZ as the Beatrice Hill Tinsley Lecturer for 2020.

Anna is Professor of Radio Astronomy at the University of Manchester where she is Head of the Jodrell Bank Centre for Astrophysics Interferometry Centre of Excellence. Anna is regarded as being a world leader in radio astronomy and leads numerous international projects for the new generation of large radio telescopes, such as the Low-Frequency Array and Square Kilometre Array.

Fellows’ Lecturer 2020 – John Drummond

Pot Got Me Into the Stars

Ever since John’s mother pointed out the ‘Pot’ in Orion to him at the age of ten, he has been fixated on astronomy. This talk will meander a light-hearted path from John’s early days of astronomy and other interests through to the present where he is one of New Zealand’s leading amateur astronomers. It will be laced with some of his astrophotos as well as astronomical highs and lows.
The organisers gratefully acknowledge the assistance of the following sponsors:

THE RASNZ LECTURE TRUST
An anonymous donor

Walking Tour: Wellington Astronomy Trail
Friday 8 May, 1:00 – 4:00 pm

We will leave from the Conference venue (Wharewaka Function Centre) on a walking tour of historically significant astronomical locations close to Wellington’s CBD.

The total walking distance is approximately 4.5 km, either flat or downhill. The tour will include a trip up the Wellington Cable Car at your own expense (adult $5, student with ID $3, Gold Card: off peak free). This tour will take place regardless of the weather so please come prepared should the conditions be inclement.

We will return to the Wharewaka Function Centre in time for the Affiliated Societies Committee (4:00 pm) for those involved with that meeting.

Dark Sky Workshop
Thursday 7 May, 9:00 am – noon

A Dark Skies workshop will be held prior to the Conference. The venue is the St Andrews Centre, 30 The Terrace. Refer to the map on page 1.

Registration for this meeting is included in the on-line (or downloadable) registration form which is available by following the link to the conference page from www.rasnz.org.nz.

Building on from the successful October 2019 Starlight Conference in Lake Tekapo, the Dark Sky Workshop will consist of short talks on relevant key local and international dark sky updates and discussion/demonstration on topics such as sky quality measurements and dark
sky friendly lighting. The Workshop is also expected to provide networking opportunities for participants from current and aspiring dark sky places and dark sky interested RASNZ Conference attendees.

**Airport information**

**Bus**
The Airport Flyer Bus service (route 91) runs from Wellington Airport to Wellington Railway station every 10 minutes on weekdays from 6.30am to 9.00am and 2.00pm to 7.00pm. It runs every 20 minutes at all other times. Exit Door E on the ground floor of the terminal by the baggage claim area and follow the signs. The bus stops at various major stops in the CBD. $12 to/from CBD. [www.nzbus.co.nz/airportflyer/home](http://www.nzbus.co.nz/airportflyer/home)

**Taxi**
Taxi ranks can be found directly outside the baggage claim area on the ground floor of the terminal (use Door G). $30-40 to/from CBD.

**Shuttle**
Super Shuttle shared-ride vans can be found directly outside the baggage claim area on the ground floor of the terminal (use Door G). $15 to/from CBD. Can be booked via [www.supershuttle.co.nz](http://www.supershuttle.co.nz).

**Ride-share (Uber, Zoomy, Ola)**
To meet your driver: exit Door G on the ground floor of the terminal by the baggage claim area, head straight across the crossings and follow the walkway through the rental cars to the pick-up zone. Costs from $20.

**Accommodation options**
*Note that this is only a sample of options near the Conference venue and that inclusion does not imply an endorsement by the Conference committee. Distances from the Conference venue are shown. Other options, including private providers, can be found by searching the internet, e.g. [www.airbnb.co.nz/s/homes](http://www.airbnb.co.nz/s/homes).*

**Hotels**
- West Plaza Hotel: [www.westplaza.co.nz](http://www.westplaza.co.nz), 11 Wakefield St (400 m)
- The Setup on Manners: [http://www.setupmanners.co.nz](http://www.setupmanners.co.nz), 57 Manners St (400 m)
- QT Museum Hotel: [www.qthotelsandresorts.com/wellington](http://www.qthotelsandresorts.com/wellington), 90 Cable St (450 m)
- Aura Hotel: [aurahotel.co.nz](http://aurahotel.co.nz), 95 Manners St (500 m)
- Bay Plaza: [www.bayplaza.co.nz](http://www.bayplaza.co.nz), 40 Oriental Parade (700 m)
- CQ Hotels: [www.cqwellington.com](http://www.cqwellington.com), 213 Cuba St (850 m)
Motels
- Victoria Court Motor Lodge: www.victoriacourt.co.nz/, 201 Victoria St (1 km)
- Harbour City Motor Inn: www.harbourcitymotorinn.co.nz, 92-96 Webb St (1.4 km)

Backpackers
- YHA Wellington: www.yha.co.nz, 292 Wakefield St (700 m)
- The Dwellington: www.thedwellington.co.nz, 8 Halswell St (2.0 km)
- The Marion: www.themarionhostel.com, 8 Marion St (650 m)
- The Setup on Dixon: www.setupdixon.co.nz, 15 Dixon St (450 m)

Tourist information
The Conference venue is just a 4-minute walk from the Wellington i-Site visitor information centre at the Michael Fowler Centre. We recommend you go there to find out about some of the amazing things Wellington has to offer. Remember Wellington has more cafes, bars and restaurants per capita than New York so you are not short of options!

Some recommended highlights:
- Space Place at Carter Observatory
- The Botanic Gardens
- Wellington Cable Car
- Te Papa
- Wellington Museum
- Zealandia
- Weta Cave

Extend your trip and head to the Wairarapa after your stay to New Zealand’s next Dark Sky Reserve! Visit the brand-new Star Field observatory for an incredible night of star gazing.

Programme outline – subject to refinement

Thursday 7 May
9:00 am – noon  Dark Skies Workshop, the St Andrews Centre, 30 The Terrace
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm  Council meeting

Friday 8 May
9:00 am – noon  Council meeting, continued
1:00 pm  Leave from the Wharewaka Function Centre for a walking tour of historically significant astronomical locations close to Wellington’s CBD
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm  Affiliated Societies meeting, Wharewaka Function Centre
7:00 pm  Conference opening and Fellows’ Lecture
8:30 pm  Refreshments and socialising
**Saturday 9 May**

8:00 am  SWAPA breakfast meeting  
9:00 am  Oral presentations session 1  
10:30 am  Morning Tea  
11:00 am  Oral presentations session 2  
12:45 pm  Conference Photo  
1:00 pm  Lunch  
2:00 pm  Oral presentations session 3  
3:30 pm  Afternoon Tea  
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm  RASNZ Annual General Meeting  
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm  Meeting of SWAPAs and Invited Speaker  
7:30 pm  Conference Dinner including presentation of awards and after dinner speaker

**Sunday 10 May**

9:00 am  Oral presentations session 4  
10:30 am  Morning Tea  
11:00 am  Oral presentations session 5  
12:30 pm  Lunch  
1:30 pm  Oral presentations session 6  
3:40 pm  Oral presentations close  
4:00 pm  Public talk  
5:30 pm  Council meeting

**RASNZ Conference Code of Conduct**

Conference is dedicated to providing a harassment-free conference experience for everyone regardless of gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, age or religion.

We do not tolerate harassment of conference participants in any form. Sexual language and imagery are not appropriate for any conference venue, including talks. Conference participants violating these rules may be sanctioned or expelled from the conference without a refund at the discretion of the conference organisers.

Images from: Wellington City Council, Dom Pesce, Event Horizon Telescope Collaboration, OpenSym.org, skatelescope.org, John Drummond, Wellington City Archives