

VollieNews

NEWSLETTER OF THE POVG - THE PERTH OBSERVATORY VOLUNTEERS' GROUP INC.

Astro News

Scientists say hassled galaxy 'thriving on chaos'

Powerful but unknown forces are at work in a small companion galaxy of the Milky Way, astronomers say in the latest issue of the journal *Science*. Something is keeping the structure and magnetic field of this galaxy (the Large Magellanic Cloud) strong and ordered, even while the Milky Way's gravity works to tear them apart.

Early universe looks like 'vegetable soup'

What did the universe look like when it was only 2 to 3 billion years old? Astronomers used to think it was a pretty simple place containing relatively small, young star-forming galaxies. Researchers now are realising that the truth is not that simple. Even the early universe was a wildly complex place. Studying the universe at this early stage is important in understanding how the galaxies near us were assembled over time.

Active, Earth-like world revealed by Cassini

Saturn's hazy largest moon, Titan - a body long held to be a frozen analog of early Earth - has a surface shaped largely by an Earth-like interplay of tectonics, erosion by fluids, winds, and perhaps volcanism. So reports the Cassini

imaging team in the latest issue of *Nature*, in their first published presentation of findings from images of Titan gathered since last July

Cassini discovers a windy, wavy Titan atmosphere

The dynamic atmosphere of Saturn's haze-enshrouded moon Titan is revealed in the first Cassini Imaging Team report on Titan. Scientists, analysing images of Titan designed to allow views of the surface and lower atmosphere, have discovered that the winds on Titan blow a lot faster than the moon rotates. In contrast, the jet stream of Earth blows a lot slower than the surface of our planet moves.

Hubble weighs in on the heaviest stars in the galaxy

Astronomers have taken an important step toward establishing an upper limit to the masses of stars. Using NASA's Hubble Space Telescope, they made the first direct measurement within our Milky Way Galaxy, and concluded stars cannot get any larger than about 150 times the mass of our sun.

Cassini captures greatest Saturn portrait yet

While cruising around Saturn, Cassini captured a series of images that have been composed into the largest, most detailed, global natural colour view of Saturn and its rings ever made.

Treasures found among Saturn's rings, moons

The high porosity of Saturn's innermost small moons, tenuous ringlets discovered in some of the gaps in its rings, the variation in ring particle composition across the rings, and new ring structures which indicate more clearly than ever the transient clumping and aggregation of particles as they orbit Saturn are among the discoveries being reported by the Cassini Imaging Science team.

Features on Saturn's moon Phoebe given names

Twenty-four of the largest craters on Phoebe, the small, retrograde outer moon of Saturn have been assigned names by the International Astronomical Union.

Saturn's uniquely complex magnetosphere

Scientists have marvelled at Saturn's giant magnetosphere and the plasma — a complex magnetised fluid of hot charged particles — confined within it. Using new data from the Cassini mission, scientists are beginning to tease out the melange of ingredients and processes that contribute to the ringed planet's surprisingly complicated magnetosphere.

For full stories go to <http://www.astronomy.com/>

In this issue: POVG's Meeting Minutes |
Phases of the Moon | Dates & Times for Vollie Training and Meeting Nights 2005

**Perth Observatory Volunteer Group Inc.
Minutes of Meeting
February 7th 2005.**

Present.

M. Freeman. P. Birch. R. Tonelli. J. Morris. B. Harris. J. Milner. J. Alcroft. D. Alderson. A. Mcnaughton. T. Beardsmore. G. Coletti.

Apologies.

E. Walker. R. Boelen. K. Ford. V. Semmler. M. Haslam. K. Kotze. R. Loney. D. Emrich.

Attending by Invitation.

I. Baran. A. Asher. N. Townsend. G. Brooks. G. Boyd. J. Brook. D. Shearer. T. Roberts.

Chairman M. Freeman opened the meeting by welcoming the new Volunteers and explained that they would, in the future have to apply to become members of the Volunteer Group Inc. He Tabled a copy of the proposed

amendments to the Constitution, should we wish to become a Tax Deductable Organisation, this would enable the Group to offer tax deductibility to anyone wishing to donate funds to the Group.

Treasurer's Report.

B. Harris stated that there had been no activity, apart from the lodging of the Business Activity Statement. Funds in the Bank remained at \$333.53

General Business.

1. P. Birch welcomed the new Volunteers, and reminded all members of the Summer Lecture on February 25th at the Observatory all members were welcome to attend. He outlined the format for the rest of the evening, after a talk by David Schleicher on Comets there would be a telescope training session for the new Volunteers, and a chance for existing Volunteers to see how the Pantagraph was assembled.

2. M. Freeman stated that we again had the opportunity to apply for a funds from the Federal Volunteer Small Equipment Grants, this would be submitted in the near future. He also remarked that he and J. Morris had attended a Presentation at the Observatory by the Western Australian Community Foundation, who were created to assist groups like us in obtaining Donations from persons or Companies wishing to assist Charitable groups. Further details would be available at a later meeting.

3 B. Harris asked all the new Volunteers to contact him so that they could be included on the group website.

There being no further General Business the meeting closed at 7.15pm
Next Meeting March 14th

Astronomy Lecture Rescheduled

Due to unforeseen circumstances the astronomy lecture planned for March 14th has been rescheduled to March 16. Revised time: Where: Lecture room 2.15 Physics building, University of WA

When: Wednesday March 16th at 4.00 to 5.00 P.M

Will a new radio telescope at Mileura Station in WA reveal the fundamental nature of galaxy formation?

Presented by Professor Frank Briggs

He currently holds a joint position with CSIRO's Australia Telescope National Facility and the Research School of Astronomy &

Astrophysics, ANU.

This lecture is for anyone interested in astronomy. Find out the latest exciting developments in radio-astronomy for Western Australia

Abstract

The radio quiet environment of the West Australian outback will permit astronomy in radio bands that cannot be used at most existing radio observatories. I will be discussing an exciting new low frequency array at Mileura which will trace the 21cm line of neutral hydrogen through the period when the first stars and galaxies formed.

Biography

Professor Briggs is currently visiting WA to commence early deployment of the Mileura Wide-Field Array Low Frequency Demonstrator at the Australian SKA site at Mileura Station. His principal research interests include: Galaxy formation and evolution; Epoch of Reionization, Galaxy populations and kinematics through neutral hydrogen studies; Radio astronomy techniques and instrumentation; and Planetary Surfaces and atmospheres.

Giuseppe L.A. Coletti

Lectures at the Centre for Planetary and Space Studies

Dear Vollies

I have received the following information about the first of a series of monthly lectures at the Centre for Planetary and Space Studies, at Trinity College, East Perth. "Wednesday - 16th March - 7 pm.

Come And Enjoy An Autumn Lecture Series on Cutting Edge Topics, Suitable For the General Public, All Welcome. Descent to Titan Dr Graham Mann -- Western Dynamics, MSA, Murdoch (Cassini and Huygens visits to the gas giant Saturn and a landing on one of it's mysterious moons) Civilisation

exists by geological consent, subject to change without notice Dr Franco Pirajno GSWA, MSA, ACA (The eruption of Mt Vesuvius in AD 79 and the destruction of Pompeii)

Meet Perth People Involved in International Space Science, Learn About WA Based Volunteer Projects All Lectures Start at 7.00 pm, and during an interval, attendees will be provided with finger-food and coffee, tea, Milo, and water available

The next two lecture evenings are the 20th April and 18th of May. Subject of Lectures will be available soon. So put

them on your calendar.

Lectures are held at Trinity College's Senior Lecture Theatre, 2nd Floor, Science Building (the one with the telescope dome the roof) Adults \$5.00 - Students (Under 18 yrs) \$2.00

Look forward to seeing you there.

Please advise me on 9295 6466 or president@marsociety.org.au if you have a group of more than 4.

JOIN THE POVG NEWS GROUP

If you've got any news, information or pics post them on the newsgroup. To join simply send your email address to Bevan Harris at: ngc2070@bigpond.com

To unsubscribe send an email to: perthobsvollies-unsubscribe@yahoo.com

To modify your subscription, visit the group website at: <http://au.groups.yahoo.com/mygroups>

PHASES OF THE MOON FOR 2005

New Moon	First Quarter	Full Moon	Last Quarter
			Jan 4 01:45
Jan 10 20:03	Jan 17 14:57	Jan 25 18:32	Feb 2 15:27
Feb 9 06:28	Feb 16 08:16	Feb 24 12:54	Mar 4 01:36
Mar 10 17:10	Mar 18 03:19	Mar 26 04:58	Apr 2 08:50
Apr 9 04:32	Apr 16 22:37	Apr 24 18:06	May 1 14:24
May 8 16:45	May 16 16:56	May 24 04:18	May 30 19:47
Jun 7 05:55	Jun 15 09:22	Jun 22 12:14	Jun 29 02:23
Jul 6 20:02	Jul 14 23:20	Jul 21 18:60	Jul 28 11:19
Aug 5 11:05	Aug 13 10:38	Aug 20 01:53	Aug 26 23:18
Sep 4 02:45	Sep 11 19:36	Sep 18 10:01	Sep 25 14:41
Oct 3 18:28	Oct 11 03:01	Oct 17 20:13	Oct 25 09:17
Nov 2 09:24	Nov 9 09:57	Nov 16 08:57	Nov 24 06:11
Dec 1 23:01	Dec 8 17:36	Dec 16 00:15	Dec 24 03:36
Dec 31 11:12			

<http://www.wa.gov.au/perthobshpc5mn03.htm>

ASWA's Swan Star Party

Hi Everyone,

You are invited to ASWA's Swan Star Party on the weekend of April 8th & 10th at a Farmstay at Quindanning (near Boddington). † Good accommodation, top catering, wonderful dark skies and astronomical company!

For info go to ASWA's website @

<http://aswa.info> and follow the link to the Swan Star Party.

This year the Star Party is being organised by Tracey Sorensen of the Astronomical Society of South West. All enquiries should be directed through

the Star Party link.

Wish I could be there, but I'll be in Melbourne for a very special wedding. Hope some of you can go (to the Star Party, not the wedding). Val

PERTH OBSERVATORY VOLUNTEERS' GROUP

PERTH OBSERVATORY STAFF

Dr Jamie Biggs	Director and Govt Astronomer
Peter Birch	Astronomer
Ralph Martin	Astronomer
Dr Andrew Williams	Astronomer
Rick Tonello	Astronomer Assistant
Greg Lowe	Astronomer Assistant
Janet Bell	Administration Officer
Di Johns	Clerical Officer
Arie Vermeer	Technical manager
John Pearce	Mechanical technician
Marc Appelhof	Maintenance Person/Cleaner

POVG VOLUNTEERS

Mike Freeman	Chairperson
Elaine Walker	Vice Chairperson
John Morris	Secretary
Bevan Harris	Treasurer and newsgroup moderator (contact: ngc2070@bigpond.com)
Jeff Alcroft	Newsletter Editor (contact: callides@inet.net.au)

OBSERVATORY'S VOLUNTEERS' LIST

Jeff Alcroft	Keith Ford	Len Martin
Dick Alderson	Mike Freeman	Jacquie Milner
Trevor Beardsmore	Lynda Frewer	John Morris
Lyall Bell	Bevan Harris	Lloyd Robinson
Frank Bilki	Mark Haslam	Sascha Schediwy
Tony Beston	Bert Hollebon	Patricia Turner
Ric Boelen	Karen Kotze	Elaine Walker
Eve Cowlshaw	Vic Levis	Sandra Walker
Giuseppe Coletti	Rob Loney	Matthew Zengerer
David Emrich	Andrew MacNaughtan	

PROBATIONARY VOLLIES

ASHER ABRAHAM	NOREEN TOWNSEND
IRENEUSZ BARAN	ARCHIVING
GARRY BOYD	SALLY CULVER
JOHN BROOKE	
GARTH BROOKS	
TIM ROBERTS	
VAL SEMMLER	
DAVID SHEARER	

2005 Volunteer Training & Meeting Nights

Training is important for our volunteers, they enjoy it and we need to support these staff members in return for the assistance they render.

Generally, these training nights are scheduled for 7pm the Monday after the week of Last Quarter.

This list (or a part thereof) is also displayed on the volunteer notice board. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Jamie Biggs. Govt Astronomer.

2005

4	Apr;
9	May;
30	May;
4	Jul;
1	Aug.

