

# VollieNews

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

## CHAIRMAN S REPORT FOR 2004-2005 Perth Observatory Volunteer Group

The year has passed with a few significant initiatives, but in many ways one that could be termed a year of quiet achievements.

Our support for the Observatory resulted in a total hours on deck of 1732 hours for 2004. Since the last AGM, there were 114 night-viewings advertised. We assisted on other special viewing nights, at other functions and in archiving. As pointed out by the Observatory Director, the total hours are equivalent to an extra full-time person; a considerable help we can justifiably be proud of.

The enthusiasm by the Vollies for helping is clearly seen in the devotion to duty of the members, turning up on all types of nights, regardless of the weather conditions and their cheerful disposition.

As with all voluntary organisations, there has been a slow loss of some members. It is always sorrowful to see experienced members leave, especially when circumstances beyond their control forced them to make the decision. To those who have left, a big Thank you for helping and for being part of our group.

### **New intake of Vollies**

A new intake of Vollies saw 15 new chums being accepted for training in early

2005. We will formally welcome them into the POVG progressively as they pass through probation and become full volunteers.

We have taken two steps to try to bolster our financial support for the Observatory during the past year.

### **Volunteer Group to become a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR)**

Firstly, we have moved to enable the Volunteer Group to become a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) as termed by the Taxation Office. This means that we will be able to accept gifts that the donor can claim as a tax deduction. Under the law, we can only do this as a Cultural Organisation, requiring us to be put on the List of Registered Cultural organisations by the Federal Minister for Cultural organisations, Information Technology and The Arts and the Federal Treasurer. Our constitution requires amending to more clearly identify that management, protection and support of culture is one of our principle purposes. We can do that because there is much cultural heritage related to the Observatory property and the grand history as one of Western Australia's scientific organisations; we just have to ensure it is enshrined clearly in our Constitution.

The second step is to consider us becoming

part of the Western Australian Community Foundation. This foundation has been established as a means of voluntary organisations receiving and holding money in a fund amalgamated with other DGRs funds. The fund is guaranteed under the State Government, and its role is to locate the best interest-earning available to funds pooled by all the members of the Foundation. It works by amalgamating each individual's funds to create a large amount that can attract better interest. We need a \$10 000 donation to kick-start our program. Once we have funds, we can apply them in support of the Observatory's roles, as we were originally set up to do so. We have applied twice during the year for grants from the Commonwealth's Small Equipment Volunteer Grants program, the first was unsuccessful, and the second is still outstanding. The funding, of about \$2000, is intended to provide jackets and hats for vollies to wear at night viewing sessions. By having insulated, co-ordinated jackets, members will present a more professional appearance, and be warmer on the cold nights.

### **Night viewings**

Night viewings have not been quite as headline catching, as in the previous year when the proximity of Mars generated much community enthusiasm for astronomy and we had a very early, and extremely successful, start to the viewing nights. However, the transit of Venus was a notable, though daytime, event.

### **Monthly training nights**

We have continued with the monthly training nights,... (cont next page)

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT Cont

receiving training in the use of the equipment. Of particular note was that all received training in use of the laser pointers, to ensure the public is protected when we use these potentially dangerous instruments.

### Field excursion to the Shoemaker Impact Structure

The highlight of the year for me was the field excursion to view the Shoemaker Impact Structure, and along the way we visited the newly-identified Yarrabubba Impact Structure as well as Dalgara Crater and the Yallalie Structure, over five days. Six members were accompanied by six members of the public. It was a marvellous success: looking at the results of four extremely diverse impacts; sleeping under the stars

beside the 4WD bus; sharing the company of other like-minded enthusiasts; and having a well-experienced, professional company putting the details in place. Frank Bilki and I produced a rather professional field guide for all attendees, the first formal publication of the POVG.

### A big thank you to support team

And while on publications, Jeff Alcroft continued preparing the monthly Vollie News, keeping us all informed about the group and the world of astronomy.

Finally, I want to express appreciation to all who have helped to make the year a success; including John Morris for being a most patient Secretary, Bevan Harris for his tireless account-keeping as Treasurer, Elaine Walker as Vice-Chairman for stepping into

the gap when I was away, Jeff Alcroft for his excellent and always timely editing of the Vollie News, Frank Bilki for his great effort for the excursion field guide and to all the members for their time and effort, small and large, during the past year. Finally, thanks to the Observatory for bringing the whole Group into being, and allowing us to share the world of astronomy with them, and to bring the wonder of the skies to so many of the public.

Mike Freeman  
Chairman, 2004-2005

### 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@yahoogroups.com.au

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	<b>Feb 2 15:27</b>
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	<b>Apr 2 08:50</b>
<b>Apr 9 04:32</b>	<b>Apr 16 22:37</b>	<b>Apr 24 18:06</b>	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/perthobs/hpc5mm03.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 Volunteer Group Inc.**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**March 14th 2005**

Present.

D.Emrich. J.Biggs. G.Lowe. J.Alcroft.  
J.Morris. E.Walker. R.Bolan. D.Alderson.  
B.Harris.

Apologies.

T.Beston. G.Coletti. M.Zengerer. J.Bell.  
M.Freeman. L.Martin. L.Bell. T.Beardsmore.  
A.McNaughton. J.Milner. L.Robinson.  
Attending by Invitation. J.Brook. D.Shearer.  
N.Townsend. I.Baran. M.Emmons.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting .

Confirmed as a true and correct record by  
J.Alcroft, sec. D.Alderson.

Business Arising from the Minutes.

E.Walker stated that Chairman M.Freeman  
had sent off an application for a Grant to  
enable the group to purchase more coats  
and hats.

Treasurer's Report.

B.Harris reported that the financial situa-  
tion remained the same as the previous

month . Funds in the Bank were \$333.53.  
Accounts from the Shoemaker trip had been  
finalised, showing a small profit.

General Business.

1 N.Townsend asked for details regarding  
how and when new volunteers changed  
from being on a probationary status to fully  
capable Volunteers , J.Biggs outlined the for-  
mat and the required ability to operate a  
telescope and talk to a tour group about any  
of the objects that we show to the public.

2. J.Biggs gave details of a meeting with a  
representative of the "Western Australian  
Community Foundation", also attended by  
M.Freeman and J.Morris. The Foundation  
had been set up to assist bodies like the  
Observatory in making themselves legally  
qualified to receive Donations or Bequests,  
and to become eligible under the  
Deductible Gift Status , whereby Donors of  
funds to the Observatory could claim the  
sum as a Tax deduction, The Foundation  
would assist us, but to enjoy the benefits we  
would need a minimum \$10.000 to open an  
account .

3. Members complimented the Observatory

on the Content and the Speaker for the  
Summer Lecture, all agreed it was a very  
enjoyable evening.

4. J.Biggs asked that members stress to visi-  
tors the No Smoking Rule once out of the  
Car Park, it was suggested that a large " No  
Smoking past This Point " be prominently  
displayed in the Foyer.

5. J.Biggs stated that he was able to obtain  
small torches that after shaking vigorously  
generated power for 10 minutes or so , they  
required no batteries and could be very suit-  
able for use up at the telescopes, several  
members indicated interest in purchasing  
them.

There being no further General Business the  
Meeting closed at 7.50pm

Next Meeting .....April 19th

## TALK: "A Star is Born"

"A Star is Born: the Formation and  
Future of our Sun" a talk by Jenny  
Bevan

- Friends of E de CC Earth Science  
Museum meeting: non-members also  
welcome

Sun, 03 Apr 2005 12:30 - Woolnough  
Lecture  
Theatre, Geology Building,  
UWA Crawley campus

Jenny Bevan

The illustrated talk will take us through  
the formation of stars and specifically  
our own star, the Sun. Find out how we  
compare with other stars in the Solar  
System and where the chemicals that  
make up everything on Earth, including

your body, came from in the first place.

What is going to happen to our own  
special star? Will it burn forever, and if  
not, how long have we got?

URL:

[http://www.earthmuseum.segs.uwa.edu.  
au](http://www.earthmuseum.segs.uwa.edu.au)

For more information:

Jenny Bevan  
[jbevan@cyllene.uwa.edu.au](mailto:jbevan@cyllene.uwa.edu.au)  
6488 2681

Starts : Sun, 03 Apr 2005 12:30

Ends : Sun, 03 Apr 2005 13:30

This event can be viewed on the web at:

[http://events.uwa.edu.au/event/2005031  
4T050826Z-330-  
8904@events.uwa.edu.au/whatson/even  
ts](http://events.uwa.edu.au/event/20050314T050826Z-330-8904@events.uwa.edu.au/whatson/events)

Please ensure you check this site closer  
to the  
date, as no further  
updates will be emailed.

What's On at UWA -

<http://events.uwa.edu.au/Dear VOLLIES>

# 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 Verveer	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: <a href="mailto:ngc2070@bigpond.com">ngc2070@bigpond.com</a> )
Jeff Alcroft	Newsletter Editor (contact: <a href="mailto:callides@inet.net.au">callides@inet.net.au</a> )

## OBSERVATORY'S VOLUNTEERS' LIST

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

## PROBATIONARY VOLLIES

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

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

