



VollieNews

NEWSLETTER OF THE POVG (PERTH OBSERVATORY VOLUNTEER GROUP INC).

Big Change at the Observatory

In the 109 years since the Observatory's opening ceremony, only Harold Curlewis was in the Obs-job longer than Peter Birch. Mr Curlewis started in 1898, became Acting Government Astronomer in 1912, and was appointed Government Astronomer in 1920. He held the position until 1940. Altogether, a span of 42 years. Peter started in 1970 and retired in 2005 - he felt that, after 35 years, he had more important things to do than just staying on to beat Curlewis's record. How's the fishing, Peter?

There is a vicious rumour abroad, to the effect that Peter left the Observatory before the Grim Reaper could get to him. He's worked for three previous directors: John Harris, Ivan Nikoloff and Mike Candy. Two of them died "on the job". Dr Nikoloff is still with us, as those who came to Peter's send-

off luncheon at the Observatory would be well aware. At the send-off, Ivan told us about the circumstances of Peter's arrival at the Observatory in 1970 and the opportunity that soon materialised for collaboration with Lowell Observatory. Throughout this collaboration, Peter has been our main point of contact with Lowell. We earnestly hope that the Perth-Lowell link remains strong for years to come.

Jamie's already farming out jobs that Peter used to do, to other staff members. For myself, and for you vollies, a very obvious effect of Peter's departure will be his absence from the star viewing nights. Life goes on, as they say. We'll all make adjustments. Mike Candy, who was Government Astronomer before Jamie, famously said after the big staff cuts in 1987 that no-one's

indispensable. He would quote that line again, from time to time. We used to worry a lot, in those days, about the Observatory being shut down. Mike had a good sense of humour. He died in 1994, but the Observatory's still operating. I can imagine him saying, "See, I told you so".

- Greg Lowe -

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.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	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/perthobs/fpc5mm03.htm>

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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: NGC2070@BIGPOND.COM)
JEFF ALCROFT	NEWSLETTER EDITOR (CONTACT: CALLIDES@IINET.NET.AU)

OBSERVATORY'S VOLUNTEER LIST

JEFF ALCROFT	DAVID EMRICH	ANDREW MACNAUGHTAN
DICK ALDERSON	MARK EMMONS	LEN MARTIN
TREVOR BEARDSMORE	KEITH FORD	JACQUIE MILNER
LYALL BELL	MIKE FREEMAN	JOHN MORRIS
FRANK BILKI	LYNDA FREWER	LLOYD ROBINSON
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RIC BOELEN	MARK HASLAM	MATTHEW ZENGERER
GARRY BOYD	KAREN KOTZE	
GIUSEPPE COLETTI	ROB LONEY	

PROBATIONARY VOLUNTEERS

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

2005/06 Volunteer Training & Meeting Nights

Below are listed the training nights scheduled for 2005/2006.

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

All staff are directed NOT to ROSTER ANY ACTIVITY THAT WILL INTERFERE WITH TRAINING night attendees access to the lecture theatre and the VOF (and associated telescopes). Generally (but not necessarily depending on Public Holidays etc), these training nights are scheduled for 7pm the Monday after the week of Last Quarter. This list is also displayed on the volunteer notice board.

Also, could you please bring the details of this message to the attention of all staff under your direct supervision. Your co-operation is appreciated. Jamie Biggs.

2005

19 Sep
24 Oct
28 Nov

2006

23 Jan
27 Feb
27 Mar
18 Apr: (NOTE: this is a Tuesday)
22 May
19 Jun
17 Jul
21 Aug



PERTH OBSERVATORY
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<http://www.wa.gov.au/perthobs>

POVG
Perth Observatory Volunteers Group