

*To all Members of the
Perth Observatory Volunteers Group,
a Very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year.*

Next Meeting: 23 Jan 2006.

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/hpc5mn03.htm>

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@gmail.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>

Hayabusa Hits Paydirt

The Japanese spacecraft Hayabusa ("Falcon") prepares to obtain a sample of the asteroid 25143 Itokawa. A pellet fired down through the cone kicked up surface matter for collection.

November 25, 2005

Early this morning, Japanese scientists and engineers gathered at the Deep Space Control Room, awaiting confirmation that the Hayabusa spacecraft had briefly touched down on a distant asteroid and grabbed a sample of its dusty surface. Someone hung an embroidered amulet on one of the computer consoles for good luck, and that gesture seemingly helped the trouble-prone craft to succeed.

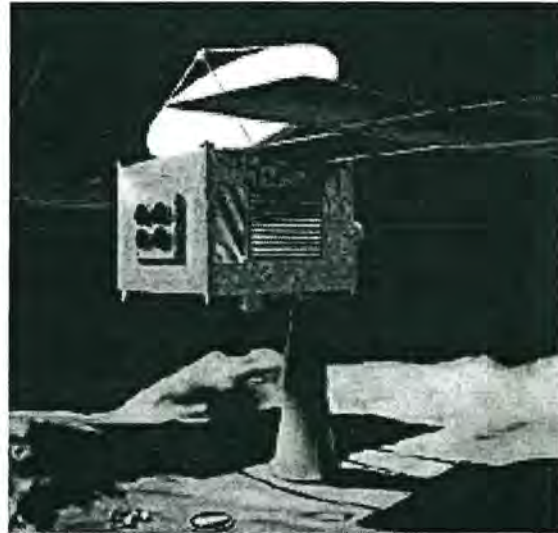
Shortly before 8 a.m. Japan time, Hayabusa (Japanese for "falcon") swooped toward the surface of 25143 Itokawa, fired a metal bullet downward, and collected some of the dust kicked up by the impact. Today's sampling operation went smoothly, say officials of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, though they have not yet announced whether the spacecraft fired a single pellet or all three that it carried.

Regardless, this is likely the final landing for a technologically challenging mission that has had more than its share of misfortune. Hayabusa lost two attitude-stabilizing "control wheels" before reaching its target on September 12th, leaving just one wheel, plus thruster rockets, to maneuver the spacecraft around Itokawa and maintain its orientation. On November 12th, during a dress rehearsal for the first of two sampling runs, Hayabusa released a small instrumented probe named Minerva that was supposed to land on Itokawa. But instead, because of unfortunate timing, it drifted off into space and was lost.

The mission's most puzzling events occurred on November 20th, during the first sampling attempt. According to an analysis by JASA engineers, Hayabusa descended as planned to Itokawa's surface, bouncing twice before coming to a stop. It remained there for 30 to 40 minutes — yet did not fire a 5-gram tantalum pellet into the asteroid as planned. Apparently a landing sensor detected an obstacle in the minutes leading up to touchdown and disabled the firing mechanism as a precaution.

The mission's timetable calls for Hayabusa to begin its return trip to Earth about December 12th, and if all goes well its sample-bearing reentry capsule will be captured above the Australian Outback in June 2007. By J. Kelly Beatty

http://skyandtelescope.com/news/article_1630_1.asp



The Japanese spacecraft Hayabusa casts its shadow on the asteroid 25143 Itokawa while hovering just 32 meters (105 feet) above the surface on November 20, 2005. Telemetry indicates that the craft did land on Itokawa and remain there for more than 30 minutes — but it did not collect a sample as planned. To aid its descent Hayabusa released a small reflective target marker (circled). Courtesy Japan Aerospace and Exploration Agency.

Perth Observatory Volunteer Group Inc.
Minutes of Meeting
October 24th 2005

Present.

L.Martin. E.Walker. D.Emrich. J.Morris. A.Williams. G.Lowe.
N.Townsend. G.Coletti. K.Ford. J.Alcroft. J.Milner. R.Boelin.
D.Alderson. M.Haslam. L.Robinson. A.Abraham.

Apologies.

M.Freeman. I.Baran. T.Beston. J.Bell. V.Semmler. J.Biggs.
M.Emmons. K.Kotze. T.Roberts. L.Bell.

Confirmation of the Minutes .

As the minutes of the previous meeting , dated May 30th had not been distributed, Chairman E.Walker read the minutes to members. Which were confirmed as a true and correct record . Moved B.Harris . seconded R.Boelin.

Business Arising from the Minutes.

N.Townsend referred to the item regarding a proposed Corporate Viewing Night and tabled a list of possible Invitees , it would be possible to cater for the event for approximately \$10.00per head , we could obtain wine from the Hainault Winery on a use or return basis. Star viewing to take place first, followed by a drinks and snacks , with J.Biggs then addressing the gathering explaining our need for some corporate sponsorship. she had printed a draft "Invitation" which was tabled.

Members agreed the proposal had great potential ,and N.Townsend was to be congratulated for her initiative.

It was agreed that up to \$250.00 of Volunteer funds could be contributed towards the costs, if required.Members were shown a copy of the article about the Star Viewing nights printed in the Hills Gazetteon October 15th, G.Coletti suggested that similar type articles could be placed at no cost in a varietyof local newspapers.

It was further suggested that there was scope for promoting the Observatory as a venue for a private viewing session by Social Clubs and Company Staff Nights.L.Martin stated that he would be able to obtain a supply of "Bumper/ Rear Window Stickers, promoting the Observatory Viewing Nights, and had passed the information to J.Biggs requesting details regarding wording and colour.

It was agreed that Volunteers attending the possible Corporate Viewing Nights should be uniformlydressed in the T.shirts with the Observatory Logo.

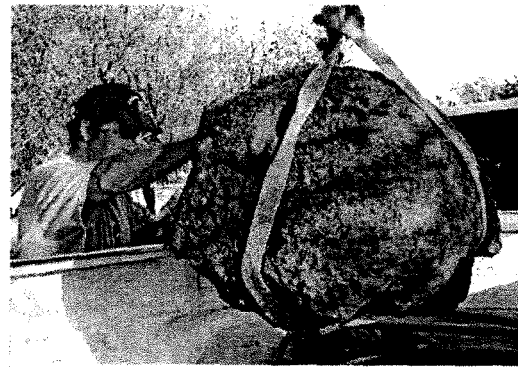
Treasurers Report.

B.Harris reported that following a small profit from the Voluteer Quiz Night theBank balance now stood at \$420.63.General Business.

It was noted that the Millenium Dome was not at present able to be used during the Tour nights, owing to the future installation of a Telescope being fitted for use over the Internet by University students in the U.S.A.

Massive Meteorite Found

By J. Kelly Beatty



Steve Arnold loads his rare 1,400 pound meteorite into a pickup truck. The stony-iron mass, which he found buried 7 feet down using a sophisticated metal detector, might be worth more than \$1 million. Courtesy Philip Mann.

November 18, 2005 | It's not common to find prospectors trudging across the vast plains of southwestern Kansas, but Steve Arnold isn't your ordinary treasure-hunter. A professional meteorite collector from Kingston, Arkansas, Arnold made the discovery of a lifetime in late October when he discovered a rare stony-iron meteorite weighing more than 1,400 pounds (650 kilograms).

The area near Brenham Township in Kansas already had a reputation for meteorites stretching back to 1882, when the first sample from an extensive fall was found. Arnold went looking for more, crisscrossing the farmlands with a sensitive metal detector attached to an all-terrain vehicle. The massive discovery lay more than 7 feet below the surface, and it took 212 hours of digging with a large backhoe to unearth it.

Arnold's find represents the largest known fragment of the Brenham fall, eclipsing a 1,040-pound specimen found in 1949. The meteorite is a rather rare type known as a pallasite, consisting of large gemlike crystals of the mineral olivine embedded in a mass of iron and nickel. The recent find ranks as the largest pallasite found in the United States, but more remarkable is its streamlined shape — indicating that this space rock maintained the same orientation throughout its fiery plunge through Earth's atmosphere.

It was felt by all members that in the event that the proposed telescope was not due to arrive in the near future, that the 16inch or the 10inch be placed in the Dome on a temporary basis, G.Lowe stated that this would require the use of a crane, L.Robinson stated that he had a mobile crane and would be happy to make it available .K.Ford reported on his visit to an Astronomical Museum in the U.S.A. and detailed several Exhibits used over there that could be placed in the display room for the education of the public. G.Coletti stated that he had access to a metal working facility, lathes etc. and would be happy to assist in the creation of some display items. N.Townsend said that it would be possible to obtain grants for anything relating to displays that educated the public on astronomy.

After considerable discussion on the dates of Volunteer Meeting nights, it was moved by B.Harris seconded by D.Emrich that as from January 2006 meeting nights should be fixed on the 3rd Monday of the Month, this would avoid clashing with other Perth Astronomical Group nights. This was agreed unanimously.

As there was no further General Business the Meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Next Meeting November 28th

PERTH OBSERVATORY VOLUNTEERS' GROUP

PERTH OBSERVATORY STAFF

DR JAMIE BIGGS
RALPH MARTIN
DR ANDREW WILLIAMS
RICK TONELLO
GREG LOWE
JANET BELL
DI JOHNS
ARIE VERVEER
JOHN PEARCE
MARC APPELHOF

DIRECTOR AND GOVT ASTRONOMER
ASTRONOMER
ASTRONOMER
ASTRONOMER ASSISTANT
ASTRONOMER ASSISTANT
ADMINISTRATION OFFICER
CLERICAL OFFICER
TECHNICAL MANAGER
MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN
MAINTENANCE PERSON/CLEANER

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.

POVG VOLUNTEERS

MIKE FREEMAN
ELAINE WALKER
JOHN MORRIS
BEVAN HARRIS

CHAIRPERSON
VICE CHAIRPERSON
SECRETARY
TREASURER AND NEWSGROUP MODERATOR
(CONTACT: NGC2070@gmail.com)
NEWSLETTER EDITOR
(CONTACT: CALLIDES@IINET.NET.AU)

JEFF ALCROFT

OBSERVATORY VOLUNTEER LIST

JEFF ALCROFT
DICK ALDERSON
IRENEUSZ BARAN
TREVOR BEARDSMORE
LYALL BELL
FRANK BILKI
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LEN MARTIN
JACQUIE MILNER
JOHN MORRIS
TIM ROBERTS
LLOYD ROBINSON
ELAINE WALKER
MATTHEW ZENGERER

PROBATIONARY VOLUNTEERS

ASHER ABRAHAM
VAL SEMMLER
NOREEN TOWNSEND



Perth Observatory Volunteers Group

PERTH OBSERVATORY
337 Walnut Road, Bickley WA 6076
<http://www.wa.gov.au/perthobs>

2006 (Monday night)

23 Jan

27 Feb

27 Mar

18 Apr: (NOTE: Tuesday)

22 May

19 Jun

17 Jul

21 Aug