

PERTH OBSERVATORY VOLUNTEER GROUP INC. MINUTES OF MEETING & GENERAL MEETING ANNUAL OF 15TH MAY 2006

Present.

J. Alcroft. T.Beston. A. Williams. I. Baran. L. Robinson. J. Milner. J. Morris. M. Haslam. L. Martin. K. Ford. B. Harris. R.Boelen. E.Walker. D. Alderson.

Apologies.

T. Beardsmore. F. Bilki. G. Colleti. D. Emrich. K. Kotze. R. Loney. T. Roberts. M. Zengerer. V. Semmler.

Confirmation of Minutes.

Moved T. Beston seconded L. Robinson.

Business Arising from the minutes.

A. Williams reported that David Frew was due to start at the Observatory on May 29th and would initially be living in the cottage.

Treasurer's Report.

B. Harris stated that he had been unable to contact the Auditor, but hoped to get the accounts audited before the June Meeting. A cheque had been received from Curtin University for \$520.01 and had been paid into our account, the current balance was \$940.65.

General Business.

M. Freeman reported on the season now almost completed and thanked everyone for their efforts and stressed just how important the Volunteer program was to the Observatory. G. Lowe stated that there had been some publicity regarding the S.W.3 comet, it had been viewed last Sunday, in the early hours of the morning together with a visiting Astronomer from Hong Kong. A. Williams stated that a cheque for \$5000.00 had been received from Sci-tech, the money to be used to upgrade the Astrographic Telescope, to enable it to be used by students.

M. Freeman stated that details had been received from the

National Australia Bank regarding Grants for Volunteer Groups, members were asked to supply suggestions, that might enable us to apply. There being no further General Business the meeting closed at 7.35pm

The Meeting now convened as the Annual General Meeting Minutes of the A.G.M in May 2005 were read by M. Freeman followed by his report for the year, which had been printed in the Newsletter, G. Lowe thanked the Chairman for his efforts over the previous year.

B. Harris gave details from the accounts, and explained where various sums came from and where they were disbursed. total income for the year was \$7748.82, outgoings amounted to \$7088.50 leaving \$940.65 in our account at the Bank

Committee Positions

M. Freeman said that it had been circulated that the positions of Chairman and Secretary would become vacant at this meeting and called for Nominations. After considerable discussion, B. Harris nominated E. Walker for the position of Chairman. Seconded by N. Townsend. Whilst N. Townsend nominated J. Milner seconded by L. Martin for the position of Secretary, the Vice Chairmans position now being vacant T. Beston nominated L. Robinson, seconded J. Alcroft for the position, there being no further nominations all positions were declared filled.

There followed some discussion regarding the desirability of all Committee positions being held only for a maximum period of 2 years, it was agreed that the item should be an Agenda item for the next Meeting

There being no further Business the meeting closed at 8.10PM. Next Meeting on June 19th.

PERTH OBSERVATORY VOLUNTEER GROUP

Perth Observatory Staff

Dr Jamie Biggs	Director and Govt Astronomer
Ralph Martin	Astronomer
Dr Andrew Williams	Astronomer
David Frew	Astronomer
Rick Tonello	Astronomer Assistant
Greg Lowe	Astronomer Assistant
Janet Bell	Administration Officer
Di Johns	Clerical Officer
Arie Verweer	Technical manager
John Pearce	Mechanical technician

POVG Volunteers

Elaine Walker	Chairperson
Lloyd Robinson	Vice Chairperson
Jacque Milner	Secretary
Bevan Harris	Treasurer and newsgroup moderator (contact: nge2070@gmail.com)
Jeff Alcroft	Newsletter Editor (contact: callides@inet.net.au)



POVG

Perth Observatory Volunteers Group

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

Volunteer List

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

Probationary
Asher Abraham
Val Semmler
Noreen Townsend

2006 Volunteer Training & Meeting Nights

Below are listed the training nights scheduled for 2006.

The vollies decided at a recent meeting that they would like to rationalise the training/meeting night schedule. They decided that scheduling a meeting on the third Monday of the month would be more convenient. We have checked for clashes with Observatory events and so far none have been identified. (Naturally, flexibility needs to be maintained and the meeting date will be changed from the strict schedule as the need arises.)

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).

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.

17th July

21st August

18th September

16th October

20th November

18th December (Maybe we'll cancel this one - it's very close to Xmas)

PHASES of the MOON for 2006

New Moon	First Quarter	Full Moon	Last Quarter
	Jan 7 02:56	Jan 14 17:48	Jan 22 23:14
Jan 29 22:14	Fed 5 14:29	Fed 13 12:44	Fed 21 15:17
Fed 28 08:31	Mar 7 04:16	Mar 15 07:35	Mar 23 03:10
Mar 29 18:15	Apt 5 20:01	Apt 14 00:40	Apt 21 11:28
Apt 28 03:44	May 5 13:13	May 13 14:51	May 20 17:20
May 27 13:25	Jun 4 07:06	Jun 12 02:03	Jun 18 22:08
Jun 26 00:05	July 4 00:36	July 11 11:02	July 18 03:12
July 25 12:31	Auk 2 16:46	Auk 9 18:54	Auk 16 09:51
Aug 24 03:10	Sept 1 06:56	Sept 8 02:42	Sept 14 19:15
Sept 22 19:45	Sept 30 19:04	Oct 7 11:13	Oct 14 08:25
Oct 22 13:14	Oct 30 05:25	Nov 5 20:58	Nov 13 01:45
Nov 21 06:18	Nov 28 14:29	Dec 5 08:25	Dec 12 22:32
Dec 20 22:01	Dec 27 22:48		

A WARM POVG WELCOME TO DAVID FREW

David Frew has just arrived at Perth Observatory to commence work as a staff astronomer, and he is looking forward to the challenge. He originally studied to be a geologist, completing a first class honours degree in Applied Geology in 1986. He has since spent many years involved in the field of education, both as a senior high school science teacher and a university tutor. David achieved a reputation as one of Australia's foremost amateur astronomers, and he has written numerous articles for several

Australian publications. Along with David Malin, he co-authored the revised edition of "Hartung's Astronomical Objects for Southern Telescopes" (Cambridge University Press 1995) which is now considered to be the standard field guide for southern hemisphere observers.

David is currently completing his PhD studies in astronomy at Macquarie University and expects to submit his thesis at the end of 2006. His thesis is entitled: "Statistics, Distance Scale and Luminosity Function of

Planetary Nebulae in the Solar Neighbourhood." Besides the astrophysics of planetary nebulae, David's other research interests include variable star photometry and analysis (especially luminous blue variable and cataclysmic variable stars), meteoritics, and the history of astronomy.

David is presenting a talk to the Perth Observatory Volunteers Group meeting on 19 June 2006, entitled: "Eta Carinae: The Wonder Star".

POVG Chairman's 2005-06 Report

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2005-2006

Perth Observatory Volunteer Group

Our year has passed as one of quiet achievements. Our support for the Observatory resulted in a total support of NNNN hours. Since the last AGM, there were 108 night-viewings advertised.

We assisted on other special viewing nights, at other functions and in archiving. These donated hours are equivalent to an extra full-time person; a considerable help when the Observatory is under real pressure from both funding and staff levels.

I would like to compliment all the vollies, for their enthusiasm and their professionalism and cheerful disposition when attending to help in all weathers.

A number of experienced members left during the year, and to we send a big 'Thank you'.

We are looking at a new intake of vollies being needed in 2006. The monthly training nights continued, with vollies receiving training in the use of the equipment.

We had several talks, including one by Kath Grey on the Acraman impact structure and its possible link to start of the evolution of multicellular organisms on Earth and one by astronomer Andrew Williams.

A quiz night was held as the end-of-season vollen wind-up. It brought out the largest group of vollies for a long time; probably being the most successful event on the calendar for a number of years.

We applied to the Federal Government for a grant, and again were not successful, disappointingly. We had been aiming for money for vollen jackets. Our planned application to become a Deductible Gift Recipient, unfortunately, did not eventuate. Audit of the 2004-2005 financial affairs was difficult to arrange, though appears to be in place now, and this is

required to facilitate the application.

A Corporate Viewing Night was held in December 2005 to which a number of directors of local businesses were invited. The goal was to secure additional corporate support for the Observatory and its operations. A planned follow-up session is proposed for next year.

Vollie Noreen Townsend put a huge effort into the organization for which we are all grateful.

Other help was given by Bevan Harris who arranged the donation of three Uninterruptible Power Supplies to the observatory, and Len Martin who arranged bumper stickers for staff and vollen cars.

As Chairman, I want to thank all who have helped to make the year a success; including John Morris as Secretary, Treasurer Bevan Harris for his fastidious account-keeping, 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 Vollen News and to all the members for their time and effort, small and large, during the past year.

Also, thanks to the Observatory staff for their support, especially Jamie, Greg, Rick, Andrew and Ralph; and personally special thanks to Greg for all his organizing of the vollen events etc.

Finally, we were saddened by the retirement of Peter Birch because of the terrific help, guidance and "astronomical mentoring" that he gave us all.

John Morris and I have decided to stand down from our positions, and therefore I wish the new and ongoing executives of the Vollen group.

Mike Freeman. Chairman, 2005-2006 3rd April 2006

Phases the Moon 2006 | Vollen Training and Meeting Nights 2006 - Dates & Times |