

Perth Observatory Volunteer Group Inc. Minutes of Meeting - 21st August 2006

Present J. Biggs, D. Alderson, R. Boelen, B. Harris, L. Martin, J. Milner, J. Morris, L. Robinson, E. Walker.
Apologies. T. Beston, I. Baran, D. Emerich, M. Freeman.

Meeting commenced at 7.25pm

Confirmation of Minutes..

Moved B.Harris seconded L.Robinson.

Business Arising from the minutes.

- o The new gate to be built across Walnut Road is currently waiting to be approved by a full meeting of the Kalamunda Shire Council, after being approved by the council Works Committee. There will then be a further wait while the change is advertised and any appeals heard. The body of the gate has already been constructed.
- o The social Quiz Night went ahead in July and was a fun occasion for all who attended.
- o A new intake of volunteers should occur in September, in time to help out with the upcoming season of night tours.
- o The operating budget for the Observatory for the coming year from the state government has been announced at \$40,000 which is still not enough to cover current expenses. In light of this J. Biggs has requested the POVG to set up a petition to gain more government funding by outlining what activities go on at the Observatory and how more funds would benefit everyone. A mock-up of a information poster and the accompanying petition will be prepared for ratification at the September meeting.

Treasurers Report.

- o B. Harris stated that there had still been no movement in the account and the current balance was \$940.65 .

- o The financial statements for 2004/05 and 2005/06 have been audited by Mr Max Williams. He also provided the figures in the format required for when the POVG becomes a charity. Bevan has thanked Mr Williams for his assistance.
- o J. Biggs observed that the POVG should be registered in the Australian Philanthropy manual as Tax Deductible Gift Recipients. M. Freeman should have the details for this and will be contacted to put this in motion.
- o Mr Williams also advised that we should not let the current balance stay static for too long and that the current funds should be spent. J. Biggs will have some suggestions for possible expenditure at the September meeting.

General Business:

- o The issue of the rising cost of petrol is being recognised as having an impact on volunteer activities around Australia. Some reimbursement for fuel costs may come about in the future but not immediately.
- o J. Biggs said that the forms for the Working With Children Check card are now available at all Australia Post offices. All Observatory volunteers must pick up a form, fill it in (Sect 12 in particular) and bring it in for Jamie to sign. You must also get a passport photo done to go with the application. The cost for volunteers is \$10, which will be reimbursed. Once the card is issued you must show it to Jamie so he can record the relevant serial number to allow him to check up on individual's details every three months.

There being no further General Business the meeting closed at 8.27pm. Next Meeting: Monday September 18th 2006

On the Blog

G'day, Vollie Heroes!

(Gotta butter you up to get a good roll-up for the start of the new season!)

(a) The September vollie meeting will be this Monday the 18th at 7pm. C'mon along! We need to sort out the business of the Working With Children Checks - there's actually not much to it, and for vollies the charge is only \$10 which the Observatory will refund.

(b) If you weren't aware of it yet: our email addresses here have all changed because the name of our umbrella department has changed. CALM has merged with the Dep't of the Environment. The new juggernaut is called DEC - the Dep't of Environment and Conservation.

My email address is now Greg.Lowe@dec.wa.gov.au .

Jamie's is James.Biggs@dec.wa.gov.au .

The web address has changed too:
www.perthobservatory.wa.gov.au .

(c) It's ONLY 4 WEEKS TILL THE NEW VIEWING SEASON GETS UNDER WAY: THE FIRST NIGHT WILL BE FRIDAY OCTOBER 13TH. Don't be superstitious. Get in there!

Regards, Greg.

And, as a follow-up to Greg's message about the changed electronic address, the colloquial term for those who now work in what used to be CALM is - - - - - deckhand! Or, if you want to be less complimentary ,..... well, just use your imagination. Still, could it be no worse than working with an organization that is know for being **Constantly At Long Meetings**.

Sorry all you deckhands - just could not resist sharing it with the ordinary people.

MikeJ

To Dave and everybody else who's wondering how to fill in the WWCC forms -

I've spoken with Jamie about this, and his replies to Dave's questions are as follows:-

Category of Child Related Work:

12

Applicant's Occupation/ Volunteer's Role:

PUBLIC STAR VIEWING

Organisation Phone Number:

0892938255

Name of Employer/Agency Representative:

DR JAMES BIGGS (not "Jamie")

Position of Employer/Agency Representative:

GOVT ASTRONOMER

Street Address of Employer/Agency Representative:

337 WALNUT ROAD, BICKLEY. WA. 6076

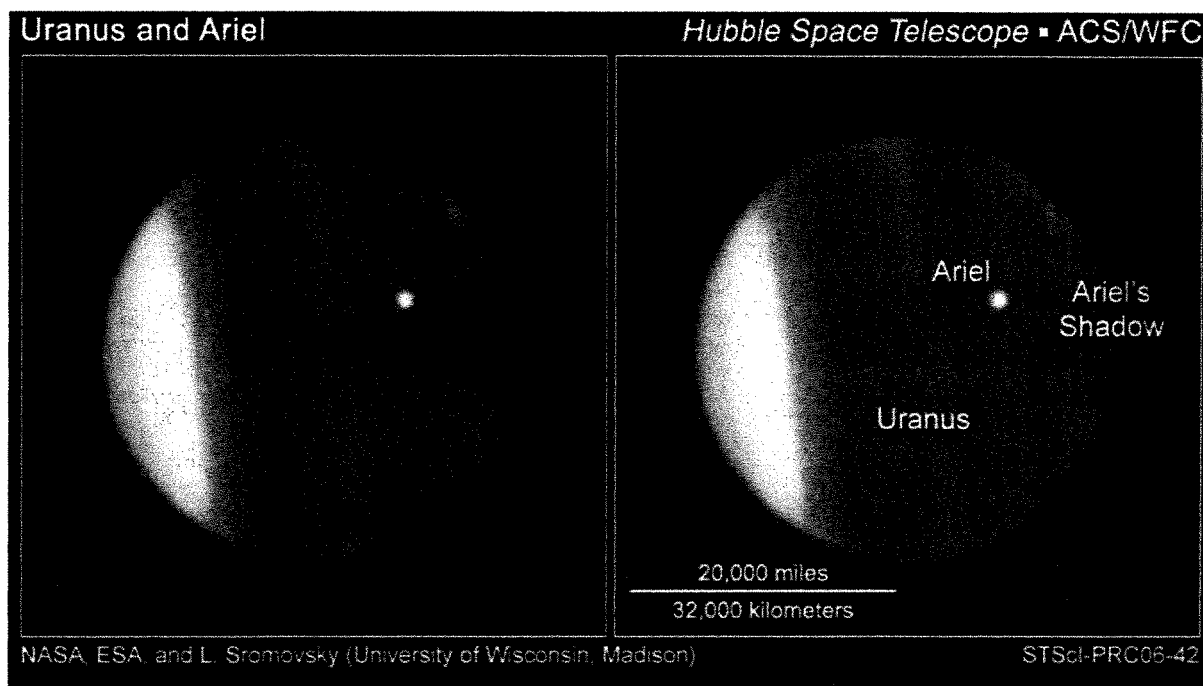
Postal Address of Employer/Agency Representative:

(x) Same address as above

Hope that's all you need. Thanks for drawing attention to these things, Dave. For those who don't have the forms yet, you can get them from your post office. You have to provide a recent passport-type photo, and Jamie has to countersign the forms before they can be lodged. I expect that forms will be made available at the vollie meeting next Monday. Yep, third Monday of the month: here it comes! It'll be the last meeting before the new season begins on October 13. Hope to see you all there.

Regards, Greg.

On the Blog



New names for 'Dwarf Planets'

Eris for (136199, formerly 2003 UB_313, nicknamed Xena) and Dysnomia for its satellit [(136199) Eris I, formerly S/2005 (2003UB_313)]

Eris: Eris is the Greek goddess of discord and strife. She is Ares' constant companion and follows him everywhere. Eris is sinister and mean, and her greatest joy is to make trouble.

Dysnomia: the female Spirit of lawlessness. It's also a medical term for the condition characterised by "a marked difficulty in remembering names or recalling words needed for oral or written language."

Who says scientists don't have a sense of humour!!!!!!

Jamie

Not a bad effort and better than the appalling Xena, but I'd much rather they abandoned the Greco-Roman naming system in favour of Aztec gods.

Bevan

Hubble Captures a Rare Eclipse on Uranus

This NASA Hubble Space Telescope image is a never-before-seen astronomical alignment of a moon traversing the face of Uranus, and its accompanying shadow. The white dot near the center of Uranus' blue-green disk is the icy moon Ariel. The 700-mile-diameter satellite is casting a shadow onto the cloud tops of Uranus. To an observer on Uranus, this would appear as a solar eclipse, where the moon briefly blocks out the Sun as its shadow races across Uranus's cloud tops.

Though such "transits" by moons across the disks of their parents are commonplace for some other gas giant planets, such as Jupiter, the satellites of Uranus orbit the planet in such a way that they rarely cast shadows on the planet's surface. Uranus is tilted so that its spin axis lies nearly in its orbital plane. The planet is essentially tipped over on its side. The moons of Uranus orbit the planet above the equator, so their paths align edge-on to the Sun only every 42 years. This color composite image was created from images at three wavelengths in near infrared light obtained with Hubble's Advanced Camera for Surveys on July 26, 2006.

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 Verveer	Technical manager
John Pearce	Mechanical technician

POVG Volunteers

Elaine Walker	Chairperson
Lloyd Robinson	Vice Chairperson
Jacquie Milner	Secretary
Bevan Harris	Treasurer and newsgroup moderator (contact: ngc2070@gmail.com)
Jeff Alcroft	Newsletter Editor (contact: callides@iinet.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 Koney
Rob Loney
Andrew MacNaughtan
Len Martin
Jacquie 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 volleys 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.

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