

AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

National Committees for Science: ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL on 2009 activities

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR ASTRONOMY

CHAIR: Prof. Matthew Colless FAA

PERIOD COVERED IN THIS REPORT: 1 January - 31 December, 2009

Please complete and return this form by 16 December, 2009.

NOTE: This report will be published on the Academy of Science website at www.science.org.au/natcoms

MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE MET ON:

- 7 July 2009 at University of Melbourne, Melbourne
- 7 December 2009 at Ian Potter House, Canberra

THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS ARE PROPOSED FOR 2010 (include date and place, if possible):

- 6 July 2009 at University of Tasmania, Hobart
- 6 December 2009 at Ian Potter House, Canberra

MEETINGS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AFFILIATED WITH ICSU

IN 2009 THERE WAS A GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
The International Astronomical Union, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 3-14 August 2009

The next IAU GENERAL ASSEMBLY will be held in 2012, in Beijing, China

I RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL THE FOLLOWING VOTING AUSTRALIAN
DELEGATION: (include title, name, address, telephone, email and fax number)

N/A

AUSTRALIAN OFFICE HOLDERS IN ICSU AND AFFILIATED BODIES

AUSTRALIANS WHO HELD OFFICE IN 2009 WERE: (include all appointed/elected memberships of subsidiary bodies, standing committees, commissions etc. as well as appointments to Bureau/Executive positions in the governing body)

PERSON	INTERNATIONAL BODY	POSITION	TERM
Tim Bedding	IAU Commission 27 (Variable Stars)	Org.Committee	2003-12
Joss Bland-Hawthorn	IAU Commission 33 (Structure and Dynamics of the Galactic System)	Org.Committee	2009-12
Michael Burton	IAU Working Group for Antarctic Astronomy	Chair	2006-09
Michael Burton	IAU Division VI (Interstellar Matter)	Secretary, Org. Committee	2009-12
Michael Burton	IAU Division IX (Optical and Infrared Techniques)	Org.Committee	2009-12
Michael Burton	IAU Commission 34 (Interstellar Matter)	Org.Committee	2006-09
Jessica Chapman	IAU Division X (Radio Astronomy)	Vice-President	2009-12
Jessica Chapman	IAU Commission 40 (Radio Astronomy)	Org.Committee	2006-09
Matthew Colless	IAU Executive	Vice-President	2009-12
Lawrence Cram	IAU Commission 12 (Solar Radiation & Structure)	Org.Committee	2006-09
Gary Da Costa	IAU Commission 37 (Star Clusters & Associations)	Org.Committee	2009-12
Bruce Dawson	IUPAP Commission 4 (Cosmic Rays)	Member	2009-11
Dave DeBoer	URSI Australian delegate	Member	2008-11
Ron Ekers	Gruber Advisory Board	IAU rep.	2006-11
Ken Freeman	IAU Special Nominating Committee	Member	2009-12
Anne Green	IAU Commission 55 (Communicating Astronomy with the Public)	Org.Committee	2009-12
Anne Green	IAU Working Group on Women in Astronomy	Org.Committee	2009-12
Dick Hunstead	IAU Working Group on Designations	Member	2006-09
Dave Jauncey	URSI Global VLBI Working Group	Member	2006-09
John Lattanzio	IAU Commission 35 (Stellar Constitution)	Org.Committee	2009-12
John Lattanzio	IAU Working Group on Abundances in Red Giant Stars	Chair	2006-09
Sarah Maddison	IAU Working Group on Women in Astronomy	Chair	2009-12
Dick Manchester	IAU Commission 31 (Time)	President	2009-12
Dick Manchester	IAU Division I (Fundamental Astronomy)	Org.Committee	2006-09
Rosemary Mardling	IAU Commission 53 (Extrasolar Planets)	Org.Committee	2006-09
David McKinnon	IAU Working Group on School Astronomy Education	Chair	2006-09
Don Melrose	IAU Division II (Solar)	President	2006-09
Tara Murphy	IAU Commission 5 (Documentation & Astronomical Data)	Org.Committee	2009-12
Ray Norris	IAU Working Group on Astronomical Data	Chair	2006-09
Ray Norris	IAU Division XII (Union-Wide Activities)	Vice-President	2006-09
Ray Norris	IAU Commission 41 (History of Astronomy)	Org.Committee	2009-12
Ray Norris	CODATA, Executive Council	Member	2006-10
Ray Norris	FAGS Executive Council	Member	2006-09
John O'Byrne	IAU Finance Sub-Committee	Member	2006-09

Wayne Orchiston	IAU Working Group on Historic Radio Astronomy	Chair	2006-09
Quentin Parker	IAU Working Group on Sky Surveys	Chair	2006-09
Elaine Sadler	IAU Division VIII (Galaxies and the Universe)	President	2009-12
Brian Schmidt	IAU Working Group on Supernovae	Co-Chair	2006-09
Brian Schmidt	IAU Commission 47 (Cosmology)	Vice-President	2009-12
John Storey	Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR)	IAU rep.	2006-12
John Storey	SCAR Astronomy and Astrophysics from Antarctica Scientific Research Program	Chief Officer	2010-12
Michelle Storey	IAU Publications Editorial Board	Member	2005-08
Steven Tingay	IAU Working Group on Global VLBI	Chair	2006-12
Steven Tingay	URSI Global VLBI Working Group	Chair	2009-12
Oleg Titov	IAU Commission 19 (Rotation of the Earth)	Org.Committee	2009-12
Peter Tuthill	IAU Commission 51 (Optical & Infrared Interferometry)	Org.Committee	2009-12
Tasso Tzioumis	IAU Working Group on RFI mitigation	Chair	2006-09
Tasso Tzioumis	IAU Commission 50 (Protection of Existing & Potential Observatory Sites)	Org.Committee	2009-12
Tasso Tzioumis	IUCAF (ICSU committee)	URSI member	2005-08
Rachel Webster	IAU Commission 47 (Cosmology)	President	2006-09
Rachel Webster	IAU Resolutions Committee	Member	2009-12

THE FOLLOWING NOMINATIONS WILL BE MADE IN 2010:

PERSON	INTERNATIONAL BODY	POSITION	TERM OF OFFICE
N/A			

ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE – Please include comments on progress achieved on projected activities identified in your 2009 Business Plan. 2009 Business plans can be viewed at www.science.org.au/natcoms

Go to http://www.science.org.au/reports/2008_09anrep.html, to view the Chairs' Reports on 2008 activities.

I SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING REPORT TO COUNCIL ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE IN calendar year 2009 (200-250 words):

Decadal Plan: During 2009 the National Committee for Astronomy (NCA) oversaw substantial progress towards the goals of the *Australian Astronomy Decadal Plan 2006-2015*. The NCA worked on the implementation of the Decadal Plan in conjunction with Astronomy Australia Limited (AAL), which manages those aspects that are supported by the 'Radio and Optical Astronomy' NCRIS funding. Astronomy was very strongly supported in the 2009 Federal Government Budget, which provided \$88 million for Australian participation in the Giant Magellan Telescope, \$80 million for a SKA Science and Supercomputing Centre in Perth, and \$40 million to support the Anglo-Australian Observatory's transition into the Australian Astronomical Observatory (which occurs on 1 July 2010). In the coming year the NCA will be conducting a Mid-Term Review of the Decadal Plan in order to review progress and update the implementation plans.

International Year of Astronomy: 2009 was the International Year of Astronomy (IYA), which was coordinated in Australia by the NCA under the auspices of the International Astronomical Union (IAU). The Anglo-Australian Observatory (AAO) and the Australian Telescope National Facility (ATNF) were the joint 'national node' for IYA activities. In total there were more than 500 IYA activities around Australia, including international events such as the '100 Hours of Astronomy' and 'Dark Skies', celebrations of the 40th anniversary of the first moon landing, astronomy themes for activities ranging from science festivals to school projects, and many grassroots events organized by amateur astronomers and other interest groups. These activities were funded in part by a \$255,000 grant from DIISR, although a greater investment of time and effort came from the large number of organizations and individuals who organized, performed and participated in the various activities.

Please complete and return this form by 16 December, 2009 to:

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