

NEWCASTLE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY INC
MINUTES
25 February 2006

MEETING OPENED: 7.35 pm with 38 members and guests present.

CHAIRMAN: Mr Ghul Hussain

MINUTES: The minutes from January 2006 were read and accepted. (Bill Abrahams/Graeme Johnson, carried).

APOLOGIES: Ruth Punch, Dennis Zambelis.

GENERAL:

- Macquarie University is holding an astronomy open night on 8 April 2006. Brochures are at the front of the theatre.
- Hardcopies of the NAS newsletter are at the front of the theatre.
- Prof. Fred Menk will speak at the March meeting about Exo-solar planets and Fedsat..
- David Hough presented photos and a talk about the Ice In Space Astro Camp at Lostock. Photos were mainly of the attendees, the campsite, and equipment.
- Lydia then showed a PowerPoint presentation of events, fliers, members' astro-photography, and Lostock photos.
- Patrick announced a viewing night to be held on 10 March 2006 at the Maitland Community College. He promoted a social bowling event to be held at the Mayfield Bowl. He reminded us of a trip to the Imax Theatre on 2 April 2006
- Paul Mayo returned for an update on Star Atlas Pro. He showed us numerous features of his software with accompanying photos of astronomical objects such as globular clusters and nebulae. The database of objects has been updated with 1.3 million galaxies and many stars in other galaxies, which existing users can now access. He explained that photos of many objects are available for download from NASA via the software. New features for controlling most types of telescopes with greater precision are available. The software now includes an observing planner.
- There will be a viewing night this Saturday at McArthur Street and Alan Meehan volunteered to mow the lawn.
- The next meeting will be on 31 March 2006 starting at 7.30 pm.
- The meeting closed at 9.00 pm and a light supper was served.