

**NEWCASTLE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY INC**  
**MINUTES**  
**27 July 2007**

**MEETING OPENED:** 7.35 pm with 25 members and guests present.

**CHAIRMAN:** Mr George Barnes

**MINUTES:** The minutes for June 2007 were read and accepted (Peter Crawley, Alan Meehan, carried)

**APOLOGIES:** Ghul Hussain, David Hough, Patrick Barry.

**GENERAL:**

- Inwards correspondence included an offer of 2008 calendars for members to order.
- It was noted that Lydia published a newsletter displaying photos by members.
- The news of the day was that a company called Carbon Composites had been testing a jet engine when it exploded, killing three engineers. A computer to be used on the Space Shuttle was found to be sabotaged.
- The upcoming total lunar eclipse was discussed. Totality begins at 7.52 pm and ends at 9.22 pm. Members were asked who would be able to attend the upcoming eclipse viewing.
- George Barnes asked 10 trivia questions and chockies were handed out as prizes.
- Lydia announced that the Ice In Space website had a series of pictures showing the relative sizes of the planets and a selection of stars.
- We had a DVD screening from the Universe series entitled “The Secrets of the Sun”. It gave an overview of fusion reaction at the core and the arduous transmission of energy to the surface of the Sun. It covered the possible causes of the Sun’s magnetic field and resultant sun spots and other surface activity including solar storms that can impact Earth. Solar maxima occur every eleven years and can cause disruption to Earth’s power and communication systems and pose a threat to satellites. One such storm in 1859 caused the Aurora Borealis to be seen as far South as Rome. More recent events have caused power outages in North America.
- Due to the near full moon this coming Saturday, the viewing will be scheduled for a fortnights time. Some members will attend this Saturday regardless.
- The Queensland Astrofest starts on 6 August and some members will be attending. The next Ice In Space AstroCamp will be in October 2008.
- The meeting closed at 9.15 pm and a light supper was served.