

NEWCASTLE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY INC
MINUTES
25 May 2007

MEETING OPENED: 7.37 pm with 24 members and guests present.

CHAIRMAN: Mr Ghul Hussain

MINUTES: The minutes for May 2007 were read and accepted (Alan Meehan, George Barnes, carried)

APOLOGIES: Scott Alder, Patrick Barry, Darrel Bull, Dianne and Peter.

GENERAL:

- Alan Meehan inspected the viewing site at Shortland and found the access to be very wet and boggy. The adjacent sports oval was also too wet for access. Therefore the consensus was to cancel the viewing for a fortnight.
- Many newer members are eager for a grounding in amateur astronomy. One of the purposes of an astronomical society is to educate. Therefore it was suggested that the more experienced members give presentations on their interests or fields of expertise. We will all benefit even if only by learning something about the presenters. Many members have very interesting stories to tell so let's all seriously consider this as a way of bringing personalised content to meetings.
- The T-shirt logos are published on the NAS website. Two variations were on offer and the members voted for the design by Tammy Dennis.
- We watched footage from the Web of the Shuttle landing.
- David Hough commented on and recommended the Border Stargaze at Albury-Wodonga over the weekend of 10 August 2007, and the Queensland Astrofest to be held at Camp Duckadang, Linville, Queensland from 6 to 12 August 2007.
- The society ran an auction of 4 books kindly donated by Prof. Colin Keay. This raised \$107 for the society.
- We watched a DVD entitled Universe. It was a documentary of the basic physics of planetary and stellar magnetic fields, which then turned its focus on the Earth's magnetic field. The claim was that the Earth's field is decreasing and will flip its polarity, possibly in the near future. It outlined the consequences to life at the point of flipping where the Earth is no longer protected from solar and cosmic radiation while the field disappears for some time. It did not suggest anything catastrophic would occur.
- George Barnes will chair the July meeting
- The meeting closed at 9.15 pm and a light supper was served.