

**NEWCASTLE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY INC**  
**MINUTES**  
**25 May 2007**

**MEETING OPENED:** 7.30 pm with 32 members and guests present.

**CHAIRMAN:** Mr Ghul Hussain

**MINUTES:** The minutes for April 2007 were read and accepted (George Barnes, Graeme Johnson)

**APOLOGIES:** Patrick Barry, June Small, David Hough, Denis Zambelis.

**INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:** Invitation to Sydney Observatory open nights.  
Russian tour for upcoming solar eclipse.

**GENERAL:**

- Access to the viewing site is boggy and so it was suggested that the upcoming viewing be held in the adjacent sports oval.
- Tammy is busy redesigning the NAS website and it will be up and running soon.
- The DVD of The Sidewalk Astronomer, as aired recently on SBS TV, was screened. John Dobson featured in the show and it gave an overview of his amateur astronomy public awareness campaign as well as his teaching and somewhat unusual theories. He is well known for setting up telescopes in public areas to inspire interest in astronomy and for his invention of the Dobsonian telescope mount.
- Colin Keay showed us a DVD of the Lucas Heights nuclear reactor celebrating fifty years of the ANSTO HYFAR nuclear reactor. It gave a rundown of the Hi Flux Australian Reactor operated by The Australian Atomic Energy Corporation, later to become ANSTO. It featured several of the key engineers and scientists employed at the site over the past fifty years. The shutdown of the reactor was a sad occasion for many of its long-standing employees.
- The problem of NAS not having a mailbox in the Physics building has been resolved thanks to Prof. Bruce King.
- The meeting closed at 9.38 pm and a light supper was served.