

NEWCASTLE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY INC
MINUTES
28 October 2005

MEETING OPENED: 7.40 pm with 31 members and guests present.

CHAIRMAN: Mr Ghul Hussain

MINUTES: The minutes from September were read and accepted. (George Barnes/Col Goldie).

APOLOGIES: Tammy Dennis.

GENERAL:

- Ghul presented a talk on his trip to Lord Howe Island and Mt Stromlo Observatory. Lord Howe Island is a rugged and picturesque island 700 km N-E of Sydney. Ghul described his walk to the top of mount Gower and showed us photos of the spectacular views from the peak. Astronomical viewing was not as good as it could have been due to the full moon. Of note was a commemorative plaque on Transit Hill of the 1882 viewing, led by W. S. Condor, of the transit of Venus. Ghul's visit to Mt. Stromlo coincided with the Floriad flower festival in Canberra. Not much appears to have changed at the Observatory, which was almost completely destroyed in the January 2003 bushfires. Three buildings including the visitors centre survived the fires and Ghul showed us some before and after shots of the facility, especially the historic Director's Residence and Administration building.
- A trivia session of ten questions with an astronomical theme was conducted, and chockies were handed out as prizes.
- Two sections of a DVD were shown including "Apollo 11" and "The Legacy of Skylab".
- David Hough announced that an astronomy camp organised by Mike Salway of Ice in Space would be held at Lostock from 26 to 29 January 2006. Approximate cost \$20. Fifteen to twenty people showed interest in attending. See <http://www.iceinspace.com.au> for more details.
- David Hough showed us his photos of the recent lunar eclipse and of his recently acquired telescope mount.
- David Hough handed out copies of the newsletter he compiled for the society. He did an outstanding job and was commended for his efforts.
- Patrick reminded us of a trip to IMAX in Sydney to see "Walking on the Moon 3D".
- The next meeting will be on 25 November 2005 starting at 7.30 pm.
- The meeting closed at 9.30pm and a light supper was served.