

**NEWCASTLE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY INC**  
**MINUTES**  
**27 October 2006**

**MEETING OPENED:** 7.37 pm with 43 members and guests present.

**CHAIRMAN:** Mr George Barnes

**MINUTES:** The minutes from August and September were read and accepted; August (Patrick Barry, Bill Abrahams), September (Alan Meehan, Bill Abrahams).

**APOLOGIES:**

**GENERAL:**

- David Hough organised the transit of Mercury viewing and discussed the arrangements with members.
- A telescope was advertised for sale: Saxon 8", Focal length 1200mm, 2 eye pieces, \$700, Contact Lionel Peacock (Details with George Barnes)
- Prof. Colin Keay Donated another 30 plus books for an auction to raise money for the Society. This second auction returned over \$200 - another great response by members, and a generous gesture by Prof. Keay. Thank you to all involved.
- Patrick Barry demonstrated some free star mapping software called "Celestia", available from [celestiamotherlode.net](http://celestiamotherlode.net). He showed the members its numerous features and the ease with which it can be used.
- George Barnes asked 10 trivia questions and chockies were handed out as prizes.
- The next meeting will be on Monday 27 November 2006 starting 7.30 pm at the usual venue.
- The meeting closed at 9.30 pm and a light supper was served.