

AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

National Committees for Science: ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL on 2008 activities

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR ASTRONOMY

CHAIR: Prof. Matthew Colless FAA

PERIOD COVERED IN THIS REPORT: 1 January - 31 December, 2008

Please complete and return this form by 12 December 2008.

NOTE: This report will be published on the Academy of Science website at www.science.org.au/natcoms

MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE MET ON:

- 8 July 2008 (University of Western Australia, Perth)
- 16 December 2008 (Ian Potter House, Canberra)

The July meeting took place during the Astronomical Society of Australia's Annual Scientific Meeting and was in part held jointly with a meeting of astronomy Heads of Departments.

THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS ARE PROPOSED FOR 2009:

- During the week of 6-10 July, Melbourne (University of Melbourne)
- 2 December, Canberra (Ian Potter House)

MEETINGS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AFFILIATED WITH ICSU

The next IAU GENERAL ASSEMBLY will be held in 2009, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

I RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL THE FOLLOWING VOTING AUSTRALIAN
DELEGATION:

To be determined prior to the next General Assembly.

AUSTRALIAN OFFICE HOLDERS IN ICSU AND AFFILIATED BODIES

AUSTRALIANS WHO HELD OFFICE IN 2008 WERE:

(include all appointed/elected memberships of subsidiary bodies, standing committees, commissions etc. as well as appointments to Bureau/Executive positions in the governing body).

PERSON	INTERNATIONAL BODY	POSITION	TERM
Brian Boyle	IAU Resolutions Committee	Member	2003-09
Michael Burton	IAU Working Group for Antarctic astronomy	Chair	2006-09
Dave DeBoer	URSI Australian delegate	Member	2008-11
Ron Ekers	Gruber Advisory Board	IAU rep.	2006-09
Ron Ekers	IAU Special Nominating Committee	Member	2006-09
Anne Green	IAU Working Group on women in astronomy	Co-Chair	2006-09
Dick Hunstead	IAU Working Group on designations	Member	2006-09
Dave Jauncey	URSI Global VLBI Working Group	Member	
John Lattanzio	IAU Commission 35 (Stellar Constitution)	Chair	2006-09
John Lattanzio	IAU Working Group on abundances in red giant stars	Chair	2006-09
Sarah Maddison	IAU Working Group on women in astronomy	Co-Chair	2006-09
David McKinnon	IAU Working Group on school astronomy education	Chair	2006-09
Don Melrose	IAU Commission 10 (Solar Activity)	Past President	2006-09
Don Melrose	IAU Division II (Solar)	President	2006-09
Ray Norris	IAU Working Group on astronomical data	Chair	2006-09
Ray Norris	IAU Commission 5	President	2006-09
Ray Norris	CODATA	IAU rep.	2006-09
Ray Norris	CODATA, Executive Council	Member	2006-10
Ray Norris	FAGS Executive Council	Member	2006-09
John O'Byrne	IAU Finance Sub-Committee	Member	2006-09
Wayne Orchiston	IAU Working Group on historic radio astronomy	Chair	2006-09
Quentin Parker	IAU Working Group on sky surveys	Chair	2006-09
Elaine Sadler	IAU Division VIII (Galaxies in the Universe)	Vice-President	2006-09
Brian Schmidt	IAU Working Group on supernovae	Chair	2006-08
John Storey	Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research	IAU rep.	2006-09
Michelle Storey	IAU Publications Editorial Board	Member	2005-08
Tasso Tzioumis	IAU Working Group on RFI mitigation	Chair	2006-09
Tasso Tzioumis	IUCAF (ICSU committee/	URSI member	2005-08
Rachel Webster	IAU Commission 47 (Cosmology)	President	2006-09
Rachel Webster	IAU Resolutions Committee	Member	2006-09

THE FOLLOWING NOMINATIONS WILL BE MADE IN 2009:

PERSON	INTERNATIONAL BODY	POSITION	TERM OF OFFICE
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To be determined prior to the next General Assembly.

ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE – Please include comments on progress achieved on projected activities identified in your 2008 Business Plan. 2008 Business Plans can be viewed at www.science.org.au/natcoms

I SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING REPORT TO COUNCIL ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE IN CALENDAR YEAR 2008 (200-250 words):

The National Committee for Astronomy (NCA) continued to oversee the implementation of the *Australian Astronomy Decadal Plan 2006-2015*. However the management of those aspects of the Decadal Plan that were supported by the NCRIS funding for Radio and Optical Astronomy is now being undertaken by Astronomy Australia Limited (AAL). The 15 members of AAL comprise all the institutions pursuing professional research in astronomy in Australia.

The other main business for the NCA in 2008 was preparations for the International Year of Astronomy (IYA) in 2009. The NCA is advised on IYA matters by the International Year of Astronomy Working Group, made up of 24 representatives from all the significant stakeholders, and chaired by the NCA Chair. More than 120 IYA activities are being planned, ranging from participation in some of the international events such as the '100 Hours of Astronomy' and 'Dark Skies/Quiet Skies', through to celebrations of the New Year using a pulsar countdown, a visit by an Apollo astronaut to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the first moon landing, astronomy themes for activities ranging from science festivals to school projects, and many grassroots events organised by amateur astronomers and other interest groups.

The next International Astronomical Union General Assembly will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 3-14 August 2009.

Please complete and return this form by 12 December 2008 to:

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