

AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

National Committees for Science: ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL on 2010 activities

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR: Astronomy

CHAIR: Prof. Elaine M. Sadler FAA

PERIOD COVERED IN THIS REPORT: 1 January - 31 December, 2010

Please complete and return this form by 14 January 2011.

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:

- 1) Thursday 8 July 2010, in Hobart
- 2) Thursday 2 December 2010, in Canberra

THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS ARE PROPOSED FOR 2011 (include date and place, if possible):

- 1) Early July 2011, in Adelaide (in association with ASA annual meeting)
- 2) Early December 2011, at the Academy in Canberra

MEETINGS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AFFILIATED WITH ICSU

IN 2010 THERE WAS A GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF (include date and place):

N/A

IN 2011 THERE WILL BE A GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF (include date and place):

N/A

The next GENERAL ASSEMBLY/CONGRESS will be held in 2012 in Beijing, China

I RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL THE FOLLOWING VOTING AUSTRALIAN
DELEGATION: (include title, name, address, telephone, email and fax number)

N/A

AUSTRALIAN OFFICE HOLDERS IN ICSU AND AFFILIATED BODIES

AUSTRALIANS WHO HELD OFFICE IN 2010 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
Tim Bedding	IAU Commission 27 (Variable Stars)	Org. Committee	2003-12
Joss Bland-Hawthorn	IAU Commission 33 (Structure and Dynamics of the Galactic System)	Org. Committee	2009-12
Michael Burton	IAU Division VI (Interstellar Matter)	Secretary, Org. Committee	2009-12
Michael Burton	IAU Division IX (Optical and Infrared Techniques)		2009-12
Jessica Chapman	IAU Division X (Radio Astronomy)	Vice-President	2009-12
Matthew Colless	IAU Executive	Vice-President	2009-12
Gary Da Costa	IAU Commission 37 (Star Clusters & Associations)	Org. Committee	2009-12
Bruce Dawson	IUPAP Commission 4 (Cosmic Rays)	Member	2009-11
Ron Ekers	Gruber Advisory Board	IAU rep.	2006-11
Ken Freeman	IAU Special Nominating Committee	Member	2009-12
Anne Green	IAU Commission 55 (Communicating Astronomy with the Public)	Org. Committee	2009-12
Anne Green	IAU Working Group on Women in Astronomy	Org. Committee	2009-12
John Lattanzio	IAU Commission 35 (Stellar constitution)	Org. committee	2009-12
Sarah Maddison	IAU Working Group on Women in Astronomy	Chair	2009-12
Dick Manchester	IAU Commission 31 (Time)	President	2009-12
Tara Murphy	IAU Commission 5 (Documentation & Astronomical Data)	Org. Committee	2009-12
Ray Norris	IAU Division XII (Union-Wide Activities)	Vice-President	2009-12
Ray Norris	CODATA, Executive Council	Member	2006-10
Elaine Sadler	IAU Division VIII (Galaxies and the Universe)	President	2009-12
Brian Schmidt	IAU Commission 47 (Cosmology)	Vice-President	2009-12
John Storey	Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR)	IAU rep.	2006-12
John Storey	SCAR Astronomy and Astrophysics from Antarctica Scientific Research Program	Chief Officer	2010-12
Steven Tingay	IAU Working Group on Global VLBI	Chair	2006-12
Steven Tingay	URSI Global VLBI Working Group	Chair	2009-12
Oleg Titov	IAU Commission 19 (Rotation of the Earth)	Org. Committee	2009-12
Peter Tuthill	IAU Commission 51 (Optical & infrared interferometry)	Org. Committee	2009-12
Tasso Tzioumis	IAU Commission 50 (Protection of existing & potential observing sites)	Org. committee	2009-12
Rachel Webster	IAU Resolutions Committee	Member	2009-12

THE FOLLOWING NOMINATIONS WILL BE MADE IN 2011: N/A

PERSON INTERNATIONAL BODY POSITION TERM OF OFFICE

ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE – Please include comments on progress achieved on projected activities identified in your 2010 Business Plan. 2010 Business plans can be viewed at www.science.org.au/natcoms

Go to <http://www.science.org.au/reports/2010anrep.html>, to view the Chairs' Reports on 2009 activities.

I SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING REPORT TO COUNCIL ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE IN calendar year 2010 (200-250 words):

Decadal Plan: In 2010, the National Committee for Astronomy carried out a Mid-Term Review (MTR) of our 2006-15 Decadal Plan, and the final MTR document will be published early in 2011. Astronomy has been strongly supported by the Australian government over the past five years, with significant financial investment in infrastructure for new research facilities and the recent recognition of Space Science and Astronomy as one of Australia's three "Super Science" areas.

The number of active astronomers working in Australia has grown by more than 20% since 2005, mainly through an increase in the number of PhD students and fixed-term research positions. The Mid-Term Review shows that the discipline is healthy and we are well on track to achieving the main Decadal Plan goals. Some challenges remain, however. These include the need for ongoing operational funding to realize the full potential of new national research facilities, the complex international landscape for global projects like the Square Kilometre Array and Extremely Large Optical Telescopes, and identifying longer-term career paths for the best young researchers. The NCA continues to work on the implementation of the Decadal Plan in conjunction with Astronomy Australia Limited (AAL), which manages those aspects supported by the 'Radio and Optical Astronomy' NCRIS funding.

Please complete and return this form by 14 January 2011:

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