

AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

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

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR: PHYSICS

CHAIR: Professor Michelle Simmons FAA

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

Please complete and return this form by 15 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:

February 8th 2008 at the Shine Dome in Canberra

THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS ARE PROPOSED FOR 2009 (include date and place, if possible):

Sydney, February 20th 2009 tbc

MEETINGS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AFFILIATED WITH ICSU

IN 2008 THERE WAS A GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF (include date and place):
IUPAP, 13-18th November 2008, Tsukuba, Japan.

IN 2009 THERE WILL BE A GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF (include date and place):
None

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

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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 OF OFFICE
Bruce McKellar	IUPAP Executive	Vice president	3 years (ends 2008).
Bruce Dawson	C4 Cosmic Rays	Member	3 years (ends 2008).
Boyd Blackwell	Plasma physics	Member	3 years (ends 2008).
Peter Bouwknegt	Mathematical physics	Member	3 years (ends 2008).
Peter Drummond	Computational Physics	Member	3 years (ends 2008).

THE FOLLOWING NOMINATIONS WERE SUCCESSFUL IN 2008:

PERSON	INTERNATIONAL BODY	POSITION	TERM OF OFFICE
Bruce Dawson	C4 Cosmic Rays	Member	3 years
Geoff Taylor	C11 Particles and Fields	Secretary	3 years
Peter Hannaford	C15 AMO physics	Secretary	3 years
Boyd Blackwell	C16 Plasma physics	Member	3 years
Michelle Simmons	C17 Quantum Electronics	Vice President	3 years
Mark Gould	C18 Mathematical physics	Member	3 years

Note the following were also nominated

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 met in February 2009 to plan for the “Investing in the future of Physics” ARC LASP application for funding in 2009-10 to prepare a decadal plan for physics in Australia. Due to the diversity of the discipline it was agreed that it was important how information was collected for this document. As a consequence the Optical Physics group underwent a trial run during 2008 to collate information based on a template sent out via the Australian Optical Society (AOS). The committee met again in October ahead of the Australian Institute of Physics biennial congress to discuss the outcomes. The US decadal plan “Physics in a New Era” and the Australian ARC report “Physics – A Vision for the Future” from 1993, were discussed as examples of previous ‘strategic plans’ in physics.

In September 2009 the Chair submitted a 20 page ARC LASP application outlining the aims of the decadal plan and requesting funding for a part-time researcher to collate the statistical information for the project. The outcome of this application will be announced mid-December.

The Committee prepared a one hour briefing at the Australian Institute of Physics biennial Congress in Adelaide in the first week of December on the strategic plan. The Committee via the Academy sponsored 150 lunch boxes on the second day of the Congress and the meeting was heavily advertised at the Congress and the plans enthusiastically received. The Committee has outlined a list of ~23 sub disciplines and currently Chairs and sub-Chairs of these committees are being nominated through Jeanette Mill. The next meeting of the Committee planned in February 2009 will instigate the action plan for this process.

The Committee has welcomed the appointment of Professor Ron Ekers FAA from the Executive as an observer to the Committee to provide an important linkage over the next 2 years.