

AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

National Committees for Science: ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL on 2009 activities

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR: PHYSICS

CHAIR: Professor Michelle Simmons FAA

PERIOD COVERED IN THIS REPORT: 1 January - 31 December, 2009

Please complete and return this form by 15 December 2009.

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:

The National Committee met by teleconference, a Town-Hall meeting and by e-mail in 2009.

Teleconference: 12th March 2009; 3rd July 2009

Town-Hall meeting in Adelaide: 25th June 2009

There will likely be two face to face meetings in 2010.

THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS ARE PROPOSED FOR 2010 (include date and place, if possible):

Sydney, March 1st 2010 (tbc)

Canberra, August 2nd 2010 (tbc)

MEETINGS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AFFILIATED WITH ICSU

IN 2008 THERE WAS NO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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IN 2010 THERE WILL BE NO GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF (include date and place):

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

AUSTRALIAN OFFICE HOLDERS IN ICSU AND AFFILIATED BODIES

AUSTRALIANS WHO HELD OFFICE IN 2009 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 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

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 2009 (200-250 words):

In December 2008 the National Committee pre-launched its decadal plan for Physics, "Investing in the future of Physics" at the Australian Institute of Physics Congress in Adelaide. This was subject to the success of the ARC LASP application which was announced in April 2009. A process for nominating the Chairs and sub-Chairs of the 23 different sub-disciplines was announced and nominations made.

The decadal plan was however postponed for the year (to restart in 2010) following the serious illness of the Chair of the Committee. In the meantime a town-hall meeting was held in Adelaide on 25th June 2009 linked with the Australian Institute of Physics to outline the aims of the proposal and seek feedback. Professor Murray Hamilton provided an introduction and background to the Physics Strategic Plan. There was extensive discussion where it was highlighted that the report needed to include: what are the problems that Australia faces as a nation and how physicists can help to solve these. It was considered important to identify the job market for physicists, include an industrial sector for R&D, provide a view beyond the next 10 years, address the possible creation of new industries and consult government agencies that may have existing reports. There was also some discussion on the format of the 23 sub-disciplines.

These comments were reviewed by the Committee, who met by phone again on 3rd July to discuss the plan and adapt the timetable for the extension period of 2010-11. It was decided the plan would be relaunched early next year. A new timetable for the plan has been submitted to the ARC.