

AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

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

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR: Radio Science

CHAIR: Professor Andrew Parfitt

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:

11 February, at the Workshop on Applications of Radio Science, Sofitel Gold Coast.

18 November, at Ian Potter House, Canberra

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

March 2009: in conjunction with chairs of national radio science/telecommunications conferences, Sydney.

April 2009: teleconference

October 2009: Canberra

MEETINGS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AFFILIATED WITH ICSU

IN 2008 THERE WAS A GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF (include date and place):

The International Union of Radio Science (URSI), 7 to 16 August 2008, Chicago, IL, USA.

IN 2009 THERE WILL BE A GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF (include date and place):

The International Astronomical Union, Rio De Janeiro, Brazil.

The next GENERAL ASSEMBLY/CONGRESS of URSI will be held in 2011 in Istanbul, Turkey.

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

To be advised in 2009 for IUGG in 2010, nominations by other National Committees.
To be advised in 2010 for URSI in 2011, normally Chair of NCRS and all Commission Chairs
(A to K) as voting members of council and commissions respectively.

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

Person	International Body	Position	Term
Anne Green	IAU EC Working Group on women in astronomy	Co-Chair	2006-09
Andrew Parfitt	URSI	National Delegate to Council	2008-2011
Bob Vincent	SCOSTEP	President	2008-2010
Brian Boyle	IAU Resolutions Committee	Member	2003-09
Brian Fraser	SCOSTEP	Australian Adherent	
Brian Fraser	Scientific Discipline Representative SCOSTEP		
Brian Fraser	Working Group on Solar-Terrestrial and Astrophysical Research SCAR	Member	
Bruce Slee	IAU Working Group on historic radio astronomy	Member	2006-09
Bruce Ward	URSI-COSPAR Working Group on the International Reference Ionosphere	Member	
Carol Wilson	Australian Radiocommunication Study Group 3,	Chair	
Dave Jauncey	URSI Global VLBI Working Group	Member	
Dave Jauncey	IACG Working Group on Space VLBI	Member	
Phil Wilkinson	World Data Centre for Solar-Terrestrial Science	Director	
Dick Hunstead	IAU Working Group on designations	Member	2006-09
Don Melrose	IAU Commission 10 (Solar Activity)	Vice-President	2006-09
Don Melrose	IAU Division II (Solar)	Vice-President	2006-09
Garth Patterson	International Space Environment Services (ISES)	Member	Continuing
John O'Byrne	IAU Finance Sub-Committee	Member	2006-09
John Reynolds	IAU WG on reference Frames	Member	
John Reynolds	IAU Working Group on reference frames	Member	
John Storey	SCAR	IAU rep.	2006-09
Mark Calabretta	IAU FITS working group	Member	2006-09

Martin Asplund	IAU Commission 35 (Stellar Atmospheres)	Vice-President	2006-09
Martin Asplund	IAU Commission 12 (Solar Radiation)	Member	2006-09
Michael Burton	IAU Working Group: communicating astronomy with the public	Member	2006-09
Michael Burton	IAU Working Group for Antarctic astronomy	Chair	2006-09
Michelle Storey	IAU Publications Editorial Board	Member	2005-08
Peter Dyson	PSMOS Steering Committee, SCOSTEP	Member	
Phil Wilkinson	URSI Board	Vice President	2005-2011
Phil Wilkinson	URSI Commission G Working Group 1, Ionosonde Network Advisory Group	Editor	2009-2011
Phil Wilkinson	URSI-COSPAR Working Group on the International Reference Ionosphere	Member	2009-2011
Phil Wilkinson	URSI Commission G Working Group 4, Ionospheric Research to support radio systems	Member	2009-2011
Phil Wilkinson	URSI Standing Committee on Publications	Member	2009-2011
Phil Wilkinson	URSI representative on FAGS (Federation of Astronomical and Geophysical Data Analysis Services)	Vice President	2009-2011
Rachel Webster	IAU Commission 47 (Cosmology)	President	2006-09
Rachel Webster	IAU Resolutions Committee	Member	2006-09
Ray Norris	IAU Commission 5	President	2006-09
Ray Norris	CODATA	IAU representative	2006-09
Ray Norris	CODATA Executive Committee	Member	2006-09
Ray Norris	FAGS Executive Council (Federation of Astronomical and Geophysical Services)	IAU Representative	2006-09
Ray Norris	IAU Working Group on astronomical data	Chair	2006-09
Ron Ekers	URSI Global VLBI Working Group	Member	
Ron Ekers	Gruber Advisory Board	IAU rep.	2006-09
Ron Ekers	IAU Special Nominating Committee	Advisor	2006-09
Sarah Maddison	IAU Working Group on women in astronomy	Co-Chair	2006-09
Tasso Tzioumis	ITU Radiocommunication	Member	2006-09

	Study Group 7 (Sciences Services)		
Tasso Tzioumis	IAU Working Group on RFI mitigation	Chair	2006-09
Wayne Orchiston	IAU Working Group on historic radio astronomy	Chair	2006-09
Wayne Orchiston	IAU Working Group on archives	Member	2006-09
Wayne Orchiston	IAU Working Group on historical instruments	Member	2006-09
Wayne Orchiston	IAU Working Group on transits of Venus	Member	2006-09
Wim Brouw	IAU SOFA Review Board	Member	2003-09
Wim Brouw	IAU Working Group on astronomical data	Member	2006-09

THE FOLLOWING NOMINATIONS WILL BE MADE IN 2009:

PERSON	INTERNATIONAL BODY	POSITION	TERM OF OFFICE
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None.

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

Go to <http://www.science.org.au/reports/2008anrep.htm>, to view the Chairs' Reports on 2007 activities.

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

[Your Report, as presented here, will be published in April 2009, in the National Committees for Science section of the Academy's Annual Report for 2008-2009].

National Activities

Professor Ray Norris resigned as chair of the NCRS in early 2008, and Professor Andrew Parfitt was nominated and elected as chair from February 2008.

The Committee hosted the 2008 *Workshop on Applications of Radio Science (WARS)*, 10 to 12 February 2008 on the Gold Coast. 40 poster and 5 keynote presentations were made, and an industry forum held.

The web site continues to be an issue for Committee, acting as a repository of published material from the WARS meetings (and therefore requiring a stable URL) and needing to be hosted in a location that permits ready updating. The active list of over 800 radio scientists still needs reviewing and updating. It was decided to migrate the current web site to the Academy web site, mirroring the historical data, but allowing the link to be maintained for archiving and citation purposes, and to update the list of radio scientists in 2009 through the new web site.

Discussion continued on the creation of the Christiansen medal, and it was determined to look to establish a medal and travel award to the WARS conference as a first step towards a more substantial award.

International Activities

The most significant activity for the Committee in 2008 was the triennial General Assembly of the International Union of Radio Science (URSI GA), held in Chicago, 7 to 16 August 2008. There were 19 Australian delegates to the URSI GA, two of whom (Dr J-M Le Floch (University of Western Australia) and Dr MA Voronkov (CSIRO)) were Young Scientist awardees.

At the URSI GA, Dr Phil Wilkinson was re-elected to the position of Vice President for the period 2009 to 2011.

At the URSI GA, membership of The Committee on Data for Science and Technology was presented and the Council determined to form a committee to explore data issues in radio science and evaluate the benefits of membership.

Other

Emma Kirby (ANU) was the National Committee for Radio Science nominee at the Lindau Meeting of Nobel Laureates.

Australian Radio Science Achievements in 2008

Radio Science continues to be visible in the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) project, with progress made on the Australian SKA Pathfinder instrument reported at WARS2008 and at the URSI GA.

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

Jeanette Mill
National Relations Officer
Australian Academy of Science
E jeanette.mill@science.org.au
P 02 6201 9413
F 02 6201 9494
Ian Potter House, Gordon St, Canberra, ACT, Australia, 2600
GPO Box 783, Canberra, ACT, Australia, 2601