

AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

National Committees for Science: ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL on 2006 activities

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR: Space Science

CHAIR: Professor Iver Cairns

PERIOD COVERED IN THIS REPORT: 1 January - 31 December, 2006

Please complete and return this form by 15 December 2006.

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: 21 March 2006 in Canberra. Business was also carried out via email and telephone calls. Committee members are active participants in other groups that develop and promote specific space science programs

THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS ARE PROPOSED FOR 2007 (include date and place, if possible):

March 2007, Canberra, ACT – annual meeting for NCSS.

April – June 2007, Canberra, ACT, or Sydney, NSW: Townhall meeting for the Decadal Plan.

June-September 2007, Canberra, ACT: meeting prior to the launch of the Decadal Plan.

September-October 2007: meeting during the Australian Space Science Conference.

MEETINGS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AFFILIATED WITH ICSU

IN 2006 THERE WAS A GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF (include date and place):

36th COSPAR Scientific Assembly, 16 - 23 July 2006, Beijing,

IN 2007 THERE WILL BE A GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF (include date and place):

XXIVth IUGG General Assembly (including IAGA), 2-13 July 2007, Perugia, Italy

The next GENERAL ASSEMBLY/CONGRESS will be held in 2008

37th COSPAR Scientific Assembly, 13 - 20 July 2008, Montreal, Canada,

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

XXIVth IUGG General Assembly (including IAGA), 2-13 July 2007, Perugia, Italy

Professor Iver Cairns,
 School of Physics, Email: cairns@physics.usyd.edu.au
 University of Sydney,
 NSW 2006, Work phone: +61-2 9351-3961
 Australia Work fax: +61-2 9351-7726.

Dr Cairns is the Chair of the NCSS, as well as being Chair, Division IV (Solar Wind and Interplanetary Magnetic field) of the International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy (IAGA), President, Solar Terrestrial Section, of the Asia Oceania Geosciences Society (AOGS), and the immediate past Chair (2004-2006) of the Solar Terrestrial and Space Physics (STSP) Group of the Australian Institute of Physics.

AUSTRALIAN OFFICE HOLDERS IN ICSU AND AFFILIATED BODIES

AUSTRALIANS WHO HELD OFFICE IN 2006 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
Dr C Barton	IAGA, IUGG	President	2003-2007
	IAGA, IUGG	Chair, Working Group V-8 "Analysis of the Global and Regional Geomagnetic Field and its Secular Variation".	
Prof I H Cairns	IAGA	Chair, Division IV – Solar Wind and Interplanetary Field	
	IAGA	National Council Representative	
	IUGG	National Council Representative	
	COSPAR	National Council Representative	
Prof P L Dyson	COSPAR	Scientific Discipline Representative	
	SCOSTEP	Member, PSMOS Steering Committee	
	SCOSTEP	Scientific Discipline Representative	
	COSPAR/URSI	Member, WG on the International Reference Ionosphere	
Prof. B Fraser	SCOSTEP	National Representative	
	SCAR	Member, WG on Solar-Terrestrial and Astrophysical Research	

	IHY	Australian member of the International Steering Committee for the International Heliophysical Year (IHY).
Dr D Ivers	IAGA	Co-Chair Working on Theory of Planetary Magnetic Fields and Geomagnetic Secular Variation
A./Prof. F. Menk	SCOSTEP	Scientific Discipline Representative
Pro.f I. Reid	SCOSTEP	Scientific Discipline Representative
Prof. R A Vincent	IAMAS SCOSTEP	Vice-President, Executive Committee Science Steering Committee, CAWSES Working Group 3

THE FOLLOWING NOMINATIONS WILL BE MADE IN 2007:

PERSON	INTERNATIONAL BODY	POSITION	TERM OF OFFICE
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ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE – Please include comments on progress achieved on projected activities identified in your 2006 Business Plan. 2006 Business plans can be viewed at www.science.org.au/natcoms

Go to <http://www.science.org.au/reports/2006anrep.pdf> pp17-27, to view the Chairs' Reports on 2005 activities.

I SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING REPORT TO COUNCIL ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE IN calendar year 2006 (200-250 words):

[Your Report, as presented here, will be published in April 2007, in the National Committees for Science section of the Academy's Annual Report for 2006-2007].

Members of the National Committee for Space Science (NCSS) worked on a Space Weather Statement as members of a joint working party of the Academy of Science and the Australian Academy for Technological Science and Engineering (ATSE). Subsequently the committee approved the Space Weather Statement, ATSE has endorsed it, and the committee has asked the Academy Council to endorse the Statement and then forward it jointly to the Government, Australian industry and the media.

The Report to the Committee for Space Research (COSPAR) on Australian Space Research 2004-2006, was completed, and special efforts were made to widen the distribution of the report. NCSS and the Academy publicised the report more widely in Australia, especially to government departments relevant to space science. The report can be viewed at www.science.org.au/natcoms/cospar2006.pdf.

NCSS worked hard to develop the first Australian Decadal Plan for Space Science.

- A Steering Committee and multiple Working Groups were appointed and have made good progress. The plan website is at <http://www.physics.usyd.edu.au/~ncss>.
- Extensive efforts to consult widely on the Plan have been made and are ongoing, improving the cohesiveness and sense of community of Australian space scientists.
- Presentations on the plan were made at the WARS 2006 Workshop (Leura, February), the joint Australian Space Development Congress and Australian Space Science Conference (Canberra, July), the Workshop on Forging a National Consensus on Remote Sensing (Canberra, November), and the Australian Institute of Physics Congress (Brisbane, December).
- A proposal to the Australian Research Council under the Learned Academies Special Project scheme to fund the plan's publication and initial implementation was written in September. The Hon Julie Bishop, Minister for Education, Science and Training, approved the proposal for funding in late December 2006.
- The draft plan is expected to be ready in April 2007, with a townhall meeting to revise and approve it (April-June), formal launch at the Academy (July-September) and an implementation workshop (September-October). 2007 is the ideal year for the plan's launch due to the many anniversaries for space, including the 50-year anniversary of Sputnik's launch (4 October).

NCSS contributed to the Academy's submission to PMSEIC on Australia's Science and Technology priorities for global engagement.

The Chair attended the July 2006 Committee for Space Research Scientific Assembly in Beijing, China, and voted as Australia's national representative.

NCSS encourages Australian space scientists to take leading roles in international organisations (e.g., COSPAR, the International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy, the International Association of Geodesy and Geophysics, and Scientific Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Physics) and to become involved in the numerous international programs that are focused on 2007 and the 50th year anniversary of the dawn of the space age and the International Geophysical Year. These include the International Heliophysical Year (IHY, 2007, contact NCSS's Professor Brian Fraser), the International Polar Year (IPY, 2007-2008, contact NCSS's Professor Robert Vincent), the electronic Geophysical Year (eGY, 2007-2008, contact NCSS's Dr Charlie Barton) and the Climate and Weather of the Sun-Earth System (CAWSES, 2004-2008, contact NCSS's Professor Robert Vincent). The International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE) is 2008.

Please complete and return this form by 15 December 2006 to:

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