

The Shine Dome and Ian Potter House

The Australian Academy of Science's Dome has been a Canberra landmark since its construction in 1959. An image of the Shine Dome – along with Melbourne's former ICI House, Perth's Council House and the Sydney Opera House – featured on a stamp release by Australia Post, *Landmarks: Australian modernist architecture*. These buildings are classical examples of 20th century iconic Australian buildings.

There were many requests throughout the year to hold a variety of functions and events at the Shine Dome. Some of the new organisations holding events this year were the Department of Defence Industries with the Defence and Industry Regional Briefing and a three day workshop by the Australian Society of Fish Biology. The Australian National University School of Music hosted the 8th Annual Piano Pedagogy and there was also a return to the Shine Dome by the Catholic Education Office for teachers' professional development days, as well as the Australian Science Festival holding events throughout Science Week in August. On 5 May the European Commission sponsored a live broadcast by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's Radio National. This was hosted by James O'Loughlin on his evening program to celebrate Europe Day.

An upgrade of audiovisual equipment in the Ian Wark Theatre is underway with the addition of a new projector, a web camera, the linkup of a Mac computer to the system, and facilities to record audio and visual input directly onto computer.

The Shine Dome opened its doors to the masses on 11 October. This was a chance for members of the public to see and hear a little about the Academy, its function and role in society, and to learn about the architecture and history of the building itself. There were guided tours, a display of Academy artefacts in the Jaeger Room and *Primary Connections* educational information in the Becker Room, amongst other things. It was a big success with over two hundred people attending throughout the day. Visitors ranged from ambassadors to tourists to residents of Canberra.

Major repairs to the Ian Potter House drainage system were undertaken in the early part of 2008 by engineering contractors Urban Constructions, after a complete hydraulic survey was done of the site by hydraulic engineer Ramsey Howard.

Victoria Grounds (daughter of Roy Grounds of Grounds, Romberg and Boyd), of Grounds and Griffiths, has been commissioned to develop a landscape concept for the grounds of the Academy. This will encompass both Ian Potter House and the Shine Dome and will leave room for future developments that may be proposed for the site.



Image: © Australia Post

The Shine Dome features in an Australian landmarks stamp series



Photo: © Irene Dowdy

Professors Kurt Lambeck and Jenny Graves accompany the French ambassador at the Shine Dome open day

Events held at the Dome

Date	Function	Organisation
2–4 May 2007	<i>Science at the Shine Dome</i>	Australian Academy of Science
5 May	Annual General Meeting	Canberra Units Plan
9 May	ABC James O'Loughlin Evening Show Live Broadcast – Europe Day	European Commission Delegation
14 May	Professional Development Day	Catholic Education Office
16 May	Public lecture by Professor Patrick Weller <i>Is cabinet necessary?</i>	Australia and New Zealand School of Government
22 May	Public lecture by Professor John Pearn <i>A doctor in the Australian garden – Linnaeus, his tercentenary and Australian flora</i>	Australian Academy of Science
24 May	Public lecture by Dr Susan Solomon <i>Ozone depletion and climate change: A tale of two environmental issues</i>	Australian Academy of Science; Department of Climate Change
25 May	ANU construction students tour	Australian National University
31 May	Dining Club Dr John Magee <i>Extinction of giant flightless birds in Australia and Madagascar: Unravelling the role of humans and climate</i>	The four learned Academies
1 June	<i>Primary Connections</i> Reference Group meeting	Australian Academy of Science
6 June	Public lecture by Professor Hans Bacher <i>Photons – quantum ideas that could influence your life</i>	Australian Academy of Science; ARC Centre of Excellence for Quantum-Atom Optics; Australian Institute of Physics
7 June	CIT design students tour	Canberra Institute of Technology
7 June	Public lecture by Professor Tim Bonyhady <i>Climate controls: The new Australian law of global warming</i>	Australian National University; Blake Dawson Waldron
8 June	Off site conference	Department of Defence
14 June	US Summer program	National Science Foundation; Australian Academy of Science
16 June	50th Anniversary Celebration	FJ Car Club of Canberra
18–19 June	Climate change symposium	World Wildlife Fund
26 June	Farewell cocktail party for Professor Barry Hindess	ANU Research School of Social Sciences
28 June	Council meeting	Australian Academy of Science
6 July	8th Australasian Pedagogy Conference 2007	ANU School of Music
10 July	Australia Post stamp launch	Australian Academy of Science
11–12 July	China Update 2007 Conference	ANU School of Economics and Government

Date	Function	Organisation
16 July	Academic policy seminar <i>Improving access to Australian publicly-funded research</i>	National Scholarly Communications Forum
17–19 July	Advanced Technology and Research Symposium	CSIRO Petroleum
20–21 July	<i>Primary Connections</i> Tertiary Facilitators Conference	Australian Academy of Science
26 July	Combined Academies dinner Professor Will Steffen <i>The Anthropocene: From hunter-gatherers to a global geophysical force</i>	The four learned Academies
27 July	Student tour	Student Organised Network for Architecture
2–3 August	Government and Community seminar <i>National security for a diverse community</i>	Attorney-General's Department
7 August	Public lecture by Dr Mike Nunn <i>From mad cows to disappearing bees: Safeguarding Australia from emerging diseases of animals</i>	Australian Academy of Science
8 August	<i>Science by Doing</i> Steering Committee meeting	Australian Academy of Science
9 August	Save our Senate Panel Discussion	Get Up
14–15 August	Vegetation Dynamics Workshop	Australian Academy of Science
20 August	Work and you: Happy together	Australian Science Festival
21 August	Public debate <i>The population debate: Just how big should Australia be?</i>	Canberra Skeptics
22 August	<i>Treasure or torture: Science in the deep</i>	Australian Science Festival
23 August	Public lecture by Professor Mike Dopita FAA <i>The (not so secret) lives of galaxies</i>	Australian Academy of Science; ARC Centre of Excellence for Quantum-Atom Optics, Australian Institute of Physics
25 August	<i>Managing Australia's water challenges and opportunities</i>	Australian Science Festival
26 August	Grand Final of the National Debating Tournament	ANU Debating Society
3 September	Professional Development Day	Catholic Education Office
4 September	Public lecture by Professor John Mackenzie <i>Emerging viral diseases: What are the threats and how should we respond?</i>	Australian Academy of Science
10–12 September	Workshop	Australian Society for Fish Biology
13 September	National Committee for Medicine meeting	Australian Academy of Science
18 September	Conference	Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

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20 September	Defence and Industry Regional Briefing 2007	Department of Defence Industries
21 September	<i>Science by Doing</i> Steering Committee meeting	Australian Academy of Science
25–26 September	InterAcademy Panel meeting	Australian Academy of Science
26 September	Ovation	Australasian College of Midwives
27 September	Combined Academies dinner Professor Harvey Marchant <i>The other problem of increasing atmospheric CO₂ concentration – acidification of the oceans</i>	The four learned Academies
27 September	Council meeting	Australian Academy of Science
28 September	Rural Issues Workshop	Australasian College of Midwives
4 October	Australian Foundation for Science	Australian Academy of Science
11 October	Shine Dome Open Day	Australian Academy of Science
18–19 October	Annual public symposium and forum <i>Coral reef futures 07</i>	ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies
30 October	Australian College of Road Safety and Australian Transport Safety Bureau seminar	Australasian College of Road Safety
31 October	National Committee for Physics meeting	Australian Academy of Science
5–7 November	10th Annual Meeting of the Earth Systems Dynamics Network	Research School of Earth Sciences
16–17 November	2050 National Forum 2007	Liz Baldwin and Associates
20–21 November	Annual General Meeting and Symposium <i>Power, people, water: Urban water services and human behaviour in Australia</i>	Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia
27 November	Public lecture by Professor Alain Aspect <i>From Einstein intuitions to quantum bits: A new quantum age</i>	Australian Academy of Science; ARC Centre of Excellence for Quantum-Atom Optics; Australian Institute of Physics
28 November	Public lecture by Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston, AO, AFC <i>Leading the Australian Defence Force</i>	Australia and New Zealand School of Government
29 November	Meeting	Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
30 November	National Committee for Radio Science meeting	Australian Academy of Science
2–5 December	Fenner Conference on the Environment <i>Wildlife population dynamics and management</i>	Australasian Wildlife Management Society
6 December	Council meeting	Australian Academy of Science
7 December	Digital Elevation Model Project meeting	Australian Academy of Science
8 December	Combined Academies Christmas meeting	The four learned Academies

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10 December	Tomography Workshop	Applied Maths, RSPHysSE, Australian National University
11 December	Public lecture by Professor Sir Michael Brady <i>Medical and molecular image analysis</i>	Australian Academy of Science
2 January	Opening session	National Youth Science Forum
13 January	<i>Science by Doing</i> training workshop welcome	Australian Academy of Science
14 January	Blakers Lecture, Summer School of Mathematics	ANU, Australian Association of Mathematical Teachers
16 January	Opening session	National Youth Science Forum
18 January	<i>Science by Doing</i> training workshop	Australian Academy of Science
24 January	Australia Day Awards	Department of Agriculture
31 January	National Committee for Chemistry meeting	Australian Academy of Science
7 February	Council and Sectional Committee meetings	Australian Academy of Science
8 February	President, Swiss Academy of Science	Australian Academy of Science
14–15 February	Workshop <i>Enhancing the quality of the experience of postdocs and early career researchers</i>	Australian Academy of Science
19 February	Chinese Academy of Sciences delegation	Australian Academy of Science
20 February	Public lecture by Professor Ian Chubb AC <i>Higher education – its time to change the framework</i>	Australia and New Zealand School of Government
21–22 February	Australian Frontiers of Science symposium	Australian Academy of Science
25 February	Special general meeting	Capital Towers Canberra Units Plan
28–29 February	National Indigenous Health Summit	Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission
3 March	Comined Academies dinner Professor David Lindenmayer FAA <i>The science underpinning the conservation and management of ecological communities</i>	The four learned Academies
4 March	Industry briefing	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
4 March	Public lecture by Dr Martyn Jeggo <i>Being prepared – from a diagnostic laboratory perspective</i>	Australian Academy of Science
5 March	<i>Primary Connections</i> education staff development	Australian Academy of Science
6 March	Council meeting	Australian Academy of Science
12–13 March	Future directions for Australian climate change science	CSIRO Department of Climate Change Bureau of Meteorology
18 March	Digital Elevation Model workshop	Department of Climate Change Australian Academy of Science Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering