

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE HOME OF P.WESSELS ON 15 APRIL 2002

Present : R. Roth, P.Wessels, R.Joubert, F. de Bruyn, P.Hawkins, R.Clifford, J. Watson

Apologies : A.Hill, T.Morley

1. Meeting commenced at 7.30pm - minutes of previous meeting accepted
2. Matters arising - thanks to FdeB for arranging talk by Dr Catherine Cress at April meeting - a very good evening and a nice turnout of members and visitors - acoustics in GG hall can be difficult at times !
3. Planning FdeB has prepared a revised programme for 2002
Observatory evenings on Fri 19/4/2002 and Sat 20/4/2002 (Ast Week) and Fri 3/5/2002
Wed 8/5/2002 - Red Giants (JW)
Sun 12/5/2002 - Observatory Work party
Wed 12/6/2002 - AGM - Telescope evening
Wed 10/7/2002 - Meteorite evening and mid-Winter party (in lieu of Xmas party)
FUTURE - ASSA National Symposium 29/11 - 1/12/2002 on Pretoria - FdeB will be delivering a paper, and would like to use Centre meeting in October as a "trial run"
- Centre to have normal meeting in December - no meeting in January
- Visit to Sutherland in 2003 - RC has contacted Sutherland Tourism Board and has also ascertained dates of Easter holidays - tight schedule ! - should we go in 2003 or 2004 ?
- December eclipse - accommodation prices high - RR has written to M.Streicher
4. Membership - Suspects: Mr & Mrs J.Blom, Dr Catherine Cress
5. Correspondence - Letters & dates of Open evnngs sent to local press and Pmb Tourism
- Newsletters from other centres & UN Space Seminar reports
- Invitation from Durban Centre to attend 80th Anniversary celebrations on 8/5/2002 - RR to reply
6. Treasurer - Balance (at 15/04/2002) R 3110.67
- propose subs increase at AGM (Indiv & Family R75 -> R80, Stud & Sen C R40 -> R50)
7. STARDUST (to be ready by 24/4/2002)
8. Library - Nothing to report
9. P.R.O. - Open evenings - duty roster of members to be drawn up
- Astronomy week - displays at Museum and Library to be set up this week
- last effort to get S de Vos to do something about the banner !
10. Observatory & Instruments
- TM needs 2 more weekends to finish clearing the site - plantation felling a nuisance !
- Guy Dewar has not produced the red LED lights yet
- 12" must be collimated better (Work party on 12 May)
- To be done : Extra lights, Sit-on cupboard, Door (fix hinge and tack nuts with welder / generator),
Viewing platforms, Binocular mount
- JW has cleaned up inside the building as much as possible - PW has found old battery vacuum cleaner
- Planetarium - nothing further to report
- G.Guides happy about revised access - are we ?
- fencing - part of our lease agreement with Pmb municipality !
11. Education - Basic Astronomy Course - 3 bookings already - J.Houston has offered help with presentation
- JW spoke at Blackridge Womens WA on Wed 3/4/2002
- Star evening for cubs on 5/4/2002 was just 1 family - coincided with open evening - clouded out !
12. General -

NEXT MEETING - **Monday 13 May 2002** at **7.30 pm** at home of **R.Joubert** (4 Sanders Rd, Scottsville)