

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at the home of R Roth on 17 March 2003

Present: F de Bruyn, C Kay, L Hearmon, P Hawkins, J Watson, R Clifford, R Roth, T Morley

1. Meeting commenced at 19:32.
2. Matters Arising
 - Correction – Christmas party to be referred to as ‘Midwinter Star Party’ and is to be held on 19 July.
3. Planning
 - Frikkie to follow up possibility of Dr C Cress speaking to the society in either next month or in May – possible topic ‘cosmic radiation background results’.
 - Frikkie will present his talk, Nuclear Fusion in the sun, either next month or May depending on Dr Cress.
 - Joan Housen to do follow up talk in either June or August.
 - It will be decided later if we should have a viewing evening for the AGM or a speaker.
4. Membership
 - No new members.
 - John to speak with Don Whitfield regarding Hilton student members.
 - Leanne to photocopy application forms for distribution at meetings and any displays we may have.
5. Correspondence

Received:

 - Newsletters from the other centres, Canopus, MNASSA
 - March S&T. Jan and Feb issues not received – Colin to chase up.

Sent:

 - John to follow up letter sent to ASSA requesting the R500 for our banner.
6. Treasurer
 - January financial situation was stated at R4 962.95
 - All handbooks are sold and accounted for.
7. Stardust
 - Rogan requested more articles for Stardust.
 - The missing tapes need to be advertised in Stardust again.
8. Library
 - Many of the outstanding books have been returned.
 - None of the missing tapes have been recovered.
9. P.R.O
 - 5 – 11 May is Astronomy week – 10 May being Astronomy day.
 - Rogan to contact Peter at the museum in the hopes of arranging something with him to co-incide with Astronomy week.
 - Viewing season starts next month. It was agreed to open the observatory every first & third Friday of the month; and every Friday in July.

10. Observatory & Instruments

- Unofficial work party organised for Sunday 23 March to start work on repairing the observatory, mainly where rust is damaging the building.
- Trevor will be starting to clear up the surroundings over the next 2 weekends.
- Trevor will also be collecting the wooden pews this week from the University.
- John has inspected both the telescopes and has discovered that the Dancer's star diagonal has been distorted, he has attempted to correct the problem.
- John has also removed the mirror of the 12" and is cleaning it.
- John suggested a wood strip around the observatory interior walls for the purpose of hanging posters; at the moment plastic & tape is pulling the paint off the walls. Trevor will look into sourcing some timber.

11. Education

- John to Cowan House on 20 March at 6pm to do a presentation.
- No other dates are confirmed but John has had some enquiries.
- Rogan was contacted by Grosvenor Girls school for some of the committee to do a viewing evening on Friday 25 April, with a talk on the Saturday morning. All transport and overnight accommodation supplied by the school. Still need to confirm which members will go.
- It was noted that the transit of Mercury will take place on 7 May (07:15 – 12:31)

12. General

- John spoke with someone from NCT who indicated that the observatory land does not fall under PMB municipality, but rather KZ222. If this is the case we may not be in line for an increase in rent next year. John to speak to Mrs Surridge of the Girl Guides regarding this.

The meeting was declared closed at 8:50. Next committee meeting will be held at the home of L Hearmon (8 Kinbro, 18 Abelia Rd, Cleland) on 14 April 2003.