

minutes of the Meeting of the Cape Centre at SAAO
on Wed 9th May 1979 at 8pm.

Present. The chairman, 23 members and 9 visitors.
Apologies for absence were received from Messrs Hurst, Douglas
and Charles:

Mr Burke showed some slides of the night sky constellations
- Virgo and Scorpius. He also showed slides of Jupiter made
up from ~~the Voyager~~ ^{the Voyager} photographs shown at the previous meeting,
(for those who might have missed it).

The Chairman announced that Skylab should ~~fall down~~ ^{descend}
between 17 June and 2nd July 1979 according to latest estimates.
The June meeting will be held at the U.S. I.S. (United States
Information Service) offices where space films will be shown
to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Moon landing.
In July no meeting will be held, owing to the A&M of ASSA.

The Chairman then introduced the speaker, Dr MW Feast,
director of the SAAO. Dr Feast gave a very interesting talk
of the P-L-C (Parallax-Luminosity-Colour) relation for cepheids,
how this has been refined over the years and applied to give
the distances of nearby galaxies, and in particular the LMC.

The latest work at SAAO on the P-L-C relation in the Clouds
takes interstellar absorption and the effect of differing
composition into account, and gives rise to the most accurate
present estimate of the distance of the LMC; 1.80,000 light years.

The speaker was thanked by Mr Simenhoff, and the meeting
adjourned for tea and biscuits.

Signed as correct

/Brooth 13/6/79

Chairman

* Skylab landed on ^{INCO} ~~the~~ 11th July 1979 in the Indian Ocean West of
Australia. This was the 10th anniversary of the first manned
lunar landing.