



# COFFS HARBOUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY INCORPORATED

## MINUTES AND NOTICE OF MEETING

MINUTES OF JULY MONTHLY MEETING HELD AT BOAMBEE EAST COMMUNITY CENTRE,  
MONDAY 7<sup>th</sup> of JULY, 2014.

**PRESENT:** 11 members and 3 guests.

**MEETING OPENED:** 7:00pm with President, Win Howard in the chair.

**APOLOGIES:** Camilla Whitire, Kevin & Lina Good

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:** Adopted as circulated by e-mail

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:** Nil.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

**IN:** 1/. Invitation by National Committee for Astronomy (NCA) of the Australian Academy of Science to complete a survey to assist in the Production of the 2016 – 2025 Australian Astronomy Decadal Plan. This provides the opportunity for Australian astronomy to carry out a stock take of its capabilities, assess its impact both nationally and internationally, provide a vision for the future, and to set priorities and develop strategies on how that vision might be implemented.

2/. Invitation by the Central West Astronomical Society who will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of its AstroFest, being held to coincide with the 45th anniversary of Apollo 11, from 19-20 July.

3/. Invitation to the CAASTRO Uluru Astronomy Weekend 22-24 August 2014.

*Celebrating the vast outback night sky and designed for astronomy enthusiasts of all ages, Ayers Rock Resort, in partnership with the ARC Centre of Excellence for All-sky Astrophysics (CAASTRO), will play host to the Uluru Astronomy Weekend as a fitting close to National Science Week.*

*Hosted by popular scientific personality and celebrated author Dr Karl Kruszelnicki, along with some of the world's leading experts, this enlightening weekend will include engaging discussions on astro-statistics and the structure of the cosmos, fun family activities and demonstrations, an exciting Galaxy Star Ball and more. The weekend will provide those already familiar with the night sky a fantastic opportunity to gain new insights, while those new to studying the cosmos will be inspired with an engaging introduction to astronomy. [http://www.ayersrockresort.com.au/astronomy-weekend/?utm\\_source=CAASTRO&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=AstronomyWeekend](http://www.ayersrockresort.com.au/astronomy-weekend/?utm_source=CAASTRO&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=AstronomyWeekend)*

**OUT:** Nil

## GENERAL BUSINESS:

- We were fortunate to welcome two members from the Port Macquarie Astronomical Association to our meeting; Jeremy and Rebecca were kind enough to provide some insight into their association, especially in relation to its history, membership, meetings, interaction with the general public and viewing nights at their historic observatory. We thank Jeremy and Rebecca for sharing their time and offer them both or any other association members and warm and open invitation to return.  
<http://www.p mobs.org.au/home>
- It has been adopted that yearly membership shall remain at \$16.00 per annum, with an increase in the meeting attendance fee from \$2.00 to \$3.00 per meeting.

## THE TOPIC: Nil

## TOPIC FOR NEXT MEETING: Open

## REPORTS FROM MEMBERS:

- Michael presented a slideshow on his efforts with making the donated telescope operational. Michael has offered to be the custodian of the telescope to the point we have our own observatory to house it. Jeremy & Rebecca have also offered their assistance as the telescope is similar to PMAA's
- Sarah Jane discussed her efforts to bring the CHAS onto social media, by creating a wonderful Facebook page. Contributions to the page are always welcome.  
<https://www.facebook.com/Coffsastro>
- Win recounted his observations of Saturn and the Cassini division.
- Terry observed on 20/6 in the eastern sky a spectacular meteor or re-entering space junk.

## REPORTS FROM THE PRESIDENT: *(this material is collected from the internet each month and presented in an edited form).*

1. "Godzilla of Earths": Alien Planet 17 Heavier Than Our Earth Discovered  
<http://www.space.com/26085-godzilla-mega-earth-kepler-10c-aas224.html>
2. New "Gas Dwarf" Class of Alien Planets Revealed  
<http://www.space.com/26087-gas-dwarf-alien-planets-aas224.html>
3. Red Dwarfs Could Sterilise Alien Worlds  
<http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2014/06/03/4017993.htm>
4. First Thorne-Zytkow Object Found 200,000 Light Years Away  
<http://www.sci-news.com/astromony/science-thorne-zytkow-object-01970.html>
5. Why Haven't We Encountered Aliens Yet? The Answer Could Be Climate Change  
<http://www.space.com/26205-why-havent-we-encountered-aliens-yet-the-answer-could-be-climate-change.html>
6. NASA Instruments on Rosetta Start Comet Science  
<http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/news.php?release=2014-182>
7. Mountaintop Blasted to Build huge Telescope  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-27902611>
8. Cosmic Inflation: Confidence Lowered for Big Bang Signal  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-27935479>
9. Experiments Give Shape to Higgs Boson  
<http://www.smh.com.au/world/experiments-give-shape-to-higgs-boson-20140623-zsie9.html>
10. Remarkable White Dwarf Star Possibly the Coldest, Dimmest Ever Detected  
<https://public.nrao.edu/news/pressreleases/cold-white-dwarf>
11. "Waves" Spotted on Titan's Seas  
<http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2014/06/23/4030008.htm>
12. Martin Ringbauer & University of Queensland Make Time Travel Science Breakthrough  
<http://www.smh.com.au/technology/sci-tech/martin-ringbauer-and-university-of-queensland-make-time-travel-science-breakthrough-20140625-zskmd.html>

13. Athena: Europe Plans Huge X-Ray Space Telescope

<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-28053831>

14. Spotlight Shines on Earth-Like Planets

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2014/05/27/4012736.htm>

#### **CLOSURE AND FUTURE MEETING TIMES:**

A small viewing session was undertaken on a cool night!

The next monthly meeting will be Monday 4<sup>th</sup> of August, 2014, at our new venue, **Boambee East Community Centre, Bruce King Drive** at 7:00pm, all members and interested persons are encouraged to attend.

**The meeting will incorporate the Annual General Meeting of the Coffs Harbour Astronomical Society.**

If weather permits (...we know better!) we will be able to view the lunar occultation of Saturn at 21:22

#### **CHAS TELESCOPE:**

Roberto Cornale  
Secretary