

# PRIME FOCUS

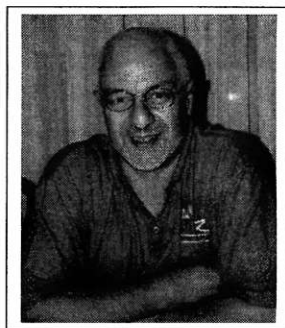
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## Presidents Report

John Rombi

Wow is this what it's like to be on the front page, this is going to be FUN!!!!



JOHN ROMBI

## MAS Committee

### President

John Rombi

### Vice President

Martin Ferlito

### Secretary

Bob Bee

### Treasurer

Dick Everett

### Committee Members

Lloyd Wright  
Kate Johnston  
Daniel Ross

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### Prime Focus Editor

Kate Johnston  
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Welcome, Welcome,  
Welcome to all our  
Members and guests  
tonight. As you  
can see there is a new

by-line at the end of this report. There has been a big change in the managing committee of M.A.S Ian Cook, our hard working Secretary retired from the position. Ian always kept our Club correspondence and records up to date; trust me there is always a lot of paper work to sort through. Thanks for all you hard work and diligence.

Noel Sharpe, President for seven years and holder of every other position, has made a very positive impact on the club and if I was to mention them all here it would take up all of Prime Focus. Without Noel's selfless attitude and commitment to the Club, we would not be as successful and well known as we are. On a personal note, Noel has been a tower of strength and friendship over the years to me, and I would not have been able to fill this position without his encouragement, Thanks Mate!!!!

We also have new members on the committee; they are Kate Johnston (also our Prime Focus Editor and Official Photographer) and Martin Ferlito (our Webmaster) and now Vice President. Martin and I have a similar vision for the club and I know we will work well together. Dick Everett has continued in the role of Treasurer, this is a very important role coordinating the finances of M.A.S and as usual Dick carries it off to a "T" I'd also like to thank Dick for his friendship. Also the patient job of trying to teach me the fundamentals of electronics, soldering and everything else you've taught me.

Lloyd Wright and Daniel Ross continue as committee members, with their own responsibilities eg Library, name Badges, ten-year medallions and maintaining the cabin at The Forest etc,etc....

Bob Bee has taken over the responsibility of Secretary, and as always will bring the "Bob Bee" style to it.

A little bit about myself, I have been a member since August 1998. I had come back to Astronomy after a long .....break. I felt at home immediately, after a year I joined the committee and two years later became V.P. I held this position since 2002.

With the great team I have, and the continuing support of you ... the members, I know that we can continue to take M.A.S. onto a bigger and better future.

I will sign off for now, but remember you can contact me via email, phone or catch up on the field or our monthly meetings, don't be shy!!!!

### **Tonight**

Its my pleasure to welcome our speaker Melissa Hulbert. Melissa is a member of the Sutherland society, and has a Masters of Astrophysics/Astronomy and is an accomplished Astrophotographer. Melissa's presentation tonight will be on "The Sun gods and the Day of Darkness"

Cheers & Clear Skies,  
John Rombi

### **OBSERVING DATES**

25/05/07	Campbelltown	Rotary
9/06/07	Stargard	
16/06/07	The Forest	
18/06/07	General Meeting	MAS
	Workshop	
7/07/07	Stargard	
16/07/07	General Meeting	MAS
	Workshop	

## **M.A.S AGM 2007 Membership Presentation**

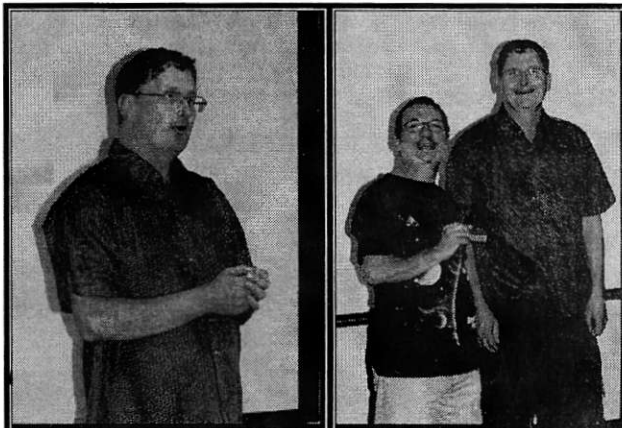
This year we saw M.A.S Members presented with their 10 year Membership badges. As announced in the last edition of Prime Focus the 10 year Members are:

Phillip Ainsworth  
Noel Sharpe  
Frank Kish  
Peter Druery  
Lou Timpano  
Dick Everett

Ian Cook  
Roger Powell  
Daniel Ross  
Bob Bee  
Ragbir Bhathal



Also presented on the evening was Honorary Membership to our founding member Phil Ainsworth. Congratulations Phil and thank you for your dedication and commitment to M.A.S.

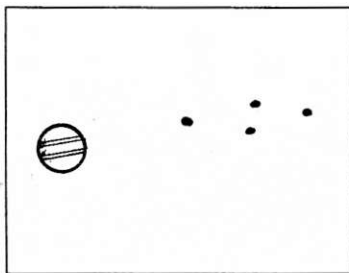


## Dance of the Moons

Bob Bee

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May, it started out a beautiful starry, moonless night. I hadn't been able to get out to Stargard for personal reasons but at around 8.00pm was able to set up my 250mm Dob in the backyard "for a bit of stargazing".

The first thing that caught my eye was the  $-2.8$  mag. jewel of Jupiter in the East. "Hullo", I thought, "I'll test the optics on you, old Jove". So with the 9mm eyepiece, I aimed it at Jupiter. Beautiful! At  $\times 139$ , it looked like a dinner plate, with very distinctive cloud bands cutting across it. But what really struck my eye were the four Galilean moons. They were all grouped on the same side, forming a neat little packet of stars. I sketched the arrangement shown below.



I was so impressed, I called out to Marion to come and have a look before I moved on to other targets. It was just as well I did, because no sooner had Marion looked at Jupiter, and very impressed too, that clouds appeared and started to close in and, within 15 minutes, there was total cloud cover. That ended my night's viewing, and also that of my colleagues at Stargard, I imagined.

Oh well, you have to take what you can get in this hobby.

### **MAS Library – Books for Sale to MAS Members!!!!!!**

**TONIGHT WE HAVE A COLLECTION OF ASTRONOMICAL BOOKS THAT  
BELONG TO THE CLUB LIBRARY.**

**FOR A GOLD COIN DONATION (PER BOOK) THEY COULD BE YOURS.**

**ALL PROCEEDS GO BACK INTO THE MAS ACCOUNT.**

## Internet News

Ursula Braatz

I have found some interesting news from the internet. It is amazing.

(Ed. Full articles are available at the named websites – If anyone has any comments on the topics here please put pen to paper and send your thoughts in to Prime Focus for others to read)

1.) I think that everybody knows that Astronomers found the first habitable Earth-like planet, so I don't have to write more about it.

2.) In "The Economic Times on line" is an article:  
Signs of water seen on planet outside solar system

"Washington: Evidence of water has been detected for the first time in a planet outside of our solar system, a tantalizing find for scientists eager to know whether life exists beyond Earth. Water was found on a large gaseous Jupiter-like planet located 150 light years from Earth in the constellation Pegasus known as HD 209458 b. So, one day hopefully Astronomers will find water on an Earth-like extra solar planet and detect life."

3.) From "Spaceflight now" I read an article:  
Are there purple palm trees on Alien worlds?

"A team of NASA scientists led by a member of the Spitzer Science Center believe they have found a way to predict the color of plants on planets in other Solar Systems." "We can identify the strongest candidate wavelengths of light for the dominant color of photosynthesis on another planet" said Nancy Kiang, lead author of study and a biometeorologist at NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, New York." - **We can dream and imagine how beautiful other worlds can be, but our Earth is beautiful too.**

4.) BBC News: Many planets may have double suns

"The dual suns that rise and set over Luke Skywalker's Homeworld in the Film "Star Wars" may be more than just fantasy, according to data from NASA. In a classic scene from the 1977 movie, the hero gazes into two yellow suns set on the horizon. NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope has found that planetary systems are as common around double stars as they are around single stars, like our Sun. In the study, a team of researchers used an infrared camera around binary or double stars. Dusty discs are made from leftover debris of planet formation." - **So, it is possible that alien habitable worlds have two suns, but we will, maybe never know about life on those planets.**

5.) Spaceflight now: 02.05.07 Cambridge MA:  
Astronomers discover a super-massive planet

"Today Astronomers at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics

(CFA) announced that they have found the most massive known transiting extra solar planet. The gas giant planet, called HAT- P 2b contains more than eight times the mass of Jupiter the biggest planet in our solar system. Its powerful gravity squashes into a ball only slightly larger than Jupiter. This planet is much denser than a Jupiter-like planet in fact it is dense as Earth even it is though mostly made of hydrogen."

6.) Spaceflight now 30.04.07

Scientists discover vast intergalactic cloud of plasma

"Los Alamos, New Mexico – Combining the world's largest radio telescope in Arecibo, Puerto Rico with a precision imaging, seven-antenna synthesis radio telescope at the Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory (DRAO), a team of researchers led by Los Alamos scientist Philipp Kronberg have discovered a new giant in the heavens, a giant in the form of previously undetected cloud of intergalactic plasma that stretches more than 6 million light years across. The diffuse, magnetized intergalactic zone of high energy electrons may be evidence for galaxy-sized black holes as sources for mysterious cosmic rays that continuously zip through the universe. It was discovered only as a 2-3 megaparsec zone of diffuse intergalactic plasma located beside the Coma cluster of galaxies."

**I am wondering about, what the Astronomers will find in the universe next.**

## Letters to the Editor.

Dear Editor,

In the March/April edition of Australian Sky and Telescope, there was an article in a box on page 47 entitled "The Creative Side of Supernovae" A concluding paragraph asked a question that could not be answered:- How many civilizations were wiped out by supernovae?"

That question was the theme of a short story by Arthur C. Clarke:- "The Star", which I found on page 115 of "The Other Side of the Sky"

The protagonist in "The Star" was an astrophysicist who was also a Jesuit priest (the Jesuits are active in scientific research) He finds the remains of a solar system that had been destroyed by a supernovae. The race that had lived there had left all records of their civilization on that system's equivalent of Pluto. After studying the

extinct race's record, and making measurement, he ascertained the exact date of the explosion. Consequently he has trouble with his religious beliefs when he discovers that the destroyed system was the "Star of Bethlehem"

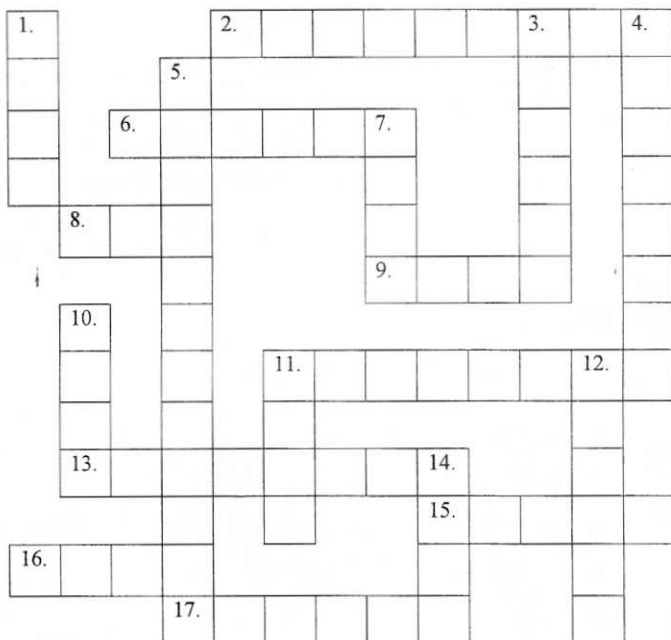
On reading "The Star", I see parallels with our guest speaker for March. Reverend Bob Evans sees no conflict with Science and Religion. He seeks truth in both. The Vatican has stated that there is no conflict between Darwin's theory of Evolution and the Book of Genesis.

Professor Paul Davies is in a similar position as Bob Evans in the relationship with science and religion. I am a lapsed Anglican married to a practicing Catholic, so I know that all this can be a sensitive question

Yours Sincerely  
Stuart Cant

# Crossword No2

Ivan Fox



## ACROSS

2. HOUR ANGLE OF A CELESTIAL BODY [9]
6. GIANT STAR SYSTEM [6]
8. SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE CONSTELLATION [3]
9. NASA SPACECRAFT LANDED ON IT [4]
11. OBSERVATORY IN NSW [8]
13. PROMINENT GROUPING BUT NOT A CONSTELLATION [8]
15. CONSTELLATION NEAR TAURUS [5]
16. ABBREVIATION FOR E.T. LIFE SEARCH IN THE UNIVERSE [4]
17. CONSTELLATION [6]

## DOWN

1. BRIGHTEST PART OF A COMET [4]
3. WHAT IS SEEN THROUGH A TELESCOPE LENS [6]
4. SATELLITE OF SATURN [8]
5. A TYPE OF TELESCOPE [12]
7. TYPE OF SCOPE MOUNTING [4]
10. SECOND LETTER OF GREEK ALPHABET [4]
11. RED GIANT IN CETUS [4]
12. REFLECTIVE POWER OF A NON-ILLUMINATED OBJECT [6]
14. PLANET [4]



## Back Focus

Kate Johnston

We were lucky enough at the AGM to be given the Premiere Public Screening of the DVD "Magnitude". This is a DVD put together by two of our own members showcasing the astrophotography talents of our Society members. A huge thanks to Martin and Bruce for the time and effort they put in to produce such a great product.

I was not only amazed but inspired – I hope to get a show in the next volume!!!

And popular they are! I believe we are just finalizing the details of the 2<sup>nd</sup> run of DVD's.

DVD's cost \$10 each and can be purchased via the MAS Website.



## MAS Website

[www.macaastro.org.au](http://www.macaastro.org.au)

## MAS Workshops

The Club will be holding Member Workshops at the next 2 meetings. As John reported in his Presidents Report the subjects for the workshops are:

June 18<sup>th</sup> – Polar Alignment (bring your Equatorial Mount Telescope)

July 16<sup>th</sup> – Collimation. Newtonian and Schmidt-Cassegrain Telescopes. (Bring your Telescopes)

If anyone has any subject ideas for future workshops contact Martin Ferlito.

## Prime Focus Article Submission

Deadline for article submissions for the June edition of Prime Focus is

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

All Articles can be submitted via email to  
[cyberpiggy@optusnet.com.au](mailto:cyberpiggy@optusnet.com.au)  
Or via snail mail to the MAS Postal address

Thanks to all the contributors for this month.....