

AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

National Committees for Science: ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL on 2005 activities

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR: Astronomy

CHAIR: Dr Brian Boyle

PERIOD COVERED IN THIS REPORT: 1 January - 1 December, 2005

MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE MET ON:

3 May (with Editorial Board), Sydney;
25 May (with Editorial Board), Sydney;
4 July (with Heads of Department), Sydney; and
29 November, Canberra.

THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS ARE PROPOSED FOR 2006 (include date and place, if possible):

July 2006, Canberra
December 2006, Canberra

MEETINGS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AFFILIATED WITH ICSU

The next IAU GENERAL ASSEMBLY will be held in July 2006.

AUSTRALIAN OFFICE HOLDERS IN ICSU AND AFFILIATED BODIES

AUSTRALIANS WHO HELD OFFICE IN 2005 WERE:

(include all appointed/elected memberships of subsidiary bodies, standing committees, commissions etc. as well as appointments to Bureau/Executive positions in the governing body).

Person	International Body	Position	Term
Michael Burton	IAU Working Group for Antarctic Astronomy	chair	2003-06
Mark Calabretta	IAU FITS working group	Member	2003-06
Ron Ekers	IAU	President,	2003-06
Ron Ekers	URSI Global VLBI working group	Member	
Ron Ekers	IAU working group on "large scale facilities"	member	2000-06
Dave Jauncey	URSI Global VLBI Working Group	Member	
Anne Green	IAU Division X Executive Committee	Member	2003-06
Anne Green	IAU working group on the Status	Chair	2003-06

	of women in Astronomy		
Dave Jauncey	IACG Working Group on Space VLBI	Member	
Don Melrose	IAU commission 10 (Solar activity)	Vice-President	2000-06
Don Melrose	IAU Division II (Solar)	Vice-President	2003-06
Don Melrose	IUPAP Commission 16 (Plasma Physics)	member	2002-05
Ray Norris	IAU working group on astronomical data	Chair	2003-06
Ray Norris	IAU Commission 5	Vice-president	2003-06
Ray Norris	CODATA:	IAU representative	2003-06
Ray Norris	IAA SETI post-detection committee	Chair	
Wayne Orchiston	IAU Working Group on Historic Radio Astronomy	Chair	2003-06
John Reynolds	IAU WG on reference Frames	Member	
Elaine Sadler	IAU commission 28 (Galaxies)	President	2003-06
Michelle Storey	IAU Working Group on Publishing	Chair	2003-06
Michelle Storey	IAU Comm. 50, Protection of Existing and Potential Observatory Sites Organising Committee	Vice-Chair	2003-06
Tasso Tzioumis	ITU Radiocommunication Study Group 7 (Sciences Services).	Member	2003-06
Tasso Tzioumis	URSI representative on IUCAF	Voting delegate of URSI	2002-05

ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE – Please include comments on progress achieved on projected activities identified in your 2004 Business Plan.

Go to <http://www.science.org.au/reports/2004anrep.pdf> pp16-21, to view the Chairs' Reports on 2003 activities.

I SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING REPORT TO COUNCIL ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE IN calendar year 2005 (200-250 words):

As identified in the 2005 work plan, the major NCA activity for 2005 was the oversight of the Decadal Planning process. This culminated with the release of New Horizons: Australian Astronomy Decadal Plan 2006-15 on 24 November 2005. The Decadal Plan received the unanimous endorsement of the NCA and the broad support of the community by acclamation at the July Astronomical Society of Australia meeting in July 2005.

The NCA has two sub-committees, the Australian Square Kilometre Array Consortium (ASKAC) and the Extremely Large Telescope working group (ELTWG). During the year ASKAC made good progress on issues of Governance during the year, establishing an Executive group and an Australian SKA Planning Office to implement ASKAC policy. ASKAC are also on track to submit a response to the request for proposals issued by the International SKA Steering Committee for siting the SKA by the deadline of 31 December 2005. The ELTWG made significant advances in developing opportunities for strategic collaboration between the GMT consortium and Australia. Both sub-committees also made significant progress in building links with industry related to design study/prototype work associated with SKA and ELTs

In his capacity as NCA Chair, Brian Boyle was invited to serve on the NCRIS expert sub-committee on Frontier Technologies, providing input based on the priorities identified in the Decadal Plan to the Exposure Draft of the NCRIS strategic roadmap.