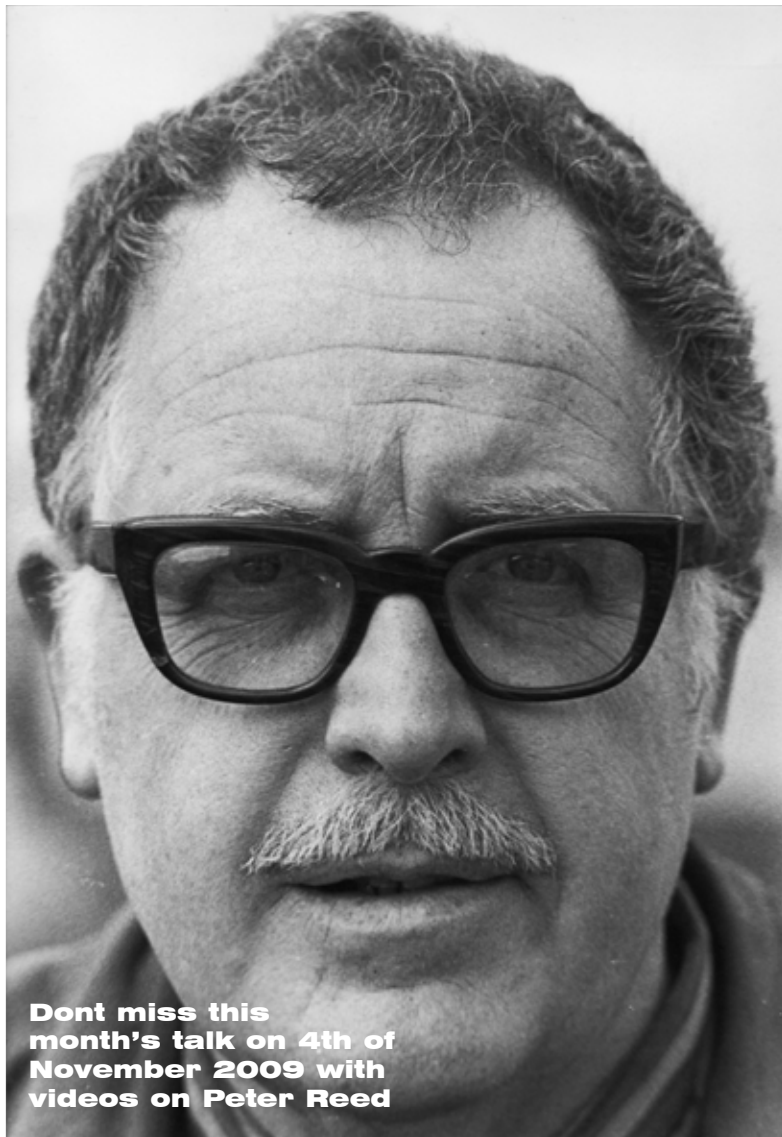


Newsletter

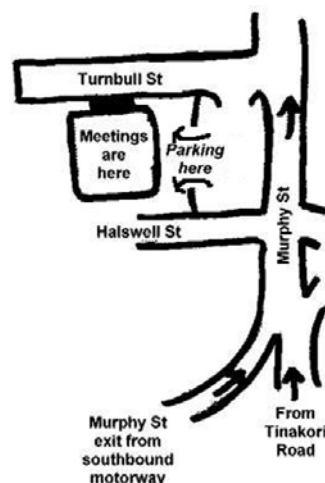
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**Dont miss this
month's talk on 4th of
November 2009 with
videos on Peter Reed**

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**7.30pm Wednesday
4th of November 2009
Science House,
Turnbull Street,
Thorndon**

11-2009

**AGM-4THNOVEMBER
@7:30 PM**



**Wellington
Astronomical
Society**





WAS ANNUAL REPORT for 2009 Nov 2008 to October 2009

On Guy Fawkes Day 2008 was the Wellington Astronomical Society AGM but unfortunately there were not enough members present to hold the AGM so it was postponed until Dec 2008.

As this was the year of IYA I felt it was time I put my hand up to be president and to take this society down a different path.

The **WAS AGM was held on December 3rd 2008** and Gordon Hudson was elected president. He had already approached members for the WAS council and each person who was approached said they would go on the council. So the council was elected with all positions filled.

The December monthly talk was by Gordon Hudson and I talked about the WAS Doland Telescope I have restored for them that they didn't know they owned.

It was decided at this meeting that we get involved in the IYA events and our first event was on New Years Day the first in the world and this was a Solar Observing event at the Thomas King Observatory. About 50 people looked through the telescopes we had set up for observing and a newspaper reporter arrived and featured us in the evening paper.

The first meeting of the year was on February 4th, where John Field was elected a Life Member of WAS

John Priestley was elected an Honorary member for 2 years. John had repaired the Meade 12" from Pautahanui Observatory free of charge saving us \$1000 or more.

John Talbot was appointed Web Master and offered to create a new web site for the society. John has done this and it is great and easy to follow.

I was approached by the Wellington City Library about getting involved with them during this IYA year. We planned to run an event each month over the whole year of 2009 at the Wellington City Library and possibly events at other Libraries as well. The Porirua Library was also approached and we were to set up a display there

and do talks each month but the lack of attendance at the Porirua library forced us to withdraw after 3 months.

On March 4th was the first WAS meeting of the year featuring John Field talking about doing simple Astrophotography.

On Saturday 7th of March we ran a Telescope workshop at Carter Observatory and this was a pre run of an event we were to run at Te Papa during the RASNZ conference.

On Sunday 8th March we set up a display in the Wellington City Library featuring a 6" Refractor I had restored and the WAS Doland Telescope and several display boards from Carter Observatory and a display of Cameras by Paul Moss. This display ran for 2 months. I set up a 3.5" Cooke Refractor on March 12th that I had restored in the Porirua Library and it is still there.

The first talk at the Wellington City Library on March 21st was with Ross Powell and he talked about the Solar Sun to about 35 people. The first talk at the Porirua City Library on March 29th was an official launch of the IYA with Paul Moss and myself to a small audience.

On March 28th was officially 'Earth Hour' between 8.30 - 9.30 PM at the Thomas King Observatory however very little difference in the lighting level was noticed.

On Sunday 29th March was the beginning of Astronomy week at the Porirua library this was a fairly low key affair which lacked advertising.

On April 1st Dave MacLennan from the Space Flight Association talked to WAS about the latest Spaceflight information especially with the 40th Anniversary of the Lunar Landing coming up on July 21st.

The Porirua talk on Thursday 2nd April was a children session with Haritina Mogosanu and on Friday 3rd was live solar viewing with Paul Moss and myself.

April 4th and 5th was the 100 hours of Astronomy in the Civic Square. We set

up for Solar Observing at 9 AM until 5 PM where 400 people looked through the telescopes in between the clouds. In the evening another 400 looked at the evening sky through the telescopes.

Paul Moss was running music events all day and into the night also at Civic Square.

I ran an event at Porirua in the evening where about 30 people turned up.

On the Sunday, I was alone with my Solar Telescope where a number of people looked through at the Sun but in the afternoon it clouded over and so we packed up. This was SUN day.

On April 15th at Wellington City Library Ross Powell assisted by Frank Andrews talked about The Planets to about 45 people.

On May 6th Professor Matt Visser presented a talk on Cosmology to the society and this was well received.

On May 13th John Field presented a beginners guide to Astrophotography at the Wellington City Library to about 45 people.

On May 14th, Patrick Sharp spoke to the Porirua Library about his visit to the Space Camp in the USA with only a small attendance.

On May 22nd was the start of the RASNZ conference at the Quality Inn in Wellington.

On Sunday May 24th we ran the Telescope Roadshow at Te Papa for one day only and this was very successful although a lot of work went into this. Which meant that some of us missed the RASNZ conference.

June 3rd the WAS meeting and I ran a DVD called 'Seeing in the Dark' and this was very well received.

From June 8th to June 13th we ran the Cosmodome with Ron Fisher. This was Matariki Week.

On the Monday Ron ran the Cosmodome at Porirua at Pataka with the Library and then on Tuesday Ron set up the Cosmodome at the Wellington



City Library where it ran for the rest of the week. The theme was Matariki. The attendances were excellent with school groups having it booked out through the day and in the evening was open to the general public about 1000 people went through the dome that week.

Also in June I overhauled the 6" WAS Dobsonian telescopes and re-aluminised the mirrors and realigned them. They are quite good now.

On June 17th Frank Andrews presented the Planets to the Upper Hutt City Library to about 25 people. Another great performance.

On June 20th Toa Waaka presented a Matariki talk to a small gathering at the Porirua City Library.

This was to be our last talk at the Porirua Library owing to lack of participants.

In June I appointed a new Editor for our Newsletter as Brenda who has been doing the Newsletter in the past is stepping down from council at the AGM as she has other commitments and so will be unable to carry on so Haritina Mogosanu has offered to carry on with the newsletter but she will not be on the council.

In July we applied for a Pub Charity Grant to upgrade the Meade Telescope Mount and add some accessories but we were turned down by the Pub Charities.

July 1st Ross Powell presented his Planets talk to the WAS members and this was excellent.

On July 21st Dave MacLennan presented the 40th Anniversary of the Lunar Landing to the Wellington City Library to about 50 people and this was well received.

August the 5th John Talbot spoke to us about Occultations and especially about the recent Grazing Occultation on July 31st when 13 of us from the WAS society travelled to Martinborough to observe a 2.9 mag star graze past the limb of the moon. It was blowing a gale and some rain but we still managed to get several timings. Thanks team a great effort.

On Saturday August 8th I set up a telescope display in the Kilbirnie Library as this was part of our involvement in the Islam Astronomy Week.

On Wednesday 12th at the Wellington City Library Ian Cooper from Palmerston North presented an excellent talk on Comets to around 60 people.

On Thursday 13th at the Kilbirnie Library several of us attended a talk on Muslim Astronomy to about 40 people and this was a most interesting evening with food supplied.

The monthly meeting on September the 2nd saw Ian Cooper back from Palmerston North to present his Comet talk to the society. It was just as good as his previous talk.

September 9th at the Wellington City Library Professor Matt Visser presented another talk in his Cosmology series to the biggest crowd we have had with 110 people attending.

On September 18th John Field & Frank Andrews & Brenda Johnson attended an observing evening at the Hutt International Boys School. The weather was not suitable for observing they presented talks instead. Thanks team.

On Saturday September 26th the WAS ran an Astrophotography workshop for beginners with John Drummond from Gisborne (NZ's top astrophotographer) as guest) this was an excellent day especially if you wished to learn about astrophotography. 25 people were in attendance.

At the Astrophotography Workshop I was handed the SBIG ST 7E Camera that WAS has purchased but I haven't tried it out as yet.

October 6th 7th & 8th were Light Pollution awareness days and were privileged to have the RASNZ representative with us and he presented many talks to DOC head Office, Wellington City Library, Porirua Lighting Engineers, Wellington city council Lighting Engineers and then to the WAS monthly meeting. All of these presentations were very well received and hopefully will lead to some better lighting.

Galileo Nights October 22nd, 23rd & 24th. On the evening of the 22nd Ross Powell presented a special talk about Galileo. On Friday 23rd we attended a special evening dedicated to Galileo at

Tawa College with Chris Mongatti and his class of astronomy students and on the Saturday from 2 to 4 PM we'll run special displays and telescopes dedicated to Galileo and showing some of his experiments and then in the evening we went to the Thomas King Observatory up at Carter to celebrate the evening sky by looking at the Galileo Moons of Jupiter through various refracting telescopes.

November 4th is the WAS AGM where I will present this report and then we will follow with a tribute to the Late Peter Read. There will be several of his paintings on display and I will show a couple of his Videos on the 'Sky at Night'. Followed by supper.

Finally I would like to thank the WAS council for their efforts this year and especially to Diane Zemanek our treasurer, Brenda Johnson, our editor and Patrick Sharp who will not be standing on council next year.

New WAS Council for 2010

Nominations for WAS council were received by the deadline of October 12th and 8 people had been nominated for all the available positions.

They are: Gordon Hudson, President; Roger Butland, Vice president; Ross Powell, Secretary; John Talbot, Treasurer; Councillors, Frank Andrews, Chris Mongatti, John Homes, Aline Homes.

As this was the number required for council all those mentioned are elected as the new Council for 2010. As all positions have been filled there will be no nominations from the floor. John Homes will take over the roll as Web Master. Hari Mogosanu will carry on as Newsletter Editor but not on council.

Gordon Hudson

President of
Wellington Astronomical Society

Steve Butler of RASNZ talks on Light pollution



Steve Butler at the TKO

On Tuesday October 6th Steve Butler arrived from Invercargill to present talks to various groups in the Wellington area. He was sponsored here by the RASNZ Gifford Eiby lecture fund. While he was here he was accommodated by Marilyn (thanks Marilyn).

Engineers one who happened to be the deputy CEO of Porirua City Council and the other was the Chief Light Engineer for Porirua this presentation was very well received and I look forward to working more closely with the Porirua City council.

After a lunch at downtown Wellington we arrived at the Wellington city council Officers where Rebecca from the Library was busy setting up the room for the presentation. The room we were to use was very well equipped

Marilyn and Warwick who took him out to dinner. I met up with my council for a long WAS council meeting.



Steve Butler on Light pollution at the City Library

Steve's talk was again well presented and even though I had seen it 4 times I didn't tire of it and in fact I learnt a bit more about it each time.

At the end of the presentation Steve showed us a couple of short DVD's of changes to lighting in the Waitakere streets in West Auckland. He showed us two types of lighting they had done in two different streets. One street I thought was over lit but still light was directed down and the second street



Steve Butler presenting the Light pollution talk at the City Library

Steve's first meeting on Tuesday at lunch time was with his own Head Office of DOC where he spoke about the Wellington Regions lighting problems.

In the evening we met up at the Wellington City Library for his 7pm presentation which had 35 people attend but the talk was most enlightening and some of the people who attended were very much appreciative of what Light Pollution is all about.

At 9.30am on Wednesday 7th Steve and I met at the Porirua City council Offices where we were to meet with the City Lighting



Shielding around TKO

and Steve was able to set up his Power Point presentation that he used the day before at the Library only this time with some changes to the dialogue.



Shielding around TKO

There were 9 council members at this meeting and these were the very people one would need to speak to if you wanted to get your message across about the city lighting.

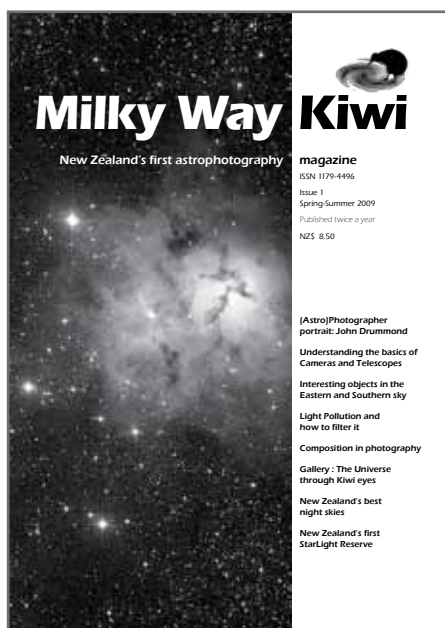
After the 1 hour presentation one of the council members approached Steve for his Power Point presentation so that he could use some of it at an upcoming meeting about Wellington Urban Lighting.

At around 5pm we headed off up to the Royal Society for our evening engagement and Steve met up with



A very interested audience

was much better with lower level of lighting and all directed down to the ground. The lights used were the new LED versions. Bring them on in the Wellington Region. Thanks Steve for the great presentations and I hope we can start to make some changes to the lighting in this country.



New Zealand's first astrophotography magazine is on sale now. You could order your own copy for the price of \$8.50 + P&P from www.star-smart.maori.nz

The magazine, a compilation of New Zealand's best astrophotographer's pictures, is packed with useful information on how to photograph the night sky.

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2009	Wellington Astronomical Society	Wellington City Libraries
NOVEMBER 09	November 4th AGM and Peter Read Videos	November 25th Mata Ora (Toa Waaka)
DECEMBER 09	December 2nd Christmas Star	December 1st Christmas Star

OBSERVING AT PAUATAHANUI

The next observing evening at the Potation Observatory will be on November 14th after 8 PM.

If the weather is looking doubtful please contact **John Field** on his mobile **021-255-1904** to see if the session is going ahead.

OBSERVING AT THOMAS KING

All public observing evenings will be held at the Thomas King Observatory run by our Observatory Director Ross Powell. There are public observing evenings at the Thomas King nearly **once a week** starting as soon as it gets dark depending on the weather.

Ring Ross on 389 9765.

The Galilean Nights at the Wellington City Library

The first Night Thursday 22nd October of the Galileo Nights was held at the Wellington City Library with a special presentation by Ross Powell to an enthusiastic audience of 40 people.



Ross Powell on Galileo

Ross explained how Galileo discovered the Moons of Jupiter with the simple telescope he made.



Ross Powell on Galileo

Ross also explained how Galileo did many different experiments and discovered how Falling weights behaved and worked out the principle of objects in motion.

Ross explained to us the Galileo

discoveries and the difficult time he went through when trying to get the church to accept the Copernican theory of the Earth and Planets rotating around the Sun.

An excellent presentation from Ross.

The second night Friday 23rd October was run at the Tawa College which I was unable to attend.

There were 20 students turned up with Chris to observe Jupiter and the Moon. Unfortunately it kept clouding over and they were only able to see between the clouds however they managed to see the Galileo Moons briefly.



Children's area setup at the City Library

On Saturday 24th we set up in the children's area of the Wellington City Library with several different experiments showing Galileo Moons through small telescopes which we stuck photos on the walls for the kids to look at through the telescopes, Frank Andrews was showing the Space Shuttle bits and demonstrating falling objects in a vacuum.



Children's area setup at the City Library

Ross Powell was demonstrating the Pendulum and Gordon showed the Phases of the Moon. Chris was making simple telescopes with small magnifying glasses, Roger Butland and Brenda were manning the telescopes which we had 4 of, while Rebecca from the Library was making Galileo Badges she made dozens of them. We also had a 40" Tv running a Kids Animated DVD of Galileo. Throughout the afternoon we had had over 70 people attending this workshop.

We then packed up and moved up to the Thomas King Observatory next to Carter Observatory who also own the Thomas King to set up for the evening viewing of the Moon, Jupiter and the Galileo Moons although the weather didn't look to be that good with mostly cloud but a few holes.

We bought Pizzas for tea and sat in the Thomas King Observatory and ate while we waited for the Sun to set so we could set up for the evening viewing.

The Sky was cloudy but started to look promising with breaks starting to appear as the Sun set.

Chris Mongatti set up with 2 telescopes at the top of the Cable Car. Ross opened up the Thomas King Observatory while Roger Butland and Brenda and Gordon set up Telescopes in front of Carter Observatory. Chris was sending the people up to us from his set up at the Cable Car.

The people started to arrive just after sunset and they were arriving at regular intervals as each load of Cable Car arrived with another load of people.

At around 9 pm we had cues of people at all the telescopes and Ross was totally overwhelmed with dozens of people. Ross was focused on the Moon while the



Children's area setup at the City Library

The Galilean Nights at the TKO

outside telescopes were focused on Jupiter and the Galileo Moons of Jupiter. Frank and Rebecca talked to the waiting crowds of people while they waited for their turn at the eyepieces.

Library was very pleased with the numbers we are getting along to these events.

I would like to thank the whole of the WAS council and the Library staff for their help on this Galileo Nights event as without them there would not be any events.



"Public astronomy"

The sky had cleared and we had good seeing conditions with people at all the telescopes up till about 10pm.

There were dozens of kids around and the Girl Guides from Waikanae who were staying in the local Scout Hall were treated to a great evening of viewing which they didn't know about prior to us turning up.

We estimated around 400 people looked through the telescopes and even the CEO from Carter was there with her family to look through the telescopes.

At around 10pm it started to cloud over and we ended up looking through thin cloud at Jupiter but the whole event from 11am to 11pm was very successful and the



The waiting queue at the Thomas King Observatory's telescope

October's Crossword answers

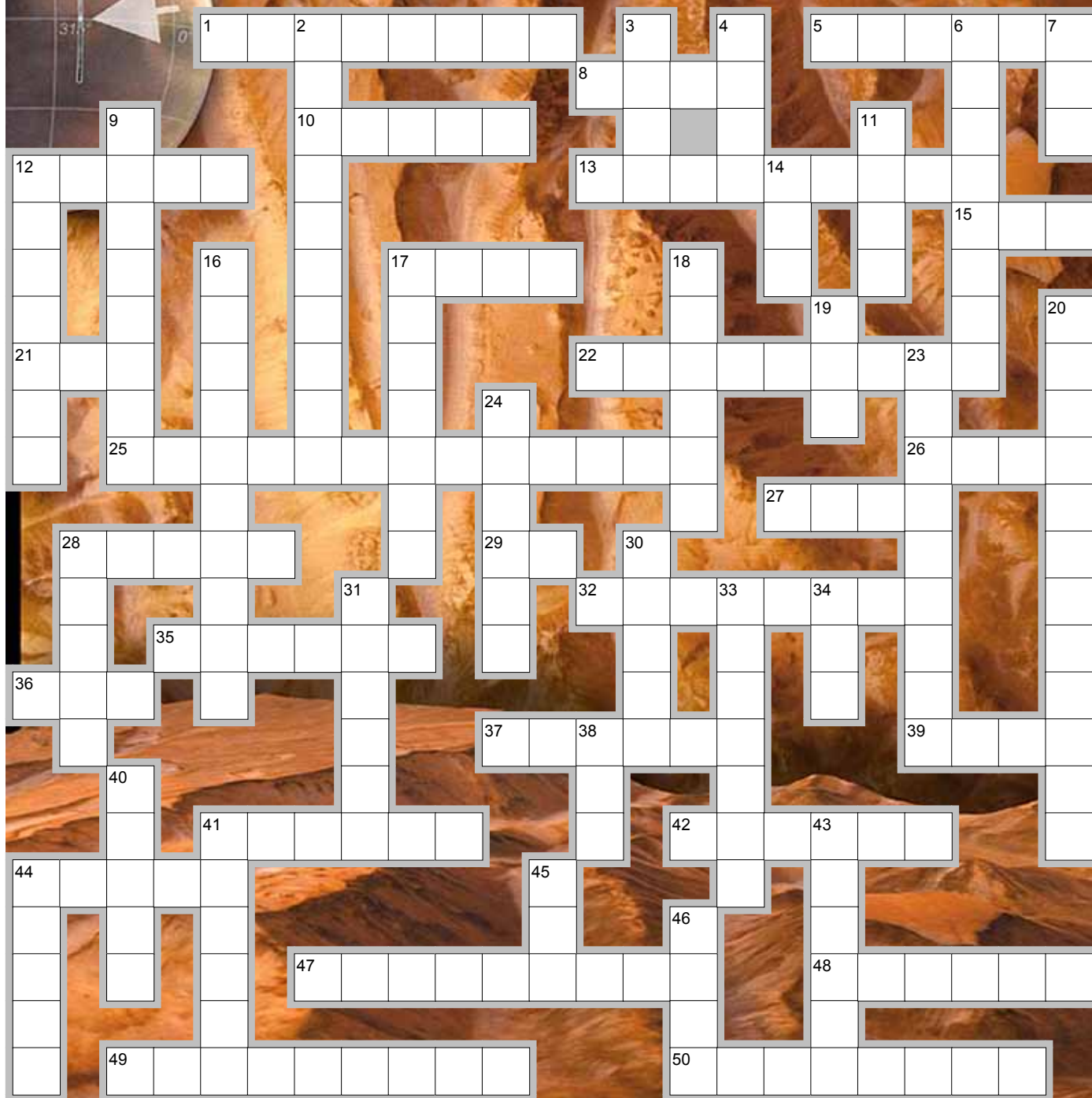
Across 5. RAINBOW, colourful display in the daytime sky; 6. LMC, could be mistaken for a cloud; 10. REFLECTOR, type of telescope; 11. EAST, direction of sun rise; 15. SUN, closest star; 16. ION, an arrested atom; 17. DOBSON, popular sidewalk telescope; 19. SMC, satellite galaxy to the Milky Way; 21. BLACKHOLE, Even light isn't fast enough to escape this; 23. ALGOL, The Demon Star; 24. SDORADUS, A super-giant in the LMC; 26. NADIR, opposite to zenith; 28. PELE, volcano on Io; 29. SECOND, unit of time; 30. METEOR, shooting star; 31. PISCES, The fish constellation; 32. MASS, I weight 6 times less on the Moon, but still have the same ???; 34. ECLIPSED, over shadowed; 36. NEAP, tide; 38. BAR, some spiral galaxies have one; 40. SOHO, satellite observatory studying the Sun; 42. EUGENIA, asteroid with its own moon; 45. TRITON, large moon of Neptune; 47. GAS, solid, liquid or ...; 48. ICE, frozen liquid; 49. ORBIT, path of one object around another; 50. SETI, BEM search; 51. HERSCHEL, discovered Uranus;

Down 1. LIBRA, a balanced constellation; 2. NOBEL, top prize for Scientists; 3. ECLIPSE, to block light from another object; 4. JULLANCALENDAR, instigated by Julius Caesar; 7. CRUX, at the heart of the matter; 8. PLUTO, a Disney character; 9. STAR, rats (anagram); 12. DENEK, alpha Cygnus; 13. DINOSAURS, an asteroid may have done them in; 14. LGM, acronym for aliens; 18. OPENCLUSTER, A group of stars born from the same gas cloud; 19. SAGITTARIUS, Radio source at the centre of our galaxy; 20. MESSIER, a catalogue; 22. ADAPTIVEOPTICS, star light anti-twinkle technique; 25. UFO, flying saucer; 27. VEGA, alpha Lyr; 30. METEORITE, You wouldn't want one of these through your roof; 32. MURPHY, who to blame when it clouds over; 33. SEVEN, sisters in M45; 35. IO, One of the Galilean satellites; 37. PLASMA, fully ionised gaseous state of matter; 39. HELIUM, second most common element; 41. NORTH, thorn (anagram); 43. EARTH, Tellus; 44. KIWI, New Zealander; 46. TIDE, "... and time wait for no man";



Thomas King Observatory

November's X-word with Murray Forbes



EclipseCrossword.com

MARS

Across

1. Signals it's time to start spring planting of kumara; 5. You don't want this constellation in a China shop; 8. A new star; 10. Encke is one; 12. One is (anagram); 13. An asteroid may have done them in; 15. An orbiting telescope; 17. Space agency; 21. Flying saucer; 22. Mars; 25. A gas cloud used for weight-lifting; 26. Unit of time; 27. "... and time wait for no man"; 28. Tellus; 29. One of the Galilean satellites; 32. Pen a diet (anagram); 35. Second most common element; 36. Frozen liquid; 37. Discovered universe was expanding; 39. BEM search; 41. Centre of the Milky Way is in this constellation; 42. The fish constellation; 44. Constellation with Spica; 47. Small satellite of Uranus, also one of Shakespeare's characters; 48. The Crow; 49. Non-circular orbit, also like some of my clues; 50. Constellation with a sting;

Down

2. An early Dutch astronomer; 3. Volcano on Io; 4. Angels and galaxies both have one; 6. Used to calculate an object's velocity; 7. Closest star; 9. ... Gaps in the asteroid belt; 11. Obscures centre of our galaxy; 12. God of the Sea; 14. Satellite galaxy to the Milky Way; 16. 80% of the universe is made of this stuff; 17. Cloud of dust and gas; 18. Also a small inflated rubber boat; 19. 24 hours; 20. Astronomy; 23. A regular publication with predicted positions of the Sun, Moon etc; 24. Opposite of nadir; 28. Used as a standard reference date; 30. Alpha Cygnus; 31. Process that powers stars; 33. us; 34. an arrested atom; 38. Some spiral galaxies have one; 40. Once thought to be seas on the Moon; 41. "... censorship" - why Black Holes can't be naked; 43. The Crab; 44. A very cloudy planet; 45. Acronym for aliens; 46. I weight 6 times less on the Moon, but still have the same ???;