

TTSO9 a Brief overview of proceedings

By John Talbot

TTSO9 was held on Monday and Tuesday 11 and 12 May

We met in the mezzanine space at The Godley Hotel which had the advantage of being warmer than some of the other spaces.

Steve Kerr, the new Director of Occultation Section, Opened the meeting and welcomed the 27 or so attendees.

Dr David Dunham described his early years setting up IOTA and leading Lunar Graze expeditions

John Talbot present a short review of recent successful asteroidal occultations in AUS and NZ in the past year

Graeme McKay described observing a fast moving Near Earth Asteroid.

Dave Herald gave an introduction to the new URAT1 catalogue with improved accuracy for some zones of the sky. This is expected to improve prediction accuracy for the next few years and then to be superseded by a Gaia catalogue.

Hristo Pavlov gave a remote talk on how to contribute to the Tangra 3 open source project. The key requirement is some experience with C# programming language.

Dave Herald reviewed the science gained from asteroidal occultations: Profiles, 3D models, discoveries and data archiving.

David Dunham described the journey he and his wife Joan are undertaking during a year of astro-tourism down under and up north.

Steve Russell introduced the IOTA-VTI V3 with a number of refinements. Probably the leading Video Time Inserter in the world.

Dave Herald explained the importance of the Kepler2 program and the value of Lunar and Asteroidal occultation light curves to assist the choice of targets.

Brian Loader reported on double star occultations.

Brian Loader and Gordon Hudson gave a personal appreciation and some recollections of the late Graham Blow.

John Talbot issued a plea for volunteers to start taking up some of the work under taken by older members who may have a short remaining "use by date" so that any critical function they perform for Occultation Section get at least duplicated and understood by new people. We want to avoid the problems that Graham's sudden death left us with. It has taken us the best part of 6 months to get fully on top of some of these.

He thanked John Homes and Graeme McKay for agreeing to start taking on some of the reduction work.

Steve Russell discussed make your smart phone into a beeper box. This would be especially useful for those making visual observations.

Bill Hanna described some upcoming high interest occultations (e.g. Pluto on 29 June and Venus on 08 October).

Steve Kerr outlined some Occultation highlights for 2015 and 2016

Brian Loader explained the problems of image saturation and its effect on the detection of faint components of close double stars.