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CORE FUNCTION PROJECT 2011-102 ASTRONOMICAL OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

PROGRESS REPORT

title and summary

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Science Project Overview

Part	Checklist Last Updated
Part A - Summary & Approval	bla

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Context Summary

The observatory's core function provides an outreach program to the public to experience the splendour of the night sky through a range of telescopes with experienced volunteers and an outreach coordinator. Science learning is provided through our educational services.

Aims Summary

- Provide relevant and timely education services.
- Demonstrate science in action.
- Facilitate the development of the tourism potential of astronomy.
- Outreach collaboration with international partners

Progress

- The number of visitors attending star viewing nights and day-time guided tours totalled 4230 for the year.
- Successfully integrated an online telescope into an international astronomy outreach program. This robotic equipment will be offered to educators as a rich source of science learning.
- Customer satisfaction surveys showed 98% of customers were satisfied with their visit or the service provided by the observatory, and 98% were satisfied with the educational quality of the services in which they participated.
- Progress on development of a day tour program based on the Australian education curriculum.

Activity Measures

Activity

2013/2014 2012/2013 2011/2012 2010/2011 2009/2010 2008/2009

Star viewing sessions

2013/2014 - 75 2012/2013 - 81 2011/2012 - 76 2010/2011 - 72 2009/2010 - 77 2008/2009 - 102

Night visitors

2013/2014 - 3550 2012/2013 - 3928 2011/2012 - 3348 2010/2011 - 3461 2009/2010 - 3604 2008/2009 - 4334

Sunday guided tours

2013/2014 - 0 2012/2013 - 0 2011/2012 - 0 2010/2011 - 11 2009/2010 - 46 2008/2010 - 37

Daytime guided tours

2013/2014 - 680 2012/2013 - 1021 2011/2012 - 826 2010/2011 - 356 2009/2010 - 689 2008/2009 - 1131

Astronomy field nights

4 3 1 1 7 10

Field night attendance

5300 3000 3500 3000 1488 1846

Lectures and talks

1

23

20 21 21 44

Talk attendance

210

4168

893

350 825 1294

Student consultations

14 0 0 0 2 25

Customer satisfaction (star viewing and guided tours, %)

98 99 98 98 97 98

Astronomy awareness raised (%)

98 99 99 97 100 100

Educational quality (%)

98 99 98 98 99 98

Management implications

The substantial visitor numbers, together with sound customer satisfaction evaluations, indicates that there is continuing strong demand for these services from the observatory.

Future directions

- Recruit and train additional volunteers to take guided day tours.
- Enhance the night tour program with the establishment of a 76 cm visitor's telescope and dome.
- Establish a solar telescope for the day tour program.
- Establish a schools day tour program based on the Australian curriculum.
- Establish a higher educational program utilising an internet telescope.