

Galilean Nights Event ID: gn1,118

Number of telescopes: 7

Number of organisers: 6

Number of attendees: 200

Event Report:

Galilean Nights, an IYA Cornerstone Project, held on the Saturday of Labour Weekend at Carrington Park, Carterton, in the Wairarapa was a global event whose key goal was to get as many people as possible to look through a telescope and experience what amazed Galileo some 400 years ago.

The Phoenix Astronomical Society held a successful event from 1pm till 10pm and we had a reasonable turnout of well over a hundred people given it was a holiday weekend and the weather was looking cloudy at times. But Jupiter and the Moon were still quite spectacular and seeing sunspots was a bonus. The best part was the awe and excitement a lot of the kids and parents had seeing Jupiter and Moon for the first time through a telescope. Many were amazed at being able to see the moons of Jupiter and bands across the planet. The Moon was equally wonderful with the craters being seen for the first time in such detail. There was also an opportunity to look at globular and open star clusters unique to the southern night sky. We had up to seven telescopes operating during the evening with queues behind each one. It was a successful evening and one we intend to repeat annually. Thank you to all the Society members that supported and helped out with this special event.