

Galilean Nights Event ID: gn53

Number of telescopes: Eight

Number of organisers: eight

Number of attendees: 300+

Event photos: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/44148378@N02/>

Event Report:

The South Canterbury Astronomers Group Galilean Star Party provided an opportunity for the public to look at the Moon, and Jupiter through various instruments, including telescopes and giant binoculars. We had 4 inch Maksutov telescopes, through to a brand new 11 inch Cassergrain, plus many others. The event was held on the Timaru Piazza, this hooked in with the Italian theme we were running.

There was a very broad range of people attending from 3 year olds and up, in fact some of the children were so amazed it was hard to get them away from the eyepiece to let others look.

Comments like "Wow", "Simply amazing" "Really" "no way" were heard all evening, comments like this help to inspire the astronomers that gave there time to setup there telescopes.

Those gathered for the star party also had the opportunity to see the International Space Station travel across the evening sky, it blew many people away, they just couldn't believe what they were seeing.

We had a special guest turn up, his name was Mr Armstrong, not Neil Armstrong, but a very close relative, he was bombarded with many questions.

During the evening we took down contact details for those that were interested in our group, since then we have had our monthly meeting and several have come along with the intention of joining.

The South Canterbury Astronomers Group is very young, only being formed after the April '100 Hours of Astronomy". A small group had been trying to form a group for some time, the April cornerstone event was the catalyst for it to happen, we now have a solid core membership and the group is thriving.

The seeing conditions were excellent, four hours later we came to the conclusion we must have had over 300 people through.

The local media had supported the event, newspaper clippings are included with this report, plus images taken at the event.

Another very successful event.

Regards

Robert McTague
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