

Fly My Sky



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So - let's go

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The Barrier

BULLETIN

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Introduction to Astronomy Workshop

John Garlick

The weekend of 15th/16th July was absolutely ideal for Star Gazing.

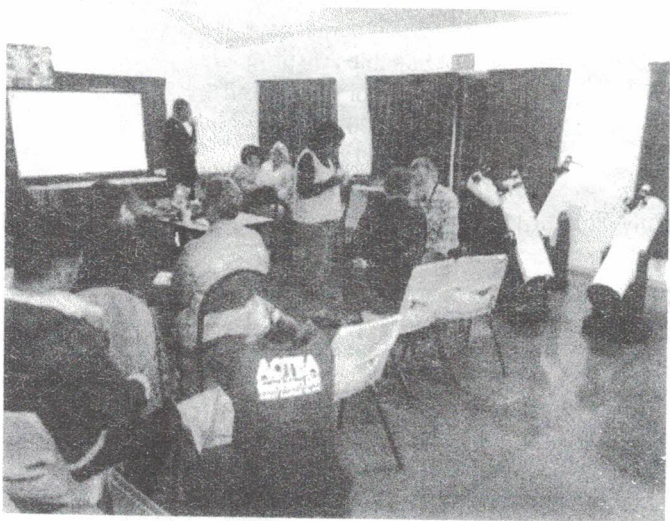
Twenty-four eager people gathered at the Claris Conference Centre and then at Barleyman's Cottage for a workshop. This was aimed at developing a skill base on our island to help visitors appreciate the beauty of our Dark Sky Sanctuary.

We had the distinct pleasure to be instructed by the President of the Royal New Zealand Astronomical Society, Mr John Drummond, ably assisted by Nalayini Davies.

John has been star-gazing for 40-odd years, and has a wealth of knowledge of all aspect of Astronomy, and he had a very easy way of imparting his knowledge.

On the first day, we learned lots about the various objects we can see in the sky, and on the second day, even more interesting stuff, followed by guidance on how we can introduce Star-Gazing visitors to the experience. The continual flow of questions showed the high level of interest.

There were four "Dobsonian" telescopes available for us to practise on, and we all gained familiarity with setting up, aligning and then using them.



After a meal each evening, we all wrapped up warmly and went outside Barleyman's Cottage with the 'scopes, to observe some of the objects we now knew about - some highlights being Jupiter, and its moons, and Saturn and its rings, the CoalSack, and the Jewelbox!

The immense enthusiasm expressed during this workshop, which was supported by Auckland City Council and our Local Board, augers well for the future of our Dark Sky Sanctuary.