THE DEW SHIELD

Newsletter of the Carragal & District Astronomical Society

No. 1 November 1987

THIS SHEET

The October meeting asked for a newsletter. This is it. It will come out before each meeting, eleven a year, none in January. The name was put to the vote and carried 6 to 3. Items for the next one are to reach the Secretary by the end of the month. Typed if possible.

MEETINGS

Second Friday of the month, 7.30 p.m., Mechanics' Institute, Lake Street. Doors open 7.15.

Friday 13 November	General meeting. C. Dunmore on the sky for the next three months. Bring a planisphere if you have one.
Friday 11 December	General meeting and break-up. Members to bring a plate. Tea supplied.
January	No meeting.
Friday 12 February	General meeting. Slides from the comet nights at the lake, April last year, if a projector can be had.

FIELD NIGHT

Saturday 21 November at the lake reserve, from 9 p.m. New Moon is that day. With daylight saving it is not dark until ten. Enter by the reserve gate and park facing out. Dip your lights. Cover your torch with red cellophane. If it is cloudy at 8 it is off.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Due now for the year to 30 June 1988. Single $10, family $15, student $5. Pay the Treasurer at the meeting and get a receipt. Fourteen have paid. There were eleven at the June meeting. Visitors are welcome at any meeting.

INCORPORATION

The Rules adopted in June have gone to Melbourne with the application. No word yet.

TELESCOPE FUND

Stands at $41.50. The Society owns no telescope. Until it does, members with instruments are asked to bring them to field nights and let others look.

THE SKY, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

Moon. Last quarter 14 November, new 21st, first quarter 28th. Full 5 December, last quarter 13th, new 21st.

Jupiter. Opposition was on 18 October. Still the brightest thing in the evening sky, in the north, in Pisces. Four moons in any telescope. Two belts in a 60 mm at 100 power.

Saturn and Venus. Both low in the west after sunset. Saturn will be gone by December. Venus stays as the evening star through summer.

Mars. Not to be seen. Too near the Sun.

The supernova. Still there, in the Large Cloud, beside the Tarantula on its south-west side. It was magnitude 3 in May and is now about 6, so binoculars. A chart with comparison stars will be at the meeting. Estimates of its brightness are still wanted. Write down the date, the time and the two stars you put it between, and give them to the Secretary. The Large Cloud is in the south-east at dark and well up by midnight.

Bradfield's comet (1987s). Found from Adelaide in August, his thirteenth. Very low in the west-north-west as twilight ends, going from Ophiuchus into Aquila, about magnitude 5 1/2. It needs a clear horizon and binoculars. It is moving north and will be lost to us in December.

Leonids. Morning of Wednesday 18 November, from 4 a.m. until it gets light, low in the north-east. Do not expect many.

Geminids. Mornings of 14 and 15 December, low in the north. The Moon is up from about 2.

Orion is coming up in the east by ten. The Pleiades are low in the north-east.

LIBRARY

Norton's Star Atlas (17th edition) has been bought and may be borrowed for one month. Sign the book. Two members have offered back numbers of Sky and Telescope. More would be welcome.

NOTICES

For sale. 7 x 50 binoculars with case, $45. See C. Dunmore.

Wanted. The loan of a slide projector for the February meeting. See the Secretary.

W. Kessell
Hon. Secretary