The Dew Shield

No. 412 · April 2025

The Dew Shield · CDAS · Newsletter of the Carragal & District Astronomical Society Inc. · PO Box 47, Carragal 3484



Bill

No sky notes this month and no committee report. This issue is for Bill.

Most of you were at St Brigid's on the 14th and heard Father Tom do his best with a man who hadn't been inside the place since his wedding. Joan's few words were the truest thing said. They're on the website with her permission.

I'm not going to write another obituary. Lorraine has done one for the Courier and I've put a page for him up on the website. I'll tell you one thing instead. In 1994 I turned up at my first meeting with a department store refractor and a list of questions. Bill looked at the telescope, looked at me, and said, "Well, it's a start." Then he spent three hours in a car park in July showing me how to find things with it, and at the end he wrote four lines in a notebook, tore out the page and gave it to me: the date, the seeing, what we'd found, and "D. Marr, first night. Will be all right." I've still got it.

Dennis Marr, Editor

From the President

What can any of us say? Bill Kessell WAS this Society, he was there at the lake in 1986 and he was there at the February meeting this year in his chair by the heater correcting my pronunciation of Betelgeuse, and under the terms of his will we are to have the use of the Shed for as long as Joan is at Pipeclay Road, which Joan tells me will be a good while yet. The committee will make sure Bill's telescope keeps working for this community for many years to come.

Lorraine Pascoe

Supper Notes

Thank you to everybody who sent food. I have enough casserole to see out the winter; you can stop now.

People keep telling me he is at peace. I was a nurse for thirty-one years and I sat with a good many people at the end, and I never once saw anything that told me where they went, if they went. What I can tell you is that he was cross about the cloud on his last Tuesday and pleased about the Thursday. That will do me.

Supper as usual in April. I will be there; it is a help to have something to do.

Joan Kessell

Contributions to the Editor by the last Friday of the month.