

The Dew Shield

Newsletter of the Carragal & District Astronomical Society Inc.
No. 429, October 2026

Joan

Joan Margaret Kessell, 22 May 1952 - 22 September 2026



It is my sad duty to record that our dear friend and life member Joan Kessell passed away suddenly on 22 September.

Joan was born a Pilgrim, on the family farm at Carragal West, and trained at the Alfred, and for thirty-one years she was the district nurse and there can be few families in this shire who did not at some time have her little white Corolla in the drive. She married Bill in 1973. She used to say she was an astronomy widow long before she was a widow.

For nineteen years Joan ran our supper. She did not suffer fools, or shop-bought sponge, as a good many of us found out! In her last weeks she had taken up observing, which none of us expected, and I like to think of that.

The funeral at St Brigid's on 30 September was attended by more than three hundred people. The Society provided a guard of honour, with red torches.

Vale, Joan. Thank you for everything, and for the hedgehog.

Lorraine Pascoe

From the President

At the October meeting members voted, 14 to 3, to put the "Latest from KRO" panel back on the front page. It went back up on the 10th. Thank you to everyone who spoke so movingly.

I have put this issue together myself, as Dennis has had a great deal on his plate. Please forgive the formatting!

Notices

Supper. Volunteers are needed for the supper roster from November. Please see Bev.

The property. Under Bill's will the Society's right to use the Shed ended with Joan's residence. The executors (Mason & Tulloch, Warracknabeal) have kindly agreed that nothing need be moved before probate.

Special committee meeting. Friday 23 October, 7.30 pm, at the President's home, to consider a motion from the KRO Manager.

Coming up. November meeting: Trevor Hucker, "Twenty Years of Getting Collimation Wrong". Christmas break-up: Friday 11 December, 6 pm, lake reserve. Sausages supplied.

Sky notes

New Moon on the 11th. The evenings are lighter now and you will be waiting until after nine for a dark sky. Saturn is at its best. The Cross is low and will be lost in the murk by month's end.