

Annual Report 2016 – Vice President Crago

I'm pleased to be able to present the Vice Present Crago report for 2017.

This year has been a little unusual for Crago. Despite very little rain during the year, any rain or cloud that did occur always seemed to happen on the last quarter observing weekend. And we also had to cancel session as all our regular volunteers had other commitments.

In all we only had 3 clear observing nights available to us for the year. Despite this we still had over 60 visitors attend the site and the clear nights that we did have were greatly enjoyed by all.

In my last report I mentioned that we had received a draft lease from Crown Lands to extend our lease until 2034 who we've been in discussion for over 5 years now. After some further negotiation, we approved the draft lease in June and now wait for a final lease to be issued so that we can finally put this long, but necessary saga behind us.

The new lease puts some additional regulatory requirements on us and to this end, Warren Neal assisted us in performing a Work Health and Safety inspection of the site. There are a few issues we need to address, but nothing major. We'll be conducting a small working bee on the September observing weekend to rectify a few of the issues raised in his report.

We're also required to perform some remediation to the observing field and surrounds to prevent the spread of weeds into the adjacent National Park.

Please be on the look-out for announcement on Crago working bee's over the coming year as there's going to be lots of work to do and your help will be very much appreciated.

I'd like to give a special thanks to Warren for his advice and assistance on our WHS requirements and to our regular volunteers, Richard Jaworski, Ian Parr, Mick McCullough and Les Sara. Without them we would not be able to offer this wonderful facility to our members or the public.

I'd also encourage anyone who wants to become a regular volunteer at Crago and get accredited to use the facility to get in touch with me. I'd love to have a

few more members available to help us out on the last quarter observing weeks.

For a site that's an hour drive from most of our member's, Crago offers a great viewing experience with steady seeing and semi-rural skies. There's plenty of space for members to set up their telescopes for viewing or imaging. I'd encourage you all to come and join us for a night of observing at least once during the year.