

IAUS 329: The Lives and Death-Throes of Massive Stars

28th November to 2nd December 2016

The Spencer on Byron Hotel, Takapuna, Auckland, New Zealand

Dear colleagues,

This is the second announcement of the forthcoming IAU symposium to be held in Auckland, New Zealand entitled "IAUS 329: The Lives and Death-Throes of Massive Stars".

Dates: 28th November to 2nd December 2016

Location: Auckland, New Zealand

Venue: The Spencer on Byron Hotel, Takapuna

Registration, abstract submission and application for IAU travel grants are now open.

Abstract Submission closes: 30th May 2016

IAU travel grant Submission closes: 30th May 2016

Early-bird registration closes: 30th August 2016

Conference website: <http://nzstars2016.nz>

Contact for questions about the meeting scientific program: nzstars2016@auckland.ac.nz

The meeting will summarize recent progress and establish stronger links between the massive star community and closely-linked fields, particularly those studying end stages of massive star evolution and massive star cosmic implications.

Topics to be covered:

Death throes: supernovae, stellar deaths and progenitors

Observations and surveys of massive stars: hot stars, cool stars, transition objects and binaries

Theory of stellar evolution & atmospheres: beyond standard physics, rotation, duplicity, mass loss and magnetic fields and instabilities

Massive stars and their supernovae as galactic building blocks and engines: Milky Way, nearby galaxies and the early Universe

Invited Speakers

Evelyne Alecian, Rodolfo Barba, Kris Belczynski, Melina Bersten, Saida Caballero-Nieves, Luc Dessart, Morgan Fraser, Miriam Garcia, Cyril Georgy, Goetz Grafener, Jose Groh, Stephen Justham, Emily Levesque, Georges Meynet, Shazrene Mohamed, Bernhard Muller, Ignacio Negueruela, Maria Fernanda Nieva, Keiichi Ohnaka, Hugues Sana, Andreas Sander, Sergio Simon-Diaz, Alicia Soderberg, Elizabeth Stanway, Miguel Urbaneja

Travel, accommodation and support

New Zealand is a significant distance to travel, particularly due to the location of the international date line causing many attendees to "lose-a-day" when travelling to the conference. We advise our most distant attendees to arrive two days early, if possible, but at least 1 day before the Monday morning, so they are able to enjoy the first full day of the conference.

Rooms can be booked directly at the hotel as described on the conference website. It is possible for two or three people to share one room. We suggest attendees organise their own groups. We will attempt to provide a way to find roommates on the conference website shortly, this can also be done via the conference's facebook group.

We are also attempting to obtain access to discounts on flights. We will update the conference website with details of this hopefully in the next few weeks.

We have limited funds from the IAU to provide support for attendees that have limited travel funding. Details on how to apply for this are on the conference website.

If you require a letter of invitation to visit New Zealand, you must first register for and pay all applicable registration fees. Full details of how to apply for this letter and a list of visa-free countries are listed on the conference website.

Nationwide public symposium

In the weekend following the conference, Dec 3rd, we are planning to run a large one day public symposium with as many speakers as possible talking about their latest research. We also hope to have these talks streamed live onto the internet and recorded so there is a lasting impact of the meeting in New Zealand. If you would like to be involved, or perhaps to travel to a city within New Zealand to give a talk please email nzstars2016@auckland.ac.nz and outline your previous outreach experience.

Splinter Meetings

It may be possible to run a few splinter meetings during the conference in the evenings, or during the weekend after the main conference. If you would like to run a splinter meeting please email nzstars2016@auckland.ac.nz with a short outline of the topic, an estimated number of participants, and the names of organizers before the 30th May 2016.

Conference Excursions

There are currently two excursions planned for the Wednesday afternoon of the conference. One is a trip to Rangitoto Island, the volcano that is visible from the hotel. This costs NZ\$92 and lasts from 11.45am to approximately 5.15pm - includes round trip coach transfers (from the hotel to Ferry Terminal, Ferry to the island and tour escort. While it's not a walk for the faint-hearted, it is family friendly. Make sure you arrive prepared as there are no shops or transport on the island and limited drinking water. Bring sunblock and a hat and wear comfortable walking shoes. Alternatively there is a trip to the Auckland War Memorial Museum which will cost NZ\$72. The trip runs from 1.15pm to approximately 4.15pm - includes round trip coach transfers, tour guide and entry to museum.