

May's meeting topic was the annual "Ask the Panel" session where 4 of the members were put under the spotlight by questions from the audience. This year the panel consisted of Ken, Bud, Terry and Gordon who were carefully selected for their breadth of astronomical knowledge (and that they were daft enough to do it!)

Questions were wide ranging – from the difficult (What's the life Cycle of Galaxies?), the really difficult (Explain Quantum Entanglement) to the downright impossible (What came before the Big Bang?). We also had questions on the James Webb telescope, What we do with our astrophotos and what's our favourite astrophoto subject. This last one probably got the little grey cells more worked up than you would imagine!

Many thanks to Jim, Annette, Viv, Graham, Cliff, Ian, Ross and Bruce for their questions. The hour we allowed passed incredibly quickly.

After the break (thanks again to all who helped in serving and the inevitable washing up) Graham announced that he has a Skywatcher 130 telescope for sale. If anyone is interested then they should either contact him direct or contact Terry at the e-mail address on the web-page.

Ken had excellent colour images of M101, M81, M13, the Splinter Galaxy (NGC5907 in Draco), M3, M106 and a couple of alternative colour renderings M51 after comparing with a HST version.

Terry had images of the close conjunction of Venus and Jupiter on the night of April 30/ May 1 along with the other planets visible in the morning sky. It would be fair to say that none of these are well presented as yet but should become much better as the year progresses. He also showed colour images of the Coathanger asterism (Collinder 399) and part of the Rho Ophiuchii complex, both taken with the relocated AG12 telescope.

Next month's feature will be given by the always welcome Bob Mizon who will talk about the Cape York meteorite.