

Telescope Project: Roxby Downs Area School

Hassan Bhatti and Shane Hodgson

Aims of the Project

- To develop skills in using the telescope to view the night sky and identify the various bodies,
- To develop inquiry based resources for independent class research.
- To connect with client schools via the internet to allow them to control the telescope.
- Develop work for the ADC moodle which allowed client schools to access it

Problems encountered with the project.

When the telescope was brought back to the school we had problems focusing and tracking objects with the camera. We had Dean Davidson from the Astronomical Society of South Australia visit us and he helped overcome some of the issues.

We then worked on the idea of connecting with a client school via the internet and finding the correct soft wear to do this.

Status of Project

As the project is now closed we have moved closer to connecting with a school on the internet to allow them to control the telescope to view what they would like to look at.

We will continue to work on this with the client school for the rest of the year.

As it is now on the moodle we may have other schools interested in the resources and may wish to use the telescope.

ROXBY DOWNS AREA SCHOOL

7 Richardson Place
ROXBY DOWNS SA 5725

Telephone: (08) 86710011

Facsimile: (08) 86710210

PRINCIPAL: Kath Macalister
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL: Helen Bennie
ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS: Ann O'Sullivan / Angela Jenkins



Success through Endeavour

Wednesday 19th August, 2009.

To Whom It May Concern:

Roxby Downs Area School has been actively involved in the 'At Distance Control Program' for the past 15 months, This project has given the school the opportunity to explore distance education and the skills and planning associated with this form of education. As we are a remote and isolated school we do have a responsibility to provide opportunities for young people to assist them in their learning through the medium of technology,

The 'At Distance Control Program' has supported staff and students in exploring the universe through a telescope fitted to a computer and accessed remotely. Roxby is in an ideal position to allow others to see our vibrant night skies. Staff members, Hassan Bhatti and Shane Hodgson, have provided programs and activities, linked to the SACSA Framework to encourage others to use this resource. As we are an area school, they wanted to provide a range of activities from Receptions through to Year 12. The supporting document of programs is extensive but by no means final. Others should take the resource and add to or change to meet their student's needs.

Our school appreciates the opportunity to be part of this project. We thank all who supplied Hassan and Shane and the distant schools that were also involved. We do need to continue to develop more opportunities for schools to use this resource and we do know that we have hurdles to overcome - night access being one.

Yours truly,

Helen Bennie
Deputy Principal