



P E R T H O B S E R V A T O R Y

**337 WALNUT RD
BICKLEY
WESTERN AUSTRALIA 6076**

**Phone: +61 8 9293 8255 (int.)
08 9293 8255 (Aust.)
Fax: +61 8 9293 8138 (int.)
08 9293 8138 (Aust.)**

MEDIA RELEASE

date: 16 March 2007

'Comet tales and comet trails' at Perth Observatory, 1st April

In January this year Comet McNaught, the brightest comet for the last forty years, provided sky watchers all round the world with a spectacular visual display.

Now the public of Perth can hear the story of the comet's discovery by none other than the discoverer himself - astronomer Robert McNaught.

Mr McNaught will be the presenter of Perth Observatory's "Under the Stars" Summer Lecture for 2007.

"I'm happy to share the story of my discovery of this comet – many, many people around the world went out at night and observed it, and this directly demonstrated the beauty and wonder of astronomy," said Mr Naught.

The story of comet McNaught will be only part of the talk.

"Comet McNaught brought me a lot of public attention but I spend a lot of observing time discovering and tracking comets and so I will discuss how this impacts on our knowledge of comets, as well as the trails they cast in the sky that can lead to other spectacular visual phenomena such as meteor showers" he added.

"We are very lucky to secure Mr McNaught to present us this Summer Lecture", said Perth Observatory Director Dr James Biggs "he has been in great demand to talk to all and sundry about Comet McNaught."

"As a consequence of McNaught's busy schedule this year's summer lecture actually occurs in autumn, on Sunday April 1 - which is obviously not summer", Dr Biggs added.

"Each year we provide a summer lecture on astronomy for the general public", he continued.

"The timeliness of the topic and the observatory night-time ambiance will make it quiet a special occasion for all who attend".

Those wishing to find out more can phone the Observatory on 9293 8255 or check our website at http://www.perthobservatory.wa.gov.au/whats_on/summer_lec_2007.html

For more information contact:

Dr James Biggs, Director of Perth Observatory 9293 8255 or 0407 977 747

ATTACHED: Image of Comet McNaught acquire by Rob McNaught on 20th January 2007.