RASC Victoria Centre
Annual Report -2017

Annual Report Outline

- Summary
- Public Outreach Summary
- Scheduled Meetings, Publications & Website
- Outreach Events
- Observing Activities and Observer Support

Summary

- Both membership and the activity level of the Victoria Centre continued to increase in 2017. Membership was over 260 members in September with an annual average around 245. The Centre co-led the organization of another series of Summer Star Parties at the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory; a total of 19 evenings were held this year from the end of April to late September. We held another, well-attended RASCals Star Party in Metchosin to coincide with the National Star Party at the end of July. Monthly meetings, the RASCals Star Party, and Summer Star Parties included many presentations given by professional astronomers based at the University of Victoria and Herzberg Astronomy and Astrophysics. We made use of the speakers fund to have 2 RASC members from other BC centres present to us at our September and October monthly meetings. The centre's weekly Astro Café meetings increased further in popularity with the addition of a high quality Sony 55" television. We are grateful to one of our members for making a superb monitor cabinet to protect the television. We are pleased to announce that our Victoria Centre Observatory has a new telescope. We purchased a long awaited 16" Ritchey-Chrétien telescope which saw first light at the end of October 2017.

Extraordinary Event

Astrophotos Accompany Herschel's Music

- January 21, 2017 at Christ Church Cathedral Chapel
- North American Premiere of Herschel's works
- SRO Crowd of 240
- Jim Hesser – Tireless Promoter
- John McDonald Assembled Astrophotos & Sketchs
- David Lee Provided Technical Magic
- Music fostered Contemplation and Complemented the Beautiful Imagery
- Curved Chapel Ceiling added a "3D Effect"

Scheduled Meeting

Astronomy Café

- Every Monday at 7:30PM: Fairfield Community Place Sept to May
- Attendance ~ 20 to 38
- Terry Ryals Beautiful Cabinet Houses Our New Monitor
- Dr. Ian Shelton(March 6th) near the 30th Anniversary of his Discovery of Super Nova SN1987a … the first naked eye super nova since Kepler in 1604

Monthly Meetings

- 7:30 PM 2nd Wed of Month at Bob Wright Centre (Sept to June except Nov due to AGM)
- 10 Presentations Each Year
  - usually delivered by Professional Astronomers or Grad Students from NRC Herzberg and UVic
  - This year 2 RASCals supported by RASC Public Speaker Program
  - Including October Presentation by Penticton RASCal Wendell Shuster
- On Guess What?

Historical Supernovae

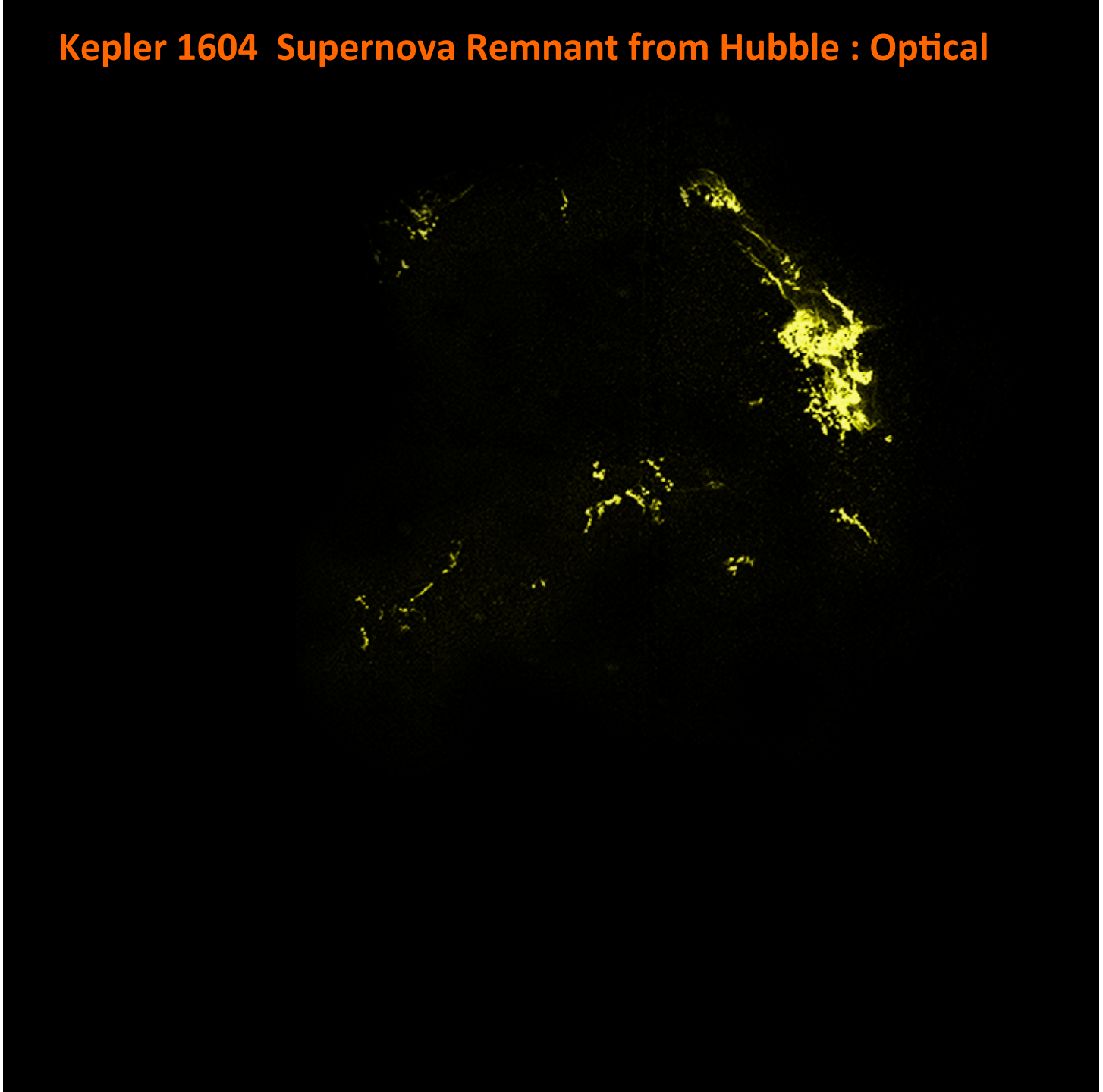
Wendell Shuster

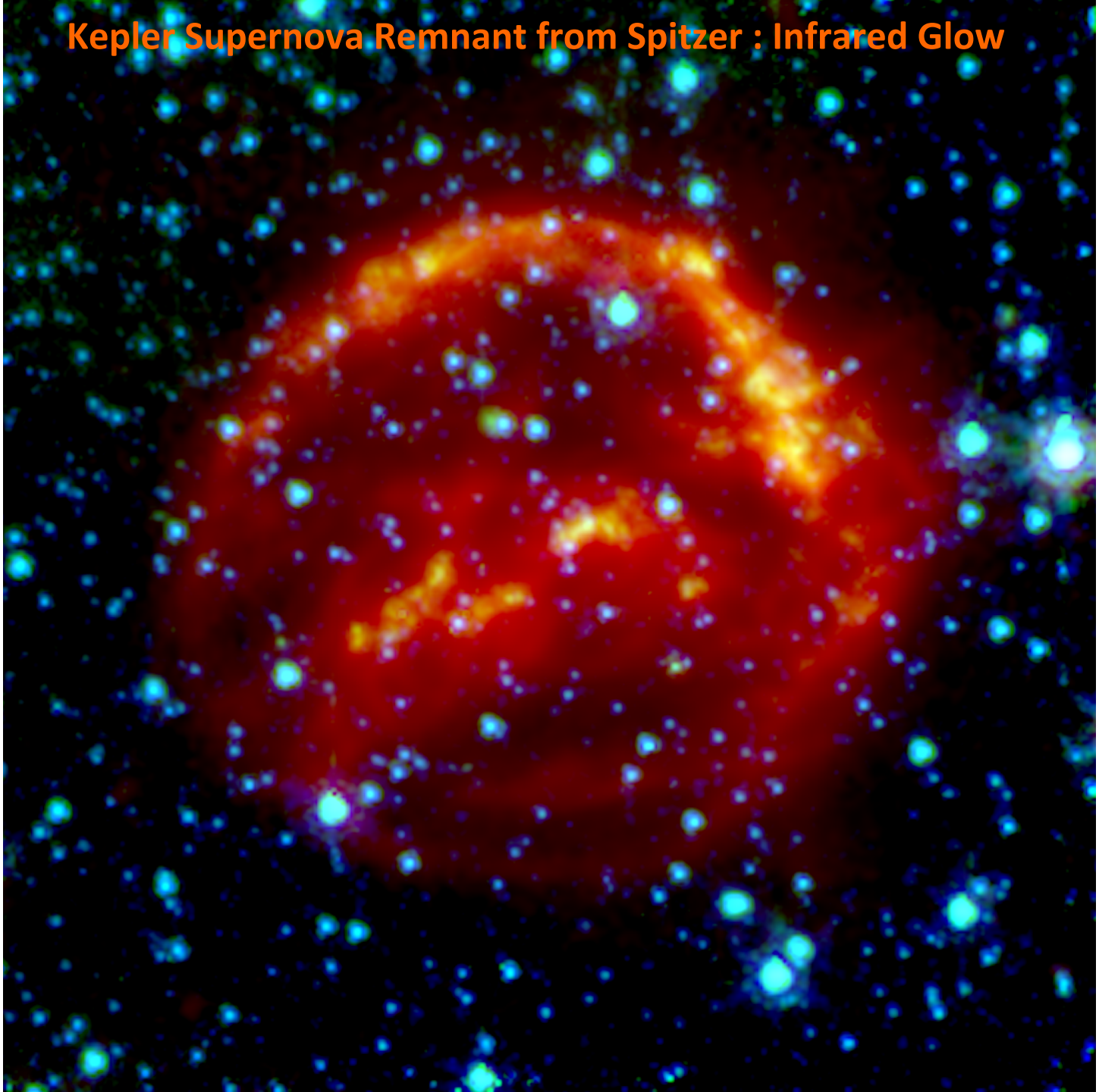
October 12, 2016.

Kamloops Astronomical Society, Kamloops BC.

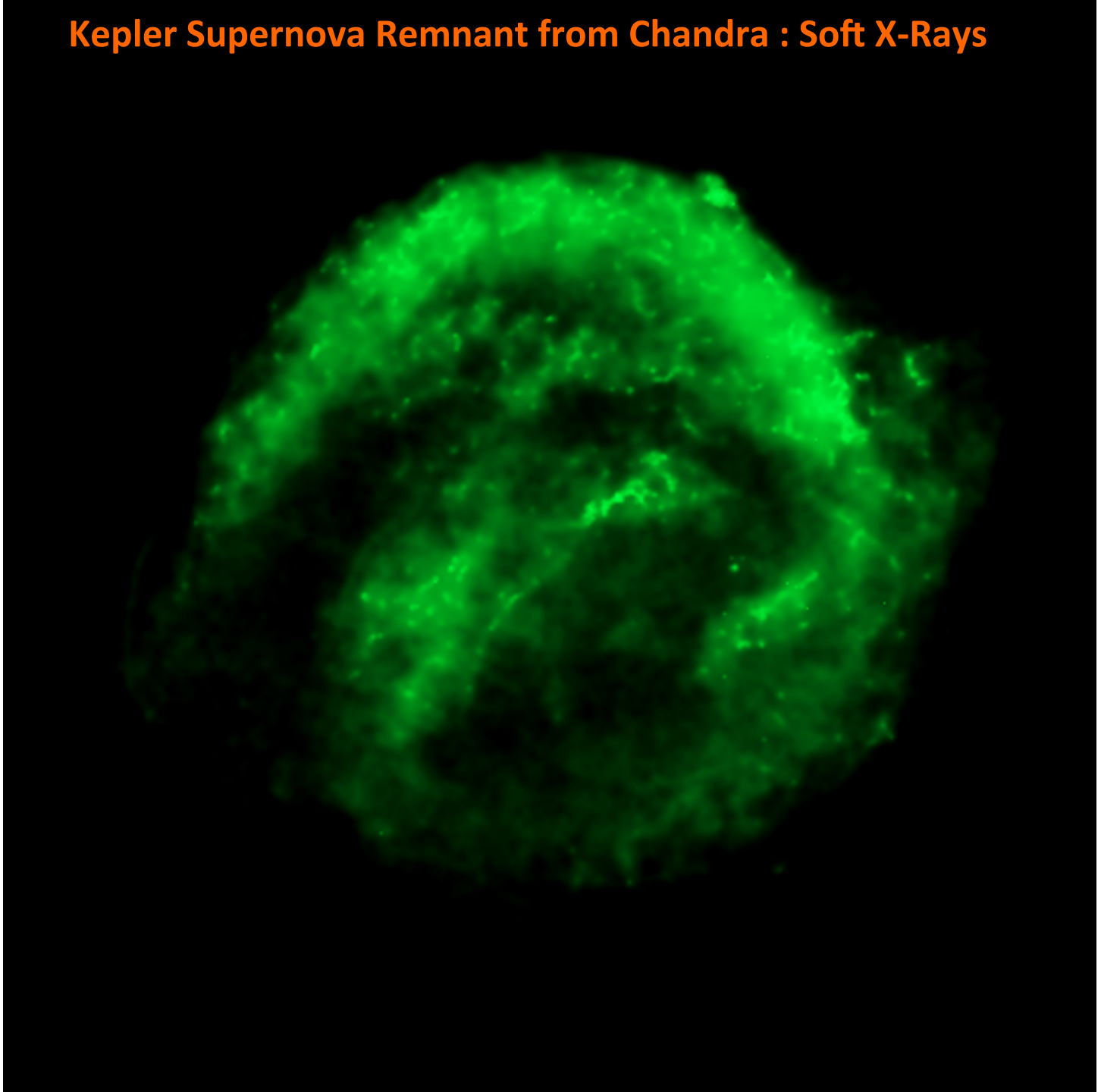
Photo credit: Canadian Galactic Plane Survey, National Research Council Canada.

Kepler 1604 Supernova Remnant from Hubble : Optical

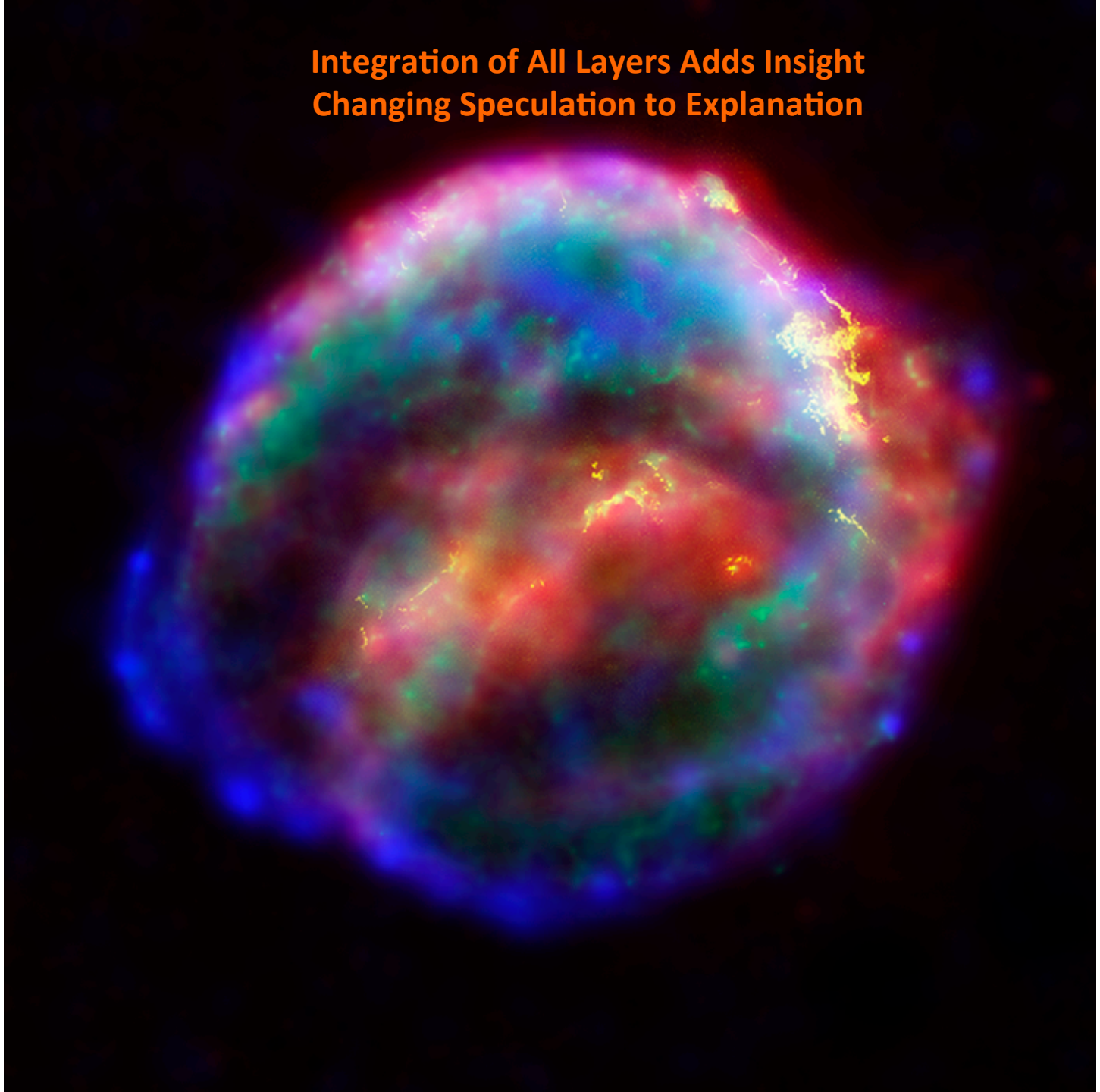



Kepler Supernova Remnant from Spitzer : Infrared Glow

Kepler Supernova Remnant from Chandra : Soft X-Rays



Kepler Supernova Remnant from Chandra : Hard X-Rays

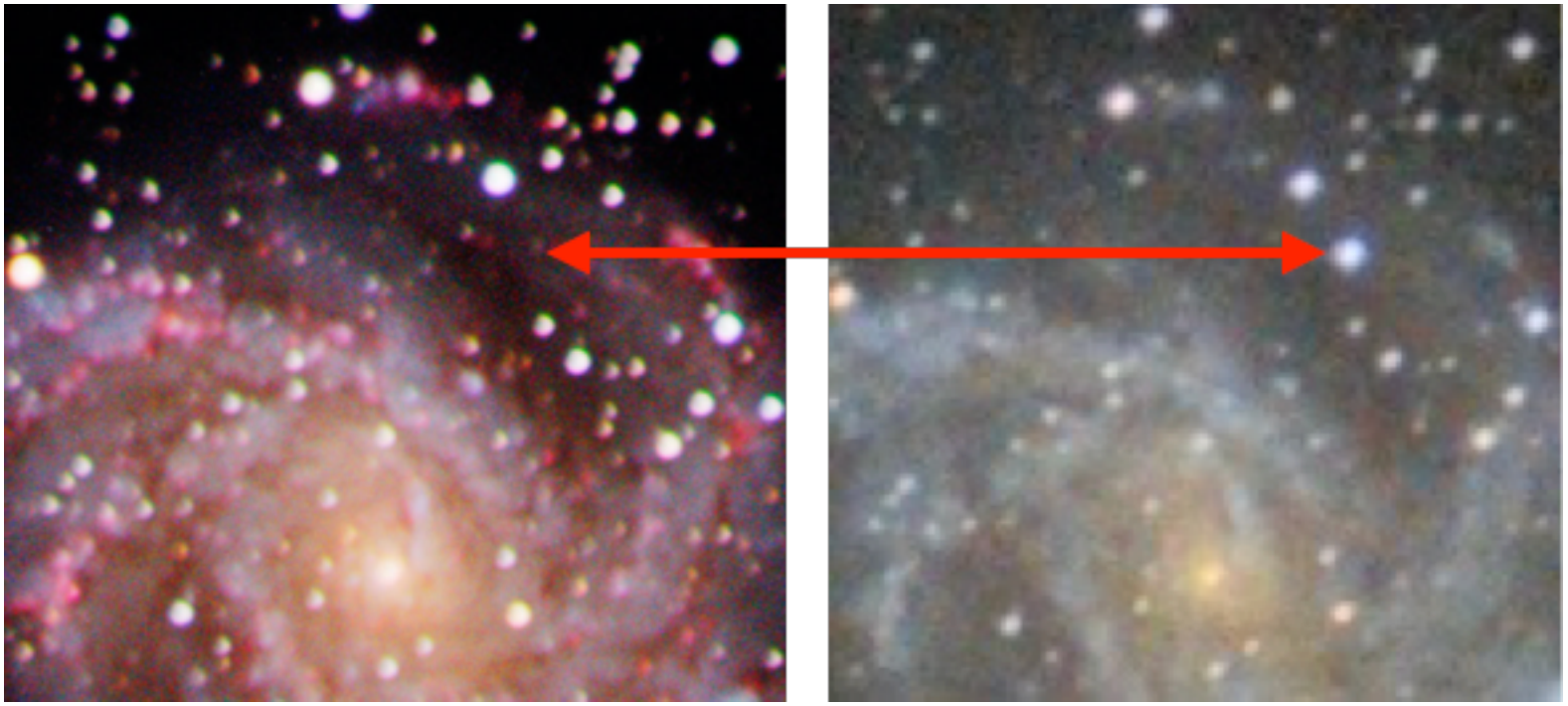

Integration of All Layers Adds Insight
Changing Speculation to Explanation

Fireworks Galaxy

Super Novae 10 Times More Frequent than in Milky Way

Including SN2017aew

Discovered May 14th 2017 by Amateur Paul Wiggens



John McDonald's Image December 2016 Dan Posey's Image May 26th 2017

Want to **Learn More About Super Novae** Come to Hear Dr. Chris Pritchet
Victoria Centre Monthly Meeting Wednesday December 13th at UVic

Want to Find Out More?

- Check Out *SkyNews*
- Victoria Centre Newsletter
- 10 Issues Per Year
- Every Month but July & Aug
- Over 390 Issues!
- Editor Reg Dunkley
- Where to Find It?
- Go to Victoria Centre's Web Page

SKYNEWS

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IN THIS ISSUE

On The Cover
Presidents Report
Whitman's Summer Splendours
A Supernova Hot Zone
An Aurora Visits Victoria

NGC 6946 -- *The Fireworks Galaxy*
by John McDonald

A Supernova *Hot Zone*
See Page 7

NEXT MEETING

Next Monthly Meeting
Wed Sept 13th 2017
Rm A104
Bob Wright Centre
UVic Campus

www.victoria.rasc.ca

SKYNEWS ..... JUNE 2017 ..... ISSUE #389 → PAGE 1

victoria.rasc.ca

RASC Victoria | About Us | Events | Observing | News | Resources | Media | Members Only

Annual General Meeting & Dinner

Posted November 4, 2017 by Chris Purse as Meetings

The November meeting of the Victoria Centre is the Annual General Meeting and Dinner. It will take place at the Cedar Hill Golf Course on **Saturday, November 18**. The doors open at 6 p.m.

Highlights

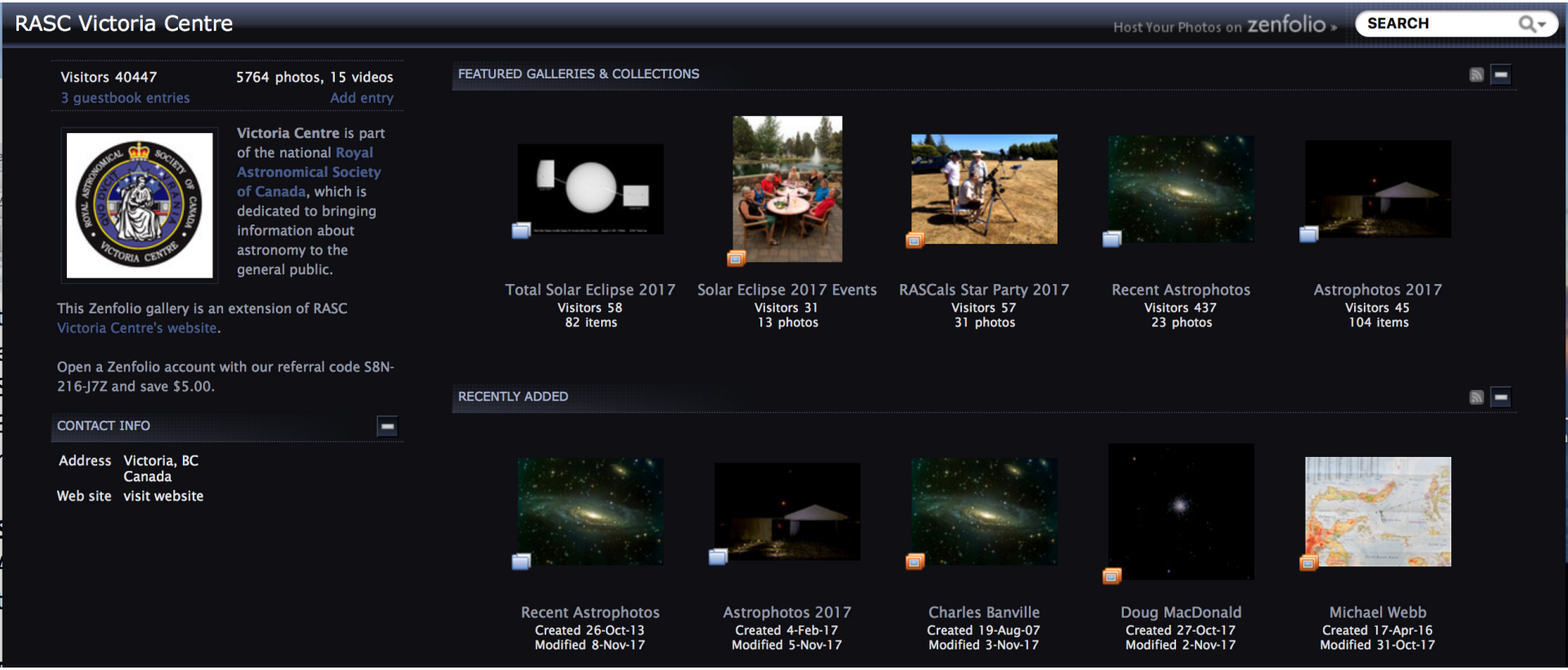
President's Message – September 2017

The summer of 2017 will be noted for a relatively rare event, a solar eclipse visible across North America. Many Victoria Centre members travelled to see totality including me. That was my first total eclipse and it was an extraordinary … Continued

- Victoria Centre's Web Site
- A Treasure Trove of Information
- Webmaster Joe Carr System Admin Matt Watson

Victoria Centre Image Gallery

http://rascvic.zenfolio.com

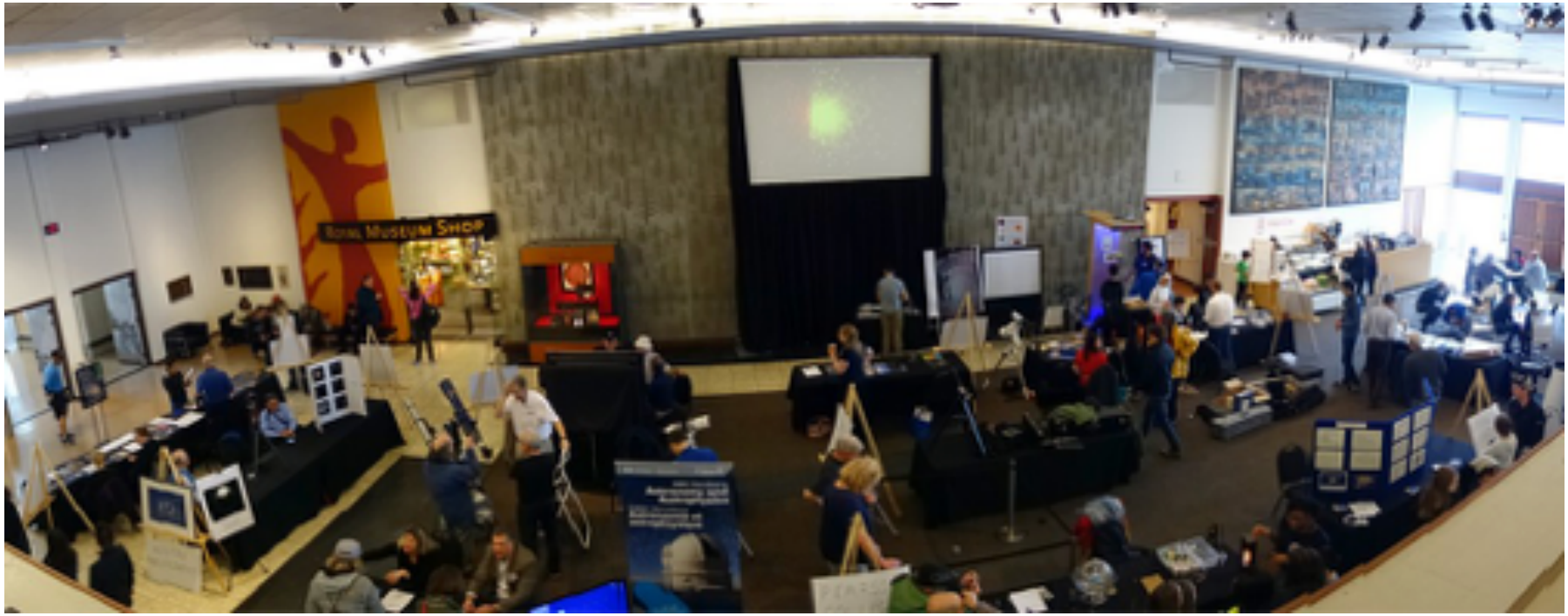


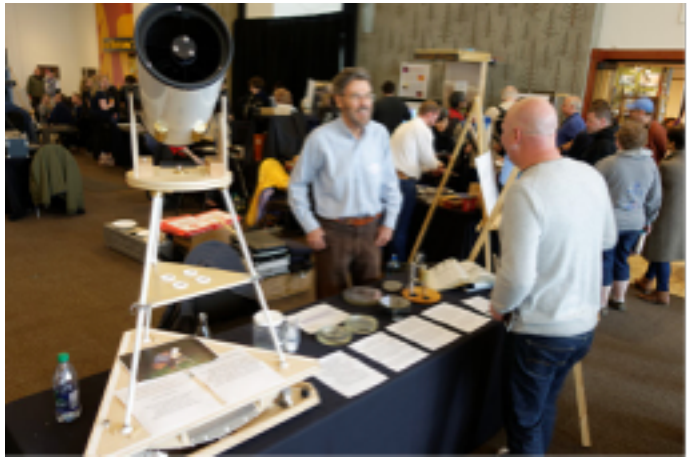
Outreach Events

- **Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair – April 9 to 10, 2017**
- **International Astronomy Day – April 29, 2017**
- **Dominion Astrophysical Observatory (DAO) Summer Star Parties – most Saturdays April 29 to September 23, 2017**
- **Saanich Strawberry Festival – July 9, 2017**
- **RASCals Star Party – July 27 to 29, 2017**
- **Fort Rodd Hill Star Party–August 11, 2017**
- **Solar Eclipse – August 21, 2017**
- **Saanich Fair – September 2 to 4, 2017**
- **Fall Fairfield Fete – September 23, 2017**

Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Victoria Chapter Award

Astronomy Day April 29th RBCM





Photos
By Wyman Lee

DAO Star Parties

- 19 Saturday Evenings (Apr 29 to Sept 23)
- RASC Victoria Centre in collaboration with Friends of the DAO and NRC Herzberg
- The Attractions
  - The Spectacular View
  - The Plaskett Telescope Tours
  - Astronomical Presentations in Centre of the Universe Auditorium: David Lee Organized 24 Scientific Lectures
  - Numerous Planetarium Shows
  - RASCals*: Tour Guides to the Universe*
- Typical Attendance ~200

Education Outreach

- Elementary classroom presentations and night viewing sessions reached 1500 students last year.
- 200 volunteer hours with Sid Sidhu and Lauri Roche contributing the “lions share” and many others assisting.
- Clayton Uyeda, a Vic High Physics Teacher is establishing a High School Astronomy Program

Observing Activities and Support

- Time on the Plaskett 73 Inch: Michel Michaud
- Time on UVic 32 Inch: 2nd Friday of Month
- Messier Marathon (weather permitting)
- New Observers (Sid Sidhu)
- RASCals of Cattle Point (weather permitting)
- Active Observers Group
- Victoria Centre Observatory
- Total Solar Eclipse – August 21st

Victoria Centre Observatory

- Every Saturday Weather Permitting
- Upgraded to 16” Ritchey-Chrétien Open Truss Design
- Benefits:
  - Larger Aperture
  - Faster Cool Down
  - Lighter
  - Better Pointing Accuracy
  - Possible Remote Control for OutReach
- Thanks Tech Team!

RASCals At First Light Party October 28 2017

First Light of New VCO Scope Sat. Oct 28th

Above Hercules Cluster M13 by Joe Carr

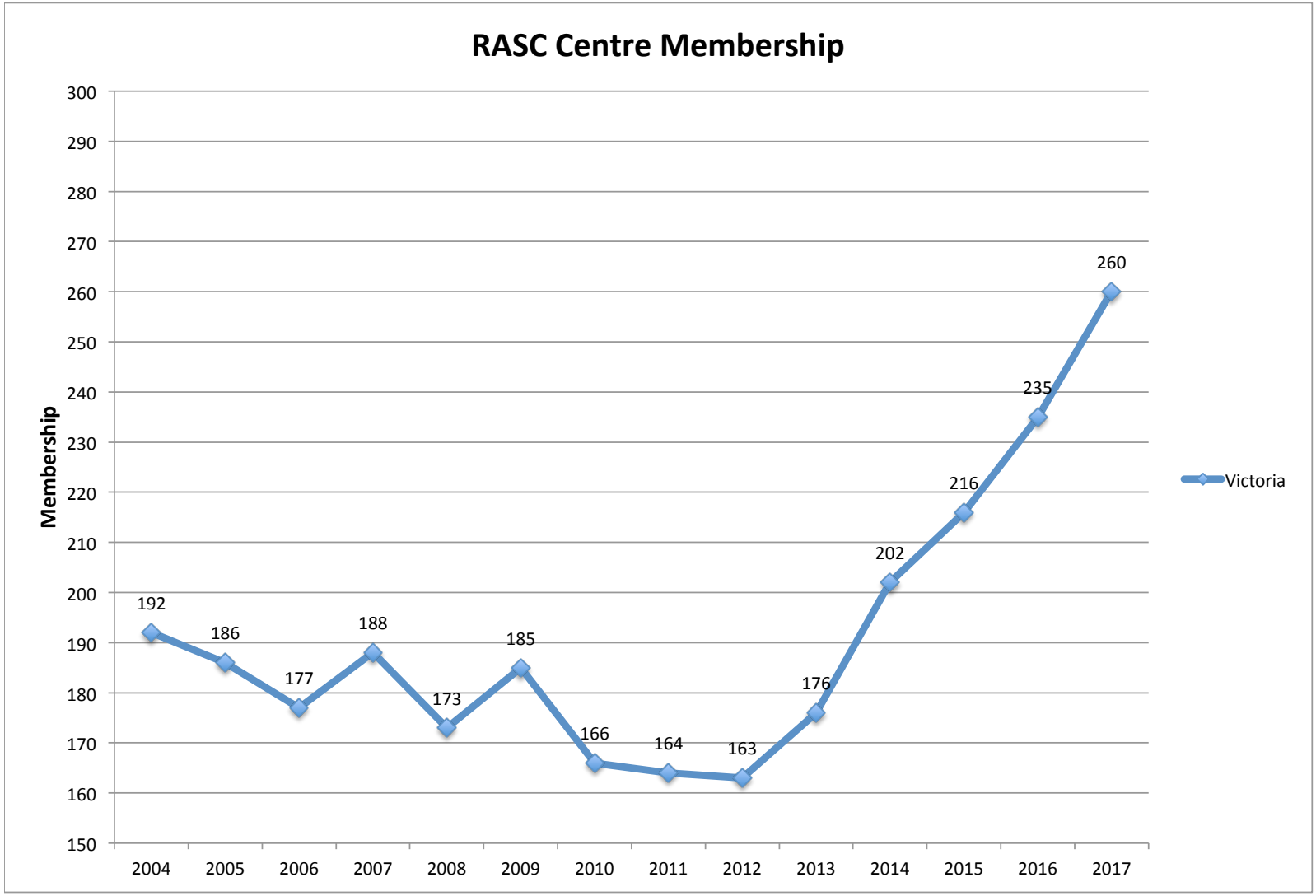
Right Moon by Charles Banville

The Great Solar Eclipse – Aug 21 2017

- Over 30 Victoria RASCals headed South to Oregon, Idaho and Montana
- Leaving Ken Mallory, Sid Sidhu, Sherry Buttnor and other RASCals
- Holding The Bag with ***way too few***
- Solar Glasses for the 3500 that showed up
- At Mount Tolmie, The Museum and Metchosin

Meanwhile In the Path of Totality
The Corona Took Centre Stage

And Was Viewed From A Variety of Vantage Points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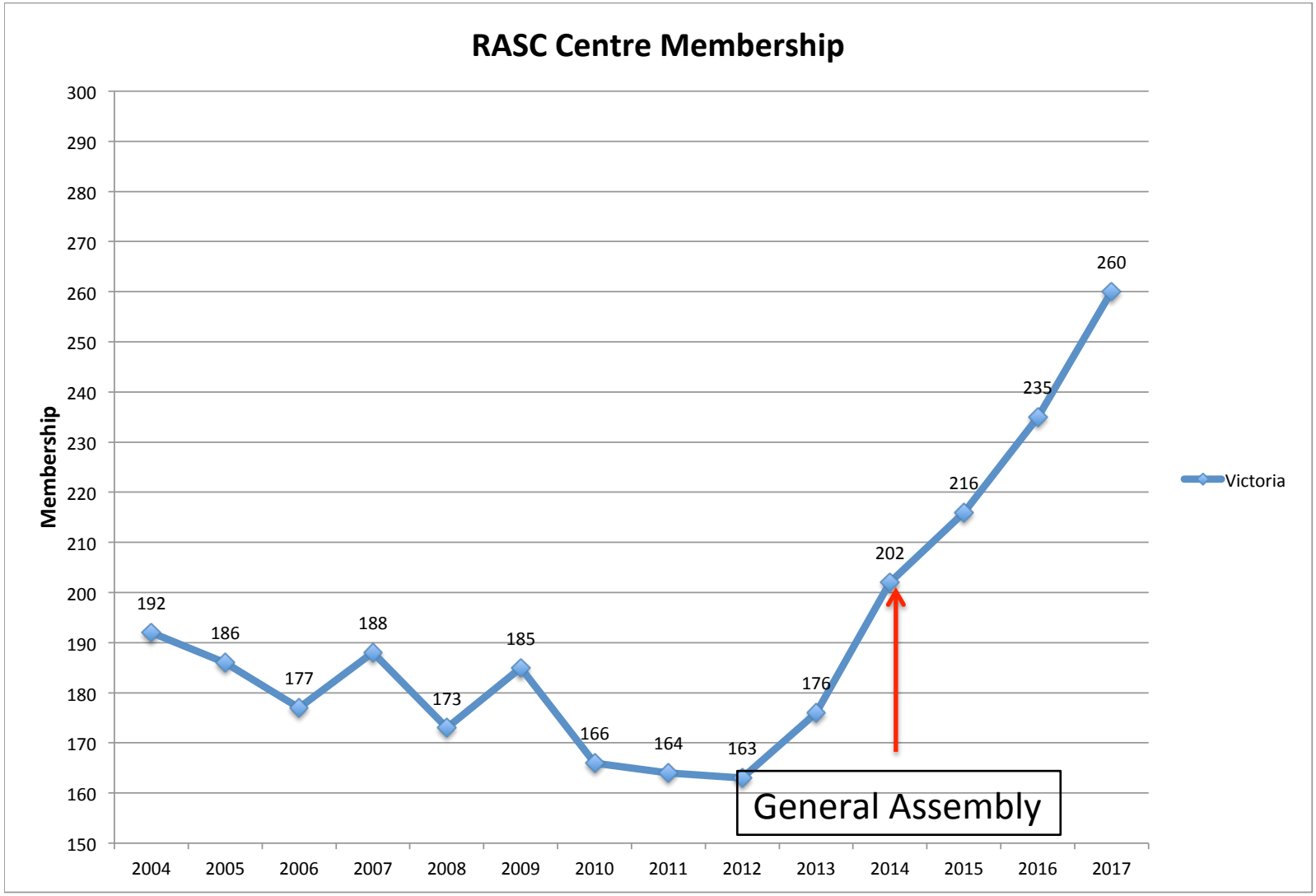
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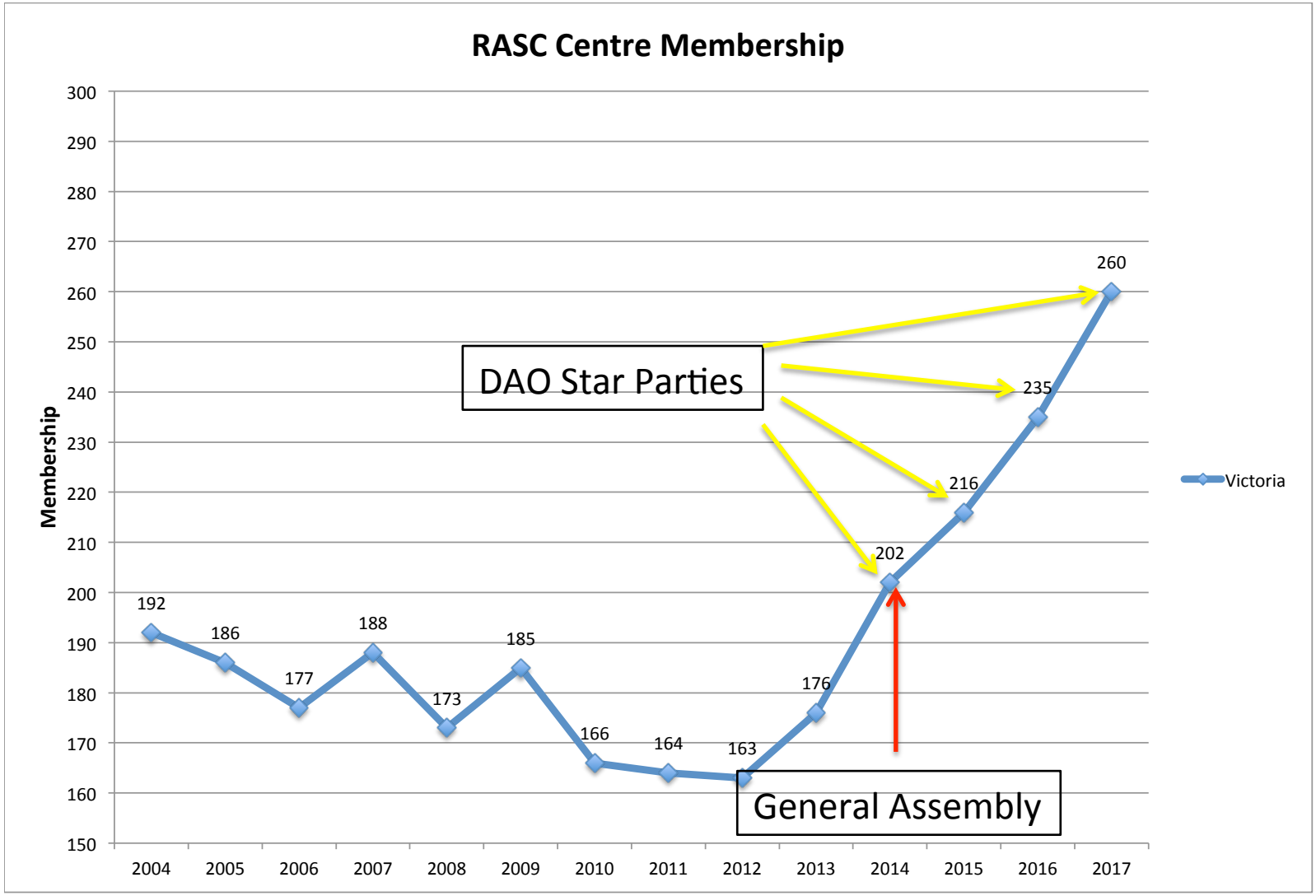
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DAO Star Parties
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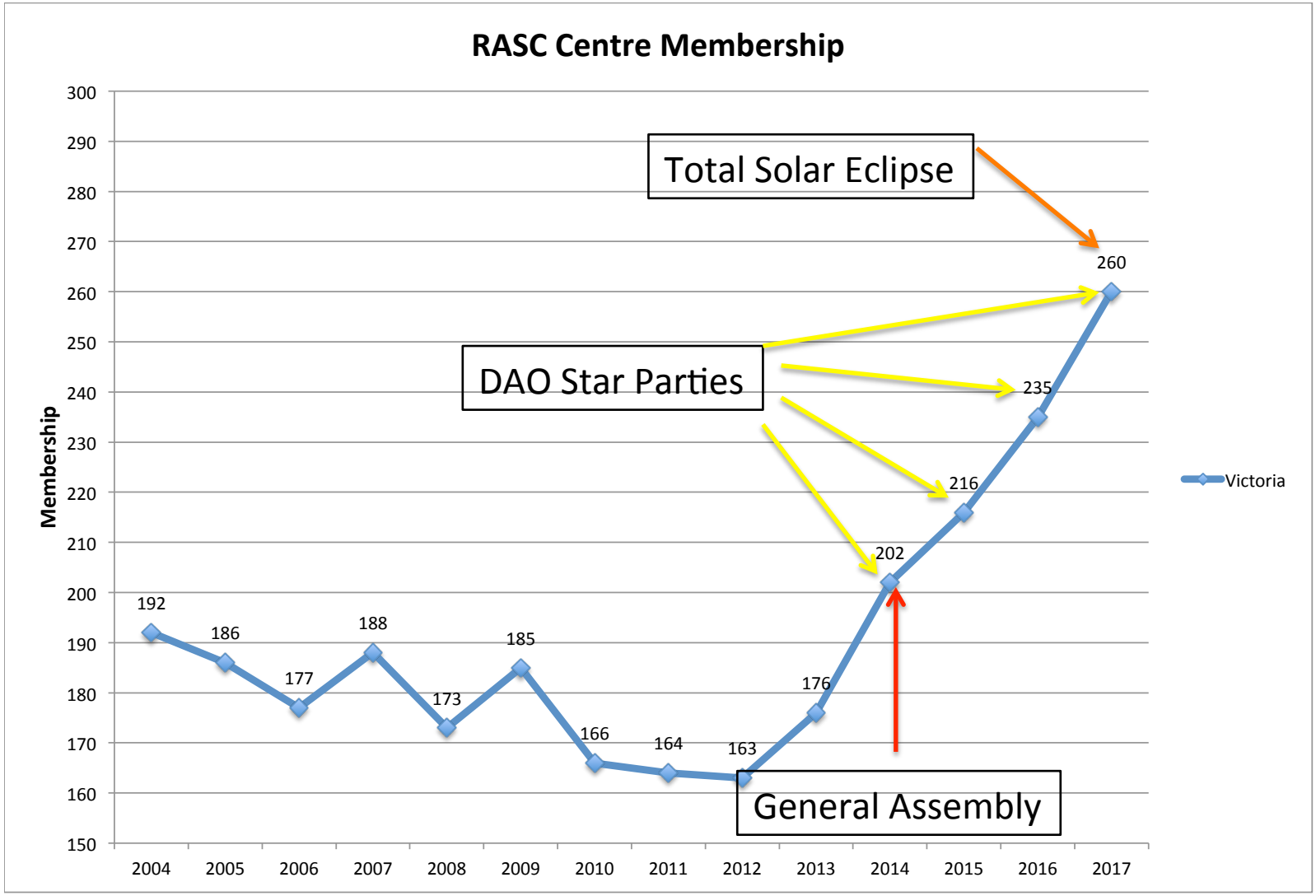
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Total Solar Eclipse
DAO Star Parties
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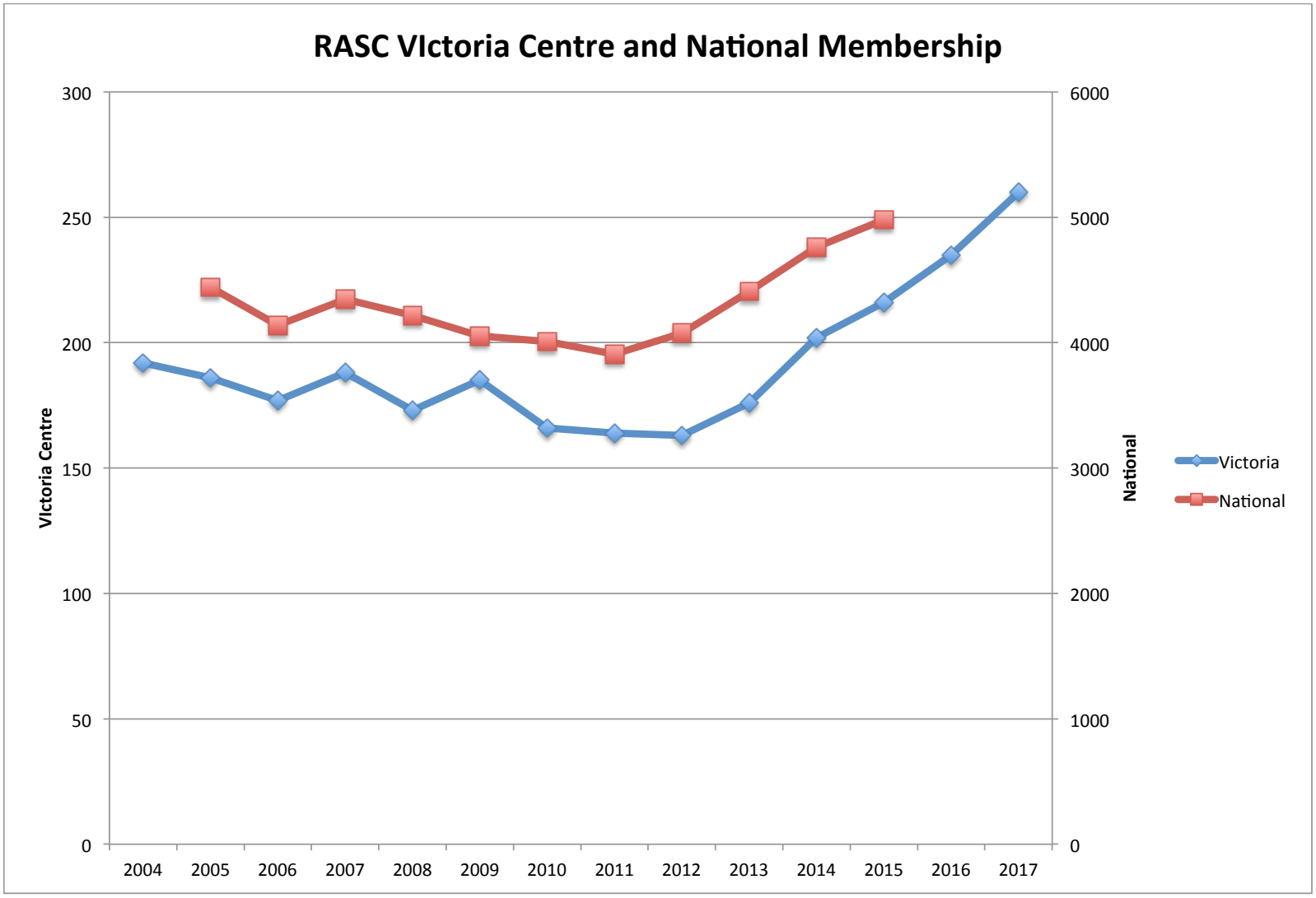
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