

Last month's speaker --- Dr. Benton

For many years Dr. Benton has been interested in astronomy and last year finally decided to reduce his hours as a General Practitioner and realised his dream of studying the subject. He is currently doing a post graduate diploma with the Swinburne University's Astronomy Online course, and says he enjoys stargazing with his telescope in the evenings.

We were fortunate to be able to share some of Dr Benton's enthusiasm in a talk entitled 'Planetary Formation and Evolution.'

Using graphic and sometimes dramatic projected images we learned how a planet was formed from the very beginning as basic elements and gases, which attracted dust particles, to its formation. Unfortunately time ran out before the final images, as there were many and varied questions from the members. While the subject was described in detail, some of it complicated, it was rewarding to note the general grasp of the U3A members, proving age is no barrier to learning.

Article by Christine Curtis, Vice president / publicity