

EDITORIAL

This is the first issue of the *Journal of Astronomical History and Heritage* (*JAH*²) to appear under the banner of the Centre for Astronomy at James Cook University, Townsville, Australia. The Centre was founded in 2003, and offers full-time and part-time internet-based masters and doctoral degrees in astronomy. History of astronomy is one of the research options available to the graduate students and is the research focus of several of the Centre's full-time and part-time staff members, so it is particularly pleasing that the *Journal* has found a new and happy home. Our special thanks go to astronomer and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Harry Hyland, for facilitating this innovation.

In addition, our heartfelt thanks and gratitude go to John Perdrix, the former Managing Editor of *JAH*², for his sterling efforts since he co-founded the *Journal* in 1998. Medical circumstances have forced John to relinquish his editorial duties, but he will maintain a close association with the *Journal* as a member of the Editorial Board.

Another new Board member is Associate-Professor Graeme White, Director of the Centre for Astronomy at James Cook University. Whilst primarily an astrophysicist, Graeme has a long-standing interest in astronomical history and has published a number of papers on aspects of nineteenth century Australian astronomy, along with the book *Under the Southern Cross* (1991), which he co-authored with Ragbir Bhathal.

The papers in this issue of *JAH*² reflect the healthy mix of topics that has been a feature of previous issues, but in this instance there is a small group of papers on the history of radio astronomy. We would like to dedicate this issue of *JAH*² and the following two issues, to one of radio astronomy's pioneers, Dr Bruce Slee, in celebration of his sixty-year contribution to astrophysics. Some of the radio astronomy papers in these three issues derive from two Science Meetings on historic radio astronomy that formed part of the programs of Commissions 40 (Radio Astronomy) and 41 (History of Astronomy) at the 2003 General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union—which was held in Sydney, Australia. Bruce Slee was the co-organiser of one of these meetings. Other papers in these three issues have no Sydney IAU links, but were submitted by colleagues in order to record aspects of radio astronomical history in a number of different nations. The common denominator of all of these papers is that Bruce Slee is well known to the authors; back in the 1950s he even worked with a number of them.

While we have a goodly supply of papers for the next two issues, we are always happy to receive unsolicited manuscripts. Our new web site (www.jcu.edu.au/astronomy/JAH2) includes a 'Guide for Authors', and this should be followed carefully when preparing a manuscript. Note that our referencing and bibliographical conventions side with the sciences rather than the humanities, and as such are modelled on the Harvard System.

In transferring *JAH*² from Astral Press to James Cook University, we decided to make some design changes to the cover of the *Journal* and the layout of the papers. We thank Tony Cohen from the University's LogicMedia group for assisting with these, and hope that you like the 'new look' *Journal*. We welcome your feedback.

Here, then, is the 2005 June issue of *JAH*². Enjoy ...

Wayne Orchiston
Editor