

EDITORIAL

This is the fourth 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. In the course of the past two years we have published 30 different papers, 5 IAU Reports, 26 book reviews and 1 obituary. We have also seen the size of the journal vary between 68 pages and 136 pages, in part reflecting the volume of copy (much of it unsolicited) that is now crossing my desk. In order to accommodate this increased research output from the international community of historians of astronomy we have decided to produce three issues per year (instead of two) from 2007, with copies scheduled to appear in March, July and November. In addition, we plan to start using spot colour in some of the papers, and we will also offer subscribers a choice of paper copies of the journal or electronic copies on CDs.

These changes will involve significantly increased production and mailing costs (remember, all overseas issues of *JAH*² go out by airmail), and so we will have to increase subscriptions, as from 2007. Nevertheless, *JAH*² will still be one of the best-priced international astronomical journals on the market, and we trust that you will continue to give it your support.

Many of you will be pleased to know that the experiment to launch graduate programs in history of astronomy (HoA) here at James Cook University (JCU) has been an overwhelming success. Currently, there are thirteen students enrolled in HoA doctorates. One is studying full-time, and the rest (from Australia, Lebanon, South Africa and the USA) are part-time, off-campus students. As you can see from the following list, they are researching a variety of topics:

- A History of Research into the Concept of 'Dark Matter'
- Abdul Rahman al-Sufi and *The Book of the Stars*: A Journey of Re-discovery
- Amateur-Professional Collaboration in Astronomy: A History of South Africa's Earliest Astronomical Societies
- Contribution of the Division of Radiophysics Potts Hill Field Station to International Radio Astronomy
- Early Pulsar Research and the Roles of the Molonglo Radio Telescope, Parkes Radio Telescope and the Culgoora Circular Array
- Kepler's War on Mars and the Usurpation of Seventeenth Century Astronomy
- Observations of the Southern Open Cluster NGC 4755 from 1751 to 1980: Changing Perspectives
- Quasi-Stellar Objects, the Owens Valley Radio Telescope, and the Changing Nature of the Caltech-Carnegie Nexus
- The Cosmology of Huacas and Ceques: A Study in Peruvian Archaeoastronomy
- The History of Low Frequency Radio Astronomy in Tasmania
- The Lick Observatory Solar Eclipse Expeditions and the Study of the Solar Corona
- The Published Research Output of the Melbourne Observatory: A Critical Evaluation
- The Tennessee Impact Sites: Changing Perspectives in Meteorite Research

Sharing the supervision of these students with me are JCU Centre for Astronomy staff members, David Blank (Lecturer) and Graeme White (Associate Professor), plus three new JCU Adjunct Professors of Astronomy: Kim Malville (USA), Richard Stephenson (UK) and Brian Warner (South Africa). Others also involved in student supervision are Richard Strom (The Netherlands) and Richard Wielebinski (Germany), and shortly both will also be appointed to JCU Adjunct Chairs in Astronomy (and, along with Brian Warner, will also be able to co-supervise JCU astrophysics doctorates). A number of new part-time HoA doctoral students will begin their studies in 2007, researching topics in archaeoastronomy, the scientific output associated with a large U.S. historic telescope, early Australian solar radio astronomy, and the popularization of U.S. astronomy during the nineteenth century.

The introduction of history of astronomy within the JCU Master of Astronomy degree has also been a resounding success, with students enrolling for both the coursework unit ("Scientific and Technological Developments in Astronomy") and the following final unit of their degree, a semester-long historical research project. To date, students have carried out research projects on aspects of Canada and New Zealand meteor astronomy, Cook voyage instrumentation and astronomical observations at Nootka Sound, the role played by M31 in furthering our understanding of astronomy and astrophysics, and the research accomplished with the Jodrell Bank 218-ft transit radio telescope.

Now to return to the journal: his issue of *JAH*² brings to an end the four radio astronomy numbers dedicated to the pioneering Australian radio astronomer, Bruce Slee. I began my own involvement in radio astronomy back in November 1961, as Bruce's Research Assistant, and it was a pleasure to resume our research collaboration in 2001, when I joined the Australia Telescope National Facility as their Archivist and Historian. Bruce was by then an ATNF Honorary Fellow, and we scored several observing runs with the Australia Telescope Compact Array researching radio emission from chromospherically-active stars. Bruce and Nan have been friends for more than forty years, and it has a pleasure producing these special radio astronomy issues of *JAH*². Future issues of the journal will continue to include papers on the history of radio astronomy—along with papers on a wide range of other topics.

Finally, I hardly need remind you all that we are always happy to receive unsolicited manuscripts. When preparing your manuscript it is best to begin by consulting the 'Guide for Authors' on our web site: just click the 'History Astro. Journal' box on the following web site: www.jcu.edu.au/astronomy Here, then, is the December 2006 issue of *JAH*². Enjoy ...

Wayne Orchiston
Editor