

EDITORIAL

Dear Readers of *JAHH*,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome a new Associate Editor to the Editorial team: Dr Duane Hamacher from the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia.

Duane will be known to many readers of *JAHH* through the research papers on Aboriginal Australian astronomy that he has published in the journal in recent years, and for serving as the Guest Editor of the July/August 2014 Special Issue of *JAHH* on the 'Ethnoastronomy of Aboriginal Australians'.

American by birth, Duane received a B.Sc. in Physics from the University of Missouri in 2004, then moved to Australia and completed an M.Sc. in Astrophysics from the University of New South Wales in 2006. He then completed a Ph.D. in Indigenous Studies at Macquarie University (also in Sydney) in 2012, with a thesis on Aboriginal Australian astronomy. His supervisors were astrophysicist Professor Ray Norris from CSIRO Astronomy and Space Science, anthropologist Dr Kristina Everett from Macquarie University and retired University of Sydney prehistorian John Clegg.

After graduating, Duane moved back to the University of New South Wales, not to the Astrophysics Department, but to the Nura Gili Indigenous Programs Unit, where he is a Lecturer and ARC Discovery Early Career Research Fellow. Duane won a major DECRA grant from the Australian Research Council to study Torres Strait Islander astronomy, and he quickly built up a group of staff and graduate students studying various aspects of Australian Indigenous astronomy. Two of these graduate students are Trevor Leaman and Robert Fuller, both of whom have published papers in *JAHH* in the past year.

In addition to supervising Honours, Masters and Ph.D. students, Duane developed and teaches undergraduate courses on Australian Indigenous Astronomy (ATSI 3006) and Indigenous Science (ATSI 2015), which are especially popular with overseas students studying at the University.

In 2011, Duane married Tui Britton, a New Zealander completing a Ph.D. in astrophysics at Macquarie University. Just like one of us (W.O.), Tui has Maori ancestry, so recently she and Duane teamed together to write a paper on Maori astronomy.

Duane and Tui also are committed to taking astronomy to the public, and for several years they worked as Astronomy Educators at Sydney Observatory.

With the three of us beyond the traditional retirement age, it is a great pleasure to have someone much younger join the Editorial team. We look forward to publishing further papers by Duane, his graduate students, and Ray Norris, in *JAHH*, and it will be very helpful to have him assess and referee papers we receive on ethnoastronomy and archaeoastronomy. These are now well-established niche areas that we regularly publish papers on in *JAHH*.

We look forward to working closely with Duane.

Wayne Orchiston
Joseph S. Tenn
Richard Strom