

News Flash: Life Found on  
Minor Planet Eros

Cubicle Planetarium for  
Wiruna

Big-Bang Theory Exposed  
as Hoax

Dew-Zapping for Naglers

Photon Exportation

New Amateur Observatory

Amazing Ancient Links

Cutting-Edge Research  
Near RAAF Base

The Philosoraptures: An  
Update

Arachnis Pittoiletis at Wiruna

Extra-Solar-System Comet  
Discovery for Dunedoo  
Amateur

April's Horrorscopes

ASNSW Radio Comet  
Search Program

Cosmic Background Radiation  
a Measure of Extraterrestrial  
Civilisations

Night-Vision for Enthusiasts

Stray Meteorite Kills Famous  
Cockroach

Breach of the Law of Gravity

UFO Steals US Navy Airplane

Nostradamus the Astronomer

Classifieds

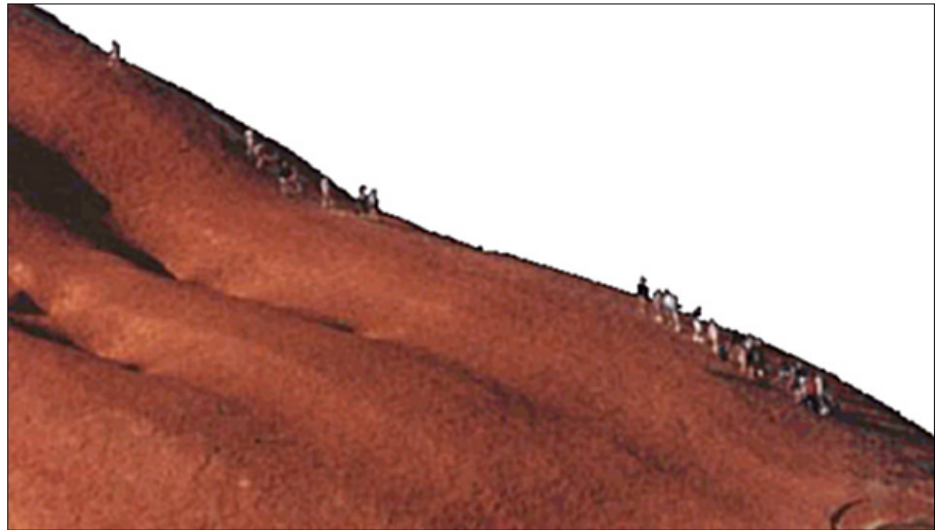
Product Review

Star Party Recipes

February Observing Weekend  
at Wiruna

In a shock announcement, NASA said that the space probe which recently landed on Eros transmitted a photograph showing living beings of humanoid appearance walking on the surface of the asteroid.

On initial landing, the camera which was at the base of the space probe had been pointed at the surface and was buried in dust. However, a few days ago, a particularly strong gust of solar wind moved the probe onto its side, freeing the camera and blowing the dust particles from the lens, there upon the surprise photo was taken.



*- Life Found On Minor Planet: Eros -*

There is speculation that the aliens were gathering to examine the space probe and confident that their presence would not be revealed because of the camera being inoperative. Now that their existence is known, NASA believes that they may well be responsive to attempts to communicate.

Messages have been transmitted towards Eros in all known frequencies and in both binary and hexadecimal code. NASA scientists believe that the fact that these creatures are highly intelligent is proved by their avoidance so far of all contact with Earthlings.

When asked to comment, Bokglob Gröseblurter, well known real estate agent and astral traveller said that he had recently leased the asteroid for a few weeks and that the inhabitants had proved to be shrewd and tough negotiators. He said that they are the descendants of Toltecs who had been engaged to carve the asteroid into a statue of the 14<sup>th</sup> Emperor of Ganymede.

Work had stopped after the Emperor's untimely death in 1054 AD during a close inspection of a star in Taurus which unfortunately became what we know as the Crab Nebula, while the Emperor was in the near vicinity.

The Toltecs, the mystery race of the Americas had left monuments, statues and great temples in profusion and then vanished without trace about 2,200 years ago. Mr Gröseblurter explained that their skill as stonemasons had led to them being the greatest example of Alien abductions, the whole race having been transported to apartment complexes tunnelled into the interior of Eros.

**LIFE FOUND ON  
MINOR PLANET EROS**

...(continued from page 1)

However, on the Emperor's death, the throne passed to his semi-daughter, Empress Erotican, an extremely liberated female who abolished the slavery of marriage, the burden of childbirth etc... The result was a dynamic explosion of art, music and literature, with Ganymede becoming the cultural capital of the Carinae Arm of the Galaxy for the next Ganymedian century.

However, lack of procreation meant that the last, very elderly Ganymedian died some 174 Ganymede years after the accession of the Empress, leaving the work force on Eros unpaid and with no means to return home to Earth and reclaim cities squatted in by the Aztecs, Mayans and the Incas etc...

US Lawyers are already preparing land rights claims in anticipation of a major absentee court case. The descendants of the last Emperor of the Aztecs, Montezuma, said that they would make a statement to the press after their legal advisers had considered the matter.

**CUBICLE PLANETARIUM  
FOR WIRUNA**

In a world first, club member Mike Err is constructing a cubicle planetarium at the ASNSW's Observing Site, Wiruna, near Ilford, NSW. Until now, planetariums have all been conservatively hemispherical in shape to allow for easy projection of stellar images.

However, Mike reasoned that flat surfaces offered superior surfaces and flat fields for projected close-ups of Planets, Nebulae etc, while the problems normally associated with projection of constellations were overcome by the use of adaptive optics.

In a neat way, Sigma Octans is represented by an LED permanently fixed in the angle-

line between the Southern wall and the ceiling, at an angular altitude of approximately 34° above the virtual horizon.

Ease of construction of square forms, together with more sensible seating arrangements are so significant that it is amazing that this idea has taken so long to be put into effect. The principle can easily be applied to many buildings that are disused or not used to any good effect, eg: Parliament House in Canberra (although an objection to this building could be that the roof was engineered on a narrow safety margin, relying on a constant production of hot air to help support its weight).

In a joint Australian / Canadian venture, Mike is combining with Steve Americancan. It is anticipated that the cubicle Planetarium will be finalised and officially opened on the first Sunday in April.

When not in use as a planetarium, the new building at Wiruna will be used to store a telescope, as the second component of their 25" binocular telescope, expected to be completed shortly.

These binoculars will be made possible by their being linked with fibre optic cable, and research is currently in train to determine if they could be used for an interferometric function.

One component on the Eastern (lower) Observing Field could be linked to a second component on the Western (upper) Observing Field, thus duplicating a binocular telescope 700 metres in diameter.

**"BIG-BANG THEORY"  
EXPOSED AS HOAX**

*By Dipso Maniak, K.B., D.A.*

For the last year, I have been working in close collaboration with Baron Beavis von Buttköpf at his new observatory near Schloß Ratzhärz in the Bavarian Alps. The Baron recently installed a new telescope featuring a segmented fly's-eye multiple-mirror with an overall diameter of 32 metres. Each segment is a flat hexagon of polished plate glass, 2 metres in diameter, and 8mm thick, bent to the appropriate paraboloidal figure by a complex system of hydraulic jacks and suction pads controlled by a Local-Area Network (LAN) of fifty Commodore 64 computers.

The telescope is similar to the New Generation Telescope at Siding Spring Observatory, the computer driven alt-azimuth mount being based on a turntable modified from a disused roundabout. Working on Einstein's General Theory of Relativity, in which light and space curves back upon itself, the Baron realised that if there had actually been a Big Bang at



- Planetarium Director, Monte Willsin, Supervising Construction -

the start of the Universe as we know it, with light curving back in a circle, and plenty of intervening galaxy clusters, black holes and quasars to assist with gravitational lensing, at least in a few places in the sky the Big Bang should be seen going off.

Over the past year, the Baron and I have searched the whole of the northern sky without success, and tentatively plan to move the telescope on a portable mount to the Western (upper) Observing Field at Wiruna for the 2002 South Pacific Star Party to commence a search of the southern sky.

Meanwhile, we have examined the faulty physics on which the Big Bang Theory was based, and consider there is sufficient evidence to revive the Steady State Theory - i.e. the continuous creation of matter. In Einstein's day, few atomic particles were recognised. Since then, they have been discovered by the score - Quarks, Leptons, Vogons etc. Clearly the universe is a seething soup of sub-atomic matter not detectable by astronomers until, by some as yet undetermined mating mechanism, some of these particles get together to produce matter as we know it - apparently popping out of empty space. This elegantly accounts for the missing mass of the Universe, and the Red Shift. Light is being slowed down, pushing its way through this stuff, while the so called blue shift is light getting gravitational assistance by the slingshot method of acceleration - a close fly-by of a dense field of sub-atomic particles.

The Baron offers proof in an elegant and public way. By his calculation, the sound of the Big Bang should have been echoing around the Universe these past billions of years, and although sound does not travel in a vacuum, with the accepted density of interstellar space being one atom per cubic centimetre, a Bang as great as the Big one should have been

propagated through such density at 99.2% of the speed of light, the sound wave being composed of super compressed photo-neutrinos. Should there have been a Big Bang, he predicts that the sound should be heard on planet Earth at 14:20pm UT on April 2, 2001. Should the sound not be heard, the Baron maintains that his theory is thus vindicated.

### DEW-ZAPPING FOR NAGLERS

Amateur astronomers have an innovative range of devices for zapping dew from mirrors, corrector plates, objectives and finder scopes, but, dew forming on eyepieces awaiting use has yet to be adequately addressed.

However, experiments currently being conducted by the ASNSW's Chief Conservationist, Mr. Col McMickle may show the way ahead. Col was looking for something environmentally sympathetic, organic, renewable and bio-degradable and hit on the idea of training a number of the female Eastern Grey Kangaroos living on the Western (upper) Observing Field at Wiruna.

When not carrying a nursing joey, their pouches are warm, with soft leather lining, and with spacer inserts can hold up to four Type-II Naglers, or one 31mm Type-IV Nagler.

Not only are the eyepieces kept comfortably above ambient temperature, but already dewed eyepieces can be dried by being inserted, wrapped in soft tissue paper.

Training was difficult at first, but fortunately the Society located a number of video recordings of old "Skippy" programs which demonstrated to the animals the happy results of Macropod / Human co-operation. Col also practised hopping around Wiruna, to put the animals at their ease. So as not to push the pace too fast, Kangaroos will not be available for renting to members until after the South Pacific Star Party in 2002. They will be colour-coded, wearing necklaces of LEDs in blue, yellow, green, red and orange. A program for hourly feeding with damp lettuce seems to work best to keep the animals motivated. Some are even being house trained (see photo below).

Animal Rights Organisations have been advised that far from being exploited, the Kangaroos have all been made honorary junior members of the Society, and have all the rights and privileges of human members of the same age, with the additional benefit of being allowed camping and grazing rights at no charge, much to the envy of some of our junior vegetarian members.



- A Volunteer Kangaroo Undergoing Training As A Dew Zapper -

**PHOTON EXPORTATION**

New US President George W. Bush was recently briefed by Government advisers on major import / export problems facing the USA shortly after meeting with Alan Greenspan on the US Balance of Payments issue. He was made aware of a hitherto unsuspected problem. It seems that careful imaging by scientists aboard the new Space Station has established that US cities are exporting more photons on a nightly basis to outer space than continental USA imports daily from the sun, moon, stars & planets combined.

George W. Bush, (who comes from deep in the heart of Texas where as everyone knows, the stars at night are big and bright), was quick to realise the immensity of the problem. If the US wants to maintain its prestigious position as the Worlds' greatest importer, urgent action would be needed. Accordingly, US-based expert astrophotongrabber Mr. John Cepheid of New Mexico has been appointed as Presidential Envoy to the Universe, with the duty of accelerating US importation of photons.

Quick to act on his charter, John recently visited Australia to conduct experiments, and has established that incoming photons arriving in the Outback of Australia can be trapped by using CCD equipment, and stored on a disc for easy transport to the USA. Much excitement has been generated in New York at the prospect of seeing starlight for the first time in 50 years in that City, while amateur Astronomers may well be conscripted by the thousand by the US Government and despatched to darkest Australia to participate in the urgent work of photon importation.

**NEW AMATEUR OBSERVATORY**

New Zealand amateur, Ivor Merino has just completed a historical agreement with the New Zealand Government,



- Ivor's Mt Cook Observatory Under Construction Using Recycled Materials -

allowing him to build an amateur observatory on the summit of Mount Cook, in the South Island.

Ivor explained that the land of the long white cloud did not get its name for nothing, and although he lived in the small town of Kickapakeha at the mountain's foot, far from the bright lights, debauchery and wild living of Auckland and Christchurch, cloud cover prevents him from observing most of the time.

During the years 1999 and 2000, in fact, the only clear nights occurred while he was on a week's holiday in Australia. As Mount Cook often sticks out above this cloud, the number of viewing opportunities is far greater.

The Observatory is lined with sheepskins, and Ivor observes wearing sheepskin overalls heated by lead-lined pockets filed with low-grade atomic waste. These overalls recently featured in the centrefold of the New Zealand Shearers Journal (Black Label Edition).

Ivor commutes from his home in Kickapakeha in an ultralight aircraft designed and built by Australian genius and close friend, Dipso Maniak, and which is powered by Methanol, produced by fermenting environmentally friendly sheep droppings.

This fact helped overcome initial opposition to the construction of the observatory by the usual

collection of Feral Conservationists, the "Smallpox Revivalist Group", and the "Ban The Stars: They Are Atomic Reactors Society". Most of the latter group have in fact emigrated to New Zealand so as to avoid their eyes being offended by actually seeing the stars.

To avoid survival problems, the Sun (which is sometimes seen through the cloud cover) has been made an Honorary Planet, being a member of the Solar System. Their aim is to declare the universe a Nuclear Free Zone.

Ivor and Dipso are currently designing a 100" Dobsonian using an ice mirror.

This mirror will be made by rotating a shallow drum of warm water until it reaches a speed at which the centrifugal forces create a paraboloidal hollowing in the centre of the water, and keeping the drum rotating at that constant precise speed until it freezes into that shape in the low temperatures on the summit of Mount Cook.

Phase Two involves spinning the ice mirror blank and pouring a small amount of liquid Mercury onto the surface to coat the entire surface with a reflective surface upon which the Mercury will freeze into shape.

Another innovation is the construction of a tracking table by the controlled melting of blocks of ice and thus controlling the tilt of the telescope.

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**AMAZING ANCIENT LINKS**


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Evidence of ancient links between Australian Aborigines and Meso-Americans has been uncovered by Dr Angie Richman, the newly appointed Professor of Neolithic Astrophysics at the University of Allbeqwerky while on a study tour in Australia.

Dr Richman observed that while performing ritual corroborees, Aborigines danced in circles, exactly replicating both the circular shape of many pueblo dwellings in the South West United States, and also the orbits of some planets, while didgeridoos were of similar shape and size to those which would have been used by the Ancient cliff dwellers, had they invented them.

In a spin off which has not been fully investigated, many small didgeridoos were the same length and diameter as Galileo's telescope, leading to speculation that ancient links existed between Australia and Italy.

Similarly, cave paintings under rock overhangs in the Americas depict stars in the sky; Amazing - So do Australian Aboriginal rock paintings! Dreamtime legends of Aborigines include creation myths, as do legends of the Anuswhammys of New Mexico.

Speculation on trade links across the Pacific has led to a research program to establish whether Birch bark canoes could have undertaken voyages from Los Angeles to Sydney, Australia, and a number of canoes are currently being constructed, funded by a research grant from the National Inquirer.

Several paddlers from the Southern California chapter of the Flat Earth Society are in training to duplicate the speculated voyages, spurred on by the chance of being nominated for the Prestigious Darwin Awards.

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**CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH  
NEAR RAAF BASE**


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*By Marvin Wales*

Darling of the Hawkesbury Astronomical Association, Eagle-Eyed Richmond Windsor has made an amazing breakthrough in imaging individual components of close Binary systems.

Using the lateral thinking the club is noted for, Richmond has cleverly made use of the Hercules transport planes in night training at the nearby Richmond RAAF Base.

He reasoned that, in the same manner that the Moon and Minor Planets occult background stars, these aircraft eclipse many stars worth closer study in the course of a single flight.

To follow some of the faster moving aircraft, he has built a telescope to the design used by Ivor Merino and Dipso Maniak to track and image the surface details of meteors, and has linked this to a fibre optic cable, projecting an image through the rapidly rotating radiator fan of a Subaru WRX, to project 1372 images per second into a digital camera.

To supplement the pedal power of the modified mountain bike drive system, Richmond has added an engine from a rotary lawn mower to provide sudden bursts of speed.

This has worked so well that in an opportunistic scan of Pluto when a tightly turning aircraft repeatedly eclipsed it, Richmond believes that he has uncovered evidence that its Moon, Charon, also has a satellite.

He dismisses suggestions by more timid members that possibly the pilot was smoking a cigarette at the time.

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**THE PHILOSORAPTURES:  
AN UPDATE**


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*By Dr R Torrens, University of Adelaide.*

Aided by the new Turbo-Charged Commodore 64 supercomputer recently installed at the Oodnadatta Campus of the University of Adelaide, great progress has been made in deciphering the data on compressed carbon discs found aboard the fossilised UFO discovered at Coober Pedy by Harry Janos (see Alternate Universe, April, 2000).

It seems that the crew of two, Brus and Vilhus were despatched on an urgent mission to divert the asteroid which impacted on the Yucatan Peninsula some 65 million years ago.

However, their success was only partial, and their craft crashed owing to a computer malfunction caused by the "Era Bug".

All Philisorapture computers had reset their clocks to the start of the Cretaceous Era, rather than advancing on to the Tertiary Era, so that the timing of the impact could not have been worse.

Philisorapture Science

Initial decipherment of some of the super-compressed graphite CDs found aboard the fossilised spacecraft discovered at Coober Pedy indicates that the Philisoraptures had reached a sophisticated level in science. Some of their spacecraft were, in fact, capable of exceeding the speed of light.

They had discovered the theory of relativity some 67 million years before Einstein and were well aware of the constraints placed on craft approaching the speed of light (i.e., approaching infinite mass). They elegantly solved this problem by developing an atomic drive in which their reactor, AND its plutonium, also approached infinite mass.

Infinite mass of plutonium together with the formula:  $E=mc^2$  results in infinite power.

Skilled atomic engineers, they preferred to generate electricity using clean, non polluting atomic power rather than burn fossil fuels, and disposed of atomic waste either by firing it into the sun, or when required to add heat and control the speed of continental drift, injecting it into the base of the earth's mantle.

In this way they had separated the Australian landmass from Antarctica and directed it towards the equator.

Indeed, their mining had an additional bonus, for the east coast of Australia had been sterile and uninhabitable because of the high concentrations of uranium ore.

Over several million years they mined this, turned much into power, and disposed properly of the waste products in their traditional manner.

What later became Sydney Harbour, and the Jamison Valley near Katoomba were, in fact, formerly some of their open cut mines.

Their society was then able to expand from its heartland in central Australia, around the great inland sea, towards the east.

Their history, in fact, records the devastation caused to their northern provinces by the great asteroid impact of 130 million years ago which made the 22km wide crater of Gosse Bluff, west of present day Alice Springs.

This long tradition made them acutely aware of the dangers from outer space and ready to act 65 million years ago when disaster threatened, and although only partially successful, that partial success may well have prevented ALL life on earth being wiped out.

#### Biological Experiments

As is well known, "*Out Of Africa*" is the currently fashionable superstition amongst most anthropologists, with human origins being attributed to certain pre humans dating back a million years ago or so in the Rift Valley, or backblocks of Kenya where today warring tribes of anthropologists can be found kicking and gouging at each other in the mud and the blood and the bones.

This theory limped along, provided that the parties by agreement ignored inconvenient finds in Australia, eg. Lake Mungo in outback NSW.

However, Philisorapture data shows that pre humans date back to at least 68 million years and developed from pets bred by them. Using sophisticated gene splicing methods, they worked with early mammals, combined

certain characteristics of simians and rodents and produced creatures with thoroughly human characteristics, apes with rat cunning - our ancestors - whose appearance and mannerisms were not so different from present day humans that they would not draw much attention if they turned up at some binges and barbecues during a South Pacific Star Party.

Then again, at some South Pacific Star Party binges, in Bon Glen, King Kong would pass unnoticed.

From Australia they spread to Africa and then to the rest of the world to develop into the present Homo sapiens.

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#### ARACHNIS PITTOILETIS AT WIRUNA

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The curator of Spiders, Scott Muesli has made further progress in communicating with the rare and endangered *Arachnis Pittoiletis* species of spider at their Wiruna homeland.

Regular readers of Alternate Universe will recall the sensation caused when communication with these intelligent survivors of the great Cretaceous extinction was first established. Recently, he has re-negotiated their contract with the Society to include pursuit of Red-Back Spiders and White-Tailed Spiders around Wiruna. They have been warned to avoid the Eat-in-kitchen area, where chemical warfare is being conducted against the resident Tree Funnel-Web Spiders.

In further discussions, they reported a tradition of working arrangements with the Philisoraptures, who had engaged them to perform delicate fabrication of electrical circuits, and their carbon equivalent of silicon chips.

Some patterns of their webs were actually circuit diagrams maintained over the millennia by genetic memory.

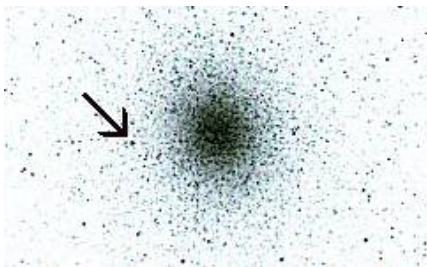


- The Skeletal Remains of a Philisorapture -

**EXTRA SOLAR-SYSTEM COMET  
DISCOVERY FOR DUNEDOO  
AMATEUR**

Dunedoo's most famous son, Emmanuel Snodgrass has astounded the astronomical world by discovering an extra-solar-system comet from his observing site alongside the Beer Garden of the Commercial Hotel, Dunedoo.

Amazing both amateur and professional astronomers around the world, he found the comet orbiting a star towards the edge of globular cluster, Omega ( $\omega$ ) Centauri.



- Emmanuel's Comet in  $\omega$  Centauri -

Emmanuel told Alternate Universe that he had reasoned that Japanese comet seekers rarely search  $\omega$  Centauri, while no Australian comet seekers, even the indefatigable Greg Burnt regularly search globular clusters.

He realised, however, that he had to upgrade his binocular Telrads, and after much experimentation, connected his Telrads via eight TeleView Barlows, mounted in series, to an enhanced turbo-charged, liquid Nitrogen cooled CCD device, designed by amateur genius, Dipso Maniak of Coober Pedy in South Australia. Emmanuel estimates the comets' magnitude to be around 23.4.

Comet Snodgrass is yet to be recognised by the International Astronomical Union (IAU), which is awaiting confirmation by Australian representative Greg Burnt, who is yet to observe the object. Greg is currently having an enhanced coating put onto the main mirror of his 6" Comet Seeker telescope in order to verify Emmanuel's discovery.

Mr Burnt considers that, to be visible at 18,000 light years - even in Emmanuel's Super enhanced Telrad system - the comet must be a massive object, probably a Cometary Brown Dwarf (CBD), one of the newly theorised objects not massive enough to generate a thermonuclear reaction and become a star, but far more massive than Jupiter.

For the Brown Dwarf to acquire Cometary characteristics, it had to be orbiting close to a star of at least six Solar masses, with gas being stripped off the Brown Dwarf through interaction with the extended stellar corona and Solar Wind, so as to form the characteristic cometary tail about 10 light years in length.

If Emmanuel's discovery is confirmed, the ASNSW proposes to commemorate the historical event on a specially inscribed brass plate, installed on the northern wall (that is, facing towards Dunedoo) of its recently completed quadrophonic Neutrino Detector at Wiruna.

The Queen is being kept informed, and an Honorary Knighthood for Mr Snodgrass has been rumoured.

**APRIL'S HORRORSCOPES**

*by Con Huckstar*

**♈ ARIES**

Apart from minor planets Euterpe and Flora, all is quiet this month.

If people look at you strangely it may be that you are wearing a cauliflower behind each ear and they are looking for the men in the white coats to lead you away.

**♉ TAURUS**

With Jupiter and Saturn in your sign, along with minor planet Psyche, and Comets Hartley 3, Gehrels 3 and 2P, and Kushida-Muramatsu, if you visit a Sushi Bar you will have lots of company including two large people - maybe Hulk Hogan and the Undertaker.

Resist all invitations to mud wrestle with those two.

**♊ GEMINI**

April 1 sees the moon in Gemini, along with minor planet Angelina and Comet Gunn 65P.

If you are out with a girl named Angelina, don't bark at the moon or carry a shotgun into restaurants as she may otherwise realise you are a typical Gemini fruitcake. If she hangs with you, she will find out soon enough anyway.

**♋ CANCER**

Totally boring for the month of April. Apart from the moon wandering through sooner or later, and perhaps a meteor or two, your constellation is on hold. Try deep sleep therapy for the month, or take to drink and don't sober up till May. This technique works for some Cancerians every month.

**♌ LEO**

No, the Leonids are NOT due this April. You do have the attentions of minor planets Kassandra and Eleanora, while Comet Smirnova-Chernykh is also in your sign. Crack a bottle of Smirnov Vodka with two strong, willing girls and count meteors together under the stars. If every star becomes a naked eye double, you may have had more than your share.

**♍ VIRGO**

You have seven minor planets - Melpome, Cybele, Adora, Feronia, Amphitrite, Diotima, and Lydia in your sign along with the Virginids meteor shower due on the 12th. This means that if your share a shower with seven girlfriends you seriously risk losing your Virgo status - unless the shower is a VERY cold one.

**♎ LIBRA**

Minor Planets Iris and Ariadne are yours for the month. Open your irises wide to opportunity and follow the thread left by Ariadne. This may lead to bliss, unless it is just her sweater unravelling.

♏ SCORPIUS

You have Minor Planet Eunomia, and on 28 April a meteor shower.

Pluto and Mars are hanging about in Ophiuchus unwilling to enter your sign, which means you are unlikely to get struck by one of your own meteors or to enlist in the Foreign Legion. Enjoy.

♃ SAGITTARIUS

Ceres, Goddess of the harvest is in your sign, along with comet Schwassmann-Wachman 1.

To play safe, only eat your cornflakes while wearing a swatch - waterproof if you are a sloppy eater, and avoid collisions with combine harvesters unless you are driving a leopard tank.

♄ CAPRICORN

Planets Uranus and Neptune, Comet Spacewatch 97BA, and minor planets Hygea, Dembowska, and Massalia are watching over you.

Always flush your toilet twice to appease the God of the sea, and shower daily, otherwise Hygea will be absent.

♈ AQUARIUS

Mercury, and minor planets Laetitia (39), and Interamnia (704) are playing games in your sign in April.

Travel to the Texas Star Party would be a damn good idea, with these travellers showing you the way.

For travel in the US, pack Kevlar underwear.

♉ PISCES

Not only Venus, but the sun, Minor Planets Papagena, Juno, Metis and Paltherope and Comet Ashbrook-Jackson 47P are smiling on you.

With the Goddess of love, a hot sun, and lots of company, a holiday in a warm place promises romance in quantity.

Yours is the happening sign - take a Valium and two siestas daily to avoid over stimulation.

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**ASNSW RADIO COMET  
SEARCH PROGRAM**

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Spurred on by the radio detection of the outburst of comet Schwassmann-Wachmann 3 in 1995, which prompted visual observations, ASNSW members are launching an entire sky radio survey in search of inactive comets waking up.

Principal Investigator for the Search, Greg Burnt, said *"We will be particularly interested in inactive comets lurking in the Taurid meteor stream. These objects, running around like Taurids (bulls) in a china shop, need to be identified before they threaten the transparent skies of Wiruna"*

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**COSMIC BACKGROUND RADIATION A  
MEASURE OF EXTRATERRESTRIAL  
CIVILISATIONS**

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Using the newly refurbished radio telescope at the western (upper) observing field at Wiruna, ASNSW radio amateurs have made a sensational breakthrough.

They have established conclusively that what has been thought of, as the cosmic background radiation of the universe is really the static and radio noise generated by millions of civilisations communicating across the cosmos.

This was spelt out in the newly translated science program broadcast at the end of the news program accidentally picked up last year (see Alternate Universe, April 2000)

As the program was designed for sub adults of a wide range of species, and was therefore put in simple terms, it was possible for us dumb earthlings to figure out at least half of the program.

It was pointed out that this radiation was essentially the radio version of space junk, and was causing much concern to sentient beings around the Universe.

Fortunately for our own reputation, the Earth's contribution consisting of radio transmissions, sitcoms etc, had not reached far enough to reach any society which was radio literate, so we apparently have around 42 years before that happens, after which it will take more than a century for abusive complaints to reach us.

Should we achieve faster than light travel by then, by mastering Philosorapture science (see page 5), it will be possible to send an apology in advance, not only for the interference but also for the dismal quality of most of the broadcasts.

It has been decided to pass off Parliamentary broadcasts as Sitcoms in order to fool them as taking us as seriously intelligent.

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**NIGHT-VISION FOR ENTHUSIASTS**

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In anticipation of impacts to craniums and risks to night vision caused by bright meteors, the Society's dedicated deep sky observers have secured a number of welder's helmets (heavily re-enforced so that they resemble Ned Kelly's Helmet) for wear day and night.

For night time use, the dark window can be flipped up like the visor on the helmet of a medieval knight so as to allow brief bursts of observing between meteor impacts.

This will allow observers to continue throughout the night during the biggest and brightest meteor showers - even up to mag -20 Fireballs!

Each helmet will bear the wearer's name for easy identification, and will have padded interiors to allow for comfortable sleeping.

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**STRAY METEORITE KILLS  
FAMOUS COCKROACH**

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**By Bluey Lacerta**

Admirers of Queensland will be familiar with the Cunnamulla-Eulo Festival of Opals, held around September every year, and culminating on the last Sunday in September with the World Lizard Racing Championships held at the specially constructed Paroo Lizard Racing Track following the lizard auction.

Main candidates are Shingleback Lizards and Bearded dragons, but in a rare inter-species race in 1980, champion racing Cockroach "Destructo" defeated champion racing lizard "Wooden Head", but was allegedly trodden on by an inebriated spectator in the moment of his triumph.

At last September's races, a rare celestial event amazed participants.

While patrons stood drinking outside the leading hotel on the evening before the races, a brilliant, if short lived meteor shower, was seen in the western sky.

What this shower represented was discovered on the following Monday, when prospectors searching the Yowal and Duck Creek opal fossicking fields found the ground strewn with a fresh fall of tektites.

These tektites were found to be unique, Examination by scientists from the University of Queensland showed that, ranging in size from peanuts to hens eggs, they were composed of vitrified sulphur of 99.999 per cent purity.

Samples sent to NASA were compared with data from space probes and conclusively established that these objects were ejected during an explosive volcanic eruption on Io which took place on 4<sup>th</sup> July, 1995.

Such is the significance of this find that NASA has

commissioned a specially engraved brass commemorative plate which will be fixed to the western side of Destructo's granite funerary monument adjacent to the lizard racing track.



- Destructo's Monument -

The unveiling of the plate will be conducted with due ceremony by the committee of the Eulo Astronomical Society (Inc) at the beginning of next September's races, and amateurs with sporting instincts are cordially invited to attend.

Inspired by this discovery, NASA is reviewing data on eruptions on Io in an attempt to forecast time and likely location of further sulphur/tektite falls.

Amateurs finding such tektites are asked to report the find to their Astronomy club so that the find can be forwarded on to the appropriate research facility for evaluation.

The official version of the death of "Destructo" was being trodden on. However, Alternate has discovered that he was actually struck by a two (2) kilogram carbonaceous chondrite just after the race (a meteor from the Piscid meteor shower, and almost the only way to kill a cockroach).

This fact was kept a secret as the State Government was at that time considering regulating the conduct of the races, and did, in fact in 1995 enact the *Nature*

*Conservation (Eulo Lizard Races) Conservation Act* to ensure that:

- (a) The taking, use, and keeping of lizards for racing during the festival is ecologically sustainable; and
- (b) The taking, handling, and release of the lizards is coordinated in accordance with acceptable standards of humane treatment.

For example, feeding the animals alcoholic beverages or prodding them with instruments is prohibited, as is the application of kerosene, methylated spirits, turpentine or like fluids to their nether regions.

Now that the truth about Destructo's death is becoming known, the new Beattie Government in Queensland is said to be seriously considering either requiring overhead protection at the Paroo Track, or banning the races altogether from being held at a time of major meteor showers, as Eulo is situated close to a major radiant point for meteors.

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**BREACH OF THE LAW OF GRAVITY**

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Congress announced last week that a new investigation would be launched into allegations that ex President Bill Clinton has consistently breached the laws of gravity since he left office.

Senator Richard Head, leader of the Banana Republican wing of the GOP said that Clinton had been regularly seen running up the stairs to his new offices in Harlem, New York, **TAKING THE STEPS TWO AT A TIME!** For a man of his age, weight and physical condition, this is not in the natural order of things.

Senator Head said that it is well recognised that members of Congress so respect the laws of physics, particularly inertia, that they do not have time to get off their butts for anything, and the President has always been expected to set an example by being able to comfortably spread across any two seats in Air Force One.

Not only does his penchant for physical fitness smack of the sin of vanity, but members of the Religious Right deeply fear he may have entered into a pact with the devil to enable him to soar without effort up a whole two flights of stairs, and since treaties with foreign powers MUST be ratified by Congress, and there is no record of the ratification of any pacts with the Prince of Darkness, there may be serious Constitutional issues involved.

Special Prosecutor Roy Bean, great grandson of the Law West of the Pecos, has been asked to take time off from his investigation into whether Clinton still owes two dollars in respect of a book not returned by the due date of 10 August, 1973, to the library of Hog's Wallow County High School, Arkansas, to investigate this new and perhaps even more heinous allegation.

**UFO STEALS US NAVY AIRPLANE**

While moored in the Todd River near Alice Springs so that crewmembers could compete in the famous Todd River Regatta, the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt was subjected to a surprise attack by extra terrestrials.

A flying saucer was tracked on the ship's radar all the way from an area in the north of the Stuart Highway near the small town of Wycliffe Well, notorious for UFO sightings in recent years. The UFO fastened itself by tractor beam to a US Navy Turboprop Aircraft and carried it right off the deck, whereupon both vanished for several hours after which in mysterious fashion the aircraft was

returned. The purpose of this flight remains unknown.

When asked to comment, UFO expert Barry Von Munchäusen said today that clearly the aircraft and its crew were abducted to be studied by aliens who, for many years, have been searching in vain for signs of intelligent life on Earth. When asked why the aliens have never sought to make formal diplomatic contact with earthlings, Barry said that this proves their intellectual superiority over us. He has been observing flights by the aliens from his observatory near Andamooka, in South Australia, and said that he saw many strange lights in the sky from that location on the evening of December 31, but that, using some means of thought control, they had managed to cloud his memory so that by morning the precise details were hazy and indistinct.

Barry considered that the sighting from Kulgera Roadhouse reported in Alternate Universe, April 1999 may well be connected.

**NOSTRADAMUS THE ASTRONOMER**

*By Professor Aldenté Pasta, University of Bologna*

Michel de Nostradame was born in 1503 in the town of St Remy, Provence, in southern France.

Long regarded as an astrologer and the greatest prophet of the middle ages, not until recently was it realised that he had impressive credentials as an observational astronomer, and had actually invented the telescope before the birth of Galileo.

These two great figures are connected, as it is through Galileo that the truth is now known.

Late in 1999, conservators from the Italian Government Ministry of Ancient Monuments were carrying out renovations in the house in Florence where Galileo died in 1642 and discovered some manuscripts behind a false wall in the great man's study, one of which related to an earlier, lost work, of Nostradamus which had come into his possession when the latter's granddaughter worked for him as housekeeper in 1608.

This work made it clear that, as well as being an Astrologer, Nostradamus had been the first observational astronomer through his invention of the telescope in 1531.

Historians had long known that Nostradamus the Seer had been famed throughout Provence for the perfection of his pair of crystal balls, but Galileo's notes showed that the lower ball was actually concave, and the upper convex. Strictly speaking, they were lenses, but the language of the day could not cope with this new concept so they were arbitrarily known as "Balls".

It was this revelation that enabled Galileo to build his first telescope, rather than rumours from Holland. The second revelation was the true nature of Nostradamus' quatrains.

Long regarded as cryptic prophecies, which for centuries had people, often those a few sandwiches short of a picnic, trying to use to foretell the future, but only managing to bend them a bit to make them apply to recently past events, these verses were actually Nostradamus' observational notes in code, written in this way to escape the attentions of the Inquisition, which had been pursuing him since 1537. Galileo was able to translate many of these verses as he had the code from the lost manuscript. Examples are below.



- The Alien Abduction caught on Camera -

PF10: "For how long a time and how often have I predicted what has come to pass, and in the particular regions" - This verse records how he had been able to predict both lunar and solar eclipses, and to even map out the regions in which the eclipses were visible.

PF22: "Approaches us: it comes to us like rays of the sun casting influences on bodies both elementary and non elementary" - He recognised that the moon and planets shone with reflected sunlight, and the origins of Aurorae.

PF27: "But, my son, I speak here a little too obscurely; as for the hidden prophecies which come to us by the subtle spirit of fire, sometimes through judgment being disturbed in contemplating the remotest of stars" - These words relate to his observations and predictions of the occultations and transits of Jupiter's moons.

PF61: "But many times a week I am overtaken by a prophetic ecstasy, and by means of exhaustive calculation, having undertaken my nocturnal studies within an agreeable fragrance" - he had computed the laws of planetary motion.

IQ51: "Head of Aries, Jupiter and Saturn Eternal God what changes. Then the bad times return after a long century, What turmoil in France and Italy" - Here, he forecasts the conjunctions of Jupiter and Saturn in Aries of 1583, 1702, and 1995. The fact that France and Italy are ALWAYS in turmoil just emphasises the eternal nature of such events.

IQ69: "The great mountain, 4,247 feet in circumference, after peace, war, famine, flooding: will spread far, drowning great countries, Even antiquities and their mighty foundations" - This represents the first observation and orbit calculations of asteroid 1989FC, with appreciation of the implications of possible impact with earth.

PF79: "There will fall from the sky such a great amount of fire and flaming meteorites that nothing will remain unconsumed" - he had computed the periodic nature of the Leonid meteor shower and was predicting the forthcoming maxima.

6Q35: "Near the Bear Constellations and near the milky way Aries, Taurus, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Mars, Jupiter and the sun will burn up the great plain. Woods and cities, letters hidden in the candle light." - Here he complains about urban light pollution which was hampering his observations even in the 16th Century.

7Q2: "Opened by Mars Arles will not give war, By night will the soldiers be astonished: Black, white to indigo concealed on land, Under the sacred shadow you will see traitors and ring." - Nostradamus and several military friends were the first to observe surface details on Mars, though it is not certain that they saw the "canals".

Painstaking analysis of the rest of his verses reveals the same - i.e., first-class observational astronomy in code. President George W. Bush is rumoured to be so impressed that he has proposed naming a new telescope in Austin, Texas, after the great Astronomer, while soothsayers world wide are making appointments with their shrinks for urgent therapy.

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#### CLASSIFIEDS

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One (1) Red Giant Star - 15 million years old, excellent condition; Complete log books, currently registered; Minimal (not at fault) collisions with comets, asteroids and similar debris; Still good for another million years. Has never gone Nova. M in colour. Great views of M1, the Pleiades and the Hyades.

45 acres of prime observing land. Excellent dark sky, no problems with wind or dewing. No neighbourhood light pollution.

Only 3½ km from Mare Crisium. First to see will buy!

Genuine Space Junk: Your choice of US, Soviet or UK. Great souvenirs:

Many defunct satellites - from all nations, including the original Sputnik; Upper stages of Saturn V Rocket, perfect for a very large CCD cooling device; Fragments of exploded fuel tanks; Several garbage bags of genuine space shuttle garbage; One freeze-dried Russian Space Dog (Laika, heroine of the Soviet Union); One deep frozen US chimpanzee (Early astronaut and registered republican); One vintage Tardis, as traded; One spare wheel for Type IV Dalek; Several pieces of Oxygen tank from Apollo 13.

For more information, contact the Bokglob Gröseblurter Realty and Opportunity Shop, Area 51, Nevada, USA. Australian customers can contact his agent, Mr Spike Myth, of the Bee and Tree Shop, Sydney.

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#### PRODUCT REVIEW: THE IVOR MERINO OBSERVING OVERALLS

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##### **By Richmond Windsor**

Pioneered by New Zealand legend Ivor Merino, this observing outfit is a stunning answer to the problem of how to stay warm on cold evenings. Exhaustively tested on the frozen summit of Mt Cook, these overalls are all hand crafted from at least four sheepskins. To maximise warmth, the skins are reversed so that the wool is on the inside, and handy eyepiece holders made from sheep's ears are sewn onto convenient spots just below the left and right shoulders.

They are available in three sizes - large, bloody large, and humongous, to provide for amateurs who usually like to wear multiple layers underneath. The exteriors are died red to minimise reflections objectionable to deep sky observers, and elastic at the wrists and ankles keep cold updrafts at bay.

They are available normally with the button-up fronts preferred by New Zealand customers, however zippered models are available for export to those countries where such new-fangled devices are commonly used. The hoods are crafted from a sheep's head with the skull carefully extracted, and can be supplied with glass eyeballs for those who like such fashion accessories. Several have already been supplied to a certain Australian Conservative party's election campaign strategists for use during their forthcoming five-year study tour of Antarctica.

Heating is normally provided by lead lined pockets filled with low-grade atomic waste supplied by New Zealand's secret atomic reactor on the outskirts of Kickapakeha, near Mt Cook.

I heartily endorse this product. On the coldest nights in the Hawkesbury district, mine keeps me snug and warm, while when I wear it in the streets, it is an obvious fashion sensation, with glances by passers-by reflecting obvious admiration.

There are of course certain don'ts. They are not for use on operating sheep farms, as otherwise sheep dogs can be a problem, while the use of Ewe skins can attract merino rams on heat. Otherwise they are a great success, and I expect to see many in use in the trend setting Hawkesbury Association in the months to come. \$AU98.50 at all good Abattoirs.

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**STAR PARTY RECIPES**

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*Wiruna Fruitcake* – No, not a person, but a filling and unique cake, with the true smell of the outdoors. Take 2 kilograms of Self Raising Flour; add one Emu egg, 250 grams of macadamia nuts (preferably shelled), 250 grams of sheep nuts (optional for vegetarian version) 1 litre of coconut milk, 1 kilogram of shredded, dried banana, 100 grams of native grass seeds, 200 grams of powdered sawdust (Australian Hardwood).

Beat to a stiff mix and bury in the ashes of a wood fire until the exterior is slightly charred. Remove from ashes and allow to cool. Smell the interior. This is as far as most people go. If sufficiently drunk, eat some. With luck, if you are drunk enough, you will immediately throw up.

*Cocktail: Celtic Coffee* - Just the thing for those cold nights. To one cup of coffee add 50 ml of Irish whisky, 50 ml of Scotch whisky, 50 ml of bourbon, 50 ml of vodka, 50 ml of rum and 50 ml of gin. If there is not enough room in the cup for all this, pour out the coffee, put in the additives and put some coffee on top (only if there is room). Best taken without milk.

*Cocktail: Swagman's Delight* - Take one litre of methylated spirits (Good quality, not a no name brand) and add ½ cup of white sugar, 50ml of vanilla essence and juice of two oranges.

Simmer for ten minutes on low heat, and then top off with 200ml of bourbon and a small handful of gumnuts.

Test a spoonful on a piece of scrap timber or metal: If it lifts the paint or visibly corrodes the metal, then you may have used too much orange juice.

*Tree Fertiliser* - Need a wind break? Want to grow wood to make a big Dob? Do it quick with supercharged fertiliser.

Take one kilogram of fresh kangaroo dung, half a kilogram of wombat proto-coprolites, one fine minced pickled possum (brush tailed), one kilogram of dingo regurgitate, a half kilogram of dried witchetty grubs, 200 grams of crushed yabby shells, and mix to a stiff paste using 3 litres of eucalyptus oil over a light flame.

Apply some to the earth at the base of your tree seedling and the little bleeder will grow like hell just to get its leaves as far away as possible from the

stench. (Note - if inadvertently swallowed, check yourself into the nearest intensive care ward as soon as is convenient).

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**FEBRUARY OBSERVING WEEKEND  
AT WIRUNA**

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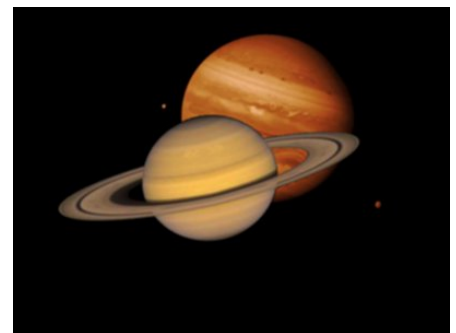
**By Joe Grouchy**

A brilliant sunset at Wiruna on the evening of Friday 23 February promised a great observing evening to come.

Flocks of low flying Emus silhouetted against the orange glow of the setting sun were sharp and clear, hinting at minimum haze in the western sky.

The main excitement of the evening was centred on the rare and elusive transit of Saturn across the face of Jupiter, the pair having been in conjunction in Taurus for some months.

Right on schedule at 21:02 AEST, the leading edge of Saturn's A ring touched the edge of Jupiter's disc, and by 21:20 it had reached as far as the Great Red Spot, which, shortly after, could be seen dimly through the rings.



- *The Eclipse of Jupiter by Saturn* -

The Great Red Spot brightened up at 21:35 as it entered Cassini's Division and then Encke's Division and was hardly dimmed at all by the Crepe Ring.

Of most interest to observers was the long awaited eclipse of Ganymede by Titan, the first on record since 2002 BC when a similar occurrence was hinted at in the Pyramid Texts recently deciphered by Archaeologists digging at Giza, near Cairo.

This caused great debate among scholars as the ancient Egyptians were not believed to have invented the telescope. However, fragments of literature dating from the Ptolemaic period concerning the Great Lighthouse at Alexandria mention that the fire at its summit lit to guide shipping was reflected by a mirror "...which made distant ships seem closer..." and this suggests that Newton may have been anticipated by several millennia in the invention of the reflector. In any event, the Ganymede eclipse went off on schedule, with the gradual dimming of Titan over several minutes being consistent with the latter having an extensive atmosphere.

The club's Deep Sky Observers (DSO's) were also busy, with several members working their way through the Greater Catalogue of Lesser Murrell Objects. Col McMickle claimed a possible sighting of Murrell 69, a faint 19th magnitude extended object in Virgo.

Planetary Observer Greg Burnt believed he had made several sightings of Pluto's moon, Charon, aided by the new enhanced coating on his 6 inch Comet Seeker Telescope. Several members made observations of Comet Hale Bopp, which has brightened up by 9 magnitudes over recent weeks since encountering the shock wave from Supernova 1987AA. However, there were no reports of sighting the Heaven's Gate contingent, who had planned to be nearby, so there is speculation that the shock wave may have destroyed their craft.

Joe Grouchy's flash photo of the event was only partially successful because of the time differential between the two objects, resulting in Saturn being fully illuminated but Jupiter showing a shadowed limb. However it clearly showed Jupiter shining through Saturn's rings, and photographically showed more detail than was visually observed even in Greg Burnt's enhanced 6 inch Comet

Seeker Telescope. This being close to summer, and with a shorter period of darkness to work with, Joe sensibly did not try to photograph objects further away than the LMC, but even with maximum aperture and flash, his photo of Hale Bopp confirmed the visual observations, with no sign of the Heaven's Gate shuttle bus.

The club radio amateurs made a serious effort to target Eros with our antique Wiruna Radio Telescope, following on the exciting news of NASA's photograph of living beings on the Asteroid, but nothing that could be seriously regarded as a message was heard, though what sounded like Balalaika music could be picked up from time to time from the general direction of the Mir Space Station.

Daytime activities included collecting firewood for the Star Party, and building an eat in kitchen for the Arachnis Pittoilettis now that the group has been taught barbecue skills by Mr Scott Muesli. A number of the arachnids have taken up residence in his remarkable edifice in order to perfect their cooking skills.

With the end of summer, water skiing activities in the Wiruna Dam are tapering off, and after April, it will be no longer used for sporting activities until June when the ice skating gets into it's stride, after the crocodiles hibernate. Road base for the club's expressway network has been laid, but the extra three lanes and the overpass between Buckley's Ballroom, (the Meeting Hall) and the eat in kitchen will not be finished until after the 2001 South Pacific Star Party.

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#### **ASNSW VP TURNS 50 QUEEN SENDS HALF-TELEGRAM.**

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In a shock Announcement, Mr Adrian Saw, Vice-President of the Astronomical Society of New South Wales (Inc.) has received half a Telegram from Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

Our sources have revealed that Adrian has recently achieved the right royal age of Fifty (50 - that's half a century, not out!), and Her Majesty has decided to send half a Telegram to commemorate this glorious event.



- Sir Adrian Saw: Recipient of the first Half-Telegram from The Queen -

*Prime Minister to throw State Banquet at The Lodge*

In a tribute to the greatest citizen never to stand for Parliament, the Prime Minister said today that he would either put on a State Dinner at the Lodge in Canberra, or a barbecue at his harbour side home at Kirribilli, depending on the wishes of his honoured guest.

Those attending will include the Diplomatic representatives of countries who are member states of the International Astronomical Union, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Australian Test Team on their return from India.

In a related development, backbench members of the National Party are rumoured to be asking him to stand for office in the general elections to be held later this year, with the offer of science Portfolio in any future conservative government.

*His Early Years: Reminiscences of Baroness Margaret Thatcher*

Adrian first came to my attention in the months following on me becoming Prime Minister, when he was nominated for a Knighthood for his services to astronomy. Imagine my surprise when his modesty caused him to decline the honour.

He had been well known for his work in correcting the design

flaws in the Isaac Newton Telescope, and for his encouragement of the young Stephen Hawking when the latter had considered dropping science to take up study of Law. His emigration to the colonies had, in fact, forestalled a government initiative to appoint him as Astronomer Royal, and had my successor, John Major not been defeated by that awful Tony Blair, he may well have been prevailed upon to return to take up that post.

However, Tony Blair had briefly lived in Australia, and considered that his civilising influence on the uncouth natives of that far off land was of such importance that he might well drag the Astronomical Society of New South Wales into the 20th Century long before the end of the 21st, as well as spreading British Culture, learning, and beer amongst the rest. Our loss has been their gain.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>COMMITTEE</u></p> <p><b>President:</b> Don Whitelight 3642 1574  <b>Vice President:</b> Joe Grouchy 3636 3878  <b>Vice President:</b> Adrian Heard 3572 1568  <b>Treasurer:</b> Max Gardenia 3337 3371  <b>Secretary:</b> Les Ara 3558 8523  <b>Editor:</b> Janet Heard 3572 1568  <b>Education:</b> Ted Luminare 3858 1484  <b>Technical:</b> Mike Err 3311 6100  <b>Librarian:</b> Irene Knows 3629 8079</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>SECTION LEADERS</u></p> <p><b>Crago (Bowen):</b> Adrian Heard 3572 1568  <b>Wiruna (Ilford):</b> Joe Grouchy 3636 3878  <b>Astrophotography:</b> Joe Grouchy 3636 3878  <b>Deep-Sky:</b> Andrew Moral 3344 7754  <b>Solar System:</b> Grant Sol 3743 3660  <b>Telescope Making:</b> Don Whitelight 3642 1574  <b>Variable Stars:</b> Ted Luminare 3858 1484  <b>Double Stars:</b> Richard Jaywalker 3871 3019  <b>Public Officer:</b> Richard Jaywalker 3558 8523  <b>Web Master:</b> Lachlan Macquarie 3624 2851  <b>Radio Astronomy:</b> Lachlan Macquarie 3624 2851  <b>Junior Section:</b> Allesandro Spica 3456 7890  <b>Alternate Editor:</b> Lachlan Macquarie 3624 2851</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>HOW TO GET TO MEETINGS</u></p> <p>Meetings are held in the ATNF Headquarters building, located in the CSIRO Department of Radiophysics complex on the corner of Pembroke Road and Vimiera Roads, Marsfield. If arriving by car, please dim your headlights, turn right through the main gate, then immediately right past the main office entrance, proceeding about 50 metres to a small car park area. Adjacent to this is the "West Door", which is our entrance. It is advisable to park your car in this area, and walk up the stairs to the Meeting Hall, as it can sometimes be a little difficult to hear the speaker if you are sitting outside in your car.</p> <p>All meetings start at 8pm sharp. The doors will be opened at 7.45, 7.55 and 8.10pm. If you arrive after 8.10pm, knock loudly on the door to attract the attention of the attendant, who works in the adjacent office. As you probably have a habit of always trying to seek attention, you shouldn't have any problems with this step. There may be a short delay before answering, as the security department patrolling the facility must complete a security check on you, using your DNA, which was extracted from your knuckles whilst you were knocking loudly on the DNA-sensitive doors.</p> <p>Please note that you will be shot twice on site and used as guinea pigs in secret Government experiments if you fail to comply with these strict guidelines. Following these experiments, you will be shot a third time, to ensure that you do not expose the truth, which is out there.</p>
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**SOCIETY DIARY**

<p><b>March 23 – 26</b>    <b>New Moon</b></p> <p><b>April 6</b>            <b>Meeting</b></p> <p><b>April 8</b>            <b>Full Moon</b></p> <p><b>April 16</b>          <b>Last Quarter Moon</b></p> <p><b>April 24</b>          <b>New Moon</b></p>	<p><b>Ninth Annual South Pacific Star Party</b>  <b>Venue: Eastern (lower) Observing Field, Wiruna, Ilford NSW</b></p> <p><b>Group Therapy for the Ill-Starred</b>  <b>Speaker: Dr Sigmund Freudkake, Spanish Riding School, Vienna</b></p> <p><b>Male Bonding Exercise under a Full Moon – Members who sprout excessive body hair at this phase of the Moon are asked to wear a muzzle and to bring a Keeper.</b>  <b>Venue: Bon Glen, Wiruna, Ilford, NSW</b></p> <p><b>Field Exercise in astral travel. Those Disembodied members still not returned from last year's exercise are asked to manifest themselves at 9pm EAST sharp</b>  <b>Venue: Crago Observatory, Bowen Mountain, NSW</b></p> <p><b>Snodgrass Marathon – Special exercise to observe the 27 new Snodgrass Objects recently discovered in Omega Centauri and 47 Tuc.</b>  <b>Venue: Commercial Hotel, Dunedoo NSW</b></p>
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**DISCLAIMER**

This is the small print at the end of the publication which warns that this politically incorrect edition of the journal, contains material which may be offensive to some readers. If you are offended by such content, please read it twice and pass this onto someone else who may also be offended in some way. Note: As per usual, no live, healthy animals were killed in the production of this publication, however, some may have been experimented upon, particularly in the creation of certain recipes for use at the Star Party. All photographs are of persons of presumably sound mind, and some claim to be above the age of 21 years. All characters portrayed in this publication are fictional in many ways, particularly within their own minds, and any similarities between characters in this publication and certain members of the ASNSW are entirely coincidental and are not intended to portray true characters in any form whatsoever - After all, who could possibly be as stupid as some of these characters? Readers are reminded that this publication was not intended for any purpose other than mild amusement or for educational use in universities across the world. If you choose not to archive this rare, collector's edition quality bootleg publication, please pass it onto someone who will. Any correspondence regarding this publication should be forwarded to the nearest paper recycling bin or fireplace as soon as possible, as no correspondence will be entered into. Smoking will eventually kill you and it will make you smell worse than you already do. It will also drastically reduce the small number of friends that you think you actually have, so you might as well quit while you still think you have some friends. This publication is not affiliated in any way whatsoever with the Astronomical Society of New South Wales Inc, nor with it's members or events.