

e-news

on higher education

Informing the Higher Education Sector—August 2001



Department of Education,
Training and Youth Affairs

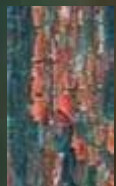
www.detya.gov.au

e-news 18

to exit ▲

navigating
e-news ▶

previous issues
of e-news ▼



New University
Places



Major National
Research
Facilities
Funding



New Anglo-
Australian
Telescope
Board Member



Publications
and Websites

navigating



getting around

The front page of *e-news on higher education* features a set of icons that take you to the articles inside. These icons are repeated at the bottom of every page, to guide you to other articles.

accessibility

A HTML 'text-only' copy of e-news has been posted onto our website.

www.detya.gov.au/highered/enews

pages

You can also navigate through the pages using the *forward* & *back* buttons on the right of the page.

to exit

Don't have any menus to help you exit? Select 'Esc' on your keyboard then close the window as per normal. Note: You can close the file *and* the application at the same time by selecting the top 'x'.

printing

Use the keystrokes of 'Ctrl P' to launch a print window. Remember, you can print all of the pages or choose to print current page.

websites

e-news on higher education also has links to relevant websites. To access a website, simply click on the URL when the open hand cursor changes to a pointing hand.

cover

Stellar 'eggs' emerge from molecular cloud (Star-Birth Clouds in M16 (the Eagle Nebula)). Credit: Jeff Hester and Paul Scowen (Arizona State University), and NASA.

forward ►

back ◀

back to cover ▲

print ▼

exit ▼



New University Places



Major National Research Facilities Funding



New Anglo-Australian Telescope Board Member



Publications and Websites

NEW UNIVERSITY PLACES

Beginning in 2002 there will be 2670 new fully funded places at Australia's universities each year. The allocation of the new places was announced on Friday 24 August by Dr Kemp, the Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs.

2000 of the new places will be used for teaching and learning in priority areas, including information and communications technology, photonics, engineering, mathematics teacher education, nanotechnology and optoelectronics. The places will assist in addressing unmet student demand and increase graduates in areas of known skills shortage.

The 2000 new places were announced as part of the Innovation Action Plan, *Backing Australia's Ability*, and will mean some \$151 million in extra funding to the sector over five years.

For the first time, new places have been allocated on a competitive basis, with universities asked to apply for places on the basis of innovative approaches to teaching and learning designed to meet the needs of

industry and to provide students with useable skills upon graduation. Bids for the new places were received from most universities and covered more than 130 individual courses, or packages of courses.

The other 670 places have been allocated to regional universities and campuses in areas of high demographic growth. These places were announced in this year's Budget and will add some \$34.8 million in funding to regional higher education over the next four years.

There have been 20 fully funded places with standard pipeline provided for the Geraldton region. There will be a call for proposals from universities to supply these places.

The Minister's press release and a complete list of new places, by university and degree course, can be obtained from the Minister's web site.

Media release

www.detya.gov.au/ministers/kemp/august01/k200_240801.htm

List of new places

www.detya.gov.au/ministers/kemp/august01/k200_240801b.htm

forward ►

back ◀

back to cover ▲

print ▼

exit ▼



New University Places



Major National Research Facilities Funding



New Anglo-Australian Telescope Board Member



Publications and Websites

Funding for Major National Research Facilities

Universities and researchers based in the higher education system will be major beneficiaries of the projects to be funded from the Commonwealth's \$155 million Major National Research Facilities (MNRF) Program. The MNRF Program is part of the \$2.9 billion *Backing Australia's Ability* policy to boost support for research and innovation in Australia.

The 15 successful projects, announced on 21 August 2001 by Senator Nick Minchin, Minister for Industry, Science and Resources, are:

The Bandwidth Foundry – \$9.5 million to establish a facility for the production of Photonic Integrated Circuits to be based at the Australian Technology Park in Sydney;

The National Networked Tele-Test Facility for Integrated Systems – \$4.75 million for a facility to allow researchers to test and prototype very large scale

integrated circuits and other 'systems on a chip' devices prior to manufacturing. The facility will be based at Edith Cowan University, with testing nodes at the University of Western Australia, Griffith University, Macquarie University, Victoria University and the University of Adelaide;

Australian Proteome Analysis Facility – \$16.25 million to upgrade and expand the existing proteomics (a process for separating, identifying and classifying proteins) facility at Macquarie University. The new facility will include the University of Sydney, the University of New South Wales and a new node in Adelaide.

Gemini Observatory and Square Kilometre Array project – \$23.5 million to assist in attracting to Australia part of the multi-billion dollar global business in astronomical equipment and secure Australia a significant role in the scientific exploration of the universe. The principle proponents for the projects are the CSIRO and Australia Telescope National Facility.

International Livestock Resources and Information Centre – \$4.5 million for a high speed communications centre and resource knowledge database at the University of New England to assist Australia's livestock industries.

Australian Synchrotron Research Program – \$14.8 million to provide access for Australian synchrotron users to facilities in Japan and the United States for

forward ►

back ◀

back to cover ▲

print ▼

exit ▼



New University Places



Major National Research Facilities Funding



New Anglo-Australian Telescope Board Member



Publications and Websites

Funding for Major National Research Facilities (continued)

research in fields such as biotechnology, advanced materials and nanotechnology.

Nanostructural Analysis Network Organisation (NANO) – \$11.5 million for a network of new and existing instrumentation in microscopy and microanalysis. NANO is a multi-node facility with a head office in Sydney and nodes at the University of Sydney, the University of New South Wales, the University of Queensland, the University of Western Australia and the University of Melbourne.

Australian Phenomics Facility – \$11.5 million for a new facility at the Australian National University to enable researchers to identify the mammalian phenome.

Australian Genome Research Facility – \$14 million to expand its existing genetic research facilities in Melbourne and Brisbane and to establish a new node at the University of Adelaide.

National Wine Industry Research Cluster – \$4.5 million for a multi-node facility to identify and track wine quality features

National Neuroscience Facility (NNF) – \$18 million to establish a new centre to be co-located at the University of Melbourne and Monash University.

Australian Computational Earth Systems Simulator (ACCESS) – \$4.8 million to develop integrated software for simulations and visualisation of earth systems. ACCESS will be located at the University of Queensland with nodes in Melbourne and Perth.

National Centre for Advanced Cell Engineering – \$5.5 million for a facility at Monash University for research in areas such as bioengineering cells, tissue engineered products and recombinant proteins.

Arafura–Timor Research Facility – \$3.25 million for a facility, to be based in Darwin, to research management and conservation of the marine and coastal eco-systems of the Arafura and Timor Seas. The principle proponent of the facility is the Australian Institute of Marine Science.

Australian Maritime Hydrodynamic Research Centre – \$4.5 million for a centre for experimental and theoretical hydrodynamic research at the Australian Maritime College in Launceston.

www.ausindustry.gov.au/documents/dir35/doc523635.html

forward ►

back ◀

back to cover ▲

print ▼

exit ▼



New University Places



Major National Research Facilities Funding



New Anglo-Australian Telescope Board Member



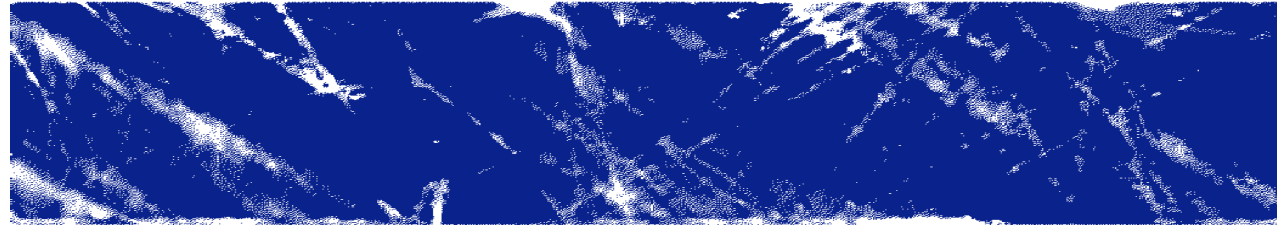
Publications and Websites

New Anglo-Australian Telescope Board Member

Professor Lawrence Cram has been appointed to the Anglo-Australian Telescope Board until 30 June 2004. He joins Professor Ken Freeman and Professor Ronald Ekers as the current Australian members.

The Anglo-Australian Telescope Board (AATB) is an independent joint Australian-UK authority established under the *Anglo-Australian Agreement Act 1970* to oversee the operations of the Anglo-Australian Observatory (AAO). The Board has six members in total, with three appointed by each government.

Professor Cram was appointed as the Australian Research Council Programme Manager for the Physical and Earth Sciences in February 2001. He was until recently Chair of the Academic Board at the University of Sydney. Professor Cram is also a



Fellow of the Australian Institute of Physics, the Royal Astronomical Society, the American Astronomical Society, the International Astronomical Union and the Astronomical Society of Australia. He previously served on the AATB from 1995 to 1997.

The AAO provides world-class optical and infrared observing facilities for British and Australian astronomers to ensure the best possible science. It also takes a leading role in the formulation of long-term plans and strategies for astronomy in both countries and, through its research and development of new instrumentation, to the advance of astronomy internationally.

The Board's facilities consist of the 3.9 metre Anglo-Australian Telescope and the 1.2 metre UK Schmidt Telescope on Siding Spring Mountain, outside Coonabarabran, New South Wales, and a laboratory in the Sydney suburb of Epping. Further information on the AAO is available from www.aao.gov.au/

forward ►

back ◀

back to cover ▲

print ▼

exit ▼



New University Places



Major National Research Facilities Funding



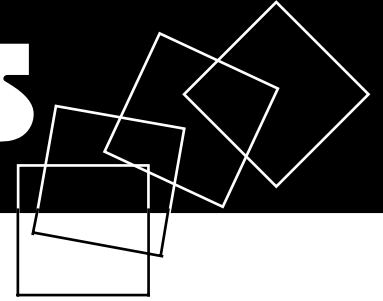
New Anglo-Australian Telescope Board Member



Publications and Websites

DETYA's publications

and websites



- to grab a copy 
- websites, links, favourites & updates 
- copyright & contact 
- more on e-news on higher education 

forward 

back 

back to cover 

print 

exit 



New University
Places



Major National
Research
Facilities
Funding



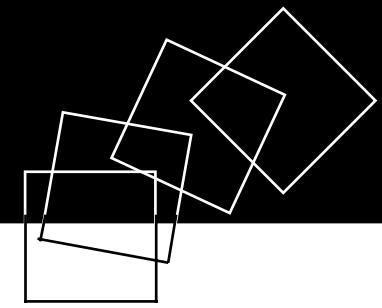
New Anglo-
Australian
Telescope
Board Member



Publications
and Websites

DETYA's publications

and websites (continued)



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internet versions

Most of our publications—from October 1996 onward—are available in full on the DETYA website at:

www.detya.gov.au/highered/repts.htm

hard copies

Copies of most of our publications can be purchased from AusInfo's Government Information Bookshops. Locations and contact details for the AusInfo bookshops are available at:

www.dofa.gov.au/infoaccess/infoaccess/ia_infoshops.htm

enquiries

General enquiries about publications can be emailed to:

highered@detya.gov.au

websites, links, favourites & updates

websites

Main page for DETYA's Higher Education Division
www.detya.gov.au/highered

HECS—Higher Education Contribution Scheme
www.hecs.gov.au

Which Course? Which University?
www.detya.gov.au/tenfields

National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition
www.detya.gov.au/noosr

forward ►

back ◀

back to cover ▲

print ▼

exit ▼



**New University
Places**



**Major National
Research
Facilities
Funding**



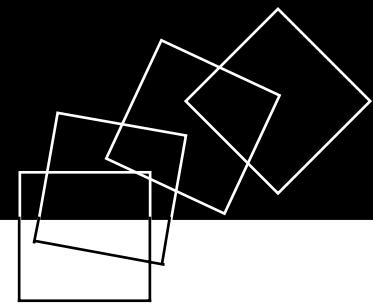
**New Anglo-
Australian
Telescope
Board Member**



**Publications
and Websites**

DETYA's publications

and websites (continued)



websites, links, favourites & updates (continued)

links

Higher Education Links can help you access ...

- Australian State and Territory Education Departments
- Australian Education Organisations
- Australian Universities
- Australian Universities - Admissions Centres
- Careers Information
- MCEETYA
- Overseas Universities and Organisations
- Research Organisations

www.detya.gov.au/highered/links.htm

favourites

- *Atlas of Higher Education: A community focus*
www.detya.gov.au/uniatlas

- e-news on higher education
www.detya.gov.au/highered/eneews

- *Backing Australia's Ability*
www.innovation.gov.au/iap

- *Staff 2000, Selected Higher Education Statistics*
www.detya.gov.au/highered/statpubs.htm

forward ►

back ◀

back to cover ▲

print ▼

exit ▼



**New University
Places**



**Major National
Research
Facilities
Funding**



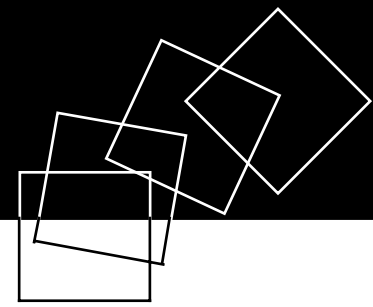
**New Anglo-
Australian
Telescope
Board Member**



**Publications
and Websites**

DETYA's publications

and websites (continued)



websites, links, favourites & updates (continued)

updates

DETYA's website has new information posted to it on a regular basis. You can keep up with changes via the free Site Change Subscription Service (SCSS). This Service notifies subscribers of significant updates and additions to DETYA websites.

how it works

Interested parties need to register to the subscription service. Registration involves providing your email address and selecting the parts of DETYA's website you wish to be notified about.

what it does

Once registered, subscribers will be sent a weekly email (usually on Monday evenings) with a brief description of any changes and the address for such pages.

At www.detya.gov.au select *Site Change Subscription Service*

forward ►

back ◀

back to cover ▲

print ▼

exit ▼



New University Places



Major National Research Facilities Funding



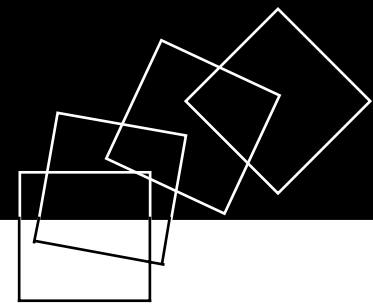
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DETYA's publications

and websites (continued)



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The views expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs.

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forward ►

back ◀

back to cover ▲

print ▼

exit ▼



**New University
Places**



**Major National
Research
Facilities
Funding**



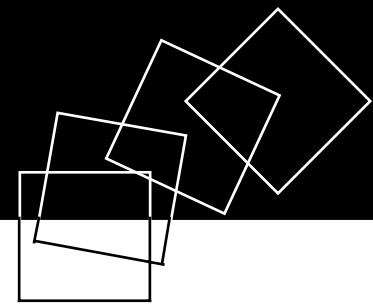
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Australian
Telescope
Board Member**



**Publications
and Websites**

DETYA's publications

and websites (continued)



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- ▶ previous issues of e-news on *Higher Education*
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back ◀

back to cover ▲

print ▼

exit ▼



**New University
Places**



**Major National
Research
Facilities
Funding**



**New Anglo-
Australian
Telescope
Board Member**



**Publications
and Websites**