

Mt. Pleasant Radio Telescope dedication

Work continued on the Radio Shack with the final works completed on time for the opening on 31st January.



As always this was a group effort and on the day, Judith Bailey Ballarat Observatory Manager, welcomed the visitors to the opening with an acknowledgement to the Wathaurong peoples who had been in the area for thousands of years and acknowledging their close link with the heavens in their daily culture. Judith welcomed the Mayor Des Hudson Guests and Members.

Judith thanked the following people; “Bob Terrill is a member of BAS and back in the early 1960’s ~ 3or 4, along with Merv Quinn helped to install the

first radio telescope on site. Bob is also a foundation member of the Ballarat amateur Radio Group and he has shared his long experience and knowledge and to ask for help from fellow amateur radio buffs to help to get our new telescope operational.

Bill Wells who cannot come today is from Ararat donated one TV Telescopic Pole.
Peter Rafferty also cannot come today from Maryborough, donated one TV telescopic pole.

Graeme Lock from Bendigo donated two TV telescopic poles.

Jeff Picton who could make it today is from Ballarat and Jeff provided the hole digger for the antenna pole foundations and assisted with the site setting up.



(Above) The Radio aerial array and restored Radio Shack.



Geoff McLeod from Woodend, a BAS member present today, has provided assistance with the erection of the antennas and the setting up of the Radio Jove kit receiver.

The Ballarat West Rotary Club provided \$2000 towards the refurbishment of the internal walls of the building. Thanks go to Lidia Aitken, who was the President at the time and Garry Harrowfield, current President, for supporting the project.

The Community has had an association with the Observatory in some form since it's establishment 130 years ago this coming May.

BAS continue to provide a very reasonable membership fee which allows any member of the community to come and regularly view through the telescopes and attend various activities and events.

A number of BAS members helped with the preparations of the building, funded by BAS including Ted Doyle, Kay Stephens, Kath Blackwell, Bob Terrill, Philip Greenbank, who also prepared and polished the floor. Bob Terrill thought it would come up well and it has. Thanks also to the City of Ballarat Maintenance team who upgraded the electrical wiring and lights. Thanks go to ICE engineering who donated the monitors and to Saeed Salimpour for his work on the Radio Astronomy Exhibition which is now partly housed in the Radio Observatory.”



Judith then called on Bob Terrill to say a few words about the history of Radio astronomy at the Observatory and our current project.

Saeed Salimpour our Science and Education Officer then spoke about the potential of the Radio Telescope in educating the public and students.





Finally the Mayor Des Hudson opened the Telescope and also acknowledged the Wathaurong people and also thanked all those involved with bringing the project to completion and with a quote from a Sci Fi show and said " Beam me up Scotty" at the controls, the opening closed and the Mt Pleasant Radio Telescope was opened.

The weather was hot but perfect and lunch followed the group photo.

