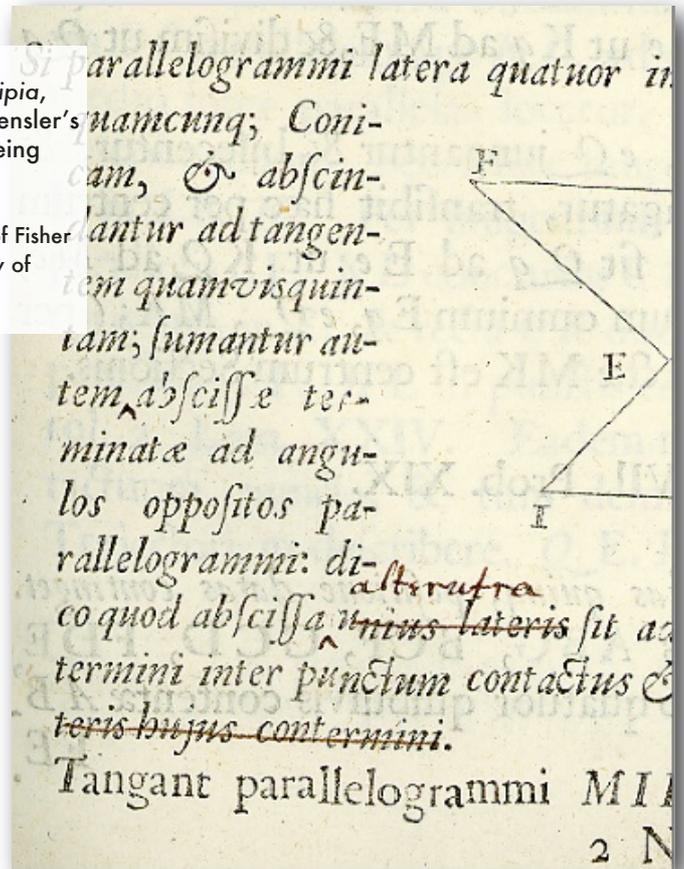


Corrections to
Newton's Principia,
from Bryan Gaensler's
slides at refereeing
workshop

Image courtesy of Fisher
library, University of
Sydney



The Beginning Of A New Chapter

From the ECR Chapter Steering Committee

The Early Career Researcher Chapter of the ASA has only been in place since April, and is going strong. This newsletter is to let you, our membership, know what we've been doing for the last few months, and what we plan to do in 2014.

Just weeks after it had been formed, the chapter held a social gathering (with wine and cheese) at the ASA Annual Scientific Meeting at Monash. This was our first ASA meeting, and we plan to do more next year, including assisting the Women in Astronomy chapter in their annual "Speed meet-a-mentor" session.

In November this year we held our first Workshop, entitled "How To Be An Effective Referee", at the Sydney Institute for Astronomy. We had some very good invited speakers, but it was really the enthusiastic participation of the attendees in the interactive parts of the workshop that made

it such a success. I would personally like to thank James Allison and Daniel Bayliss for working beside me on the organizing committee.

Next year we plan to launch our mentoring scheme, for those of you who feel that they could benefit from career guidance, or feel that they have useful advice to offer. Keep your eyes open for this.

Later in the year will be two more important events. Firstly we will have our first elections, for all the steering committee positions. And then, around the end of May will be the follow on to our 2012 ECR Mentoring Workshop, which was held in Port Stephens. The location and date of our next meeting are still to be confirmed, but if it is as successful as the previous Workshop, I'm sure it will become a regular biennial event.

Season's greetings to you all!

David Parkinson (chair)

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An electronic copy of this
newsletter can be obtained at:

asaecr.smp.uq.edu.au/news



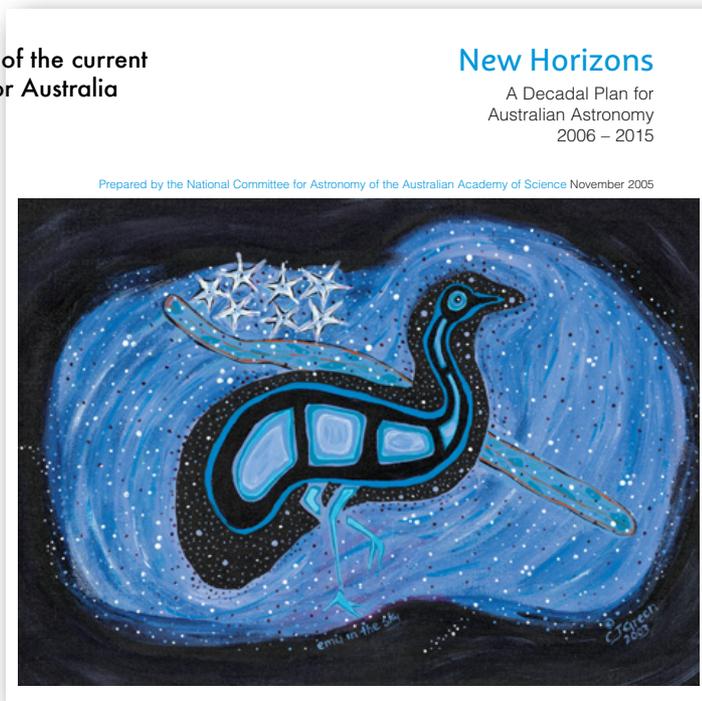
2013

Priorities of the Early Career Researcher chapter:

1. Inform the members about opportunities for professional training and support
2. Provide training for the members in areas of professional development
3. Connect the members with each other, and also with senior researcher mentors, providing a support network
4. Acting as an advocacy and representation body for its members

The ECR chapter is open to all ASA members and is free to join

The front cover of the current decadal plan for Australia Astronomy



Mentoring:

Mentors serve many purposes: as a voice of experience, a source of encouragement, and as a part of your network.

One of the central goals of the ECR chapter is to connect our junior members with more senior mentors, and in 2014 we will be setting up a mentoring program for our membership. The basic outline is this: we will set up a survey, to help us make effective matches, and then you will have someone to connect with every month or so.

We will have more specific advice on how to get the most out of your mentoring relationship, and some setup/training dates, before the program starts, so watch for our email!

Sarah Martell

The Next Decadal Plan - Your Voice Is Needed!

Many of you may have heard about the next Decadal Plan, just begun across the country. As ECRs you're probably focused on other quite important things right now, like finishing that paper and applying for jobs so you can continue your career. Keep doing that; it's important! But perhaps I can convince you to redirect just a little of your valuable time elsewhere.

Consider this: the upcoming Decadal Plan will shape the next 10 years of astronomy in this country. It will set priorities that determine the kinds of opportunities you have. In your next proposal, be it for data or resources or a fellowship, you'll claim "[My research area] has been identified as a priority research area for Australian astronomy, and the proposed program here will make significant inroads in addressing these important questions." Unless of course your particular research interests aren't identified as a national priority.

Let me be frank: the money, jobs, etc are always skewed towards the priority areas.

So, get involved! It's in your interest. Get active! The senior people leading the different working groups can't do all the work. Highly visible, enthusiastic, smart, energetic young people will be noticed. If you want to know what's discussed behind closed doors on review committees and selection panels, it's these kinds of things that often separate otherwise equally compelling candidates. If you want an edge, here's your opportunity.

The working groups are given down below, including the chair(s) with his/her contact details.

1.1 Galaxies and Cosmology - Chair: Lisa Kewley (lisa.j.kewley@gmail.com)

1.2 Stars and Planets - Chair: Michael Ireland (michael.ireland@mq.edu.au)

1.3 The Galaxy - Co-Chairs: Jill Rathborne and Naomi McClure-Griffiths (Jill.Rathborne@csiro.au, naomi.mcclure-griffiths@csiro.au)

1.4 High Energy and Fundamental Astrophysics - Chair: Duncan Galloway (Duncan.Galloway@monash.edu)

2.1 International Scale Facilities - Chair: Karl Glazebrook (kglazebrook@swin.edu.au)

2.2 National and Institutional Scale Facilities - Chair: Kate Brooks (kate.brooks@csiro.au)

2.3 eScience - Chair: Darren Croton (dcroton@astro.swin.edu.au)

3.1 Demographics - Chair: Sarah Maddison (smaddison@swin.edu.au)

3.2 Education, Training and Careers - Chair: Amanda Bauer (amanda.bauer@aao.gov.au)

3.3 Industry - Chair: Carole Jackson (Carole.Jackson@curtin.edu.au)

3.4 Research Funding - Chair: Chris Tinney (c.tinney@unsw.edu.au)

I'm looking forward to hearing the ECR voices loud and clear as our community decides the next decade's astronomy priorities.

Darren Croton

ECR Membership Update

The ECR Chapter has grown rapidly since its formation earlier in 2013. We currently have more than 70 members, including 15 students and 14 senior mentors. We also boast gender parity, indicating a strong presence of women in the early-career researcher stage of their careers. This is an excellent beginning, and the ECR Chapter is competitive in number compared with other chapters of the ASA.

Our goals for the next 12 months include to encourage further involvement of ECRs in the Chapter by broadening our membership to attract ECRs from smaller institutions (e.g., we currently have no members from South Australia or the Northern Territory), and those with otherwise limited mentoring opportunities.

Cathryn Trott

ECR Chapter

Steering Committee (interim)

David Parkinson (chair)
University of Queensland

James Allison
University of Sydney, CAASTRO

Daniel Bayliss
Mt Stromlo, Australian National
University

Andy Casey
Mt Stromlo, Australian National
University

Darren Croton
Swinburne University of Technology

Sarah Martell
Australian Astronomical Observatory

Cathryn Trott
Curtin University

Ivy Wong
CSIRO Astronomy and Space Science

2013 ECR Summer Workshop – How to be an effective referee

On the 29th November the new ECR chapter ran its first career development workshop, hosted by the Sydney Institute for Astronomy and generously sponsored by the ARC Centre of Excellence for All-sky Astrophysics. Forty early career researchers from institutes in New South Wales, Queensland and the ACT attended a very informative and enjoyable day of interactive classes in refereeing of journal publications and grant proposals.

Participants listened to talks by expert speakers on topics that included the peer-review process, writing a referee report for the first time, writing in different fields, and refereeing project & fellowship grants. Group activity sessions occupied most of the day, with ECRs forming reviewer panels for submitted journal articles and grant proposals. Following an hour of discussion and guidance by our experts, each group presented its report and recommendation,

often reassuringly reaching similar conclusions.

Attendees had a range of experience, from PhD students who may have not yet refereed a paper to senior post-docs who wanted to fine-tune their skills. Feedback on the workshop was overwhelmingly positive and we had some great suggestions from chapter members for future events like this. Stay tuned for further career development workshops run by the chapter, and for the ASA Early Career Researcher Workshop in winter 2014.

Further information and resources from this and future ECR chapter events can be found at: <http://asaecr.smp.uq.edu.au>

If you have any suggestions for future workshop themes please email the steering committee at: asa.ecr.chapter@gmail.com

James Allison



Image courtesy of Bryan Gaensler

Upcoming events:

Mentoring Scheme

We plan to start our mentoring scheme in early 2014. If you are interested in participating as a mentor, or feel that you would benefit from some mentoring yourself, please let us know at our email address, asa.ecr.chapter@gmail.com.

Committee Elections

The steering committee is only interim at the moment, as none of us have actually been elected by our membership. We will shortly be rectifying that, holding elections for the steering committee positions in the coming months.

All the positions will become open at the election, including the chair. So if you feel that you would like to get involved with the running of the chapter, consider nominating yourself. The current committee are doing some great work, and I hope they will all be standing again.

Mentoring Workshop

The next ASA Early Career Researcher Workshop will be held in Winter 2014. The date and location are currently to be decided, but will most probably be end of May beginning of June. We hope to see you many of you there!

David Parkinson
on behalf of the ECR Chapter
steering committee