

Sunday 10 Jan 1999

The SETI Research and Community Development Institute Limited, Brisbane Australia announces collaborative agreement with Australia's YORK Optical.

Last December, Seti was awarded a \$10,000 Government Grant by the Queensland Community Benefit Trust allowing us to purchase an optical Telescope that we will install at our Boonah Observatory. The original grant proposal requested an amount that was more than the actual Grant received so we would need to raise the additional funds to purchase the equipment specified by our astronomical members.

York optical, a supplier of quality optical equipment to the astronomical and scientific communities, was contacted as a possible supplier of the Celestron C14 Schmidt Cassegrain Telescope and we started negotiations for the purchase of the instrument. It soon became obvious that we would need more funds to purchase all the equipment we needed for the outreach project, as the cost of the equipment was more than the amount of the grant.

The owner of York Optical, Mr. Klaus Misins agreed to meet with our Director, Mr. Noel C. Welstead, to see if there was some way that Seti could get all the equipment it required for the project without exceeding the amount of the Grant provided by the Queensland Government.

At the end of the meeting, York Optical agreed to provide a limited amount of sponsorship to SETI for the project to continue as originally envisioned when the Grant was applied for. The liaison between Seti and York will see many collaborative efforts at the Boonah Observatory where we will conduct our night- time viewing sessions (weather permitting) for the public. These will be advertised in the local Boonah and Brisbane papers a few weeks prior to the event.

It is envisioned that we will be able to have star parties and the very popular Astro-Fests at the site in coming years. Seti plans to have visiting Astronomers conduct guided tours of the night sky with the fine instruments provided by York Optical.

Books and promotional material will be available for purchase at the centre and advice on optical matters will also be available from the York representatives at this time or later from the Brisbane store in Fortitude Valley.

Seti wishes to thank the owners of York Optical for their very Generous offer to support a worthwhile project that we hope will stimulate the fine young minds of our future scientists. This project is an important investment in the youth of Queensland who will be the future of science in this country.



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