

SATURDAY 12 Dec 1998.

The SETI Research and Community Development Institute Limited, Brisbane Australia Receives Government Grant.

Last June the Directors of the Institute agreed to apply for a Government Grant to help fund the acquisition of an Optical Telescope for the Boonah Space Centre. This device would be primarily used as a public outreach project to bring Astronomy to the rural areas of Southern Queensland.

The application was lodged last June and we were advised a short time later that our application had been accepted and the funding for the project would be subject to the availability of funds. We were advised last September that funding was not available at that time but our application was still current for another three rounds of the grant process and we would be advised of our success (or otherwise) in December 1998.

We received notification of our success in obtaining a Grant from the Queensland Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund, which is a Queensland Government initiative that provides funding from the pool of taxes collected from Queensland's gambling revenue. A percentage of the revenue is applied to community development programs such as the one proposed by our group.

The Grant of AU\$10,000 will be used to purchase an Optical Telescope and accessories that we will install at the BOONAH site as soon as possible. There are a number of issues to contend with including local Government development approvals and security at the proposed site.

The original Grant sought was for \$20,000 and we will start the fund raising for the balance of the money needed for the large Schmidt Cassegrain Telescope that was recommended for this purpose. The instrument will be fitted with a CCD detector and 21" High Resolution monitor to allow easy viewing by the visitors at the planned night time astronomy sessions. Cad Technologies Pty Ltd, a Brisbane based Computer Company will provide the High Resolution Monitor, computer and software that will control the telescope's guiding system.

The SETI Research & Community Development Institute wishes to thank the Queensland Government for its foresight in providing funding for a project that will help stimulate the young minds of our future scientists.