

## **SETI assists with the fun at the Perth Astro Fest in Western Australia**

**January 23rd in Perth was a great day, as this was the day (and night) for the annual**

**Astro Fest, sponsored by York Optical, Golden Grove Observatory, the various Astronomical Societies and special interest groups such as the Perth Rocket Society.**

**The weather was very bad with storms and rain up until a few hours before the opening but luckily, the weather cleared up in time for the opening and the public was not put off by the prospect of not seeing the stars and other wonders of the universe.**

**Our Director, Noel C. Welstead attended the festivities in the west and helped man the SETI stand at the Astro Fest. Our Western Australian co-ordinator, Guido Nigro and other family members including Andrew Di Carlo and Guido's sister Laura worked hard all day talking to the members of the public and other interested visitors about SETI. My special thanks to the Nigro families for their kindness and making my stay such a pleasant one.**

**Several Lectures were given on various subjects relating to astronomy, rocket launching and Seti. Dr Jamie Biggs, Director of the Perth Optical Observatory, gave a very interesting lecture about X-Ray Astronomy and Noel Welstead talked about recent developments in the world of SETI.**

**When night finally arrived, and the skies cleared, thousands of people had a clear look at the wonders of the night sky from the football field at the Jandaloo Sports Centre. York Optical provided many telescopes for the event and many of the staff members helped out by showing the interested public the night sky through the high quality astronomical equipment provided by the organizers.**

**York Optical sales manager, Keith Williams spent the day running around and even said a few prayers in an effort to improve the weather. It appears that his efforts were successful, as the improvement in the weather was very noticeable to all attendees.**

**Other exhibitors included The Perth Observatory, The University of Western Australia Gravity Wave Detector Laboratory, Golden Grove Observatory and many others.**

**SETI had it's own stand where interested members of the public could see various video's about SETI, talk to our own SETI specialists and purchase items such as T-shirts, Caps, Mouse Pads. Other members of our highly respected group were there to assist with questions regarding Radio Astronomy and space in general.**

**Guido Nigro and his sister Laura worked hard all day long and provided the public with valuable insights about our new Radio Observatory planned for the Golden Grove Observatory in the Chittering Valley.**

**Brian Sallur, our resident Radio Astronomer, has indicated that he will install his newly built Solar Radio Receiver at the site in the next few months. This instrument will be used to perform some interesting measurements of the Sun and try to answer some fundamental questions that are still unanswered about our nearest star.**

**A full description of his work will appear in a future "What's New" article being prepared by Brian. More on this project later.**

**The photos on this page are snapshots of the day's activities.**

**Seti is grateful to the organizers of the day for providing us with some space and a forum for us to explain what it is that our group will be doing in the West.**



Group shot of the stand at the Exhibition that the Perth Observatory had there. Dr James Biggs is at the Far Right.



David Nicholson's family at the Exhibition representing the Golden Grove Observatory. David is 2nd from the left.



Group shot of the SETI Contingent at the exhibition showing our stand and helpers. They are from L to Right NCW. Keith Williams from York Optical, Laura (Guido's Sister) and Guido Nigro.



The WA Rocket Society also had a stand. They Launched quite a few rockets on the day.