

Seminar

Friday 12 June, 2009

11 am - Room 701

[John Greenhill](#)

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University of Tasmania

Optical astronomy in Tasmania

The first significant astronomical observations by European settlers in Tasmania were made by two amateurs Abbott and Biggs. They published extensively in the latter part of the 19th Century but it was nearly 100 years before astronomical research resumed. This arose from the establishment of an optical industry in Tasmania during World War II and the appointment of Theodore Dunham as a Professorial Fellow at the University of Tasmania. Dunham started Project Canopus to conduct spectroscopy in Australia and inspired the development of the Mt Canopus Observatory. A new observatory is now being built at Bisdee Tier in Southern Tasmania using one of Dunham's 50" mirror blanks.

In my talk I will discuss the history of astronomy in Tasmania, some of the achievements of the Mt Canopus Observatory and the new Bisdee Tier Observatory.

All Welcome

Contact Details

For further information phone 364 2404, or visit our website: www.phys.canterbury.ac.nz