


# Anglo-Australian Observatory

Annual Report  
of the Anglo-Australian  
Telescope Board

1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006





Anglo-Australian Observatory  
167 Vimiera Road  
Eastwood NSW  
Australia

Postal Address:  
PO Box 296  
Epping NSW 1710  
Australia

Telephone: (02) 9372 4800 (international) + 61 2 9372 4800  
Facsimile: (02) 9372 4880 (international) + 61 2 9372 4880

e-mail: [director@aao.gov.au](mailto:director@aao.gov.au)

Website: <http://www.aao.gov.au/>

Annual Report Website: <http://www.aao.gov.au/annual/>

Anglo-Australian Telescope Board

Address as above  
Telephone:  
(02) 9372 4813 (international) + 61 2 9372 4813

e-mail: [eo@aao.gov.au](mailto:eo@aao.gov.au)

ABN: 71871323905

© Anglo-Australian Telescope Board 2006  
ISSN 1443-8550

Cover Design: TTR Print Management

Computer Typeset: Anglo-Australian Observatory

Picture Credits: The editors would like to thank the following for their photographs and images throughout this publication: Shaun Amy, Paul Bourke, Jurek Brzeski, David Correll, Heath Jones, Urs Klauser, Steven Longmore, David Malin, Chris McCowage, Jonathan Pogson, Chris Thorburn, Helen Sim and David Smyth.

The Honourable Julie Bishop, MP  
Minister for Education, Science and Training  
Government of the Commonwealth of Australia

The Right Honourable Alistair Darling, MP  
Secretary of State for Trade and Industry  
Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain  
and Northern Ireland

In accordance with Article 8 of the Agreement between the Australian Government and the Government of the United Kingdom to provide for the establishment and operation of an optical telescope at Siding Spring Mountain in the state of New South Wales, I present herewith a report by the Anglo-Australian Telescope Board for the year from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006. The report summarises the operations of the Board for the period under review and includes financial statements and statements of estimated expenditure in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement.



P Roche  
Chair  
Anglo-Australian Telescope Board





## Table of contents

1.	About the AAO	
	Statement of purpose	1
	History and governing legislation	1
	Ministers responsible	3
	Structure of the AAO	4
	Designated agencies	4
	AAO Director	4
	Audit and Risk Management Committee	4
	Advisory committees	5
2.	The Year in Review	
	Review by the Director	7
	Review by the Chairman of the Board	14
	Anglo-Australian Telescope Board	16
3.	Scientific highlights	
	The 6dF Galaxy Survey: final data release	19
	The Radial Velocity Experiment	23
	AAOmega: the AAT's newest instrument	26
	Unveiling dark energy	28
	A survey of our local environment	30
4.	Performance	
	Telescope operations	33
	Research	39
	Instrumentation	42
	Resources	49
	Environmental performance	57
	External communications	58
	<b>Appendices</b>	
A	Financial statements	61
B	Staff	84
C	Client Service Charter	86
D	Statement on governance	89
E	Advisory committees	93
	Glossary, Abbreviations & Acronyms	95
	Index	99