

# **Australasian Workshop in Wellington, NZ**

**I thank the organizers of this Workshop  
for the opportunity to say a few personal  
words of introduction.**

**But first I will try to explain why I believe we  
are all here.**

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**In February of last year,  
John Ellis and I had visited  
Australia with Geoffrey Taylor and  
New Zealand with Alick Macpherson.**

- Already in Australia we soon realized that there seem to be relatively few contacts between astrophysicists and high-energy particle physicists.**

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Therefore, we organized some meetings with  
**Geoff Taylor, Penny Sackett and  
Matthew Colless** of the Mount Stromlo  
Observatory, and other astronomers.

Together with these we identified three  
possible areas of synergy:

- **1. instrumentation (use of Si technology),**
- **2. computation (astrophysicists need a  
Grid),**
- **3. underlying theory**

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**We also realized that  
collaboration between Australia and NZ on  
silicon detectors was virtually inexistent,  
despite the fact that groups from both  
nations are working, on their side of the  
Tasmanian Sea,  
on silicon-based detectors  
for the ALAS and the CMS experiment,  
respectively, now being built at CERN**

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- So we agreed that something had to be done
  - **"to create synergies between the astrophysics and high-energy particle physics communities - and in particular between those communities on either side of the Tasmanian Sea".**

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- Today we can be grateful to the New Zealanders for taking the initiative to realize an idea - which you may be surprised to learn that it originates from Australia.**

**I take this as a clear indication that the Australia-New Zealand collaboration has successfully started – at least for as what is called “Semiconductor Instrumentation”.**

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- **Collaboration on Grid computing and more specifically the collaboration between astrophysicists and high-energy particle physicists seems to remain wait-listed.**
- **However, it will be only a matter of time until astrophysicists and particle physicists in Australasia will need the Grid and that they cannot develop and use the Grid**
  - **in isolation.**

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**I also trust that  
the astrophysicists and the particle physicists  
of the Southern Hemisphere  
will eventually discover that  
inter-disciplinary & international collaboration  
will not only give new perspectives in science  
but also interesting opportunities for more  
funding.**



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**So you can now trust that this Workshop was not planned as an opportunity for many of us to escape a wonderful European summer as in fact we originally had planned the Workshop for January or February..**

**Unfortunately this timing turned out to be a real drawback, as we had to compete with conferences on Si detectors and on astrophysics taking place, almost synchronously in Hiroshima and Glasgow, respectively**

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So we may consider a good part of the participants as a resilient hardcore of idealists!

I had to make that statement because the Workshop is now taking place, despite of all this - thanks in particular to Alick Macpherson who has done a superb job – which I believe has cost him and his colleagues from Australia (**G. Taylor and S. Tovey**), from NZ (**T. Barnes, P. Butler, E. Davis, M. Gray, D. Krofcheck, L. Reinisch and S. Thompson**), and from CERN (**A. Ball, J. Ellis and E. Tsesmelis**) many, many sleepless nights and a substantial telephone bill that I trust was gracefully settled by the Univ. of Auckland.

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**Finally, but particularly  
I wish to extend my thanks,  
on behalf of all of us coming from abroad  
for the hospitality and very substantial  
support tendered by the NZ Royal Society  
and its leadership.**

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**What now remains to be done  
is good work towards a successful  
conclusion with the Panel discussion  
on the last day of the Workshop.**

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**We expect to conclude the Workshop with a well defined set of goals and set of actions to reach such goals that are designed to raise Australia's and NZ's participation in international basic research to be in line of what is expected from other developed nations with comparable financial and intellectual resources.**