

Preface

Symposium 148 "The Magellanic Clouds and their Dynamical Interaction with the Milky Way" was the first IAU Symposium held in Australia since 1973. In all, 23 countries were represented by 149 participants. The Symposium was held from July 9 to 13, 1990 at Womens College, the University of Sydney.

The last symposium on the Magellanic Clouds was held in 1983 in Tübingen, Germany. Since then new ground- and satellite-based instruments have become available. A range of results from these instruments were presented at IAU Symposium 148 and are published in these proceedings. IAU Symposium 148 was timed to coincide with the commissioning of the Australia Telescope, and indeed, a few of the first results from that instrument were presented at this Symposium. Over the next decade the Australia Telescope is destined to make a major impact on Magellanic Cloud research.

Papers are arranged in five main sections reflecting the Symposium timetable:

- *Large-Scale Structure and Kinematics*
- *Stellar Evolution*
- *The LMC-SMC-Galaxy System*
- *Star Formation and Clustering*
- *The Interstellar Medium*

These are preceded by both the introduction to and the summary of the Symposium. Questions and answers from the oral sessions are reproduced at the end of each section.

We were fortunate in having many enthusiastic sponsors. Apart from the IAU they were: the Australia Telescope National Facility*, the Anglo-Australian Telescope Board, the Australian National University, the University of Sydney, the Astronomical Society of Australia, the Donovan Astronomical Trust, the Australian Geographic Society, Southern Astronomy Magazine, Apple Computers (Australia), Sun Microsystems (Australia) and the International Science and Technology Advisory Committee of the Australian Government.

The response to our call for papers was rewarding and we decided to follow the practice of having mainly "invited" oral presentations, with the bulk of contributed papers presented as posters. There were 57 oral presentations and 80 posters.

We thank the members of our Scientific and Local Organizing Committees for their efforts, and Dr. Julienne Harnett and her team for arranging a very satisfactory social program. We also thank Dorothy Goddard and Melanie Dickinson for their excellent work in editing all of the manuscripts. All papers were refereed and we thank our many colleagues who undertook that task. Lastly, we thank Dr. Ron Ekers, Director, Australia Telescope National Facility for his indulgence and support.

On a sad note, Dr. Maurizio Alongi, was killed in a car accident a few days after returning to Padova, Italy. Also, Dr. Max Pettini, injured in a separate car accident, was unable to prepare his paper for publication. Max has now made a full recovery.

The Editors

Raymond F Haynes
Scientific Organizing Committee

Douglas K Milne
Local Organizing Committee

* The Australia Telescope National Facility is operated in association with the Division of Radiophysics by CSIRO.