

Ladies and Gentlemen, please stand for the arrival of His Excellency the Honourable Peter Underwood, Governor of Tasmania and Mrs Underwood.

Please be seated

Your Excellency, Mrs Underwood, Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to Mt Pleasant Observatory.

I'm Jim Lovell, Project Manager for the AuScope VLBI project. As I'm sure you can appreciate, building an array of telescopes spanning a continent is a large undertaking. So before going any further today, I'd like to take this opportunity to pay my thanks to everyone who has made this possible.

Firstly, to everyone in the international geodetic VLBI community for your advice and encouragement. Several of you have sat on sub-committees to help choose telescopes, instruments and define our operations model. Many of you are here today. Thankyou.

To our partners at Curtin University of Technology and Geoscience Australia for your cooperation and assistance.

To everyone who dug holes, poured concrete, connected cables, plugged things in and made them work.

To the Patriot Products division of COBHAM/Satcom for building this wonderful telescope

To all the division of UTAS including AMS, Legal, Finance, ITR and SET for all your contributions in making things happen.

And lastly to those in the School of Maths and Physics who have contributed their time, energy, and enthusiasm to this project. **[indicate where' they're sitting]**. I'd especially like to thank two people who have been key to this undertaking. Professor Peter McCulloch has poured enormous amounts of time and care into building receiver systems for these telescopes. Unfortunately Peter is in hospital at the moment so he can't be here today but I'm sure you'll join me in wishing him a speedy recovery. The other person is our Observatory Manager, Brett Reid, who has put in many long hours and happily gone the extra mile on so many occasions. Your efforts assisting in site preparation, construction and commissioning have been invaluable. Thankyou!

And now I would like to Introduce Professor Darryl Le Grew, Vice Chancellor of the University of Tasmania.

VC speaks and Introduces HE

HE speaks, then sits

Thankyou Your Excellency, for taking the time to join us and for opening this important instrument. The next speaker is Dr Bob Haydon, CEO of AuScope Ltd. Thankyou Bob

Bob speaks

I would now like to invite Professor Harald Schuh, Chair of the International VLBI Service, to say a few words.

Harald speaks

Your Excellency, I would like to invite you back to the stage to 'unveil' the plaque.

... unveiling etc ...

Your Excellency, Mrs Underwood, Ladies and Gentlemen, that concludes the formal opening. On behalf of Professor Le Grew, I would like to invite you to join us for refreshments at the Grote Reber Museum, which is a short walk up the hill. We are grateful to the Faculty of Science Engineering and Technology and AuScope Ltd for their contribution to this afternoons refreshments.

On HE's departure:

Lades and Gentlemen, His Excellency and Mrs Underwood are now departing.
