



Report to Colonial Foundation  
Year 2005/6

Attention Tony Kay  
Corporate Image  
Level 8 350 Collins St.  
Melbourne 3000

### Introduction

Since receiving the grant from the Colonial Foundation, our efforts have fallen into several areas. These are associated with developing strategies for the longer term, equipping a venue for the “in house” shows, delivering programs to primary schools, and to senior High-school students.

In view of the range of education programs we provide, we decided to name the overall program “WARP”. It was felt that the aim of bending the minds of students to new experiences was well described by this name.

There is a dedicated web site at <http://www.ph.unimelb.edu.au/muppets/> where schools can find details of the program.

### Overview

Below are listed the areas where progress has been made at this early stage.

#### Dedicated theatre for Physics and Laser shows.

Following negotiations the University has agreed to permanently install our lighting system in one of the Physics theatres. This will allow us to assign permanent time slots for Physics and Laser shows.

#### MUPPETS program in primary Schools

##### Melbourne

This year the team of staff and graduate students have visited xx schools in Melbourne<sup>1</sup>.

##### Mildura June 2005

We delivered programs to some 600 students at primary schools in the Mildura area as shown in the table below.

Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June
<b>9-10.30 am</b> Mildura South [150 Students] Location: Mildura South School	<b>11.20-1.20 pm</b> Robinvale Consolidated School [80 students] St Mary's School [40 Students] Location: Consolidated School	<b>11.30-1 pm</b> Red Cliffs Primary [78 students] Red Cliffs East [40 students] St Joseph's School [30 students] Location: Red Cliffs Primary School
<b>2-3.30 pm</b> Mildura West [150 Students] Location: Mildura West School		<b>2-3.30 pm</b> Irymple Primary [90 Students] Location: Irymple Primary (Irymple South may attend)

<sup>1</sup> Merry Creek Primary, Preshil, Sacred Heart Brunswick, Mill Park Primary, Carey Donvale Primary

### **Physics and Laser Show**

On June 22 and 23 we presented the Physics and Laser Show at the **Mildura** Secondary College to packed audiences of local residents and children: some 500 attendees.

The show was also mounted at the **School of Physics** in July to an audience of about 200.

### **Outback Tour**

Following the visit to Mildura, the team took the show to Broken Hill, Wilcannia, and Cobar. The communities and schools in this outback area greatly appreciated the experience. Of particular significance was the response of the indigenous students at Cobar.

### **The Physics Gymnasium**

A series of extension lectures is presented monthly during the school year, at the School of Physics for year 11/12 high-school students. The lecturers are selected from researchers in the School and other institutes to provide a fascinating view of Physics in areas of interest to senior students. There are about 70 students attending regularly. A list of topics is given below.<sup>2</sup>

### **The Gippsland Tour**

In the week of July 10 – 14 (2006) we will be presenting the Physics and Laser show in Traralgon. Invitations have been sent to 150 primary schools, and we anticipate that we will be able to accommodate about 1800 primary school students over the period. We will also present the show for the local residents. A company of about 15 physics School staff and graduate students will be involved in this program.

### **Relevant Photographs**

On the next page is a selection of photographs taken at shows referred to above. The high-resolution files can be found at [www](http://www). If you include any of the photos, would you please acknowledge *The Sunraysia Daily* as the source.

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## <sup>2</sup> **Physics Gymnasium Lectures**

### **Wednesday March 29**

*BBQ at 5.15pm before the lecture*

[Dr Stuart Wyithe](#) "Earth Shine"

### **Wednesday May 17**

[Dr Mark Boland](#)

"Bright Light from Heavy Electrons"...an overview of the Australian Synchrotron Project...

### **Wednesday July 19th**

[Professor David Jamieson](#) "Was Einstein Right?"

### **Wednesday August 9th]**

[A/Prof Ann Roberts](#) "Optics for Art's sake"



