



ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

*Incorporated in the ACT*

ABN 37 660 297 848

## The Berenice Page Medal

The Berenice Page Medal is awarded every two years by the Astronomical Society of Australia. It came into being as a result of a bequest to the Society from the Estate of the late Mrs Berenice Page of Brisbane. Berenice and her husband, Arthur, were foundation members of the ASA when it was formed over 40 years ago. Although most ASA members are professional astronomers, the Pages were readily accepted as members because of the indispensable part they both played in collaborating with Bruce Slee and others from the CSIRO Division of Radiophysics in the *IAU Flare Star Programme* in the 1960's.

Berenice Rose was trained as a pharmaceutical chemist, graduating in 1951. She moved up through the profession and was managing her own pharmacy in Brisbane in the late 1960's. Throughout this time she had a deep interest in astronomy, building her own 22.5 cm Newtonian telescope in the 1950's. In 1963 she became involved in the *Flare Star Visual Programme*, working with Arthur Page. In a match made in the heavens, she married Arthur in 1964. Together they established the Page Observatory near Brisbane and Berenice undertook the construction of a 31 cm Schmidt for photographic observations, mainly for flare stars. Later, the Observatory was moved further out of Brisbane.

Berenice and Arthur contributed a great deal to the *Flare Star Programme*, and to astronomy in general, throughout the 1960's. Then, at the height of her career, Berenice was struck down by a cerebral haemorrhage and died in July 1970 at just over 40 years of age. Amateur and professional astronomy alike suffered a severe blow, and astronomers felt a deep sense of loss. Members of the ASA therefore learned with gratitude of the wish of Berenice to leave a portion of her Estate to the ASA for the advancement of astronomy in Australia.

After much deliberation, and frequent consultation with Arthur Page, the Society used this bequest to establish the Berenice Page Medal for excellence in amateur astronomy in Australia and its territories, judged on the basis of scientific contributions which have served to advance astronomy.

## List of Past Winners

- 1973 Mr S.J. Elwin  
For photometric observations of the occultation of Beta' Scorpii by Jupiter.
- 1975 Mr David Herald  
For observations of Baily's Beads in the solar eclipse of 20 June 1974.
- 1978 no award
- 1981 Mr Bill Bradfield  
For the discovery, up to that time, of 11 comets.
- 1983 Mr Byron Soulsby  
For work on the oblateness of the umbral shadow.
- 1986 The Rev'd Robert Evans  
For visual discoveries of supernovae.
- 1988 Mr Robert McNaught  
For photographic nova and supernova observations and discoveries.
- 1990 Mr Barry Adcock  
For telescope design work and planetary observations.
- 1992 Dr Mal Wilkinson  
For the design and construction of a radio-telescope and subsequent observations of the Io-Jupiter system and for his development of a model for the emissions.
- 1994 Mr Paul Camilleri  
For discoveries of novae and Mira variables and the development of simple photographic techniques for nova searches.
- 1996 Mr Peter Williams  
For his extensive on-going visual observations of variable stars, especially the R Coronae Borealis variables.
- 1998 Mr Gordon Garradd  
For significant contributions in the observation of asteroids, comets, novae and supernovae.
- 2000 Mr Andrew Robert Pearce  
For significant and extensive visual observations of comets, variable stars and novae.
- 2002 The Reynolds Amateur Photometry Team  
For their substantial contribution to photometric observations of variable stars.
- 2004 Mr Colin Bembrick  
For photometric light curve observations of minor planets and derivation of their rotation periods.
- 2006 Dr Tom Richards  
For broad ranging CCD photometry lightcurve observations, particularly of minor planets, variable stars and in exoplanet searches.