

ECRF Grants 2019

Guide for Applicants

The Astronomical Association of Queensland (AAQ) is pleased to announce that grants from the Edward Corbould Research Fund (ECRF) will be available to fund astronomical research by Australian amateur astronomers commencing in July 2019. The Association invites applications for funding up to the value of \$6,000. Projects requiring in excess of this amount may be considered under special circumstances. Any Australian citizen may apply but preference will be given to amateur astronomers. Successful applicants who are not AAQ members will be required to join the AAQ for the duration of the project.

The application must be in the form of a research proposal to be received by the AAQ General Secretary no later than 28 February 2019. The proposal should include the following:

- A statement of the aims and hypotheses of the project.
- Details of the proposed methodology including analysis of the data to be collected.
- A timeline for the project.
- An itemised list of proposed expenditure including justification of each item and a ranking of the items in terms of priority: A – those essential for the project; B – those considered necessary to maintain a reasonable rate of progress to bring the project to completion; C – other items which would be useful in supporting the project.
- A short CV of the applicant including relevant astronomical experience.
- A letter of support for the project from a scientist working in the field covered by the proposal.
- A review of the relevant scientific literature, supported by a list of references.

Projects in any field of astronomy will be considered. Projects must comprise observational research which has a clearly defined objective and timeline, adds to the body of knowledge, and is appropriate for publication. Funds may be requested to support any aspect of the research including appropriate equipment (excluding office equipment and items which form an inherent part of a larger whole such as telescope mirrors), consumable items or essential travel but excluding personal remuneration. Applications for funding solely for travel to conferences or for planning research will not be considered.

Applicants must use the **ECRF Application form 2019** for making an ECRF Grant submission, which can be downloaded from the AAQ website at <http://www.aaq.org.au/>.

The signed copy of the application may be sent by post or scanned and lodged via email to the General Secretary of the AAQ at the address below. Sufficient biographical and project information must be provided to allow the Research Committee to determine if the recipient is capable of achieving the project's aims and the project is scientifically worthwhile. If applicants are requesting more than one item of equipment or consumables, a list of priorities showing which items are essential and which could be left to a subsequent year, must be provided.

Applications are reviewed by the AAQ Research Committee which makes recommendations to the Council. If, in the Research Committee's opinion, no worthy project is proposed in any year then no funds will be granted for that year.

Applicants must be Australian citizens. Successful applicants who are not members of the AAQ are required to join the AAQ before funds can be disbursed and must remain members during the period of the grant. The current membership fees are published in our Membership Pack. Successful applicants who are not already AAQ members will be advised in time so that they may make membership applications to be received by the General Secretary prior to 1st June for subsequent election to membership at the June 2019 Council Meeting.

Successful applicants must submit annual project progress reports to the General Secretary to be printed in the AAQ Annual Proceedings over the life of the project up to a maximum of 7 years. They must also provide evidence to the General Secretary of the expenditure of the grant in the form of receipts, photographs etc.

Equipment purchased under the ECRF grant remains the property of the AAQ. If the project is of limited duration the equipment is to be either returned to the AAQ or the applicant may purchase the equipment from the AAQ at its depreciated value. Equipment is depreciated at a rate of 20% per annum after the first twelve months with the equipment written off after a 7 year period.

Successful ECRF grant awards will be announced at the June 2019 Ordinary General Meeting of the AAQ. Successful applicants will be notified by email and funds will be disbursed by the AAQ Treasurer in July 2019.

Contact the General Secretary for further details or enquiries.

Email: info@aaq.org.au

Post: The General Secretary,
Astronomical Association of Queensland,
PO Box 6101,
St Lucia QLD 4067

Rev: 9 October 2018