PREFACE TO THIS ISSUE

This special issue of the journal is devoted to theoretical articles in the area of general relativity and gravitation. These are versions after refereeing of some of the papers presented at the *Inaugural Australian General Relativity Workshop*, which was held at the Australian National University from September 26–30, 1994. Some of the companion experimental papers have been published in the *Australian Journal of Physics*.

The Workshop brought together around 50 mathematicians and physicists with the aim of establishing an *Australasian Society for General Relativity and Gravitation* (ASGRG) to provide a regional forum for researchers who work in a wide range of areas within mathematical, theoretical and experimental gravitation: exact solutions of general relativity, mathematical relativity, numerical relativity, quantum gravity, cosmology, estimation of the gravitational wave signals produced by astronomical sources, and development of techniques and technology for detecting these signals with earth- and satellite-based antennae. The workshop was the forerunner of conferences which have subsequently been held by the ASGRG on a biennial basis, ACRGR1 being held at the University of Adelaide over February 12–17, 1996 and ACRG2 at Sydney University from July 6–10, 1998. Thanks are due to Susan Scott for instigating the workshop, and for making it a great success.

David McClelland and Susan Scott acted as Guest Editors for this special issue and I should like to thank them for their efforts, especially with shepherding the papers through the refereeing process.

CHARLES PEARCE

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