

GMT

Douglas Heggie

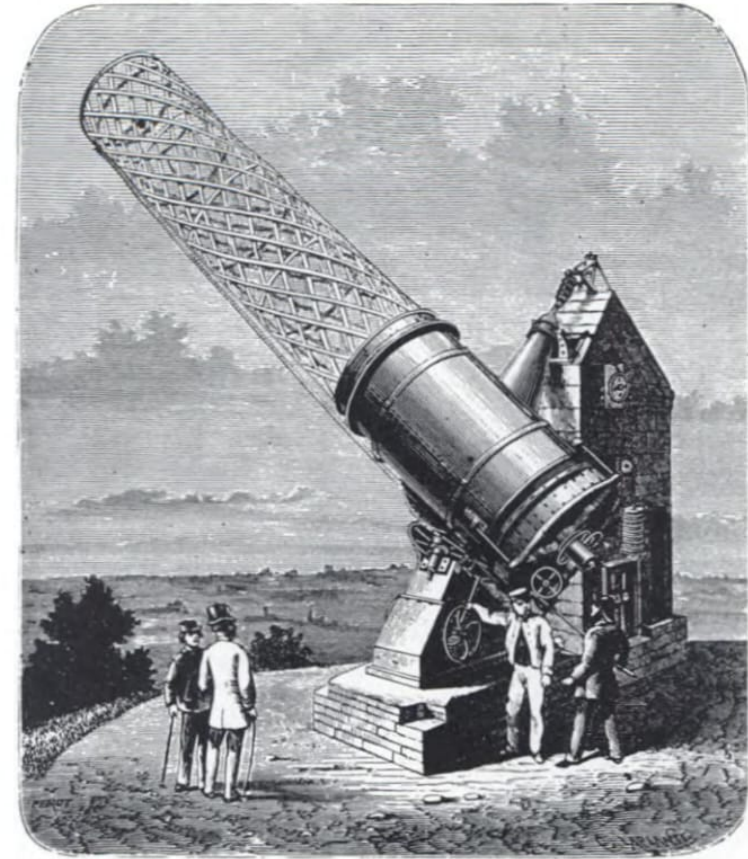
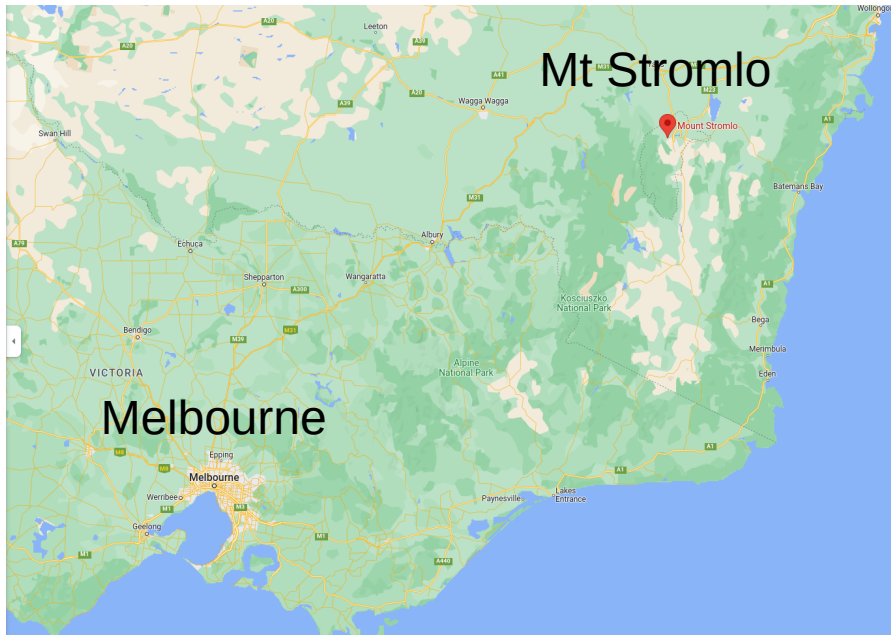
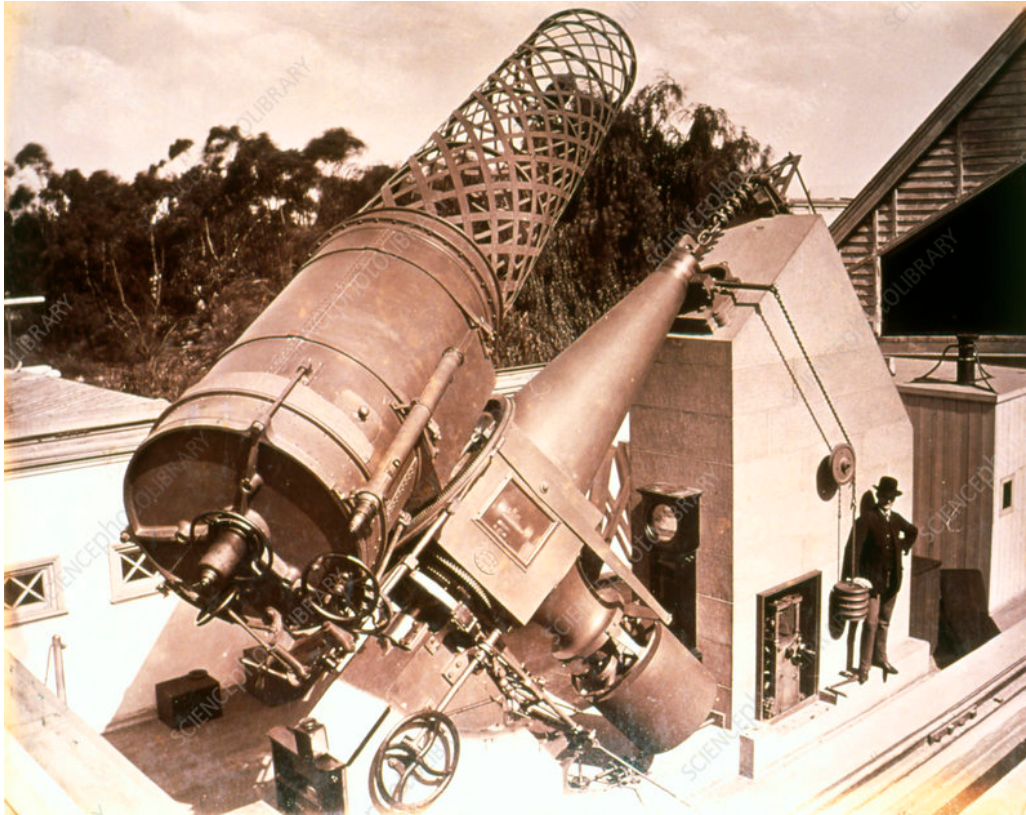


Fig. 109—The 48-inch Grubb reflector erected at Melbourne, Australia, in 1867

(H.C. King, The History of the Telescope)

GMT – The Great Melbourne Telescope



1880 (Science Photo Library)

- Built 1868 in Dublin by Thomas Grubb
- Installed 1869 at Melbourne Observatory, in the Royal Botanic Garden
- 48-inch (1.2m) spec, f/40, Cassegrain design
- Enclosure is a “run-off shed”
- For many years, the largest fully steerable telescope in the world



The telescope enclosure in 2020

GMT – Observations

1869-85: visual observations of “nebulae”

η Carinae nebula



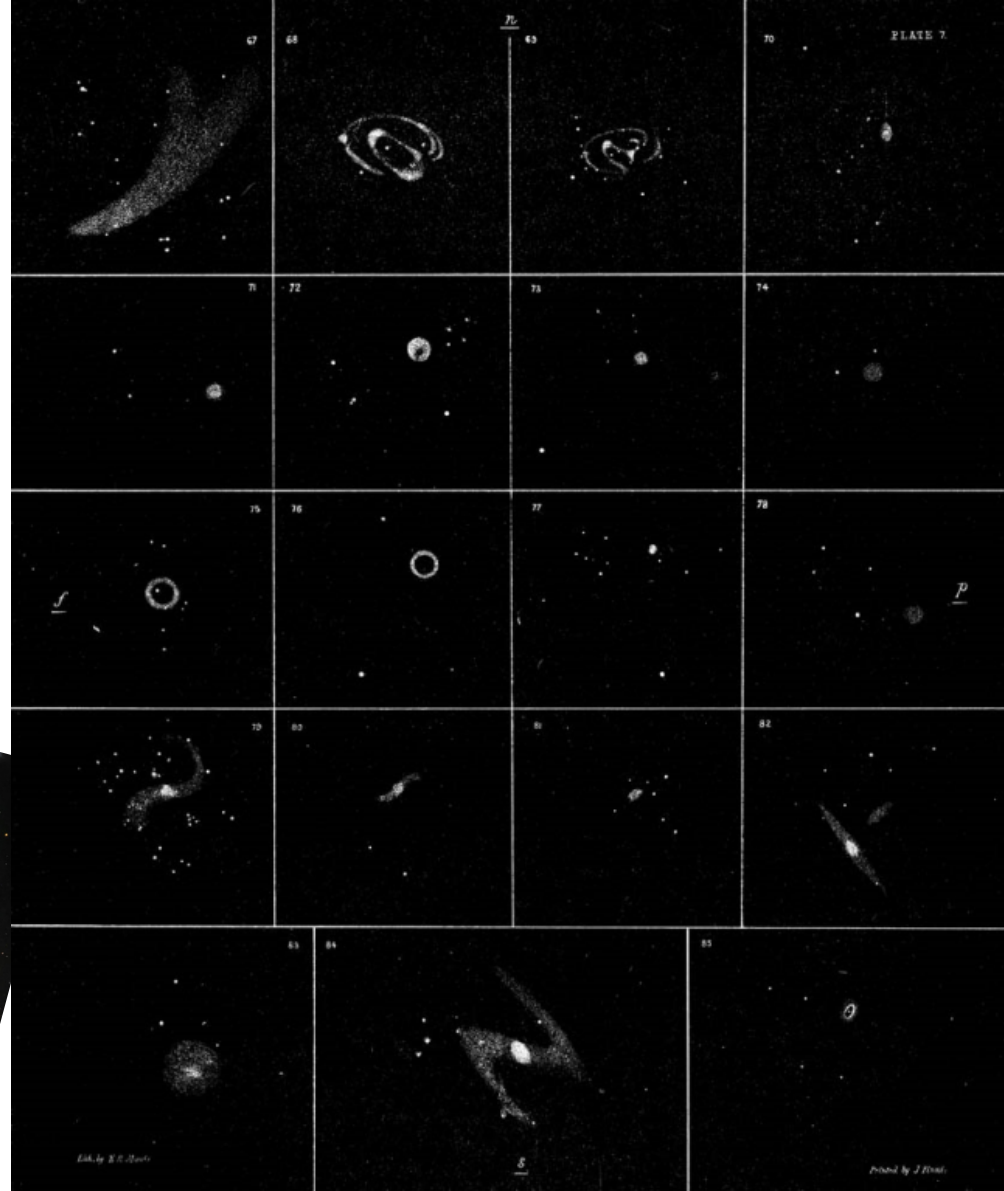
Museum Victoria (MM 96810)

NGC 1365

eso.org



Museum Victoria (MM 96813)



GMT – Photography

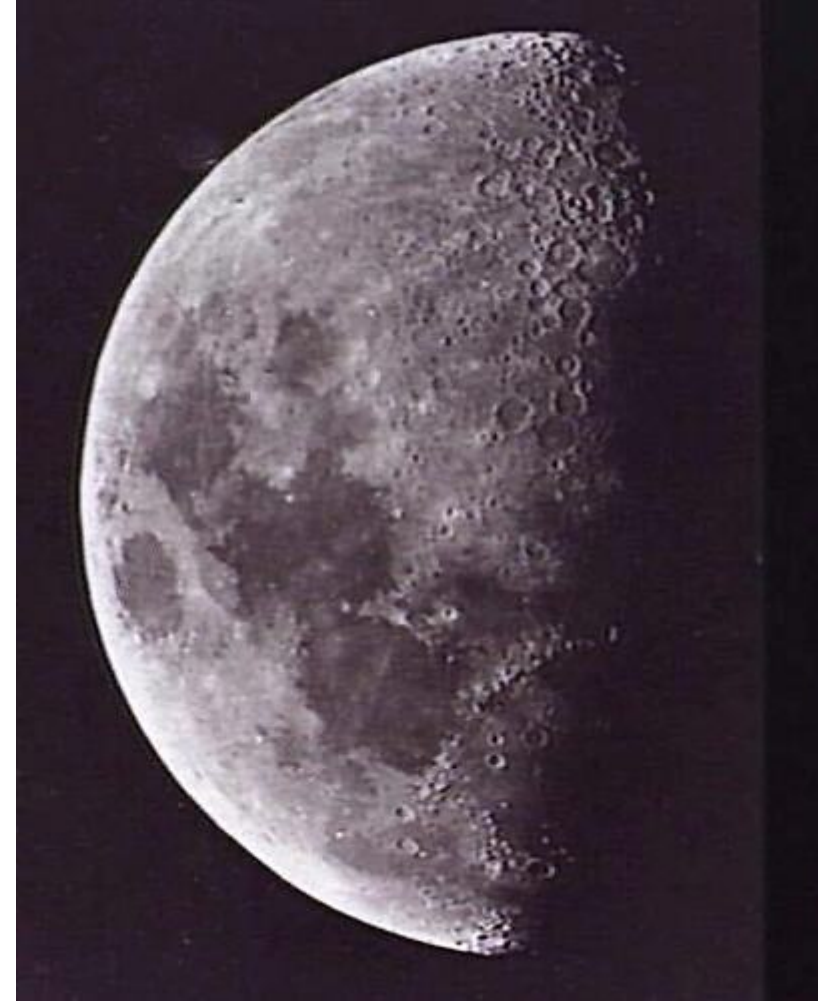
1874

1883

Exposure 4 minutes



Museums Victoria MM 107609

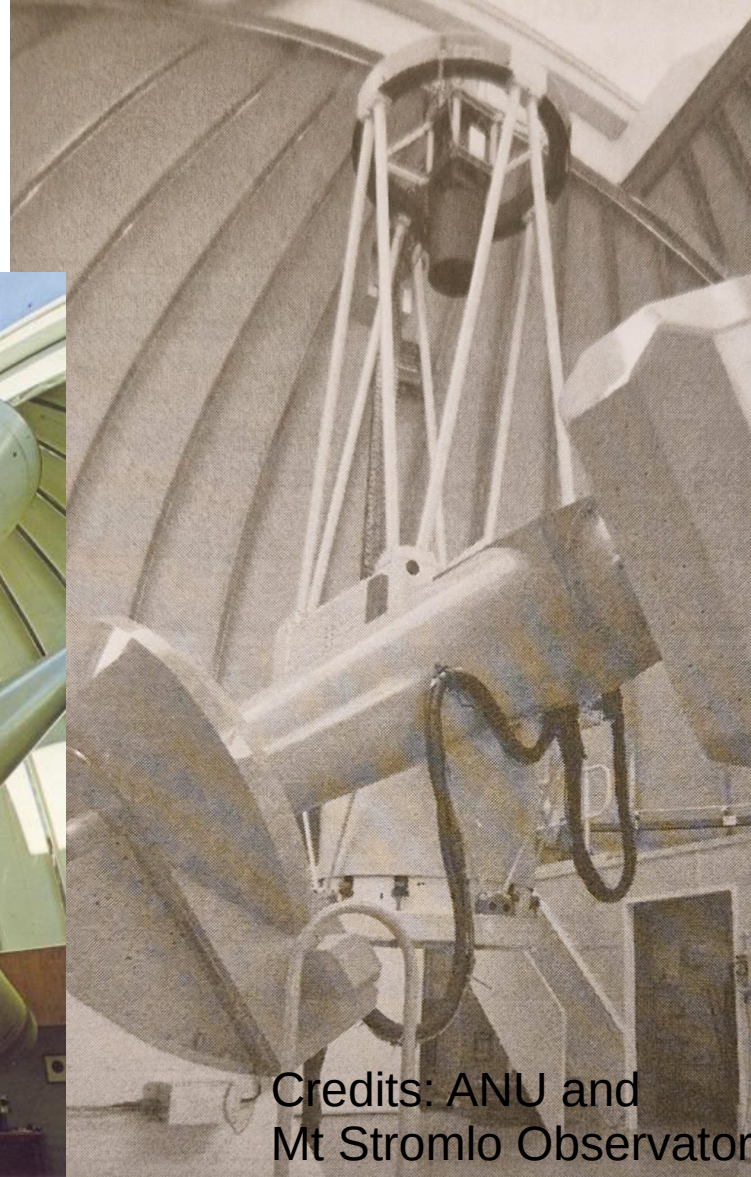


<https://collections.museumsvictoria.com.au/items/732259>

1894 Sketches of Mars

Rebirth at Mt Stromlo

- 1944 closure of Melbourne Observatory
- 1945 GMT sold to Mt Stromlo Observatory
- 1957,1961,1992 GMT rebuilt
- 1992 – 2003 MACHO project

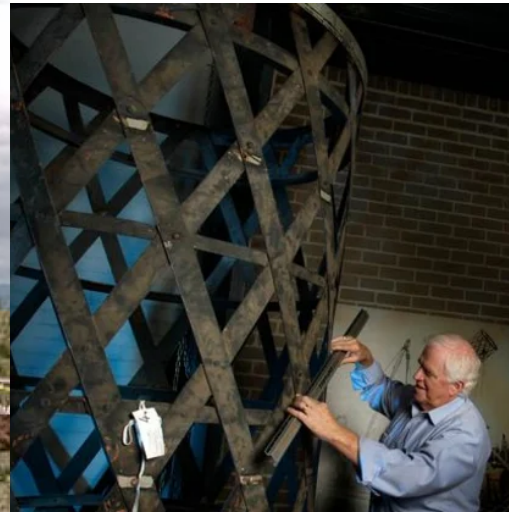


Credits: ANU and
Mt Stromlo Observatory

Death and Rebirth

- 2003 destruction in bush fire
- 1984, 2008 parts returned to Melbourne
- 2008 – ? reconstruction
- Managed by museums, state and national bodies, astronomical societies
- GMT to be reinstalled in the original run-off shed in Royal Botanic Gardens
- To be opened to the public for evening viewing

Credits: Museums Victoria; The Age



The Great Melbourne Telescope in 2020

(and 2023)





The GMT - Resources

- R. Gillespie, *The Great Melbourne Telescope* (2011), Museum Victoria (available from the Royal Historical Society of Victoria)
- Gascoigne, S. C. B., *Quarterly Journal of the RAS*, Vol. 37, p.101 (1996)
- Bhathal, R., *Astronomy & Geophysics* 55, 3.16-19 (2014)
- <https://greatmelbournetelescope.org.au/>
- Google search on “great melbourne telescope”, especially the many “images” and a few “videos”