Building Works
The Polymer Draw Tower is now installed on level 2 and awaiting a platform to be fully operational. Equipment has been moved into new and refurbished laboratories and experiments have begun, though much unpacking and organising is still needed. Negotiations are underway for minor but necessary electrical works.

Staff - Welcome
A warm welcome to our new staff.
Darshan Thakkar
Elizabeth Starkey
Tom Evans
Mushtaq Ahmad

Staff - Farewell
And some staff are moving onwards and upwards:
David Jennings
Swarna Patra
Jeremy Mitchell
Duan Xiangmei
Simone Piccinin

Staff - Promotions
Congratulations to Iver Cairns for his official title of Professor in Space Physics (Teaching and Research) from February 1st.

Nature Photonics - CUDOS
Bill Corcoran, Christian Grillet and Christelle Monat have been published in “Nature Photonics” with a letter entitled “Green light emission in silicon through slow-light enhanced third-harmonic generation in slow light photonic-crystal waveguides”. As is often the case, the breakthrough was completely unexpected. Converting infrared to green light adds another important tool to the impressive suite of capabilities of silicon, already the material of choice for the micro-electronics industry. Watch this space!
For more information, read the complete letter here.

IPOS Launch
The Institute of Photonics and Optical Science (IPOS), invites staff to attend the official launch of IPOS on Thursday 23 April. IPOS will be formally opened by Senator Anne McEwen and Dr Michael Spence, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University. The launch will be followed by a symposium, “The Photonic Universe - Faster, Further, Smarter” with internationally renowned speakers presenting the current and future role of photonics, including:

- Ron Ekers, CSIRO
- Min Gu, Swinburne University of Technology
- Andrew Blakers, Australian National University

The event will be held in MacLaurin Hall. For more information, go to the IPOS website.

Outreach
In March the School hosted a group of Indigenous students from the New England region on an astronomy excursion. The students enjoyed a morning looking through telescopes and experimenting with static electricity, liquid nitrogen, lasers and magnets. Thanks to the Koori Centre for providing a delicious lunch, and to the Faculty of Science for covering the costs for this event.

IYA2009 - April event
2009 is the International Year of Astronomy - an opportunity to showcase astronomy, the School and the University to students and the public.
On the 30th of April we will host the Pollock Memorial Lecture, this year delivered by Professor Brian Schmidt of the ANU. The topic is “The Universe from Beginning to End” and will be held in Eastern Avenue Theatre from 6.30pm.
RSVPs to outreach@physics.usyd.edu.au.

Annual Reports completed
A huge thanks to Alison Muir and Martijn de Sterke for their efforts in compiling annual reports for the School of Physics and the Science Foundation for Physics. These will soon be available in PDF format for the following years:
School of Physics - 2006, 2007
Science Foundation - 2008

ANSYS Workshop
On 15 April the Applied/Plasma group will be hosting a workshop introducing a new software package, ANSYS Multiphysics. The package allows the user to simulate mechanical, thermal, electrodynamic and fluid dynamic processes. For more information, contact Cenk Kocer on phoenix@physics.usyd.edu.au.