

## Radio Telescope, Parkes

location Off the Newell Highway about 20km north of Parkes, New South Wales.

owner Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

---

the plaques

types **National Engineering Landmark and Information Plaques**

location On a stone pedestal between the Visitors' Centre and the telescope.

---

The Parkes Radio Telescope is part of the Australia Telescope National Facility (ATNF) operated by the CSIRO. The ATNF is a national organisation that supports research into radio astronomy and runs the Australia Telescope, the collective name for a set of eight radio telescopes at three locations in New South Wales. The Telescope itself consists of six 22m diameter antennas near Narrabri, a seventh 22m antenna near Coonabarabran and the 64m diameter telescope near Parkes.

plaque text

### **Radio Telescope, Parkes**

This 64 metre telescope is the realisation of the vision of CSIRO's Dr E G Bowen. Designed by Freeman Fox and Partners to a CSIRO specification and built by Maschinenfabrik Augsburg Nurnberg (MAN), many of its features were adopted in later telescopes. Commissioned in 1961, it has allowed astronomers to explore the universe in greater detail than ever before. Excellent engineering and the latest in electronics and computing have kept the telescope at the forefront of radio astronomy.

Dedicated by The Institution of Engineers, Australia, and CSIRO, 1997.



### **Edward George Bowen (1911–1991)**

*'Taffy' Bowen, born in Wales, was one of the most dynamic and influential British physicists of his generation. Bowen joined the CSIR (later CSIRO) in 1944 and became Chief of its Radiophysics Laboratory in Sydney. Under him, Radiophysics developed aircraft navigation aids and gained international reputations in both cloud physics and the new science of radio astronomy. Bowen's vision led to the building of the Parkes 64m diameter radio telescope. He also played a key role in the design development of the Anglo-Australian Telescope, Australia's premier optical telescope. Bowen was accorded many honours including OBE, Medal of Freedom USA and the CBE.*

