The International Year of Astronomy 2009 (IYA2009) was a success by any measure, as
demonstrated in the recently published final report\(^1\). In this special issue of CAPjournal,
we take a look at IYA2009 events that focused on cultural astronomy and discuss how
including a historical or cultural aspect to an astronomy event can help to engage with
a wider audience. By introducing a human element to the grand cosmos, we can make
astronomy more enjoyable and easier to understand for the general public.

During IYA2009, many countries ran projects and events that can be classed as “Cul-
tural Astronomy”. The activities focused on indigenous astronomy, the history of astron-
omy and the inclusive nature of astronomy — a hobby that can be enjoyed by anyone,
anywhere. Their activities included public events that combined telescope observing
with storytelling, new learning modules for school children, theatre productions and
cultural astronomy exhibitions.

We hope that this small selection of events that we present in this issue of CAPjournal
will encourage others to highlight the cultural aspect of astronomy in their own educa-
tion and public outreach activities.

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We also welcome details about forthcoming astronomy and science communication
events (conferences, meetings, etc.), training opportunities, job postings or courses
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books, DVDs, television programmes, magazines or websites that you would like to see
reviewed by the CAPjournal editorial team, simply send the necessary information to:
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address.

Happy reading,

Pedro Russo
Editor-in-Chief

Jarita Holbrook
Guest Editor

\(^1\) The 1400-page IYA2009 Final Report is available
here: http://www.astronomy2009.org/resources/
documents/detail/iya2009_final_report/