

Astronomer has "endless" theory

AMERICAN-BORN radio astronomer Dr Grote Reber believes that, contrary to popular opinion, the universe goes on for ever.

Dr Reber has based his theory on a discovery he made while studying the heavens through a radio telescope he set up on the Dennistoun property, near Bothwell.

In the past it has been accepted that the universe was expanding, and that the expanding part had an edge or a boundary.

Dr Reber now says that there is no such boundary. The radio telescope at

Bothwell is a maze of poles spread over a few acres, connected by wires — a giant aerial designed to pick up the smallest radio signals from outer space.

After hours of sitting in his little hut on the site, looking at instruments and listening through ear-phones for interference Dr Reber found something quite unexpected.

He picked up some unusual radio waves, something that he had never come across before.

He did not quite know what he had discovered and so last year he returned to the United States to discuss his finding with other radio astronomers.

Dr Reber found that other researchers had come across something unusual as well and so he developed a theory that the signals came from a gas in space.

He now believes that this gas is present throughout the universe in relatively constant quantities, so therefore it never ends.

Thus, says Dr Reber, the universe goes on for ever. His theory, that he has



● Dr Grote Reber . . . pioneer in his field.

developed with other researchers, undoubtedly will be taken seriously in astronomy circles, because he pioneered radio astronomy and built the first radio telescope.

But why, you may ask, should a few poles and a couple of miles of wire at Bothwell be of world significance?

The reason, according to Dr Reber, is that Tasmania is the best place in the world to receive radio signals from outer space.