

My supervisor
NIKKU MADHUSUDHAN
and other academic staff
DR. IAN PARRY
PROF. CHRISTOPHER TOUT
DR. VASILY BELOKUROV
for advice and guidance.

(For financial support & accommodation)
TRINITY COLLEGE
Walking through the courtyards never
fails to make me think "Wow."

My financial backers
**THE RUTHERFORD
FOUNDATION TRUST
UNIVERSITIES NEW
ZEALAND**

It has been a pleasure
to have had your support.

For being a wonderful place to work
THE INSTITUTE OF ASTRONOMY
and for being oh-so-helpful
ITS FANTASTIC SUPPORT STAFF

Acknowledgements

For brightening my life in diverse and unexpected ways
MY FELLOW STUDENTS and a special thanks to **CHRISTINA HEDGES**
There are too many of you to name so let just say that you guys are the best. My thanks also go to your lovely
for fun and friendship.
ASSORTED PARTNERS, HOUSEMATES, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS
for making me so welcome in the UK.

For never failing to
brighten my day
**THE SQUIRRELS
OUTSIDE MY
WINDOW**

Your tails are so
twitchy and your little
paws are adorable.

Finally, for so many things: for always
believing in education, for being there from
afar, for letting me find my future, for
your love.

RACHEL AND HER FAMILY

MY FAMILY