



SCORPIUS

THE JOURNAL OF THE
MORNINGTON PENINSULA ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY INC.

Volume XVIII, No. 6 (November/December 2009)

The Mornington Peninsula Astronomical Society (formerly the Astronomical Society of Frankston) was founded in 1969 with the aim of fostering the study and understanding of Astronomy by amateurs and promoting the hobby of amateur Astronomy to the general community at all levels.

The Society holds a focused general meeting each month for the exchange of ideas and information. Regular public and private observing nights are arranged to observe currently available celestial objects and phenomena. In addition, the society encourages the services of its members for educational presentations and observing nights for schools and community groups.

In 2009, we celebrate the society's 40th Anniversary.

MPAS 40 

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF ASTRONOMY IN 2009

The Re-Trial of Galileo

Are science and religion incompatible? Should political expediency outweigh scientific truth? The trial of Galileo, 376 years ago, raised these issues and more. Back in late October, Galileo got a second chance, and the issues around his case were brought to light, when the University of NSW re-tried him in a modern setting. Leading lawyers, academics, astronomers and media personalities have been assembled for this one-off performance, including astronomer Fred Watson as Galileo and barrister Julian Burnside QC as his defence counsel.

This event was filmed by the ABC for a one-hour special for the Compass program in 2010. So how did the trial go? Sorry, no spoilers here. This is definitely one to watch out for next year.

Also in the early in the new year, on 9th and 10th January 2010 the International Year of Astronomy 2009 will be brought to an official close with a ceremony to be held in Padova, Italy, in the Aula Magna of the University, where Galileo taught experimental physics and astronomy. Astronomy Beyond 2009 is the title of the meeting and the aim is both to have an initial account of this fantastic year and discuss the astrophysics of the next decade, and beyond.

Professional astronomers, historians of science and Single Points of Contact from various countries that participated in IYA will deal with the impact of IYA, the legacy of Galileo, the role of science in society and the future of astronomy. Besides this, a number of diverse activities are planned that will involve both the public in Padova and individuals who participated in the programs of the IYA2009.

This event can be followed online at www.beyond2009.org. For those of us staying at home this year, the society's last events for 2009 is the Society Christmas BBQ on Saturday 5th of December, and the December Members night on Saturday 12th of December; both at the Briars.

The Re-Trial of Galileo extract from www.astronomy2009.org.au Astronomy Beyond 2009 extract from www.beyond2009.org



Galileo before the Holy Office, by Joseph-Nicolas Robert-Fleury

Also in **SCORPIUS** for November & December...

• Upcoming Events • Society News & Reports •

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
ASTRONOMY 2009

THE UNIVERSE: YOURS TO DISCOVER

www.astronomy2009.org.au

Society News



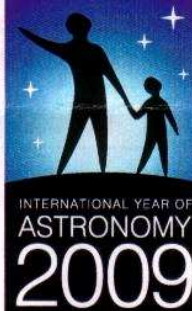
YOURS TO DISCOVER IN NOVEMBER 2009

- Fri 6th - Public Viewing Night at The Briars (8pm)*
- Sun 15th - Bentleigh Street Festival, Centre Road, Bentleigh (9am-4pm)*
(Stall in the Centre Road shop to showcase the Society)
- Wed 18th - Annual General Meeting at The Peninsula School (8pm)
 Session 1 - Tabling of the Annual General Meeting
 Session 2 - Speaker - **Peter Lowe** presenting 'The Space Race'
 Session 3 - Open Forum & 'Sky for the Month'
- Sat 21st - Members Viewing Night at The Briars
- Wed 25th - Committee Meeting

YOURS TO DISCOVER IN DECEMBER 2009

- Fri 4th - Public Viewing Night at The Briars (8pm)*
- Sat 5th - Christmas BBQ Night at The Briars
- Sat 12th - Members Viewing Night at The Briars
- Please Note there is **No General Meeting for December** •

THE UNIVERSE
YOURS TO DISCOVER



* Denotes assistance in the form of telescopes and general evening operating assistance (i.e. - parking, answering queries, organising supper, etc.) for the public/school nights would be appreciated.

Public Night Reports - by Peter Skilton

The following extracts are from Peter Skilton's E-Scorpius reports from the past two months.

Peninsula School Viewing Night - Thursday 3rd of September, 2009.

We had a great turnout of members at the Peninsula School telescope evening yesterday. We were expecting 120 students who'd booked, however, only about 50 turned up with 4 staff on the night, helped no doubt by rain late in the afternoon and seemingly overcast skies.

Well throughout the evening the skies cleared, then clouded totally, then cleared again, then clouded, then cleared then clouded as the front moved through. For the 50 optimists, they were rewarded with good views of Jupiter and the Moon. I gave the talk inside in stuccato fashion. Talking, then moving the audience outside to the telescopes, then inside to continue, then outside again, then inside then outside. Some preferred to stay inside later on and listen to the talk going on in parallel, with it clearly being not warm enough out there for them.

All in all a successful evening, complete with meteorites, despite massive equipment problems inside. The roof data projector failed to work for my windows laptop, after having failed previously for Macintoshes, and the school has escalated for help to the manufacturers now as they are perplexed as to why the new lectern system isn't working for us. In addition, our own portable projector also failed to project my laptop - something that's never happened to us before. Eventually we had a school laptop connected wirelessly (encrypted network) to the data projector, and ran the presentation off my usb stick. This seemed to work ok, though strange alien symbols would appear on most slides where their Windows font configuration wasn't compatible with mine, and sometimes animation on the slides just wouldn't work or was blank.

Thanks to Chris Skilton for helping me inside with the talk logistics, and outside on the telescopes were Ian Sullivan, Trevor Hand, Steve Mohr, Kevin Rossiter, David Rolfe, David Stock, Greg Walton and Fiona Murray, so we would have been able easily to cope with 120 attendees if they'd all showed. Hopefully I haven't missed mentioning anyone there. It also didn't help us in that the senior school had set their students a physics exam the next day, and clearly we were second choice over studying for it!

Public Viewing Night - Friday 4th of September, 2009.

Clear skies availed for the 87 in attendance at the public viewing night at the Briars last Friday night, boosted by a contingent of families from Mt.Eliza North Primary School, where the organising teacher had visited us 6 years ago and liked what she saw.

Society News



Public Night Reports (cont.) - by Peter Skilton

Public Viewing Night - Friday 4th of September, 2009. (cont.)

Inside, the talk was given by Trevor Hand complete with inflatable props and travel cases stuffed full of unusual items to hold the attention of the visitors. Outside on the telescopes and keeping the crowd under control were Kathryn Hand, Rod Brackenridge and son, Helmuth Shultz, Greg Walton, John Cleverdon, Kevin Rossiter in his hallmark freezer suit, Fiona and Pearl Murray and Barbara Medhurst and son Callum in what is probably their last appearance before shifting to sunnier climes in Townsville and becoming our interstate correspondents.

12 yr old Christopher Skilton also proudly had his newly varnished wooden telescope on display all evening on the main viewing slab, giving good views to all comers of the full Moon and Jupiter with dark bandings visible and with 4 Galilean satellites on show. The inside workings of the telescope were visible through the perspex cover stretching the full length of the instrument, and enabled him to explain to the kids how his Dobsonian reflector works. He'd ground and polished its 4.25 inch mirror himself from 2 pyrex glass blanks, before silvering both it and a home-made secondary mirror made from ordinary window plate glass. The telescope design was largely borrowed from Richard Berry's book, though scaled down by 75% and with improvements from several other books such as Jean Texereu, Sam Brown and others from the library. The only thing that wasn't home-made was the eyepiece itself. This f/7 instrument proved to be popular especially with all the Primary age kids pre sent, with its eyepiece being closer to their eye height than the other adult height instruments also on the slab. I heard one lad about 10 yrs old say "now that's a coool telescope", and I could see Chris was chuffed when he heard that.

Thanks to all who attended.

Seaford Primary School Viewing Night - Thursday 10th of September, 2009.

The viewing night for Seaford Primary School at The Briars last night was a big success, with 65 in attendance. This is the fourth time they've had a viewing from us over the years, so they clearly enjoy it.

It was an odd night, starting with being clear enough for some viewing of Jupiter, then the clouds rolled in so I began inside the BAC with the talk after some technical problems with the data projector, then it cleared wonderfully and everyone raced outside to the instruments again. Eventually it clouded again and they all came inside for the remainder of the talk. By the end of the talk, the clouds had dispersed just in time for the pupils to stagger back to the Camp for bedtime.

One of the teachers relayed that they'd been studying dinosaurs recently, so they found that part of the talk particularly interesting. And we came across last night a girl in the audience who is now the 6th person to correctly answer how many moons around the picture we show of Saturn. Not a bad effort considering 40,000 people have seen it and normally get the wrong answer.

Thanks to David Rolfe, Kevin Rossiter and Phil Holt for bringing their telescopes along and showing the enthusiastic bunch the obvious Jupiter and 3 moons, as well as 47 Tuc, Jewelbox and several other objects.

Public Viewing Night - Friday 2nd of October, 2009.

A good public night was had by all last night at The Briars with it alternating throughout the evening between total cloud cover and totally clear skies and back to cloud and back to clear.

Trevor Hand gave the talk together with his impressive array of hands-on props. Members helping outside were Kathryn Hand, Phil Holt, Peter Lowe, Greg Walton, Fiona and Pearl Murray, Bob Heale, Steve Mohr, Peter Skilton, Richard Pollard and new member Charlotte Swart. Also to be thanked is the milk and biscuits fairy who magically makes them appear each time.

Richard shared some phone video views of the recent Space Shuttle launch he attended at Cape Kennedy, being located 5 km from the tower, and which no doubt will turn into a presentation in the coming months.

Derinya Primary School Viewing Nights - Tuesday 20th & Thursday 22nd of October, 2009.

The first of this week's Derinya Primary school nights went ahead last night at The Briars, with the anticipated 55 students and teachers present. Being around year 4/5 level, there were plenty of good questions asked. The talk was given by Peter Skilton, and helping out with scopes and logistics were Brett Bajada and his son and Phil Holt.

Conditions were cloudy throughout, however, a brief intermission in the seeing allowed the students a glimpse through filtered clouds of Jupiter before the weather closed in again.

On Thursday we had reasonably clear skies last night at the second Derinya Primary school viewing night this week (another two year 4 classes) where 55 pupils plus teachers were in attendance.

The talk was given by Peter Skilton, following a brief meteorite intro by Peter Lowe. Outside helping with the telescopes were Rod Brackenridge, Greg Walton, Fiona Walton, David Stock, Simon Birch and Kevin Rossiter fresh back from an observatory crawl interstate (see page 8).



Society News



Christmas BBQ Viewing Night

Our final social get together for the year is the Christmas BBQ & Observing night on Saturday 5th of December. With the weather starting to warm up, this is a great chance to catch up with everyone before the Christmas/New Year break.

This is open to all members and their families, at anytime after 4pm on Saturday. A sausage sizzle will be put on for members with soft drink available for \$2 a can, however you can B.Y.O. other meats and drinks, if you like.

Ho, Ho, Ho, Hope to see you there.

Bentleigh Street Festival - Sunday 15th of November



M.P.A.S. will once again have a presence at the Bentleigh Festival on Sunday 15th November from 9am to 4pm. Members will be present to provide the public with information about the International Year of Astronomy, astronomy as a hobby, public viewing nights at The Briars and society memberships. A number of telescopes will be set up for display, and if the weather allows some solar viewing also. We will be having a free raffle, with two equal first prizes of genuine meteorites from the Moon and Mars, plus a couple of other prizes.

If you are interested in helping out on the day, please email Trevor Hand via E-Scorpius.

Further information about the festival can be found at www.ShopBentleigh.com.au

Briars Site Access Update

As of November onwards, vehicular access to our Briars observing site is now only possible via the lower gate. The upper vehicular access entry no longer exists. Pedestrian access is still available via the concrete path. Please note the road to the lower vehicular access entry is unsealed and quite narrow. Please take care when using this road. For first time visitors to the Briars, it is suggested that you may want to arrive prior to night fall to better navigate around the observing site.

Also, a reminder that the farmer at the Briars currently has cattle on the Briars property. Please drive responsibly and alert when entering and exiting the Briars over the next couple of months. We don't want you to have a cow of a day!

Snake Warning for the Briars

With Summer now approaching, we wish to remind all members that it is the time of the year again when we must be aware of snakes at the facility. Usually there are a few sightings reported each Summer. If anyone does come across a snake on the site or in any part of the grounds at the Briars then the best thing to do is to walk away and alert other people of the presence of the snake. Do not disturb the snake or attempt to kill the snake under any circumstances as they are a protected species on the Briars site.

NACAA 2010

The 24th National Convention of Amateur Astronomers will be held in Canberra over the 2010 Easter weekend, April 2-5. The theme for this NACAA is "Astronomy in the On-Line Age".

The venue for most of the technical sessions will be the Rydges Capital Hill hotel, which is only a short distance from both the old and new Parliament Houses. Some NACAA events will also be held at venues such as Mount Stromlo Observatory.

At this time there is a call for Presentations for this event. The core of the convention is of course its presentations, and they are asking you to consider making a contribution, by yourself or in a group. There are no restrictions on topics or themes, so long as the contribution is likely to be interesting to other astronomers. We are looking for posters, oral presentations, round-table meetings, workshops, symposia... or any other presentation.

Further information about NACAA XXIV can be found at <http://nacaa.org.au/2010>. To see what sorts of activities to expect, please look at <http://nacaa.org.au/2008> to see what happened at the 2008 event.

Looking forward to meeting you in Canberra next year.

Society News



2010 Society Fees

As briefly mentioned in the last newsletter, this coming year and onwards, we will be offering the option of multi-year society memberships. We are offering these multi-year memberships for their convenience and security against possible future membership fee increase. The memberships on offer are as follows:

1 year option:	Full Membership - \$50
	Pensioner Membership - \$45
	Family Membership - \$65
	Family Pensioner Membership - \$60
	Newsletter Subscription Only - \$22

2 year option:	Full Membership - \$100
	Pensioner Membership - \$90
	Family Membership - \$130
	Family Pensioner Membership - \$120
	Newsletter Subscription Only - \$44

3 year option:	Full Membership - \$150
	Pensioner Membership - \$135
	Family Membership - \$195
	Family Pensioner Membership - \$180
	Newsletter Subscription Only - \$66

20% Discount Offer	Full Membership - \$200	<i>Pay for 4 years, and be a member for 5 years!</i>
	Pensioner Membership - \$180	
	Family Membership - \$260	
	Family Pensioner Membership - \$240	
	Newsletter Subscription Only - \$88	

You will need to specify which membership type you are purchasing when you renew. Renewals for next year / following years are open now, and the usual reminder letter will be sent out with the first newsletter for 2010. Please note, once purchased these memberships are not refundable, so please consider these multi-year options carefully prior to purchase.

On top of this, we will also be giving our society members the choice of receiving the Scorpius newsletter via the society website, or by the usual mail delivery. The website version of the newsletter will be a PDF in full colour, be posted up on the website almost a week earlier, and contain hyper-links to expand the articles further. The mail version will have the same content, but have limited colour content, and no hyper-links. This is being offered to suit the varying needs of our society members. Again, at the time of your renewal, we ask that you specify which version of Scorpius you would like to receive.

If there are any queries you may have about the fees or newsletter, please speak to one of the society committee members



2010 Astronomy Australia

Once again, the society will be fortunate enough to secure your guide to the astronomical year ahead with the 2010 ASTRONOMY AUSTRALIA. This practical guide to all things astronomical in the Australian skies is a wonderful reference for all levels of star-gazers, from newcomer to expert. Pricing is \$24 to the public, though society members can get it at the discounted rate of \$20.

Orders and payments can be made in person at any M.P.A.S. gathering, by cheque to P.O. Box 596, Frankston 3199, or by phone by leaving a message on 0419 253 252. These sky almanacs will be available at any society gathering, from mid-November onwards.

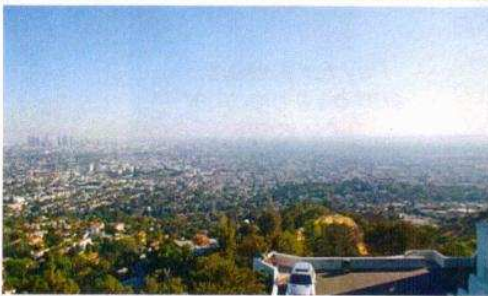
Hurry. The society only orders in a specific quantity each year, and it's first come, first served.



Society Reports

A Northern Viewing Trip with including the LCROSS event by David Rofle

Our long planned family vacation this year was to the U.S. for a 3 week road trip. By pure coincidence this aligned with the finally of the NASA LCROSS Mission which I decided to have a decent go at. Below is a summary of my viewing activities during the trip.



Main Picture: The Griffith Observatory. Left Insert Picture: The view over Los Angeles. Middle Insert Picture: A very cool Lego miniature of the observatory at 'Lego Land'. Right insert: One of the exhibits inside the observatory.

When I first arrived in LA I went to the local astronomy clubs meeting night at the Griffith observatory in the Hollywood hills (picture below). The night had a guest in Andy Chaikin, author of *A Man on the Moon*, who presented a forum about the LCROSS impact and was handing out collectable official NASA handouts, observing tips and mission details.

This observatory was built for the purposes of public education and has had no history of Astronomical research. The reason for this I assume is the massive sky-glow from views of LA below. The facilities main scope is a 12" Zeiss refracting telescope from the 1930's which the public can look through each the Friday night. The sky was so bright Jupiter was quite hard to see naked eye even though it was fairly high. I had a quick peek, but being so popular each person gets about 10 seconds at the eyepiece, that's after the 1 hour line! The observatory has some really good information and exhibits inside, worth a look if anyone goes to LA.

We went by San Francisco and drove past the NASA AMES research facility; however they had no public access the day we drove by. We eventually ended up at our rental house in the centre of the Yosemite National Park. The skies were dark and the seeing was brilliant 11/10 the whole time I was 'outback'.

I set up my scope and spent the night outside looking at the objects not viewable from down here. Some of my favourites were the Double-Double near VEGA, the double clusters, Polaris, M31 (Andromeda) to name a few.

(Continued next page)

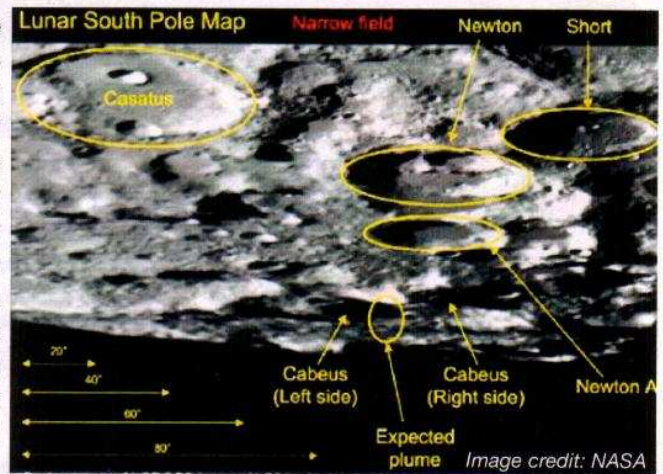


Society Reports



A Northern Viewing Trip with including the LCROSS event by David Rofle (Continued)

The house has WIFI internet so when it came to the 4.31 PST in the morning of October 9th I was all ready to go for the LCROSS impact with my best mag and alignment that I could achieve. I had studied the map and was sure I was looking at exactly the right creator area in Cabeus. The NASA TV steaming the countdown in real time, when they said impact has occurred I saw a distinctive flash exactly where it should have been, it would have lasted a few seconds at most. I did not see the expected lingering plume they were predicting, but then again it didn't go exactly as predicted and I don't believe anyone really did. I was going to image the event but at the last moment I decided to just view it as my camera FOV and clarity was not the greatest. I figured other people would get it anyway.



While I was in Vegas I picked up a polar scope for my new Advanced GT mount from Scope City and had a look around there big show room. He had one more item I was tempted to look at; it was an early Celestron/ Williams film astronomy camera that uses dry ice to keep the film cool. It had an interesting off axis guider for the longer exposure. They also had a genuine brass 8" Zeiss refractor for consignment sale, I didn't ask the price!

I did more viewing on the way home from the deserts around the grand canyon and basically came to the conclusion that we are not really missing out on too much here in the southern side, however it is worth a look. I did notice very early that the sky seems to be upside down, maybe I should have stood on my head? On the way back to the airport I stopped in at OPT and spent the last of my savings on a Baby Q. This was always on the end of my wish list, so can't wait for dark skies and clear nights back here to give this astrograph go.

Slightly off topic, if you are driving by mammoth lakes there are 2 adjoining well defined meteorite creators only a few miles off the interstate, it is worth a look. – yes that is snow, yes it was cold.



All images (unless otherwise credited) by David Rofle.

The LCROSS Mission (Very Brief)

The LCROSS mission (Lunar CRater Observing and Sensing Satellite) was designed to impact into the moon in a shaded crater near the south pole with the target of bringing up soil into the sunlight (against the black of the crater wall) so that the composition can be analysed to determine the amount of water in the area. Future missions (or a lunar outpost) will require water that can be harvested from the moon in order to sustain a long term presence.

The LCROSS mechanism itself has a two parts, where on final approach, the 'shepherding' spacecraft and Centaur will separate. The Centaur will act as a heavy impactor to create a debris plume that will rise above the lunar surface. About four minutes behind, the shepherding spacecraft will fly through the debris plume, collecting and relaying data back to Earth before impacting the lunar surface and creating a second debris plume.

The final results have not been released from the mission yet (at the time of writing). The mission has been called a success (in what aspect technical/ results/ found water?), however it had already been established that there is water on the moon via research from an Indian space mission earlier in the year.



Image credit: NASA

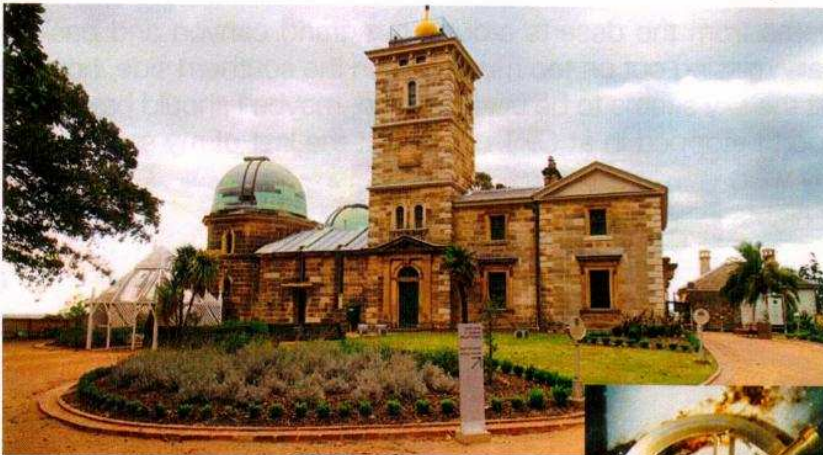


Society Reports

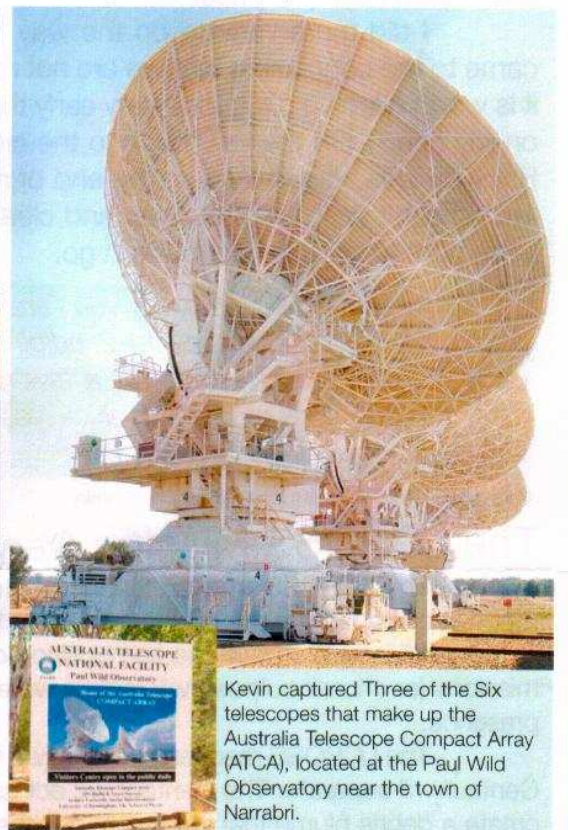
Kevin's "Astronomy On The Move" Holiday



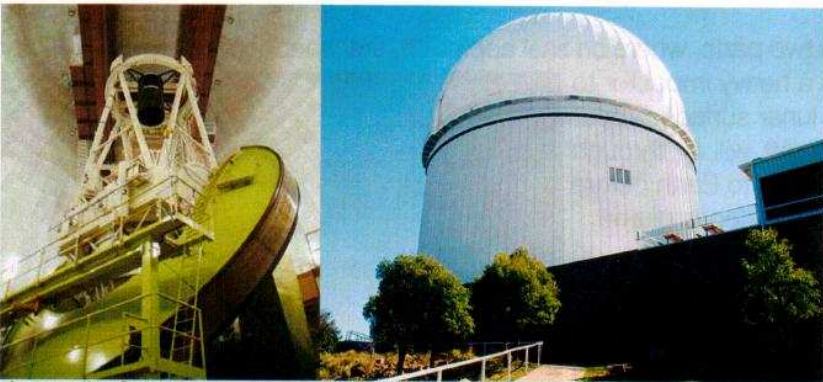
Before everyone asks, no Kevin wasn't driving this fast on his recent holiday (at least we hope he wasn't driving this fast), but he did manage to cram in a few astronomical places of interest along the way to his ultimate destination - the 2009 Bathurst 1000 Race. He was good enough to take a lots of pictures along the way. Unfortunately, I can't put them all in Scorpius, but I can show you a few of the pictures he took. If you see Kevin around with his laptop, and if you ask nicely, he'll be more than happy to show you more images from his trip.



First on his stop off around N.S.W. was the old Sydney Observatory. Now a museum and educational centre. The Sydney Observatory conducts both Day tours and Night time viewing sessions for the general public.



Kevin captured Three of the Six telescopes that make up the Australia Telescope Compact Array (ATCA), located at the Paul Wild Observatory near the town of Narrabri.



A stop off in Coonabarabran to see the Siding Spring Observatory

Kevin also took in the iconic 64 metre 'Dish', at the Parkes Observatory.



Society News



Annual General Meeting - Committee Elections Wednesday, 18th of November, 2009.

Have you considered joining the society committee?

The Mornington Peninsula Astronomical Society operates because we have a committee of management responsible for the general operation of the society. We're always on the look out for interested persons who can contribute to the society's success.

The Society's committee is structured under the constitution and has a number of specific officer positions together with a number of general committee members. Each committee member takes responsibility for handling some aspect of the society's business. The President and Vice President are responsible for the general planning and operation of the Society's business and represent the society to the members, other societies and the general public. The Secretary is the formal contact point of all formal society business and maintains the records of the society. The Treasurer monitors the society financial status and handles the various money transactions required.

Other committee members provide logistical support for the various society activities & development programs. These include :

- Developing the forward society calendar of activities including speakers for the general meetings and special events both social and astronomical.
- Handling and planning school viewing nights
- Preparing the "What's On" handouts for members.
- Publishing the Scorpius and managing the E-Scorpius internet chat room.
- Maintaining the publicity and public notices we require to keep the general public apprised of our activities.
- Developing and creating the library.

Without this group of dedicated supporters the society would definitely slow down.

If you feel you would like to get involved in the society business or have a particular skill you think would be useful to the society as a whole please give some thought to becoming a committee member.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 18th of November, 2009**. In this edition of Scorpius (below), there is a 'Committee Election Form' that can be used for the submission of nominations for the next committee. This can be posted to M.P.A.S., PO Box 564, Frankston, VIC. 3199. Alternatively, nominations can also be submitted electronically to welcome@mpas.asn.au by stating which position on the committee you would like to nominate for.



Mornington Peninsula Astronomical Society Inc. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ELECTIONS

Nominee: _____
 Proposer: _____
 Seconder: _____

} Must be current financial members

Position: *(tick 1 or more*)* **Office Bearers:** President Vice President Treasurer Secretary
Ordinaries: Public Officer Ordinary Committee Member (5 of these)

Acceptance Signature of Nominee: _____

Submit 1 day prior to the Annual General Meeting.

Post to M.P.A.S., PO Box 596, Frankston, VIC. 3199.

* Note : (1) That one person cannot nominate for multiple Office Bearer positions. (2) The committee is responsible for the development and operation of the society according to the MPAS Constitution. To support this, all committee members are expected to take responsibility for some aspect of society business

Office bearers of the Mornington Peninsula Astronomical Society

President: Peter Lowe - 0419 355 819

Secretary: Peter Skilton - 0419 253 252

Vice President: Bob Heale

Treasurer: Marty Rudd - 5977 8863

Scorpius Editor: Brett Bajada

Public Officer: Rhonda Sawosz

Committee: Ian Sullivan, Trevor Hand,
Brett Bajada, Fiona Murray

Phone Contact: Peter Skilton - 0419 253 252

Web Master: Steven Mohr

GENERAL MEETINGS

Meeting Venue: Peninsula School, Wooralla Drive, Mt. Eliza, (Melways map 105/F5) in the Senior School at 8pm, on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, except December. Entry is via the main gates or Gate 2, off Wooralla Drive. Exit is via Gate 2 (see map).

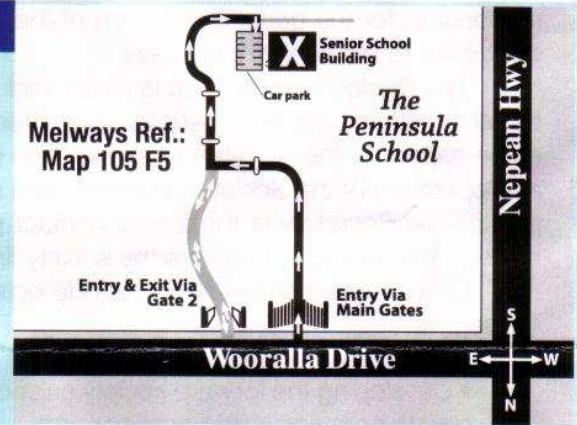
For additional details:

Phone: 0419 253 252

Mail: P.O. Box 596, Frankston 3199, Victoria, Australia.

Internet: <http://www.mpas.asn.au>

email: welcome@mpas.asn.au



LOAN EQUIPMENT

The Society has a variety of telescopes including an *8-inch reflector*, *80mm refractor* and *binoculars*, all available for loan. A committee member to arrange the loan of equipment. The Society also has books and videos for loan from its library, made available during General Meetings.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO SCORPIUS

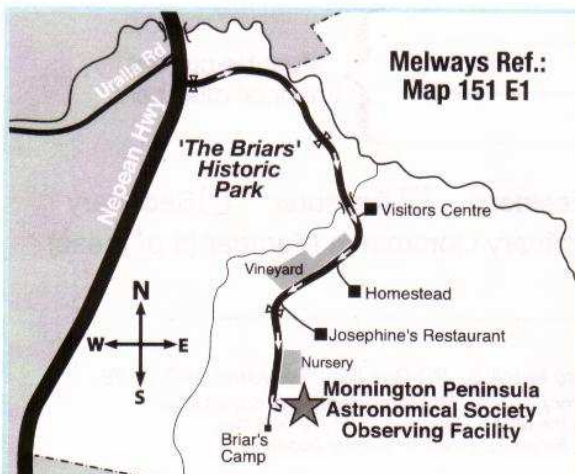
If you would like to submit an article or written contribution to Scorpius, then please send your submission to M.P.A.S., P.O. Box 596, Frankston 3199, or you can now email to scorpius@mpas.asn.au.

Any astronomical events that you have witnessed or tales you would like to tell, things you have for sale (eg: telescopes, eyepieces, etc.) then please send them in. And the 'Society Pics' page will always accept any images that you have taken and wish to share with other members. All contributions and any feedback you wish to make about the newsletter are welcome.

E-SCORPIUS NEWSGROUP

The M.P.A.S. has an online newsgroup called E-Scorpius. Here you will be kept up to date with the latest M.P.A.S. news and event information as well as being able to join in discussions and ask questions with other members. To join, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com> and sign up to Yahoo groups. You require to sign up to Yahoo groups to join E-Scorpius.

Once you have signed up at Yahoo groups, email skywatch@iprimus.com.au saying that you want to join E-Scorpius and you will be added to the E-Scorpius list. Come on, join up. The more people in the group the better.



VIEWING NIGHTS - MEMBERS ONLY

Any night, at The Briars, Nepean Hwy, Mt. Martha, starting at dusk. If you would like to know if others are observing at the site, then call the society's site mobile on 0408 127 443.

Members visiting The Briars for the first time must contact Greg Walton on either 9773 0098 or 0415 172 503 if they need help in getting to the site. Upon arrival at the site, remember to sign the attendance book in the observatory building to verify that the mobile is turned on.

For additional details:

Internet: <http://www.mpas.asn.au>



Mornington Peninsula Astronomical Society 2010 Calendar

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
1 F Pub Nt, Lunar, Earth, Perihelion	1 M	1 M	1 Th	1 S	1 T	1 Th	1 Su	1 W	1 F	1 M	1 W
2 S	2 T	2 T	2 F	2 Su	2 W	2 F	2 M	2 Th	2 S	2 T	2 Th
3 Su	3 W	3 W	3 S	3 M	3 Th	3 S	3 T	3 F	3 Su	3 W	3 F
4 M	4 Th	4 Th	4 Su	4 T	4 F	4 Su	4 W	4 S	4 M	4 Th	4 S
5 T	5 F	5 F	5 M	5 W	5 Su	5 M	5 Th	5 Su	5 T	5 F	5 Su
6 W	6 S	6 S	6 T	6 Th	6 M	6 T	6 F	6 M	6 W	6 S	6 M
7 Th	7 Su	7 Su	7 W	7 F	7 M	7 W	7 S	7 T	7 Th	7 Su	7 T
8 F	8 M	8 M	8 Th	8 S	8 Th	8 Th	8 Su	8 W	8 F	8 M	8 W
9 S	9 T	9 T	9 F	9 Su	9 W	9 F	9 M	9 Th	9 S	9 T	9 Th
10 Su	10 W	10 W	10 S	10 M	10 Th	10 S	10 T	10 F	10 Su	10 W	10 F
11 M	11 Th	11 Th	11 Su	11 T	11 F	11 Su	11 W	11 S	11 M	11 Th	11 S
12 T	12 F	12 F	12 M	12 W	12 S	12 M	12 Th	12 Su	12 T	12 F	12 Su
13 W	13 S	13 S	13 T	13 Th	13 M	13 T	13 F	13 M	13 W	13 S	13 M
14 Th	14 Su	14 Su	14 W	14 F	14 M	14 F	14 S	14 T	14 Th	14 Su	14 T
15 F	15 M	15 M	15 Th	15 S	15 Th	15 Th	15 Su	15 W	15 F	15 M	15 W
16 S	16 T	16 T	16 F	16 Su	16 W	16 F	16 M	16 Th	16 S	16 T	16 Th
17 Su	17 W	17 W	17 Su	17 T	17 F	17 S	17 Th	17 F	17 Su	17 W	17 F
18 M	18 Th	18 Th	18 M	18 W	18 S	18 Su	18 Th	18 S	18 M	18 Th	18 S
19 T	19 F	19 F	19 T	19 Th	19 M	19 M	19 Th	19 Su	19 T	19 F	19 Su
20 W	20 S	20 S	20 W	20 F	20 M	20 T	20 F	20 M	20 W	20 S	20 M
21 Th	21 Su	21 Su	21 Th	21 S	21 Th	21 W	21 M	21 Th	21 F	21 Su	21 T
22 F	22 M	22 M	22 F	22 Su	22 W	22 Th	22 S	22 W	22 F	22 M	22 W
23 S	23 T	23 T	23 M	23 W	23 Th	23 F	23 M	23 Th	23 S	23 M	23 O
24 Su	24 W	24 W	24 Su	24 T	24 F	24 S	24 Th	24 F	24 Su	24 W	24 F
25 M	25 Th	25 Th	25 M	25 W	25 S	25 Su	25 Th	25 S	25 M	25 Th	25 S
26 T	26 F	26 F	26 T	26 Th	26 M	26 O	26 Th	26 W	26 T	26 F	26 Su
27 W	27 S	27 S	27 W	27 F	27 Su	27 T	27 F	27 M	27 W	27 S	27 M
28 Th	28 Su	28 Su	28 Th	28 S	28 M	28 W	28 S	28 Th	28 F	28 Su	28 T
29 F	29 M	29 M	29 F	29 Su	29 Th	29 Th	29 M	29 W	29 S	29 M	29 W
30 S	30 T	30 T	30 M	30 W	30 F	30 F	30 M	30 Th	30 S	30 T	30 Th
31 Su	31 W	31 W	31 Su	31 T	31 M	31 S	31 Th	31 F	31 Su	31 T	31 F

General Meetings are held at 8pm at the Peninsula School, Wooralla Drive, Mt. Eliza - Melways Ref 105 F5
 Entry and Exit is via **Gate 3**, on Wooralla Dve (drive to Senior School at rear)

Library at Peninsula School is open on General Meeting nights for borrowing by members.

Members and Special nights, and available Fri & Sat, are for sky viewing at M.P.A.S. Viewing Facility
 The Briars' Neapean Hwy, Mt. Martha. - Melways Ref 151 E1 Confirm with Greg Walton **0415 172 503**

State School Holidays ○ Full Moon ● New Moon
 P is Public Holidays ● is Public Holidays

Public Nights for sky viewing are held at 'The Briars' M.P.A.S. Viewing Facility (Melways Ref 151 E1) at 9pm all year. Booking is preferred, but not essential.
School and Community Group Nights can be arranged as the Society has telescopes, and will travel. For all of the above - bookings and enquiries, phone **0419 253 252**

Prepared by Ian Sullivan - Jan 2010
<http://www.mpas.asn.au>



Above - MPAS 80mm binocular chair

Below - Images taken with the MPAS 18 inch telescope



Below - MPAS gets a kitchen area & glass cabinet for aliens



By Greg Walton 19dec09

NGC 2070 MPAS 18inch Briars Pentax K-x iso6400 4x25sec



M42 Briars MPAS 18inch Pentax K-x 10sec iso6400 No Editing

By Greg Walton 19dec09



