

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

★ Membership requires no previous experience. You do not have to be an expert. Most members just start with a general interest.

★ The Society draws its membership from the wide regional area surrounding the Mornington Peninsula, including Cranbourne, Dandenong and Tooradin.

★ Membership is open to all ages, and is drawn from around Victoria, interstate and overseas. If transport is a concern, we may be able to assist, with members living in many areas.

★ You do not have to own a telescope to join, as there are members' and Society telescopes available. If you do own a telescope or binoculars, we are happy to answer any questions you may have about the instrument or help guide you in it's optimal use.

★ There is no joining fee or other hidden fees other than the annual subscription. fees for the membership are due January 1st each year.

★ The number of members varies from year to year as people move, but is approaching 200, making us one of the largest and accessible Societies in the Southern hemisphere. Nearly a third of these attend the regular monthly meetings.

★ The Society conducts educational sky viewing nights and presentations upon request for schools and community groups in the southern and south eastern suburbs of Melbourne, as well as in Victoria regional areas such as Westernport and Port Phillip. Demand is very strong throughout the year. So book early for best celestial alignments.

Mornington Peninsula Astronomical Society Inc. (Reg. No. A268)  
P.O. Box 596, Frankston 3199  
Victoria, Australia.

## MEETING VENUE

The Society meets on the third Wednesday of each month (except December) at:

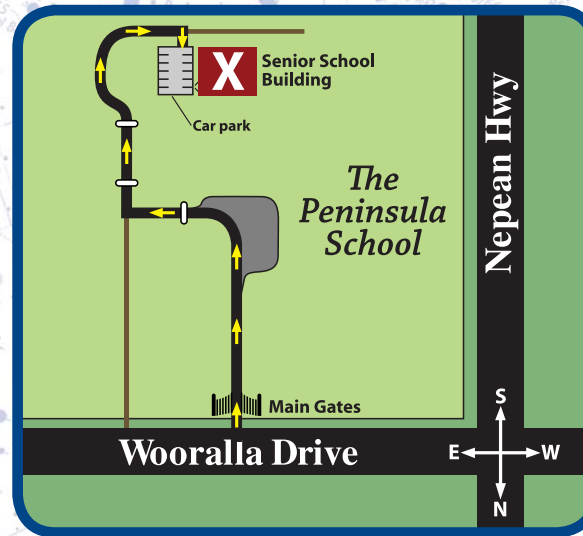
### The Peninsula School

Wooralla Drive, Mt. Eliza

(Melways Map 105 F5)

Senior School at 8pm

(Southern-most Carpark)



Visitors are always welcome

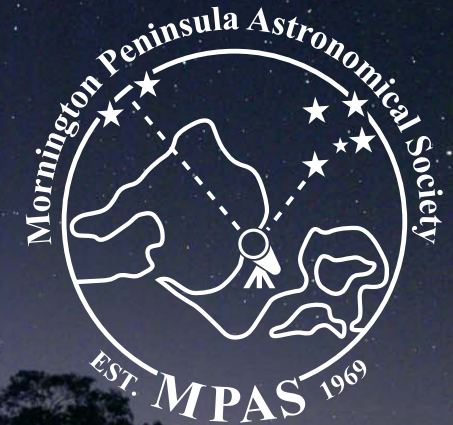
## CONTACTS

Inquires & Bookings:

Phone: 0419 253 252

Email: [welcome@mpas.asn.au](mailto:welcome@mpas.asn.au)

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



## ASTRONOMY ON THE MOVE

The Mornington Peninsula Astronomical Society (formally the Astronomical Society of Frankston) was founded in 1969 with the aim of fostering the study and understanding of Astronomy and Science, and promoting these 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 it's members for educational presentations and observing nights for schools and community groups.



# ASTRONOMY IS FULL OF WONDER

Astronomy is a fascinating pursuit to learn about the world we live on and the Universe around us. Since it was formed in 1969, the Mornington Peninsula Astronomical Society has been helping the community gain a better understanding of the Universe. Each month there are typically 2 or 3 planned activities, the regular General Meeting, viewing nights or other events.

## General Meetings

These are held monthly as explained overleaf. Visitors are always welcome. The meetings are comfortable get-togethers to review some of the latest developments in Astronomical and Scientific discoveries, and talk on topics of interest. Sometimes guest speakers give presentations or show videos of special interest but, in general, the meetings run parallel sessions from which attendees can select their preference on the night.

## Library, Telescopes & Binoculars

The M.P.A.S. maintains a library of Astronomy and Science books, videos & software for members to borrow. A professional yearly sky almanac and other astronomy materials are also available for members at special prices. The Society also has portable, large telescopes and binoculars available for member borrowing.

## Social Events

These are typically held each month. They can take the form of a members' viewing night at one of the local dark sky locations, such as 'The Briars', where members share their instruments. It is, of course, not necessary to own a telescope to attend. Viewing nights are often combined with a BBQ. In colder months, warmer events may be planned such as Star Parties and other more social gatherings of astronomical interest.

## The Briars Observatory

The Society is planning an observatory at a site on 'The Briars Historic Park' property, near Mt. Martha, which will provide our community with a fixed telescope installation to act as a central facility for long term observations and education. It is planned to install a large telescope suitable for general observing, yet well capable to meet more advanced users and their needs.

## Society Journals

Every two months the M.P.A.S. newsletter is sent to all members. It is a general interest Astronomy publication containing the latest discoveries from the world's observatories and spacecraft, special topics, plus articles written by members on their researches and areas of interest. It also provides advanced notice and expert advice on sky phenomena and all planned Society activities and field expeditions. A newsletter-only subscription may be obtained at a reduced rate, and is popular for those who find it difficult to attend meetings, but who wish to keep up-to-date. An email distribution list is also maintained for notifying interested parties of late breaking news and advanced notice of celestial events (eg. new comets) and lectures of interest. The M.P.A.S. also runs an Aurora alert service to enable participants to observe this rare phenomenon.

## Observing Group

On the more serious side, an active observers' group has a planned observing programme to help members better understand and utilise their instruments. The group can help you learn more about the Astronomical and artificial objects in the sky, and how best to study them. In many cases, these observations are passed along to professional organisations who seek and use the collected data in research programmes

## Instrument Making.

There is nothing more pleasing than to look at the sky through a telescope made with your own hands. It is surprisingly easy to build a telescope far better than an equivalent mass-produced instrument, and at a fraction of the cost, when you know how. There are books and much experience in all aspects of instrument making within the M.P.A.S.. A number of the large Society telescopes have been made in this way.



Photos by M.P.A.S. Members Greg Walton & Peter Skilton



## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP TYPE (tick desired box)

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Member                         | <b>\$50</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pensioner Member                    | <b>\$45</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full-Time Student Member            | <b>\$35</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership                   | <b>\$65</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Pensioner Membership         | <b>\$60</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Subscription Only        | <b>\$22</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School, Community Group or Overseas | <b>\$70</b> |

Annual Membership Payment is Enclosed

How did you find out about the Society? \_\_\_\_\_

If Family membership, how many in Family? \_\_\_\_\_

Please name members for complimentary name tags \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Simply Post to: **Mornington Peninsula  
Astronomical Society Inc.  
P.O. Box 596, Frankston,  
Victoria, Australia. 3199.**

or hand in at any M.P.A.S. event.

**Please Note:** Cheques are to be made out to:  
**Mornington Peninsula Astronomical Society Inc.**  
(Abbreviations cannot be accepted)

