Astronomical Society of Frankston

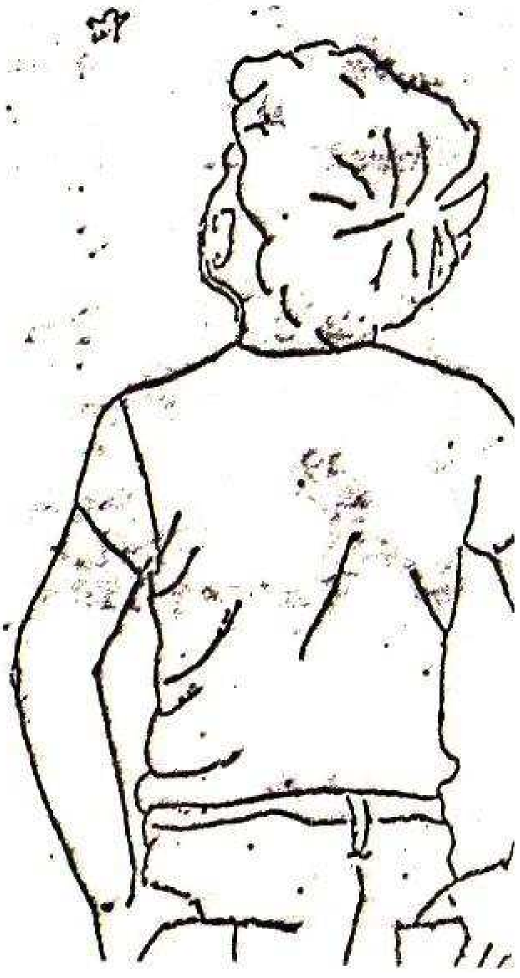
FEBRUARY 1982

FEBRUARY MEETING

" Apart from the well known case of the full moon, there are surprisingly numerous other examples of illusory phenomena associated with observational astronomy..."

Interested ? Then come along on February 24 when Jim Trainor will reveal all.

8 pm , Room 16 , State College , Frankston .



ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF FRANKSTON
Newsletter February 1982

COMING EVENTS

February 24	Monthly ASF Meeting - see front page for details
March 5	Viewing Night for members and visitors. Bring along your telescopes and friends.
April 9 - 11	Tenth NACAA in Brisbane - the amateur astronomers' biannual get--together. Contact Bruce Tregaskis for details (787 2444)

LIBRARY

Members are asked to return ASF library books to the next meeting, so that a check of library holdings may be carried out.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscriptions were due on January 1 . If you have not already paid, would you please bring the coupon below with your payment to the meeting on Feb. 24 , or post it to : Peter Brown
7 Kiandra Crt.
Frankston 3199

NOVA

Bruce Tregaskis reports that Nova Honda was found in Aquila on Jan. 27 at mag. 6.5 , and confirmed on Jan. 29 at mag. 7.8 . Its position (RA 19h 20.7m Dec +2°24′) places it in a region of high nova activity.

CUT OUT AND RETURN WITH SUBSCRIPTION

Name/s :
Address :
Phone :

adult	family	junior/student
$10	$15	$4

(circle membership type)

SKY NOTES

This section, to appear monthly in the newsletter, aims to provide members with useful information on celestial events. Your comments, contributions and suggestions are invited.

Mercury and Venus are both visible in the morning sky before sunrise. Mercury will be at its greatest western elongation (26° from the Sun) on February 26 and will be best placed for viewing then. On later days it will be closer to the Sun. Venus reaches its greatest brilliancy on February 24, thirty-five days after its inferior conjunction with the Sun.

The three planets Mars, Jupiter and Saturn all lie within the constellation Virgo this month. They rise earlier each evening and remain visible throughout the night. Mars and Saturn are close together, with Jupiter nearer to Libra. The slightly brighter magnitude of Mars, and its reddish tint, should help distinguish it from Saturn. On Feb. 25 Saturn passes 5° north of Spica, Virgo's brilliant white first magnitude star.

The Autumn equinox is on March 20 when the Sun crosses the celestial equator from south to north.

The tables overpage provide information for the planets at twenty day intervals, covering the period from mid-February through March.
The information for right ascension (RA) and declination (Dec) may be used to plot planetary positions on a star chart. Planet magnitudes, times of rising and setting for the planets, and sunrise and sunset times are also listed. All times are ~~given in~~ AEST , correct for Frankston, but no allowance has been made for Daylight Saving Time. Moon details are also provided overpage.

February 9 (day 50) Sunrise 5.52 Sunset 19.13

	RA h.m	Dec ° ′	Mag	Rise h.m	Set h.m
Mercury	20.26	-18 09	+0.6	3.48	17.50
Venus	19.41	-14 46	-4.3	3.16	16.53
Mars	13.15	- 4 39	-0.2	21.24	9.51
Jupiter	14.33	-13 39	-1.7	22.12	11.42
Saturn	13.25	- 6 05	+0.7	21.29	10.10

March 11 (day 70) Sunrise 6.13 Sunset 18.45

	RA h.m	Dec ° ′	Mag	Rise h.m	Set h.m
Mercury	21.56	-14 24	+0.8	4.13	17.48
Venus	20.29	-14 56	-4.2	2.44	16.22
Mars	13.08	- 3 42	-0.8	20.01	8.22
Jupiter	14.32	-13 29	-1.9	20.53	10.22
Saturn	13.22	- 5 40	+0.6	20.08	8.42

March 31 (day 90) Sunrise 6.32 Sunset 18.17

	RA h.m	Dec ° ′	Mag	Rise h.m	Set h.m
Mercury	0.00	- 2 14	+0.6	5.37	17.53
Venus	21.41	-12 14	-4.0	2.47	16.07
Mars	12.43	- 1 24	-1.2	18.25	6.32
Jupiter	14.26	-12 59	-2.0	19.30	8.52
Saturn	13.17	- 5 07	+0.5	18.46	7.17

Moon details :

	d	h	
February	23	21	New Moon
March	2	22	First Quarter
	4		Perigee
	9	21	Full Moon
	17		Apogee
	17	17	Last Quarter
	25	10	New Moon
	29		Perigee