

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF FRANKSTON INC.P.O. BOX 596 FRANKSTON 3199NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 1990.MEETING WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 21st.

Our Speaker this month, will be Mr Colin Porter from Monash University. He will speak on Spectrometry and the Spectroscope that he has designed and built for use at the Mt Burnett Observatory.

This meeting besides being the last one of the year, was the Annual General Meeting, during which we hold the Election of Office Bearers for next year. This time we have at least four if not five members of the 1990 Committee unable to stand for office. Though all positions are declared vacant prior to the election, we are short of people to accept nomination. Our office bearers consist of President, V/President, Secretary, Treasurer, and five Committee Persons. The Past President and the Public Officer are automatically filled. This rash of

vacancies have been forced by other duties for some and the possibilities of moves for others. For those standing aside, we thank you for your services. Meanwhile to the rest of you, think what you can do for your Society. Please nominate someone to fill the vacancies. Remember that you have to have the approval of your o Nominee, the nominations to in at least 7 days before Election night. post to L S Malone 6 Graeme St Frankston.

I am sorry to have to report Ken Bryant, your News letter Editor, is seriously ill. It has a long name, is very savage and requires Cortisone to assist in its demise. Thankfully Ken is improving and may be allowed home to his wife's nursing care soon.

Last Thursday we received a load of 25mm and 19mm plate glass from Pilkington Australia. This will allow us cut about 20 twelve inch mirror and tool blanks, as well as many other sizes, from 6 inch to 10 inch, put your order in soon Keep Laurie Mc Intyre working.

SKY NOTES

Comet Levy, 1990c, for some weeks now has been just below naked eye threshold, but easily visible as a nice object with a short (about 0.5°) tail in binoculars or a telescope. By the end of October it was low in the SW, near Eta Centauri, after dusk (see the ephemeris in the October Newsletter).

Comet Tsuchiya-Kiuchi, 1990i, of about 7th magnitude, has been in the morning sky for some weeks. By mid November, it will be in Hydra and rising at midnight, Summer Time, and by early December it will be in Puppis and rising in the SE at about 8 pm Summer Time. Part of the ephemeris, with positions given for 5 am Summer Time, is as follows:

<u>DATE - 1990</u>	<u>RA (1950)</u>	<u>DEC (1950)</u>	<u>MAG</u>
November 8	10h 13.9m	-14° 51' .0	7.1
10	10 08.4	-16 25 .4	7.1
12	10 02.3	-18 04 .8	7.1
14	9 55.6	-19 49 .3	7.1
16	9 48.2	-21 38 .9	7.1
18	9 39.9	-23 33 .5	7.1
20	9 30.6	-25 32 .6	7.1
22	9 20.3	-27 35 .4	7.1
24	9 08.9	-29 40 .9	7.1
26	8 56.1	-31 47 .5	7.1
28	8 41.9	-33 53 .1	7.1
30	8 26.2	-35 55 .3	7.1
December 2	8 09.0	-37 50 .9	7.2
4	7 50.3	-39 36 .9	7.2

Constellations. At 10 pm Summer Time in the middle of November, the Southern Cross is in its lowest position, standing on its head, just above the southern horizon, with the two pointers, Alpha and Beta Centauri, to its right. However, the Cross is then due south, making it easier to find directions. Another constellation which is used to find compass points is Orion. At that same time it is then fairly low in the eastern sky, having risen about an hour earlier. The "Saucepan" in Orion has three bright stars in line in its base which actually form Orion's belt. Delta Orionis, the northernmost of these, is almost exactly on the Celestial Equator. Hence, no matter where you are in the world, this star always rises due east and sets due west.

Sirius, the Dog Star, is the brightest of all stars, apart from our sun. It is also known as Alpha Canis Majoris, in the constellation of the Big Dog. It has an apparent magnitude of -1.46. The second brightest star Canopus, Alpha Carinae, with an apparent magnitude of -0.72, is in the constellation of Carina the keel of the old ship, Argo. At the time given above, Sirius is low in the east, while Canopus is about 30° up in the southeast. An imaginary line drawn from Sirius through Canopus points roughly towards the South Celestial Pole, SCP, which in Melbourne is about 38° above the true south point on the horizon. The SCP is the imaginary point in the sky around which the stars appear to rotate in a clockwise direction. Sigma Octantis, in Octans, the Octant, is our Pole Star, being the nearest naked eye star to the Pole (within 1°), but is an insignificant magnitude 5.5 star.

Higher up in the sky and almost in our zenith, is Achernar, Alpha Eridani, of magnitude 0.46, in Eridanus, the River.

Planets. The giant planet, Jupiter, is rising at about 2 am, while Saturn, with its magnificent ring system, is setting after midnight.

A large bright white spot appeared on Saturn in September. By late October it had spread at least half way around the planet to produce a bright white equatorial belt.

Neptune and Uranus are setting half an hour or so before Saturn, while Mars is almost an all night object, rising soon after sunset. Mercury may be glimpsed low in the late evening twilight at the end of November, while Venus is difficult, being even lower in the evening sky.

THE MOON

New Moon	November 17	December 17
First Quarter	November 25	December 25
Full Moon	November 3	December 2
Last Quarter	November 9	December 9

Sky notes prepared and typed by Bruce Tregaskis.

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TREASURERS REPORT.

Balance brought forward	\$ 1691-80
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<u>Receipts</u>	Clives Jar	3-64
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	Subs.	26-00
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	Sales	7-00
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	Interest	<u>11-40</u>
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<u>Total</u>		<u>\$ 48-04</u>
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	<u>Postage</u>	26-13
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<u>Balance as at 24-10-90</u>		<u>\$ 1713-71</u>
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Budget Forecast for Financial Year 90-91.

Your Committee has agreed that we should be able to finish the year at 30th June 91, with a surplus of \$ 2000-00 over our opening balance at the 31st July of \$ 1372-00

This takes into account, the Raffle & Social gatherings \$ 1100, Mirror Profit \$ 1000, with other items producing the balance of a \$3000-00 Income

This is only small beers to what we will need if we are to succeed in our aim to have our own Observatory site.

CHRISTMAS BARBECUE

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SATURDAY 8th DECEMBER

The venue for our annual Family Day this year, is to be
In the small reserve on the East end of the wall, of
the DEVILBEND RESERVOIR. Map No 152-J-2.

We will be in the reserve on the North side of Graydens Rd.

There are Toilet and Barbecue facilities, plus a rotunda.
As the shelter is fairly small, we will probably have a couple
of Tarps with us.

We would like you to bring your Fodder, Drink and the
Family, we will supply the company.

After the satisfaction of the inner persons and as darkness
falls there may be a few telescopes produced, so that the
Ladies will be able to see what puts that gleam in Fathers
eyes these days.

Please come and make it a happy day and wish your fellow
Star-gazers, as they keep calling us, a very Merry Xmas.

