

Some of the Many Benefits of Membership of the MPAS

- ✓ Being part of a **dynamic, friendly group** of local, active, volunteer amateur astronomers who are willing to teach beginners and answer their many questions, as well as guide and encourage more advanced members. An annual calendar of regular society events is published each year.
- ✓ Monthly **high quality meetings** in a modern 135-seat theatre for dissemination of the latest astronomical and science information by members and invited special guest speakers. These meetings run **parallel sessions** enabling a choice of topics, and special access to astronomy and **science videos**. The monthly **meetings are video taped** and these can be borrowed from the society's library.
- ✓ **An extensive library** of hundreds of books, videos and CD ROM computer software related to astronomical topics. The library also contains newsletters published by other astronomical societies. Members can request items of interest for inclusion in the library as funds become available. Remote members are able to borrow library materials by post.
- ✓ For **newcomers**, both introductory **astronomy classes** and **newcomer telescope nights** are available during the year.
- ✓ Ability to **borrow special instruments**, such as reflector and refractor telescopes and binoculars for use at home.
- ✓ A **bimonthly newsletter journal** ("*Scorpius*") providing details of astronomy happenings both locally and internationally.
- ✓ Access to **purchasing special offers**, such as astronomy videos, posters, eclipse glasses etc. that arise from time to time.
- ✓ An email newsgroup (*e-Scorpius*) for rapidly alerting members of late breaking predictions between editions of *Scorpius* or of **privileged news**, and late invitations to external science lectures and other events.
- ✓ An email newsgroup (*e-EAMN*) for **meteor shower observers**.
- ✓ An email newsgroup (*e-SouthernAurora*) for alerting members of the likelihood of geomagnetic storms and aurorae.
- ✓ An **aurora (Southern Lights) telephone alert service** to assist members to see this very rare phenomenon while it is actually in progress. The MPAS co-ordinates this service for all of south-eastern Australia.
- ✓ **Regular member "club" viewing nights** at the Society's dark sky Briars property on the Mornington Peninsula where an astronomical observatory is well under construction, and you can view the night skies through other members' telescopes without having to travel very long distances. Advice on telescopes and their optimal use is always readily available.
- ✓ **Regular social events** at least once a month, including free BBQ's at each Briars site working bee and Telescope Learning Day, and an annual Christmas star-be-cue as well as many other society traditions.
- ✓ Access to other members who are **highly skilled in telescope making** and all other aspects of astronomy.
- ✓ Special reduced rates for purchase of excellent **annual Astronomical Sky Almanacs** by Quasar publishing, of what is in the night sky throughout the year, planispheres and other materials. These are aimed from beginners to advanced amateurs.
- ✓ **Privileged information** about forthcoming astronomical phenomena and events.
- ✓ Privileged **access to observing predictions** for jovian satellite eclipses, variable stars, minor planet occultations, lunar occultations and meteor showers.
- ✓ **Opportunity to participate** in field observing events throughout the State, some of which pass their observations onto professional astronomers overseas who eagerly seek our input.
- ✓ Access to the Society's **laser telescope collimator, CCD camera eyepiece, sky atlases** and special observing **filters**.
- ✓ Opportunities for students or teachers to apply for **work experience openings and prizes** annually.
- ✓ Ability to attend **educational public talks** conducted by the Society for free.
- ✓ Ability to participate with school children and the wider community at **Astronomy on the Move** night sky evenings.
- ✓ A **website** for dissemination of information (www.asfnet.20m.com).
- ✓ A **telephone recording service** (0419 253 252) and an **email address** (skywatch@iprimus.com.au) for **answering remote members' specific questions**. Members can **ask specific questions on any astronomy-related topic** and have them answered either directly, in the bimonthly newsletter or at a future general meeting. This is typically via the Idea-Suggestion box at meetings, via telephone, via email or simply in person.
- ✓ Access to **biennial conferences** of amateur astronomers, both state-wide with VASTROC and nation-wide with NACAA. The Mornington Peninsula Astronomical Society has hosted these several times and is hosting NACAA in 2006.
- ✓ **Discounts** at certain camera and telescope outlets from time to time.