

Upper Yarra U3A Astronomy Program 2017

Series of 12 Meetings Schedule, February – July

Meeting Structure:

- * Start 13:00 Three 20 minutes Session (broadly based as below), each followed by 10 minutes Question Time and Discussions
- Session a: Great Courses Video (followed by Coffee Break)
Completing the Video Series called "The History and Nature of our Universe" by Professor Mark Whittle we start a new Series called "Skywatching, Seeing and Understanding Cosmic Wonders" by Professor Alex Filippenko
- Session b: Features of the Night Sky
- Session c: Current Phenomena
- * Finish at 14:30

- First Meeting Date: Thursday 9 February
 - a Lecture 36 - A comprehensible Universe
 - b The Messier Objects
 - c This Week's Sky
- Second Meeting Date: Thursday 23 February
 - a Lecture 1 - Day and Night Sky
 - b Messier 6 (Butterfly) in Scorpius
 - c This Week's Sky
- Third Meeting Date: Thursday 9 March
 - a Lecture 2 - The Blue Sky
 - b Messier 7 (Ptolemy) in Scorpius
 - c This Week's Sky
- Fourth Meeting Date: Thursday 23 March
 - a Lecture 3 - The Rainbow Family
 - b Messier 8 (Lagoon Nebula) Sagittarius
 - c This Week's Sky
- Fifth Meeting Date: Thursday 6 April
 - a Lecture 4 - No Video, no power
 - b Messier 9, Glob Cluster in Ophiuchus
 - c This Week's Sky
- Sixth Meeting Date: Thursday 20 April
 - a Lecture 5 - Solar Halos
 - b Messier 10, Glob Cluster in Ophiuchus
 - c This Week's Sky
- Seventh Meeting Date: Thursday 4 May
 - a Lecture 6 - Sunrise and Sunset Colours
 - b Messier 11 (Wild Duck) in Scutum
 - c This Week's Sky
- Eighth Meeting Date: Thursday 18 May
 - a Lecture 7 - Stars and Constellations
 - b Messier 12, Glob Cluster in Ophiuchus
 - c This Week's Sky
- Ninth Meeting Date: Thursday 1 June
 - a Lecture 8 - Planets and their Motions
 - b Messier 13 (The Great) in Hercules
 - c This Week's Sky
- Tenth Meeting Date: Thursday 15 June
 - a Lecture 9 - The Moon and its Phases
 - b Messier 14, Glob Cluster in Ophiuchus
 - c This Week's Sky
- Eleventh Meeting Date: Thursday 29 July
 - a Lecture 10 - Comets and Meteors
 - Messier 15, Glob Cluster in Pegasus
 - c This Week's Sky
- Twelfth Meeting Date Thursday 13 July
 - a Lecture 11 - Solar Activity and Auroras
 - b Messier 16 (Eagle Nebula) in Serpens
 - c This Week's Sky

The Meeting Place is the CFA Rooms, 37 Yarra St
Yarra Junction, except Christmas Alfred Klink

List of Messier Objects in this Series

M6 and M7 - Open Clusters in the Constellation Scorpius; M8 Nebula Cluster in the Constellation Sagittarius; M9, M10, M12 and M14 - Globular Clusters in the Constellation Ophiuchus; M11 - Open Cluster in Scutum M13 - Globular Cluster in Hercules; M15 - Globular Cluster in Pegasus; M16 - Nebula Cluster in Serpens.

Messier objects are a set of 110 astronomical objects catalogued by the French astronomer Charles Messier in his "Catalogue des Nébuleuses et des Amas d'Étoiles" ("Catalogue of Nebulae and Star Clusters").

A preliminary version first appeared in Memoirs of the French Academy of Sciences in 1771 and the last item was added in 1966 by Kenneth Glynn Jones, based on Messier's observations.

"It is up to us to give meaning to the Universe"
Gotthold Ephraim Lessing