

(Astronomical Society of Victoria Inc - A0002118S)

# Messier Star Party

Saturday 13th March 2010

The ASV would like to invite members and guests to the 10th Annual Messier Star Party, to be held at our unique dark sky site LINDSAY. The night is a must for all budding deep sky observers with or without a telescope.

Come along and enjoy the afternoon discussions of what the night sky will have on offer. Plan your nights viewing with the many experienced observers on hand. Then tick off your conquests as the night unfolds. Basic observing sheets will be available onsite or download your own and bring it along.

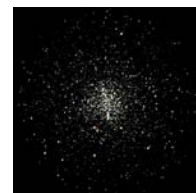
There will be the society's own and many members' telescopes to look through, if you do not have your own. So enjoy Perry's Messier inspired "sky for the night" before returning to start your observing marathon.

Later enjoy a free hot chocolate and compare notes with other keen observers.

\*\* Charles Messier was an 18<sup>th</sup> Century French astronomer who was an avid comet hunter. He catalogued objects that looked similar to comets for others to avoid. These "M" objects are amongst the best deep sky objects seen in the night sky. They include star clusters, galaxies and various nebulae.



General Event Details: see over



Come early so you don't miss a thing! However, please note that driving on the site after sunset with headlights blazing is frowned upon and not good astronomical etiquette! Cars will not be allowed on the observing field after 6.00pm.

If you arrive after dusk, you will need to park in the car park and walk down to the observing field.

### **Location**

The ASV's Leon Mow Dark Sky Site (LMDSS), Heathcote. Take the Hume Highway (route 31) north of Melbourne. Take the Wallan/Kilmore/Bendigo turnoff (Northern Hwy route 75) and travel to Heathcote. At the end of the town turn right to go to Echuca/Elmore (Northern Hwy route 75). Travel approx. 12.5 km and turn left at Lewis Rd. Signs will be put up by 1 pm - follow the signs the rest of the way to the site. It usually takes between 1.5 - 2 hours to get to the LMDSS from Melbourne.

### **What to bring**

- \_\_ Tent and sleeping bags if you want to camp on the site. Accommodation is also available in the Heathcote township.
- \_\_ Light fold-up camping chairs and tables.
- \_\_ Warm clothing (even if it is a hot day). Sunscreen, insect repellent etc
- \_\_ A dim, red light to use at night (LED torches are recommended, or a torch covered with several layers of red cellophane).

Rubbish bags will be provided.

**Please take your rubbish home with you!**

### **What is NOT allowed**

- \_\_ No generators allowed.
  - \_\_ No pets allowed.
  - \_\_ No white lights allowed.
- All other usual site rules apply.

### **Also available on the day:**

Lions will be on site with their famous food trailer, so you do not need to bring or cook dinner!  
Local winery stalls. Come and sample the local wines and enjoy a glass with dinner.  
Other local business and Astro vendor's stalls will possibly be attending.  
Solar viewing and the radio astronomy setup may also be available depending section member's availability.

**VACATING AND LOCK UP TIME OF THE LMDSS WILL BE SUNDAY 14th March. AT 11.00AM**

### **Safety**

**In the interest of public safety, the event will be cancelled on a declared day of total fire ban for the Heathcote district. Please be informed by the weather report before heading up for the event.**

For further information contact one of the following:

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