

SPECIAL EVENTS

The UWS Penrith Observatory is also available for special events that can be tailored to suit the individual needs of your group. These special events can be held during the day or the night on weekdays or weekends. We have run special events for:

- » Birthday parties
- » Community groups
- » Cubs, Scouts and Girl Guides
- » Seniors groups
- » Vacation care groups

GROUP DAY VISITS

The UWS Penrith Observatory is open for booked visits on weekdays and weekends. Most programs involve a visual presentation, safe viewing of the sun with appropriately filtered telescopes, a 3D astronomy movie, a special tour of the dome area and 0.6m telescope.

GROUP NIGHT VISITS

A night visit will provide an opportunity to view a variety of celestial objects through the University's 0.6m and 0.25m telescopes. These nights will also include a multimedia presentation and a 3D astronomy movie.

Bookings are essential for all visits and programs.

HOW TO BOOK A SPECIAL EVENT

To organise and book your special event phone the observatory on (02)4736 0125 (Monday, Wednesday or Friday), or email penrithobservatory@uws.edu.au

COST

- \$10 per person (basic)
- Minimum \$300
- Maximum group size 90 people



GETTING HERE

The UWS Observatory is located at the University of Western Sydney, Penrith campus, Great Western Highway, Werrington North, Building A0.

TRAVELLING BY CAR

From the Sydney CBD, take the M4 Western Motorway and turn off at the Mamre Road exit before turning right onto Mamre Road.

Turn left from Mamre Road onto the Great Western Highway. The Werrington North site is located on the right-hand side of the Great Western Highway.

On-campus parking is available, and a valid daily or annual parking permit must be displayed at all times.



School of Computing,
Engineering and Mathematics

UWS PENRITH OBSERVATORY

PUBLIC PROGRAM



UWS PENRITH OBSERVATORY

The UWS Penrith Observatory offers a public program of events designed to enhance exposure to astronomy, science, technology, engineering and mathematics. These events include a multimedia presentation with Q&A time, a 3D astronomy movie, a tour of the 0.6m telescope dome area, and an opportunity to view the night sky through the University's telescopes (weather permitting).

Cost for Public Astronomy Programs:

\$15.00 Adult

\$10.00 Child/Concession

\$40.00 Family

All public visits can be booked and paid for online at www.uws.edu.au/observatory

The program events are subject to change without notice.

See penrithobservatory@uws.edu.au or call (02) 4736 0135 (Mon, Wed or Thurs).



PUBLIC ASTRONOMY PROGRAM JANUARY-JUNE 2014

DATE AND TIME	EVENT NAME	DESCRIPTION
Saturday 22 February 8.00pm – 10.00pm	Astronomy Night: Robot Astronomy – On the Ice	The high plateau of Antarctica is one of the best places in the world for an astronomer – it's dark, cold and dry. But it's also a hard place to build and operate telescopes. More and more, Antarctic astronomy is moving towards robot telescopes, which have advantages in money, time and geography. This move is being driven by Australian Antarctic astronomers together with some of the newer players in Antarctica, such as the Chinese. Come along and find out about the advantages and disadvantages of robot observatories, about what new opportunities they bring, and how they restrict us. The talk will also include information on the PLATO series of robot observatories, built in Australia and currently working on the ice.
Saturday 8 March 8.00pm – 10.00pm	Astronomy Night: Science from the World's Biggest Telescope: The Square Kilometre Array	Radio astronomy allows us to explore the Universe at wavelengths beyond what the human eye can see, allowing us to find black holes, study the earliest galaxies and to test the General Relativity. Radio astronomy is currently undergoing a renaissance with a host of new facilities currently coming online. These radio telescopes are paving the way for the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) due to come online in the 2020's. The SKA will be vastly more sensitive than current facilities; its name comes from the total collecting area. Dr Nicholas Seymour from CSIRO Astronomy and Space Science will discuss Australia's SKA Pathfinder, currently under construction in WA, and his work with it. He will also discuss the science to be done with the SKA in Australia and South Africa.
Saturday 22 March 8.00pm – 10.00pm	Astronomy Night: Dads and Kids Night	'Dads and Kids' also includes grandfathers, kids and grandkids. Age is no barrier to spending an evening with the family and the stars. Visitors will be able to see some of the spectacular objects of the southern sky.
Wednesday 16 April 10.00am – 12noon	School Holiday Hands-on Science Program: Kids Fun Day Rockets	Lots of fun for kids of all ages. Make and launch your own paper rocket and watch water rockets being launched. The program will also include a short presentation, a 3D astronomy movie and SAFE and detailed viewing of the sun through our telescopes (weather permitting).
Saturday 19 April 8.00pm – 10.00pm	School Holiday Family Astronomy Night: The Lives of Stars	Where do stars come from and where do they go?
Wednesday 23 April 10.00am – 12.00noon	School Holiday Hands-on Science Program: Staff Stuff	The program will include hands-on science activities, a short presentation, a 3D astronomy movie and SAFE and detailed viewing of the sun through our telescopes (weather permitting).
Saturday 26 April 8.00pm – 10.00pm	School Holiday Family Astronomy Night: The Lives of Stars	Where do stars come from and where do they go?
Saturday 10 May 7.00pm – 9.00pm	Astronomy Night: Mums and Kids Night: Women in Astronomy and Astrobiology	This special night is organised not only to attract more girls to take up careers in science but to also allow busy grandmothers and mothers to have quality time with the children and grandchildren under an exciting, starry sky.
Saturday 24 May 7.00pm – 9.00pm	Astronomy Night	The evening will include a presentation, a 3D astronomy movie, a tour of the dome area and an opportunity to view the night sky through the observatory's telescopes.
Saturday 7 June 7.00pm – 9.00pm	Astronomy Night: What you can do with a radio dish or two	Radio astronomy involves looking at light from the weakest part of the electromagnetic spectrum, which has such little energy that giant radio dishes are needed to collect it. We'll look at what you can do with a dish or two (or a few thousand), including historic discoveries, the space program, pulsars, radio dishes in space, future massive radio telescopes, and more.
Saturday 21 June 7.00pm – 9.00pm	Astronomy Night	The evening will include a presentation, a 3D astronomy movie, a tour of the dome area and an opportunity to view the night sky through the observatory's telescopes.

All programs are subject to change without notice and run regardless of the weather. However, please note that the telescope may not be available for use if the weather is unsuitable.