



MEDIA RELEASE

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Saturn, stars and the International Year of Astronomy

Celebrate the International Year of Astronomy with two very special tours at the Melbourne Observatory in the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne.

The first tour – Saturn returns – takes advantage of the autumn night sky. Saturn is at its dazzling best at this time of year.

Expert astronomic guides will take participants on a cosmic journey where they will learn more about Saturn and its elaborate ring system. The sixth planet from the Sun, the second largest in the solar system, Saturn boasts very high wind speeds, was named after a Roman god and its rings are made up of billions of ice particles.

Saturn Returns will also include an overview of the amazing array of stars and planets that light up the southern night sky.

The tour runs every Monday from 2 March through to 25 May. The cost is \$18 adult; \$14 child/concession and \$50 family (2 adults and up to 3 children)

Lunar tour is the second special tour being run this autumn at the Melbourne Observatory.

This tour will give you the answers to why the moon appears to wobble and many other mysteries.

Lunar tours are conducted once a month to coincide with the first quarter stage of the moon, the ideal time to explore the Moon's surface that is studded with craters and strewn with rocks and dust.

The tour runs on Thursday 5 March, 2 April, 30 April and 28 May from 8 – 9pm. The cost is \$14 an adult, \$10 a child and \$40 family (2 adults and up to 2 children).

Group bookings can be made by special arrangement.

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