



# Webmaster's Focus

April 2024



## This B@#\$%^&\*!! Weather

For most amateur astronomers, the weather took a sharp turn for the worse on the day we bought our first telescope. Cloudy conditions seemed to come thicker and faster with Telescope ownership.

The Aussie climate has extremes of scorching heat with bushfires or pouring rain with floods. It is what it is - but it's all those cloudy night skies in between that amateur astronomers despair of the most.

Here in Macarthur our last four summers have been almost a total wipe-out. First the bushfires in 2019-20, then the continuous cloudy conditions in the three summers which followed.

This summer, the poor run even seems to be dragging out well into Autumn. From 1<sup>st</sup> November to 6<sup>th</sup> April, MAS had scheduled twelve Stargard nights and only one has escaped cancellation.

Once you're out there under the stars, astronomy is so enriching and so stimulating but sometimes those constant grey skies and lost observing opportunities can be mind destroying.

As winter beckons and daylight saving time ends, let's be optimistic that the weather improves and we get more dark sky opportunities, the weather improves and we achieve more observing time and less cancellations.

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