

ASTR2013 Field Trip Summary

The purpose of the field trip is to give the ASTR2013 practical experience in understanding how astronomical observatories work, as well as collecting data using a professional telescope to answer clear scientific questions.

Note that although days are long in the itinerary, the students in the latest 2 hour observing shift will be volunteers for this shift, and we will have 2 tutors staying at the observatory with 2 at the main accommodation, to limit the number of working hours and ensure that tutors working late have quiet, dark accommodation. The Murray's bus driver is never required to drive at night (12 seater observatory minibus used for this).

Brief Itinerary

Monday 2 Sep

8:30am: Main bus leaves ANU

5pm: Arrive Warrumbungles Mountain Motel, Observatory Minibus takes small group for Evening 1 astronomical observations. Remaining students have dinner and set up small telescopes at motel.

10pm: Observations finish. Students returned to accommodation.

Tuesday 3 Sep

10:30am: Main bus leaves for Siding Spring observatory.

11-3:30pm: Daytime activities at observatory, then return to accommodation for dinner.

5:30pm to 2am: Nighttime activities at observatory, in at least 2 minibus transfers up and down to accommodation.

Wednesday 3 Sep

10:30am: Main bus leaves for Siding Spring observatory.

11-3:30pm: Daytime activities at observatory, then return to accommodation for dinner.

5:30pm to 2am: Nighttime activities at observatory, in at least 2 minibus transfers up and down to accommodation.

Thursday 4 Sep

8am: Leave for ANU via Parkes

11:30am: Parkes tour (1 hour)

5:30pm: Arrive ANU.

Activities

- Using small telescopes at night. Torches (with red filters) used to avoid trip hazards. Any significant non-removable trip hazards marked.

- Using the ANU 2.3m telescope via computers in a control room. All students will receive a safety briefing about the telescope prior to use and will be supervised.
- Tours of telescopes, including climbing stairs. Supervised both by trained observatory employees and tutors/lecturers.
- Working on laptops and worksheets in observatory meeting room.