

Astronomy Open Night activities (5pm – 10pm)

Note:  = map reference

Activities	Location
Physics magic show Seats must be pre-booked at the time of ticket purchase. Magic show times: 5.15pm – 6pm, 6.30pm – 7.15pm, 8.45pm – 9.30pm	Macquarie Theatre A
Destination Moon with Fizzics Education Discover the science required to reach the Moon. Seats must be pre-booked at the time of ticket purchase. 7.45pm – 8.15pm	Macquarie Theatre A
Chemistry magic show Seats must be pre-booked at the time of ticket purchase. Magic show times: 5.15pm – 5.45pm, 6.30pm – 7pm	Mason Theatre B
Exhibition Hall Our Exhibition Hall features a range of fun and exciting stalls from the local astronomy community. Here, you can chat about astronomy and science, connect with your local astronomy society, learn how to choose a telescope and discover much more.	14 Sir Christopher Ondaatje Avenue D
Capture the cosmos Explore the winning astrophotography images taken by YOU as part of our astrophotography competition. Come along and vote for the People’s Choice award. 5pm start	14 Sir Christopher Ondaatje Avenue D
Astrophotography: The sky is your lab Following the announcement of the winners of our 2025 Astrophotography Competition, Associate Professor Angel Rafael Lopez Sanchez speaks on astrophotography techniques and how we can use our own images to measure the universe. 5.30pm – 6.15pm	Theatre 5 14 Sir Christopher Ondaatje Avenue D
Imagining Outer Space: Short films Experience two short films created by the Archival Futures Collective: Earth and the Exoplanets, and Memorabilia. 6.45pm – 7.30pm, 8pm – 8.45pm	Theatre 5 14 Sir Christopher Ondaatje Avenue D
Hidden stories in stone Dr Robert Fuller (Western Sydney University) uncovers how ancient rock engravings across Sydney reveal Aboriginal peoples’ deep astronomical knowledge – and how modern technology is helping restore it. 9pm - 9.30pm	Theatre 5 14 Sir Christopher Ondaatje Avenue D
Phenomenal physics and mathematical mysteries Experience and nurture your love for science and explore the magic and mysteries behind some of the coolest scientific phenomena by joining us as we demonstrate some funky experiments. 5pm start	Room 101 1 Central Courtyard E
Space exploration with the Junior Science Academy Design the highest-flying rocket, create your own galaxy, or become a NASA flight director and create your own spacecraft. 5pm start	Room 105 1 Central Courtyard E
Kids’ space Bring your little scientists along to learn about space, planets, gravity and building – and discover some of the tricks of physics and a whole lot more. Children must at all times be accompanied by a parent or guardian while in this space. 5pm – 9pm	Room 106 1 Central Courtyard E

Activities	Location
Out of this world kids’ space Come and discover how Earth and the Moon and Sun work in the solar system, with Fizzics Education. 5pm start	Room 107 1 Central Courtyard E
Scientist spotlight Discover the wonders of science as you connect with brilliant minds from various scientific disciplines, from game developers to shark experts and from engineers to astronomers. Your questions, their expertise! 5.15pm start	Room 108 1 Central Courtyard E
The Huntsman Telescope Exploratorium Join Huntsman Telescope astronomers and uncover the mysteries of exoplanets and colliding galaxies. Discover what makes the Huntsman Telescope work, and even do some live observing from under the darkest skies. 5pm start	Room 109 1 Central Courtyard E
Virtual reality space experience Float through the International Space Station or design your own solar system. 5pm start	Room 111 1 Central Courtyard E
Robotics room Come and drive one of the world championship robots from the <i>FIRST</i> ® Robotics Competition. This activity allows ages 5+ to earn their robotics driver’s licence in a fun and exciting hands-on activity. 5pm start	Rooms 114–115 1 Central Courtyard E
Cosmic arcade Join us for a night of fun, filled with student-made games and challenges – get ready to shoot for the stars! 5pm start	Room 116 1 Central Courtyard E
Planetariums Planetariums simulate the night sky and provide the opportunity to look up close at the motion of celestial objects, the surfaces of planets, deep sky objects, constellations and much more. Planetarium sessions are not dependent on the weather. Sessions run about every 20 minutes, starting at 5.15pm.	Macquarie University Sport and Aquatic Centre F
Telescope Park Join us in exploring the cosmos and search for celestial objects such as planets, star clusters and nebulae. There will be an amazing array of telescopes from Macquarie University Observatory, local astronomy clubs and individual astronomers. 6.30pm – 10pm	Macquarie University Astronomical Observatory G
Laser graffiti and laser maze challenge Try your hand at laser graffiti or put your spy skills to the test in our kids’ laser maze challenge. Find your way through without touching any of the laser beams. 5pm start	18 Wally’s Walk, entry via Central Courtyard H
Macquarie University Art Gallery Come and visit this exciting exhibition titled No Control: Four Documentary Photographers.	Macquarie Art Gallery 19 Eastern Road I
Laser guide star Why would an astronomer want to stop the stars from twinkling? Join us in the Central Courtyard to find out more. 6.30pm – 10pm	Central Courtyard
Solar system walk Join us on a walk from the Central Courtyard to our Telescope Park, passing the planets of our solar system in our scale model. Every metre you walk represents 37.3 million kilometres. Think you can make it all the way?	Gymnasium Road

Short talks (5.15pm – 9.30pm)

	THEATRE 2	THEATRE 3	THEATRE 4
5.15pm – 5.45pm	Aksita Deo How many places can we make a planet?	Gabriella Quattropani Jellyfish in the sky	Maksym Mohorian Investigating the chemical fingerprints of dying binary stars
6pm – 6.30pm	Anilkumar Mailvaganam Where there’s smoke, there are stars: The glitter behind dust	AVA Challenge and NSW Space Research Network AVA challenge snap! Design your alien	Ryan White Does time slow down at the edge of the universe?
6.45pm – 7.15pm	Claudia Fava A universe of possibilities: STEM at Macquarie	Toon De Prins Push it to the limit: Revealing the secrets around dying stars	Michaela Smith What happens to our lungs in space?
7.30pm – 8pm	Nuwanthika Fernando Science from starlight: The software that makes science-ready data	Ali Pourmand Born of dust and chaos: The story of planet formation	Dani Guzman Why are we pointing lasers at the sky?
9pm – 9.30pm	Ben Pope Fixing James Webb	Simon Ellis The universe’s mirror: Hunting antimatter in our galaxy	Jayde Willingham The cosmic travel guide: 13.8 billion years on the road

The Faculty of Science and Engineering presents a series of short talks by our academics and students. These talks are designed for the general public and amateur astronomers, showcasing a diverse range of topics in astronomy and physics.

Located at 14 Sir Christopher Ondaatje Avenue 

Keynote lecture (8pm – 8.45pm)

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The invisible universe: How space is singing in radio waves and why you should listen Associate Professor Jo Dawson	Mason Theatre 