

Astronomy Open Night activities (4pm – 10pm)

Note:  = map reference

Activities	Location
Physics magic show Seats must be pre-booked at the time of ticket purchase. Magic show times: 5pm – 5.45pm, 6.15pm – 7pm, 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. 7.30pm – 8.15pm	Mason Theatre B
Chemistry magic show Seats must be pre-booked at the time of ticket purchase. Magic show times: 5pm – 5.45pm, 6.15pm – 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
Stories Across Worlds Explore our new experimental short film festival featuring works from the Archival Futures Collective. 4.15pm start	Theatre 100 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. 4.15pm – 9.30pm	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. 4.15pm start	Room 105 1 Central Courtyard E
Fun with Fizzics Education Come and discover how Earth and the Moon and Sun work in the solar system, with Fizzics Education. 5pm – 8pm	Room 107 1 Central Courtyard E
Scientist spotlight Meet scientists from across astronomy, engineering, genetics, palaeontology and biology, and discover how they’re helping us better understand our world, our past and our universe. 4.15pm – 9pm	Room 108 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. 4.15pm start	Room 109 1 Central Courtyard E

Activities	Location
Virtual reality space experience Float through the International Space Station or design your own solar system. 4.15pm – 9pm	Room 112 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. 4.15pm – 9.30pm	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! 4.15pm – 9.30pm	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 4.15pm.	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. 4.15pm – 9.30pm, twilight from 6.30pm	Macquarie University Astronomical Observatory G
Laser Challenge Put your spy skills to the test in our kids’ laser challenge. Find your way through without touching any of the laser beams. 4.15pm – 9.30pm	11 Wally’s Walk H
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.	17 Wally’s Walk I
Laser Graffiti Paint the campus with light as you try your hand at laser graffiti. 6.30pm – 9.30pm	Central Courtyard
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 (4.30pm – 8.45pm)

Theatre 3		Theatre 4
4.30pm – 5pm	Benjamin Pope Galactic guesswork: Estimating everything from piano tuners to alien civilisations	Claudia Fava So you like science at school – what now?
5.15pm – 5.45pm	Karol Binkowski Measuring the unknown: How uncertainty shapes our view of the universe	Claudia Ghosn Space isn’t just for astronomers
6pm – 6.30pm	Harshit Pal We are made of stardust	Richard de Grijs The sound of silence: Listening to the universe
6.45pm – 7.15pm	Miguel Angel Gonzalez Bolivar Space tech in your pocket: Cosmic innovation in everyday life	Arihant Raidani Cosmic flashlights: Uncovering distant galaxies secrets
7.30pm – 8pm	Diego Ignacio Salvador Campe Cosmic distance illusions: Galaxy evolution across time	Daniel Terno Not always wrong
8.15pm – 8.45pm	Kateryna Andrych Cosmic hide and seek: How we detect what space tries to hide	Ryan White Does time slow down at the edge of the universe?

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 (7.30pm – 8.15pm)

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Activities	Location
Artemis and beyond: Humankind’s future on the moon Professor Fred Watson AM	Macquarie Theatre 

Featured presentations (5pm – 8.15pm)

Presentation	
5pm – 5.45pm	Astrophotography: The sky is your lab Following the announcement of the winners of our 2026 Astrophotography Competition, learn about astrophotography techniques and how we can use our own images to measure the universe.
6.15pm – 7pm	The Big Cosmic Q&A Join our fun and engaging new panel that gives young space explorers the chance to ask real experts anything about the universe.
7.30pm – 8.15pm	The engineering behind modern astronomy Learn how our engineers make big science possible on the global stage and gain insight into some of the cutting-edge technology being designed and built by Australian Astronomical Optics here at Macquarie University.

Located at 17 Wally’s Walk, G25 Theatre 