

HOW TO USE THE ASTRONOMY DISPLAY

This display has been designed to provide an overview of both the theory and practice of astronomy, with the objective of stimulating your interest to learn more.

- ☀ The first half of the tablets will take you on a journey through our solar system and Milky Way galaxy, through further galaxies and clusters of galaxies to the Big Bang, and to the boundary of the universe.
- ☀ The second half of the display is very practical as it describes how to use the tools available to observe the wonders of the night sky. These tools start with our eyes and include viewing aids like binoculars and telescopes, both land-based and in space. There is also an introduction to the celestial sphere and sky maps and how to use them. We have also displayed useful tips for observing and taking photographs of the night sky. The display ends with a review of space exploration and extra-terrestrial civilisations.

All the information was up to date in 2022. As scientific and astronomical information increases exponentially, some of it will unavoidably become dated.

- ☀ There is too much information in this display to absorb in a single viewing session. It is therefore recommended that you quickly scan the full range of topics before selecting a theme for a viewing session, e.g., Historical Astronomy, Solar System, Galaxies, Binoculars, Telescopes, Celestial Objects in the Night Sky, Sky Maps, Astrophotography, or any other topic. Digest the information on those tablets as an introduction to the topic and as a guide for further reading.

The display is intended to be introductory but comprehensive, so there will be terms that are unfamiliar to you. Take note of these and read more on the topic.

- ⇒ Start with the easy topics or those for which you have an immediate need, such as 'Which celestial objects are visible in the southern sky?'
- ⇒ Then you can progressively read more on concepts that are new or unfamiliar to you. The extent to which you wish to become interested in and knowledgeable about astronomy is entirely up to you.

There are several tablets which will initially appear to be daunting. Do NOT be intimidated by them; rather absorb what you can and use their terms for further reading.

Use this educational display to enhance your understanding of the nature and structure of our universe and how to observe and record the beauty of the southern skies.

Enjoy your personal experience.

The Hermanus Astronomy Centre acknowledges the use of images and graphics obtained from NASA and other websites.

