

ASTRONOMY 2020

Supplementary Information

HOBART

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This year for our thirtieth edition we have made some changes. As part of this we have removed some data from the yearbook.

To decide what could be taken out we reviewed how the people, who value our book, participate in the hobby and how has this evolved over the years. For the true beginners with little more than a sense of wonder and a thirst to know, we believe they are well catered for in Astronomy 2020.

Telescope users have become polarised into two camps. There are those we call the pure observers who, with some knowledge, spend their money on the optics, taking a more low cost approach to their mounts. Then there are the people who ride the back of the technology revolution turning to computer controlled scopes, now much more affordable instruments, that can automatically slew to an object selected from its database.

Keeping this in mind, we had a hard look at the sea of numbers in Part II. Printed rise and set times for all the planets are not used by the beginner or pure observer and not needed by the techies. Besides, no one observes the planets (or anything) close to the horizon unless they have to. For this reason we

believe the approximate times given in the Rise–Set charts in Part I should suffice. Often the transit times for the outer planets are more valuable, when the planet is high in the northern sky with minimal atmospheric turbulence. Using the same reasoning, the position tables of the Sun, Moon and planets are either not used or not necessary.

When we started these books in 1990 there was no internet (believe it or not!), so some of the information we supplied wasn't easily obtainable elsewhere. Today a lot is available either online, from computer programmes or through cheap (or free) astronomy/planetarium apps on mobile devices. The lunar occultation tables are no longer included as the Occult software (written by Australian David Herald) is readily available for download and it can tailor event times for your location. Nevertheless, if you still need this information it is now available here.

The data on the following pages (available for download from our web site) is supplementary to the yearbook ASTRONOMY 2020 that we published in October 2019. Note there is a separate PDF for each capital city in Australia.

www.quasarastronomy.com.au/downloads---2020.html

In the event you are reading this and don't know what the yearbook we are referring to is, have a look here.

www.quasarastronomy.com.au/order.html

