



I hope your year continues to progress smoothly and you have taken advantage of the many teaching opportunities presented by the International Year of Astronomy (IYA 2009). Don't forget to check the front page of my site at [www.nightskyonline.info](http://www.nightskyonline.info) for information on real life teaching opportunities happening in the night and day sky. You may also wish to check the official IYA 2009 website at [www.astronomy2009.org.au/](http://www.astronomy2009.org.au/) for events that your students may be interested in.

An event to put in your diary is National Science Week 2009. It runs over the period 15 - 23 August 2009. The schools theme is Astronomy: Science Without Limits in recognition of the International Year of Astronomy.

Don't forget this term to look for the Aboriginal constellation 'The Emu' high in the evening sky. The head is formed by what astronomers refer to as the Coal Sack Nebula located next to the Southern Cross, with the rest of the body being formed by dark nebula arching towards Scorpius. It can only be seen from dark sky locations and once you have spotted it, you will wonder why you have never noticed it before.

Finally, for the latest news on Earth & Beyond learning opportunities for your students in South East Queensland, visit my website. You will also find the next issue of this newsletter online there in September 2009.

Regards,  
**Paul Floyd**

## Best nights for a star party in Term 3 2009

Amateur astronomical societies are generally happy to assist schools by running a star party. This means that they will bring telescopes and volunteers to your school so that your students can look through them at the night sky. Book ahead and avoid the time just between First Quarter Moon and two nights after Full Moon to avoid the light of the Moon washing out other sky objects. Using this criteria, the best nights therefore are:

- \* Saturday 25 July to Tuesday 28 July
- \* Monday 24 August to Wednesday 26 August
- \* Tuesday 22 September to Friday 25 September

A list of astronomical societies across South East Queensland can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://tinyurl.com/7k7fb4>

## Planets visible to the eye

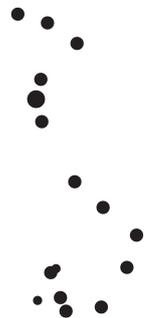
**July :** Your students can easily find Saturn without a telescope by looking above the Western horizon at the end of evening twilight. Look above the Eastern horizon (around 7pm) and you will easily see Jupiter (it appears to the unaided eye as a bright star).

**August:** Mercury is now easily visible low above the Western horizon during evening twilight.

**September:** Mercury continues to be visible during evening twilight. Saturn is no longer visible in the evening sky. In October 2009, it will again be visible in the morning dawn sky.

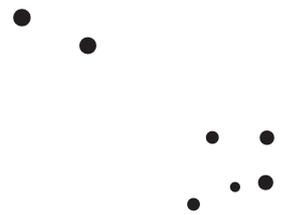
## Easy Constellations

### Scorpius 'The Scorpion'



Look high above the South Eastern horizon at 8 pm in mid July and 7 pm in mid August.

### Crux 'The Southern Cross' and 'The Pointers'



Look above the South Western horizon at the end of evening twilight.

## 2009 Moon Phases



New

First Quarter

Full Moon

Last Quarter

**July**

22

29

7

15

**August**

20

27

6

14

**September**

19

26

5

12

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