

MEDIA RELEASE

30 January 2012
For immediate release

Reach for the stars this Valentine's Day

Capture the love in your life this Valentine's Day by turning their attention to the celestial night sky and enjoying one of the best views of the two brightest planets, Venus and Jupiter, aptly named for the occasion after the Roman God, Venus, the Goddess of Love, and Jupiter, the chief Roman God and his many lovers!

Venus, Goddess of Love, best known for her beauty, enticement, seduction and love among the Roman Gods, will feature low and to the west in the twilight sky on Tuesday, 14 February. While Jupiter will feature later in the evening with his fellow stars or lovers, above right of the moon. Both magical sights will hopefully spark stories of romance amongst the Gods with Valentines across Sydney!

Sydney Observatory is offering Valentines a date with a unique difference to view this special celestial sight through its telescopes, whilst enjoying one of the most beautiful views of Sydney along with an aperitif and supper for two! Tickets are limited to this special event so bookings are essential.

However, according to Sydney Observatory's senior astronomer Geoff Wyatt, this romantic vision of Venus and Jupiter in the evening sky can be enjoyed from any where in Sydney on Valentine's night with the naked eye!

"Even for those who spend their Valentine's night elsewhere, these magnificent planets can be viewed from the comfort of your own home. Shortly after sunset, look West for the Goddess of Love, then turn towards the Northwest and look 20 degrees, about one handspan, above the horizon for the king of the Gods," said Geoff Wyatt.

Looking also for an extra special gift for your Valentine? Why not buy them their very own star? Sydney Observatory's *Name A Star* package lets you associate a name with a star published in the Sydney Southern Star Catalogue (compiled by Sydney Observatory during its time as a research facility and published in 1983). All available stars for naming are magnitude 6-10 and can be viewed from Sydney Observatory or from anywhere in Australia and the Southern Hemisphere!

Event: *Valentine's night under the stars*

Date: 14 February 2012

Venue: Sydney Observatory, Watson Road, Observatory Hill, The Rocks, Sydney

Time: 7pm-8.30pm (Venus session) or 9pm-10.30pm (Jupiter session)

Cost: \$82 per couple (\$74 for members)

Bookings essential: Tel: (02) 9921 3485 or online sydneyobservatory.com.au

A one hour and 30 minute tour including a glass of wine and light supper in the historic Observatory, a telescope dome tour and 3D Theatre session. If the weather is overcast or wet, a cosy

planetarium session will be offered. To top off a romantic evening under the stars, each couple will receive decadent Valentine's Day chocolates!

Event: *Valentine's night 'Name a star' offer*

Date: 14 February 2012

Venue: Sydney Observatory, Watson Road, Observatory Hill, The Rocks, Sydney

Time: from 8.30pm

Cost: \$300 (Name a star) and \$50 (viewing package)

Bookings essential: Tel: (02) 9921 3485 or online sydneyobservatory.com.au

Sydney Observatory's *Name A Star* package (\$300) makes the perfect gift for someone special. By adding a viewing pass (\$50) to the package, you can view your star through the Sydney Observatory telescopes and, as a special Valentine offer, the first 10 couples to book a *Name A Star* viewing on Valentine's night will not only get to see their star but enjoy a glass of sparkling wine and chocolate!

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For further media information, please contact:

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