

## Sky Notes : August 2011

**The late summer period is one of the best times for viewing the magnificent Milky Way, with the naked eye or low powered binoculars.**

➤ **Moon** : First Quarter – 6<sup>th</sup>    Full Moon – 13<sup>th</sup>    Last Quarter – 21<sup>st</sup>    New Moon – 29<sup>th</sup>

➤ **Sun** : Continues to be active. Monitoring of sunspots using a safe projection technique should be productive.

### ➤ **Planets**

- **Mercury** : From 24<sup>th</sup> August it will start to creep above the horizon in the morning before sunrise in the east-north-east.
- **Mars** : Lying in Gemini & best seen in the pre-dawn sky, it will not achieve any great altitude.
- **Jupiter** : Rising about midnight, this will be the stand-out planet for the rest of the year.
- **Neptune** : is at opposition on 23<sup>rd</sup> August.

➤ **Meteors** : The Perseid shower is one of the best of the year. Maximum is on 13<sup>th</sup> (about 03h UT) & although coinciding with a full moon, it will be fairly low in the southern half of the sky. So observing with your back to the moon you should still see a good number of meteors!

Activity continues through to the third week of August, so plenty of opportunity to spot some summer meteors.