

**Galilean Nights Event ID:** gn202

**Number of telescopes:** 6

**Number of organisers:** 5

**Number of attendees:** 73

**Event photos:** [http://www.flickr.com/photos/powerhouse\\_museum\\_photography/4054348249/in/pool-galileannights/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/powerhouse_museum_photography/4054348249/in/pool-galileannights/)

[http://www.flickr.com/photos/powerhouse\\_museum\\_photography/4054348459/in/pool-galileannights/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/powerhouse_museum_photography/4054348459/in/pool-galileannights/)

**Event Report:**

Sydney Observatory's Galilean Night was a booked event with a maximum of 80 visitors. Advertising for the event was on the Observatory website and all 80 places were taken. On the night itself 90% of those who booked turned up.

At dusk prospects were promising with the sky mostly clear. Activities began with a talk about Galileo and his observations. By the end of the talk visitors were all fired up to see for themselves what Galileo had seen 400 years ago. Unfortunately, a change in the weather brought in clouds that almost completely covered the sky.

The night then followed the Observatory's standard plan B. This included a show in the 3D Space Theatre, a show in the tiny "bean bag" planetarium and a visit to the main 40-cm Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope in the north dome. From there glimpses of the Moon through cloud were sometimes possible. The telescopes and binoculars set up at in the grounds of the Observatory were also available for visitors to have close-up views of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and other sights.

Though the weather was disappointing on the night, visitors still had an enjoyable and informative evening. Hopefully many of them will be back on another night to look through the Observatory's telescopes.

Dr Nick Lomb