

TRANSIT OF VENUS 6 JUNE 2012

On Wednesday 6 June a small black circle will appear on the Sun, then for about 6 hrs will move across it and disappear. No, it's not the Sun disintegrating or a UFO exploring our solar system. The planet Venus will pass across the Sun, appearing like a small black disc moving around it. This phenomenon is called the **Transit of Venus** and it is the last time it will occur in your life-time – unless you live to 2117 being the year that the next Transit of Venus will occur!

Transits of Venus are rare and historically important astronomical events. Most of Australia is well positioned to witness the next transit of Venus on Wednesday 6th June 2012. The Surveying and Spatial Sciences industry in association with the Astronomical Association of Queensland (AAQ) is providing resources to enable students to participate in a re-enactment of a great scientific endeavour and in so doing, learn valuable lessons in science, mathematics, history and geography.

ISNSW and ACS members have a unique opportunity to participate in this once in a lifetime event by "**Adopting a School**", meeting school staff (in particular the careers adviser) and showing students what surveying is about. Simply go to the web site www.transitofvenus.com.au, review the extensive information and become an instant expert on the Transit of Venus. This is how it works

- Visit your local **Primary or Secondary School**, and approach the Principal. Through the diligence of our "Maths in Surveying Committee" all secondary schools have been made aware of the project, via MANSW (Maths Association NSW) and the DET Maths Newsletter. In addition Careers Advisers have also been notified of the project via a Careers Advisers Association (CAA) mail out
- Introduce the school coordinator (probably from the maths or science department) to our website www.transitofvenus.com.au and outline the details of how to win a Solar Scope.
- The competition to win a solar scope is an online entry available to **ALL schools Primary and Secondary** and must be submitted by the 15 March 2012. The first 35 correct entries in NSW will win a **FREE Solar Scope** valued at \$150.00
- The winning schools will be advised by email at the start of April! The Solar Scope will be available for delivery by you to the school in mid May.
- If your school does NOT enter the competition or misses out on winning or wants more Solar Scopes YOU can purchase one (or more) at the subsidized price of \$80.00 each and donate same to the school. The school may choose to order Solar Scopes themselves at the subsidized rate. All orders whether by individual surveyors or the school must be placed by the 15 March 2012
- Attend the school on the day being Wednesday 6th June to help co-ordinate and witness this amazing event. If you have any technical questions please email info@transitofvenus.com.au

Please advise ISNSW if you intend to "**Adopt a School**" by email isnsw@surveyors.org.au. Include the name of the school, the person to contact at the school and confirm the number of Solar Scopes you wish to sponsor for \$80.00 each. **Nominations to Adopt a School close on the 29 February**. The solar scopes are being purchased from France and to ensure they are available by May the final cut off date for orders is 15 March 2012. There are limited supplies of Solar Scopes available so **get in early and don't miss out**.

The Surveying and Spatial Science Industry and the Astronomical Association of Queensland are bringing this program to all Australian schools, in the interest of educating students about the application of maths and science in understanding Astronomical events. This is a great opportunity to show students and the wider community what surveyors do and to encourage them to pursue further education in surveying at University or TAFE.