

Australian Astronomy

ASA Factsheet No. 1

Comet Hale-Bopp, 1997

Hale-Bopp Comet Hale-Bopp was finally visible for Australian observers in 1997. It put on quite a spectacular show in the northern hemisphere, but our view was not so favourable. From Sydney it was visible about 10 degrees above the northwest point on the horizon at about 6pm. The sky was then dark enough to see the comet clearly in binoculars and also by eye if your sky was not too bright.



Comet Hale Bopp

A good impression of what the comet looked like can be seen in the accompanying image, taken by Michael Horn from Brisbane (Copyright © Michael Horn). By eye, the comet was a bit less bright than it appears here.

Date: April 30,
1997 08:32, 08:44
UT

Location: Lake
Samsonvale,
Brisbane, Australia
Exposure: 30
seconds with
135mm lens, f2.8,
Fuji G-800 on a
camera tripod.

More of Michael Horn's images can be seen at his [webpage](#). Several local amateur astronomical societies have good information on their web pages. You might like to look at one of the following:

- [The Astronomical Society of South Australia](#) keeps up to date eclipse information on their website.
- [The Astronomical Society of Victoria](#)
- [The Astronomical Society of Tasmania](#)

[Ron Baalke's Comet Homepage](#) is one of the main Hale-Bopp web pages with links to many others, including thousands of comet images.