Astrophotography *Mark Schapper*

Mark Schapper was born in Melbourne, the youngest of 10 children. He is married and has three adult children.

Mark completed a PhD in physics and electronics at The University of Melbourne in 1968. For most of his working life, Mark has worked in the mining industry developing technology to improve the performance of mining or overseeing the R & D and technology strategy. This has included the development of ore sorting machines based on optical reflectance and radioactivity, X-ray based recovery machines for Argyle Diamonds and the design and establishment of three R & D laboratories for CRA (later Rio Tinto).

Extensive travel to the Kimberley and Pilbara regions during the 1980s and 90s triggered a keen interest in landscape photography, which morphed into astrophotography around 2012.

Landscape photography for conservation groups also fed five solo exhibitions held between 2003 and 2011. Astrophotography exhibitions were held in 2015 and 2019.

Mark has donated these works to Epworth for the enjoyment of patients, visitors and staff.

Astrophotography requires several elements to ensure a successful image:

- Dark night sky - well away from city lights
- Time – each image can take many hours exposure, as the objects are very faint
- Special astrophotography equipment as explained below

The astrophotography system has three critical components: the telescope, the camera and the tracking engine.