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# CASMAG

The official magazine of the Canterbury Astronomical Society

www.cas.org.nz, www.facebook.com/CanterburyAstronomicalSociety

# **Monthly Meeting: TUESDAY 16th JULY 2019**

From 7:30p.m, room 701on the 7th floor of the West building (Old Rutherford) (Physics and Astronomy) at the University of Canterbury (see page 4 for a detailed map).

Refreshments start at 7.30. Meeting starts at 8pm

# JULY MEETING: ORLON PETTERSON

# Topic is Science and Adventure on the Ice

Abstract: A personal perspective on science being conducted in Antarctica by the School of Physical and Chemical Sciences at the University of Canterbury.

I'll talk about the process of getting here, living and working at Scott Base, and the experience of being in one of the most remote places on Earth. Also how easy it would be to compare with the likely experience of a future Mars base



# **PLEASE NOTE:**

We have been advised there are several other events at UC on our meeting night this month, so parking might be harder to find.

# CAS Membership Subscriptions for 2019-2020

THIS YEARS SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW OVERDUE FOR PAYMENT

Please use your name and member number as a reference when banking, then email membership@cas.org.nz to advise so payments can be matched to you correctly.

<u>PLEASE also include any changes to your contact details (eg: phone, email, address)</u>

Full details are included on the last page of this newsletter.

You are also welcome to pay by cash or cheque at our monthly meetings.



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## CAS Calendar, JUNE 2019 - SEPTEMEBER 2019

#### **July 2019**

Wednesday 3th New Moon

Saturday 6th KIDSFEST Starts at Observatory (nightly to Saturday 20th)

Tuesday 9th Committee Meeting

First Quarter

Tuesday 16th Members Meeting from 7.30pm

Wednesday 17th Full Moon

Saturday 20th Last night of KIDSFEST 2019

Followed by Members Night

Thursday 25th Last Quarter

August 2019

Friday 1st New Moon Thursday 8th 1st Quarter

Tuesday 13th Committee Meeting

Friday 16th Full Moon

Tuesday 20th Members Meeting from 7.30pm

Saturday 24th Last Quarter

Members Night at Observatory New Moon (Super new Moon)

September 2019

Friday 30th

Friday 6th First Quarter

Tuesday 10th Committee Meeting

Saturday 14th Full Moon

Tuesday 17th Members Meeting from 7.30pm Saturday 21st Members Nights at Observatory

Sunday 22nd Last Quarter

Friday 27th Last Public Open Night for this season

Sunday 29th Daylight savings starts

**New Moon** 

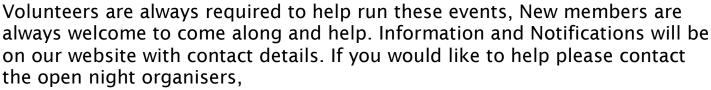
# **UPCOMING EVENTS: PUBLIC OPEN NIGHTS 2019**

This years Fridays Public Open Nights are listed below and we always welcome volunteers for these events

26th July (see below as the rest of July is Kidsfeast)

2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th August

6th, 13th, 20th, 27th September



Helpers MUST be members of the Society, These open nights are a great way to get training and experience using the society's telescopes, as there are always experienced members on hand to help you.



Volunteers are required for helping with these events which run fortnightly on a Wednesday, Please check out the forums on the website for more details or contact rob via his email below

# KIDSFEST 2019

Dates for this years event are Saturday 6th July— Saturday 20th July

Excluding both Tuesday's 9th and 16th, This event runs every night during this set time As in the past years your support and help with these events are what makes them the huge success that they are, Bookings for this is now open Rob Glassey is the society's contact for both Open nights, Kidsfest and Group Bookings, and can be contacted at vice.predident@cas.org.nz





#### **MONTHLY MEETINGS:**

Carol McAlavey has asked for you, our members to make suggestions or offer to give a talk at our monthly meetings

If you have any suggestions for topics please contact Carol via cstars@xtra.conz

The meeting venue is now held in room 701 on the 7th floor of the West building (Old Rutherford) (Physics and Astronomy) of the University of Canterbury

Car parking is available in the car park with entrances in Science Road or

Engineering Road.

Disabled parking is in Engineering Rd

Upcoming Meetings
16th JULY 2019
Orlon Petterson

Okeover Stream

Services Workshops

Boilery house

Boilery house

Structural Engineering

Laboratory

CAR PARKING

CAR PARKING

Services Boilery house

Facilities

Mainagement

Laboratory

Engineering

Scale WALKING

Annes

Entrance

Rutherf

**20th AUGUST 2019** 

**TBC** 

17th SEPTEMBER 2019

**Members Soapbox** 

**17TH OCTOBER 2019** 

**TBC** 

**18TH OCTOBER 2019** 

BEATRICE HILL TINSLEY 2019 LEATURE

Babak A.Tafreshi

19TH NOVEMBER 2019 TBC

(correct as at 5th July 2019, Subject to change as required)

Many thanks go to Orlon Petterson and Rosalie Reilly from the School of Physical and Chemical Sciences, University of Canterbury for arranging the meeting room for CAS this year

Also Thanks to Associate Professor Karen Pollard for organising the Lecture theatres for our public talks



#### **WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:**

A warm welcome to our new members, We look forward to meeting you at our meetings or events, Please make yourselves known to others. The following were accepted as members at the June Committee meeting

#### Welcome to:

Nicholas Douglas Joanne Winiata

It is always great to see our new members coming along to our Members Meetings, Members Nights and Events.



#### **OBSERVATORY NEWS**

#### **ALARM AT THE OBSERVATORY**

The installation of our ALARM at the observatory is now fully operational, Ask a committee member for the password.

#### **INTERNET WI-FI:**

Ask a committee member for the password

#### **From Terry**

All visible retaining walls now oiled Experimenting with Red LED bulbs for outside the lodge, Garden work is always ongoing and any help is always welcome Thanks to Tracey and Rob for your help with this so far

# **From Your Editor**

I am always looking for items or photos to include in YOUR CASMAG So please email your Article or favourite photo with details for me to include in future issues

As always I look forward to receiving your items to include in future issues and I welcome contributions or suggestions and encourage you to send any articles or ideas you would like to be see included in upcoming issues.

Remember you can have your advert added in the future casmag's, Contact me for detail's

Please email to editor@cas.org.nz

Dale Kershaw

#### **METEOR SHOWERS FOR 2019**

Shower	Dates		Moon	Peak Rate	RA	Dec	Near Star
	Active	Peak	2019				
Centaurids	Jan 28 - Feb 21	Feb 8	3 days after New moon	5 (-25)	14.1	-59	β Cen
gamma-Normids	Feb 25 - Mar 22	Mar 13	1 day before First quarter	8	16.6	-51	y Nor
pi-Puppids	Apr 15 - Apr 28	Apr 23	4 days before Last quarter	var to 40	7.3	-45	σPup
eta-Aquariads	Apr 19 - May 28	May 5	New moon	60	22.5	-1	η Aqr
Pisces Austrinids	Jul 15 - Aug 10	Jul 27	2 days after Last quarter	5	22.7	-30	α PsA
alpha-Capricornids	Jul 3 - Aug 15	Jul 30	2 days before New moon	4	20.5	-10	а Сар
Southern delta-Aquarids	Jul 15 - Aug 25	Jul 27	5 days before New moon	20	22.6	-16	δ Aqr
Southern iota-Aquarids	Jul 25 - Aug 15	Aug 4	3 days after New moon	2	22.3	-15	ı Aqr
Northern delta-Aquarids	Jul 15 - Aug 25	Aug 13	3 days before Full moon	4	22.3	-5	θ Aqr
Northern iota-Aquarids	Aug 11 - Aug 31	Aug 19	3 days after Full moon	3	21.8	-6	β Aqr
Piscids	Sep 1 - Sep 30	Sep 19	3 days before Last quarter	3	0.3	-1	λPsc
Orionids	Oct 2 - Nov 7	Oct 21	1 day before Last quarter	20	6.3	+16	γ Gem
Leonids	Nov 14 - Nov 21	Nov 17	3 days before Last quarter	100+	10.2	+22	γ Leo
alpha-Monocerotids	Nov 15 - Nov 25	Nov 27	New moon	var to 5	7.9	+1	δ Mon
Pheonicids	Nov 28 - Dec 9	Dec 6	2 days after First quarter	var	1.2	+53	Achernar
Geminids	Dec 7 - Dec 14	Dec 14	2 days after Full moon	120	7.3	+33	Castor

Information from the Royal Astronomical Society New Zealand website http/www.rasnz.org.nz

# <u>Stargazers Getaway August 30 - September 1</u>

The North Otago Astronomical Society Inc, would like to invite you to Stargazers Getaway 2019, over the weekend of, Friday August 30th to Sunday September 1st at Camp Iona in Herbert.

This is the second year back for our iconic Stargazers Getaway, building on last year's camp, the first in over 10 years!

With expressions for attendees already coming in, this year is promising to be bigger and better!!

Children under 5 are free Students 5-17 - \$20 p/night, \$35 for both Adults +18 - \$35 p/night, \$60 for both Day visits for talks - \$5 p/day

Interested people who would like to either attend, speak or present a poster paper are asked to email the Stargazers Getaway Co-ordinator, Damien McNamara, as numbers are limited at :- <a href="mailto:solaur.science@gmail.com">solaur.science@gmail.com</a>

#### **NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE**

Many thanks from the committee to all those who lent a hand with making our mid-winter BBQ Bon-fire night a huge success, see page 8 & 10 for more reports/photos

Aside from our normal Friday Night Public Open nights, We also run group bookings on every 2nd Wednesday, For this we need volunteers to assist on these nights, Rob Glassey is the organiser for these events and can be contacted via vice.president@cas.org.nz

### KIDSFEST: Saturday 6th July—Saturday 20th July

Tickets are now online and all help from volunteers is needed, This is always a fun event, and as with our public nights weather dependant, updates will be on our website and facebook page

#### **2019 Membership Subs:**

A reminder these are now <u>VERY OVERDUE</u> and can be paid by the following options:

Cash/Cheque: In person at a Meeting, Members night.

Bank Deposit/Internet Banking: Account details are included

on the last page of your CASMAG

Online: Via the Website

Please also advise of any changes: Address, Phone, Email via email to membership@cas.org.nz / or in writing to PO Box

# NEW ZEALAND STARLIGHT CONFERENCE October 2019

We are planning a conference on Dark Skies, Combatting Light Pollution and Star Gazing to be held at Lake Tekapo in the worlds largest International Dark Sky Reserve, (see http://starlightconference.org/)

The Dates will be 6pm on Sunday 20th October 2019 till 4.30pm on Wednesday 23rd October 2019.

The New Zealand Starlight Conference is supported by the International Dark Sky Association and Hosted by Aoraki Mackenzie International Dark Sky Reserve Board. More details will be posted on the website above in the coming months, Members of RASNZ and Affiliated societies will be most welcome as participants We hope to see many New Zealanders at the conference

John Hearnshaw (Chair of AMIDSR Board)

# **MID-WINTER BBQ -BON FIRE EVENT**





The Master BBQ cooks



Photos: Karen Wills, Dale.K

# BRIAN COX UNIVERSAL TOUR EVENT REVIEW From Heather

An evening at the Brian Cox lecture with some CAS family and two very special friends. How do I describe an evening listening to pure genius? I will do my best..

SHORT LIVES filled with meaning.. "What does it mean to be human; to live a short life on an insignificant planet around one star amongst three hundred billion in one galaxy amongst two trillion in the small part of the possibly infinite Universe that we can see?

This is the only existential question worth asking. And the UNIVERSAL tour is my personal answer." He went on to talk about How did life on Earth begin, possible life on other worlds, our biochemistry, and, is it possible we may share this biochemistry, genetic code somewhere else in the solar system? Black holes, birth and death of stars, and end of the Universe. He told it all in such depth and yet, in a way that helped to make it possible for the average person to understand, and even if you understood just some of it, that was O.K too and very worthwhile.. Sometimes, when you hear it again, something 'clicks' and you say to yourself, "Oh, yes, I think I get it now" It all came to life with fantastic background graphics and music. At half time, I heard mutterings from people about "I have Brain Ache" and I saw the freezer of ice creams going down very fast as people needed a sugar kick to help their neurons ready for the second half of the show..

There was also a comedian Robin Ince, who complimented Brian Cox's lecture, giving his own slant on it all, and also, letting people know, no question is a silly question.

He has also written several books himself.. He gave a very humorous, and human touch to it all. I found a copy of his beautiful poem he wrote about his son, on the interent Is this our final den?

#### A poem by Robin Ince

You don't need a story teller now. Your bedtime is autonomous but still one snugly hug for safety from the sandman

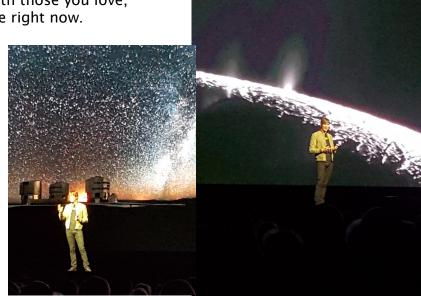
Is today the day is this our final den? We dragged the sticks rolled the logs made jokes of passing walkers and their weird shaped dogs you found our furniture a worn and mossy tyre I warned you of the dangers of that leaf hidden barbed wire

Damp bummed we sat and viewed our architectural feat I phoned filmed your pride for the archives of things done in the woodland adventures of the father and the son some days, walking hand in hand I secretly mourn for the days not yet gone the days that seem like Shepard sketches in an AA Milne when every beach is a post war postcard the blue too blue in my recall your freedom in necessity but not yet just wait a little bit let's pond dip for skaters with a net build another sofa train a kick around a LEGO piece found By my BARE FOOT Let's read Peanuts at dusk And Calvin and Hobbes lets' dig and splash and play and mime laser deaths in outer space....

And then I'll let you go and kick the twigs alone But one more day?

This was very beautiful and to me, it spoke about making the most of the Now; precious time spent with those you love, and making the most of them as they are right now.

You never know when that will all change..... It was a very special evening made even more special because I shared it with two very close dear friends. From Heather...



Photos: Dale.Kershaw

### MID-WINTER BBQ -BON FIRE EVENT CONT

Terry our master bon-fire lighter

Photos: Dale.K



As those who attended the Bbq & Bon-fire know, We had some of the SOFIA personal join us for the event,

"It was a real treat to meet you and the rest of the Society members. You have a great asset with the observing location outside of town and the city lights. We had several members of the SOFIA team to enjoy the festivities, including scientists and aircrew. The hospitality, food, telescope observations, and of course the big bonfire were all wonderful and very much appreciated! You made us feel like part of the Christchurch family and we look forward to more partnership with you all! "

With appreciation, Jeff Borton

Research Pilot, NASA Armstrong Flight Research Center

# **HEATHERS NOTES**

Wednesday Night Open Night June 19TH...

It was a clear night, and I was thinking, is it an open night tonight? I had been busy all day, and was too short of time to go on line and check, so I though, well I will go out to the observatory and if I am there on my own well I will enjoy it anyway. Cas bods started to turn up and I was told two bus loads of kids from two schools,

AGGHHH.... I thought of doing a runner, but, two of the helpers got an arm each and said, 'you are not going anywhere',--well not really, but, I expect they may have thought it....

Well, there was a rumble noise from the two buses, then, the sound of the doors opening, then, a general wall of noise coming towards us from excited little voices..

First group goes into the lodge, first group comes out of the lodge, second group goes into the lodge, second group comes out of the lodge;

In turn they are given an outside talk and a laser pointer showing the constellations with lots of oooohs and wows...

Besides other goodies for them to enjoy, they were also shown Jupiter and Saturn, and yours truly showed them the moon through her bino's...

The most I heard was, 'WOW' it's So BRIGHT!!!
Some seemed to be held to the bino like Velcro for ages just enjoying it which is what I like to see...

There was a call to get back on the buses again, and tired little eyeballs went home, and the wall of noise from excited little voices receded, it was So quiet!!!

They really were very well behaved, lovely kids and it was fun From Heather...

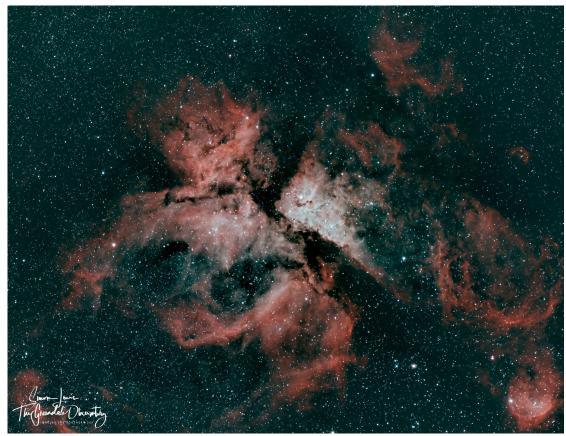
# **PHOTOS FROM OUR MEMBERS PAGE**

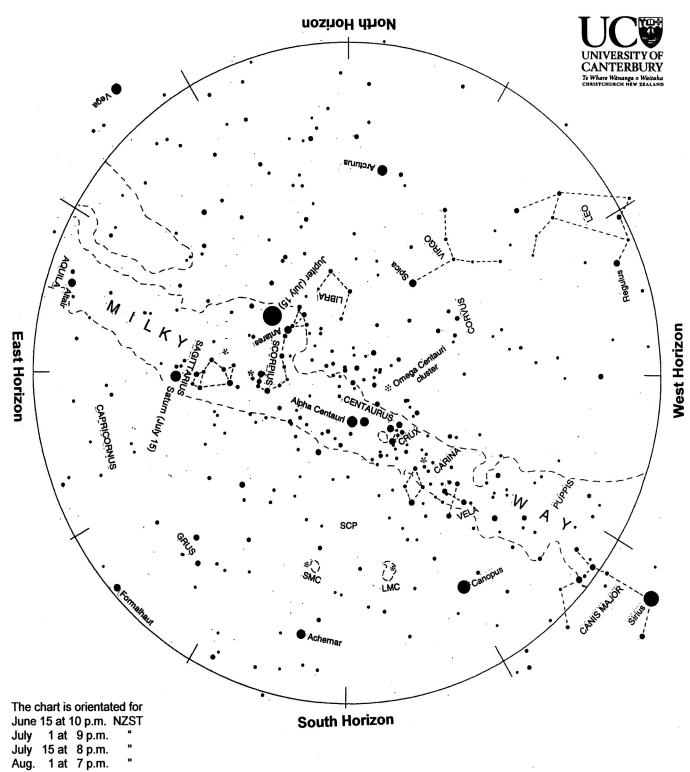
This months featured photos are from Simon Lewis from his home observatory



NGC6188 The Fighting Dragons of Ara -Hubble Palette - 30hrs of data from ES102 FCD100 + ASI600 -Astronomiks 6nm NB filters + CEM60 processed in Pixinsight

Carina Nebula -Using the Optolong L-Enhance Filter and ASI071 first light on this new filter 45 x 300s subs SV80ST+0.8 FR/FF - CEM60





**Evening sky in July 2019** 

To use the chart, hold it up to the sky. Turn the chart so the direction you are looking is at the bottom of the chart. If you are looking to the south then have 'South horizon' at the lower edge. As the earth turns the sky appears to rotate clockwise around the south celestial pole (SCP on the chart). Stars rise in the east and set in the west, just like the sun. The sky makes a small extra clockwise rotation each night as we orbit the sun.

Golden Jupiter is the 'evening star', appearing in the east soon after sunset. It is north of the zenith by 10 pm. Above Jupiter is orange Antares. Saturn is well below and right of Jupiter and fainter but still the brightest 'star' in its region. Low in the north is orange Arcturus. The Pointers and Crux, the Southern Cross, are south of the zenith. Sirius, the brightest true star, sets in the southwestern twilight, sparkling colourfully. Canopus, the second brightest star, is low in the southwest. It swings down to the southern horizon later. Vega rises in the northeast around 9 p.m.

#### The Evening Sky in July 2019



Golden **Jupiter** is the bright 'evening star' appearing midway up the eastern sky soon after sunset. Seen above it, when the sky darkens, is orange **Antares**. Well below and right of Jupiter is **Saturn**, much fainter than Jupiter but the brightest 'star' in that part of the sky. Both planets shine with a steady light rather than twinkling like stars. At 10 pm Jupiter is north of the zenith.

The brightest true stars are orange **Arcturus** in the north sky and white **Canopus** low in the south west. **Sirius**, the brightest star, might be seen setting in the southwest in the twilight. Arcturus sets in the northwest around midnight, twinkling red and green when low in the sky. Canopus swings lower in the south, setting for while from northern NZ, then moves up the southeast sky. Being bright it twinkles like a diamond as the air breaks up its white light into all colours. On the opposite horizon is Vega, rising in the northeast around 9 pm. Vega and Arcturus are the brightest stars north of the equator.

Early in the month **Mars** and **Mercury** (not shown the chart) are low in the northwest twilight. At first Mercury is above reddish Mars. It sinks lower and fades as its sunlit side turns away from us. Mars sinks more slowly, disappearing on the far side of the sun by the end of July. Mars is 370 million km away.

Any telescope will show the oval disk of **Jupiter** with its four 'Galilean' moons lined up on either side. Larger telescopes show dark stripes parallel to Jupiter's equator. These are caused by different temperatures in the clouds. Jupiter is 660 million km from us mid-month nearly as close as it ever gets. The Moon passes by Jupiter on the 13th and 14th. Jupiter sets in the southeast in the late morning hours.

**Saturn** is always worth a look in any telescope. A small telescope shows Saturn's ring and its biggest moon Titan looking like a star about four ring-diameters from the planet. Larger telescopes show smaller moons as faint stars closer to the rings. Saturn is 1350 million km away in July. The full moon will be close to Saturn on the 16th.

South of the zenith are 'The Pointers', Beta and **Alpha Centauri**. They point to **Crux** the Southern Cross on their right. Alpha Centauri is the third brightest star after Sirius and Canopus. It is also the closest naked eye star, 4.3 light years\* away. Beta Centauri, like most of the stars in Crux, is a blue-giant star hundreds of light years away. **Canopus** is a truly bright star: 13 000 times the sun's brightness and 300 light years away.

**Antares**, above Jupiter, marks the body of the Scorpion. The Scorpion's tail, upside down, is stretched out to the right of Antares making the 'fish-hook of Maui' in Maori star lore. Below Scorpius is 'the teapot' made by the brightest stars of Sagittarius. It is also upside down in our southern hemisphere view.

The **Milky Way** is brightest and broadest in the east toward **Scorpius** and **Sagittarius**. In a dark sky it can be traced up past the Pointers and Crux, fading toward Sirius. The Milky Way is our edgewise view of the galaxy, the pancake of billions of stars of which the sun is just one. The thick hub of the galaxy, 30 000 light years away, is in Sagittarius.

The Large and Small Clouds of Magellan, **LMC** and **SMC**, look like two misty patches of light low in the southern sky. They are easily seen by eye on a dark moonless night. They are galaxies like our Milky Way, but much smaller. The Large Cloud is 160 000 light years away and 5% of the mass of the Milky Way. The Small Cloud is 200 000 light years and 3% of the Milky Way's mass.

A partial lunar eclipse begins around dawn on the 17th making the setting Moon darker on its right side. The Moon sets latest in southern places.

Brilliant **Venus** might be seen rising in the bright twilight at the beginning of the month from places with a low eastern skyline. A very thin crescent moon will be above it on the morning of July 2nd.

\*A **light year** (**l.y**.) is the distance that light travels in one year: nearly 10 million million km or 10<sup>13</sup> km. Sunlight takes eight minutes to get here; moonlight about one second. Sunlight reaches Neptune, the outermost major planet, in four hours. It takes four years for sunlight to reach the nearest star, Alpha Centauri.

Notes by Alan Gilmore, University of Canterbury's Mt John Observatory, P.O. Box 56, Lake Tekapo 7945, New Zealand. www.canterbury.ac.nz

#### CAS COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS 2019/2020

Public Nights and Group Bookings bookings.liaison@cas.org.nz
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President: Euan Mason president@cas.org.nz
Vice President: Rob Glassey vice.president@cas.org.nz
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Tracey Richards member 4@cas.org.nz
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For more specialized information please see the contact information page on www.cas.org.nz

#### **CAS Contact Information**

Canterbury Astronomical Society Inc.

PO Box 25-137 City East

Christchurch 8141 Web: <u>www.cas.org.nz</u>

Canterbury Astronomical Society Facebook Group:

www.facebook.com/groups/CanterburyAstronomicalSociety

West Melton Observatory: 43° 29' 55.5" S, 172° 20' 59.0" E 218 Bells Road, West Melton

#### **CAS Members Meetings**:

The CAS monthly members meetings are currently held from 7.30pm onwards every third Tuesday of the month (except December and January) in Room 701 on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of the WEST BUILDING (old Rutherford) Physics and Astronomy at the University of Canterbury,

Any member of the public who is considering in joining the society are most welcome to attend the meetings.

#### **CAS on Facebook:**

Cas has a Facebook presence, Useful to keep up to date with events, interesting articles, asking for advice, For members please use the website forums for more detailed information etc

#### **CAS on Twitter:**

Cas is on Twitter at <a href="https://twitter.com/canterburyastro">https://twitter.com/canterburyastro</a>

#### **CAS Membership:**

Subscriptions are due 1st April each year

Fees for current members who renew before 31st May are at the discounted price shown on the membership form included on the back page of your Casmag, Full details are included on our website.

#### **Contributions to CASMAG:**

Member contributions to CASMAG are always most welcome (letters, observing notes, articles, news)

Please submit articles by email to editor@cas.org.nz

The deadline for each issue is the 1st of each month

Small personal advertisements are free to financial members. (less than 8 lines in a column)

Charges for larger items range from \$5 to \$40, email the editor for more details.

#### The Constitution of The Canterbury Astronomical Society Inc:

This can be found on our website. Please ask for the link if required

#### **DISCLAIMER:**

This newsletter is for general information purposes only. The views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Canterbury Astronomical Society Inc (CAS)

CAS has taken all reasonable measures to ensure that the material contained herein is correct, but gives no warranty for, and accepts no responsibility for its accuracy or completeness.

Readers are advised not to rely solely on this information, and should seek independent advice before making any decision, CAS reserves the right to make changes at any time, as deemed necessary.

# Canterbury Astronomical Society Inc.

# **APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

To: Membership Secretary
Canterbury Astronomical Society Inc.
P.O.Box 25-137
City East
Christchurch 8141



Home phone:	10.00	Cell phone	e:			
Email:	Date of I	Date of Birth (if under 18):				
	c; subscription must accompany	application)				
	is renewed before 31 May					
Online banking details (Pl	ease identify your payment): (	3 0802 009827	3 00 Discounted	Full		
Adult (any person 18 years of age or over who is not eligible for any other category)				\$80		
Family (two or more persons living at the same address) §				\$120		
Junior (under 18 years of age on 1 April of the current year)				\$40		
Senior (over 65 years)				\$40		
	Community Services Card Holder					
	g full-time at a tertiary institution; must	reapply annually)	\$35 \$35	\$40 \$40		
	roting rights of one member but cannot		\$210	\$240		
	list the other persons involved.	116				
Name	Date of birth (if under 18)	Signature				
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All CAS members receive CAS	SMag, a monthly newsletter. Would	you prefer to rece	ive this (plea	se tick):		
by email as a .pdf attachi	nonta Cton	ost as a hard copy	2			
by email as a .pdf attachi	or by po	ost as a naro copy				
Do you have access to a teles	cope? What type and size?			_		
the undersigned declare that	the information given herein is true					
, the undersigned deciale that						

Date Approved: