



CASMAG

The official magazine of the Canterbury Astronomical Society

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

Monthly Meeting: Our Monthly Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday night of the month. Our meeting venue is room ER225 in the Ernest Rutherford building at Canterbury University. Level 2 Refreshments from 7.30pm Meeting starts at 8pm

APRIL MEMBERS MEETING 2023 Neill Price

He is giving a talk on his memories of going to look through R F Joyce's telescope in Kaiapoi when he was a child.

“A trip down memory Lane”

MEMBERSHIP

2023 ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS/ MEMBERSHIP



payment for the 2023 Year is now DUE

This can be paid via internet banking, PayPal, cash in person, Please use your name and member number for your reference when making payment, (this means it can be matched to your membership) **PLEASE advise if there are any changes to your details: Address, Phone Number, email**, Please email any changes to membership@cas.org.nz so the records can be updated

If these details are not updated we will be unable to contact you. Membership Fees and Banking payment details are included on the back page of every CASMAG

If you have not paid your 2022 membership it is
NOW VERY OVER DUE



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From Your Editor

This is your Casmag, for YOU our members,
 So I welcome any ideas or articles you would like to share with the other members. Please email your Article or favourite photo with details so I can include it in future issues.
 Deadline for each issue is 1st of each month
 Remember you can have your advert added in the future casmag's,
 Any questions, Ideas or suggestions please email to editor@cas.org.nz
 Dale Kershaw

[Please see page 27 for notes:](#)

CAS Calendar APRIL-JUNE 2023



APRIL 2023

Saturday 1st	New Members Night @ Observatory
Sunday 2nd	Daylight Saving Changes @ 3am back to 2am
Thursday 6th	<i>Full Moon</i>
Friday 7th	Good Friday/ Easter Weekend starts
Saturday 8th	Holy Saturday/ Easter Saturday
Sunday 9th	Easter Sunday
Monday 10th	Easter Monday
Tuesday 11th	Committee Meeting
Thursday 13th	<i>Last Quarter</i>
Friday 14th	Public Open Nights Start (Friday nights until 22/9/23)
Tuesday 18th	(CAStroNauts@University 6.30-7.30pm) <u>To be Confirmed</u>
	Members Meeting @ University from 7.30pm
Thursday 20th	<i>New Moon</i>
Saturday 22nd	Members Night @ Observatory
Tuesday 25th	Anzac Day
Friday 28th	<i>First Quarter</i>

MAY 2023

Saturday 6th	Coronation Day for King Charles 3rd
	<i>Full Moon</i>
	New Members night @ Observatory
Tuesday 9th	Committee Meeting
Saturday 13th	<i>Last Quarter</i>
	Hororata GLOW Festival 3pm-8pm
Sunday 14th	Mothers Day
Tuesday 16th	CAStroNauts @ University 6.30-7.30pm
	Members Meeting @ University from 7.30pm
Saturday 20th	<i>New Moon</i>
	Members Night @ Observatory
Sunday 28th	<i>First Quarter</i>

JUNE 2023

Saturday 3rd	New Members Night @ Observatory
Sunday 4th	<i>Full Moon</i>
Monday 5th	Kings Birthday Holiday
Sunday 11th	<i>Last Quarter</i>
Tuesday 13th	Committee Meeting
Sunday 18th	<i>New Moon</i>
Tuesday 20th	CAStroNauts @ University 6.30-7.30pm
	Members Meeting @ University from 7.30pm
Saturday 24th	Members Night @ Observatory
Monday 26th	<i>First Quarter</i>

2023 Open Night Season

Its that's time again! Doesn't it come round quick!!!

This years open night programme kicks off on **Friday 14 April**.

For the newcomers to the society, we run open nights every Friday night to the general public and some Tues/Weds nights for private groups.

Of course in July we have Kidsfest ... we will confirm the dates closer to that happening .. but that's 15 nights of fun!

Why are these so important to CAS?

They give CAS an opportunity to engage with our local communities and build strong relationships with them and key stake holders like Selwyn Council.

Provide a perfect opportunity to educate our visitors on the night sky and the hobby of astronomy

They are a great source of new members !

Assist in supporting the society financially.

So how can you help?

We need volunteers for our open nights to help run the evenings.

It takes about 6-7 people a night to run these, from helping people check in, our welcome brief, laser tour of the night sky and then running our scopes.

We normally assemble at CAS around 6.30pm and run till about 9-9.30 depending on bookings.

The more volunteers we get the less burden it places on others and helps spread the load but I can say its VERY rewarding and highly engaging activity, the kids love it and its amazing to see and hear them so excited about their time at CAS.

If you would like to help you can approach any of the committee or reach out to Rob Glassey or myself if keen.

We have a volunteer booking system we use so you can choose a night to volunteer for and the system will also send you reminder emails too!

Check it out at cas.ivolunteer.com

We will run a training day for newcomers before we kick off so don't worry we will let you know how we run things before hand!

Please consider even helping out with a few as every slot filled helps the society.

Thanks

Simon

CAS President

MONTHLY MEETINGS:

Meeting Venue:

Room ER 225 in the Ernest Rutherford Building, University of Canterbury,
Entrance to the building will be via the north side entrance,
Then using the lift or stairs up to level 2

Carol McAlavey is asking you, our members to make suggestions or offer to give a talk at our monthly meetings.

PLEASE CONTACT CAROL WITH YOUR SUGGESTIONS OR IF YOU CAN GIVE A TALK via member2@cas.org.nz

Upcoming Members Meeting Dates:

18th April: Neill Price

16th May: TBC

20th June: TBC

18th July: TBC

15th August: TBC

19th September: TBC

17th October: TBC

21st November: TBC

(correct as at 1st April 2023, Subject to change as required)

Many thanks go to Sharlene Wilson and Orlon Petterson 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

We will update the website if there are any changes and will host meetings via ZOOM if possible:

CAS COMMITTEE FOR 2023-2024

Here is your new committee as elected at the AGM held 21st march 2023

President:	Simon Lewis
Vice President:	Terry Richardson
Treasurer:	David Brian
Secretary:	Mandy Heslop
Observatory Director:	Kieren Eden
Editor:	Dale Kershaw
Librarian:	Sean Mullis
WebMaster:	Marc Bunyan
Membership Secretary:	Dale Kershaw
Committee:	Carol McAlavey Goran Balvan Orlon Petterson Ray Pointon

Many thanks to those who served on committee in the past year

LIFE MEMBERSHIP'S PRESENTED

Our first nominee tonight has been a member of the society for over 10 years and during that time has committed many hours of their time to furthering the society. From volunteering themselves over many nights at the observatory for open nights and kidsfest they are also a stalwart supporter of all our CAS activities and always at the front of the queue to volunteer. They have spent many years dedicated to committee work and their personal time organising other astronomy events.

We received a lot of support for this nomination and on behalf of those individuals I'd like to nominate Dale Kershaw as life member of the society for her tireless support to CAS, to other activities such as Stardate and to her commitment to bringing the Townsend telescope back to life.

Our next nominee is another long serving member who has dedicated many hours of their personal times to CAS. A 3 times president, a long time Staveley organiser, has provided rooms for meetings at the UC, run astronomy courses that brought in new members, given talks at meetings many times, has been strongly involved in many working bees and other projects at the observatory, actively involved in past open nights and kidfest, a keen observer and educator, Its a pleasure to nominate Euan Mason.

Simon Lewis. President

REPORTS PRESENTED AGM 2023 Librarian's Annual Report 21 March 2023

This year I have been busy tidying the library and cataloguing lots of new books. I have been trying to declutter to make room for a number new additions donated by different people this year. We inherited a box from the estate of Jim Coxon and also an box from Lionel Hussey, Huia Parker donated John Hernshaw's New Zealand dark sky handbook and Simon Lewis donated Skywatching by David H Leavy.

End of report

My apologies, I wont be able to attend this years AGM because of family commitments but I have enjoyed working in the library this year and I am happy to stand again if nominated.

Nga mihi

Sean Mullis

Observatory end of year report 2023

The last year has been good as my first year as director. Not a lot has happened as we all know thanks to La Nina... Although a little gardening and repairs have been going on over this summer.

The 14" dome repair is pretty much finished, the vast majority of that work has been done by Terry. Terry also helped a lot with mowing the lawns and spraying etc through spring and summer as I was busy at work, so thanks again for the help.

The 16" is currently in the process (as I write this) of being repaired as the rats had made themselves at home in the ceiling so all of the ceiling and sarking was removed, nails replaced with screws in the iron and new sarking put in. Only thing to do is put extra timber in to suit the ply as it was built using imperial measurements. Then put new ply up and give everything fresh paint and seal up any gaps where they might get in again.

Lots of stuff to work on in the coming years as things are aging and some of the poorly planned projects are revealing themselves. With the new approach to CAS in plan we should have plenty of money to be making some decent projects/repairs as needed to keep ourselves and the buildings/gear up to date. The main goal for me is to carry on keeping a high standard of work and try to do it once and to do it right :)

Cheers

Kieren

REPORTS PRESENTED AT AGM 2023 cont

Editor Report 2023 AGM

This past year has been a busy one for Cas. There is a lot that happens behind the scenes by the committee to keep it running smoothly and this is not seen by most.

I am always making small changes to the casmag as I feel it is required.

Content continues to cover Meeting information, Calendar dates, Observatory news. Social and public events, Star charts, Items written by our members, Photos of some amazing photography. I always enjoy opening those emails and reading the content to include in the next issue.

Please continue to send those emails to me

This year I have added to the casmag with the help of Sean our Librarian the "Library Corner" with books available for adoption.(these are books that he has found to be ones that we have multiple copies) very pleased to say that most have been adopted to their new homes.

Along with this is now a "Book Review" page, please consider writing a review, it only needs to be a few lines, (with a brief note of the content and your opinion of the book)

Or you could do a Movie review.

This past year had been a busy one for our cas merchandise, I have been and are always looking for new ideas, sourcing/ordering the items for our members then looking after the sales of the items, If you have a new idea please let me know and I can research it pricing/style etc and take it to the committee for approval

Along with this I also on the sub-committee for the Hororata Highland Games and ordered the merchandise and other items that were needed to help make the day a very successful event, This event proved to be a great outreach for CAS /awareness to the public and sales.

When they have happened which with the weather last year was not as many as we would have liked, I have assisted at the public open nights/ private groups and members/training nights and really enjoy the contact and outreach with the public.

Along with all of this was the organisation with Euan and Carol for Stardate SI.

I look forward to another year as your editor/ committee member if you chose to re-elected me and would like to thank the rest of the committee for all the support and friendship shown to me Dale Kershaw

Presentation to Rob Glassey at AGM



Incoming President: Simon Lewis presenting award to out-going President Rob Glassey.

Photos: Tom Heslop

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:

A warm welcome to our new members, We look forward to meeting you at our meetings and/or events, Please make yourselves known to others. We like to welcome our new members here after the membership is accepted by the committee at the meeting following memberships are received.

Sheyana Hubands
Brent Schroeder
Jessie Sturt
Nickia Callahan
Richard Russel
Hanna Warner
Lynne Alison

Marcus Davis
Alison Wood
Belinda Sarbutts
Ben Lewis
Viv Titmas
Greg Hay
Kyrstal King



*Welcome to all our New Members
I hope you enjoy reading CASMAG and remember to
keep an eye on the website for any updates*

Apologies from the editor for any spelling mistakes in the names

OBSERVATORY IMPORTANT INFORMATION

DOOR CODE & ALARM AT THE OBSERVATORY

The Door code and Alarm code available to members, Ask a committee member for the passwords.

INTERNET WI-FI:

Ask a committee member for the password

LASER POINTERS:

There is a legal requirement when importing them, and information is on our website and at the observatory, CAS has a drafted a set of guidelines which we were presented at our AGM and were voted and added to our By-Laws,

If you need a letter confirming your membership for your application, please contact either membership secretary or secretary, (This letter will state you are a current financial member of our society)

ACCREDITATION

A reminder that unless you have full accreditation on the equipment you are not to use the equipment unless there is an accredited person with you. Full training is available, Please ask our Observatory Director how you can get your accreditation

There is a full list of accredited person's on the wall above the kitchen sink inside the lodge. contact Kieren (our Observatory directory via his email listed on our website or the inside back page casmag

COSMIC CONNECTIONS: **Monthly Updates and Insights from Your President**

Simon Lewis – CAS President

One of my personal commitments when standing for president was to make it much clearer to members what's going on inside the society and what we have planned for members over the coming months.

So with that in mind I intend to have a column each month with some short news snippets and thoughts running round my head! I hope they are of interest and of course feedback is very welcome, indeed sought after.

We just don't hear enough from members as to their thoughts, wants and needs. This is YOUR society after all! So do feel free to email me with your thoughts and comments via **president@cas.org.nz**

Thanks to everyone who turned out for the AGM on 21 March, it was a shocker of a night weatherwise so thanks for coming and supporting the society.

Of course that democratic process is important as we voted in the new committee, so welcome to the newcomers to the committee and a huge thank you to the out going committee too. The long hours you volunteer is not lost on me.

We recognised that commitment at the AGM too with a small trophy to Rob Glassey, our outgoing president of four years and for Rob's extraordinary commitment of ten years on committee! Rob has been instrumental in the continued success of our public outreach nights. Thanks Rob!

As I write this daylight savings has gone and we are almost into a new winter season. Open nights commence on 14 April and run through to end of September.

These nights are extremely important to CAS. Not only does it place CAS in the public view as a society, but they also generate many new members and the income from ticket sales goes a long way to supporting our annual operating budget and maintaining a healthy society.

As always, these nights could not exist without volunteers to help. And you don't need to be a total expert to help. We still need people to help man the gate, check in visitors and act as ushers, and yes, we might find you a job manning a scope and chatting to some of the public if you feel comfortable.

We don't throw you in at the deep end I promise! And its VERY rewarding! Why not come along on a Friday and see how things run? Every volunteer means we can share the load across the teams as we run Wednesday night private groups and also we run Kidsfest in July, that's 15 nights of fun! If you can spare some hours come along on a Friday and see how things operate. You can also volunteer via our iVolunteer site too at **cas.ivolunteer.com**

We had a great day the West Melton fete on 26 April. A number of volunteers manned a small stand at the event and we had a fabulous day out introducing the society to the public. We had a small sale of membership items which Dale did a fabulous job of putting together and young Tom Heslop turned into rather a good pitch selling quite a few items! We even got a break in the cloud to do some observing with the solar telescope and was funny to see some of the publics reaction to seeing sunspots and prominences on our star. We have a few public appearances coming and CAS will have a nice spot at the Hororata Night Glow on 13 May too. So, stay tuned for more news on that.

Cont next page

COSMIC CONNECTIONS: cont

Speaking of which, don't forget the best place to get up to speed with the latest news is via the forums on the website and we have a calendar of events right there on the front page too.

So do keep an eye there as sometimes news comes in faster than the CSMAG can carry it. The CAS Facebook page does not cover off CAS member news as that's our public facing site for more space orientated news and events from within the society facing outwards.

So I definitely recommend you keep an eye out on the CAS website at **cas.org.nz**

We certainly have a lot going on this year too. It's our 75th birthday and we will have some special events through the year for this And cake! It's BHT lecture season in July so keep an eye out

for news on that and of course Kidsfest, Matariki and a whole bunch more!

I'll be keeping you to speed with more internal news as we move forward, but the committee already met informally at the observatory to start the process of planning out this year and indeed the next few years. We have much to do if we are to have a much more controlled approach to running the society. We need long term plans for how we use our observatory site, the equipment and buildings and our society assets.

These are key to our survival and so we need a plan to keep them in good order and also keep our equipment up to date. Replacing a building or large telescope is a major undertaking so we need to have a clear plan of the work involved, what grants we need and how we intend to use these assets for the betterment of the members and the society. So lots to do here, but I know the committee is up for the job and we already started to kick that process off.

I'll keep you updated via this column each issue and also at our monthly UC meetings. Terry will be looking after you for the 18th April meeting as I will be in New York, presenting at the NEAF conference and using the opportunity to fly the flag for CAS and for astronomy in New Zealand. I'll see you at one of our meetings when I return towards the end of April.

Until then, kind regards.

PHOTOS FROM WEST MELTON FETE:



Tom Mandy & Simon ready to start the day

Photos: Simon Lewis, Dale.k



Terry lining up the trees to show the folks and display the Galileo scope's

PHOTOS FROM WEST MELTON FETE:



*Photos:
Tom Heslop, Preetha Sreedharan,
Simon Lewis, Dale.K*

CANTERBURY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY 75TH ANNIVERSARY 2023

On 20 July 2023 it will be 75 years since the first meeting of the Canterbury Astronomical Society was held.

This will be a special year for us and it is something to celebrate so I am asking for ideas, thoughts, volunteers, for how we can make this awesome!

There are some people who are going to be doing a few poster papers for the RASNZ Conference in Auckland this year and they are looking for old reports and memories of people who were among the first members of our Society, so please dig through that treasure box and delve into those memories and see what we can produce.

Also, please think about attending the RASNZ Conference this year as I believe that CAS' 75th Anniversary will be acknowledged and it will be fantastic to have a few people to help us celebrate. One of the projects I am looking to do for the Anniversary is to collate the history of the Clive Rowe Memorial dome and the telescopes that have been in there so that future members will have a "cheat sheet" to refer to when asked about its history.

I have become aware that there is not many members around who knew that there were two telescopes that have been in that dome.

I thank you in advance for your assistance.

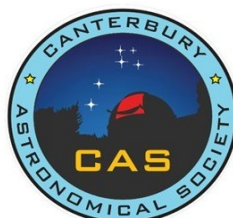
Carol McAlavey

cstars@xtra.co.nz

CANTERBURY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY INC

1948-2023

75 Years Anniversary



FROM THE ARCHIVES

1948

On Tuesday evening the 20th July at 8pm in a room of the Pioneer Sports Club (cnr Gloucester St & Oxford Tce) a meeting was convened by Mr. R.F. Joyce of Kaiapoi for the purposes of establishing an astronomical society.

The following persons attended:

Mr. R.F. Joyce	33 Fuller St. Kaiapoi
Mr. K Roth	Canty U Coll
Mr. W. Wilson	2 Loftus St, Papanui
Miss Wilson	2 Loftus St, Papanui
Mr. J.O. Kidson	10 Kidson Tce, Cashmere
Mr. H.R. Atkinson	30 Clare Rd, St. Albans
Mr. C.S.L. Keay	24 Stoke St, Sumner
Mr. B.G. Pemberthy	28 Hawthorne St, Papanui
Mr. G. Nankivelle	Dallington
Mr. S. Morris	Christ's College
Mr. P.A. Howell	97 Glandovey Rd, Fendalton

Apologies were accepted from Messrs Beattie & Uren and are affixed hereto: Following a general discussion amongst those present of the aims and ideals of the proposed society Mr. Joyce as convenor called for the election of officers. Mr Howell was elected secretary, Mr. Joyce vacating the chair until his election as president (p Kidson; s. Morris). The president then suggested having a vice-president in the event of his absence. Mr. Morris was proposed and seconded by Messrs. Wilson & Kidson. In discussion the meeting decided that the society was too small to warrant a treasurer.

Mr. Kidson proposed that meetings be held once in two months on a Tuesday evening at Christ's College (per courtesy of Mr. Morris) this was seconded by Mr. Wilson and the matter carried.

The shape of future meetings was discussed and the form of programme put as a motion by Mr. Keay & seconded by Mr. Atkinson and subsequently carried

“that the meeting consist of the minutes, a lecture &/or short talks etc”

Then the matter of subscription came up for discussion. A motion was put by Mr. Morris that the president contact the RAS of NZ in Wgton & make arrangements. (It having been unanimously decided during the convention stage that this CHCH Astronomical Society should constitute the local branch of the RAS of NZ to which most of those present belonged).

It was decided by the meeting that a temporary committee consisting of the president, vice-president, Mr. Roth & the secretary should attend to affairs pending the annual general meeting.

The meeting was then closed and supper served.

Copy from the hand written minute book archived in our library by Carol McAlavey

HEATHER'S NOTES

Friday Night March 31,

I saw it was clear outside though the sky was quite light with the moon just passed first quarter and gibbous.

Tired after a busy day, I thought I would have a quick look around outside with my bino, which is 20X80. I found Apus, the Bird of Paradise which is a lovely sight through a bino with three bright orange/red stars. And the Jewel Box aka kappa Crucis NGC4755;- I am not a clever-clogs like some of our members and remember all the numbers for things, so don't ask me- I looked it up.

That is a beautiful sight through a bino and it looks like a capital A on angle and it has a bright orange star to it's middle.

That is easy to find; go to beta Crucis, in the Southern Cross, and going toward the pointers, you should find it.

You think that is clear as mud, it may be best that you don't ever ask me for traffic directions, --much worse!!!!

If you are enjoying looking through a bino, have a look at Carina, the rich hazy area in the Milky Way that follows along from Crux, -- the Southern Cross. You will find beautiful rich open clusters there which are a delight and just right for binos as you get to see the whole field of view,- --[FOV]

The moon is also really spectacular through a bino, but, if you are interested in viewing the moon, make it the last thing you see, because, it Will be the last thing you see for quite some time!

Thinking of buying a scope? One of our very active, busy, well known, and much needed life members, suggests, join the society, have a look at what we have at the observatory, talk to other members and then, make up your mind, and I and others think she is exactly right. That is Very good advice..

Remember, there are nights when you just go from one object to another, and think woo-hoo, that was a good night, and other nights when you are just about spitting tacks with frustration and can't seem to find a thing!

it happens to us all at times, --well me anyway..

Don't worry about it, deep breath and think, -maybe next time...

Happy hunting.. Heather

CAS MERCHANDISE

Cas Branded items for sale

Coffee Mugs are \$15.00 each



NEW STYLE OF CAS PENS NOW AVAILABLE IN 2 STYLES \$3.00



These are all black ink and with a variety of barrel colours

STAINLESS DRINK BOTTLES: \$15.00 with flip top 750ml

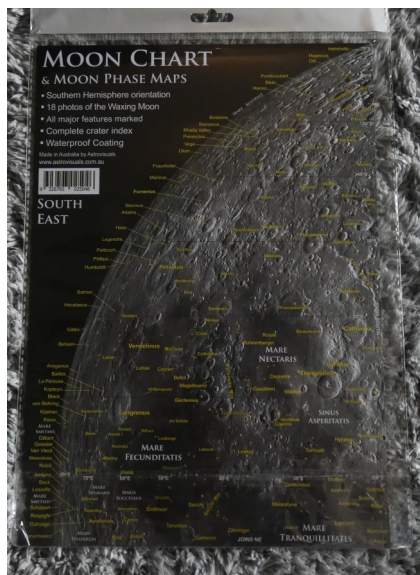


2023 CAS COSMIC CALENDAR: NOW \$10.00 EACH \$15.00

All new 12 photos taken by our Own CAS Members



MOON CHART



8 sheets showing Moon phase maps, with waterproof coating. \$15.00

DOUBLE -SIDED PLANISPHERE FOR SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE \$20.00



SUN-DISK KIT, \$25.00 Make a sundial at home



CAS CLOTHING RANGE

Waterproof Stickers **New TYPE** with our logo are also available \$2.50 each

CAS Beanies: Now in stock. Wool Blend Beanie with the CAS logo \$20.00

CAS Sew-On LOGO Badges: Now in stock \$10.00 each

The following we will take orders and then order the items, 1-2 weeks Delivery from order) We have some samples of each of the following items

Cas Soft Shell Jackets = Sizes S— 8XL \$65.00

Cas Polo Shirts = Sizes S—5XL \$45.00

Cas Zip Front Polar Fleece Jackets = Sizes 2XS -5XL \$47.00

Cas T-Shirts = Sizes 3XS—8/9XL \$22.00

I have the full sizing charts on hand so you can make sure you are ordering the correct size. Payment can be cash or bank deposit

They are available from Editor (Dale), contact via editor@cas.org.nz or 0272426376



RASNZ Conference 2023

The 2023 RASNZ Conference and Annual General Meeting, over Kings Birthday Weekend, June 2nd to the 4th will be hosted by the Auckland Astronomical Society (AAS).

2023 is the Centennial year for the AAS.

The Conference is to be held at Waipuna Hotel and Conference Centre, 58 Waipuna Road, Mt Wellington, Auckland 1060

For more information check out the [rasnz](https://www.rasnz.org.nz) website

<https://www.rasnz.org.nz/news-events/conference-2023/rasnz-conference>

We would like to thank the following
sponsors for their generous donations
to our 2022 Fund Raiser

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<https://astronz.nz/>

Remember to mention you are a CAS Member when ordering

LIBRARY CORNER

Our CAS Librarian, Sean has been working through our library at the Observatory, sorting the many donated books, filing those returned to the shelves, often finding 2 and sometimes 3 copies of the same book.

Along with a general tidy up.

While doing this he has discovered that we have multiples of some copies, and the committee has agreed that we offer these to our members on a no return basis. (when you have finished with it (if ever) pass it onto someone else who will enjoy it).

Books will be listed in future casmags and can be claimed for adoption by emailing Sean at librarian@cas.org.nz.

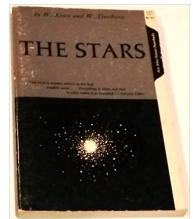
This Months Books for Adoption are:

1: Galactic Nebulae and interstellar matter by Jean Dufay

2: The Stars by W.Cruuse & W. Dieckvoss

3: Scientific American Amateur Telescope Making Book 1

4: Scientific American Amateur Telescope Making Book 3



If you are interested in any of these books please email Sean which book/s you are after and he can organise getting the book/s to you (1st in gets the book)

Remember these are not for return to the library

We will publish a new list each month for adoption

As we have had many generous donations of books over the years to avoid double ups and disappointment.

Please note if you or your family wish to donate books please contact Sean before hand, so he can advise the best plan for this.

Email Sean @ librarian@cas.org.nz

QUOTES OF THE MONTH

“There are two ways to be fooled. One is to believe what isn’t true. The other is to refuse to accept what is true”. *Soren Kierkegaard*.

“If ignorance is bliss, why aren’t more people happy?” *Thomas Jefferson*.

“I like people who get excited about the change of seasons, the sound of the ocean, watching a sunset, the smell of rain and the starry nights”.

Brooke Hampton.

Quotes sourced from RASNZ Newsletter

LIBRARY CORNER cont BOOK REVIEW
Welcome to the BOOK REVIEW Page

Each month I am asking for book reviews from our members. It only needs to be several lines, but mostly about some of its content and your thoughts,

Please email your review to editor @cas.org.nz

Not a Book Review this month but an Item found by a member from "Papers Past" an online record of New Zealand papers

Telescope Hoped For In Museum's New Wing

The Press 21st May 1970 Page 12

The installation of a telescope in the new wing planned for the Canterbury Museum would rouse further public interest in astronomy, said Mr C Rowe, the newly elected President of the Canterbury Astronomical Society.

Mr Rowe said that the museums planetarium, which would be moved to the top of the new wing, had accommodation for lectures and observations, and would be more accessible for the evening meetings.

The installation of a moderate sized telescope would make public lectures clearer. At present persons wishing to study the stars had to travel to West Melton where the society had a 16in telescope.

"By having a city observatory, astronomy will become more popular with the public" said Mr Rowe. This has been proved in Auckland where they have a central observatory.

"If these hopes and plans do come about, we will have to run lecture training course for our members. At present, they talk among themselves, but they are not used to talking to large meetings," Mr Rowe said.

"A large proportion of our 160 members are primary and secondary school pupils. They usually stay about three or four years. Few stay with the society right through, but we are not concerned about this.

As they at least learn more about astronomy than they would if they just read books" said Mr Rowe

The Marlborough Astronomical Society was affiliating with the Canterbury society, said Mr N E Heath last years president, in his report.

Mr R Evan was intending to start a Ashburton Branch of the Canterbury society, as he found keen interest in astronomy there.

Officers elected were:

President, Mr C Rowe: Vice-president, Mr M Clark: Treasurer, Mr J Simpson: Secretary, Mr B D Griffiths: Editor, Mr H L Foley:

Assistant Secretary, Mr E A Close: Auditor, Mr E A Phipps:

Committee, Messrs F Andrews, R Austin, R W Cross, R Evans, W Marrett, S W Mochnacki, and C Preen.

Note: As we all know this did not happen and the planetarium was also removed from the museum:

Retyped from the original copied item

Members Interest Section



This section is dedicated to members on what **you** have as an interest under the umbrella of Astronomy.

Do you like: Meteors / Comets / Photometry / Solar observing / Photography / Telescope building / Spectroscopy / Aurora's / Occultation's / Variable Stars / Satellite tracking / Lunar observations / Jupiter impact monitoring / Radio Astronomy / Eclipses ?

Or

Do you have other interests that you would like to share and see who else would enjoy knowing some more? Form your own interest section.

Here's a couple of ideas that if you would like to know more about Then contact Terry or Simon.

You can also use the CAS forum to discuss other ideas to check out who else would be interested.

Tune into Jupiter or the Sun with Radio Astronomy

Radio astronomy can be done during the day and even cloudy nights. Terry has built a receiver and with his computer can log activity of the Sun and Jupiter.



Terry Richardson
member1@cas.org.nz
 Cell: 021 776 458

Bounce Signals off the Moon

Beam a signal at the Moon or at a lunar orbiting satellite



Simon Lewis
Vice.president@cas.org.nz
 Cell: 022 640 6649

Spectroscopy

CAS has recently purchased a diffraction grating which can be attached to a telescope eyepiece or camera on the telescope.

The grating, like a prism, spreads the light from starlight into component colours (distribution of wavelengths). Thus begins the engaging look into the not so private lives of stars, nebulas and galaxies.

Ray Pointon
rpointon@cyberxpress.co.nz

OBSERVATORY NEWS IMPORTANT INFORMATION

New Security System in Lodge

The new security system in the Lodge is up and running well. This takes the form of an intrusion sensor outside, and a Wifi cam inside the lodge in the back corner at the car park end. The intention is to add another camera outside the lodge overlooking the car park area. The advantage of these is that they will trigger on intrusion alert and can be viewed remotely in real time or reviewed within 2 weeks. These are not for the purpose of watching people, but rather to check that entry to the lodge is by legitimate members. Given the assets we have on site, this is necessary for any insurance claims.

Access to these cameras is limited to Webmaster, Vice President and Observatory director only. We already have a surveillance network installed (several years ago) which records to a hard drive but cannot be remotely viewed in real time.

If anybody needs to know more please feel free to email me
observatory.director@cas.org.nz

SECURITY FOR OBSERVATORY KEYS- Accredited Members

Committee have decided that we need improved security for access to the observatory equipment. From now all keys are stored in a lock box in the library.

Any accredited member will be given the combination (just ask me).

This includes the key to the equipment room and for the dobs.

Although the dobs do not require formal accreditation, they are precision instruments that can be damaged if not used correctly.

A member accredited on any of the scopes can open these for you.

Members still have free access to the lodge and its facilities, but any other access will require an accredited person to be present.

Any accredited member can get access to the keys,

but of course can only use (or supervise) the instrument they are accredited for.

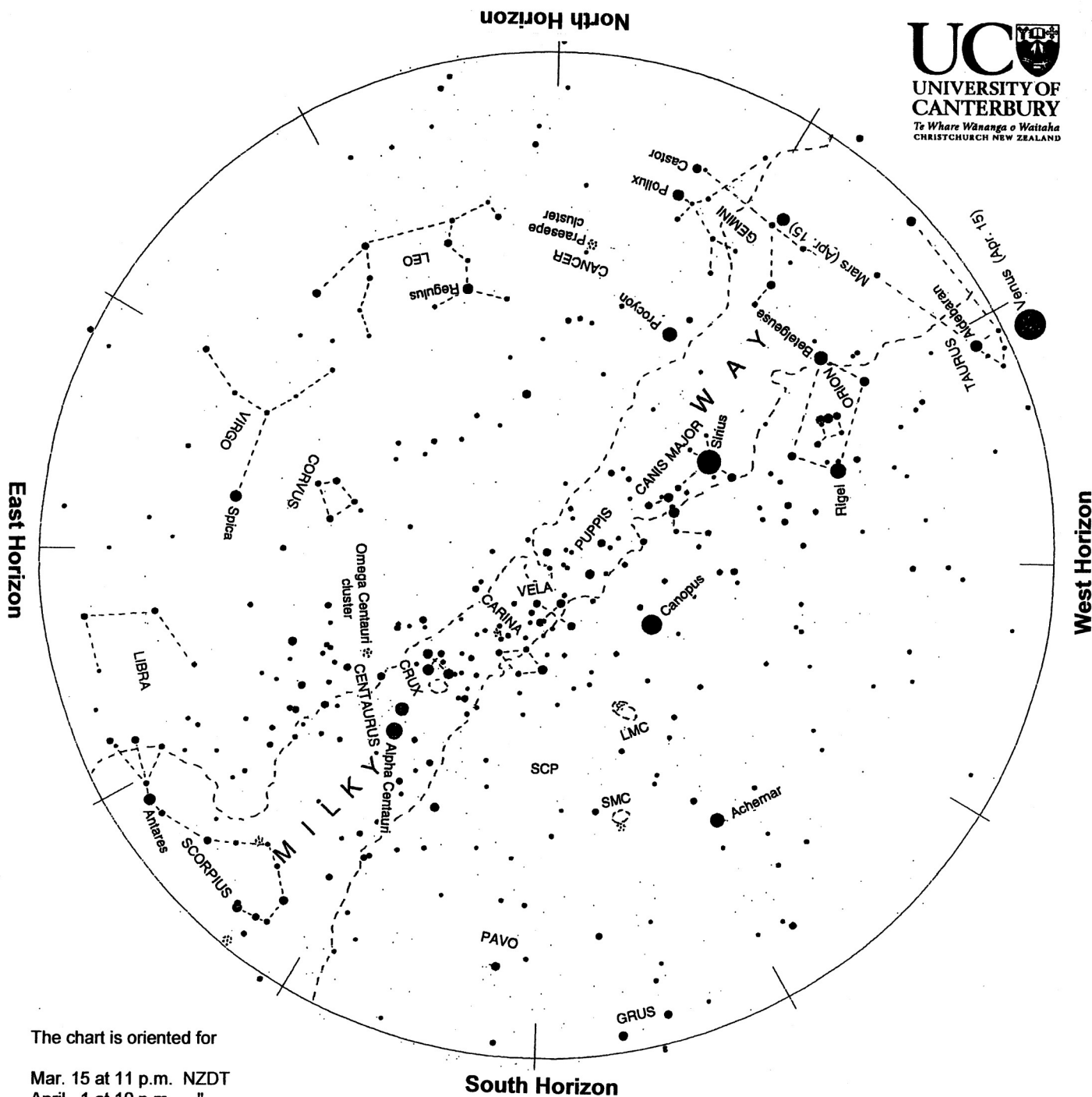
This sounds a bit restrictive, but has become necessary due to recent misuse and possible damage to some instruments.

Any questions please email me
observatory.director@cas.org.nz

Kieren Eden



EVENING SKY IN MAP FOR APRIL 2023



The chart is oriented for

Mar. 15 at 11 p.m. NZDT
 April 1 at 10 p.m. "
 April 15 at 8 p.m. NZST
 May 1 at 7 p.m. "

Evening sky in April 2023

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 westward or clockwise shift each night as we orbit the sun.

Brilliant Venus is the 'evening star', setting 1½ hours after the Sun. Sirius, the brightest true star, is midway down the western sky. Below it is Orion with bright stars Rigel, blue tinted, and orange Betelgeuse. Canopus, the second brightest star, is southwest of overhead. Below and right of Sirius, 'the dog star', is Procyon marking the smaller dog. Below it are Pollux and Castor, the Gemini twins, with orange-red Mars to their left. Regulus in Leo is due north and Spica in Virgo is due east. Crux, the Southern Cross, and The Pointers, Alpha and Beta Centauri, are high in the southeast sky.

EVENING SKY IN TEXT FOR APRIL 2023

Venus is the brilliant 'evening star', setting in northwest 1½ hours after the Sun. The planet will be left of the Pleiades/Matariki star cluster around April 10th. Though bright, Venus is of little interest in a telescope, looking like a tiny gibbous moon, a moon between first quarter and full. It is 160 million km away from us mid-month. The thin crescent Moon will be near Venus on the 23rd.

After Venus sets, **Sirius** is the brightest star in the sky. It is northwest of overhead at dusk and sets in the southwest after midnight. Sirius is the brightest true star. The second brightest is **Canopus**, southwest of the zenith at dusk. Below Sirius are bluish **Rigel** and orange **Betelgeuse**, the brightest stars in **Orion**. Between them is a line of three stars: Orion's belt. To southern hemisphere star watchers, the line of three makes the bottom of 'The Pot', now tipped on its side. In the Pot's handle, or Orion's Sword, is the Orion Nebula, a glowing cloud easily seen in binoculars.

Below and right of Sirius is **Procyon** marking the head of Canis Minor one, of the two dogs following Orion the hunter across the sky. Sirius marks the head of Canis Major, the big dog. The big dog's hindquarters are made by the bright stars above Sirius.

Low in the northwest below Procyon are three stars of similar brightness. The vertical pair are **Pollux** and **Castor**, the heads of **Gemini** the Twins. Left of them is **Mars**, looking like an orange star. We passed Mars late last year. It is now 240 million km away and just a tiny disk in a telescope. The Moon will be between Mars and the Twins on the 26th. Though related in myth, the twins are quite different from each other. Pollux is an orange star 31 times brighter than the Sun and 34 light-years (l.y.)* from us. Castor is a hot white star about 47 times the Sun's brightness and 51 l.y. away.

Above and right of the Twins is the **Praesepe** star cluster, looking like a hazy spot to the eye. It marks the shell of **Cancer** the Crab. Praesepe is also called the Beehive cluster, the reason obvious when it is viewed in binoculars. Praesepe is 600 light-years away. Its age is around 600 million years, so its biggest and brightest stars have long ago burnt out.

Right of Praesepe, almost due north, is the medium-bright star **Regulus**. It is the brightest star in **Leo** the Lion. The curve of stars below Regulus outlines Leo's mane, upside down in our southern hemisphere view. A crooked vertical line of stars right of Regulus makes Leo's hind quarters with the brighter star further right being his tail. The Moon will be below Regulus on the 29th.

The lone bright star due east is **Spica**, the brightest star in **Virgo**. Above Spica is the roughly kite-shaped constellation of **Corvus** the Crow. In the later evening the bright orange star **Arcturus** rises toward the northeast, often twinkling red and green. (It isn't on the chart.)

Crux, the Southern Cross is high in the southeast. Below it, and brighter, are Beta and **Alpha Centauri**, often called 'The Pointers'. Alpha Centauri, the brighter Pointer, is 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 l.y. away. **Canopus** is also a very luminous and distant star; 13,000 times brighter than the Sun and 300 l.y. away.

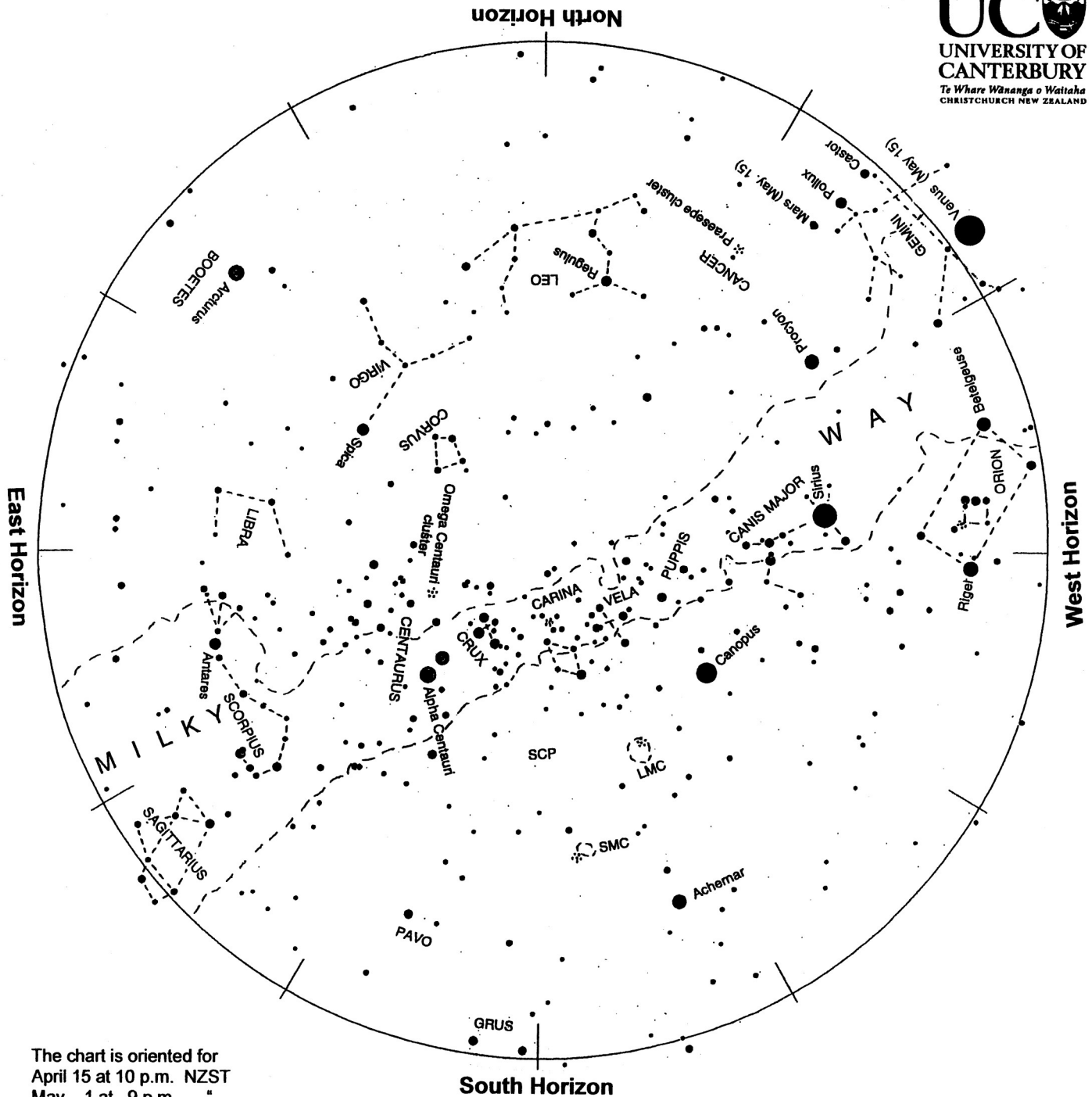
The **Milky Way** is brightest in the southeast above Crux. It can be traced to nearly overhead where it fades and becomes very faint in the northwest, right of Orion. The Milky Way is our edgewise view of the Galaxy, the pancake of billions of stars of which the sun is just one.

The Clouds of Magellan, **LMC** and **SMC**, are midway down the southwest sky, easily seen by eye on a dark moonless night. They are small galaxies about 160,000 and 200,000 light years away.

Saturn is the only naked-eye planet in the dawn sky, rising due east after 2 a.m. It looks like a medium-bright star with a cream tint in an empty region of sky. By dawn it is well up the eastern sky. The Moon will be near Saturn on the mornings of the 16th and 17th.

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

EVENING SKY IN MAP FOR MAY 2023



The chart is oriented for
 April 15 at 10 p.m. NZST
 May 1 at 9 p.m. "
 May 15 at 8 p.m. "
 June 1 at 7 p.m. "

Evening sky in May 2023

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 westward shift each night as we orbit the sun.

Venus is the 'evening star' appearing in the northwest soon after sunset and setting around 8 pm. Reddish Mars appears above and right of it when the sky darkens. Sirius, the brightest true star, is midway down the western sky. Directly below it are bright stars Rigel and Betelgeuse. Canopus is southwest of overhead. Crux, the Southern Cross, and the Pointers, Alpha and Beta Centauri, are southeast of the zenith. Orange Arcturus, in the northeast, often twinkles red and green.

EVENING SKY IN TEXT FOR MAY 2023



Venus is the 'evening star' setting in the northwest 2½ hours after the Sun. It is swinging out from the Sun as it catches up on Earth on the inside lane, so sets later. It is 130 million km from us mid-month. In a telescope it looks like a first-quarter Moon. When the sky is dark, **Mars** appears above and right of Venus, looking like a medium brightness orange-red star. At mid-month Mars will be at the top of an equally spaced line with **Castor** and **Pollux**, the heads of **Gemini** the Twins. Mars holds its position night-to-night while the Twins slip slowly down the sky. The crescent Moon will be below Venus on the 23rd, between Venus and Mars on the 24th, and to the right of Mars on the 25th.

As the sky darkens **Sirius** appears midway down the western sky. It is the brightest of all the stars but much fainter than Venus. It twinkles with all colours when setting in the southwest around 11 pm. Sirius, 'the Dog Star', marks the head of **Canis Major** the big dog, now head down, tail up. **Canopus**, second brightest star, is southwest of overhead.

Below Sirius are bluish **Rigel** and reddish **Betelgeuse**, the brightest stars in **Orion**. Between them is a line of three stars, Orion's belt. To southern hemisphere star watchers, the line of three makes the bottom of 'The Pot', now tipped on its side.

Crux, the Southern Cross, is southeast of the zenith, to the right of 'The Pointers'. **Alpha Centauri**, the brighter Pointer, is 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 also very luminous and distant: 13 000 times brighter than the sun and 300 light years away.

Following the Milky Way down into the southeast finds **Scorpius**. Orange **Antares** marks the Scorpion's body. Its upside-down tail curves to the right of Antares. **Antares** is a red-giant star like Betelgeuse: around 12 times the mass of the sun but wider than Earth's orbit. It is 600 light years away and 19 000 times brighter than the sun.

Orange **Arcturus** is the brightest star in the northern sky. It often twinkles red and green when low. Arcturus is the brightest red star but, at 37 light years, is much closer than Antares. It is about 120 times brighter than the sun.

The **Milky Way** is brightest in the southeast toward **Scorpius** and **Sagittarius**. In a dark sky it can be traced up past the Pointers and Crux and 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 nearby outer edge is by Orion where the Milky Way is faintest. A scan along the Milky Way with binoculars shows many clusters of stars and some glowing gas clouds, particularly in **Carina** and **Scorpius**.

The Clouds of Magellan, **LMC** and **SMC**, are midway down the southern sky, easily seen by eye on a dark moonless night. They are small galaxies compared to our Milky Way Galaxy. The Large Magellanic Cloud is 160 000 light years away and the Small Cloud is 200 000 light years away.

Bright planets are in the morning sky. Saturn rises due east around 1 a.m., looking like a medium brightness cream-tinted star. It is north of the zenith at dawn. Golden Jupiter rises around 5 a.m. and is the brightest 'star' in the dawn sky. Mercury first appears as a faintish (3rd magnitude) star below and right of Jupiter around the 10th. It slowly climbs toward Jupiter and brightens. By the 20th it is a medium-bright 'star' 7° below and right of Jupiter. It continues to brighten but starts slipping lower after that. The Moon will be by Saturn on the 14th, and near Jupiter and Mercury on the 18th.

The full moon will look a little odd in the late morning hours on May 6th as it grazes the fuzzy edge of Earth's shadow, the penumbra. The Moon's bottom-right edge will be darkest around 5:30 a.m.

*A **light year (l.y.)** is the distance that light travels in one year: nearly 10 million million km or 10¹³ 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 to reach the nearest star, Alpha Centauri.

CAS COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS 2022/2023

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Secretary:	Mandy Heslop	secretary@cas.org.nz
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	Goran Balvan	member5@cas.org.nz
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	Ray Pointon	member3@cas.org.nz

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

Christchurch 8140

Web: www.cas.org.nz

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) at the University of Canterbury, Room ER225 Ernest Rutherford Building (2nd floor)

CAStronauts Meeting's are 6.30-7.30, in the same venue on the same night (3rd Tuesday of the month)

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

Members Nights at the Observatory are detailed on our website

Observatory Members Nights:

Cas holds these nights as follows

Members Nights (Training) on the 1st Saturday of the month

Members Nights (General) on the 3rd Saturday of the month after the Tuesday Members meeting at UC, (be aware some months it is the 4th Saturday, depending on the start of the month) check the website for details

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 Membership:

Subscriptions are due 1st April each year

Fees for current members 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 is available on request, Please ask for a copy 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.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP



To: Membership Secretary
Canterbury Astronomical Society Inc.
P.O.Box 25-137
PO Box 25137
Christchurch 8140

Applicants Name in Full _____

Address: (Note a P.O.Box is NOT a legal address) _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____ Date of Birth: (if under 18) _____

Membership Category *(tick, subscripton must accompany application)*

Online Banking Details (Please identify your payment): 03 0802 0098273 00

<input type="checkbox"/>	Adult (any person 18years of age or over who is not eligile for any other category)	Full
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family (two or more persons living at the same address)	\$70
<input type="checkbox"/>	Junior (under 18 years of age on 1st April in the current year)	\$105
<input type="checkbox"/>	Senior (over 65 Years)	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Services Card Holder	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/>	Student (any person studying full-time at a tertiary instition, must reapply annually)	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/>	Corporate (members have voting rights of one member, but cannot take office)	\$210

Name:	Date of Birth(if Under 18yrs)	Signature

All CAS members receive CASMAG a monthly newsletter,

Do you have access to a telescope? What type and size? _____

I the undersigned declare that the information given herein is true.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

By signing this application the applicant agrees to comply with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Canterbury Astronomical Society Inc.

Date Approved: _____