Canterbury Astronomical Society

CASMag

Upcoming Notable events for your calendar:

Feb 12th – University of Canterbury Public Lecture – Speakers: Dr. Armin Rest & Prof Gautham Narayan on Supernova in the early universe with JWST and across the Southern sky with LSST, in Meremere 108 Lecture Theatre University of Canterbury, doors open at 6:30pm

Feb 17th – CAS Monthly Meeting in Rm 225, Level 2, Ernest Rutherford Building – Speaker: Prof David Buckley of the South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO)

Feb 21st - CAS Members Night @ West Melton observatory

Mar 17th – CAS AGM 2026, in Rehua 427, University of Canterbury

Mar 19th – 22nd – Stardate South Island, Staveley

Inside this February 2026 Issue

Editor's Thoughts

And just like that we are already in February 2026!!

Rob and I attended the Central Star Party up in Napier/Hastings in January which was filled with great talks but NO stars…it rained almost the whole time. I did manage to view the one star (our Sun) for a few hours but that was it for me. Rob being the stalwart astronomer managed to get some views between breaks in the clouds during the first night. It is a great star party though as you get to meet so many new people (for me anyway). Lots of stories and lots of laughter. This is what I really like about astronomy camps – full immersion in astronomy with like minded people and if the weather gods are kind, great star gazing. Hopefully we will have great weather for Stardate SI which is from March 19th – 22nd in Staveley. Because it is being held in March this year, it will get darker earlier so fingers crossed that we will get great views in a amazing dark sky site.

Most important for March is the **CAS Annual General Meeting** where you will vote in a new committee and anyone who is interested to be considered for a committee position can let Simon know. Anyway, on with the show and I hope you like the articles in this issue. Clear skies everyone and keep looking up – *Preetha Sreedharan*

Message from CAS President Simon Lewis for 2026 (Photos courtesy of Mandy Heslop)

HI all and welcome to 2026! It seems a little late in saying Happy New Year now but HNY anyway and I hope you had a good break with your families and friends and got a little astronomy done over the holidays! It might have been a "little" amount too given the weather and it was really nice this weekend to get out in the sun. Mandy and I headed out to West Melton Community Centre on Sunday morning, where there was a kind of meet and greet with community social clubs and groups alongside the small community market there. It was a good event and the clouds cleared to give us some stunning views through my Skywatcher Heliostar 76 solar scope.

There was lots of interest in CAS and our open nights and society activities. There were still a lot of locals saying they were not aware of the observatory and that shows me we still have work to do engaging with the public and still have a whole lot more potential in new visitors on Friday nights.

Meteors were also a hot topic after Friday night's big burn off Banks Peninsula and we got a great view of it from the CAS All Sky 7 camera array. Check out our Facebook page for a video of the fireball, it was very impressive and left a huge smokey trail that was visible in the moonlight for nearly 10 minutes! The event was widely (and sometimes inaccurately) reported in the media and I fended a few media enquiries on Saturday and provided some video to Stuff and Radio New Zealand which made the publications.

If you are up early in the mornings you will notice it's getting darker slowly as the weeks go by, that means we are heading towards our

winter season, open nights and back to crisp milky way views, but there's still plenty of other activities on the radar for us before then!

Not that summer means a stop for the committee! We have been busy keeping up with maintenance at the observatory and Terry installed a new alarm after lightning from a storm killed the last one! We've also replaced our aging water system with a new tank and pump giving us a nice strong flow! And a new on demand water heater so we don't have to have a tank and element running all the time. Great work team!

Lifes been busy on the admin side too and I am pleased to announce that our new Constitution that we voted on at the SGM in November, was accepted by the Incorporated Societies and we are now re-registered and approved. That's a huge weight off my mind as this would have had a huge impact on us if we did not make the April 6th deadline and has been a major activity for us this year. A big thanks to Brent for his assistance and to the committee for their trust in me to get the job done! We can now relax knowing that we don't have that hanging over our (aka my) head!!

The new constitution does give the committee a few new challenges to overcome as the changes means voting can now be done online, and, we need to stream the AGM's but that's a smaller worry than actually not being registered! It also means that any event like weather on an AGM night should not impact us from running an appropriately sized attendance. So watch out for news on that as we get closer to AGM.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and see you at CAS as the nights get colder, and the sunsets earlier and we can enjoy the dark skies again! *Regards Simon*

Rob's Skies *by Rob Glassey*

February! The nights are starting to get longer again and the Milky Way is back, high in the evening sky. With daylight saving it's still late when it gets dark, so a quick scan of the early evening skies is a good option. Bright open clusters are good in twilight or city skies, so let's check out a few.

Grab your binoculars/telescope
Get Stellarium or Sky Safari ready!

- If you haven't seen **Matariki** in binoculars this season, now is your last chance!
- The Orion's Belt cluster, **Collinder 70**, fills the whole of the belt with stars - Binoculars only!
- **M35** is an open cluster in Gemini, below Orion. It will be gone soon! For extra challenge, there's a faint, small open cluster right beside it in a low power dob field.
- The "37" cluster, **NGC2169**, in Orion, does look a bit like an upside down "37"! You'll need a telescope.
- **M36, M37** and **M38** open clusters are a low, but fun, binocular hunt. Get in quick!
- **M41**, the Little Beehive, in the big dog (Canis Major), is fantastic in Binoculars.
- The Tau Canis Major cluster, **NGC 2362**, has one very bright star, but a telescope reveals a cluster of sparkling stars hidden by it's glare.
- **M48** is a big open cluster, pointed to by the bright star Procyon and the other "bright" star of Canis Minor. Look for the large equilateral triangle in binoculars as you get closer.
- **Comet C/2024 E1 Wierzchos** (V-ye-zsh chosh - is that right John?) is in Grus, moving into Sculptor, Low to the South West in the early evening sky. Briefly visible in Binoculars?

Clear skies – Rob

CAS Outreach for 2026 - Behind the Scenes *by Mandy Heslop*

February - We were invited to join the West Melton market on 1 Feb to showcase who we are and what we do. Naturally we went along for show and tell! A few giveaways for the kids as well. A lot know of CAS and many have visited but so many haven't despite being local. It shows we have a lot of work to do to get the CAS word out!

March - We've been asked to visit a Scout group having a camp in Waddington in March. Space related fun will be involved so of course we're happy to support and share our love of the night sky! We'll have a few things up our sleeve to entertain even if it's cloudy.

April - In April we'll attend the Yuri market at the Air Force Museum in Wigram hosted by the Rocketeers. Always a fun and busy event!

From May onwards = After daylight savings we'll be back into our Open Nights and private groups. Fingers crossed for more clear skies this season please!

July - Kidsfest in the July school holidays. We hope for a couple of cloudy nights this time because 13 nights in a row can be tiring!

November - November brings the hugely busy Hororata Highland Games again. With over 10,000 visitors this a great event for us!

Other opportunities will knock throughout the year and we'll always do what we can to promote CAS.

AND WE NEED YOU! We love to have our members come along and meet the public. Don't be shy. Even one event can be a huge help. It's fun and exciting! So reach out. Especially Friday open nights. Nothing beats the joy of others seeing Saturn for the first time. We can set the scope you just need to verbally guide them to the eyepiece. Easy!

Lastly, don't forget members nights at the end of each month. BBQ is available for you to cook your tea. *Look forward to seeing a lot of you out there – Mandy*

STARDATE SOUTH ISLAND 2026

Registrations for Stardate S.I. 2026 is OPEN - Check out the Facebook page: "Stardate SI 2026", or email “campmother.stardatesi@gmail.com” for details.

Stardate SI organisers are also calling for presenters for 2026, so if you are interested in doing a talk, or just a short soapbox talk, please email Rob: rob@cas.org.nz

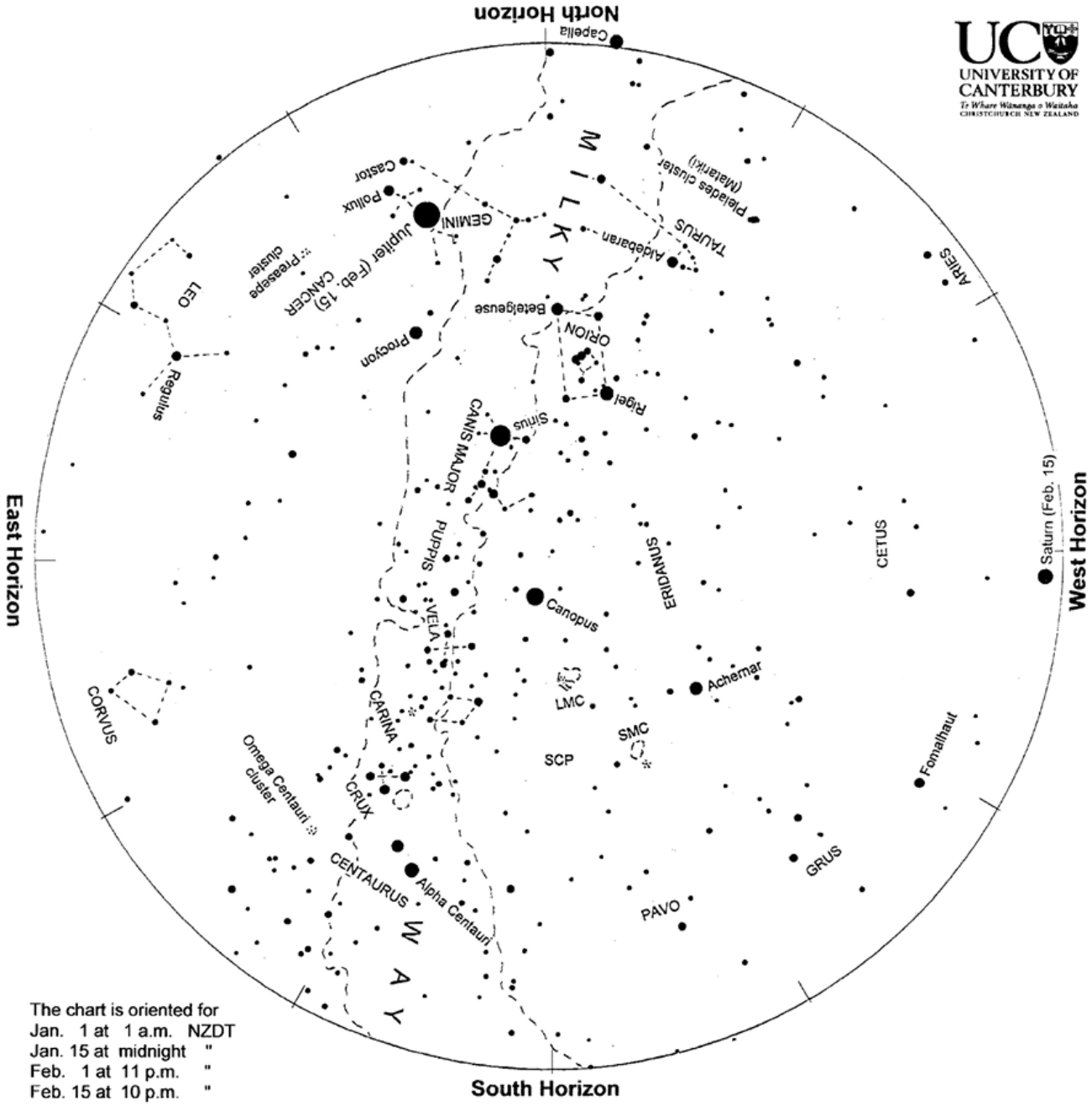
UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY PUBLIC LECTURE
“Supernova in the early universe with JWST and across the Southern sky with LSST”
Thursday, February 12th
Meremere 108 Lecture Theatre University of Canterbury
Free, Doors open at 6:30pm, Talk starts at 7:00pm
Speakers: Dr Armin Rest & Prof Gautham Narayan

This invitation is from Dr Ryan Ridden of the University of Canterbury to a public lecture on “Supernova in the early universe with JWST and across the Southern sky with LSST” on Thursday delivered by two world leading experts in supernova astronomy. We are in a golden age of supernova astronomy, now able to discover the earliest explosions in the Universe, and soon we will find millions of supernovae in the Southern sky. In this joint public talk, we will hear about the incredible discoveries made by NASA’s James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) from Dr. Armin Rest, followed by an overview of what to expect from the Vera Rubin Observatory’s 10-year Legacy Survey of Space and Time (LSST) by Professor Gautham Narayan. Join us on the 12th of February in Meremere 108 at the University of Canterbury, doors open 6:30pm with the talk commencing at 7:00pm

CAS Monthly Meeting venues for 2026 at the University of Canterbury

– It's a bit of a mix so do make sure you make a note of it and head to the right room!

Date	Location	Speaker
17/2/2026	Ernest Rutherford 225	Prof David Buckley, South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO) and ex-CAS member
17/3/2026	Rehua 427 Technology Workshop	CAS AGM 2026
21/4/2026	Jack Erskine 111	To be advised
19/5/2026	Jack Erskine 111	To be advised
16/6/2026	Jack Erskine 111	To be advised
21/7/2026	Ernest Rutherford 225	To be advised
18/8/2026	Jack Erskine 111	To be advised
15/9/2026	Jack Erskine 111	To be advised
20/10/2026	Ernest Rutherford 225	To be advised
17/11/2026	Ernest Rutherford 225	To be advised



The chart is oriented for
Jan. 1 at 1 a.m. NZDT
Jan. 15 at midnight "
Feb. 1 at 11 p.m. "
Feb. 15 at 10 p.m. "

Evening sky in February 2026

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.

Golden Jupiter is the 'evening star', appearing low in the north soon after sunset. Sirius, the brightest true star, appears north of overhead at dusk. Canopus, the second brightest star, is south of the zenith. Orion, containing 'The Pot', is midway down the north sky. Below and left of Sirius are bluish Rigel and orange Betelgeuse, the brightest stars in Orion. Between them is the line of three stars making Orion's belt or the bottom of 'The Pot'. Below and left of Orion is orange Aldebaran, one eye of Taurus the bull. Further down and left is the Pleiades/Matariki star cluster. The Southern Cross and Pointers are midway up the south-east sky. The Clouds of Magellan, LMC and SMC, two nearby galaxies, are faint luminous patches high in the south sky.

Chart produced by Guide 8 software; www.projectpluto.com. Labels and text added by Alan Gilmore,
Mt John Observatory of the University of Canterbury, P.O. Box 56, Lake Tekapo 7945, New Zealand. .www.canterbury.ac.nz

The Evening Sky in February 2026

Golden **Jupiter** is the 'evening star' in February, appearing in the north soon after sunset. It sets around 4:30 a.m. NZDT at the beginning of the month and 2:30 at the end. The Moon will be near Jupiter on the 27th. **Saturn** is a lone medium-bright 'star' due west and low in the sky. It sets before 11 pm at the beginning of the month and before 9 pm at the end. The thin crescent Moon will be to the right of Saturn on the 20th. Both planets are worth a look in any telescope but may be blurred by air turbulence as both are low in the sky.

Venus (not on the chart) is slowly emerging into the evening twilight as it catches up on us from the far side of the Sun. At the end of the month it will be setting 30 minutes after the Sun, so might be glimpsed from places with a low western skyline.

Sirius and **Canopus** are the brightest true stars. Sirius, the brightest of all the stars, is north of overhead. Canopus, the second brightest star, is a bit south of overhead. Both stars are white in colour and twinkle colourfully when low in the sky..

Sirius, 'the Dog Star', marks the head of **Canis Major** the big dog. Sirius is 8.6 light-years* away and 30 times brighter than the Sun. A group of stars above and right of it make the dog's hindquarters and tail, upside down. **Procyon**, in the northeast below Sirius, marks the smaller of the two dogs that follow Orion the hunter across the sky.

Below and left of 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'. The handle of The Pot is Orion's sword, a fainter line of stars above the bright three. At its centre is the Orion Nebula; a glowing gas cloud 1300 light-years away, seen in binoculars.

Below and left of Orion is orange **Aldebaran** making one eye of Taurus the bull. It is on one tip of an upside-down V of stars making the face of **Taurus**. These constellation pictures were thought up by northern hemisphere folk so are upside down to us. Further down and left, near the northwest skyline, is the **Pleiades/Matariki** star cluster, nicely seen in binoculars.

The V-shaped group is called the Hyades cluster. It is 130 light-years away. Aldebaran is not a member of the cluster but merely on the line of sight, 65 light years from us. It is a red-giant star 145 times brighter than the sun. The Pleiades/Matariki star cluster is also known as the Seven Sisters and Subaru among many names. The cluster is 440 light years from us. From northern Aotearoa the bright star **Capella** is on the north skyline. It is 150 times brighter than the sun and 43 light-years away.

Crux, the Southern Cross, is in the southeast. Below it are Beta and **Alpha Centauri,** often called 'The Pointers'. Alpha Centauri is the closest naked-eye star, 4.3 light-years away. Beta Centauri is a blue-giant star hundreds of light years away, as are most of the stars in Crux. **Canopus** is also a very luminous distant star; 13,000 times brighter than the sun and 300 light-years away.

The **Milky Way** is brightest in the southeast toward Crux. It can be traced up the sky, fading where it is nearly overhead. It becomes very faint east, or 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. Star clusters and a glowing gas cloud can be seen in binoculars in the Carina region above Crux.

The Clouds of Magellan, **LMC** and **SMC** are high in the south sky, easily seen by eye on a dark moonless night. They are two small galaxies about 160,000 and 200,000 light years away. Beside the Small Cloud (SMC) is the globular star cluster 47 Tucanae. It looks like a round smudge of light in binoculars. Telescopes show it as a cluster of thousands of faint stars. It is 13,000 light years away. **Omega Centauri**, left of The Pointers is also a globular cluster, 17,000 light-years away.

*A **light year** (**l.y**.) is the distance that light travels in one year: nearly 10 million million km or 10^13 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.
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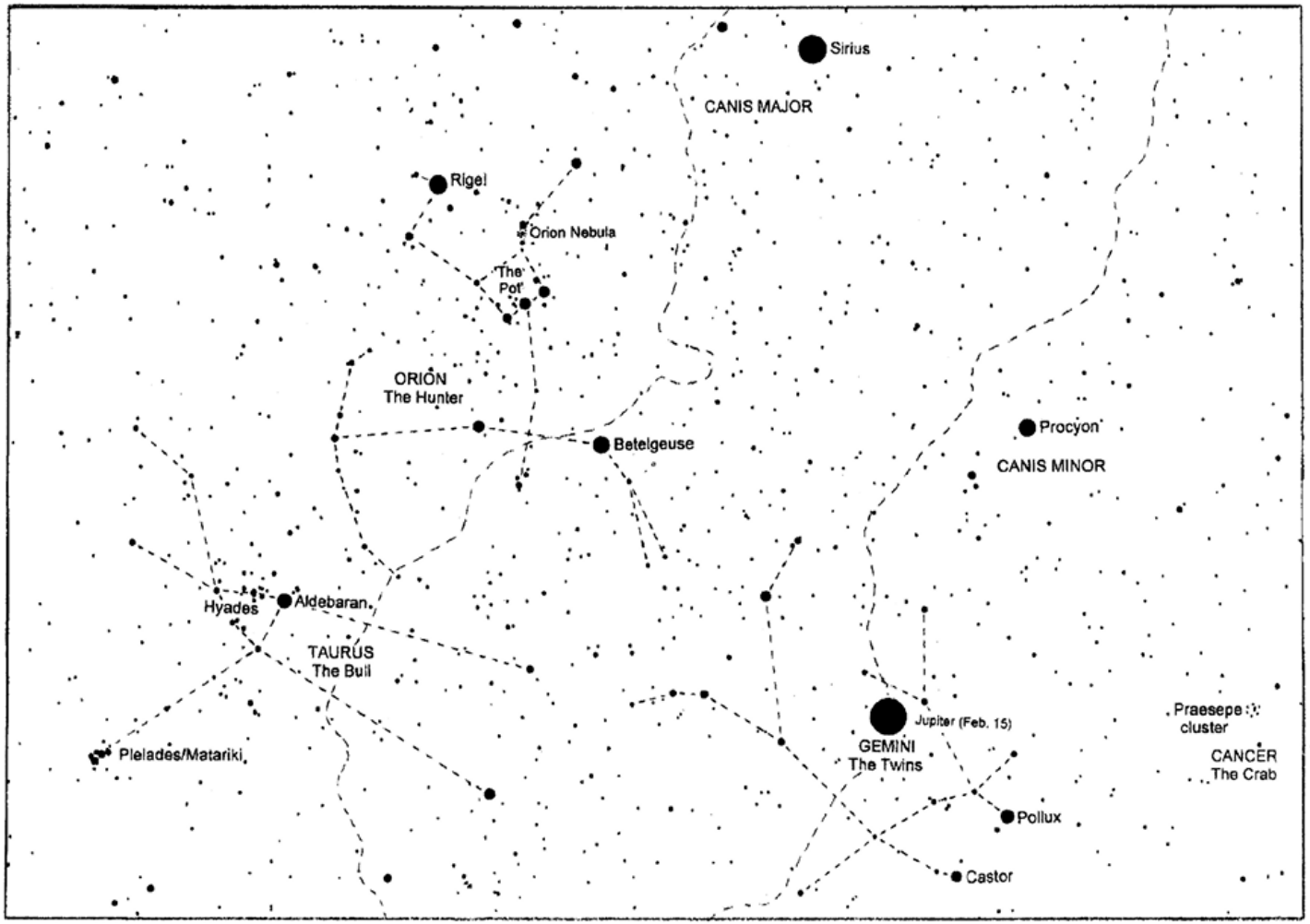


The Northern Evening Sky in February 2026

Golden Jupiter, low in the north, is a beacon for the region. It appears soon after sunset and is the brightest 'star' in the sky. North of the zenith is Sirius, the brightest true star but fainter than Jupiter. Below and left of Sirius are bluish Rigel and orange Betelgeuse, the brightest stars in Orion the hunter. Between them, as the sky darkens, is the line of three stars making Orion's belt or the bottom of 'The Pot'. The line of stars points down and left to orange Aldebaran, one eye of Taurus the bull. Further down and left is the Pleiades/ Matariki/Seven Sisters star cluster. Below and right of Jupiter are Castor and Pollux, the heads of Gemini the twins. Further right is a diffuse spot of light, the Praesepe star cluster, good in binoculars.

Chart produced by Guide 8 software; www.projectpluto.com. Labels and text added by Alan Gilmore, Mt John Observatory of the University of Canterbury, P.O. Box 56, Lake Tekapo 7945, New Zealand. www.canterbury.ac.nz

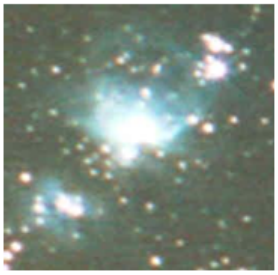
Interesting Objects in Orion and Taurus in February 2026

Jupiter, low in the north, is a beacon for the region. It appears soon after sunset and is the brightest 'star' in the sky. It sets in the northwest around 3:30 a.m. Any telescope will show the disk of Jupiter with its 'Galilean' moons lined up on each side. Not all four are seen every night as they pass in front of and behind Jupiter and into its shadow. Jupiter is 660 million km away mid-month.

North of overhead is **Sirius**, the brightest true star, but fainter than Jupiter. It appears bright because it is both brighter than the sun, 22 times brighter, and a relatively close 8.6 l.y. away. Sirius was often called 'the dog star' because it is the brightest star in Canis Major, one of the two dogs that follow Orion the hunter across the sky. **Procyon** marks the head of the smaller dog.

Below and left of Sirius are bluish **Rigel** and orange **Betelgeuse**, the brightest stars in **Orion**. Betelgeuse marks the shoulder of Orion. In the northern hemisphere view, upside down to us, he has a shield raised toward Taurus the bull and a club ready for action. The line of three stars between Rigel and Betelgeuse makes Orion's belt. The line of faint stars above and left of the belt form Orion's sword dangling from his belt. To southern hemisphere sky watchers the belt and sword form **The Pot**, The Iron Pot, or The Saucepan.

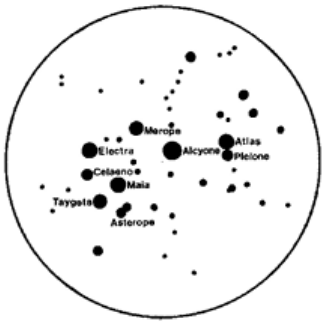
Betelgeuse is a red giant star 250 times bigger than the sun -- wider than Earth's orbit! -- but only around 20 times heavier, so it is mostly very thin gas. It is around 10 000 times brighter than the sun and about 400 l.y. away. Its surface temperature is around 3000°C giving it the reddish colour.



The **Orion Nebula** is visible in binoculars as a misty glow around the middle stars of Orion's Sword or the handle of The Pot. It is a vast cloud of dust and gas about 1300 l.y. away and more than 20 l.y. across. Ultra-violet light from a massive, extremely hot star in the cloud causes it to glow. Some stars in this region are only two million years old. The sun, by contrast, is 4.6 billion years old. Stars continue to form in a giant cloud behind the glowing nebula. There are many bright and dark nebulae in this region. The Horsehead nebula, a favourite of astronomy books, is beside the right-hand star of Orion's Belt, but is too faint to be seen in small telescopes.

The three stars of Orion's belt point down and left to orange **Aldebaran**. It makes one of the eyes of **Taurus** the Bull. The face of Taurus, upside down to us, is made by the V-shaped **Hyades** star cluster. It is 160 light-years away. Its brightest stars (not Aldebaran!) are about 70 times brighter than the sun. Aldebaran is not a member of the cluster but simply on the line of sight. It is 65 l.y. away and 150 times brighter than the sun. Its orange colour is due to its temperature of 3500° C. The sun is 5500° C.

Further down and left, toward the northwest, is the **Pleiades/Matariki** star cluster.



The **Pleiades / Seven Sisters / Matariki / Subaru**, and many other names, is a cluster of stars well known in both hemispheres. Though often called the Seven Sisters, most modern eyes see only six stars. Many more are seen in binoculars. The cluster is about 440 light years away. Its brightest stars are around 200 times brighter than the sun. It is between 75 and 150 million years old.
The cluster is visible from all places except Antarctica. So all cultures have names and stories about it.

Below and right of Jupiter are **Pollux** and **Castor**, marking the heads of Gemini the twins. Though paired in myth, the two stars are unrelated. Pollux is 34 l.y. away and 43 times brighter than the Sun. It is cooler than the Sun (4,600 C), so has an orange tint. Castor is a multiple star: a bright white star with five fainter companions orbiting in a complex dance. It is 50 l.y. away.

Pictures and words by Alan Gilmore, University of Canterbury's Mt John Observatory, Lake Tekapo, New Zealand.
www.canterbury.ac.nz
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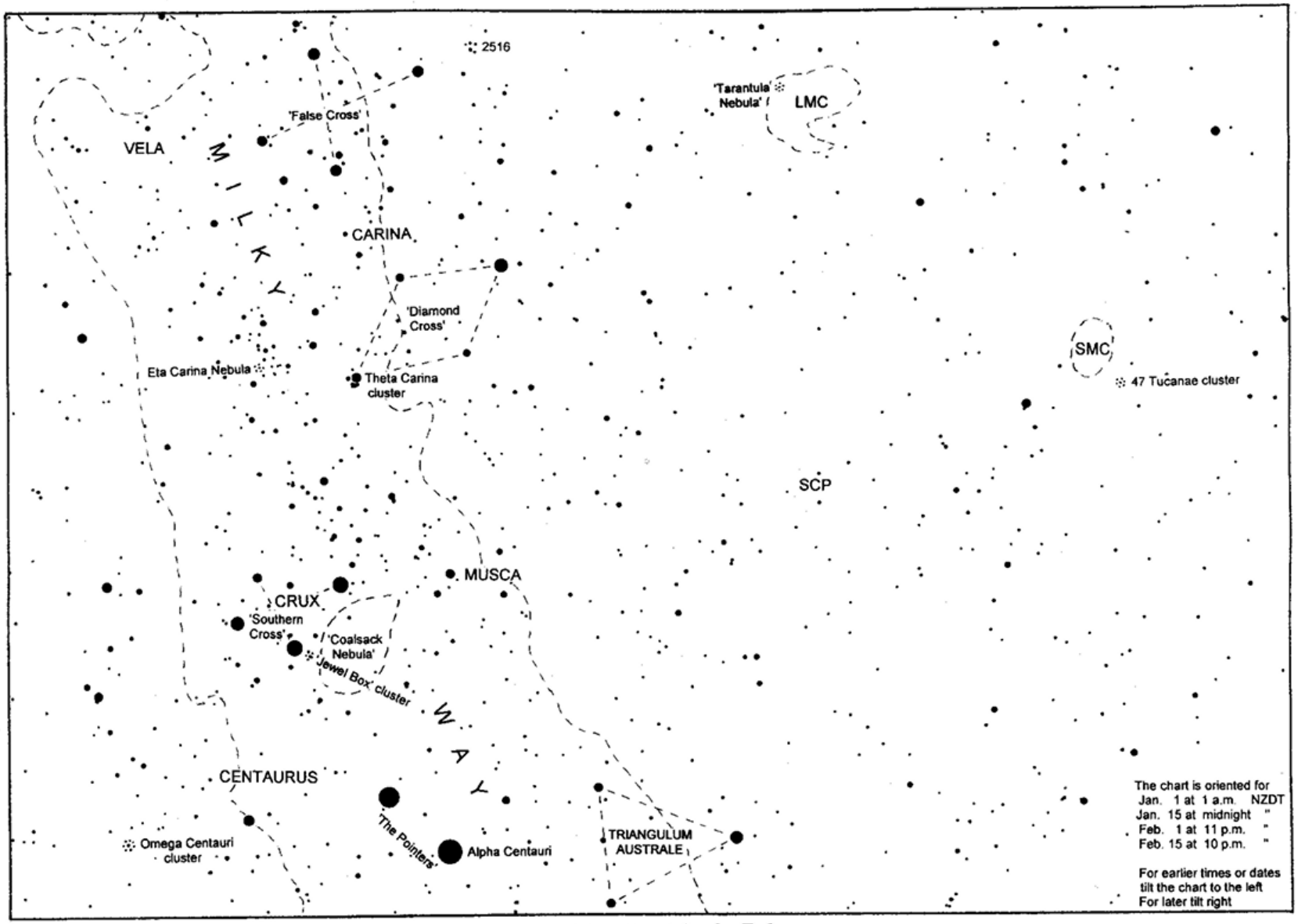


Southern Evening Sky in February

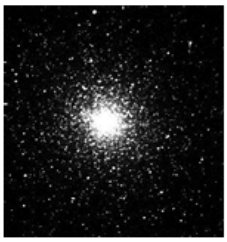
The chart shows the lower southern. Interesting star clusters and nebulae are indicated with asterisks. They are described on the other side of this page.

Chart produced by Guide 8 software; www.projectpluto.com. Labels added by Alan Gilmore, University of Canterbury's Mt John Observatory P.O. Box 56, Lake Tekapo 7945, New Zealand. www.canterbury.ac.nz

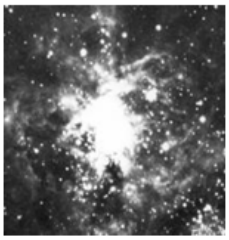
UC UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY
Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha
CHRISTCHURCH NEW ZEALAND

Interesting Objects in the Southern Sky

Large & Small Clouds of Magellan (LMC & SMC) appear as two luminous patches, easily seen by eye in a dark sky. They are two galaxies like the Milky Way but much smaller. Each is made of billions of stars. The Large Cloud contains many clusters of young luminous stars seen as patches of light in binoculars and telescopes. The LMC is about 160 000 light years away and the SMC 200 000 l.y away, both very close by for galaxies. (1 light year is about 10 000 billion km, 10^13km.)



47 Tucanae, looks like a faint fuzzy star on the edge of the SMC. It is a globular cluster, a ball of millions of stars. A telescope is needed to see a peppering of stars around the edge of the cluster. Though it appears on the edge of the SMC it is much closer, 13 000 light years away, and is has no connection to the Small Cloud. Globular clusters are mostly very old, 10 billion years or more; at least twice the age of the sun. **Omega Centauri**, very low in the south, is a similar cluster.



Tarantula nebula is a glowing gas cloud in the LMC. The gas glows in the ultra-violet light from a cluster of very hot stars at the centre of the nebula. The cloud is about 800 light years across. It is easily seen in binoculars and can be seen by eye on moonless nights.

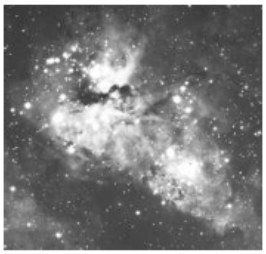
This nebula is one of the brightest known. If it was as close as the Orion nebula (in The Pot's handle) then it would be as bright as the full moon.

Canopus is the second brightest star. It is 14 000 times brighter than the sun and 300 light years away. Sirius, high in the east, is the brightest star in the sky.

Alpha Centauri, the brighter Pointer, is the closest naked-eye star, 4.3 light-years away. Alpha Centauri is a binary star: two stars about the same size as the sun orbiting around each other in 80 years. A telescope that magnifies 50x splits the pair. (A very faint and slightly closer star, Proxima Centauri, orbits a quarter of a light-year, or 15 000 Sun-earth distances, from the Alpha pair.)

Coalsack nebula is a cloud of dust and gas about 600 light years away, dimming the more distant stars in the Milky Way. Many similar ‘dark nebulae’ can be seen, appearing as slots and holes in the Milky Way. These clouds of dust and gas eventually coalesce into clusters of stars.

The Jewel Box is a compact cluster of young luminous stars about 7000 light years away. The cluster formed about 16 million years ago. To the eye it looks like a faint star.



Eta Carinae nebula is a glowing gas cloud about 8000 light years away. The golden star in the cloud, visible in binoculars, is Eta Carinae. (Eta is the Greek 'e'.) It is a binary star: two massive stars orbiting each other in 5.5 years. The bigger star is 80 times heavier than the Sun; the smaller is 60 times the Sun's mass. Together they are about five million times brighter than the Sun but are dimmed by dust clouds around them. The bigger star is expected to explode as a supernova any time in the next few thousand years.
Many star clusters are found in this part of the sky.

The **Theta Carina Cluster** at one point of the 'Diamond Cross'. It is also known as the 'Five of Diamonds' cluster, the reason obvious when it is seen in a telescope. A newish name is 'Southern Pleiades', though this cluster appears much fainter and smaller than the real Pleiades in Taurus. The cluster is about 500 light years away and is around 30 million years old.

NGC **2516** to the right of the ‘False Cross’, looks like a faint comet without a tail. It is a star cluster nicely seen in binoculars. It is 1200 light years away.

Text and photos by Alan Gilmore, Mt John Observatory of the University of Canterbury,
P.O. Box 56, Lake Tekapo 7945, New Zealand. www.canterbury.ac.nz 240111

Members Interest Section

This section is for members who have as an interest under the umbrella of Astronomy. Your interests could be around 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. You are welcome to share your thoughts and see who other like minded people would like to join you. You can form your own interest section. Below are a few members who have started their own interests sections. You can also use the CAS forum to discuss other ideas to check out who else would be interested in starting a new members interest section.

- **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.
For more information contact Terry Richardson, email: vice.president@cas.org.nz Cell: 021 776 458

- **Bounce Signals off the Moon**

Beam a signal at the Moon or at a lunar orbiting satellite
For more information contact Simon Lewis Vice, email: 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.
For more information contact Ray Pointon, email: rpointon@cyberxpress.co.nz

Other Information

***** IMPORTANT NOTE - UC PARKING ******

There are bollards now installed by the Rehua Building and these will be raised at 6pm daily till 7am. Do not park in the areas by these as you risk getting locked in! Please note its just this one area where the EV chargers are located that has been protected by bollards. All the rest of the campus remains the same. Be wary where you are parking!! The map at this link shows where accessibility parks are >>> https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/about-uc/our-campus-and-environment/maps

CASMag will be published every alternate month and will contain information on CAS activities, articles contributions from CAS members, monthly star charts. I'd like to invite members new and experienced, young and mature to send in your contributions, can be short articles (50 – 100 words) on what your experience has been being a CAS member, what you have learnt, what astronomy projects you're working on etc. Send your contributions to Editor@cas.org.nz by the 3rd week of the month at the latest.

Application for Membership

If you wish to apply for CAS membership, then please head on over to our website https://cas.org.nz/register to register and apply for membership.

Contacts information:

For Public Group Bookings - bookings@cas.org.nz

CAS COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS 2025/2026

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You can also see the contact information page on www.cas.org.nz

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