

## 3. WEATHER AND CLIMATE EXPECTATIONS

### HISTORICAL OZSKY CLIMATE DATA

The official source of weather & climatic data in Australia is the [Bureau of Meteorology \(BoM\)](#). Most of the useful data and statistics for Coonabarabran can be found at the following links to the two local BoM weather stations at Coonabarabran:

- [Coonabarabran Airport](#) - Recent data only (2001+)
- [Coonabarabran Town](#) - Historical data (1879+)

If you can forecast how many clear or cloudy nights there are going to be, you're doing well, however historically speaking, we usually to get 5 or 6 clear nights out of 7 during most OzSky Star Safaris.

Some years we have had a straight run of 7 or 8 clear nights in a row, resulting in a serious medical condition known as "Photon Fatigue", often found to be associated with extreme cases of "Aperture Fever" where even the hardiest of hard-core observers find themselves heading to bed quite early towards the end of the week, despite 10/10 observing conditions.

Your mileage may vary, so to speak, but don't be surprised if you also have serious a case of photon fatigue by the end of the week!

A glass or two of a good Australian Shiraz is rumoured to assist in many cases!

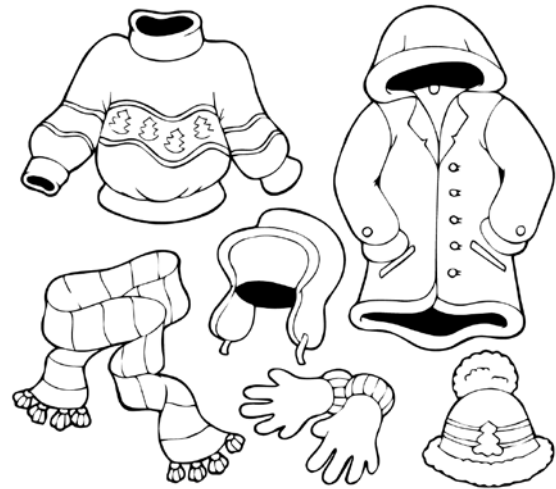
### OTHER USEFUL WEATHER RESOURCES

Here are a few other weather resources which we frequently use which may offer additional insight into your weather expectations (*in no particular order*):

- [WX Maps \(Australia-wide\)](#)
- [Mean Solar Exposure \(BoM\)](#)
- [MeteoBlue \(Coonabarabran\)](#)
- [Skippy Sky \(Coonabarabran\)](#)
- [Weather Underground \(Coonabarabran\)](#)
- [Cloud Free Nights \(click: Map > Region > NSW\)](#)

### WHAT TO WEAR AT OZSKY

Cooler temperatures may have started to creep in by March, so you'll certainly want to pack some extra items of clothing that you can layer together – and some polar fleece or similar for night-time observing.



Temperatures at Coonabarabran in March / April usually fall in the 7 - 24°C (45° - 75°F) range, however it has been known to drop as low as -3°C (26°F) overnight on rare occasions, so be sure to pack enough cold-weather gear to keep you toasty warm under the southern Milky Way as well as some warm-weather gear too.

There is a local "Ugg Boot" factory outlet store in Dubbo where you can buy an inexpensive pair of fleece-lined boots if you want to wait to purchase these on arrival. Woollen hats or beanies and gloves are also essential on chilly nights, so don't forget to pack yours.

And remember to pack suitable daytime clothing, including some good closed-toe shoes (*required for some of the optional daytime tours you might take*).

Of course, given the recent warmer-than-average temperatures we've been experiencing in Australia, I guess no-one can accurately forecast what the climate will do in March, but hopefully the above information will provide at least a guide to what has happened historically.

