

WEATHER & CLIMATE EXPECTATIONS AT OZSKY "ALUMNI"

HISTORICAL CLIMATE DATA FOR OZSKY "ALUMNI"

The official source of weather & climatic data in Australia is the [Bureau of Meteorology \(BoM\)](http://www.bom.gov.au). Most of the useful data and statistics for the local region can be found at the following links to the three closest BoM weather stations at:

- [Crookwell Post Office](#) (34km) - Historical data (1883+)
- [Taralga Post Office](#) (57km) - Historical data (1882+)
- [Cowra Airport](#) (68km) - Recent data only (2004+)

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 to 6 clear nights out of 7 during most OzSky "Alumni" Star Safaris.

Some years we have had a straight run of 7 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 or Traditional Mead is rumoured to assist in many cases!

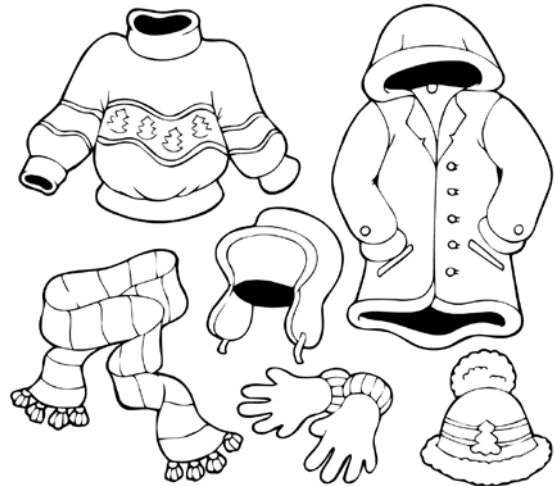
OTHER USEFUL WEATHER RESOURCES

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

- [Intellicast - Goulburn](#)
- [Meteoblue Weather - Markdale](#)
- [Weather Underground - Binda, Bigga, Cadfor](#)
- [WX Maps \(Australia-wide\)](#)
- [Mean Solar Exposure - Crooked Corner \(BoM\)](#)
- [Skippy Sky](#)
- [Cloud Free Night \(click: Map > Region > NSW\)](#)

WHAT TO WEAR AT OZSKY "ALUMNI"

Cooler temperatures often linger even in September / October, 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.



Historically, the region usually sees temperatures ranging from around 4 - 18°C (40 - 64°F) in September/October, , 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.

Keep in mind it could also be quite warm during the daylight hours, especially given the strange weather patterns we've all been experiencing across the globe in recent years.

You may even find a comfortable pair of "Ugg Boots" at the local footwear store in Crookwell – These inexpensive fleece-lined boots can be magic on a cool night.

Woollen hats or beanies and gloves are also essential on chilly nights, so don't forget to pack yours.

As with any astronomical observing trip, I strongly suggest packing lots of warm clothes for observing as well as suitable clothing for daytime activities.



THE 2024 OZSKY "ALUMNI" STAR SAFARI

SEPTEMBER 30 – OCTOBER 7, 2024

BINDA, NSW, AUSTRALIA

WWW.OZSKY.ORG | INFO@OZSKY.ORG

ACCOMMODATION, MEALS & CATERING OPTIONS

ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS AT THE OZSKY "ALUMNI" STAR SAFARI



Markdale Homestead has three historic houses which we have secured for the duration of our stay, all of which are adjacent to the main observing field.

These consist of two original 1850's stone cottages and a renovated 6-bedroom "Shearer's Quarters". The quaint accommodation is quite basic and very "rustic" in nature, so please don't expect 5-star accommodation – but for a small astronomy group such as ours, it is absolutely ideal.

Each of the houses has a fully equipped kitchen, shared bathroom facilities, Wi-Fi internet connectivity, plus one shared laundry for use by all three houses.

The bedrooms in the two old "Stone Cottages" are all twin-share with some doubles (*reserved for those of us who are travelling as couples*) while the 6-bedroom "Shearer's Quarters" will usually have a mix of single, twin-share, and double rooms.

While every effort will be made to assign accommodations based on your selected room preferences and room share partners at the time of your registration, those rooming allocations may sometimes need to be amended depending on the final numbers, the mix of those attending, or to allow for any last-minute cancellations, changes or additions.

Please keep in mind that the accommodation at Markdale is quite basic, however as we will be spending most of our time out under the dark skies, the accommodation is suitable a group of hard-core astronomers like us!

Our accommodation is equipped with fireplaces in the sitting rooms and all beds have electric blankets to ensure a cosy bed when retiring after a big night's observing.

The 6-bedroom house also has a reverse-cycle air-conditioner in its sitting room.

SELF-CATERING FOR OUR MEALS

Markdale is primarily a working cattle and sheep station, and as such it is not set up for on-site catering. However, each of the three houses is equipped with its own full kitchen which we can use at our leisure.



There is also a gas BBQ at each house for cooking up some more relaxed meals, and a group dining space where we can all dine together.

There are no shops, restaurants or cafés in the immediate vicinity of our remote dark sky observing site, so you will need to stock up with a couple of days' worth of food supplies *enroute* and plan to self-cater for much of the week.

There are a number of great "pubs" in Crookwell and the surrounding villages such as Laggan and Grabben Gullen which offer great meals if we're in that part of the world, however that is 30 minutes' drive from the site, so we're certainly not likely to dine out every night.

We usually cook up a group BBQ dinner early in the week if anyone is interested, however options for the rest of the week could include either cooking our own meals independently, or we could all stock up on whatever individual food items we like and throw it all in together to do any number of big group cook-ups, either house-by-house, or all together. It's totally flexible!

There are supermarkets in both Goulburn and Crookwell which will stock most of what you could possibly desire and with the exchange rate the way it is right now, grocery prices should be quite similar to prices at home (*for those of you travelling from the US, of course*).

Depending on how many day trips we do (*whether as a group, or individually*), you'll probably only need to stock up on a few days' worth of supplies at a time, especially on our way in and then top up on any additional supplies each time you do any day trips.

Each house has one fridge, and some pantry storage space, so there should be adequate room for most of our food items, but we may need to be careful how much food we stock up on at any one time.