



THE 2024 OZSKY STAR SAFARI

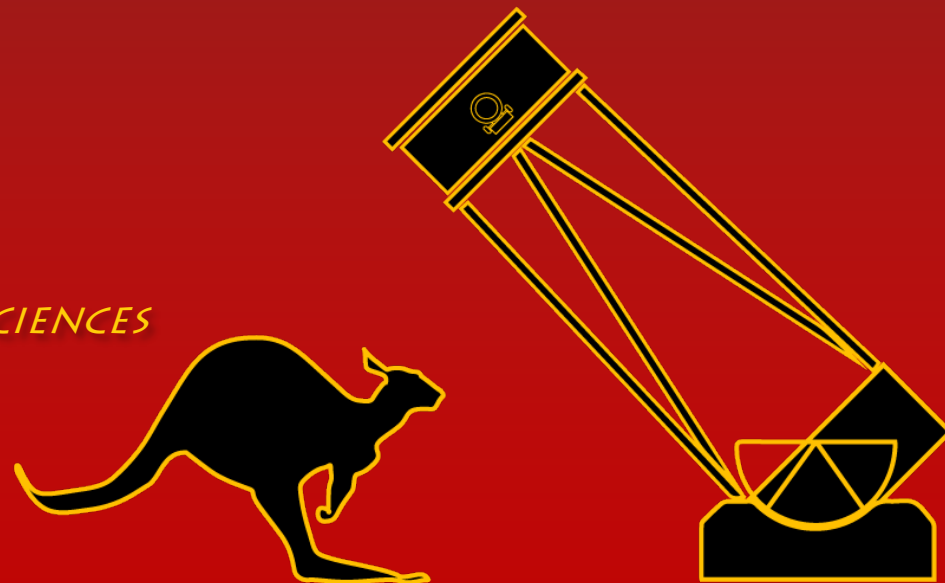
COONABARABRAN, NSW

31ST ANNIVERSARY OF OzSky
1993 – 2024

PROUDLY HOSTED BY THE VOLUNTEERS OF 3RF AUSTRALIA

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY 3 RIVERS FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS AND SCIENCES

www.OzSky.org





YOUR VOLUNTEER HOSTS – WHO'S WHO?

- Lachlan MacDonald
- Tony Buckley
- Gary Kopff
- John Bambury



- Andrew Murrell
- David Batagol
- Matt Bielski
- Vello Tabur





A BRIEF HISTORY OF OZSKY

PAST NAMES AND LOCATIONS

The first of these internationally-focussed Southern Skies Observing Trips was held 30 years ago in May 1993

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|----------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| • 1993: | Operation Pacific Storm | <i>Mt. Kaputar, May 1993</i> |
| • 1994 – 2003: | Aussie Sky Safaris | <i>Various locations, ad-hoc</i> |
| • 1999: | Ayers Rock (Uluru) Star Safari | <i>Ayers Rock (Uluru), April 1999</i> |
| • 2004 – 2010: | Deepest South Texas Star Safaris (DSTSS) | <i>Coonabarabran, Feb – Jun</i> |
| | DSTSS “Alumni” Star Safaris | <i>Coonabarabran, Sep – Nov</i> |
| • 2010: | OzSky “Outback” Star Safari | <i>Nhulunbuy East Arnhem Land), August 2010</i> |
| • 2011 – 2024: | OzSky “Classic” Star Safaris | <i>Coonabarabran, Mar – Apr</i> |
| | OzSky “Alumni” Star Safari | <i>Binda, Sep – Nov</i> |

Upcoming OzSky Star Safari Dates – Open for Registrations by the end of this week:

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| • Sep 2024: | OzSky “Alumni “ Star Safari | <i>Binda, September 30 – Oct 7, 2024</i> |
| • Mar 2025: | OzSky Classic” Star Safari | <i>Coonabarabran, March 23 – 30, 2025</i> |





A BRIEF HISTORY OF OZSKY

PAST OZSKY T-SHIRT COLLECTION





A BRIEF HISTORY OF OZSKY

PAST GROUP PHOTOS (SMALL SELECTION ONLY)





DAILY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Up to three Talks / Presentations / Workshops most days (~45 – 60 minutes each)
- An easy, guided hiking trip is available on Tuesday morning – “The Sandstone Caves”
- Commercially-operated guided tours of the Anglo-Australian Telescope & Observatory are available Thursdays to Sundays for the telescope and outside walking tours every morning except Tuesdays. Bookings are required.
- 8:00pm DARK OUT strictly enforced every night, unless cloudy
All windows (FRONT and BACK) to be covered & lights switched off by 8:00pm sharp
- All 3RF Telescopes will be shut down at midnight on Thursday night
This is for the safety of all volunteers and guests, due to the long drive home for everyone on the Saturday morning





DAILY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY	8 TH MARCH	OZSKY VOLUNTEERS
07:00	Travel	Travel to Coonabarabran – <i>via train, plane, car, or Tardis</i>
16:30	Check-in	Arrive on-site and check-in at OzSky <i>Lachlan MacDonald</i>
17:30	Opening	Welcome & Introduction: The 2024 OzSky “Classic” Star Safari <i>Lachlan MacDonald</i>
19:30	Orientation	Southern Sky Orientation & Guided Sky Tours <i>Andrew Murrell</i>
20:00	Dark Out	Free-Range Observing <i>Lachlan & Vello</i>

SATURDAY	9 TH MARCH	OZSKY VOLUNTEERS
13:00	Presentation	Southern Skies Eye Candy <i>John Bambury</i>
14:30	Presentation	Exploring the Small Magellanic Cloud (SMC) <i>Andrew Murrell</i>
16:00	Presentation	See More Stuff: How to Use the Argo Navis™ <i>Gary & Matt</i>
17:30	Group Photo	Please wear your new OzSky T-Shirt – Near the 25” scopes <i>Andrew Murrell</i>
18:00	BBQ Dinner	OzSky Welcome Dinner (Aussie BBQ) – All Welcome! <i>All</i>
19:30	Orientation	Southern Sky Orientation & Guided Sky Tours <i>John Bambury</i>
20:00	Dark Out	Free-Range Observing <i>Vello & David</i>





DAILY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SUNDAY

10TH MARCH

13:00	Presentation	Exploring the Cosmos with Digital Tools
14:30	Presentation	The Stellar Death Cycle
16:00	Presentation	Australian Impact Craters & Meteorites
19:30	Orientation	Southern Sky Orientation & Guided Sky Tours
20:00	Dark Out	Free-Range Observing

OZSKY VOLUNTEERS

Matt Bielski
John Bambury
Tony Buckley
Matt Bielski
David & Andrew

MONDAY

11TH MARCH

14:30	Presentation	The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)
14:30	Presentation	A Yankee's Guide to Oz & the Southern Skies
13:00	Presentation	Horror Objects and How to Observe Them
20:00	Dark Out	Free-Range Observing

OZSKY VOLUNTEERS

David Batagol
Matt Bielski
Andrew Murrell
Andrew & John





DAILY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

TUESDAY

12TH MARCH

OZSKY VOLUNTEERS

10:00	Guided Hike	"The Sandstone Caves" – <i>Departs from Motel Parking Area @ 10am</i>
16:00	Presentation	Shooting Stars Part I: "Nightsapes – A Journey Into Darkness"
20:00	Dark Out	Free-Range Observing
20:30	Workshop	Shooting Stars Part II: "Using a DSLR for Nightsapes"

Lachlan MacDonald
Matt Bielski
John & Matt
Andrew Murrell

WEDNESDAY

13TH MARCH

OZSKY VOLUNTEERS

10:00	Workshop	Shooting Stars Part III: "Processing your Astro-Images" (3 hours)
14:00	Presentation	A Brief History of Australian Astronomy
16:00	Presentation	Venomous Australian Snakes: The FACTS Revealed!
20:00	Dark Out	Free-Range Observing

Andrew Murrell
Tony Buckley
John Bambury
Matt & Gary





DAILY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY

14TH MARCH

OZSKY VOLUNTEERS

13:00	Presentation	Shooting Lightning: Photographing Lightning Effectively	Andrew Murrell
14:30	Presentation	Visual Astronomy and the Use of Filters	John Bambury
16:00	Presentation	Life of Galileo	David Batagol
17:00	Door Prizes	People's Choice Photo Voting and OzSky Door Prizes	Lachlan MacDonald
17:30	BBQ Dinner	OzSky Farewell Dinner: Aussie BBQ Hamburgers – All Welcome!	All
20:00	Dark Out	Final Free Range Observing	Gary
00:00	OzSky Close	Midnight Shutdown of all Telescopes	All

FRIDAY

15TH MARCH

10:00	Travel	Depart OzSky Star Safari – Drive back to Dubbo / Sydney / Gallifrey, etc
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OTHER DAILY ACTIVITY OPTIONS

UNSCHEDULED OPTIONS

- **GUIDED Behind-the-scenes tours of the Siding Spring Observatory**

- **Bookings:** <https://www.CoonabarabranStarGazing.com.au>

- [Anglo-Australian Telescope Tours – \\$30 pp](#)
 - Thursday & Friday (11:30am or 2:00pm)
 - Saturday & Sunday (2:00pm)
- [Siding Spring Observatory Walking Tours – \\$25 pp](#)
 - Every day EXCEPT Tuesday (9:30am)

- **SELF-GUIDED tours including the AAT Public Viewing Gallery**

- **Details:** <https://www.SidingSpringObservatory.com.au>
 - Open Every day (*except Tuesday*), from 8:30am to 4:00pm (FREE)





OTHER DAILY ACTIVITY OPTIONS

UNSCHEDULED OPTIONS

Self-Guided Hiking Trips

- **Hiking in the Warrumbungle National Park**
 - White Gum Lookout (*Easy Hike, 1 hr return*)
 - Grand High Tops (*HARD Hike, 6 hrs return*)
 - Mount Exmouth (*HARD Hike, 6 hrs return*)
 - Beloungery Split Rock (*Medium/Hard Hike, 4 hrs return*)

Local (and further afield) road trip options

- Australia Telescope National Facility near Narrabri
- The Sandstone Caves (*Easy/Medium Hike, 2 hrs return*)
- Sculptures in the Scrub (*Easy/Medium Hike, 2 hrs return*)
- Pilliga State Forest (*30-minute drive, one way*)
- World's Largest Solar System Scale Model

Local Galleries & Exhibitions

- The Wool Shop
- Coonabarabran Art Gallery
- Aboriginal cultural walks and tours
- Pilliga Pottery (*30-minute drive one way*)
- Guided Birding Walks (*early mornings are best*)
- Crystal Kingdom (*Gem and mineral collection*)
- Diprotodon display at the Coona Visitor's Centre





TELESCOPES AND EQUIPMENT

TELESCOPES & EYEPIECES





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TELESCOPES AND EQUIPMENT

TELESCOPES & EYEPIECES

25" $f/5$

Obsession + Argo Navis

31mm Nagler, 17mm Nagler, 9mm Nagler

25" $f/5$

Obsession + Argo Navis

31mm Nagler, 17mm Nagler, 9mm Nagler

20" $f/5$

Obsession

31mm Nagler, 17mm Ethos, 8mm Ethos

18" $f/4.5$

Obsession

31mm Nagler, 17mm Nagler, 9mm Nagler, ParaCorr

18" $f/4.5$

Obsession + Argo Navis

26mm Nagler, 12mm Nagler, 7mm Nagler, ParaCorr

18" $f/4.5$

Obsession + Argo Navis

26mm Nagler, 12mm Nagler, 7mm Nagler, ParaCorr

18" $f/4.5$

Obsession + Argo Navis

26mm Nagler, 12mm Nagler, 7mm Nagler, ParaCorr

18" $f/4.2$

Obsession UC + Argo Navis

31mm Nagler, 13mm Ethos, ParaCorr

14" $f/4.5$

SDM + Argo Navis

22mm Nagler, 12mm Nagler, 8mm Radian, ParaCorr

25 x 150_{mm}

Fujinon Binoculars

on a Joystick-Controlled SkyRover Digital StarChair 3000

That's 180" of aperture which you all have direct access to for the whole week!





SITE HAZARDS – BE AWARE

- Watch for obstacles between your rooms and the observing field
- Ground-Level Trampoline
- Trees
- Shelters
- Taps / Faucets
- Posts
- Please familiarise yourself with the route to/from your room





OZSKY STAR PARTY ETIQUETTE

- Dedicated sets of 2-3 eyepieces matched to each telescope
- Eyepiece sets to stay with assigned telescope
- Eyepieces are NEVER to be placed in pockets – *Please return to case when not in use*
- Respect the Dark – DIM* RED Lights only from 8:00pm to 5:00am every night
- Curtains fully closed – Front AND back
- Do NOT use Outside Lights – Cover your outside light switches with tape
- Check your inside AND outside lights are OFF before you leave site each day





OZSKY STAR PARTY ETIQUETTE





OZSKY STAR PARTY ETIQUETTE

- ALL OzSky telescopes are for SHARED communal use – *No exclusive access*
- Hints for sharing:
 - Join the queue if you want to use a specific telescope – try to experience all the telescopes
 - Listen out for calls of “Who wants to look at NGC ####” – especially from Andrew Murrell
 - Offer to share your observing list with others, or team up with others with similar observing lists
 - Openly share telescopes between objects if you are doing a long or challenging list





THE OZSKY OBSERVING FIELD

Complimentary tea, coffee and biscuits (cookies)

- *available every night from 8pm – 2am near the big trailer*
- *BYO cups or mugs – but please return them to your room each night.*



Telescope repairs and maintenance

- *Please see our dedicated Volunteer Team for any telescope repairs or maintenance issues, even if only minor*



Observing Schedule

Fri/Sat/Sun:	7:30pm	Orientation Tour of the Southern Skies
Fri/Sat/Sun:	8:00pm	Guided Sky Tours of Southern Skies Highlights
Every Night:	8:00pm	Free-Range Observing – Sky Tours available upon request





CLOUDY NIGHTS?

NO THANKS!

- Historical average of 5/7 clear nights
 - Some years have 7/7 clear nights
 - *Hard work, often resulting in "Photon Fatigue"*
- Extra Talks / Presentations by volunteers and guests
 - *Any impromptu presentations from the group are always welcome*
- "OzSky Star Bar" – Wine, Beer, Spirits from 4:00pm – 6:00pm
 - *Note: No BYO in this area. See Motel Staff for details*





OZSKY PHOTO COMPETITION

PEOPLE'S CHOICE – BEST OZSKY PHOTO

- Winner selected via “People’s Choice” vote – Yes, YOU choose the winner!
- Can be an astrophoto, timelapse video, event photo, tour photo, etc
 - *Must be taken during the OzSky week (including any past OzSky events)*
 - *Limit of three entries per person*
 - *Photos may be selected for use in future OzSky promotions*
- All photos to be submitted to Lachlan by 12:00 pm Thursday
- Display and voting: Thursday night’s BBQ Dinner
- Winner receives First Choice of Door Prizes
- All registered participants go into the draw for remaining prizes





OZSKY DOOR PRIZES

MANY PRIZES TO BE WON !!!



Simulation Curriculum
2x Sky Safari Pro 7
for iOS or Android



OzSky Star Safari
Collectors Edition T-Shirts
Show off to all your mates!



Amateur Astronomy Magazine
2x 1-year Digital Subscriptions



Simulation Curriculum
2x Starry Night Pro
for PC or Mac



Ursa Major Stencils
2x Southern Sky Stencils
Fun for the whole family

OzSky Star Safari
Annals of the Deep Sky
Add to your collection





MEALS AND DRINKS

- **TONIGHT:** **Motel-Catered Dinner @ 6:00pm** *pre-bookings required ****
- **TOMORROW:** **FREE BBQ Dinner – “Welcome to OzSky”** *BYO Plates, Bowls & Cutlery*
- **THURSDAY:** **FREE BBQ Hamburgers – “Farewell from OzSky”** *BYO Plates*
- **REST OF WEEK:** **Motel-Catered meals served from 5:00pm each night**
 - Sunday:** **CURRY Night** *Bookings Required*
 - Monday:** **PIZZA Night** *Bookings Required*
 - Tuesday:** **BURGER Night** *Bookings Required*
 - Wednesday:** **MEXICAN Night** *Bookings Required*

Use the QR Codes to book these meals by the day before
- **OR:** **Self-catering in your rooms, on-site BBQs, or local Restaurants**
- **BREAKFASTS:** **Book using QR Code on Room Menus – or at Reception**
- **OzSky “Star Bar”** **Beer, Wine & Spirits available from 4:00pm – 6:00pm each day**
BYO drinks may be restricted in some areas – See Motel Staff for further details





GARBAGE (TRASH) AND RECYCLING OPTIONS

- **Out on the Observing Field:**

- Separate garbage (Trash) and recycling bins available near the big trailer
- Please recycle any glass/plastic bottles and any cans

- **In your rooms:**

- Bottles and cans can be placed outside your room for recycling
- All other garbage (trash) can be placed in the bins outside your room for collection

















www.OZSky.ORG