



The Phoenix Astronomical Society

STARDATE 2023 PROGRAM

Stardate is a three day convention for people interested in astronomy and viewing the night sky. It caters for beginners through to experienced astronomers with a range of talks, workshops and observing sessions. A large variety of telescopes will be available to explore the wonders of the Universe. Stardate also includes live music.

Stardate will be held at the grounds and lecture theatre at **Stonehenge Aotearoa** near Carterton . The site provides spectacular scenery and near perfect observing conditions. Plus there are lots of interesting places and activities nearby – vineyards, seal colony, ballooning, swimming, boating, walking tracks, cycling tours, etc. The program runs on 17, 18 and 19th of February. For those staying overnight camping and caravans is the order of the day. Local accommodation can also be found at the Carterton Information Centre.

Friday February 17th

4:00 pm **Registration opens.**

Shop & Registrations: *Kay Leather*

Roving Stardate Assistants: Marilyn Briggs, Annie Lincoln, and Helen Hawke

5:30 pm **Barbecue** *with Geoff Palmer*

Friday Evening (SUNSET 8:19pm)

7:00 pm **Official Opening** *Chair: Richard Hall*

7:10 pm **Planetary Imaging in the Wairarapa** *with Paul Mallinson*

8:00 pm Tea/coffee

8:15 pm **Using Geoscience to Understand Habitability in the Solar System and Beyond**
presentation by Kay Leather

9:00pm **Summer Stars** *Audio-visual tour of our summer night sky*

9:30 pm **Laser Tour of the Night Sky** *with Ian Cooper* followed by **Telescope Viewing**

10:30 pm **Late Night Movie: Creation....**How Darwin saw the world and changed it forever.

Saturday February 18th

Morning & Early Afternoon *Chair Stuart Brown*

- 11:00am **Ancient Tales & Guided Tour of Stonehenge Aotearoa** *with Richard Hall*
- 12:30pm Lunch
- 1:00pm **Creating a Dark Sky Reserve** *presentation by Tom Love and Ray Lilly*
- 1:30pm **Islands in Space and Time** *presentation by Richard Hall*
- 2:00pm Session ends

Saturday Late Afternoon

Chair: Geoff Palmer

To be confirmed... This session may be held at Wairarapa Space Science Centre, on the corner of Holloway and High Street, Carterton.

- 4:00 pm **An Amateurs Approach to Radio-Astronomy** *presentation by Sam Leske*
- 4:40 pm **Impacts and Dangers of Light Pollution** *presentation by Haritina Mogosanu*
- 5:20pm Session ends
- 5:30 pm **Dinner/Barbecue** *with Geoff Palmer*

Saturday Evening (SUNSET 8:18pm) *Chair Kay Leather*

- 7.00 pm **The Asteroid that Saved Us from the Dinosaurs** *Prof. Chris Hollis*
- 7:50 pm Tea/coffee
- 8:10am **Orion: Forge of the Gods** *presentation by Richard Hall*
- 9:00pm Session ends
- 9:30pm **Stars at the Henge** *Live music with Jim Walmsley, Keith Austin and Stefan Brown*
- 10:00pm **Laser Tour of the Night Sky** *with Ian Cooper* followed by **Telescope Viewing**
- 11:00pm **Late Night Movie: 'Meteor'** *A visitor from space brings catastrophe... a comet is on a collision course with Earth.*

Sunday Morning February 19th *Chair Ian Cooper*

10:00 am **Your Local Friendly Star** *presentation by Keith Austin*

11:00 am **Mars and the Curiosity Rover** *presentation by Betina Pavri, Robinson Research Institute*

12:00pm **Stardate closes**

Stardate Venue

Stardate is to be held at the theatre, observatory and grounds at **Stonehenge Aotearoa**, a pristine dark-sky site. Facilities are limited to toilets, kitchen with washing facilities, micro-wave oven and hot water. Address: 51 Ahiaruhi Road, Carterton District, Wairarapa. Phone 06 377 1600

Registration

Bookings are essential and, for planning purposes, we request that you register as soon as possible.

Registrations can be made by email to: secretary@astronomynz.org.nz Please provide names of attendees, car registration and whether or not you will be staying overnight.

From Friday February 17th registrations are made on site at the office at Stonehenge Aotearoa.

Attendance Fee: (all or part of Stardate):

Adults: \$30

Students (12 to 18 years) \$15

Children (under 12): free

Camping Fee: \$10 per tent or caravan per night.

Payment

All fees are payable to **TPAS account 03-0521-0205810-00** with following details: **Name, 'SDFeb23'** and **'Cmpg'** if proposing to camp on site.

Ground Rules: Light pollution

It is expected that only red lights will be used wherever possible during the hours of darkness. White lights – torches, etc. should be screened with red cellophane. Car lights must be dipped or only parking lights used in the parking and camping zones. Please use the red light in the kitchen when observing or astrophotography is in progress.

Meals and refreshments.

Attendees should provide their own food and drink. If using the kitchen/washroom please clean-up afterwards.