

Second term 2010 provides your students with a number of opportunities to watch real life examples of astronomical events which demonstrate the 'interactions ... and events in the sky' core Science learning outcomes. Telescopes aren't required to observe the events outlined below and the events are fun to watch.

The astronomical highlight for this term will be a Partial Lunar Eclipse visible during the early evening of Saturday 26th June. Maximum eclipse occurs at 9.38 pm AEST and will be very apparent to the unaided eye. Make sure you let your students know about this one. The next eclipse visible during the evening sky from Eastern Australia won't occur until the evening of 11 December 2011.

The second 'event' worth mentioning is the occultation of stars in the 'Seven Sisters' or Pleiades open cluster by a slim crescent Moon during the evening twilight on Saturday 17 April. Just look low above the North Western horizon with either the unaided eye or a pair of binoculars.

The final event for your students to observe is the annual visibility of the constellations Orion the Hunter and the Scorpion in the sky. April and May are the best months to look in the evening sky to see these two constellations. This is particularly because it brings to life the story the ancient Greeks created to explain their positions in the sky. Finder charts and my version of the myth can be found online at <http://tinyurl.com/yb6l2xl>

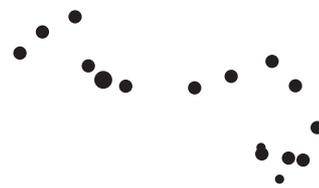
Regards,
Paul Floyd.
www.nightskyonline.info

2010 Moon Phases

				
	New	First Quarter	Full Moon	Last Quarter
April	14	22	28	6
May	14	21	28	6
June	12	19	26	5

Easy Constellations

Scorpius 'The Scorpion'



Look low above the South Eastern horizon at 7.30 pm in early May and 6.30 pm in early June.

Crux 'The Southern Cross' and 'The Pointers'



Look above the Southern horizon at the end of evening twilight

Put your class in 'Space' without leaving



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Best nights for a star party in Term 2 2010

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Amateur astronomical societies are generally happy to assist schools by running a star party. This means that they will bring telescopes and volunteers to your school so that your students can look through them at the night sky. Book ahead and avoid the time just between First Quarter Moon and two nights after Full Moon to avoid the light of the Moon washing out other sky objects. Using this criteria, the best nights therefore are:

- * Monday 19 to Tuesday 20 April
- * Tuesday 18 to Wednesday 19 May
- * Wednesday 16 to Thursday 17 June

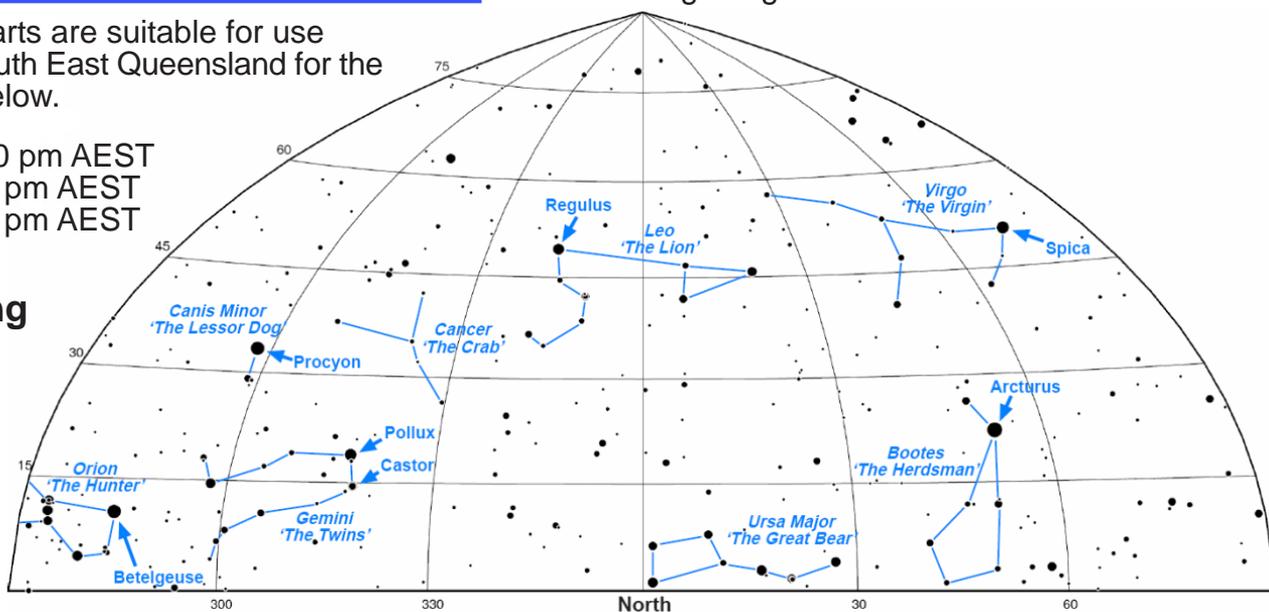
A list of astronomical societies across South East Queensland can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://tinyurl.com/7k7fb4>

Horizon star charts

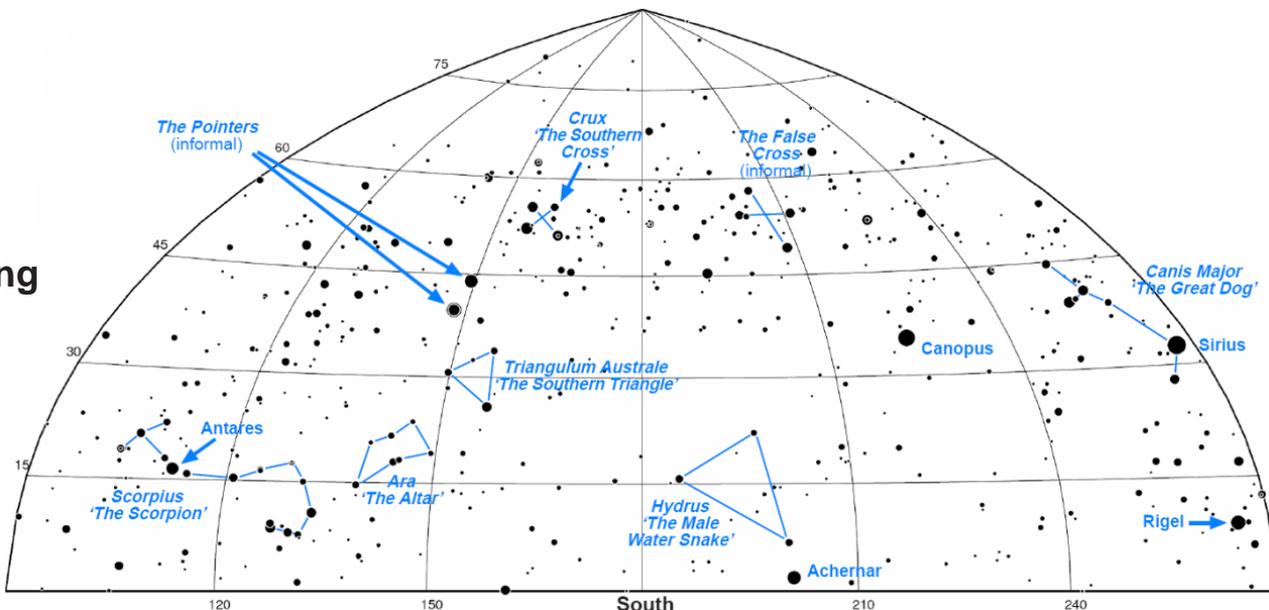
The below charts are suitable for use throughout South East Queensland for the times given below.

- April 1 - 10 pm AEST
- April 15 - 9 pm AEST
- April 30 - 8 pm AEST

North facing chart



South facing chart



Planets visible to the eye

April 2010: Look for both Mars and Saturn in the early evening sky above the Northern and North Eastern horizon respectively. By the middle of April, Venus will be visible as a brilliant star low above the North Western horizon in the evening twilight.

May 2010: Venus is now visible higher above the North Western horizon during evening twilight. Mars and Saturn continue to be easily visible high above the Northern and North Eastern horizons respectively.

June 2010: Venus, Mars and Saturn are easily visible above the North Western horizon at the end of evening twilight.