

Amazing Space!

February - April 2017

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See the Moon and Mars on Thursday 2 March 2017



Chart prepared for 7.30 pm AEST / 8.30 pm AEDT. Look above the Western horizon. Uranus (not shown) is visible through binoculars near Mars. Uranus binocular finder chart at http://nightskyonline.info/?page_id=25057

Mars ●

See the Moon, Jupiter and Spica together on Tuesday 14 March 2017



Chart prepared for 8 pm AEST / 9 pm AEDT. Look above the Eastern horizon.

See the Moon pass Jupiter between 10 and 11 April 2017

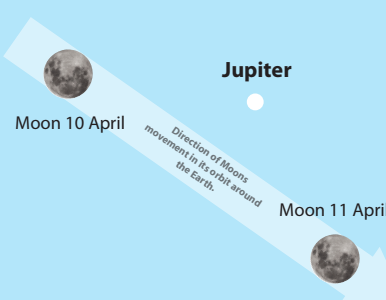


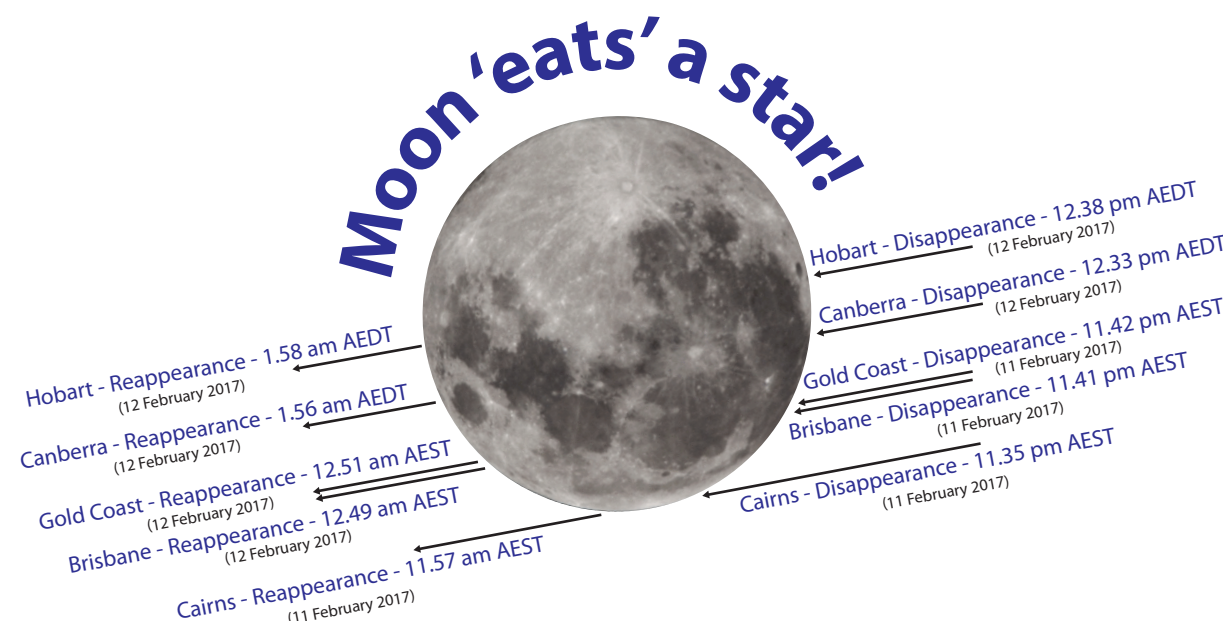
Chart prepared for 7 pm AEST. Look low above the Eastern horizon.

Getting started in astronomy is as easy as looking up. This poster shows you how to find the planets Mars and Jupiter without a telescope in the evening sky. Plus if you have a pair of binoculars or small telescope, you can watch the Moon 'eat' the star Regulus late on the evening of Saturday 11 February and the early morning of Sunday 12 February 2017.

See a planet without a telescope

Despite what many people think, you don't need a telescope to see a planet in the night sky. The origins of word planet (ancient Greek for 'wandering star') gives you a clue as to what you need to look for.

To make planet spotting even easier, use the Moon as a celestial signpost to find Mars and Jupiter at different times during March and April 2017. The charts at left are for the evening sky.



On the late evening of Saturday 11 February 2017, the Moon will briefly move in front of the bright star Regulus. Astronomers call this event an occultation.

A lunar occultation is caused by the Moon moving in its orbit around the Earth. Early astronomers used observations of occultations to assist sailors with the navigation of the Earth's oceans and map the height of lunar mountains.

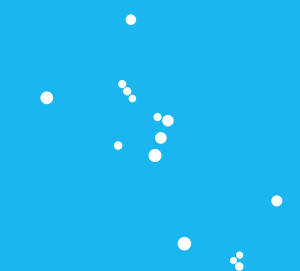
The brightness of the Moon will make Regulus difficult to see. Binoculars will help you watch Regulus disappear and reappear. Start watching a few minutes before the specified occultation time. Times for other Australian locations can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/hl6tnng>.

Constellations

Constellations are imaginary pictures in the sky. Can you imagine a giant Hunter or a Cross in the night sky?

Use these charts to help you find the stars around which the ancient Greek people created their constellations.

Orion 'The Hunter'



Look above the North Western horizon at the end of evening twilight (February - March).

Crux 'The Southern Cross' and 'The Pointers'



Look above the Southern horizon at the end of evening twilight (February - March).



Moon Phases

Crescent Moon



2 February
3 March
1 April

First Quarter Moon



4 February
5 March
4 April

Gibbous Moon



6 February
8 March
7 April

Full Moon



11 February
13 March
11 April

'STEM to the stars'

2017 ACT Astronomy and Space Science Education Conference



**Conference Keynote
Speaker**
Dr Lisa Harvey-Smith
Astronomer, CSIRO

Who? K-12 teachers, school leaders and preservice teachers.

What? 5 hours of teacher identified STEM professional development. T.Q.I. accreditation is pending.

When and where? Saturday 4 March 2017, Giralang Primary School, A.C.T.

Conference website: <http://tinyurl.com/zfeq433>

Register now at www.eventbrite.com.au

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<https://sites.google.com/site/canberraportableplanetarium/>

2017 Bookings
open 1 February
2017