

AstronoMay

6th to 16th May, 2022
Church Hill, Stewart Island



Dedicating May to the Stars at Church Hill

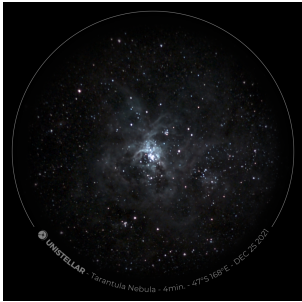
The long nights of May offer the perfect opportunity to view the stars above the Dark Sky Sanctuary of Rakiura. What better place to host astronomers than at Church Hill.

About AstronoMay

In 2019 Rakiura achieved accreditation as a Dark Skies Sanctuary and since then we have been developing our facilities to allow us to contribute to the Astro-tourism sector that is growing on the island. As a lodge we offer accommodation and food and our capabilities in that area can only enhance the astronomical experience. AstronoMay is our launch pad as we aim to create something a little different to anything that has been offered on Rakiura before, and perhaps, anywhere else.

AstronoMay is about offering star-gazers who equally enjoy great food and the comforts of life a platform to enjoy both. Astronomy is definitely not limited to these 2 weeks on Rakiura, but we see this as the start of greater things for Astronomy at Church Hill and on Rakiura.

Astronomy and Astrophotography



Rakiura is a dark skies sanctuary that offers observers easy access to the night skies; you don't need to travel far from town – if at all - to experience the darkness of a countryside getaway. In May the sun will set at around 6pm and not rise until 7am so we will have a lot of time to do astronomy; and we will look to make the most of all the opportunities the weather gods give us.

We will utilise our time as the conditions allow with astronomical sessions being based around what will work best at the time; we can make it up as we go, so to speak.

It is for everyone and anyone that is interested in the stars and spending time in a beautiful location. The only thing you are required to bring is an interest in astronomy.

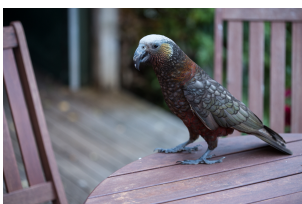
Food



Food is a very important part of any experience offered at Church Hill, and we couldn't comprehend hosting any group of people without adding food to the experience.

Depending on the nature of the activities being offered at any given time the food will fit with the experience. Whether we are starting early in the morning and finish with breakfast or drift in and out of an evening session with tapas and sharing plates.

Nature



Rakiura was famous for its terrestrial beauty long before we considered looking up at the stars. The wonder of the universe is truly magnified when we view the complexity of nature in the context of the vastness of space. And this is easily one of the best places in New Zealand - if not the world - to do so. Birdwatchers would call our feathered friends the real "stars" of Rakiura.

Exploring *down* by day will be combined with exploring *up* by night to make your time on the island well invested.

Participation



AstronoMay has been designed to be best experienced by staying at Church Hill. We cannot control the weather so will adjust activities to maximise our use of the time we have available. We are simply combining astronomy with all that we already have to offer at Church Hill.

As a boutique business numbers are always very limited but casual participation will be available based on space on the day. A general schedule of activities will be available on our website nearer the time.

All enquiries regarding AstronoMay are welcome. Check out www.churchhill.co.nz for details.