



# The Night Sky

from  
Starfield Observatory

## Moon

Last Quarter: July 8  
New Moon: July 14  
First Quarter: July 22  
Full Moon: July 30

## The Planets for July:

**Mercury:** The innermost planet overtook the Earth on June 29, and has now moved into the morning sky, rising just before the Sun. Its northern declination will make it hard to locate, but the best time for finding it will be in the second half of the month, low in the north-east at dawn.

**Venus:** The brightest planet continues to dominate the western evening sky, but this phenomenon will not last much longer. For a given time each night in July, Venus will be a little closer to the horizon, until by mid-August it will not be seen at all. On August 18 Venus will overtake the Earth, passing approximately between us and the Sun. It will then reappear in the morning sky, where it will remain for the next eight months, rising before dawn.

**Mars:** The red planet is now moving rapidly through the constellation Aries, and will pass into Taurus on July 28. It rises in the east-north-east at about 1.45 am. Mars still presents a tiny disc, but will soon begin to grow larger as the Earth catches it up. It will appear quite large and impressive at closest approach next December.

**Jupiter:** The largest planet is in the constellation Ophiuchus, and can be found dominating the eastern night sky, brighter than any star. As darkness falls, it is about two handspans above the eastern horizon.

**Saturn:** The ringed planet may be found a little over a handspan above the north-western horizon as darkness falls, in the constellation Leo. On July 1 Venus will appear extremely close to fainter Saturn, but as the month progresses, the brighter planet will move on, passing the nearby star Regulus on July 14.

## The Stars for July:

On July 1 at dusk, three handspans above the southern horizon is the Southern Cross. To its left and slightly below is a pair of bright stars, Alpha and Beta Centauri. These two are known as the Pointers, or the Guardians of the Cross. Alpha, the left-hand Pointer, is a multiple star only 4.2 light years distant; in fact it is our nearest stellar neighbour. On the other hand, Beta is a huge supergiant star, over 15 000 times brighter than Alpha, but 120 times further away. To the right of the Southern Cross, about the same distance as Alpha Centauri, is a faint smudge of light. Binoculars or a small telescope will reveal a glowing gas cloud. This is the famous Eta Carinae Nebula, a great accumulation of fluorescing hydrogen gas and other elements that have been ejected from the giant star Eta Carinae itself, located in the core of the nebula.

Two handspans above the northern horizon is Arcturus, a beautiful, orange star. Arcturus is the fourth brightest star, after Sirius, Canopus and Alpha Centauri. It will be due north at 7.30 pm on July 1.

About two handspans above the eastern horizon at 6 pm, a large S-shaped line of stars can be seen. This is the famous constellation of Scorpius, the Scorpion. In the centre is a red supergiant star, Antares, meaning 'rival of Mars', for they both share a red-orange colour. If our Sun were to be replaced by Antares, our Earth's orbit would lie inside it.

For more detailed information on the sky at night, 250 weblinks, and breaking astronomical news, visit our website at [www.starfieldobservatory.com](http://www.starfieldobservatory.com)

## NEWS FROM THE MONTVILLE VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

# Happenings

Blackall Range Woodcrafters Guild Inc.: Recently the MVA and the Woodies applied to the Queensland Government's Gambling Community Benefit Fund for a grant of \$25,000 (of the estimated full cost of \$35,000) to assist with the construction of a toilet block on the Montville Sports and Recreation Grounds. This new block will be of benefit to the community groups which use the adjacent facilities, and was sorely needed - as all who use the Sports and Recreation Grounds will know. We are very pleased to report that the Queensland Government's Gambling Community Benefit Fund has provided the full \$25,000 requested for the building of the toilet block. The remaining estimated \$10,000 required to complete the project will be raised by the Woodies. In the letter accompanying notification of the grant, Anna Bligh (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Infrastructure) stated: "The (Gambling Community Benefit) Fund is just one way the Queensland Government supports and recognises the significant and vital contribution not-for-profit groups like yours make to the state". This sentiment was re-iterated by Madeleine McPherson (Chairperson, Gambling Community Benefit Fund Committee): "Not-for-profit groups such as yours play a vital role in strengthening and enriching Queensland communities". We are all very grateful to the Gambling Community Benefit fund - not only that the application was successful, but that the full amount requested was awarded on the first application. Good luck to all involved in the project - and congratulations.

The Inconvenient Truth slide show, held in early May, was presented by Mr Kim Hudson, and was well attended. The talk was really a wake up call to us all

Montville Village Association meetings are held the last Monday of each month (except December). If you have issues you wish discussed by the MVA, please address correspondence to: The Secretary, PO Box 5, Montville 4560

to do whatever we can to halt climate change. One telling point was made that as the arctic ice cap recedes, then the sun's rays are no longer reflected into the atmosphere, but instead warm the water, which in turn speeds up the melting of the ice cap. It seems that at last government at every level is starting to wake up to this problem, and individuals too are becoming motivated to do whatever they can.

Closure of Palmwoods-Montville Road: Silverstone Events have notified us that the Palmwoods-Montville Road to McDonalds Road will be closed between 9.00 am and 1.00 pm on Friday 6th July for the SunCoast Classic Car Rally

AGM The year is slipping by, and soon the AGM (27th August) will be upon us. This means that the time has come to consider nominations for the MVA committee for 2007/08. Nomination forms are available from the MVA website (<http://montvillevillageassociation.com.au/>), and need to be lodged with the management committee two weeks prior to the AGM - i.e. by Monday 13th August. The MVA's post box number is 5. Now is the time to start thinking about the next committee. Any stirrings of interest out there?

PRESIDENT: John Greer 5445 7837  
VICE PRESIDENT: Syd Kirkby  
TREASURER: Lynn Loftus  
SECRETARY: Colleen Brady 5445 7889  
COMMITTEE: Jane Gibbs, Janet Helmrich, Allan Lewis, Rick Rexa

2 HALLS  
for HIRE

Montville Village Hall  
Michelle: 5478 5485  
St. Marys Hall  
Tully: 5442 9190 /  
John: 5478 5009



Justin Bulling  
RDA, BSc., BVMS

## Beware Tick Season

The tick season is almost upon us. While it usually starts in about August, in the last two years the first cases were in late June and early July.

The paralysis or scrub tick, *Ixodes holocyclus*, attaches, and after feeding for several days may result in severe clinical signs in dogs and cats. These can include, generally feeling unwell, coughing or gagging, grunting respiration, vomiting and weakness progressing to flaccid paralysis. Severe cases when left untreated will often result in death. Treatment is expensive with uncomplicated cases in larger dogs generally costing about \$550 and cats about \$350.

Several products are available to control paralysis ticks on at risk animals. It should be noted, however, that none will guarantee freedom from envenomation and all recommend daily searching in conjunction.

About 95% of ticks will be attached from the shoulders forward with the face, chin, neck and upper forelegs common sites.

• Proban- A tablet which is given to dogs twice weekly at the rate of 1 tablet per 10kg bodyweight every second

Montville Veterinary Clinic  
26 Kondalilla Falls Road, Montville Phone 5445 7666

day. It can be used in cats at the flea control dose rate of 1 tablet per 10kg bodyweight twice weekly but is not registered for tick control in the cat.

- Kiltix Collar- contains an organophosphate and a synthetic pyrethrin. (dogs only)
- Preventic Collar- contains Amitraz (Dogs only)
- Diazinon- A tick wash called Nucidol is now back on the market again. (Dogs only)

**Note: No two of the products above can be used together or toxicity may result.**

- Permethrin- This rinse contains permethrin and is very effective against ticks. This is very toxic to cats and should never be used on them.
- Fidos free itch concentrate. This is a very mild and safe product in cats and dogs but takes a while to kill ticks.
- Frontline contains a synthetic product which kills fleas and ticks but has very low toxicity to mammals. It can safely be used in conjunction with any other product.
- Advantix contains different active ingredients but is also a spoton which must be used fortnightly. Remember- Using an effective control programme is much cheaper in the long run that paying to have your pet treated for tick envenomation!



Ellie, Nemo and Alex

## Pet Pics

Email or post your favourite pet pic to The Montville Times  
PO Box 375 Mapleton 4560  
or [monttimes@bigpond.net.au](mailto:monttimes@bigpond.net.au)



Jasper