



# THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

## KEEPING IN TOUCH– Please pass on to all your members *Week Ending 1 August, 2010*

### 1. Rare Occultation of the Pleiades by the Moon - Thursday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – From 02:45am NZDT

Ian Cooper reports that on the morning of Thursday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010 we all have a chance to see an example of a rare astronomical occultation of the famous Pleiades star cluster by the Moon. It will be another 13 years before we get another crack at observing one from New Zealand so here's hoping the weather cooperates.

At around 02:45 a.m. the Moon will rise in the north east with the occultation already underway. Obviously access to an unobstructed horizon will be needed to see the initial stages. The occultation ends at 05:15 a.m.

This is your best chance for several decades to get a near perfect view of an occultation of the Pleiades – Get your members together and make a special morning of the event.

Ian has produced a very informative article regarding this event and is happy to pass it onto all those interested in learning more.

#### Contact

**Ian Cooper**, Palmerston North Astronomical Society. Email: [icoops@inspire.net.nz](mailto:icoops@inspire.net.nz)

*Images courtesy of Ian Cooper and produced in 'The Sky, Version 6'*



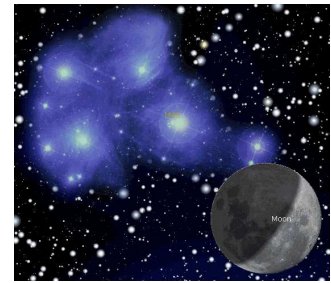
05/08/2010

02:45am



05/08/2010

03:18am



05/08/2010

05:17am

### 2. Phoenix Astronomical Society Winter Camp Carterton RSA, 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2010

This year's Astronomical Winter Camp will be take place from Friday until Sunday evening at the Carterton R.S.A. The focus this year is observational astronomy and astrophotography. Each day there will be comprehensive programmes of lectures and workshops with opportunities to exchange ideas and to socialise. There will be plenty of time to observe the Sun each day and in the evenings, the wonders of the winter Milky Way high over head. A free Tour of Stonehenge Aotearoa will be included as part of the programme with the dinner being held at the RSA on Saturday evening.



#### Contacts

For further details, including available accommodation for the weekend or to download registration forms, see - [www.AstronomyNZ.org.nz](http://www.AstronomyNZ.org.nz) or contact

**Antony Gomez**, President of the Phoenix Astronomical Society

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### 3. Have your say on Light Pollution, Environmental Responsibility & Energy Savings

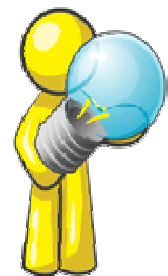
An opportunity to raise the issues of light pollution, environmental responsibility and energy savings by making a submission to the Draft Energy Strategy and Draft Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy has finally come our way.

Street lighting in particular, as an energy based service, is under local and central govt control, so is a good example of an area where central govt can show leadership in reducing energy consumption and protect the environment.

Steve Butler from RASNZ Dark Sky Group would like to encourage all New Zealand Astronomical Societies and their members to provide feedback on the drafts – it's our chance to finally have our say and to possibility make a much needed change. Please contact Steve for a copy of the submission form including details on how to go about filling it in.

#### Contact

**Steve Butler**, Director RASNZ Dark Sky Group. Email: [s\\_butler@xtra.co.nz](mailto:s_butler@xtra.co.nz)



Don't forget to visit the RASNZ Affiliated Societies webpage <http://www.rasnz.org.nz/AffSocs/index.htm>