



## News – March 2010

The Milky Way is really starting to show off now! On a dark night there are stars as far as the eye can see. What's more, Ginggin Observatory's favourite planet has returned! Saturn is back! There are plenty of events to choose from including a night with the Zadko Telescope (the largest telescope for public access in the southern hemisphere), B.Y.O. Telescope Class, Earth Hour Stargazing and the Star Seeker Bus Tour where you can leave the driving to someone else!

### QUICK INDEX

#### Events:

Gemini Constellation Stargazing (Friday, 5 March 2010)  
Zadko Stargazing Night (Sunday, 7 March and Sunday, 11 April 2010)  
B.Y.O. Telescope Class (Sunday, 21 March 2010)  
Earth Hour Stargazing (Saturday, 27 March 2010)  
Stars 'n' Tanks (Saturday, 27 March 2010)  
Star Seeker Bus Tour (Sunday, 28 March 2010)

#### Coming Up!

Cancer Constellation Stargazing (Sunday, 4 April 2010)  
Night Safaris (Wednesdays 7 & 14 April 2010)

### EVENTS

#### GEMINI CONSTELLATION STARGAZING (FRIDAY, 5 MARCH 2010)

Learn about the history and mythology of the Gemini constellation. Have a look at Gemini and find out more about your stars! What a great way to celebrate your birthday! Friday, 5 March 2010. 7pm to 9.30pm. \$34.00 adults, \$29.00 seniors, \$18.00 children (6 to 16 years) and \$100.00 family (2 adults and 2 children). Bookings: [www.gingginobservatory.com](http://www.gingginobservatory.com) or 08 9575 7740.

#### ZADKO STARGAZING NIGHT (SUNDAY, 7 MARCH AND SUNDAY, 11 APRIL 2010)

Ginggin is lucky to have the Zadko Telescope. It's a special scientific telescope, with a 1m primary mirror, involved with groundbreaking Gamma Ray Burst research. Check out how it operates with Ginggin Observatory Astronomers and see the astro images it gathers from the Universe. All the other Ginggin Observatory telescopes will be available too.

Sunday, 7 March and Sunday, 11 April 2010. 7pm to 9.30pm. \$38 adults, \$33 seniors, \$19 children (6 to 16 years) and \$110 family (2 adults and 2 children). Bookings: [www.gingginobservatory.com](http://www.gingginobservatory.com) or 08 9575 7740.

#### B.Y.O. TELESCOPE CLASS (SUNDAY, 21 MARCH 2010)

If you have a telescope and are having difficulty working out how to use it, this single evening class will tell you all you need to know. How to set telescopes up and how to use them. With the Ginggin Observatory astronomers on hand, you will perfect your technique using your own telescope in no time at all. The Observatory telescopes will be available too.

Sunday, 21 March 2010. 6pm to 9pm. Bookings: [www.gingginobservatory.com](http://www.gingginobservatory.com) or 08 9575 7740. The course costs \$74.50 for the telescope owner. Extra visitors are welcome at \$30 adults, \$25 seniors and \$18 children (6 to 16 years).

### **EARTH HOUR STARGAZING (SATURDAY, 27 MARCH 2010)**

Gingin Observatory is celebrating Earth Hour! It's a special night when everyone on Earth is encouraged to turn off lights for an hour between 8.30pm and 9.30pm. To see the best stars, the lights are always off at Gingin Observatory! It's called "eco-astronomy"! Join Gingin Observatory Astronomers as they guide you across the night sky with a laser beam pointer and then look through the telescopes at the moon, planets and stars.

Saturday, 27 March 2010. 7pm to 9.30pm. \$34.00 adults, \$29.00 seniors, \$18.00 children (6 to 16 years) and \$100.00 family (2 adults and 2 children). Bookings: [www.ginginobservatory.com](http://www.ginginobservatory.com) or 08 9575 7740.

### **STARS 'N' TANKS (SATURDAY, 27 MARCH 2010)**

Here's some fun for the whole family. For the first time in Fremantle experience the exciting combination of Astronomy, Earth Sciences and the Military. An amazing array of telescopes, earth sciences, astronomical and army displays will be available at one venue. The event includes talks by Dr James Biggs of Perth Observatory, Peter Birch and the Mars Society. There will also be demonstrations on how to use GPS equipment, astronomical photographic exhibitions, viewing of the Sun with specially equipped telescopes during the day, followed by looking at the Moon, Saturn and Mars in the evening. All this and more including full access to the Army Museum collection featuring the newly restored Centurion Tank. The army re-enactment group will be on parade to give a glimpse of the Western Australia's colonial past. More information is available at [www.armymuseumwa.com.au](http://www.armymuseumwa.com.au).

Stars 'n' Tanks will be held from 2pm until 10pm on Saturday, 27 March 2010. Entry prices are \$15 adults, \$5 children/concessions and \$35 family (2 adults and 2 children). All proceeds go to the Museum's Gallery development fund as part of the 100th anniversary of the Artillery Barracks.

### **STAR SEEKER BUS TOUR (SUNDAY, 28 MARCH 2010)**

Sit back, relax and let Funseeker Tours take care of the driving on this magical stargazing journey second to none! What a great way to experience WA's brilliant stars without having to worry about night time country driving and kangaroos jumping across your path!

You'll enjoy a BBQ dinner at Stargazers' Cafe before heading to the stars next door at Gingin Observatory. View through telescopes and see fascinating planets, stars and much more! Gingin Observatory Astronomers will give a laser beam constellation tour and then fly you through the Milky Way Galaxy on the big screen before you hop back on the bus to head home. It's never been easier!

Sunday, 28 March 2010. \$89 per person. Prices include everything. The Star Seeker Bus Tour will be very popular and seats are limited so book early with Funseeker Tours on 08 9440 1770 (24hrs). Pick up points are at various locations in Perth.

### **COMING UP!**

#### **CANCER CONSTELLATION STARGAZING (SUNDAY, 4 APRIL 2010)**

Celebrating your Birthday soon? Once a month, Gingin Observatory Head Astronomer, Grant Thornett, and Edith de Burgh host a special evening to take a close look at Zodiac constellations! Tonight it's all about Cancer. Learn about the history and mythology of this constellation. Have a look at it and find out more about your stars! A great way to celebrate your birthday!

Sunday, 4 April 2010. 7pm to 9.30pm. \$34 adults, \$29 seniors, \$18 children (6 to 16 years) and \$100 family (2 adults and 2 children). Bookings: [www.ginginobservatory.com](http://www.ginginobservatory.com) or 08 9575 7740.

#### **NIGHT SAFARIS (WEDNESDAYS 7 & 14 APRIL 2010)**

Are you brave enough to stalk nocturnal animals in the bush and to gaze into the distant Universe? Come up to the Gravity Discovery Centre anytime after 9:30 am and enjoy fun science

activities during the day. Later in the afternoon, the Night Safari program starts with a delicious pasta meal. Then, bring your torch and join the Gravity Discovery Centre guides on a night safari to spot critters big and small followed by stargazing and games at Gingin Observatory next door. This is a wonderful holiday activity for the whole family!

The Night Safari ticket includes general entry to the Gravity Discovery Centre and the Leaning Tower of Gingin, all you can eat pasta meal, night safari bush walk and stargazing. An alternative stargazing program will be offered if it's cloudy.

Bring: torches, suitable footwear for walking, warm clothing for stargazing and raincoats and umbrellas if it's wet.

Wednesdays 7 and 14 April 2010. The Gravity Discovery Centre is open from 9.30am to 5pm. Pasta meals are served at 5pm, night safari is at 6pm and stargazing from 7pm to 9pm. \$64 adults, \$56 seniors, \$36 children (5 to 16 years) and \$186 family (2 adults & 2 children). Children 4 years and under are free. Bookings: [www.ginginobservatory.com](http://www.ginginobservatory.com) or 08 9575 7740.

See you in the stars!  
Carol Redford and Donna Vanzetti

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