

# DARK-SKY ASTRONOMY WORKSHOP

AUSTRALIAN AGE OF DINOSAURS  
WINTON QUEENSLAND



Join our five-day hands-on astronomy workshop at The Jump-Up Dark-Sky Sanctuary, Australia's first International Dark-Sky Sanctuary and Winton, Queensland's first International Dark-Sky Community. Perfect for beginners, you'll explore the night sky, learn telescope and astrophotography skills, study stars, galaxies and meteorites and discover the science behind astronomy. With onsite accommodation, expert guidance and access to two International Dark-Sky Places, this is your chance to experience deep-sky wonders, conservation in action and immersive Outback astronomy. Participants must be 16 years and over.

## Workshop highlights

- Day and night astronomy sessions tailored for beginners.
- Astrophotography workshops with hands-on guidance.
- Learn to set up an International Dark-Sky Place and record sky quality measurements.
- Observe southern constellations, bright planets, galaxies, star clusters and nebulae under some of the world's darkest skies – including naked-eye views of the Large and Small Magellanic Clouds, 47 Tucanae, a glimpse of the Andromeda Galaxy and occasional early-morning meteors from the Orionid or Leonid showers.

## Accommodation and inclusions

- Stay five nights onsite at the Maloney Lodge Precinct – choose between King single rooms with shared bathroom/kitchen or optional Queen rooms with private ensuite (extra cost).
- Access to two International Dark-Sky Places in one location – the only dark-sky places in Queensland.
- Airport shuttle to/from Winton Airport, including first-day grocery run.
- Certificate of participation and a copy of the latest AAOD Journal.

Not included: Airfares, meals and meal preparation – participants will shop for groceries on arrival and prepare their own meals onsite.  
Optional: Bring your own camera, tripod and smart phone.

## Workshop benefits

- Gain practical astronomy and astrophotography skills.
- Small group sizes ensure personalised instruction.



## Workshop schedule

Day 1 – Thursday	Arrive at Winton Airport via Rex (~1pm). Grocery shop and settle into onsite accommodation at The Jump-Up. Self-drive option also available. In the evening enjoy a Deep-Time Astronomy tour, where you'll be introduced to southern constellations, learn the basics of using a telescope and get an overview of the week ahead.
Day 2 – Friday	Start the day with a tour of the Museum. After that, learn about stars, planets and how light helps us understand the universe. In the afternoon get hands-on experience with telescopes and practice reading star charts. At night observe southern constellations and bright planets, and try out our practical tips for using star charts and astronomy apps.
Day 3 – Saturday	In the morning learn how to set up a Dark-Sky Place, including taking sky quality measurements, conducting lighting inventories and running your own sky brightness study. The Museum has played a key role in certifying two International Dark-Sky Places and this is your chance to see how it's done. In the evening enjoy a transfer to the Winton Dark-Sky Community for dinner (own cost), followed by a guided night tour of the town to explore its dark sky journey.
Day 4 – Sunday	Start the day exploring cosmology, stars, planets, the solar system and asteroids' role in understanding Earth. Learn about the global meteor camera network and view the Sun through a Hydrogen-alpha solar telescope. Gain hands-on experience setting up and calibrating your telescope and camera – with tips for capturing night photos on a smartphone. In the evening practice landscape astrophotography around The Jump-Up with exclusive access to our bronze dinosaurs – then focus on deep-sky objects, including galaxies, star clusters and variable stars.
Day 5 – Monday	In the morning review and analyse the photos and observations you've collected over the week. Optional walks are available to practice more photography around the site. In the evening enjoy a final night of sky observation, revisiting favourite objects, practicing astrophotography and asking questions with our onsite Astronomer. The day finishes with a workshop closing, certificate presentation and reflection on the week's learning.
Day 6 – Tuesday	From Lab to Exhibition – guided tour of the Exhibition Development Facility, with optional lunch and shopping in Winton before transfer to Winton Airport for departure at ~3.45pm.

*Please note that this schedule may be subject to change depending on the weather*

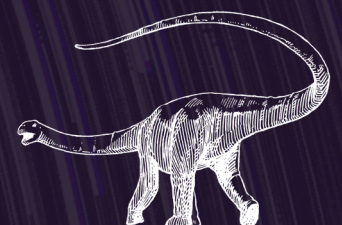
### 2026 workshop dates (minimum four, maximum ten participants per workshop)

- 29 October–3 November 2026
- 26 November–1 December 2026

### Pricing

- \$990.00 pp or \$900.00 per duo

**Book & enquiries to [grant.salmond@aaod.com.au](mailto:grant.salmond@aaod.com.au)**



# DARK-SKY ASTRONOMY WORKSHOP APPLICATION

## 1. Personal details

Full name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

Town/city \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

DOB \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Dark-Sky Astronomy Workshop date

29 October– November 2026

26 November–1 December 2026

## 3. Medical and emergency information

The Museum is located 24km southeast of Winton. Please indicate below any health conditions that may require attention or could impact your participation during your stay. All information provided will remain strictly confidential.

Do you have any known allergies? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, is the allergy controlled by you? How? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any medical conditions that the Museum needs to be aware of in case of an emergency?

\_\_\_\_\_

I confirm that I do not have any RSI, back or other health problems that could be exacerbated by preparing fossils and will notify the WHS Officer immediately if any such problems develop.

Dietary requirements \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact (This person must not be another Workshop participant)

Full name \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

## 5. Terms and conditions (please read carefully)

As a participant, you are covered under the Museums' volunteer and public liability insurance.

Recordings may be used to publicise the Museum. If you have concerns regarding this, please advise us. Participants are permitted to take photos; however, these are to be for personal use only. Photos are not to be published without the consent of the Museum Management team.

I give consent for the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum of Natural History to take and use any

photographs, video or sound recordings of me and any other reproductions or adaptations of my likeness or my work, or my name, either in full or part, in any Museum authorised or associated publication, production and presentation, which may include publication on public websites operated by the Museum and social media platforms.

I acknowledge that Workshop participants must be 16 years and older.

I understand that non-compliance with Workshop-related work health and safety requirements whether intentional or otherwise, may be investigated by the WHS Officer which may lead to a warning, or the offender being removed from the Workshop program.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

By typing your full name above you certify the information in this application is true and correct to the best of your knowledge.

## 6. Payment

King single room (solo): \$990 per person

Queen room (duos): \$900 per person

For duos, indicate who is joining you \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

To secure your position, a non-refundable deposit of \$250.00 must be paid upon registration. The full amount of the Workshop is to be paid four weeks prior to the commencement of your allocated week.

## 7. Payment options

Direct Deposit

National Australia Bank BSB: 084 990

Account Number: 82 742 8574

Please use reference 4-2150 DS 'surname'

Please send me a hyperlink to a secure payment portal.

The Museum is already holding a \$250.00 deposit for me.

## 8. Contact us

For any assistance with your booking, please get in touch with the Astronomy & Training Manager, Grant Salmond on [grant.salmond@aaod.com.au](mailto:grant.salmond@aaod.com.au) or 07 4589 5501.