

BRISBANE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY INFORMATION SHEET

ASTROCAMP INFORMATION

1. FEE: \$11.00 per person per night (children under 5 no charge).
2. RUBBISH: You are responsible for your own kitchen waste and rubbish. Please collect and remove from the site upon departure.
3. WATER: Ground water for washing, cleaning etc. is pumped directly from the dam and is not treated.
4. The water supply in DINING ROOM is tank water FOR DRINKING ONLY. Please do not waste this water. Washing up facilities are available outside.
5. FIRE WOOD: All wood for fires is to be supplied by visiting campers and must be collected from outside the Centre grounds.
6. GROUNDS: Please leave Centre grounds and facilities as you find them. Campers are responsible for cleaning at the end of their visit. E.g. bunkhouses, shower facilities, kitchen, dining room, etc.
7. LAUNCHING CANOES: Canoes must be launched from the designated area at the Kirkleigh Camping Reserve (approximately 2km from the Centre).
8. No food to be taken into bunk houses to prevent ant infestations

What is provided

Sleeping

Bunk house dormitory style accommodation with mattresses.

Accommodation is mixed but there are two "private" rooms – first in best dressed!

Top bunks accessed by ladders.

Cooking / Dining

Six ring gas stove with oven and toasting grill.

Hot water urn for tea & coffee

Fridge's and Freezers

What you must bring

Sleeping

Sheet or sheet sleeping bag.

Sleeping bag or blankets/duooneer

Pillow

Mosquito net in case of seasonal mozzies.

Cooking / Dining

Pots, pans and cooking utensils

Knife, fork, spoon.

Plate(s), bowls and drinking cup/mug

All your own food and drinks

Hygiene

Separate Male & Female toilet and shower facilities.

Hot showers.

Cold water in wash basins.

Composting toilets (toilet paper provided).

Bring own personal toiletries

Notes

1. Kilcoy is some 11 kms from the facility.
2. In Kilcoy, there is a well-stocked supermarket that closes mid-day on Saturday, along with a newsagent, hardware store and cafes. Fresh fruit, vegetables and a broad range of groceries are available and they operate EFTPOS so you can pay with bankcards.
3. There is a 24-hour Shell service station with an attached fast food eatery. Here, you can also buy basic groceries such as bread and milk.
4. One of the SEQAS club members has occasionally had an evening meal at the local hotel although I have no feedback on quality, cost, service and availability.

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Astrocamp Etiquette

Astrocamps provide an excellent opportunity for amateur astronomers to observe free from the degrading effects of light pollution and to mingle with fellow astronomers. There are, however, a few unwritten rules you need to follow to ensure your camp is pleasant for all concerned.

- All light sources should be red light only. No white light is to be used anywhere near the observation site. The reason is simple: white light destroys night vision, something, which can take up to an hour to fully, develop. It also ruins long exposure astro-photography.
- All white lights in bunkhouses and other buildings should not be used after dark, when observers and astro-imagers are observing or capturing photos or taking images.
- If you arrive at an astrocamp after dark and are not sure where to go, leave your car at the entrance and walk to the observers. Don't drive your car, headlights blazing, right through the observation area! Where possible, make previous arrangements with a fellow club member who can then guide and assist you.
- Loud music can be annoying. Remember, not everyone shares your taste in music. It's polite to ask around to see if anyone objects.
- Avoid shouting loudly at every meteor you witness. It only startles half-asleep astro-imagers, who then invariably bump their scope and ruin another shot.
- Tread very warily around the telescopes, particularly ones unfamiliar to you. In this digital age of astronomy, many scopes will have power leads running off them, and tripping over these at night can lead to injury, equipment damage and one very irate telescope owner!
- Don't walk in front of a scope that is being used for photography, particularly if you are flashing around a red torch. This will leave a bright red streak on the film, ruining the photo.
- Please be quite around the sleeping areas at all times. On a good night the keener astronomers will stay up all night viewing the heavens and try to sleep through the morning or take an afternoon nap. It's hard enough to sleep during the day without having to contend with noise made by the inconsiderate few.
- Remember, the charge for accommodation is negligible, way below any commercial sites. However, the cost does not include room service and it is up to all participants to leave the rooms and facilities in a tidy state. At the end of a camp it does not take long to clean up if everyone pitches in and lends a hand. Committee members are there for fun too - not to tidy up after everyone has departed.
- Out of courtesy, do not touch a telescope without the owner's permission. Its operation may be totally unfamiliar to you and there is a good chance that you will damage it in your ignorance.
- Finally, it is your responsibility to pay your camp fees. Please don't expect the club or committee volunteers to track you down. It also helps to have the correct change available and avoid paying at the last minute.

This might give you the impression that astrocamps are a strict and regimented affair. Nothing could be further from the truth. They are very relaxed and enjoyable occasions and are made so only by participants observing the above guidelines. It's only common courtesy. In summary

- Astrocamps are primarily geared towards providing a safe observing environment free from the degrading effects of light pollution.
- Using these guidelines helps astrocamps remain fun, productive and worthwhile self-governing events for all participants.
- Please read the local site rules as posted by the owners of each site. They provide important guidance on facilities, safety, conduct, waste disposal, emergencies, etc.
- As a newcomer, these guidelines may not be intuitive, so please spare some time to understand them as astronomers can be quite serious about their hobby!

Key to Site Map

I have scanned a very old, hand drawn site map which shows some of the facilities with number references. Here are some of the details.

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|------------------|---|
| ① | Administration / Kitchen / Dining Building |
| ④ | Activity room with TV and VCR |
| ⑤ & ⑥ | Dormitories |
| ⑨ | BBQ / Outdoor eating area (BBQ is gas fired I think?) |
| 15 | Limited camping area (beware proximity to observing area – i.e. no white lights and |

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16 & 17 sleep may be disturbed by noise from night-long astronomy activities)
Observing areas

Note that a new shower block has now been built between the two dormitories and is not shown on the old site map.