



Alumni

MOUNT JOHN ALUMNI EXPERIENCE

24-25 MAY 2025



Your Mt John Experience will take place **Saturday 24 May**. We look forward to seeing you then!

**FOR ALL ENQUIRES
PLEASE CONTACT:**

alumni@canterbury.ac.nz
or 021 191 5835

KEY CONTRIBUTORS:

Thank you to those who generously provide their time to support this event

Alan Gilmore and Pamela Kilmartin

(Observers and retired UC Mount John Observatory Superintendent)

Nigel Frost

(UC Mount John Observatory Superintendent)

John Forbes

(Post Doctoral Fellow for UC School of Physical & Chemical Sciences)

PROGRAMME MAY 2025

SATURDAY 24 MAY 2025

1.00pm: Registration

Head to the entrance of the One Metre Telescope building (see map - p4).

1.15pm: Welcome

Meet the team for a daytime tour of the observatory and facilities.

3.30pm: Break

Pick up your takeaway afternoon tea and enjoy free time before the evening activities begin.

NB: Grab your warm clothes now, as we will go directly to the observatory after dinner (weather permitting).

4.45pm: Afternoon lecture

Meet in the Mackenzie Room to hear from UC Researcher, John Forbes at Peppers Bluewater Resort (State Highway 8, Lake Tekapo).

6.00pm: Dinner

Buffet dinner provided. Cash bar available.

7.00pm: Star gazing

Weather depending, we will depart from Peppers as a group. When on the Mt John access road, please drive carefully with lights dipped to reduce light pollution.

NB: Park alongside the UC Mount John Observatory building.



VISIT INFORMATION

DRIVING UP MT JOHN ACCESS

ROAD:

Show your road pass to the attendant at the Mt John gate to access the road to the observatory.

PARKING:

Park alongside the UC Mount John Observatory building. The main carpark is for cafe visitors and tour buses.

Follow the road past the main car park at the top of the hill, down to the large single-story building and observatory facing south towards Lake Tekapo. Parking is available in front and behind the building (see map - p4).

DRIVING UP AT NIGHT:

Please be mindful of other road users when travelling up and down from the observatory and ensure headlights are dipped at night to reduce light pollution.

To avoid tour buses, only leave the observatory between:

9.15pm – 9.20pm

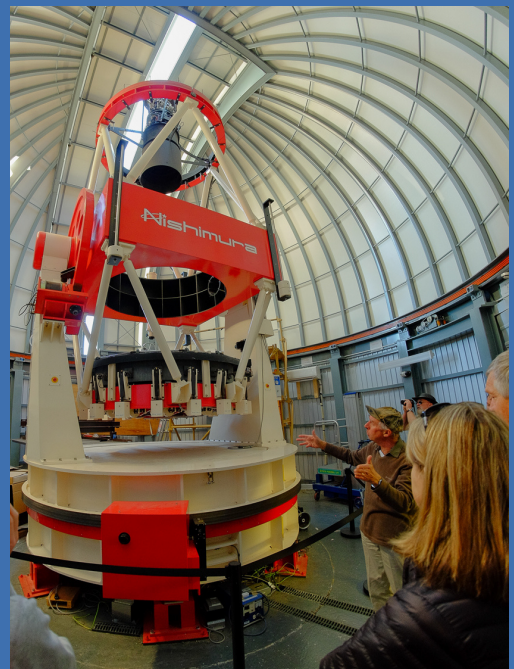
9.50pm – 10.15pm

10.50pm – 10.55pm

WEATHER AND CANCELLATION:

This visit will only be cancelled if severe weather would make it hazardous for travel.

Occasionally the weather will affect the night's stargazing, but the observatory tours, evening lecture and dinner will still proceed.



HEALTH AND SAFETY:

All staff, students and visitors to the Observatory are required to be familiar with the safety and housekeeping rules for the Observatory.

Though not all rules and regulations will apply, it is necessary that you have read the information in the event of an accident or emergency.

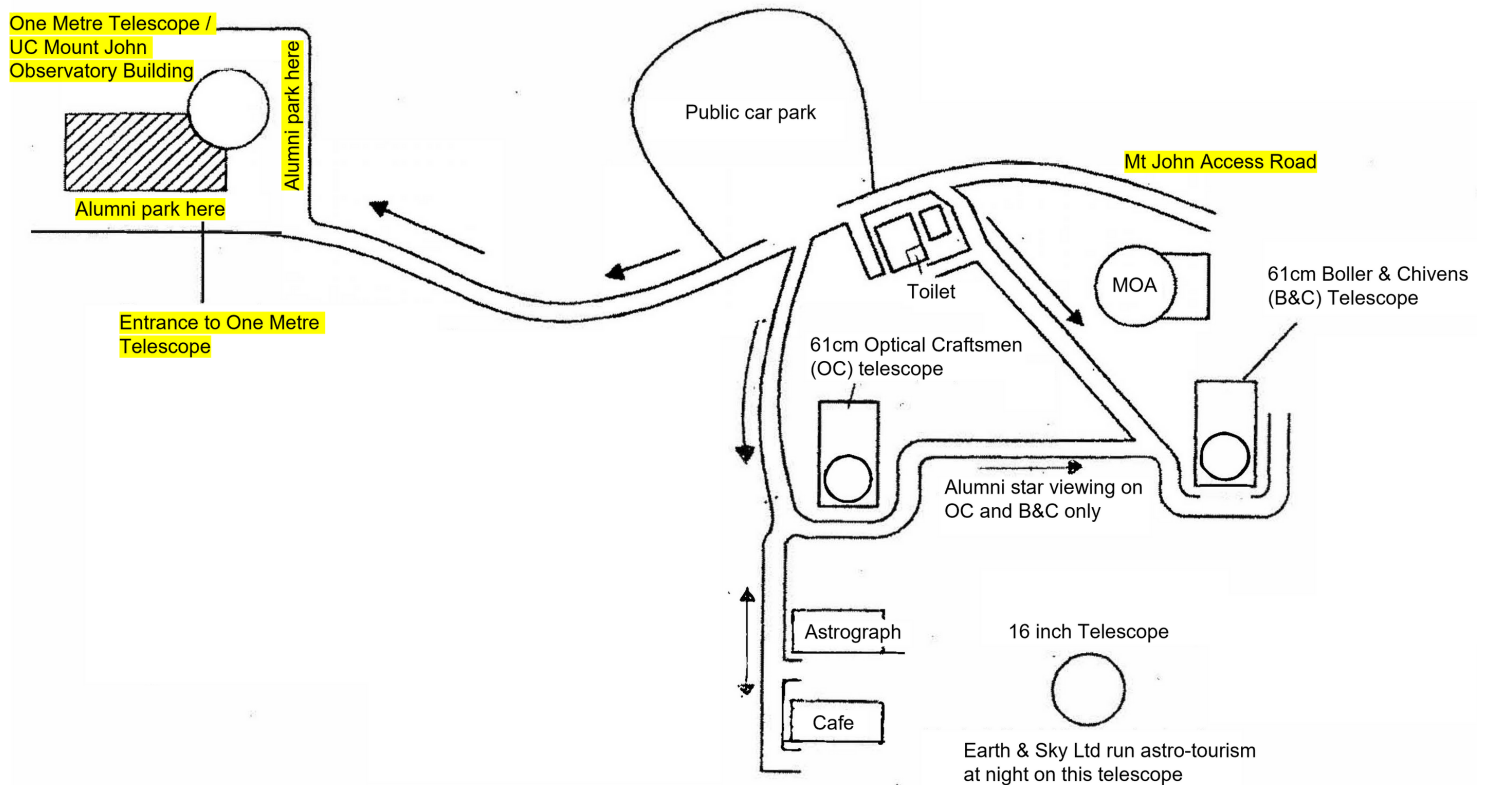
Please scan the QR code below to read the attached Health and Safety Handbook and complete your online safety form.



Scan above for additional information on the Mount John Observatory and Tekapo region.

UC MOUNT JOHN OBSERVATORY MAP

Layout of the UC Mount John Observatory



SUPPORT THE NEXT GENERATION OF ASTRONOMERS



Each summer, undergraduate Astronomy students at UC's Mount John Observatory in Tākapo | Tekapo get the rare opportunity to work hands-on with the four research telescopes at the Observatory, including the 1.8m MOA Telescope and the 1.0m McLellan telescope.

Over two weeks, they learn to operate the telescope by themselves, take charge of all night observations, and collect and analyse data under the guidance of UC Astronomy staff and graduate students. This unique experience is not only an amazing opportunity for student observers, but the data also helps current research programmes and has resulted in new discoveries.

This year, we aim to raise \$10,000 to support students through the Mount John Summer Observing Scholarships to support these aspiring young astronomers.

Your contribution could help provide them with this transformative experience—one that deepens their connection to the night sky and shapes the future of space exploration. Every gift makes a difference. Donate today and support the future of astronomy.



**Scan here
to donate**



Alumni



Green Man Creative
GREENMANCREATIVE.CO.NZ