



make
MINGENEW
the middle
of your
UNIVERSE

STARGAZING

IN MINGENEW



WORLD-CLASS STARGAZING SITES

Almost anywhere in our Shire makes for a great stargazing site, but we recommend the following places if you want to get out your telescope or do some astrophotography.

YANDANOOKA SIDING

With superb open areas allowing for viewing in all directions, plenty of parking away from traffic and a custom-built viewing pad and outdoor planisphere, Yandanooka is set up for both casual viewing and serious astrophotography and astronomy.

COALSEAM CONSERVATION PARK

If the wildflowers during the day aren't enough to take your breath away, you should see Coalseam by night. Look to the sky and see this iconic daytime destination from another point of view.

MINGENEW HOCKEY OVAL

Don't want to travel too far from town? The hockey oval provides a superb stargazing site right on the edge of Mingenew. Just follow Showgrounds Road to the Recreation Centre at the south side of town.

NEED A GUIDE TO THE NIGHT SKY?

A growing number of local tour operators are providing astro-options.

Check out the Shire's website for more details:
mingenew.wa.gov.au/stargazing-season/



STARGAZING FOR BEGINNERS

New to stargazing and not sure how to get started? These tips will help you enjoy Mingenew's magnificent night skies:

1 YOU DON'T NEED A TELESCOPE

Thanks to our low light pollution, there is plenty to see with the naked eye or through binoculars.

2 CHECK OUT THE MOON

Have a look at what it does over time. Is it getting fatter (waxing) or thinner (waning)? Like the sun, the moon moves across the sky from east to west, so it's a great landmark to use to better understand what's happening above you.

3 LOOK AT THE PATTERNS IN THE STARS

This is how most stargazers learn constellations. Find one pattern and then build outward, going from stars and patterns you know to new ones. Notice triangles, curves and straight lines of stars – some of these shapes are the same ones our ancestors noticed while sitting around a campfire telling stories.

4 AVOID WHITE LIGHTS

Car headlights, camera flashes and torches all produce white light. Your night vision takes around 20 minutes to peak, and exposure to this kind of bright light means starting again. Where possible, use lights with a red filter or simply tape a piece of red cellophane over your torch.

5 DOWNLOAD A STARGAZING APP ON YOUR PHONE

There's a whole range to help you understand the night sky. Many of these apps will have a red 'night mode' so you can use them while stargazing without damaging your night vision (or the vision of those around you).

6 JUST LOOK UP!

For most, the joy of stargazing isn't knowing the names of every constellation or the distance each planet is from the sun. It's getting outside, enjoying some spectacular scenery, and appreciating the amazing view above you.



STARGAZING ETIQUETTE

To help you and your fellow stargazers have the most enjoyable time possible, here are a few points to consider:



1 PLAN YOUR ARRIVAL

Ideally before darkness falls. Eliminate any sources of white light that aren't necessary and might disturb other stargazers. When stargazing try to only use lights with red filters.

2 PARK MINDFULLY

Park your car so that when you leave the headlights point away from the viewing site. Drive slowly to avoid both people and kicking up dust.

If you don't have heavy equipment or mobility issues, try to leave the parking spaces nearest to the viewing area for those who do.

3 BE SOCIAL

If other people are stargazing, don't be afraid to ask to look through someone else's equipment or ask questions. Most stargazers will be more than happy to discuss the stars and share their knowledge.

4 KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR KIDS

They are the future of astronomy and we want them to enjoy and learn from the experience. They also need to be careful with any stargazing equipment (as it can be very expensive) and consider the enjoyment of others.

5 BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS

Remember to always stay away from roads and railway tracks.

6 LEAVE IT AS YOU FOUND IT

Please put your rubbish in a bin or take it with you. We appreciate your help in keeping Mingenew clean and tidy.

WANT TO MEET UP WITH OTHER ASTRO-ENTHUSIASTS?

Looking for an event to get you out under the stars, or learn more about Mingenew's little-known space industry history?

Find out what's happening at mingenew.wa.gov.au/events or our Facebook page.



PLACES TO STAY

Full of friendly locals, loads of amenities and authentic rural hospitality – Mingenew is the perfect base for your stargazing adventures.

Favourite places for visitors staying in town are the Mingenew Spring Caravan Park and Mingenew Hotel Motel. There are also camping areas outside of town for short stays if you're self-contained.

MINGENEW SPRING CARAVAN PARK

A large range of accommodation, from powered sites for caravans and tents to rooms and family cabins.

P 08 9928 1019

E cvbafarr@bigpond.com



MINGENEW HOTEL

Located in the centre of town on Midlands Road is the iconic Mingenew Hotel.

P 08 9928 1002

E mingenewhotel@bigpond.com

COALSEAM CONSERVATION PARK

Situated by the Irwin River, Miners Campground permits caravans and tents and offers BBQ and toilet facilities.

Camping fees apply and a three night stay limit is in place during peak season.

W parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/site/miners-campground



YANDANOOKA HALL

Head 20 km south to find a fantastic nature spot for campers. RV-friendly for self-contained vehicles and free for up to 72 hours.

Please note there are no toilet facilities.

ENANTY BARN

Just out of Mingenew, Enanty Barn offers free 24-hour camping for self-contained vehicles.





This Stargazing Season,
we'll see you
in Mingenew!



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