



STARGAZERS

DISCOVER THE UNIVERSE FROM HOME | CLUB WA

Find South Using the Southern Cross!

You'll never get lost at night again!

The Southern Cross is a beautiful constellation that appears in our southern skies. It rotates around what is known as the South Celestial Pole. This is the imaginary dot in the sky where our Earth's southern axis points to. If you drop a straight line down to the horizon from the South Celestial Pole, you'll be facing due south.

Here are the steps to find south using the Southern Cross:

1. Turn out all your lights, computers and TV's (stargazing is best done in the dark!) and head outside where you can see a good, clear horizon to the south.
2. Find the Southern Cross. At the moment (April) you'll see it will have risen in the sky to be seen by 8pm. (As the year goes on the Southern Cross will appear higher and higher in the sky at 8pm.)
3. Look for the two bright stars that point to the Southern Cross. You will then see a constellation that looks like a kite in the sky. There are four brighter stars and one fainter star. For an indication of where these stars are, take a look at the image below.
4. Using an imaginary pencil, draw a line using the long axis of the kite (the Southern Cross) and another bisecting the Pointers. Where these lines intersect is the approximate location of the South Celestial Pole.
5. Drop an imaginary line down to the horizon. This is due south.

You'll be able to impress all your friends and family!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Carol Redford (aka Galaxy Girl) owned and operated Gingin Observatory from 2007 until early 2012. A love of stargazing and astronomy has never left and it is with delight that Galaxy Girl returns to space with Stargazers Club WA. Ready to inspire more people to encounter the wonders of our Universe and the beauty of our night sky! It's easy to join at www.stargazersclubwa.com.au. No astronomy knowledge or telescopes are needed. You'll be stargazing in no time at all! Or follow Galaxy Girl on Facebook, www.facebook.com/StargazersClub or call 0427 554 035.

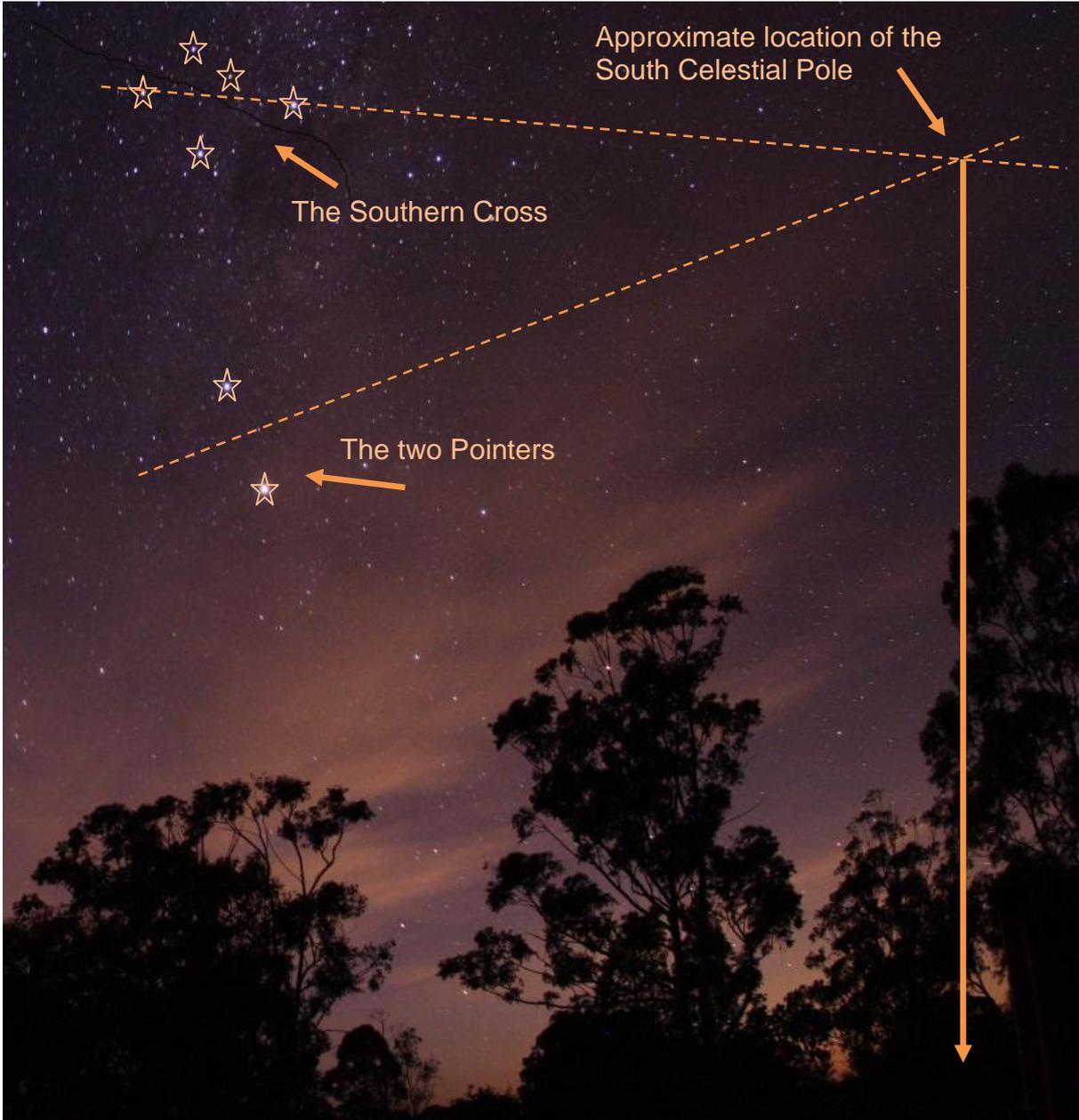


Image by James Athanasou

DISCOVER WA's NEW online stargazing club!



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DISCOVER THE UNIVERSE FROM HOME | CLUB WA

- ✦ Receive easy to understand information on what stars to see and when
- ✦ Fun stargazing from home
- ✦ No telescopes or astronomy knowledge needed
- ✦ Great for kids, beginner stargazers and those wanting to know more about what to see in the night sky
- ✦ Free children's activity every month
- ✦ Makes a great Birthday present

Join or buy gift memberships online:

www.stargazersclubwa.com.au

www.facebook.com/StargazersClub

Operated by Carol Redford (aka Galaxy Girl!), former owner of Gingin Observatory.