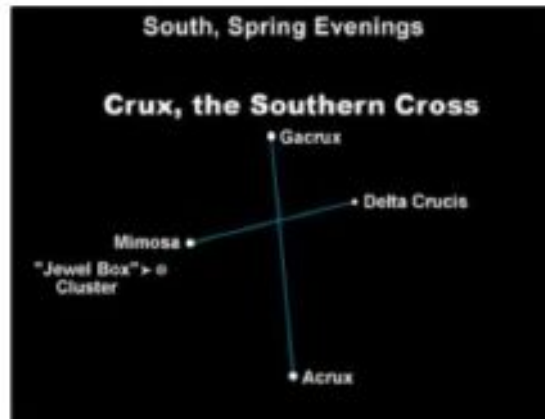


## Saturday – April 13<sup>th</sup> North Island – Russell (Part 2)



We woke up and all worked on our “Back Home Responsibilities”. Jeff went into town to meet with an administrator. His research has been very informational. It’s been very interesting because each location has proved to be enlightening in each their own way.

As soon as he returned, we all headed to “Long Beach” to go listen to the waves crash upon the shore and put a little bit of pink on our cheeks. The weather was a nice 70 degrees with a slight wind, so it was awesome to just lay back and hang out.

After the beach, Jeff and I decided to have a mini “date night”. We got ready and headed down the steep hill into town. We walked along the waterside to pick a restaurant that looked like a good fit. We went to a place with outdoor dining along the boardwalk called “L’affaire”. We had a few glasses of wine and split an appetizer. It had just been caught early this morning - smoked fish pate’ in a crème-fresh over roasted baguette. It was so amazing! Since money is tight, and we’d rather spend it on experiences as a family, we decided to head back.

On our way, we picked up some Bailey’s Irish Cream and bought some decaf coffee. We spent the rest of the night sitting on the porch with the kid’s star gazing, watching for satellites, and occasional meteors. The celestial show was magnificent since we’re in a pretty small town the night sky is quite dark.

The first thing we’ve noticed here south of the equator is that the northern constellations appear upside down. The North Star, Polaris, isn’t even visible and the other circumpolar northern constellations, such as the Big Dipper, Cassiopeia, Draco, and Cepheus become merely seasonal here.

However, the “Acrux” otherwise known as Alpha Crucis, is the brightest star in the constellation of the “Southern Cross.” It’s the 13th brightest star in all the sky. You

have to be in the Southern Hemisphere to see Crux in all its glory. That's part of its magic and mystery. The farther south... the better, and from approximately the latitude of Brisbane, Australia, the star becomes circumpolar and can be seen every night of the year. The star Acrux marks the bottom of the Southern Cross, when you are facing south. For an observer facing south, Acrux is the star nearest the horizon. Unlike many star names, which are Arabic, Latin or Greek proper names, Acrux is simply a combination of "A" (for Alpha) and Crux as the name of the constellation. The reputation of the Southern Cross is widespread. Today this constellation is used as a symbol on the flags of several nations in the Southern Hemisphere (including NZ). It always makes me think of the song by Crosby, Stills, and Nash....

## Images











Think about how many times I have fallen  
Spirits are using me,  
larger voices callin'  
What Heaven brought you and me  
cannot be forgotten

I have been around the world  
lookin' for that woman girl)  
who knows love can endure  
And you know it will

When you see the Southern Cross for the first time  
You understand now why you came this way  
'Cause the truth you might be runnin' from is so small  
But it's as big as the promise  
The promise of a comin' day

So I'm sailing for tomorrow my dreams never-dyin'  
And my love is an anchor tied to you  
I have my ship and all her flags are a-flyin'  
She is all that I have left and music is her name