



ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Durban 'nDaba

**Monthly Newsletter of the Durban Centre -
August 2023**

August 2023...

Table of Contents

THE ONE WITH ALL THE PHOTOS.

Chairlady's Chatter	3
At the Eyepiece	4
Minutes of the Meeting	5
The Cover Image– Corona Australis	7
Basic Astronomy Course	8
Lesotho school outreach	10
Monteseel Sky Party	12
Trees and Seas	14
Books for Sale	15
Astronomy & Space News	16
Public Viewing	17
Equipment for Sale	18
Notice Board	19

Member Submissions Disclaimer

The views expressed in 'nDaba are solely those of the writer and are not necessarily the views of the ASSA Durban Centre, nor that of the Editor.

All content and images are the work of the respective copyright owners.

Chairlady's Chat.



Greetings and salutations,

Apologies for the late newsletter; sometimes life gets in the way.

What a busy July we have had. What with the basic astronomy course squeezed into 3 weeks of the school holidays, the AGM with new (mostly same old) committee, the Monteseel Conservancy gathering of about 150 people, and over 150 pupils and teachers visiting from Lesotho. Sadly we had to cancel the St Henry's pupils' event as the weather looked uncooperative by the mid-day call time; of course, after the cancellation, the skies cleared for a beautiful evening – such is life.

The basic course was well attended with about 25 people. This was smaller than in past years but, given recent disruptions to just about every aspect of life, we were glad to just get back in the proverbial saddle and see the society operating again. A couple of the usual modules had to be left out due to time constraints but we will include these as monthly talks as we go along, starting next week, 16th August, with Francois telling us about the 'First Point of Aries' (the celestial equivalent of our earthbound latitude and longitude) which is no longer in Aries. You will have to come to the meeting at St Henry's (6:30pm to finish by 8pm) to hear the twist in the tale.

July 12th saw the AGM, in person. Quite a few members joined us and even some of the course attendees (now full members for 2023 – 2024) stayed on. Thanks to all that attended, we had a quorum. There was only one new nomination accepted so, please welcome Mike Hadlow back to the committee. Mike is a past chairman and observatory officer so no stranger to the committee. The committee is still a little undersized with some taking on multiple portfolios. We have a small number of regular volunteers but we don't like to abuse their kindness too often so if anyone else would like to join an informal volunteer list for events, please let one of the committee know. No PhD in rocket science necessary and you don't have to be able to recite an astronomy text book (I certainly cannot) but listening then telling someone else is a really easy way to learn something. If you don't give us your name, we'll ask you anyway, so there is no escaping – just volunteer.

Monteseel Conservancy was on the 15th July, followed by a school group from just outside Maseru, Lesotho, on the 27th (a little more detail on both later).

It is that time of year again so, if you haven't yet, can I remind you all to please pay your annual fees. Rates and banking details are later in the newsletter. Our fees are modest and allow us to provide coffee and biscuits when the venue allows, subsidise the end of year dinner, and also allows us to do outreach and spread the love of astronomy.

Enjoy the clear'ish skies while you can; Durban summer is fast approaching – not that my thermometer has registered that yet. We'll see you all at the general meeting at St Henry's on the 16th (9th being a public holiday and the members voting to defer until the 16th).

Regards,

Debbie.



At The Eyepiece – August 2023

by Ray Field

The Moon is full on the 1st, last quarter on the 8th, new on the 16th, first quarter on the 24th and full again on the 31st. The Moon is near Saturn on the 3rd, Neptune on the 5th, Jupiter on the 8th, the Pleiades and Uranus on the 9th, Pollux on the 13th, Regulus on the 17th, Mars on the 19th, Spica on the 24th, Antares on the 25th, Pluto on the 28th and Saturn again on the 30th.

Mercury is favourably placed for observation, low over the western horizon in the evening twilight. On the 10th it will be at its highest above the western horizon.

Venus is not suitably placed for observation this month as it will be too close to the Sun in the sky.

Mars will be near the Moon on the 19th in the constellation of Virgo. Previous to that it was in Leo. As it will be twilight at these times, low above the West, caution should be used when using binoculars, to avoid looking at the Sun. Mars sets at 20:00 in the beginning of the month and just before that at the months end.

Jupiter, a very bright object in Aries is visible in the morning sky. It rises at about midnight on the 1st and by 23:00 on the 31st. Its four brightest moons were seen by Galileo. It has been recorded that the Bushmen could see the moons with their naked eye. The person showing them the moons with a telescope, was told that “your telescope is wrong, because when we look with our eyes, the moons are on the other side of Jupiter”

Saturn, in Aquarius, is near the Moon on the 3rd. It is at opposition on the 27th, when it can be seen all night. A small telescope should show its brightest and biggest moon, Titan, which is about the size of Mercury. A small telescope should pick up the “rings” of Saturn.

Uranus, in Aries, can just be seen with the naked eye under perfect conditions. A “goto” telescope can find it automatically. Like Jupiter and Neptune it is a gas giant with no solid surface visible.

Neptune, is even fainter than Uranus, and appears as a tiny blue disk under high magnification. The Moon is near Neptune on the 5th. Neptune is in Aquarius this month.

Meteor showers – No favourable showers are given in the ASSA Sky Guide 2023 for this month.

The starry sky from Durban this month. At 20:00 the “3 Crosses Region” is setting over the Southwest. Canopus has already set although the Southern Cross and its pointers are still visible. Achenar is very low and rising over the South-East. Fomalhaut and Grus the crane are above it as is the Alpha star of Pavo the peacock, known as the Peacock star.

Scorpius followed by Sagittarius are almost overhead in a rich part of the Southern Milky Way. Over the North, the very bright star “Vega” in Lyra, the harp, is just above the horizon. The 4th brightest star “Arcturus”, orange in colour is setting over the northwest.

References include the ASSA Sky Guide 2023, Norton’s Star Atlas, Philips Planisphere for 35°S, Sir Patrick Moore’s Stars of the Southern Sky and Mary Fitzgerald’s Stars of the Southern Skies.





ASSA Durban- Minutes of the Meeting

12 July 2023 - 19:00 at St Henry's Marist College

Attendees:

Present and Apologies: As per attendance sheet

Welcome (Annual General Meeting)

- x Debbie Abel welcomed the members into the Durban Annual General Meeting.

Previous meeting minutes

- x Acceptance of minutes proposed by Graham Alston and seconded by Richard Rowland
- x There were no matters arising from previous minutes.

Chairman Report

- x Meetings are held earlier to avoid the 8pm loadshedding
- x Members are asked to attend in-person meetings to justify having the meetings. Online and hybrid will still be considered.
- x Committee had some losses:
 - Amith Rajpal had to stand down as chairperson, since he now works mostly nightshifts.
 - Other committee members withdrew as they were not able to attend meetings or contribute to the activities.
 - Alan Marnitz became overwhelmed with work and had to step back.
- x Bank signatories were eventually updated, and current treasurer has access to online banking.
- x Debbie Abel thanked the committee members for their dedication and efforts throughout the difficult times.

Finance:

- x Francois Zinserling prepared and presented finance report.

Library

- x Debbie Abel presented library report on behalf of Claire Odhav. Cupboard space at school was lost due to classroom renovations. Currently all books and equipment are held at a member's home, but a new storage area, possibly with access to members, is needed. Thanks to Peter Wunderlin for looking after the books temporarily.

Observatory

- x Viewing evenings were few, due to poor weather and few available telescope assistants.
 - More trained telescope operators needed to assist with viewing nights.
 - Thanks go to John Gill for the introductory training to operate the telescope.

Media

- x ASSA Durban now boasts 378 Instagram members and 800 Facebook members. Debbie Abel presented media and publication report on behalf of Claire Odhav.



ASSA Durban- Minutes of the Meeting

Continued...

Outreach and Events

Debbie Abel presented a report on past and planned events.

Several schools and homeschools were visited (mostly in daylight) and talks were given.

Outings to Sani Pass, Mtunzini, Monteseel, are only some of the organised events we participated in.

Committee

- x Debbie Abel, Piet Strauss, Francois Zinserling, Claire Odhav and Moya O'Donoghue agreed to remain on the committee.
- x Mike Hadlow was proposed to rejoin the committee, and he accepted the nomination.
- x Sheryl Venter will step down. Debbie Abel extended a huge thank you to her for her service.
- x Committee was accepted by the AGM attendees.
- x Next committee meeting Monday 24 July.

General

- x Mike Hadlow asked what the way forward is with ASSA. Debbie Abel wishes to regrow the in-person meetings, while maintaining a hybrid presence, and see if online will remain an option.
- x ASSA has to focus to present meetings between loadshedding schedules. Renting the school generator at R750/hour is not a preferred option.
- x No public viewing this Friday. Members are encouraged to attend the Monteseel event on Saturday.
- x Inbetween our books and files are MNASSA hardcopies that ASSA National don't have. We will send them these.
- x There being no further matters to discuss, the meeting concluded at 8pm.
- x The next General Meeting will be held on **16th August 2023**
- x Venue: TBA

Meeting closed

- x Debbie closed the meeting at 20:00 and invited everyone for tea.





The Cover Image: Corona Australis

By John Gill

The Cover image:

Corona Australis is a constellation in the Southern Celestial Hemisphere. It's Latin name means "southern crown", and it is the southern counterpart of Corona Borealis, the northern crown. It is one of the 48 constellations listed by the 2nd-century astronomer Ptolemy, and it remains one of the 88 modern constellations. The Ancient Greeks saw Corona Australis as a wreath rather than a crown and associated it with Sagittarius or Centaurus. Other cultures have likened the pattern to a turtle, ostrich nest, a tent, or even a hut belonging to a rock hyrax.

Although fainter than its northern counterpart, the oval- or horseshoe-shaped pattern of its brighter stars renders it distinctive. Alpha and Beta Coronae Australis are the two brightest stars with an apparent magnitude of around 4.1. Epsilon Coronae Australis is the brightest example of a W Ursae Majoris variable in the southern sky. Lying alongside the Milky Way, Corona Australis contains one of the closest star-forming regions to the Solar System—a dusty dark nebula known as the Corona Australis Molecular Cloud, lying about 430 light years away. Within it are stars at the earliest stages of their lifespan. The variable stars R and TY Coronae Australis light up parts of the nebula, which varies in brightness accordingly.

Tech Spec:

APM 107/700 telescope on a CGX mount and QHY268m camera and processed in PixInsight. About 6 hours of integration data over two nights with red, green and blue filters.



July highlights: Astronomy Course.

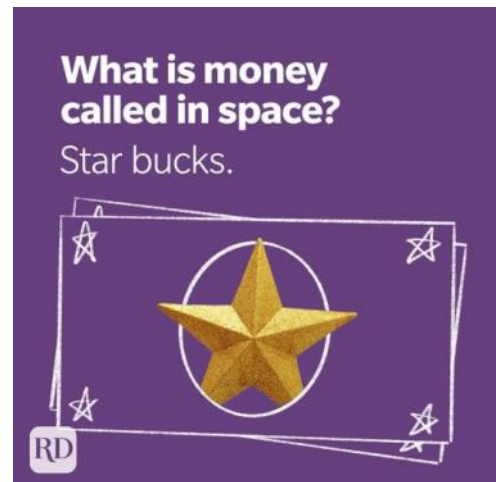
By Moya O'Donoghue.

The Basic Astronomy course was held at St Henry's Marist College in July over 5 evenings with ten very informative modules presented by our committee members and culminated with a very clear night's viewing from our main dome.

We had 25 attendees ranging across all ages who have now become fully fledged members. We received many positive comments and encourage all members to attend this course at some stage as it is extremely beneficial if you wish to further your astronomical knowledge.

Moya O'Donoghue

St Henry's Marist College, School Liaison Officer



Basic Astronomy Course continued...



July highlights: School Outreach

Visit from Lesotho school pupils, 27th July.

Sheryl Venter:



this number of astronomy visitors because it is a great risk to the school. Risk management is an important and expensive non-negotiable aspect of running an educational institution these days. We did not open the Observatory as so many students around the pool in the evening could present problems.



roll up portable screen and our ASSA owned generator and Debbie was set to present. We spaced telescopes around the field as we needed to manage long queues of almost 50 at a time.

At our request as to what the children wanted to know, the teacher promptly forwarded questions. The first time to my knowledge that a school group knows what they want from us. Debbie structured her talk around the questions. The students listened attentively, there was no fooling around. A serious and future minded set who are a credit to their parents and teachers. They were a pleasure to chat to while they waited their turn. As usual, a viewing evening is guaranteed to bring out clouds and this night wasn't an exception. To all our wonderful crew, thanks for turning up and enjoying the evening. Debbie gave an informative talk which she prepared hours before the meeting. Mike who brought the big telescope to set up for Ooma and Gary and Jack who helped Ooma. Maryanne who kindly

We were contacted by a teacher from a Lesotho school near Maseru. He found the Durban Centre online at www.astronomydurban.co.za. His school doesn't have wifi so communication was erratic. We were able to communicate economically and briefly by email and then Whats App once he was in Durban.

As the students later told us they are at a school in a semi rural area south of Maseru, Lesotho.

Their Agriculture teacher, Mr Mohakala, was determined to introduce his students to telescopes and to the potential benefits of understanding astronomy to their educational future. He pleaded so well that I coerced the committee, in the midst of all that was already going on, to agree to a special viewing evening for them.

The initial number of students coming on a short winter trip to Durban was 220. That is a lot of teenagers to accommodate on telescopes in a short space of time. And especially given the few volunteers we are able to rely on to bring and man telescopes. Moya and St Henry's Marist College have to be thanked for allowing management is an important and expensive non-negotiable aspect of running an educational institution these days. We did not open the Observatory as so many students around the pool in the evening could present problems.

We asked to use the sports field were happy to be able to do so. Thanks to Mike Hadlow's institutional memory of us using the field in the past, Moya convinced the Principal that we could pull this event off without incident.

We had never met and did not know anything about the school so I issued instructions that there was to be no bottles brought onto the field and no litter left behind as St Henry's was doing ASSA Durban Centre a great favour. This group was so eager they wanted to turn up an hour early as directly after our presentation they were on their way home. We were still setting up when they did arrive a few minutes before the appointed time of 17h30. I was delighted to find a well behaved group of girls and boys under the care of several teachers.

Though we had been allotted the back field, when we saw that the exercise group was not in its usual place near the steps, we seated the students on the steps. A



brought her own telescope. Francoise and Claire for their comforting presence and behind the scenes hard work.

Another successful school event and for those of the members who were there, highly enjoyable.

On the 8th September we are going to be at the Trees and Seas Festival. Volunteer now!!



Lesotho school continued...

Debbie Abel:

It was with some trepidation that we got a request from the Ts'akholo High school in Mafeteng district, Lesotho (about 70km south of Maseru), asking if we could host 200 high school pupils while they were on their field trip to KZN on 27th July. Some rush in where angels fear to tread so we said yes. Then we sat down and thought about how a small handful of us we were going to manage 200 teenagers – turns out our concerns were misplaced and they were an absolute pleasure (10/10 for the teachers and tutors). St Henry's kindly allowed us use of their lower sports field and 3 busloads of about 160 high school students and teachers arrived just before dark. The Moon was on the bright side (we were bound by their field trip dates and had to work with the 60% moon we had) and, again, the clouds moved in and this time didn't really go away. For a change, we gratefully accepted load shedding at 6pm as it made things slightly darker at the locale. The teacher had provided a list of questions he would like covered and these were incorporated into a short presentation by myself (powered by our new power pack, out on the field). Francois did screen duty, hanging for dear life onto the free standing screen in the gusty wind. After the presentation, viewing between the clouds was a hit and miss affair and we finished off early (full cloud, plus they were driving back to Lesotho that same night), nonetheless, it was a fruitful evening for enquiring minds. Many thanks to the team : Sheryl, Mike, Ooma, Marianne, Claire, Francois, Gary and Jack.



July Highlights: Monteseel Sky party!

Saturday 15th July, 2023

Debbie Abel.



Monteseel has become one of our annual staples. Held on the Saturday closest to new moon in June or July (we choose 2 dates because we know the weatherman has an otherwise sense of humour), this is a fund raiser for both the conservancy and ASSA. The conservancy organises and does the braais; we bring the telescopes and people in blue shirts waving green lasers.

Driving up the hill was a bit like the walk to the gallows as there was 98% thick, dark cloud; one of those moments when you wonder why you're doing this, can't I just go home where it's warm. We arrived, dressed like Eskimos, half expecting to have to cancel the viewing. Lo and behold, the weatherman got the memo and the skies cleared an hour or so later. An added bonus was, thanks to the clouds, it was considerably warmer than expected (relative terms here, for up the hill).

There were about 150 visitors enjoying the open space, fresh air, boerewors rolls and stars. Mike Hadlow gave a short presentation on what they could expect to see (I was still holding thumbs at this point because the clouds were still hanging on and I had visions of Mike's presentation being all they could see for the night) and answered some questions from the crowd. Bang on time, as the presentation ended, the clouds started dissipating and queues started forming at the various telescopes. Some of the visitors brought their own telescopes too.

The effects of the logistics expansions out Cato Ridge and Camperdown way are starting to become more evident as it was a lot lighter up on the escarpment than I recall before; there are now rows of spot lights on the horizon in most directions. On the positive side, I think we garnered a couple of new/returning members after the event; seeing the universe 'up close' certainly piques the interest and renews dulled passions.

Many thanks to Sheryl for coordinating and to Piet, Mike, Ooma, Maryanne, Gary & Jack for lugging your equipment across town and participating.



Monteseel Sky party continued...

Saturday 15th July, 2023





Upcoming events: Trees and Seas Festival!

We are participating in this wonderful event. Guests welcome and volunteers needed!

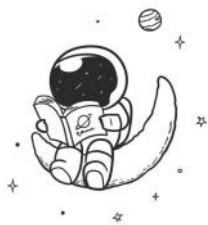
Please contact Sheryl to join in!

TREES & SEAS Festival



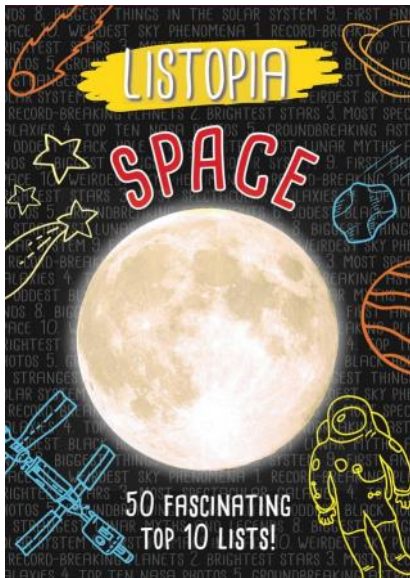
Date	Time	Event	Venue
Fri 1st Sept	18:00	Event: Sharks Babalo Mpaka from the KZN Sharks Board tells us more about the sharks that live along our east coast. He'll perform a shark dissection to show us the effects of plastic on our marine environment!	Burman Bush Scout Camp Burman Dr, Morningside, Durban, 4001
Sat 2nd Sept	18:00	Event: Bats! Leigh Richards from The Bat Interest Group of KZN is passionate about these special nocturnal visitors. We'll learn more these flying mammals and we'll use electronic bat detectors to identify specific calls!	Burman Bush Scout Camp Burman Dr, Morningside, Durban, 4001
Sun 3rd Sept	18:00	Short Film Sunday: 'Cutting the Line' by Plastic Oceans International This feature-length documentary powerfully reveals the disconnect between the global fishing industry practices and local communities actively working to mitigate its detrimental impact. Produced in partnership with Now Now Media, CUTTING THE LINE follows a kayaking tour guide and his family as they embark on a mission to rescue entangled seals along their home along the Namibian coastline and raise urgent awareness about ocean pollution. What begins as a few spur-of-the-moment rescues quickly evolves into an environmental organization that finds itself pitted against this mounting global crisis.	Burman Bush Scout Camp Burman Dr, Morningside, Durban, 4001
Mon 4th Sept	13:00	Umdloti School – Burman Bush Walk – André and team	PRIVATE EVENT
Tues 5th Sept	18:00	Event: Rocky Shore: Touchy-Feely Jone Porter from SAAMBR's Education team brings all things creepy, crawly, spiny and bumpy from our ocean's rocky shore for a close-up look at the amazing wildlife on our doorstep.	Burman Bush Scout Camp Burman Dr, Morningside, Durban, 4001
Wed 6th Sept	18:00	Event: Burman Bush at Night André takes us on a night walk through the magical bush to see what animals get up to after sunset... [Remember your torch or headlamp!]	Burman Bush Scout Camp BOOKING ESSENTIAL- info@breatheconservation.org
Thurs 7th Sept	18:00	Event: Sustainability Lindsay from SA Harvest shares about Food Waste and how we can do better; Anban from CO2 tells us about the wonders of Biochar, Black flies and Bokashi; and Kim from Nu-Eco shares about environmentally friendly cleaning products which are 100% vegan, biodegradable and kinder to the planet.	Burman Bush Scout Camp Burman Dr, Morningside, Durban, 4001
Fri 8th Sept	18:00	Event: Moon and Stars A team from the Durban chapter of The Astronomical Society of Southern Africa tells us all about our night sky. We'll enjoy demonstrations with telescopes; information about the moon and tides and there'll be multiple telescopes set-up for all to use.	Burman Bush Scout Camp Burman Dr, Morningside, Durban, 4001
Sat 9th Sept	07:00-10:00	 Envirofixers Grasslands planting We will spend a morning planting indigenous grass and learning about alien eradication from the team at Envirofixers. Enjoy a guided bird walk with one of our marine guides and kids can enjoy an eco treasure hunt	Bridgevale Park Durban North
	18:00	Event: Respect the Ocean Team from the NSRI tell us about the important work they do and shares fascinating info. about waves, currents, tides and storms.	Burman Bush Scout Camp Burman Dr, Morningside, Durban, 4001
Sun 10th Sept	07:00-10:00	 Envirofixers tree planting- we will plant a commemorative tree. Kids can enjoy a scavenger hunt, learn how to make seed bombs and kindness stones	Venue Bridgevale Park Durban North





Librarian's Corner: Books for sale.

Please whatsapp Claire on 0833955160 if you are interested.

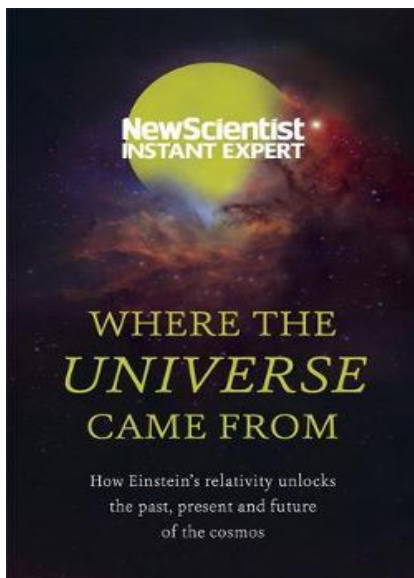


Discover 50 fascinating top-ten lists full of facts and trivia about outer space in this engaging nonfiction book!

This book contains fifty lists of the most extreme and unusual facts about the far reaches of outer space. From the closest galaxies, biggest black holes, and most dangerous planets to interesting stars, asteroids, and space missions, this pocket-sized book covers it all. Bursting with fun facts, locator maps, and vivid images, this book of top-ten lists will provide hours of entertainment for fact-hungry kids!

New!

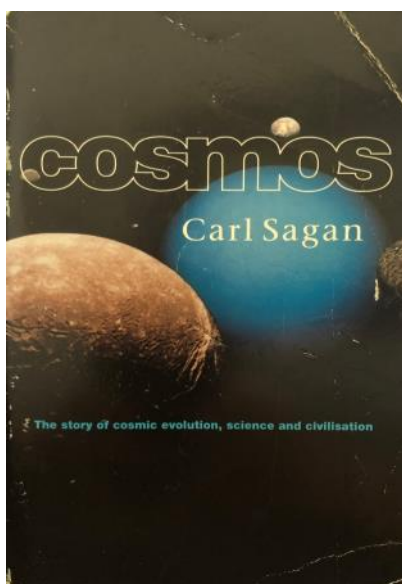
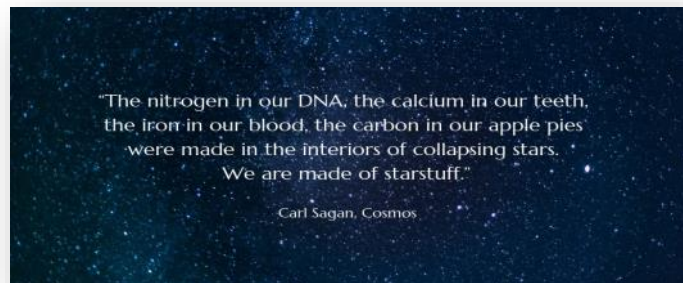
R125



In **Where The Universe Came From** leading cosmologists and **New Scientist** explain that while we have made great progress, we still have plenty of unfinished business with the cosmos. How does the dark universe shape our cosmic destiny? What is really happening near black holes?

Preloved, paperback

R50



Cosmos is one of the bestselling science books of all time. In clear-eyed prose, Sagan reveals a jewel-like blue world inhabited by a life form that is just beginning to discover its own identity and to venture into the vast ocean of space. *Cosmos* retraces the fourteen billion years of cosmic evolution that have transformed matter into consciousness, exploring such topics as the origin of life, the human brain, Egyptian hieroglyphics, spacecraft missions, the death of the Sun, the evolution of galaxies, and the forces and individuals who helped to shape modern science.

Pre-loved copy. Paperback

R40



Astronomy & Space News:

Below please find link to the latest Space News and Astronomical events for your viewing pleasure.

4 full supermoons in a row, starting July 2-3

https://earthsky.org/astronomy-essentials/4-full-supermoons-in-a-row-2023/?mc_cid=5396aa24a1&mc_eid=bdf6fa0ffe

The gravitational wave background of the universe has been heard for the 1st time

<https://www.space.com/gravitational-wave-background-universe-1st-detection>

NASA preparing for 'internet apocalypse' as probe delivers new intelligence

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/science/1784585/nasa-internet-apocalypse-parker-solar-probe-spt>

NASA releases musical "cosmic harmonies" based on telescope images of space

<https://news.sky.com/video/listen-nasa-releases-musical-cosmic-harmonies-based-on-telescope-images-of-space-12907036>

When Will Betelgeuse Explode? A Controversial New Study Says "Soon"

<https://www.inverse.com/science/study-says-betelgeuse-might-explode-soon-but-astronomers-disagree>

The Suspense is Killing Us. The Next Planet in the TRAPPIST System Gets the JWST Treatment

<https://www.universetoday.com/162014/the-suspense-is-killing-us-the-next-planet-in-the-trappist-system-gets-the-jwst-treatment/>

Single supernova looks like 4. Why?

<https://earthsky.org/space/supernova-gravitational-lensing/>

SpaceX launches 56 Starlink satellites, lands rocket at sea (video)

https://www.space.com/spacex-starlink-launch-group-5-12?utm_source=notification

Scientists discover continent that had been missing for 375 years

<https://www.indy100.com/science-tech/scientists-discover-missing-continent-2661543283>

A White Dwarf is Starting to Crystallize into Diamond

<https://www.universetoday.com/161929/a-white-dwarf-is-starting-to-crystallize-into-diamond/>

Lightning on Jupiter! Juno sees a green bolt

<https://earthsky.org/space/lightning-on-jupiter-juno-mission-green-bolt/>

Second 'Tatooine' multiplanetary system discovered

<https://earthsky.org/space/tatooine-circumbinary-planets-exoplanets/>





Public Viewing Roster ASSA Durban



Dome Master	Email	Assistant	Telescope Volunteer	Public Viewing
TBC	-	TBC	TBC	18 August
Mike Hadlow	Mike@astronomydurban.co.za	TBC	TBC	15 September
Mike Hadlow	Mike@astronomydurban.co.za	TBC	TBC	13 October

PUBLIC VIEWING:

Public viewing is on site at the Marist Brothers St Henry's School in the dome and around the pool area; usually on the first Friday evening closest to the New Moon.

Please note there is a roster with a booking system. Once the number of telescopes are confirmed, Individuals will be contacted to confirm dates and times. Please book your place!

NOTIFY OBSERVATORY MANAGER:

Members interested in attending the above viewing evenings and/or becoming involved in assisting with the viewing evenings, please send your names to Mike Hadlow on cell number 083 326 4085, or via email: Mike@astronomydurban.co.za

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED:

Volunteers to please identify which role you are willing to assist with, Dome Master, Viewing Assistant or a Telescope Volunteer. After which, attendance will be confirmed and viewing dates will be announced.

Viewing Assistant - Learning about the new telescope, assisting with the viewing evenings and viewing members as required.

Telescope Volunteers - Members willing to bring their telescopes to the viewing evenings to set up around the pool for public viewing.

VOLUNTEERS TUTORIAL:

John Gill will organise another afternoon / evening to train volunteers as Dome Masters and the use of the large telescope. Date to be confirmed and viewing dates will be announced ASAP.

Volunteers to submit names to the Mike Hadlow on Mike@astronomydurban.co.za

Viewing Contact:	Phone	Email
Mike Hadlow	083 326 4085	Mike@astronomydurban.co.za

For Sale:

Celestron LCM114 Telescope and Mount



Equipment includes:

- 3 x eyepieces
- Barlow
- External battery,
- Laser pointer
- Travel case

Excellent condition

Equipment location - Durban

Contact John Gill for information:

- **John Gill 083 378 8797**
- John.gill013@gmail.com



Celestron 8" Edge HD Telescope

- Celestron 2" and 1.25" diagonals
- Celestron Luminos 2.5 barlow for 1.25" and 2" eyepieces
- Celestron 1.25" plossl 40mm eyepiece
- Celestron .7 focal reducer
- Televue 2" Panoptic 35mm eyepiece
- T-Ring and T-Adapter for Canon EOS camera
- Extra small and large dovetails
- Finder scope 9×50
- Dew shield
- Bahtinov mask

Excellent condition

Equipment in Durban



Contact John Gill for information:

- **John Gill 083 378 8797**
- John.gill013@gmail.com

Price: R 50 000



Notice Board:

MEETINGS:

- NEXT GENERAL MEETING to be held in person, on [16th August](#) @ 6:30 pm in the science lab, upstairs.
- PUBLIC VIEWING - please refer to website under the tab "Viewing and Events" for any updates, dates & public viewing, please click here: <https://astronomydurban.co.za/events-viewing/>

MNASSA:

- Monthly Notes of the Astronomical Society of Southern Africa.
- Available at www.mnassa.org.za to download your free monthly copy.

NIGHTFALL:

- Fantastic astronomy magazine. Check it out on the ASSA national website
- assa.saao.ac.za/about/publications/nightfall/

MEMBERSHIP FEES & BANKING:

- Membership Subscriptions were due on the 2023-07-01 for the 2023-2024 financial year. PLEASE pay your fees ASAP via EFT - Banking details below.

Membership fees indicated below:

- Single Members: **R 210:00**
- Family Membership: **R 250:00** for family membership.
- Under 18 members: **Free to join meetings**
- Cash/Cheques: **Please note: NO cheques or cash accepted - Cash deposits incur bank charges.**
- Account Name: **ASSA Natal Centre**
- Bank: **Nedbank**
- Account No. **1352 027 674**
- Branch: **Nedbank Durban North**
- Code: **135 226**
- Reference: **SUBS 23-24 SURNAME and FIRST NAME**
- Proof of Payment: treasurer@astronomydurban.co.za

RESIGNATIONS from ASSA:

Please notify the Secretary at secretary@astronomydurban.co.za stating your wish to resign from the society.

COMMITTEE POSITIONS & CONTACTS:

• Chairlady	Debbie Abel	Debbie@astronomydurban.co.za
• Vice Chair	Mike Hadlow	Mike@astronomydurban.co.za
• Secretary	Francois Zinserling	Secretary@astronomydurban.co.za
• Treasurer	Francois Zinserling	Treasurer@astronomydurban.co.za
• Guest Speaker Liaison	Piet Strauss	Piet@astronomydurban.co.za
• Observatory & Equipment	Mike Hadlow	Mike@astronomydurban.co.za
• Observatory Assistant	TBC	
• Publicity & Librarian	Claire Odhav	Claire@astronomydurban.co.za
• Outreach	Sheryl Venter	Sheryl@astronomydurban.co.za
• St. Henry's Marist College Liaison	Moya O`Donoghue	Moya@astronomydurban.co.za
• 'nDaba Newsletter	Corinne Gill	Corinne@astronomydurban.co.za
• Website & Facebook	TBC	

All the essentials:

