



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ASTRONOMY (IYA 2009) **(Limpopo Astronomy Outreach & Soutpansberg Astronomy Club / January to June 2009)**

INTRODUCTION

The Soutpansberg Astronomy Club (est. 2002) has been involved in astronomy in Limpopo Province, South Africa for a number of years. Based in the town of Louis Trichardt 100 km south of the Zimbabwe / South African border in the northern Limpopo Province, the Club has enjoyed substantial growth since inception and has over 200 amateur and professional astronomers, interested persons and schools, who receive the Club's monthly newsletter and related astronomy information, some are as far as Australia, Sweden and the USA. The newsletter is also available online at www.foton.co.za/Soutpansberg_Astronomy_Club.htm, the web site is sponsored by Foton Optoelectronics manufacturer of the Foton AstroCam used during some of the outreach events during the year.

The Soutpansberg Astronomy Club has been prominent in organizing astronomy related projects in and around Louis Trichardt and with IYA 2009 it was only logical that we would continue to do so and include the whole Province. This was made possible by a grant from the South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA) a business unit of the National Research Foundation (NRF), and The South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO) who kindly donated brochures, posters and various other handout material during the course of the year.

A number of local businesses were also instrumental in assuring the success of this initiative with Office National Maranga Phanda, the main business sponsor, donating 300 MoonScopes, stationary and equipment to the Limpopo Astronomy Outreach Project. The Zoutpansberger and its sister newspaper, The Mirror, made Southern Star Wheels (*designed by Auke Slotegraaf*) available to thousands of its readers via inserts in their newspapers over a period of four weeks, while Leach Printers assisted with the printing and laminating of Edward Foster's display of "Fossils, Light and Time".

A full list of contributors can be found on the last page.

Kos Coronaios
Project Manager, Limpopo Astronomy Outreach
Chairman, Soutpansberg Astronomy Club

We are all part of the Universe - what happens up there affects us down here, every day of our lives.

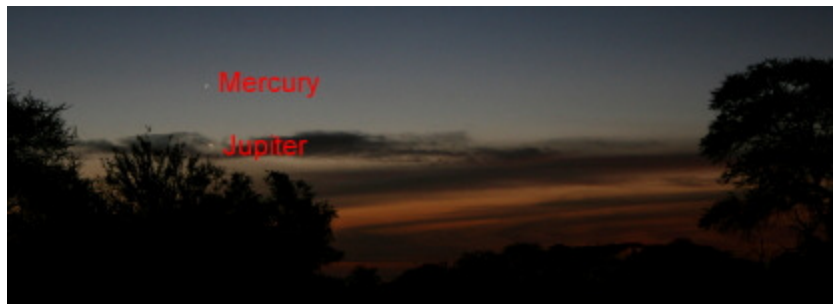
JANUARY 2009



The Moon crossing in front of the Sun on the morning of the 26th January during the partial eclipse was the official start of IYA activities for some of us. For others, watching the first sunrise on the plateau in Sutherland heralded the

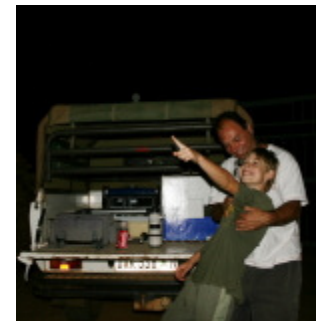


beginning of the International Year of Astronomy. Image on the right (courtesy W. Koorts) shows the last sunset on the 31st December 2008 and the keen stargazers dwarfed between two giant domes housing the telescopes in Sutherland as they await the International Year of Astronomy.



Sunset on New Years day the first one in 2009 saw Mercury $1\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}$ above Jupiter as can be seen in the image above. Both the planets were visible till mid-month shortly after sunset.

The largest full Moon later in the month gave me my first opportunity to practice packing equipment (telescope, generator etc.) for future outreach events as the overcast weather at home had James and I heading over the Soutpansberg Mountains in search of clear skies. The two images below show the difference in size between the largest full Moon in 2009 on the 11th January and the smallest one on the 7th July 2009. The third image shows the joy of clear skies and spotting the largest Full Moon of the year.



The Club's first astronomy evening held on Saturday the 24th of January came and went with only a handful of members in attendance. Some of those New Year resolutions and good intentions were already beginning to wane!

FEBRUARY 2009

Comet C/2007 N1 (Lulin) made its closest approach to Earth in February 2009 and on the 28th of the month during the Club's second astronomy evening of the year a few lucky observers saw it passing close to the bright star Regulus. Comet Lulin orbits the Sun in the opposite direction to the planets and its return from the outer reaches of the Solar System will be in over one thousand year's time.



The comet's closest approach to Earth, 0.41 a.u. (61 million km), occurred on February 24th 2009, when it reached a naked eye magnitude of +5. Speeding along at just over 5° per day it was enough to show obvious motion during a short telescopic observing session and was an easy binocular target from light polluted sites.



The view in the image above that we all had during the second observation evening of the year while looking southwards. Prominent is the Milky Way as are the two galaxies, the Large and Small Magellanic Clouds, the "Pointers" rising above the horizon as well as the Coalsack, Southern Cross and Eta Carinae Nebula. The Diamond and a section of the False Cross are also visible.

Northern hemisphere viewers will kill for this view and I quote from an astrophotographer in Denmark who visited the region. Writing from a lodge in Mussina, part of his email reads: ["my first glimpse of the Magellan Clouds shortly after sunset took my breath away. I was so overwhelmed I sat down and nearly burst into tears"](#) He shall remain anonymous, but I know exactly how he felt!

And in February there was another good reason why we should often look skywards.

[For the first time ever, two large satellites were completely destroyed when they collided in orbit.](#) This happened on Tuesday the 10th when Kosmos 2251 crashed into Iridium 33 approximately 800 km over northern Siberia. There are more than 18 000 separate man-made objects and debris "out there", so we are making a good job of littering space as well as our own planet!

MARCH 2009

March saw the now popular annual event “**Earth Hour**” receive much deserved publicity a week prior to “**lights off**”. It was fantastic to see the media, radio and print coming to the “candlelit party”. The crescent Moon setting behind the Soutpansberg Mountains at the start of “Earth Hour” on the 28th of March can be seen on the right.

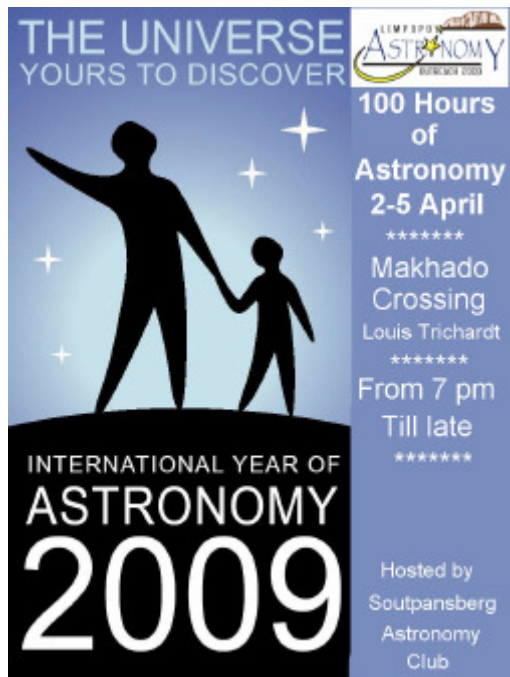


Earth Hour originated in Sydney, but under no circumstances can those Aussies beat us! We needed as many South Africans as possible to **Sign Up** and **Switch Off** which was the call that was extremely well received. Hope even more people come on board in March 2010.

And around the rest of the country information about upcoming IYA events was being sent out via emails and the media.

With "100 Hours of Astronomy" around the corner, below is an extract from one of the emails the Soutpansberg Astronomy Club sent out in March. Text from www.psychohistorian.org

April promises to be a hectic month for astronomy events and in the spirit of IYA 2009, so it should be.



Below are some of the events taking place locally and nationally.

Don't forget "**100 Hours of Astronomy**" starting on Thursday the 2nd April. If you are traveling in the country, here are some of the events happening around South Africa:

In **Stellenbosch**, Auke Slotegraaf, Edward Foster, Lynnette Eygelaar, Martin Lyons, Dieter Willasch, Rudie Loots, and others, as well as "Lorenzo" and "Maphefo" will be on the Braak on Friday, and on the beach in the **Strand** on Saturday.

The ASSA Cape Centre is putting on a "**Camp's Bay Stargazing**" event on Saturday.

At the **Observatory in Cape Town**, an Astronomy Camp school sleepover (grades 5-7) is on offer on Friday, and on Saturday, the SAAO is hosting "Yuri's Night" from 17:00 to late. This jam-packed event promises a bring-and-braai, rocketry displays, talks on HartRAO and space technology, satellite spotting and of course star gazing.

Just outside Wellington, at the **Wamakersvallei Voortrekker camp site**, Willie Koorts, Serena Ingamells, Carol Botha and members of OOG (the Orion Observation Group) are presenting talks and telescope viewing on Saturday.

Jurg in **Sutherland** is putting on a Kambrokind Stargazing event, from 2 - 5 April (19:00 to midnight), where a short lecture is followed by star gazing through his three GOTO telescopes. I wonder if the SAAO-Sutherland has anything planned?

The Soutpansberg Astronomy Club will be at Makhado Crossing in **Louis Trichardt**. Astronomy presentations and the "BEAST" to view the Moon, Saturn etc. will be on offer.

In **Middelburg**, on Saturday (until the wee hours of Sunday morning) there'll be telescope viewing . There will even be an event on **Gough Island** for those with wanderlust.

WOW! THINGS WERE CERTAINLY PICKING UP!

During the Club's astronomy evening on Saturday the 22nd March, a few of the deepsky objects we looked at were M68, the planetary nebula Ghost of Jupiter, Tarantula Nebula, the Leo Triplet, Sombrero Galaxy and of course Comet Lulin which was still a bright apparition in our evening skies. The image below right shows the comet next to the 3rd magnitude star delta Geminorum on the 16th of March.

Towards the end of the month, the Moon's close approach to M45 on the 30th in the image below left went unnoticed in our region due to the overcast conditions. Next time you happen to glance up at our closest neighbor in space and appreciate its beauty, bear in mind how it affects us down here. The tides, our seasons, animal, plant and mammal life owe a continuing debt to our Moon - and maybe, just maybe, one day soon, our exploration of the universe will start from there.



APRIL 2009

IYA 2009 was gaining momentum and one of the year's first truly global outreach events, the 100 Hours of Astronomy, was due to commence in April. The main aim of this world-wide event was to have as many people as possible look through a telescope just as Galileo did 400 years ago.

100 HOURS OF ASTRONOMY (2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th April 2009)

The Soutpansberg Astronomy Club, Ladies Circle No 4 and Soutpansberg Tourism set up an astronomy display, telescopes and a big screen over the four-day event at Makhado Crossing in Louis Trichardt to celebrate the global 100 Hours of Astronomy.



The telescopes and display were a draw-card with inquisitive visitors coming over to enquire on proceedings and looking at the display. Everyone was encouraged to come back for an evening of stargazing. On the agenda each night were views of the first quarter Moon, Saturn and some of the brighter deep sky objects. The weather over the four day event remained reasonably clear with conditions affected mainly by the light pollution from the car park and the proximity of Louis Trichardt town.



Handout material that was available included ASSA membership forms, various SAAO pamphlets and a flyer with some relevant Moon facts. One element of the display during the evenings also included astronomy clips and a slide show running in the background while we were enjoying views at the eyepiece. A data projector was used to show these on a big screen and some of the favourites were Carl Sagan's *Cosmic Year* and the SAAO presentation on Sutherland and SALT. Utilising the big screen to show astronomy clips was great for answering questions such as how far, how big, how many, to larger groups.

Telescopes were set up in the parking lot near two popular restaurants where adults and children were astounded by images of Saturn and the Moon through the telescope. Unfortunately the parking lights played havoc with the seeing conditions and sometimes just to find Saturn through a green haze of florescent light was difficult as the planet was a couple of degrees to the left of one of the bright lights.

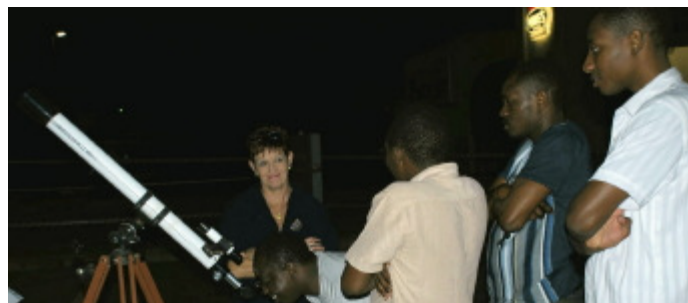
A popular target was alpha Centauri and visitors were impressed to see the separation of the two stars increase with increasingly higher magnification. To further engage the audience, we asked the adults and older kids to identify lunar features they were observing by using the *Virtual Moon* software.

The last evening's viewing on Sunday night was certainly the best. We had around 30 people who had specifically come to the centre to view through the telescope as the shopping centre was closed with only one restaurant operating and they were extremely quiet. Once again the Moon and Saturn were on the agenda. Saturn's moons Titan and Rhea were easily visible and there were a number of "ooohs" and "wow's" when they were spotted. It was interesting to note that most often the folks looking at the planet were interested in seeing the rings and nothing else. When asked if they saw any stars or moons near the planet they would say no and I would send them back to the eyepiece to look again.



A special thanks to everyone who helped operate and fix telescopes, hand out brochures and information, sign up new members and make sure that the four evenings ran smoothly, including the following members from Ladies Circle No 4: Pam Schoeman, Sandy van Niekerk, Belinda Mellows, Sonel Prinsloo and Pam McCabe as well as Michelle Goldschmidt from Louis Trichardt Chamber of Commerce & Tourism, Gavan and Cuan Watson who all gave up their evenings to help with the event.

Over 350 of the public in Louis Trichardt had a look through a telescope for the first time.



ASTRONOMY in THE KRUGER NATIONAL PARK:

The Soutpansberg Astronomy Club was invited by Birdlife Soutpansberg to join them for a weekend of game viewing, birding and **more importantly to share astronomy with their Club members and overnight guest's at Punda Maria Camp** on the third weekend of April 2009.

Two fantastic days and nights on the 18th and 19th were spent in the northern part of Kruger at Punda Maria and Pafuri. Beautiful scenery, game viewing, birding, astronomy, watching the Moon rise at 2am accompanied by all the wild sounds, it was just great to be in the bush.



On the astronomy side, Saturday night was a winner. Serenaded by lions calling for most of the evening we had clear skies, no wind and most importantly, not many lights. Overnighting guests filtered down to the camp-site to join our group for an evening of astronomy which included various presentations, an astronomy display and of course telescope viewing.

Mike Davies, a marine biologist on a two week trip to the KNP, was coerced into giving us a presentation and slide show of his experiences on a Norwegian krill harvesting vessel (very, very interesting). We were joined by students and teachers from The Southern Cross School (on a field trip to Kruger) and later the ranger on duty for the evening's game drive and her guests. As the midnight hour approached, I realised that I had not eaten, all par for the course when one is having a really good time.



After packing up I climbed into the tent and fell asleep listening to the roar of lions, only to be woken up again by the same sound in the early morning. Early game viewing drives were rewarded with a pride of lions camped out at the entrance of the rest camp.

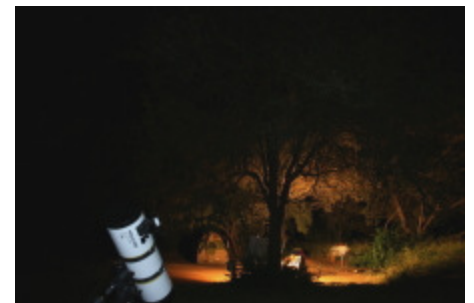


Some of the highlights included fantastic views of the Leo Triplet, Centaurus A, image on the left, Omega Centauri, on the right, Sombrero Galaxy, Saturn and the Milky Way as Scorpio rose higher and higher above the horizon. A breeding herd of elephant with a couple of youngsters not more than a week old, a massive herd of buffalo (hence the lions), a bataleur eating an unfortunate tree squirrel and a kudu cow with her young calf provided the wildlife experience. We had just had a new addition to the family (Mary had a foal two weeks prior, a little filly that we named Mardi) and it was interesting to watch the behaviour of the two different species and see how similar the mothers and babies behaved when suckling.

Stellar events for the month ended on the 24th with the Club's astronomy evening which also included observing the Pi Puppids meteor shower.

Few things inspire me more than the night sky. The beauty, complexity and vastness of the world beyond Earth enralls me with an urgency that sometimes makes it difficult to understand why others don't feel the same way.

(Auke Slotegraff: Director Deep Sky Section of the Astronomical Society of Southern Africa).



MAY 2009

A trip to **Ridgeway Independent** on the 13th of May to look for sunspots proved futile as the solar disk was devoid of any sunspot activity and remained so for most of the year. However, this proved immaterial as during break time most of the 120 pupils and a few of the teachers were fascinated by the view of the Sun and collected handout material about our closest star. The visit coincided with the Grade 5 Challenge Day where learners bring various eats to sell during break, but most of them could be found queuing up at the telescope.



A day later visiting **Louis Trichardt Primary School** did not yield much on the surface of the Sun either.



And on the evening of the 22nd of May teaming up with Round Table Zoutpansberg 66 during their **“Winters Night”** campaign collecting blankets and food for the some of the needy in Louis Trichardt.





The Zoutpansberger and Mirror newspapers led the way in advertising IYA 2009 events and related information during the year. Both the papers were instrumental in informing the public about astronomy evenings that the Club had each month and any astronomy related activities, including the reporting of the bright meteor spotted over the region on the 21st November 2009.

On May Day a few of us had the opportunity to watch the disappearance and reappearance of the 4th mag. star delta Cancri behind the Moon. Occultation times were 15:49:39.1 UT (disappearance) and 17:11:46.7 UT (reappearance). The image on the right was taken minutes prior to the event and the star can be seen on the top right. The sky was still bright when we started observing the first quarter Moon and it was lovely to see the star suddenly appear as the sky got progressively darker.



The Club's monthly astronomy/observation evening in May was held on Saturday the 16th. Breaking with tradition we did not utilise the telescope during the course of the evening except for observing Saturn. The famous rings reached their maximum tilt for the year, before closing up to be seen edge on in September and we certainly did not want to miss that. Instead naked eye and binocular observing was used to learn more about some of the constellations visible to us. This is an ideal way for novices, kids and adults alike, to learn their way around the constellations and to give experienced observers the opportunity to identify some of the lesser looked at constellations.

Using the ASSA's Deepsky Section observing project, "**Discover**", we utilised specially prepared charts to point out some of the bright stars making up these constellations and mark several of the non-stellar or deepsky objects within them using binoculars and naked eye observing. The charts can be downloaded at <http://www.psychohistorian.org/>

JUNE 2009

The last weekend of May found me heading to Johannesburg for Scope X, the annual Telescope and Astronomical Exhibition hosted by the Johannesburg Centre of the Astronomical Society of Southern Africa held at the Military History Museum in Saxonwold. The Foton AstroCam was also due to be completed and collected, followed by an early Monday morning visit to SAASTA's headquarters to pick-up the IYA 2009 banner, "Sibo in Space" books and various other equipment for the first outreach event towards the end of the month, prior to heading back to Louis Trichardt.



The first Scope X was held in 2002 the same year that the Soutpansberg Astronomy Club was formed but this would only be my second visit and I was certainly looking forward to greeting astronomy friends, meeting new ones, attending presentations by acclaimed amateur and professional astronomers, looking at the telescope displays and all things astronomical. The stargazing in the evening is a must and offers the public the opportunity of looking through different types of telescopes. If you are in the market for one, don't miss this chance every year.

An enjoyable day was spent walking around the various displays meeting and chatting to old faces and some new ones (Chris, Gerrit, Bob, Ed), watching Auke and his troops finish the last of the 300 MoonScopes and eagerly waiting for the Sun to set so the evenings star gazing could begin. Very impressed with Edward Foster's display of Fossils, Light and Time a journey back 2.1 billion years, I asked him if it would be possible for me to utilize the posters for my outreach project. He very kindly agreed but unfortunately would not part with his collection of rock types and fossils; I would have to find my own!!

The plan was to leave shortly after the start of the stargazing and meet a few friends to watch the final of the Super 14 game played at Loftus, but with clear skies loads of telescopes to choose from and good company I left well after the Bulls had thrashed the opposition.



On the four hour trip back home (unfortunately without the AstroCam, it would only be ready the following week), I pondered at the task ahead of organizing the first outreach at Tshipise and Pafuri at the end of the month, putting the display and material together and making it all finally happen.

One of the more popular races on the South African cycling calendar is [the annual Kremetart Cycle Race](#) which was held on Saturday the 6th June. With hundreds of cyclists arriving to register the day before the race it was a perfect opportunity once again to setup up the astronomy display and telescope near the point of registration. Prior to the "big guns" starting early on Saturday morning for the 3 stage race, the youngsters had their chance to compete on Friday afternoon.



MoonScopes arrive in Louis Trichardt.

The Club's astronomy evening on the 13th of the month was moved ahead one week to the 20th and a couple of new faces were present, braving the cold as we looked at the constellation Libra and some of the deep sky objects in it. The Foton AstroCam had finally landed and would be used successfully for the first time during the Club's astronomy evening.

On 11th June we visited Ridgeway Independent School where 22 learners couldn't wait for the Sun to set and try out the Southern Star Wheel. Designed by Auke Slotegraaf and first used for Astronomy Month in 2008, it has become a popular activity during our outreach events. It comes with four different kinds of inserts (bright stars, star lore, constellations etc.) it is an ideal way for kids and adults alike to learn about our South African Sky.



LIMPOPO ASTRONOMY OUTREACH HITS THE ROAD

26th and 27 June, Tshipise and Pafuri

On Friday the 26th around lunch time James, Cuan and I headed north over the Soutpansberg mountain range towards Tshipise and our first stop for the weekend's outreach programme. The display and telescope were set up at the entrance to the resort to cater to the local population and the resort's staff and guests. With the school holidays under way the popular destination was packed with holiday makers and kids. James (my son) and Cuan, a grade 9 pupil from Louis Trichardt High School, realized that unfortunately this weekend was not going to be a holiday for them!

Taking turns to man the telescope and display until well after 10pm, they were both quite exhausted by the time we called it a night. Prior to packing up we confirmed with the resort's management that we would be spending one more evening as there was a lot of interest shown by guests arriving late but too tired to come and view the display and look through the telescope. A few minor gremlins with the equipment were sorted out during the course of the evening and fine tuned the next day.



The following morning we enjoyed a delicious breakfast at the restaurant and soon afterwards the display and telescope were set up again at its entrance. This was in close proximity to the shops and we were well rewarded with a continuous flow of kids and adults including camp staff during most of the day.

Information on the Sun, Saturn, Jupiter, the Solar System and Moon was handed out and everyone passing by had a view of the Sun through the telescope. A lovely book by Ginny Stone, "Sibo in Space", was a hit with the children and these were quickly snapped up.

The IYA 2009 banner and telescope were definitely crowd pullers and one could see the kids pointing and asking their parents if they could come over and see what it was all about. At around 14:30 I moved the display to the area that we would be setting up the telescope for the evening. I let James and Cuan relax for a while and they decided to go for a swim and play some putt-putt before the evening's viewing started. I also took a break and watched the first half of the second test between the Springboks and touring Irish Lions.



By 17:00 we were once again ready and my wife (Sarah) and Christopher (3 year old son) joined us from Louis Trichardt to lend a helping hand. This allowed Cuan to man a spotting scope trained on the Moon as I operated the telescope and camera while Sarah assisted. Beautiful views of the Moon and Saturn were projected on the screen and I kept a running commentary on what we were viewing. Various astronomy clips were utilized during the evening allowing us to take a few minute's break.

The evening was extremely well attended and ended around 22:30 with only a handful of people remaining as temperatures plummeted to a couple of degrees above zero. The die-hards were shown a few of the more popular targets such as M4, M6, M8, M20, Omega Centauri, Jewel Box and Alpha Crucis through the eyepiece before we all called it a night. A late supper followed by some well earned sleep was eagerly anticipated as we packed up for the evening.



Sunday morning started with a quick cup of coffee before we headed east towards Pafuri (northern Kruger National Park). About 20km out of Tshipise a vibration and grating noise forced a halt to the journey and a blown tyre on the trailer had to be changed. On arrival at Pafuri River Camp ingredients for brunch were handed over to Robert the chef who cooked us a lovely meal of bacon eggs and sausages. A walk along the river followed by an hour or so of relaxing at the camp was most welcome prior to meeting our interpreter Nelson at the community centre in Bende Mutale.



The centre is still in the process of being built and the floor was mopped in preparation of our arrival but unfortunately it was still wet when we started so the kids carried in bricks to use as chairs. From 15:30 to 17:00, 50 Southern Star Wheels were completed by the kids and shortly after sunset we were joined by Edward who helped me translate as we showed a 70 plus strong crowd views of the Moon & Saturn on the screen. A question and answer session followed by various astronomy related clips showing the different size of the planets and stars ended the evening's entertainment.



While packing up a small group of visitors to Pafuri River Camp arrived and I gave them a short presentation of what's up with views through the telescope. All keen birders, they now have another use for their binoculars. All-in-all a successful start for Limpopo Astronomy Outreach and we were all looking forward to the next one.

A few of the comments so far:

- Have you stuck a picture of Saturn there? As a few adults looked at Saturn through the telescope.
- Does it leak? (So many holes on the lunar surface).
- Is that the Sun? But it's all black! (Not quite getting a good view of the solar disk at the eyepiece).
- Why don't you include a BB gun with your equipment? (Referring to taking out bright lights).
- My, but its so big, do you take it out often? (Referring to the 10 inch reflector).

In the next edition:

- We visit Elim for some more outreach.
- Meet the Sumbandila kids of Ridgeway College.
- We greet a couple of "aliens" at the Letaba Show in Tzaneen.
- Go to that lovely spot in the Waterberg, Vaalwater.

In the meantime

- Visit the two sites below for more images and astronomy outreach in SA.

http://www.psychohistorian.org/astronomy/outreach_events.php and <http://www.astronomy2009.org>

Some of the **HIGHS** & a few of the

lows in the first six months.

The response from **EVERYONE** when they heard what we were planning was just **WONDERFUL**.

Outreach project not up and running for the partial eclipse of the Sun in January.

Eventually managing to photograph the largest **FULL MOON** of IYA.

Poor turn out at the Club's January astronomy evening, but it's not numbers that count, right?

The overwhelming response to **EARTH HOUR & 100 HOURS OF ASTRONOMY** was just **AWESOME**.

HORROR at not having enough handout material and scissors to cut out the Southern Star Wheels!

Recipients of the Clubs' newsletter grow from under 100 to hundreds and growing....

Approval of grant for the Limpopo Astronomy Outreach Project.

The kids and teachers at Bende Mutale.

And just SHARING ASTRONOMY with everyone was A HIGH.

A huge thank you to the following individuals, businesses & employees, assistants, media and everyone who has sponsored helped, donated, discounted etc. **YOU** are the ones who made this happen. Your support, involvement, help, advice and contributions during the year have been **“astronomical”**.

SAASTA (South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement)

SAAO (South African Astronomical Observatory)

OFFICE NATIONAL Maranga Phanda ZOUTPANSBERGER / MIRROR

LEACH PRINTERS

Maphefo Chauke (SAASTA)

Kate Coppen (Letaba Show)

Laura van Zyl (logos)

Dr. Kevin Govender (SAAO)

Edward Foster (Biospoor)

Round Table 66

Christian Hettlage (SAAO)

Die Informant

Phalapale FM

Willie Koorts (Editor MNASSA)

Kruger Park Times

Capricorn Voice

Cedric Jacobs (SAAO)

Kruger 2 Canyon

Die Bosvelder

Dr. Claire Flanagan (JHB Planetarium)

Kwevoel

SAFM

Ian Purdon (Maranga Phanda)

Bulletin

Magda Streicher

Cuan Watson (Louis Trichardt High School) Pam Mc Cabe (Maranga Phanda)

Spur (Savannah Mall)

Anton van Zyl (Zoutpansberger)

Mogol Post

Prithi (Jacaranda Rmfm)

Phatu (Louis Trichardt High School)

Prof. Jan. Crafford (Univen)

Letaba Herald

Janetta van Alleman (Jacaranda Rmfm)

Ridgeway Independent School

Elim High School

Andries van Zyl (Zoutpasberger)

Phalaborwa Voice

Alicia Toumilovitch

Greg, Beverly & Charles (Leach Printers)

Polokwane Observer

Ladies Circle No 4

Sandy van Nierkerk (Pafuri River Camp)

The Post

Dr. Joseph Kirui (Univen)

Maxims Guest House (Tzaneen)

Limpopo Beat

Jana (Homenet)

Marle (Forever Resorts Tshipise)

Ray Gordon (Waterberg Academy)

Univen Radio

Bronwyn Egan (University of Limpopo)

Savannah Mall management

The Citizen

Kirsten Lucas (Mitchell House)

Nellie Erasmus (NMG)

Letaba Show organizers

Ocean Basket (Savannah Mall)

Bende Mutale Community Centre

James Coronaios

Mulalo Ramarumon (SABC)

Ane Schoeman (Makhado Crossing)

Makhado Fm

Leigh Bristow (Ridgeway College)

Dr. Philip Calcott (Waterberg Cottages)

Vhembe Herald

Mike Burton (Waterberg Academy)

Oleg Toumilovitch (Foton Optoelectronics)

Univen security (switching lights off)

Sandile Rikhotso (University of Limpopo)

Johanna Motshodi (Boschdraai Primary)

Mvelelo organizers

Auke Slotegraaf (psychohistorian.org)

Sarah-Jane Coronaios

Solly (Maranga Phanda)

ASSA (Astronomical Society of Southern Africa)

I apologize if I have forgotten anybody, please forgive my lapse, I have received so much assistance from so many people that I am bound to have left out someone.

To everyone who has been part of this IYA project, visited the astronomy display, looked through the telescope, all of you, young and old, parents and children, students and teachers, we sincerely hope that you have enjoyed yourselves and may your interest in science and astronomy grow and grow and grow.

Kos, Cuan, Phatu, James & Sarah