The SAAO outreach programme

Dr. Nicola Loaring

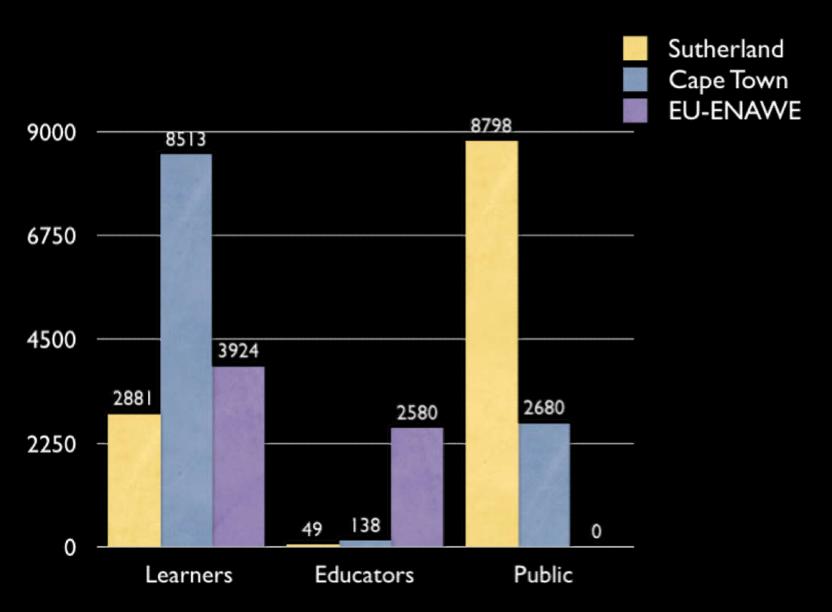
Alms of the SAAO outreach programme

STEM education

Public engagement

Technology transfer Socio-Economic development

The Numbers!



Resource Development

A cultural story package for teachers based on Southern African Cultural Astronomy. (Learner ages 4-10 yr).

- The Moon, the Hare and the Tortoise
- The Hopeless Hunter
- The Crocodile who swallowed the Sun
- The book "Seasons"
- •A mobile steel protractor for developing Human Orrey was constructed and it will be used draw up a human Orrey at schools in Sutherland and Cape Town. (Ockert Strydom, SALT/SAAO)
- Audio-visual material (Bruno Letarte)





Teacher Training



year to date: 2767

Astronomy April 16-19 2012 Roadshow

- Sutherland, Williston and Fraserburg Schools. Focus group was Gr 8 & 9
- Planetarium show with CT science centre, teacher workshops, star gazing. Computer workshop at Sutherland community centre.
- Reached a total of 274 people.





Astro Essay Competition

- Gr 10-12 learners in WC invited to write an essay:
 - What I love most about Astronomy
 - What does Astronomy brings to Civil Society
 - A discussion of one historical important event
 - The influence of stars and planets on culture
- Final presentations held September
 13, 2012 at SAAO.
- The overall winner was a tie between Leandra Geldenhuys and Robin Bosman



Astronomy quiz



The quiz is now offered online.

It is timed, and able to schedule the quiz to maintain fairness

Will allow schools' access from any location (with internet from a computer or smart phone).

Intend rolling out to the rest of Western Cape and Northern Cape next year.

To date the maximum number of schools reached in the WC has been around 100.

We intend reaching ALL schools in the WC now (many hundreds).

SciFest 2012

Total of 338 learners attended workshops

- •Workshops: Cosmic Collisions (Cedric & Buzani), Sunshine & Sunbeams (Troshini) and Astro Rocks (Sivuyile)
- •Total visits to Exhibitions (Thembela), 772 leaners grades 6 to 12



Stargazing Activities



- St Mary's Primary School, 21st
 February 687 people
- Stargazing at the Promenade
 Shopping Centre in Mitchells Plain,
 12th April 70 people







SAAO Open Nights



- Twice per month, lecture, tour and stargazing
- Tour stats for the year to date: 1365

Services to the wider community

Crescent Moon predictions
Online Almanac
Legal enquiries
Press / media / public enquiries

Upcoming events



- Dr Mae Jemison
- Visiting SAAO on Tuesday
- Meeting key figures in space science and astronomy research in SA
- Engaging with learners



Its not just work, work work



I'll leave you with this!

Credit: Bruno Letart