

LESSONS LEARNED in OUTREACH

- A overview of my involvement in Astronomy
- Interacting with the layman
- The Use of Models
- A few of my Outreach activities
- Issues of note in talking astronomy to the layman

- My Introduction to Astronomy
- Finding Pretoria ASSA
- Jack Bennett's 3" refractor



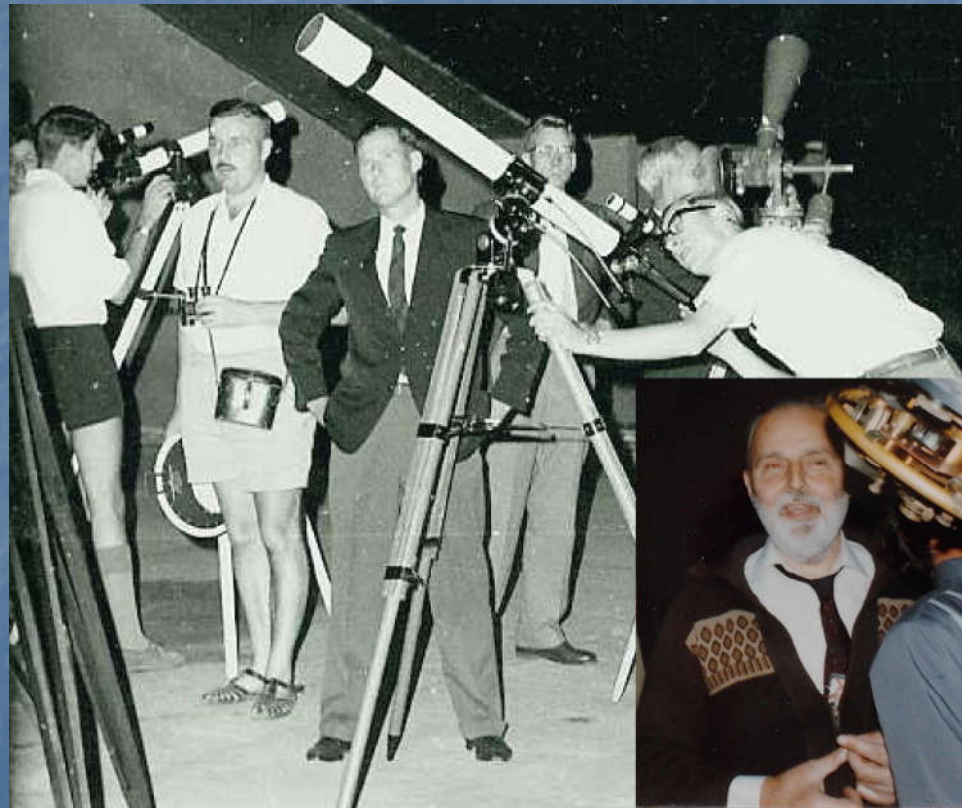


ASSA SYMPOSIUM 2012

LESSONS LEARNED IN OUTREACH

Neville Young

- Me – a teacher?! No thanks
- Interaction with public
- Knowing a name accomplishes little
- Jan Wolterbeek



I Needed a Solar System Model



Improved Solar System Model



ASSA SYMPOSIUM 2012



LESSONS LEARNED IN OUTREACH



Neville Young

Toevlug Primary School Ventersdorp

"Baie dankie vir die versending van die solar model. Ons het dit gister ontvang, dit opgestel en 11:00 aan die graad 6 & 7 leerders verduidelik. Die ogies het sommer geblink want vir die eerste keer kon hulle sien en verstaan wat ons aan hulle leer aangaande die planete. Die personeel is net so beindruk met die model. Vanaf maandag 15/8 gaan die model na die graad 2 & 3 leerders. Ons kan klaar die resultate sien. Groetnis - Johan ."

“Understand and Remember”

Southern Cross Motion

Retrograde Motion

Comet Hale-Bopp



Jupiter's Galilean Moons



Outreach Activities

- School Fundraising
- Kruger Park
- Tshipise 2002
- Game Lodges



Issues that crop up in Outreach

- A Sense of Perspective
- Scale
- Moon Earth Distance
- How far one can see light at night
- How satellites skim the surface of the surface of Earth
- Big numbers
- The Light Year
- Astrology
- The way things were meant to be
- The Dark Side of the Moon
- Venus in daylight
- Morning and evening stars
- 3D
- How to link constellation shapes to creatures?
- How much interest is there?
- Perception of Time

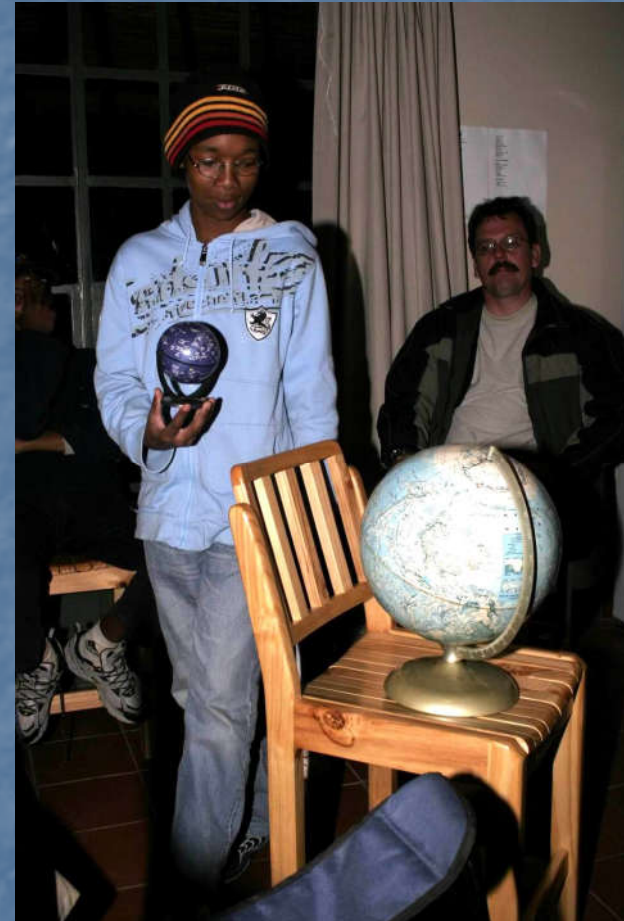
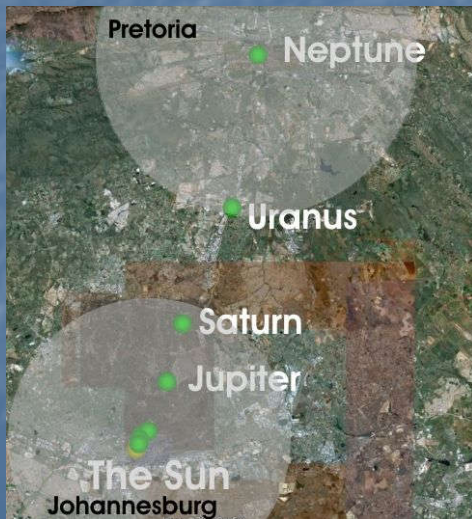
A Sense of Perspective



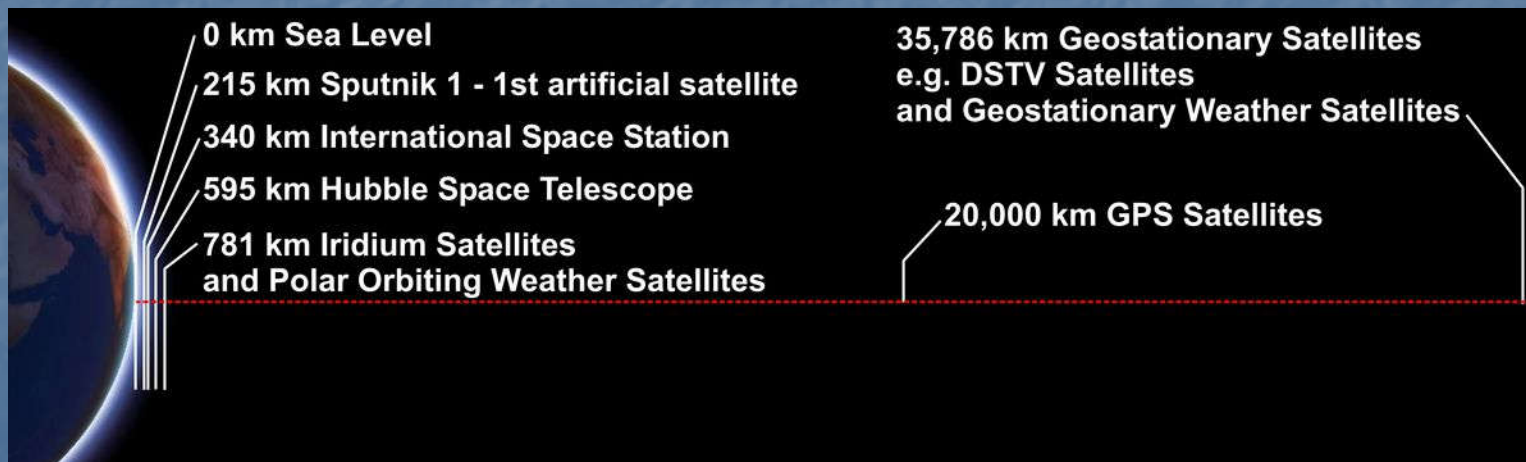
....helps to be aware of potential danger in your surroundings

A Sense of Scale

...helps to understand various phenomena



- How far one can see
- How satellites skim the surface of the surface



BIG NUMBERS

"Human beings cannot comprehend very large or very small numbers. It would be useful for us to acknowledge that fact."

Daniel Kahneman, 78-year-old Nobel prize-winning psychologist

- The Light Year
- Astrology
- The way things were meant to be
- The Dark Side of the Moon

What is more interesting and meaningful to the layman?

A light year is 9460730472580800 metres

or

You can See
Venus in
Daylight

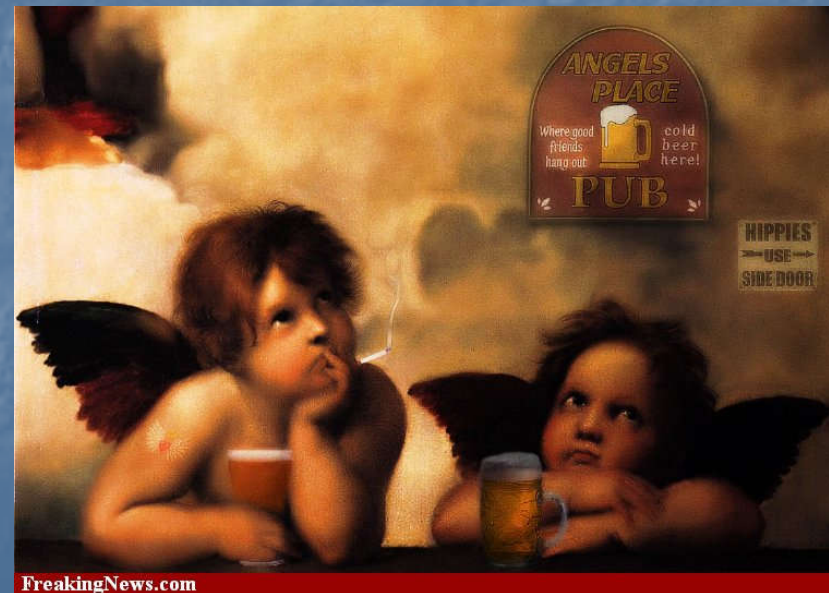
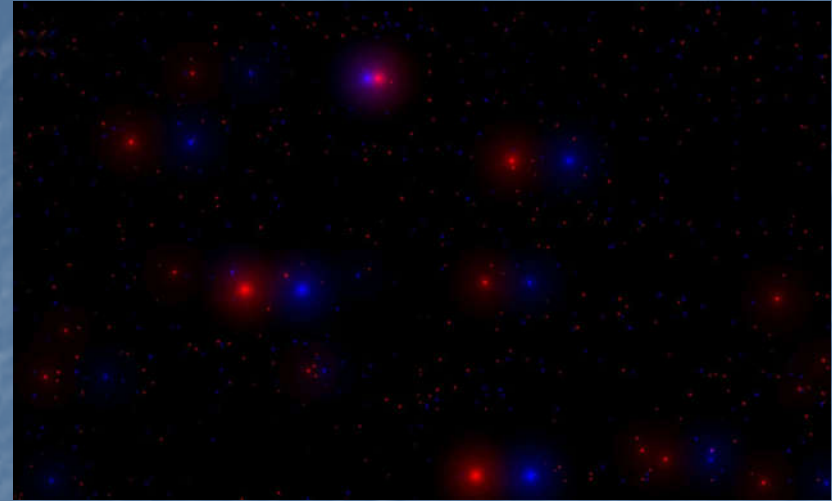


Morning and Evening Stars

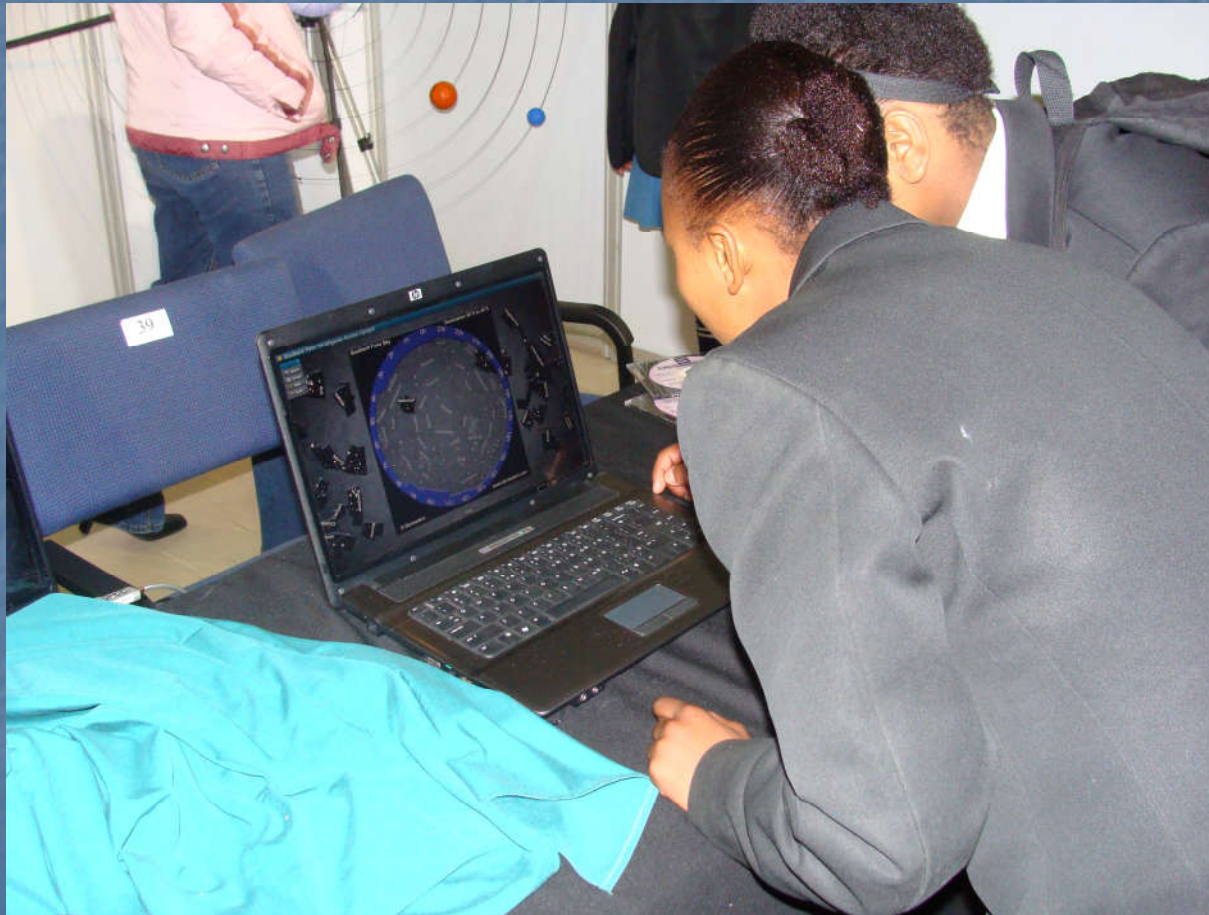
- When is Venus approaching you?
- When is Venus receding from you?
- Knowing and understanding this helps to gain a sense of depth.

Stars in Constellations

- 3D
- Recognising the shapes in constellations

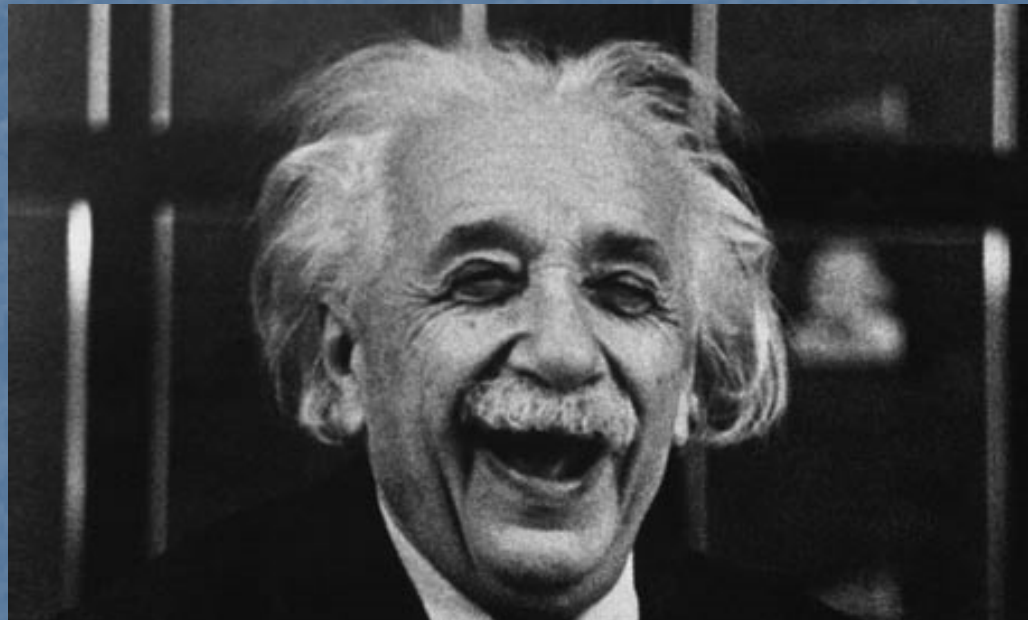


How much interest is there?



Perception of Time

Other galaxies? What a ridiculous idea!



In Conclusion

"I never felt I was studying the stupidity of mankind in the third person. I always felt I was studying my own mistakes".

Daniel Kahneman The 78-year-old Nobel prize-winning psychologist.

"I never felt I was educating or passing on privileged knowledge to people. I always did and still feel an excitement at passing on what I also once did not know and have eventually come to comprehend."