



**Monthly Newsletter of the Johannesburg Centre of
ASSA**



Celebrating Spitzer's Sweet Sixteen

Spitzer Space Telescope into orbit around the Sun on Aug. 25, 2003. Since then, the observatory has been lifting the veil on the wonders of the cosmos, from our own solar system to faraway galaxies, using infrared light.

Image Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech

Read more about this image here: <https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/news.php?feature=3630>

Canopus August 2019

Next meeting at: **Johannesburg Observatory**
WEDNESDAY 11 September 2019

Speaker: Percy Jacobs

Topic: "Spectroscopy"

Notifications are posted on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/assajhb>, assajhb@yahoo.com and Twitter @JoosteJerome on the viewing day.

ASSA Johannesburg is Digital:

It is essential to note that ASSA JHB does not mail the News Letter.

Please download **Canopus** from the website.

Please visit our website to view all alerts for: announcements, activity reminders, including public viewings, meetings, star parties and last minute changes.

Greetings From Carmel Ives:

Thanks to the outgoing ASSA JHB Committee for all their work and dedication.

I first visited the Johannesburg Observatory 31 years ago and was very lucky to observe Saturn and her beautiful rings through the 26" Refractor. This was my first telescopic observation and has lived with me ever since. I have always wanted to share this type of experience and help create a similar love of the Cosmos through Astronomy, with others, especially the youth. I feel very honoured to have been asked to take on the role of Chairperson of ASSA – JHB.

New Committee Members:

Portfolio:	Name:	Email:	Number:
Chairperson	Carmel Ives	d.ives@mweb.co.za	0834631123
Vice-Chairperson	Eric Mulovhedzi	ericm00142@gmail.com	
Treasurer	Frans van Nieuwkerk	frans.touring@gmail.com	
Secretary	Tessa Collins	tessacollins525@gmail.com	
Curator of Instruments	Etsuo Takayanagi	ngc188takayanagi@gmail.com	
Communication	Rory de Beer	rorydebeer@gmail.com	
Member	Rodney Hyman	rodney@elemod.co.za	

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You are invited to name the Exoworld WASP 62b and Star WASP 62

We are running a "naming the exoworlds competition". The IAU has assigned South Africa, a planet currently called WASP 62 b and a star called WASP 62, we are appealing to individuals and groups (such as schools, clubs, organizations etc) to suggest names for the planet and the star and also supply a motivation not exceeding 100 words.

Planet WASP-62b

522 light years from Earth

Discovered in 2011, by the transit method

0,570 Jupiter masses

1,390 Jupiter radii

Surface gravity 0,779g

Temperature 1305K

Orbital period 4.41 days

Semi-major axis 0.0567AU

Eccentricity 0

Inclination 88.3 degrees

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Star WASP-62

Stellar mass 1,250 stellar masses

Stellar radius 1.280 Solar radii

Spectral type F7 (main sequence, hydrogen-fusing compact star, yellow-white colour)

Habitable zone 1,48 - 2,49 AU

Stellar temperature 6230K

So the planet is a gas giant bigger than Jupiter in size but with less mass, orbiting very close to the star in a circular orbit, with a temperature of almost 6000C.

An inhospitable superheated steam bath.

The proposers of the top 6 names will either win a fully paid trip to Sutherland (for individuals) or a 6 inch Dobsonian Telescope and books (for group eg a school or a club)

For more information , here is the website for the competition:

<https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fnameexoworld.sao.ac.za%2F&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cb51d1c8699f94c7d007108d729f7ad75%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637024016053768159&sdata=dG1JgzD6uf5d%2FtS7%2Fe8nhbnpc6XOQf0KNVrhOjaUYg%3D&reserved=0>

There is no limit to a number of proposals a person or a group can send. The closing date is 30 September 2019.

Things that happened in Astronomy in August 2019

A star is dead: Hubble sees aftermath of a sun's death

<http://www.astronomy.com/news/2019/08/hubble-spies-aftermath-of-a-stars-death>

SpaceX's Starhopper Touch Down for the Final Time

The early test prototype of SpaceX's Mars-colonizing Starship spacecraft, Starhopper, touched down for the last time.

Future test flights to reach orbit will be undertaken by advanced prototypes Starship Mk1 and Mk2.

<https://www.space.com/spacex-starhopper-final-landing-photo.html>

NASA Just Activated Its Deep Space Atomic Clock

An atomic clock capable of paving the way for deep space exploration has been successfully activated, the clock's mission team confirmed on Aug. 23.

<https://www.space.com/nasa-deep-space-atomic-clock-activated.html>

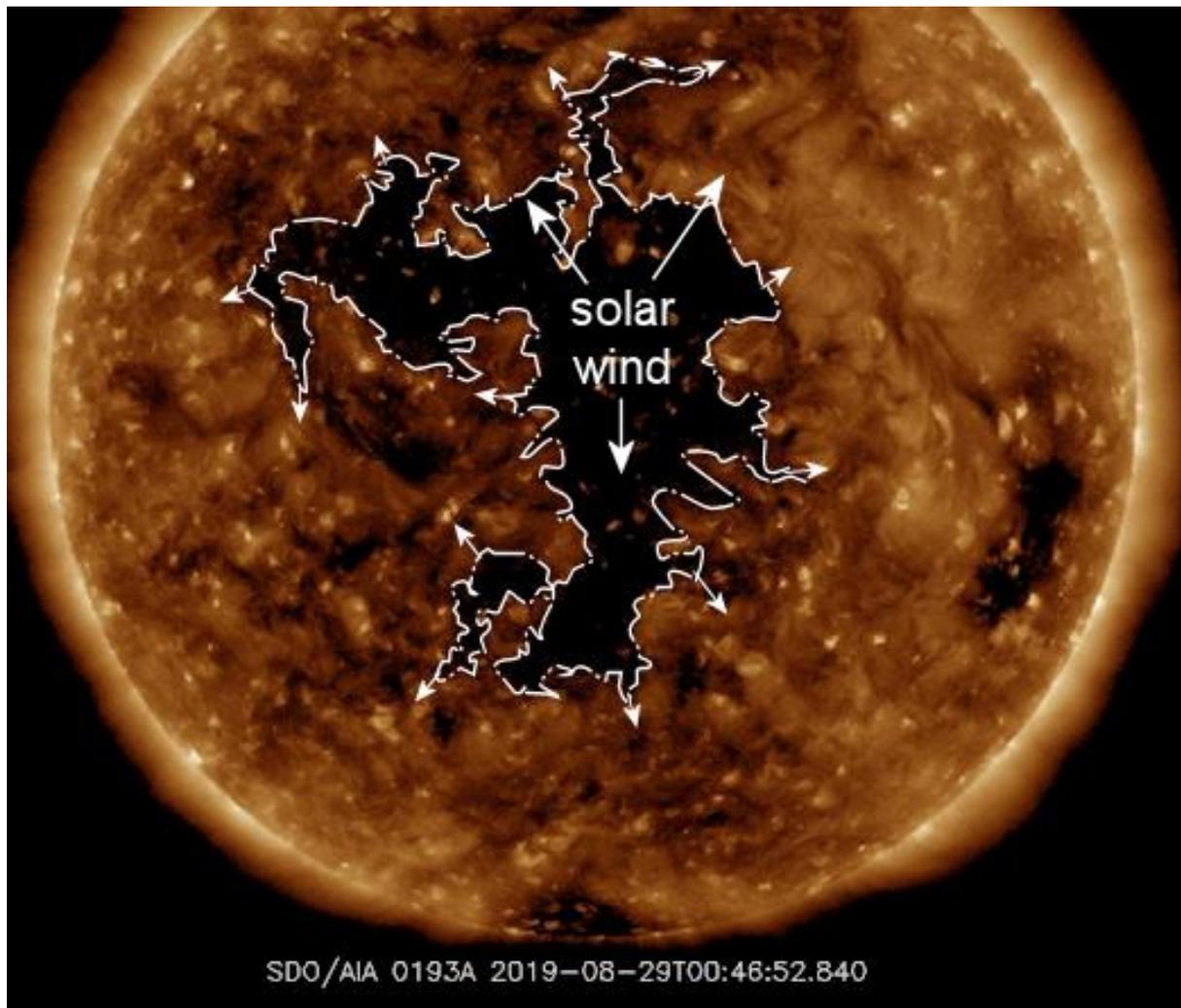
3 Earth-sized exoplanets found just 12 light-years away

<http://www.astronomy.com/news/2019/08/three-earth-sized-exoplanets-found-around-one-of-earths-nearest-neighbors>

GEOMAGNETIC STORM WARNING:

Extract from (<http://www.spaceweather.com/>)

On Aug. 5th, a solar wind stream hit Earth's magnetic field, sparking G1-class geomagnetic storms and auroras in the USA. It's about to happen again. The same hole in the sun's atmosphere that wind-blasted Earth in early August is facing our planet today:



This is a "coronal hole," a region where the sun's magnetic field opens up and allows solar wind to escape. Gaseous material emerging at 600 to 700 km/s could reach Earth as early as Aug. 31st, although Sept. 1st is more likely. NOAA forecasters say there is a greater than 35% chance of G1-class geomagnetic storms when the solar wind arrives. Auroras will almost certainly be visible around the Arctic Circle with a chance for sightings farther south, including upper-tier US states such as Maine, Minnesota, Montana, and Washington.

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