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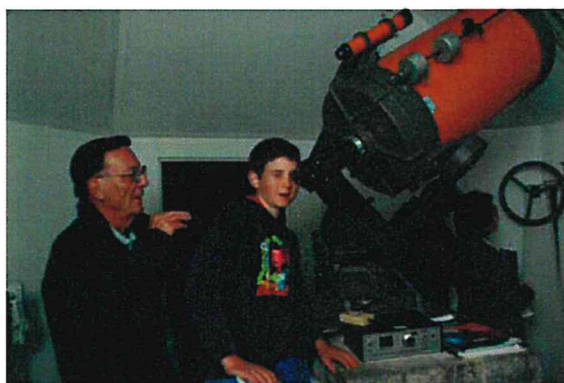
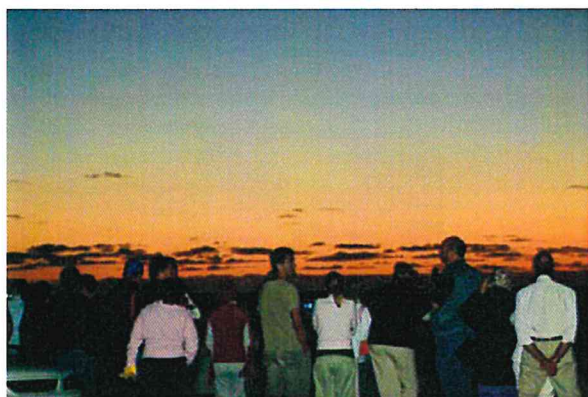
## Perth Observatory

For more information contact:

Perth Observatory, on (08) 9293 8255, email [james.biggs@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:james.biggs@dec.wa.gov.au) or visit Perth Observatory's website  
<http://www.perthobservatory.wa.gov.au>.

### Scope

Perth Observatory, established in 1896, is Australia's oldest continuously operating professional observatory and is the sole remaining State observatory. Perth Observatory is the only significant professional observatory between South Africa and the eastern states of Australia and is sought for collaborations with other astronomy institutions because of its capabilities and its particularly isolated location on the globe.



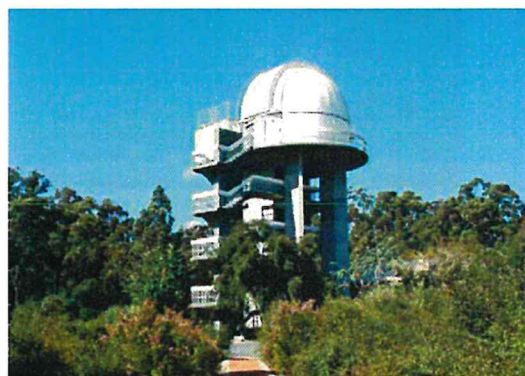
### What We Do

Perth Observatory performs three core functions:

- Astronomical outreach and education.
- Astronomical information services.
- Astronomical research.

In order to conduct these core functions the observatory collaborates with the following organisations:

- Lowell Observatory, USA (research program).
- Astronomy Department, University of Maryland, USA (research program).
- PLANET (Probing Lensing Anomalies NETwork): Space Telescope Science Institute, USA; South African Astronomical Observatory; Institut d'Astrophysique, France; University of Potsdam, Germany; University of St Andrews, Scotland; Boyden Observatory, South Africa and the University of Tasmania (research program).
- RAE and Hands on Universe at the University of California, Berkeley and Lawrence Hall of Science, Berkeley, California (education and information programs).
- Oil Region Astronomical Society and Clarion University, Pennsylvania, USA (education and information programs).
- Perth Observatory Volunteer Group (education and information programs).
- GCN (Gamma Ray Burst Coordinates Network), USA (research program).
- Curtin University, James Cook University and UWA (research and education programs).





- Scitech science centre (education program).

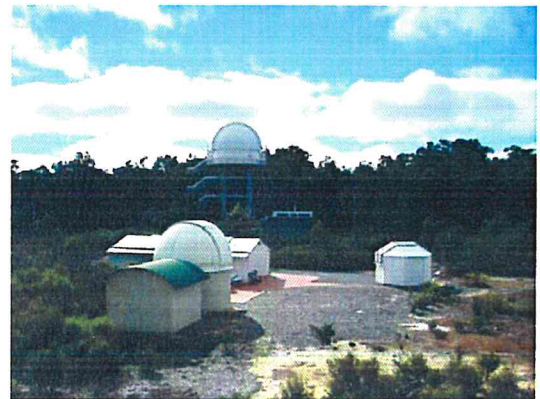
## Current Key Activities and Projects

Key education and outreach activities include:

- Public star viewing, guided tours, astronomy field nights.
- Lectures, workshops and presentations to community groups, and, primary, secondary and tertiary students.
- Supervision of astronomy research students.
- Operation of two telescopes accessible via the internet.
- Operation of a wide-field sky camera that provides a regularly updated view of the sky above the Observatory on our website.

## Key information activities include:

- Communication of astronomical information via the mass media, published information, telephone, astronomy information line, email, SMS and the world wide web.
- Provision of specialised astronomical information such as sunrise and sunset and forensic astronomy services for the police and legal profession.



Observatory research activities are dedicated to producing scientific output in the form of refereed journal publications, computer software and astronomical instrumentation and include:

- Variable star observations.
- Imaging and spectrophotometry of comets.
- Imaging and CCD photometry of transient and variable sources.
- Astrometry of minor planets, comets and targets of opportunity.
- Monitoring gravitational microlenses and exoplanet transits.
- Supernova searches and gamma ray burst follow up.
- Astronomical seeing evaluation of sites in Western Australia.
- Construction of an enclosure to house a new one-metre aperture telescope.
- Specialised astronomical data analysis software.
- Automated telescope control software.
- Internet telescope technology.