

Under the Shadow: eclipse public education

Melissa Hulbert

While completing a BSc. (Hons) in Physics at the University of Western Sydney, Melissa worked as a night guide/lecturer at [Sydney Observatory](#) (part of the Powerhouse Museum) where she now works full-time as an Astronomy Educator. In between, she contributed a column to Lab News Magazine and then later spent some time as Assistant Editor on both *Lab News* and *Today's Life Sciences* Magazines. In 2000 she was part of the 'Science in the Pub' team that won an Australian Eureka Award for Science Promotion.



Melissa is an instructor with [Swinburne University's](#) online astronomy courses and also teaches astronomy courses at WEA, Sydney.

She has been an active member of Sutherland Astronomical Society for over 20 years with her main interest in astroimaging. In 2004 she initiated the formation of the astroimaging group which she coordinated for 10 years.

Melissa's main interests have always been eclipses and comets, but if it's up there and not beyond the range of the equipment she's using then she's happy to snap its portrait. Her images have featured in magazines, newspapers and online media and she is a media spokesperson for Sydney Observatory on a range of astronomical topics.

Melissa has organised and led three solar eclipse tours for Sydney Observatory, the most recent in 2012 where she saw her sixth totality. In 2013 she was just outside Tennant Creek, Australia where she saw her first annular eclipse.

She is now planning future eclipse travels and eagerly looking forward to her seventh totality.