



Royal
Astronomical
Society

The 2024 Annie Maunder Medal is awarded to the AMT Planetarium Team

In spite of magnificent night skies, the wider public in Namibia has little knowledge or appreciation of the astronomical research done in their country. This means that the potential of astronomy to inspire and stimulate interest in “blue skies research” is being missed.

The mobile planetarium project of the Africa Millimetre Telescope (AMT) is helping to realise this potential by bringing an immersive astronomical experience to schools in Namibia.

The team has reached an extremely diverse audience from -pre-school children to university students, from rural school children to heads of state. In little more than a year the project has visited more than 70 locations and conducted more than 400 planetarium shows, which were attended by more than 10,600 Namibians.

As a result, the team has brought immersive and interactive astronomy engagement to a diverse spectrum of the Namibian public and contributed to bridging the gap between scientists and the public as well as top-level government.

For these reasons, the AMT Planetarium Team is awarded the RAS Annie Maunder Medal, 2024.

AMT Planetarium Team

The AMT Mobile Planetarium project is a combined effort of an energetic team of University of Namibia (UNAM) students and staff, fuelled by technical support from the Radboud University and the Netherlands Research School for

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Astronomy (NOVA). The team is diverse in nature and comprised of project leaders, technical experts and student presenters:

Michael Backes, Zandr  Duvenhage, Heino Falcke, Marc Klein Wolt, Amanda Schut, Eli Kasai, Hans-Werner Matthaei, Lott Frans, Hiiko Katjaita, Sigrid Shilunga, Queen "Delight" Namene, Francisco Macucule, H l ne Honsbein, Emilia Iiyambo, Victoria Nakafingo, Namasiku Simasiku, Joanna Holt, Maaik Pierik