

DONNA THE ASTRONOMER

*BSc(Computing) | MSc(Research) Astrophysics |
Adjunct Associate Professor, USQ*

ABOUT ME

Growing up in the bush with no television and limited radio, Donna Burton fell in love with the night sky after being sent to bed each evening whilst the adults "talked about grown-up stuff". She'd lay there and try to count all the stars!

After another failed attempt to study on campus - Donna discovered the world of university by education at USQ and while Studying for a degree in computing, serendipitously met Professor Brad Carter. This meeting led to her inadvertently become a pioneer in making use of their distance education program in science with a focus on astrophysics.. Donna has gone on to complete her DISTVEF, a research MSc and is almost through her PhD looking at how we can better target suitable stars to find potential habitable planets.

Donna is the first Australian woman to discover two comets - C/2006 R1 Siding Spring and C/2007 Q3 Siding Spring. She is passionate and committed to popularising astronomy, especially among country kids, and is always happy to share her love of the sky which has become an enduring passion and her life's work.



COMET
DISCOVERIES



CONVERSATIONS
WITH DONNA

CONTACT
DONNA

Donna is available as a guest speaker for schools, amateur astronomy gatherings, Astrofests and senior groups. She also conducts stargazing tours at the Milroy Observatory.

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