

This Months Book Review

MOONSHADOW The Story of the Total Eclipse

by Terry Manners

I borrowed this book because I wanted to learn more about Solar Eclipses, especially as the next one is just around the corner in 2012 November 14, with the best views reportedly to be from Cairns Australia, although we here in Newcastle will also be able to view the event. The eclipse will be seen as partial beginning at 7.09am and finishing at 9.04am. Eclipse maximum will be at 8.02am with about 70% of the Sun's diameter covered by the Moon. Totality will last just over two minutes.

"A total Solar Eclipse is the greatest natural spectacle most people will ever see"- (quote from the book)

Author Terry Manners is a journalist and writer and has himself an interest in astronomy, here he has interviewed astronomers and scientists to give a detailed account of what an 'eclipse' is and also included in chapter 4 "The Race to the Moon" is a brief history of space travel and caption simply put- 'What man can imagine , man can achieve'. A fascinating read.

Although the book is somewhat dated, released 1999 that doesn't detract the reader as you can see with the images what an amazing spectacle the eclipse can be and is different each time, with this in mind the book comes across as a chronicle of the Eclipse, with articles from past eclipses through to snippets of informative information about the scientific pioneers of Solar totality.

I especially liked the scattered poetry throughout which made the reader aware that this was not just a spectacular event it was also emotionally moving to witness.

The book takes us through ancient times to the present day 'eclipse chasers' and has some breath-taking images to admire as one flips through the pages. One such image described as breathtakingly "beautiful" was of third contact at 4,200m above sea level Chile 1994, Venus can be spotted just above the spectacle with backdrop of the Chilean plains and a volcano, beautiful.

Lydia Macokatic

Some links to Solar Eclipse images on the net...

[NASA](#)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solar_eclipse

[SpaceWeather.com](#)

[/http://www.mreclipse.com/SEphoto/TSE2006/TSE2006galleryA.html](http://www.mreclipse.com/SEphoto/TSE2006/TSE2006galleryA.html)

