

Curriculum Vitae

Dr Toner Stevenson

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With over 35 years working in leadership roles in Museums and a six-year leadership role at the University of Sydney, as well as research and publication in the field of the history of astronomy, I have made a contribution to Australian cultural and educational sectors. I volunteer in organisations that are relevant to my experience and field of research. This includes serving on the Board of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) Australian National Committee for six years, as past President and committee member of an amateur astronomy group and as a member of the Royal Society of New South Wales, where I am on the editorial committee. Most recently I was involved in establishing the History of Australian Astronomy Chapter of the Astronomical Society of Australia.

Collaborations with curators, artists, film and digital media producers and podcast creators have enriched my research. Throughout my professional and academic life I have been committed to equity of access to museums and striven for diversity and equity in the workplace. I have actively worked on the decolonisation of heritage sites with First Nations People and championed sustainability, working closely with expert designers, mechanical engineers and heritage architects in Sydney and London to achieve environmentally sustainable outcomes on several sites.

2024 to present

Honorary Associate, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, The University of Sydney

I research gender bias in science and project outcomes include published papers and presentations at conferences. Two papers investigating different aspects of the Astronomical Society of Australia were published in the CSIRO Journal, *Historical Records of Australian Science*. Additionally I have further examined the 'hidden figures' of Australian professional and amateur astronomy, and have published and have a publication under review as a co-author with the University of Sydney's Chau Chak Wing Museum curator of science and technology. My research and publications are closely tied to Museum collections and archives and have generated media attention, magazine articles and on-line media, including podcasts with Allyson Tyra for the [Infinite Women](#) series. In 2024 I presented at an International Mathematics Conference in Edinburgh, and to astronomy groups. In 2025 I presented an invited public talk at the Royal Observatory Greenwich, an online paper to the International Glass Plate working group and two papers in person at the International Conference on the History of Science and Technology in Dunedin, Aotearoa (New Zealand).

2018 to 2023

In 2023 I was co-author of *Eclipse Chasers* book published by CSIRO. This publication and six book presentations about the book in the lead-up to the 2023 total solar eclipse generated media attention. I wrote magazine articles and on-line media including [The Conversation](#) and was interviewed for four podcast episodes. I was part of the team shortlisted for a 2020 Eureka Award for the [Ladies Log](#) podcast produced by *Science Friction ABC Radio National*.

Simultaneously I was Manager of the **School of Humanities**, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Sydney which comprises seven disciplines (History, Philosophy, Gender and Cultural Studies, Archaeology, Classics and Ancient History, Linguistics, Studies in Religion) and I shared management responsibility for a post-graduate Museum and Heritage Studies program. I advised on strategic matters and had responsibility for operating budgets and the legal and compliant allocation of significant gift and bequest funds. In 2023, under my leadership, the Tom Austen Brown archaeology research hub, was established in the Quadrangle and I was a member of the team that initiated the

Vere Gordon Childe Centre. I was invited to facilitate strategic planning sessions for the **Chau Chak Wing Museum** at the University of Sydney.

2015 to 2018

As **Head of House Museums, Sydney Living Museums** (re-named **Museums of History NSW**) I managed six of the state's most significant listed heritage sites. During this period I contributed substantially to the museums strategic vision as part of the senior management team and delivered the Connection to Country Indigenous Strategy across the portfolio. In close collaboration and through shared leadership with Muru Mittigar a significant Dharug indigenous education centre was successfully relocated to the Rouse Hill estate. The opportunity to work closely with this community and facilitate their ambitions through business planning and project management was a highlight of my career. For six months I acted on the executive as Assistant Director Museums, Education and Exhibitions.

2003 to 2015

As Manager **Sydney Observatory** my role was to provide a high-quality visitor and educational experience within this NSW heritage listed site devoted to astronomy. During this period I undertook doctoral research at the University of Sydney and wrote my thesis about Australia's participation in the Astrographic Catalogue.

For two years, from *2007 to 2009*, I took sabbatical leave and was employed by the **Natural History Museum, London**. I was a senior project manager for the Darwin Centre Visitor Experience. This was a major undertaking, working closely with scientists, architects, designers, engineers and others in one of the most influential Museums in Europe. I was responsible for ensuring the environmental and accessible requirements established as part of the Heritage Lottery Fund support of the project, were met.

1988 to 2003

Prior to Sydney Observatory, I led the Project Management (Exhibitions Co-ordination) Office and Exhibitions Project Team for the **Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (MAAS)** and from 1984 to 1988 I was a senior designer in the museum's exhibition team.

Tertiary Qualifications.

Doctor of Social Sciences, Museum Studies, The University of Sydney, 2016
 Leading Managers Program, NSW Leadership Academy, 2017
 Master of Management in Arts Management, University of Technology (UTS), 2002
 Bachelor of Arts (Design), Sydney College of the Arts (now UTS), 1980

Select publications list:

Edited Books

Lomb, N., Stevenson, T. (2023). *Eclipse Chasers*. Clayton: CSIRO Publishing.

Book Chapters

Stevenson, T. (2023). Proving Einstein's general theory of relativity. *Eclipse Chasers*, (pp. 79-113). Clayton: CSIRO Publishing.

Stevenson, T. (2023). Why observe eclipses? *Eclipse Chasers*, (pp. 1-12). Clayton: CSIRO Publishing.

Lomb, N. Stevenson, T. (2008). Teaching astronomy and the crisis in science education, *Innovation in Astronomy Education*, ed. Jay Pasachoff (pp. 116-121), Cambridge University Press.

Journals

(submitted) Stevenson, T. McMorrow, K.(2025). Australian innovation and initiative during the 1922 total solar eclipse. *Historical Records of Australian Science*, CSIRO.

Lomb, N., Orchiston, W., Kinder, A., and Stevenson, T.(2024) 'Early members of the New South Wales Branch of the British Astronomical Association', *Journal of the British Astronomical Association*, vol. 134, no. 3, p. 187, 2024.

Stevenson, T., Lomb, N. (2025) Gender diversity in Australian astronomy: the Astronomical Society of Australia 1966–2023. *Historical Records of Australian Science* 36, HR24022.

Lomb, N., Stevenson, T. (2024) Spreading across the continent: the Astronomical Society of Australia 1966–2023. *Historical Records of Australian Science* 36, HR24020.

Stevenson, T. (2023). Melbourne Observatory's Astrographic Women: Star Measurers and Computers. *Journal of Astronomical History and Heritage*, 26(2), 325-338.

Stevenson, T. (2020). Stars in their Eyes: Astronomy's hidden women. *Cosmos: the science of everything*, (86), 39-43.

Stevenson, T. (2018). 10 Point Summary: Key Messages from the CAMOC Annual Conference. *CAMOC Museums of Cities Review*, 3, 7-8.

Stevenson, T. (2017). The power of darkness: the night as a cultural landscape. *CAMOC Museums of Cities Review*, 1, 29-32.

Yamani, A., Soegijoko, W., Baskoro, A., Satyaningsih, R., Simatupang, F., Mauloana, F., Suherli, J., Syamara, R., Canas, L., Stevenson, T., et al (2016). Chasing the shadows, a trip to spice island. International Symposium on Sun, Earth, and Life (ISSEL), Bandung: IOP Publishing.

Wyatt, G., Stevenson, T., Hamacher, D. (2014). Dreamtime astronomy: development of a new indigenous program at Sydney Observatory. *Journal of Astronomical History and Heritage*, 17(2), 195-204.

Stevenson, T. (2014). Making Visible the First Women in Astronomy in Australia: The Measurers and Computers Employed for the Astrographic Catalogue. *Publications of the Astronomical Society of Australia*, 31(1), 1-10.

Stevenson, T. (2012). Observing the Less Visible: Alice takes on Astronomy. *Museological Review*, 16, 29-45.

Conferences and presentations

Stevenson, T. (2025). 'The 1922 total solar eclipse in Australia: how expeditions contended with the forces of nature and the scientific, political and logistical alliances of Empire', *27th International Congress of History of Science and Technology (ICHST)*, Dunedin, New Zealand , 30 June 2025. Toner Stevenson's attendance was supported by the Donovan Astronomical Trust.

Stevenson, T. (2025). 'Astronomical instruments used during the 1922 total solar eclipse',

Scientific Instrument Commission symposium, ICHST conference, 3 July 2025. Toner Stevenson's attendance was supported by the Donovan Astronomical Trust.

Stevenson, T. (2025). 'The women astrographic computers in Australian observatories', *Royal Observatory Greenwich*, 28 March 2025.

Stevenson, T. (2025). 'Please don't smash the stars! Preservation of an astronomical collection', invited presentation to the *International Glass Plate Working Group*, on-line, 21 March, 2025.

Stevenson, T. (2024). 'How Einstein's theory of general relativity was proven in Australia in 1922' Invited talk for the Global History of Eclipse Reckoning Workshop, *International Centre Mathematical Sciences*, Edinburgh UK and on-line, 22 November, 2024.

Stevenson, T. (2024). Eclipse Chasers: highlights of astronomical observations in Australia. *150th anniversary of the 1874 Transit of Venus at Woodford Academy, The National Trust*, Woodford, NSW: Presentation.

Stevenson, T. (2023). Dr Toner Stevenson, Eclipse Chasers: astronomical observations in Australia and the Pacific. *Friends of the National Australian Botanic Gardens*, Sydney, NSW: Presentation.

Stevenson, T. (2018). 'Museums and wellbeing – quantifying how Museums improve health in the growing urban landscape of Greater Sydney', *CAMOC Annual Conference*. Frankfurt, Germany, 4-5 June 2018.

Stevenson, T. (2018). The state of the Heavens: past, present and future sites of astronomical significance. *Museums Australia & Interpretation Australia 2011 National Conference*, Deakin: Museums Australia & Interpretations Australia.

Stevenson, T. (2017). The power of darkness: the night as a cultural landscape. *CAMOC Museums of Cities Review*, 1, 29-32.

Stevenson, T. (2016). Museum as a challenged Regional Symbol. Yeongwol International Museum Forum and Expo, Yeongwol: Yeongwol International Museum Forum and Expo.

Wyatt, G., Stevenson, T., Hamacher, D. (2014). Dreamtime astronomy: development of a new indigenous program at Sydney Observatory. *Journal of Astronomical History and Heritage*, 17(2), 195-204.

Stevenson, T. (2014). Making Visible the First Women in Astronomy in Australia: The Measurers and Computers Employed for the Astrographic Catalogue. *Publications of the Astronomical Society of Australia*, 31(1), 1-10. [More Information]

Stevenson, T., Lomb, N. (2012). Australian sites of astronomical heritage. XXVIIIth IAU General Assembly, Beijing: International Astronomical Union.

■ **Associated Awards**

Vice Chancellor's Award for engagement, The University of Sydney, 2021.

National Trust Heritage Award, 2017, SLM Vaucluse House Drawing Room.

National Trust Heritage Award, 2015, MAAS East Dome at Sydney Observatory, submitted by the Government Architect, NSW.

MAGNA (Museum + Art Galleries) 2012 Transit of Venus program, livestream, outreach and exhibition, Highly Commended.

Martin Davies Australasian Archaeological Interpretation Award 2012, Winner.

■ **Memberships**

Australian Museums and Galleries Association (AMaGA)

ICOM (International Council of Museums) – Australian National Committee Board member 2018-2024 (6 year maximum term).

Royal Society (NSW) - Editorial board member.

Astronomical Society of Australia (ASA) – History of Australian Astronomy Chapter Secretary.

Sydney City Skywatchers (formerly known as the NSW Branch of the British Astronomical Association and now affiliated with the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences), President (2020 to 2022).