

## **HOW EINSTEIN'S THEORY OF GENERAL RELATIVITY WAS PROVEN IN AUSTRALIA IN 1922**

TONER STEVENSON

After Einstein's 1915 prediction of the bending of starlight near a massive object such as the Sun, eclipse observers changed their emphasis from studying the physics of the corona to trying to verify this effect. Famed British astronomer Arthur Eddington claimed to have confirmed the theory of general relativity based on observations of an eclipse in 1919. However, for many scientists, these observations were not conclusive so the following 1922 total solar eclipse (tse) that crossed the Australian mainland took on crucial importance. Observations were made by the highly experienced eclipse observers from California's Lick Observatory at Wallal, Western Australia. An Australian expedition trekked on camels to remote South Australia and astronomers, amateur and professional, gathered in Queensland and northern New South Wales. The dust, sand, flies, heat and rain as well as other challenges of a technical nature will feature in this illustrated examination of the expeditions led by Lick Observatory, Adelaide Observatory and a 21 year old amateur astronomer. The contributions of lesser known people, including women and Indigenous Peoples, will be highlighted. I will briefly present where best to see the 2028 tse in Australia.