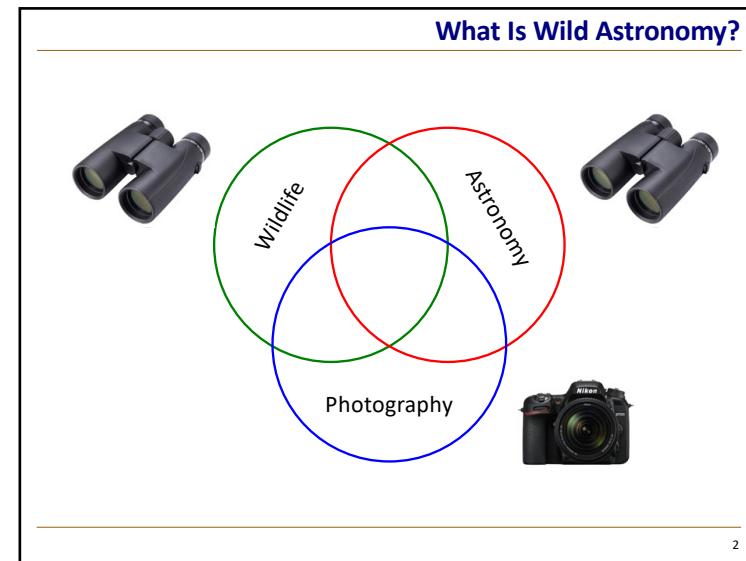
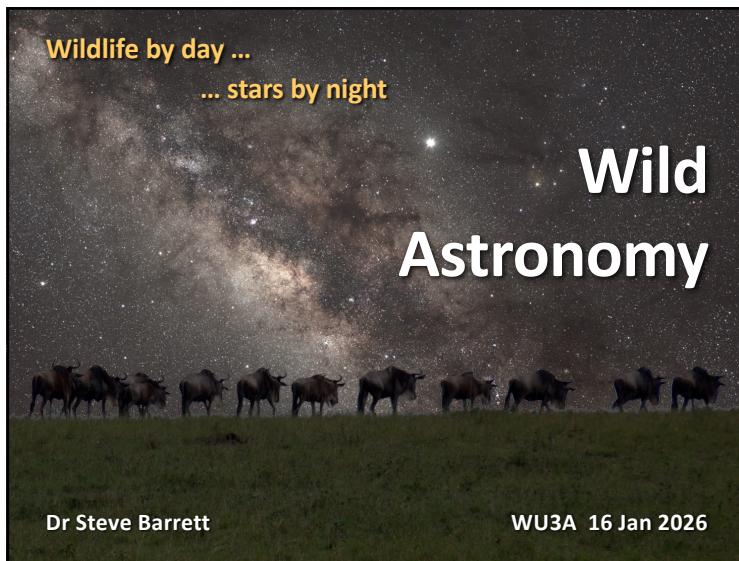


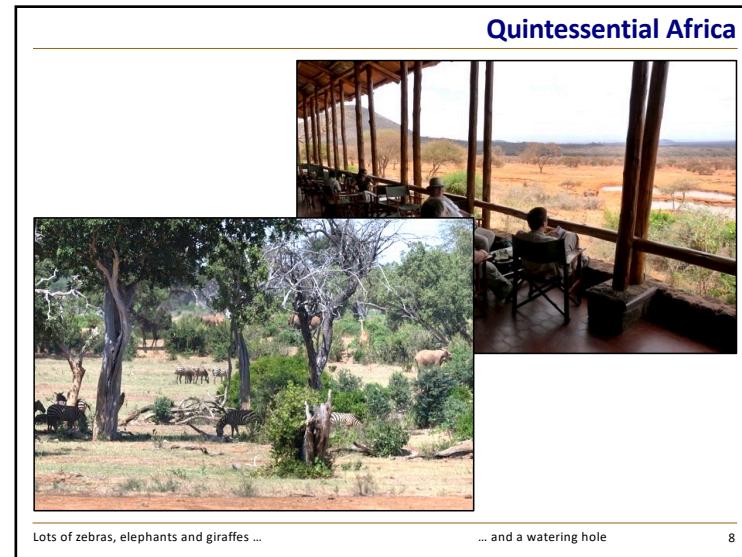
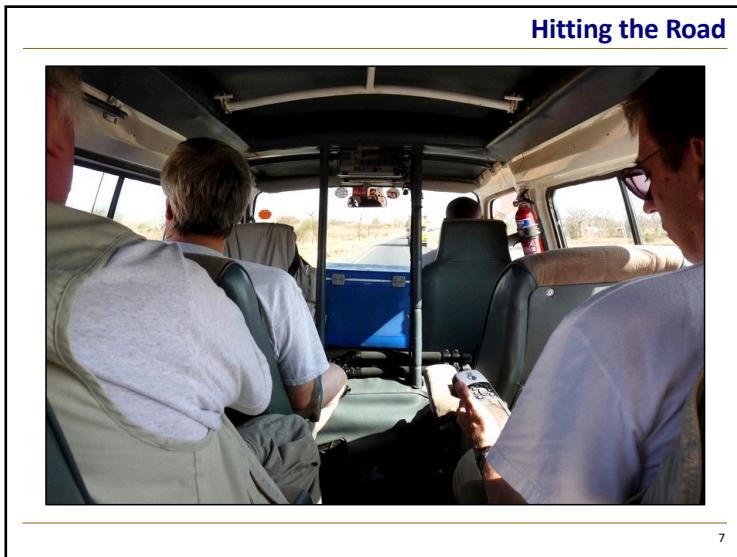
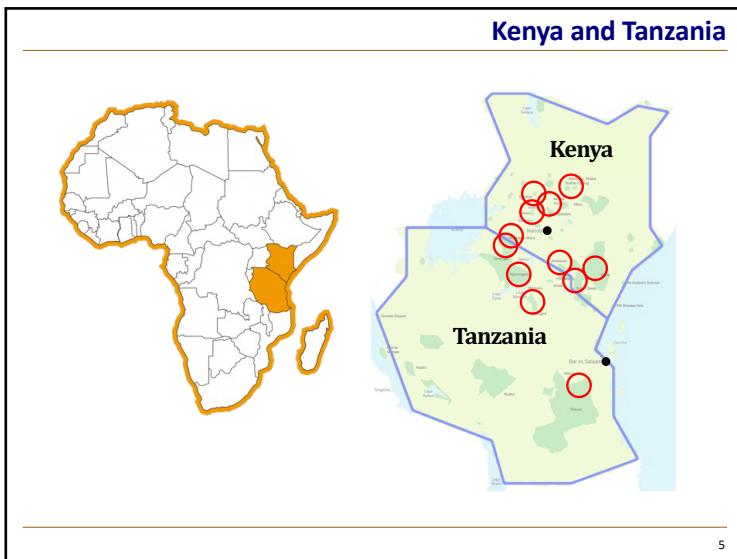
# Wild Astronomy



What Am I Talking About	
<b>Going on Safari</b>	Where to go, what to take
<b>Lodges and Camps</b>	Where to stay
<b>Game Drives</b>	How to see all the wildlife
<b>Wildlife Photography</b>	Capturing it all
<b>Astrophotography</b>	Under the darkest skies



# Wild Astronomy



# Wild Astronomy

**Flying To Rufiji**



Flying by bush aircraft – faster and more expensive than by road

9

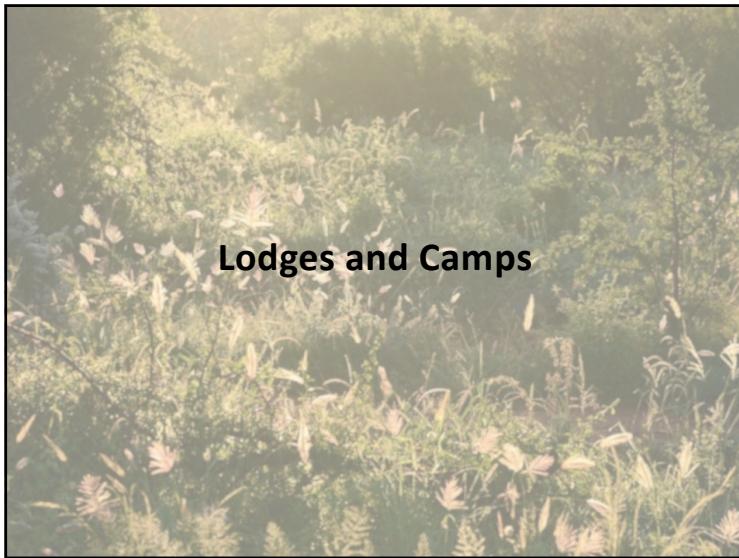
**Rufiji International Airport**



Mtemere Airstrip, Rufiji River Camp

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**Lodges and Camps**



**Sunbird Lodge**



View from terrace of Sunbird Lodge, Lake Elementaita

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# Wild Astronomy

**Sunbird Lodge**



Inside Sunbird Lodge room, Lake Elementaita

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**Mara Serena Lodge**



View from terrace of Mara Serena Lodge, Maasai Mara

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**Kilaguni Serena Lodge**



Terrace of Kilaguni Serena Lodge, Tsavo West National Park

15

**Overlooking the Watering Hole**



Terrace of Kilaguni Serena Lodge, Tsavo West National Park

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# Wild Astronomy

Eland at Sunrise



Watering hole of Kilaguni Serena Lodge, Tsavo West National Park

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Floodlit Watering Hole



Watering hole of Kilaguni Serena Lodge, Tsavo West National Park

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Star Trails Over Kilaguni



2003 First attempts at astrophotography, Kilaguni Serena Lodge, Tsavo West National Park

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Rooms On Stilts



Sunrise at Salt Lick Lodge, Taita Hills

20

# Wild Astronomy

**Crater View**



View from Ngorongoro Lodge room, Ngorongoro Crater

21

**Keekorok Lodge**



Boardwalk in grounds of Keekorok Lodge, Maasai Mara

22

**OI Tukai Lodge**



OI Tukai Lodge, Amboseli National Park

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**OI Tukai Lodge**



Grounds of OI Tukai Lodge, Amboseli National Park

24

# Wild Astronomy

**Star Trails Over Ol Tukai**



2003 First attempts at astrophotography, Ol Tukai Lodge, Amboseli National Park

25

**Tented Camps**



Mara Sarova Game Camp, Maasai Mara

26

**Tents by the River**



Governors' Camp, Maasai Mara

27

**Tents by the River**



Signs of a nocturnal visitor – maybe astrophotography is not such a good idea

28

# Wild Astronomy

## Rufiji River Camp



Rufiji River Camp, Selous Game Reserve, Tanzania

29

## Star Trails Over Rufiji River Camp



Nikon D70 + 18-70mm lens  
Static tripod (no tracking)  
120s exposures

2005 Early attempts at astrophotography, Rufiji River Camp, Selous Game Reserve, Tanzania

30

## Game Drives



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## Our Safari 'Team'



The Syzygy Society with David – our driver, guide and friend

32

# Wild Astronomy

## Room in the Van



Amboseli National Park

33

## Do You Need a Big Telephoto Lens?



Sigma 200–500 mm

Canon 600 mm

Nikon 300 mm

Telephoto lenses up to 300 mm are great for wildlife photography

34



Lion

35

## Can You Get Close?



Impala

36

# Wild Astronomy

## Can You Get Close?



Leopard walks past us, Maasai Mara

37

## Ready For a Game Drive



Waiting for a game drive at Ashnil Mara Camp, Maasai Mara

38

## Wildlife Photography

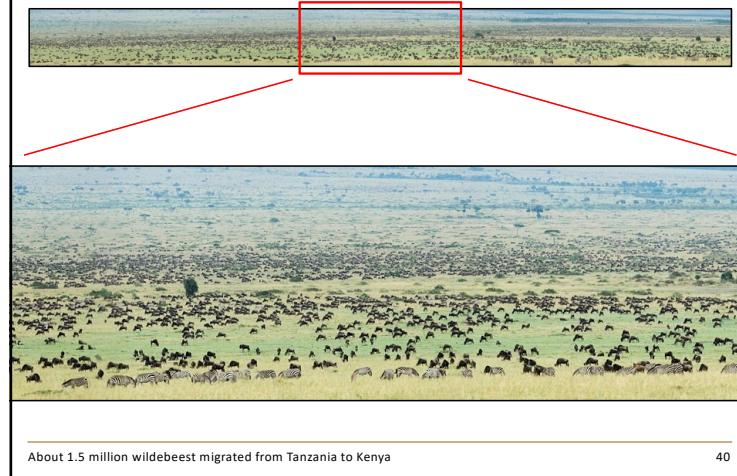


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## A Million Wildebeest



# Wild Astronomy

## A Thousand Pelicans



Flock of pelicans, Lake Nakuru

41

## Animals Are Curious About Us



Zebra (Maasai Mara) / Giraffe (Amboseli) / Lion (Serengeti)

42

## Animals in the Grass



Lioness watching over her cubs in the grass, Serengeti National Park, Tanzania

43

## Animals in the Grass



Elephant in the swamp, Amboseli National Park

44

# Wild Astronomy

**Animals in the Grass**



Giraffe in the long grass, Maasai Mara

45

**Zebras Grazing**



Zebras grazing at sunrise, Maasai Mara

46

**Starlings**



Red-winged starling / Golden-breasted starling

47

**Starlings**



Greater blue-eared / Superb / Lesser blue-eared

48

# Wild Astronomy

## Little Birds



Dusky flycatcher / Rosey-patched bush-shrike / White-eyed slaty flycatcher / Common waxbill / Paradise flycatcher 49

## Colourful Birds



Purple grenadier / Malachite kingfisher / Collared sunbird / Crested barbet / Red-cheeked cordon-bleu 50

## White-fronted Bee-eaters



White-fronted bee-eaters, Rufiji River Camp

51

## Lilac-breasted Roller



Lilac-breasted roller, Taita Hills

52

# Wild Astronomy

## Big Birds



Ostrich / Ground hornbill / Saddle-billed stork / Greater egret / Black-headed heron

53

## Odd Birds



Hammerkop      Secretary birds

Kori bustard

54

## Raptors



Lappet-faced vulture / Augur buzzard

55

## Raptors



Black-chested snake-eagle / African fish eagle / Pale chanting goshawk / Grey kestrel / African fish eagle

56

# Wild Astronomy

Patience



Tawny eagle, Tsavo West National Park

57

Bad Hair Day?



Tawny eagle, Tsavo West National Park

58

Water Birds



Black-winged stilt / Greater painted-snipe / African jacana

59

Lesser Flamingo



Lesser flamingo, Ol Tukai Lodge, Amboseli National Park

60

# Wild Astronomy

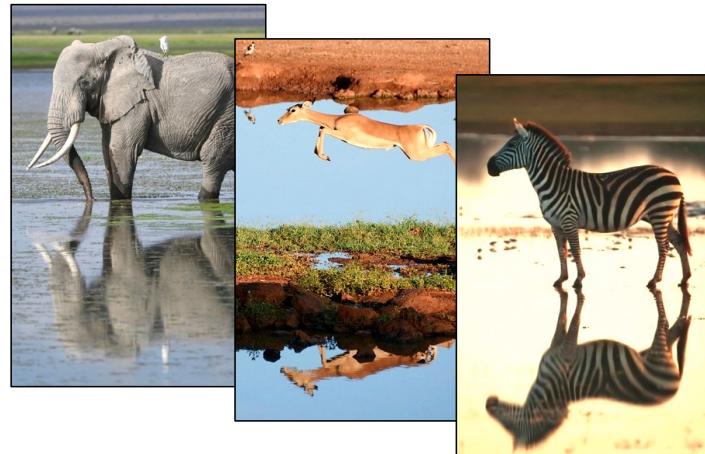
## Reflections



Great white pelican / Lesser flamingo / Black-headed heron / Great cormorant / Lesser flamingo

61

## Reflections



Elephant (Amboseli NP) / Impala (Tsavo West NP) / Zebra (Tsavo West NP)

62

## Lake Nakuru



Waterbuck / Black rhinoceros / Zebra

63

## Play Fighting



Young lions play fighting, Maasai Mara

64

# Wild Astronomy

## Real Fighting



Lappet-faced vultures / Hippopotamus / Cape buffalo / Lion and hyenas

65

## Serendipity



Crowned crane / Lion / Cheetah

66

## Zebra Crossing



Zebras crossing flooded plain, Ol Tukai Lodge, Amboseli National Park

67

## Yawns



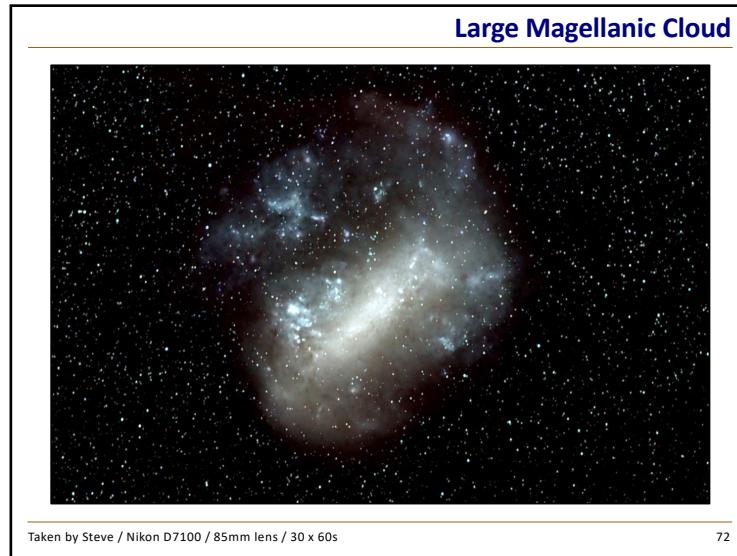
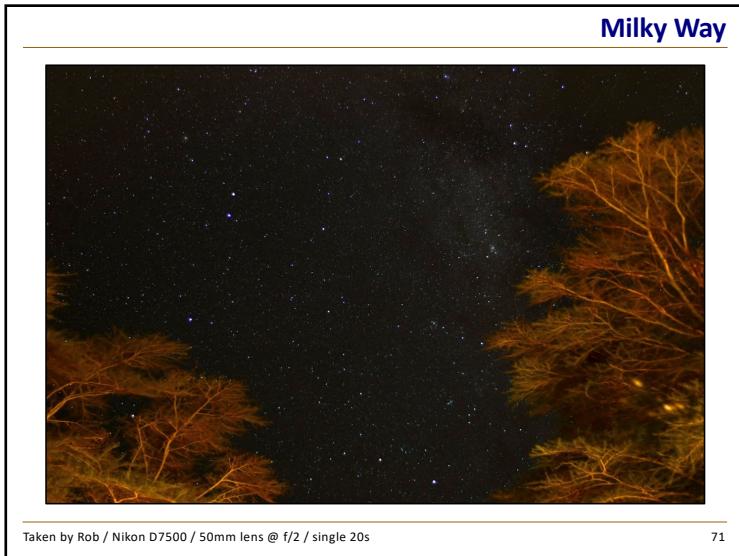
Olive baboon / Leopard / Cheetah / Hippopotamus

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# Wild Astronomy



## Astrophotography



# Wild Astronomy

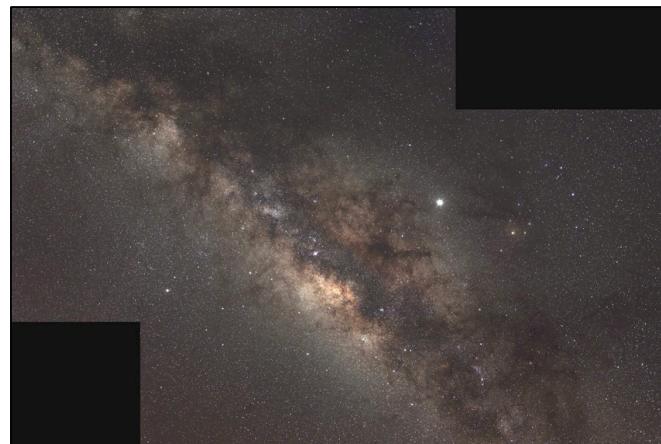
Carina Nebula



Nikon D7500 / 85mm lens / 15 x 60s

73

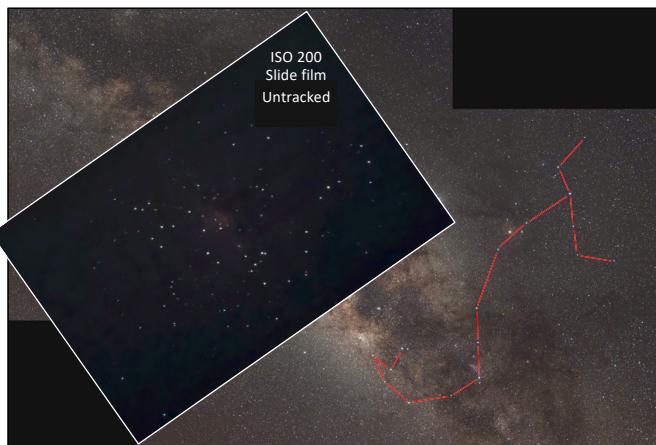
Milky Way



Taken by Steve / Nikon D7500 / 35mm lens / 10 x 120s

74

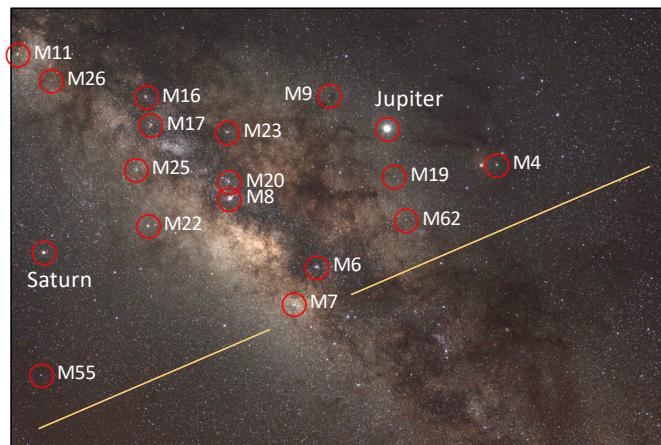
Milky Way



Taken by Steve / Nikon D7500 / 35mm lens / 10 x 120s

75

Milky Way

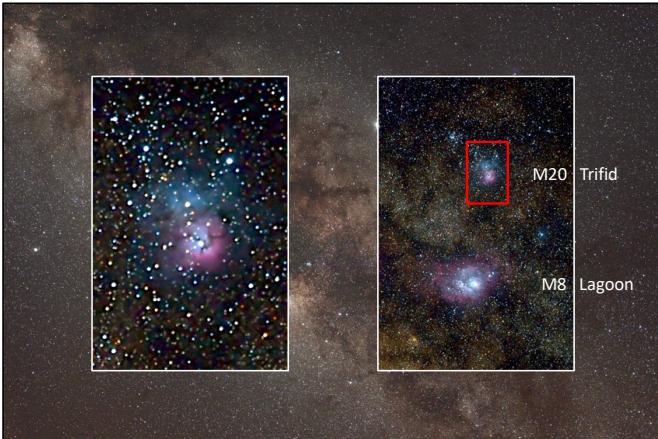


Taken by Steve / Nikon D7500 / 35mm lens / 10 x 120s

76

# Wild Astronomy

Lagoon and Trifid Nebulae



Taken by Steve / Nikon D7500 / 300mm lens / 1 x 30s

77

Milky Way



Taken by Steve / Nikon D7500 / 35mm lens / 10 x 120s

78

The End(s)



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Wildlife by day ...

... stars by night

Wild  
Astronomy

[www.liverpool.ac.uk/~sdb/Talks](http://www.liverpool.ac.uk/~sdb/Talks)

Dr Steve Barrett

WU3A 16 Jan 2026