

THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

CAPE CENTRE

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR PERIOD 1st JULY 2000 TO 30th JUNE 2001

This second year of my Chairmanship has flown by all too quickly and for this, I have to thank all members of the Committee and the members of the Centre for having made it so enjoyable.

Unfortunately I have to record the sad death of three of our members during the year. They were Mr G Malherbe, Mr Harold Krumm and our old friend and colleague, Dr Alan J Cousins. Please will, you rise and maintain a moment's silence in memory of these stalwarts. Thank you.

Otherwise, the most important thing which I have noticed is the gradual and steady increase in numbers of members and Guests present at our meetings. We started off the year with 93 paid up members and close today with no less than 132 - an increase of about 35%. I can only hope that this trend will continue during the coming year. The increase caused some difficulties with the parking arrangements and with the most kind co-operation of Dr "Bob" Stobie (Director of the SAAO) this has now been solved and parking of cars is under far better control.

In brief, our "Formal Meetings" held on the second Wednesday of each month, have been addressed by some eminent speakers and have been extremely well attended.

July 2000	Dr R Stobie (Director of SAAO)	"The South African Large Telescope"
August	Mr John Richards (SABC)	"Our Environment - the Universe"
September	Dr Peter Martinez	"The Robotic Telescope at Sutherland"
October	Mr Edward Foster (Dept. Biochemistry)	"The Origin of Life"
November	Dr Patrick Woudt	"The Search for the Great Attractor"
December	Centre's Christmas Party	(13 th December)
January 2001	IN RECESS	-----
February	Professor Cleymans (UCT)	"The Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider - USA)
March	Professor G Ellis	"A Flat Universe?"
April	Centre's "Think Tank"	Well over sixty ideas resulted from this
May	Mr Rupert Hurlly	"The Abbe La Caille"
June	Mr Cliff Turk	"The forthcoming Solar Eclipse"

At these meetings, the attendance ranged from 23 to 36 with a maximum of 42, but as several people present failed to sign the register, the figures were actually somewhat higher. An average of five visitors attended each of these. For arranging these lectures, we owe sincere thanks to Abe Mahomed for arranging them while having his hands full as our P.R.O., and also acting as Membership Secretary of A.S.S.A. - A job extremely well done.

At the informal meetings, held on the remaining Wednesdays, attendances have been extremely good, occasionally being "standing room only" and I thank those members of the Committee who prepared and delivered their less formal but highly interesting talks.

Outside activities included several "Dark Sky" evenings where the really keen amateurs disappear into the countryside and spend most of the night studying the stars in almost perfect conditions. These evenings were generally arranged by Dudley Field. Otherwise, a number of members supported special evenings with telescopes and binoculars at Kirstenbosch Botanic Gardens - all well supported by the public at large.

A number of members assisted at the S.A.A.O. on Saturday "open nights" when there were many

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visitors on each occasion.

The Centre "Braaivleis"- accompanied by a brisk South-Easter and held on 17th March - was somewhat poorly attended but those who were there thoroughly enjoyed the more social side of our membership. This kind of activity deserves better support.

An excellent photographic competition was held on 30th May and we were honoured by having Dr Patricia Whitelock present to hand out the prizes. How the Judges managed to make their final decisions, we will never know for the standard shown was first class in all categories.

Many Centre members attended a showing of the "Solar Max" film at the Imax Theatre on 6th June this year and enjoyed the film, even if it was somewhat aimed at the public rather than astronomers - professional or amateur.

Quite a number of our Members both here and in Lusaka were involved with the Solar Eclipse on June 21st. In Cape Town, telescopes and other equipment were set up at shopping Centres, Schools, the Planetarium, the Waterfront and of course at the Observatory itself. Some excellent photographs of totality were taken in Zambia.

Our "Logo" has been redesigned and modernised. Coffee mugs and Tee shirts bear this new logo and a superb new banner has just been completed for use at public gatherings. A considerable number of publicity "fliers" has also been produced and for all of these and the artwork involved, we must thank Miss Joanne Willmore for her fine and artistic efforts.

Now to the general "Thanks" part of this Report.

Firstly to the Director and Staff of the S.A.A.O. for their continuing kind assistance and for allowing us the use of the Lecture Hall at no cost.

Secondly to those two stalwarts without whom no organisation can function properly, namely Mike Christianson as Secretary and Tony Jones as Treasurer.

I also wish to thank all the other members of the Committee for their enthusiasm and dedication, whatever their various portfolios might have been. Their support to me as Chairman has been invaluable.

My personal thanks to Andrew McConnell, our Vice-Chairman for holding the fort whenever I have been unable to be present at a meeting.

The ladies who put themselves out so magnificently by providing tea, coffee and biscuits at our formal and special meetings. Thank you ladies!

Finally, to every one of you, the Members for your support and interest in this, our Science and Hobby. To some, Astronomy is a most serious business - and so it is - but when we can enjoy it and have a bit of fun with it as well, then, all to the good.

I wish my successor in office and his or her Committee every success for the forthcoming year May the Centre go from strength to strength. It has been a privilege to serve you.

Thank you.

CAPE CENTRE ASSA

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2001

ASSETS	2001	2000
Cash	1081.57	145.65
Savings A/c	2163.69	3352.77
Fixed Deposit	3500.00	3500.00
Sundry Debtors	32.40	0.00
	6777.66	6998.42
Stock - Other	0.00	0.00
Stock - T Shirts	1387.14	57.32
Stock - Stickers	23.00	24.50
Stock - Mugs	454.18	66.89
	1864.32	148.51
Eqpt - Ron Atkins	2000.00	2000.00
Eqpt - Eyepieces	500.00	500.00
Eqpt - Larmuth	100.00	100.00
Eqpt - Projector	300.00	300.00
Library Cabinet	1150.00	350.00
Tea Urn	400	
	4450.00	3250.00
TOTAL ASSETS	13091.98	10396.93
LIABILITIES		
Key Deposits	50.00	50.00
Due to CC Trust	0.00	0.00
Subs Pd In Advance	1477.60	0.00
Sundry Cr	82.17	72.17
	1609.77	122.17
General Fund	11482.21	10274.76
TOTAL LIABILITIES	13091.98	10396.93

In my opinion the above Balance Sheet and accompanying Income & Expenditure statement give a true and fair view of the financial state of the affairs of the Cape Centre ASSA as at 30 June 2001

.....Hon Auditor

CAPE CENTRE ASSA

Income & Expenditure 2000 / 2001

	2001	2000
INCOME		
Subscriptions	2360.00	1938.00
Donations	2663.73	749.00
Sale of Stock	2113.00	252.00
Sale of Handbooks	300.00	0.00
Interest Received	369.30	526.96
Sale of Eqpt	200.00	0.00
Total	8006.03	3465.96
C/Observer	2649.40	1631.92
Meeting Exps	269.26	0.00
Admin - Keys	80.00	509.39
Post & Phone	140.00	0.00
Stationery	450.65	0.00
Library	75.00	0.00
Speaker's Gifts	68.74	0.00
Other Gifts	28.60	0.00
Bank Charges	134.38	0.00
Xmas Party	249.13	241.13
Cost Of Stock Sold	1759.95	0.00
Other Expenses	259.29	0.00
Photo Competition	634.18	0.00
Insurance	0.00	60.00
Total	6798.58	2442.44
Income Over Exp	1207.45	1023.52

.....Hon Auditor