

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the  
Astronomical Society of Southern Africa (Natal Midlands Centre)  
held at the College for Further Education, Havelock  
Road, Pinelburg on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July 1982

There were 27 members present and 4 visitors  
Apologies were received from J + C Gray, F. Wiggle  
Mr Pat Davis and Mr F. Spencer Brown.

Mrs Dale declared the meeting open and welcomed  
everyone present - in particular the members of  
the Natal Centre Mr Ray Field and Mr Jose  
Campos (the visiting speaker)

The minutes of the 1981 AGM held on 29<sup>th</sup> July  
were read and confirmed  
Matters arising - none.

Chairman's Report Mrs Dale gave a report  
of the years proceedings and said that the  
year had been characterised by progress and  
increased membership. A new library cupboard  
had been installed, the societies reflecting mirrors  
aluminiumed and co-operation with the Natal  
Centre in the organizing of Izinkanyazi. She  
thanked the committee for their cooperation  
and support. She thanked the Rector for  
the use of the College Committee Room  
as well as the Natal Education Department.

Treasurer's Report Mrs T. Brophy presented  
the statement for income and expenditure  
and stated that the balance was



at 30. 7. 82 was R116.80 Cash in  
hand 30. 7. 82 was R112.12 The  
report was passed and accepted by  
seconded by

It was stated that application had been  
made to the Department of National  
Education for an educational grant to  
be used for a project in 1983

### Election of 1982/83 Committee

There were 7 nominations for the 1983  
Committee -

Mr Clarke

Mr A. Roberts

Mrs T. Brophy

Mr J. Watson

Mrs C. Couling

Mr P. Welch

Mrs S. Dale

The secretary promised to forward this list  
and reports to ASSA once the office  
bearers had been chosen at a committee  
meeting on Thursday 5th August 1982

Mr G. Gopaul then proceeded with an  
excellently prepared tape and slide show  
of mirror silvering and this was then  
followed by a Talk and Slide Show  
of Mr Jose Campos recent trip to the  
World Contact Conference at Boston USA.

After thanks and refreshments the meeting  
ended at 10.15 pm.

THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

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Natal Midland Centre

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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It gives me great pleasure to report on the activities of your society for the year ended 30 June 1982.

It is said that if one is not going forwards one is going backwards. For The Natal Midland Centre this has certainly been a year for going forwards; our membership has steadily increased by one new member per month. Illustrated lectures were very successfully presented by members who have not attempted to address us before. The main attraction for the monthly meetings included:-

Comets - A talk given by Mr Jose Campos about their origin and occurrence.

Solar Activity and Sun Spots - A talk and slide show presented by Mr Jimmie Barker.

At this meeting we said farewell to Mr Andrew Gray, founder member of our centre and Past President of A.S.S.A. who has taken up residence in Johannesburg.

Life on other Planets - A treatise by Mr Aubrey Roberts.

A talk on Optics - Mr R Dale.

Black Hole Theory - An illustrated survey of present topical thought by Mr Bill de Lange.

Voyager 2 encounters Saturn - Tapes and slides from N.A.S.A. presented by Mr R Field.

We are all very familiar with the saying "The Spirit is Willing but the Flesh is Weak". None more so than those who venture out on a cold, crisp, starry night with telescope, binoculars and star map to put in a few hours observing. With a view to encouraging members to activate their good intentions it has been my pleasure to comment each meeting on the easily located binocular objects on view at the time.

Izinkhanyezi, 1982, organised by The Natal Centre, was held at The Everglades Hotel in The Dargle. Four of us availed ourselves of the opportunity to participate in what proved to be the most exciting gathering of astronomers yet held in Natal. Our cine enthusiast, Mr Bob Roberts, recorded the event on film. This, together with his excellent commentary, was enjoyed by both The Natal and Natal Midlands Centres. The array of telescopes so bright in the afternoon sun took on a sinister look in the dark pollution free starry night, groups of unrecognisable heavily clad figures huddled around equally unrecognisable instruments. The content of the lectures was stimulating and the daylight observing educational. I would strongly recommend that incoming committees urge active participation in Izinkhanyezis of the future.

A library is indeed an asset to any Society. The Natal Midland Centre procured a cupboard on the auction sales, thanks to our secretary, for a very reasonable sum. This now houses the volumes of Sky and Telescope.



It appears that members are not using this facility to its full extent and I would suggest that the incoming committee gives more advertising to the use of the library.

In July last year we found a permanent home here at The College of Education for further training. I know you will agree with me that this committee room serves our purpose admirably and I would like to table our thanks to The College for the use of these facilities.

The mirror of the centre's 6 inch Newtonian Telescope, which has been aluminised, was sent to the Observatory in Cape Town with others from The Natal Centre, and all we were required to pay was the freightage. Our thanks to the Cape Observatory for their assistance.

On the recommendation of Mr Andrew Gray, our secretary wrote to The Cultural Office, Advancement of Culture, Department of National Education, with a view to obtaining an educational grant. A member of the department came to one of our meetings, forms have been filled in, and we are now awaiting the result.

Now I come to the most important part of this report - my "thank you's". First, to our secretary for his unflagging support and the devoted interest he has given to his duties. Then to a hard working and diligent committee and to all who have contributed in one way or another to the success of The Natal Midland Centre.

S.B. DALE

Chairman

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE

INCOME & EXPENDITURE AS AT JULY 1982

INCOME

Brought forward 1981	R 72.36
Membership Fees	167.00
Teas	30.84
Handbooks	15.60
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	R285.80


EXPENDITURE

ASSA Affiliation Fee	R 17.50
Educational Material	37.50
Freight Charges	8.50
Honoraria	25.00
Insurance (Telescope)	10.10
Library Cupboard	21.00
Postage	29.82
Stationery	12.61
Teas	6.97
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	R169.00

Cash on hand	4.68	
Cash at bank	112.12	
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		R285.80

  
C.S. Lake - Secretary

  
S. Dale - Chairman

  
T. Brophy - Tre