

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA - NATAL
MIDLANDS CENTRE HELD AT THE COLLEGE FOR FURTHER
EDUCATION AND TRAINING, HAVELOCK ROAD, PIETERMARITZBURG
ON WEDNESDAY 27 JULY 1983.

There were 15 members present and 2 visitors.

Apologies were received from 7 members.

Mr Lake declared the meeting open and welcomed everyone present, in particular the guest speaker Prof. O. McGee.

Minutes of 1982 AGM held on 28th July were read and accepted (Proposed S Dale, Seconded R. Joubert)

Matters arising - none.

Chairman's Report - Mr Lake reviewed the many and various activities of the Centre during the year, and thanked Committee and members for their enthusiasm and support.

The report was accepted (Proposed R. Dale, Seconded P. Webb)

Treasurer's Report - this was presented by Mrs. Couling, who had taken over from Mrs Brophy during the year.

A statement of Income and Expenditure reflected a balance of 174-99 (Bank 155-12, Cash 19-87)

Notice of revised subscription rates was given

(viz. Single 6-00, Couple 10-00, Student 3-00)

following on the publication of these rates in the

July notice paper.

The report was accepted (Proposed T. Brophy, Seconded C. Carling).

Election of 1983/84 Committee.

There were 8 nominations, namely

Mesdames Dale, Carling, Weller.

Messrs Lake, Watson, Welch, Moore & Herselman.

With the exception of 1 member, the meeting unanimously elected all these nominees to the Committee.

Other business

- 1) Mr Frost thanked the Secretary, on behalf of the members of the Centre, for the production of the monthly newsletter, and the Chairman presented the Secretary with a small gift in appreciation of the services rendered.
- 2) Mrs Dale informed the meeting of a proposed visit to Ungeni Valley Ranch on 8/8/83. The meeting decided to make this the regular Centre meeting for August.

Guest speaker.

Prof O. McGee gave a fascinating talk entitled "A Look at Clouds", illustrated with some excellent diagrams and beautiful colour slides.

After a vote of thanks to Prof. McGee and some refreshments, the meeting was closed at 10 pm.

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE - 1982/3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I have pleasure in presenting the 10th Chairman's report of the Natal Midlands Centre for the year July 1982 to June 1983. At the beginning of August I must admit to you that following the spectacular visits to Planets Jupiter and Saturn of 1981/2 and their consequent pictures I had misgivings about future programmes and as to whether we could match their interest. My fears were, however, unfounded because in addition to an increased average attendance of 22 persons per meeting, our members came forward and made worthwhile contributions some of which I would like to mention.

Dr. Geoff Prosser set the ball rolling with some beautifully illustrated slides and commentary on the Historical Origins and Names of the Solar System. This was followed in November By John Watson's ~~updated~~ ^{stellar life cycle} presentation of White Dwarf or Red Giant a most interesting lecture on ~~pulsars~~. Because of our increased attendance and fairness not to invade one housewife a precedent was set to have a Christmas Dinner at Crossways Hotel. We were delighted to have added company from the Natal Centre and the evening cuisine included turned out to be a great success, notwithstanding the Chairman having, with the help of the faithful secretary, to push himself home in the rain.

The new year brought with it two well known visiting speakers. We were honoured to have Mr. Pieter Erasmus who came especially from Bloemfontein to show us his home made and beautifully constructed Schief Spiegelar Telescope.

A highlight of the year was the lightning visit of professional astronomer Dr. Tim Harwarden who graced us with his presence whilst on a short visit to South Africa. He spoke about the new Infra Red Telescope in Hawaai, and showed us superb slides of its surroundings.


A further highlight of the year was the participation by our centre at the Centenary Commemoration of the Natal Observatory and unveiling of the plaque commemorating the site of the Durban Observatory as a National Monument. It was also the 100th anniversary of the Solar Transit of Venus and a tableau was presented. It was a most memorable occasion.

Our Committee also decided to accept an invitation to exhibit at the YMCA Hobbies Fair held at the YMCA Sports centre from 29th - 31st October 1982. This proved to be a great success. There were favourable comments regarding our display which consisted of instruments, colour slides and educational media and we felt that the Pietermaritzburg public were now more informed about the activities of our society.

I should like to express our gratitude to the Rector and the Natal Education Department for so kindly continuing to allow us to use the venue for our meetings and to store our library cupboard here. The latter has been put to good use with the hope of even greater facility in the future. I would also like to thank those members from the Durban centre who have added regular attendance and support. In particular Messrs Field and Campos who have contributed greatly to our evenings even to the point of computerized information.

Some of our members have also disseminated information on astronomy to various schools and societies throughout the year, whilst I had the privilege of being asked to deliver in April the Wednesday University Lecture on the Recovery of Halley's Comet.

In conclusion I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to this years committee who have all given their utmost support and contribution. I must single out our most hard working Secretary who has regularly compiled, typed, printed and posted our monthly newsletter which has improved from strength to strength. Also for helping to make my task as Chairman pleasurable. I would finally like to thank all members for their enthusiasm and support and wish you all clear skies for viewing and a successful year ahead.



CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

JULY 1983

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE JULY 1983

INCOME

Teas	22-94
Brought forward from 1982	R116-80
Handbooks	7-50
Membership fees	166-00
Grant	<u>55-00</u>
	R368-24

EXPENDITURE

Handbooks	30-00
Insurance (Telescope)	20-20
Honoraria	30-00
Material Hobbies Fair	25-05
Postage	42-00
Keys	3-00
Tips - teas and hobbies fair	9-00
Phone calls	2-00
Stationery	28-00
Presentation	<u>4-00</u>
	R193-25

Cash on hand	R19-87	
Cash at Bank	155-12	
		<u>R174-99</u>
		R368-24

Accountant 21/7/83