

A.S.S.A. Historical Section 2015 Year Report

Introduction:

During the past year (Calendar Year 2015) the following has happened concerning the History of Astronomy.

Website:

The website is in the process of being updated.

Selling of Cooke Telescope:

The Cooke 8-inch refractor dating from the 1890's was sold by the Port Elizabeth People's Observatory Society (PEPOS) on public auction to the highest bidder for \$17,500.00. The new owner is Daniel Mobati from the United States of America.

Centenary Celebrations:

The Centenary of the discovery of Proxima Centauri was held at the Johannesburg Observatory by Robert Innes. At the time of the discovery the Observatory was known as the Union Observatory. As part of the celebrations Case Rijdsdijk initiated "A Stellar Highway" which shows the Sun and Proxima Centauri to scale by using the calibration pillars for meridian telescopes at Cape Town and Johannesburg as a baseline.

Archive:

New material from the Natal Midlands Centre was acquired.

Publications:

Ian Glass published a book with the goal of creating public awareness about the value Cape Observatory.

- I.S. Glass; *The Royal Observatory at the Cape of Good Hope, History and Heritage*; Mons Mensa, 2015.

Individuals in their private capacities wrote articles with historical content. Please note my appreciation to the following people:

- Guy Ellis; "Comet Chaser"; *Mnassa* Vol 74 Nos 1 & 2 February 2015
- Greg Roberts; "Amateur Optical Tracking in South Africa during 1957 – 2014 – Part 6"; *Mnassa* Vol 74 Nos 1 & 2 February 2015
- Centenary of the Discovery of Proxima Centauri; *Mnassa* Vol 74 Nos 3 & 4 April 2015
- Greg Roberts; "Amateur Optical Tracking in South Africa during 1957 – 2014 – Part 7"; *Mnassa* Vol 74 Nos 3 & 4 April 2015
- I.S. Glass; "The Franklin-Adams Telescope" *Mnassa* Vol 74 Nos 5 & 6 June 2015
- Greg Roberts; "The Moonwatch Programme – Part 8"; *Mnassa* Vol 74 Nos 7 & 8 August 2015
- Case Rijdsdijk; "A Stellar Highway"; *Mnassa* Vol 74 Nos 9 & 10 October 2015
- I.S. Glass; "The Magnetic Observatory Buildings at the Royal Observatory, Cape"; *Mnassa* Vol 74 Nos 9 & 10 October 2015

- Greg Roberts; “The Moonwatch Programme – Part 8”; Mnassa Vol 74 Nos 9 & 10 October 2015
- E.J.F. Foster; “Finding the Blaauwberg Meridian Marker: Expedition, 5 December 2015”; Mnassa Vol 74 Nos 11 & 12 December 2015

Obituaries:

MNASSA published obituaries on the following astronomers:

- Eddie Baart; Mnassa Vol 74 Nos 1 & 2 February 2015
- Darragh O' Donoghue; Mnassa Vol 74 Nos 7 & 8 August 2015
- Alphonse Florsh; Mnassa Vol 74 Nos 9 & 10 October 2015

Chris de Coning

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