

ASSA OBSERVING DIRECTOR REPORT
and
OUTREACH OFFICER REPORT
2017 – 2018

I have included both Observing and Outreach reports in one, the two going hand-in-hand.

Observing and Outreach events during the past were advertised and posted using the various channels available, namely the ASSA Facebook page, web page and Discussion group. Sighting reports have been answered using input from specialists, Tim Cooper (Comet, Meteor & Asteroids), and Shallow Sky Director Clyde Foster, satellite input from Greg Roberts was not required. I would like to thank them for their assistance.

A special thanks to Tim for co-ordinating the meteor/fireball reports during the course of the year especially the 02nd June bolide event.

Pretoria Centre's Michael Poll is thanked for submitting the Centre's observing reports.

I have fielded many Outreach queries and calls and these have all been routed through to the Discussion group. One of these, the 3D Luna Experiment, is still a work in progress with much input from South African lunar photographers.

For novae and variables I would like to thank Specialist Dave Blane for keeping us up to date during the past year. I successfully imaged Nova Carinae (ASASNN-18fv) during February 2018.

There were many observing opportunities during the course of the year with ASSA members having various successes in observing/imaging these. Of these, one that really stands out for me was the close pass of Asteroid 210 WC9, which I managed to document on the evening of the 15th May 2018. Asteroid 3122 Florence was imaged over three evenings on the 30th, 31st September and the 1st October.

Comets observed and imaged during the period were 29 Encke, 71P Clarke, C/215 V2 Johnson, C2016 R2 (PANSTARRS), C 2017 01 (ASASSN1) and C/2016 M1 (PANSTARRS).

Our relocation to the Western Cape has gone smoothly with the Southern Cape Astronomy Club hosting astronomy evenings once a month. Two successful outreach events were also held from our new premises. The first was the partial lunar eclipse in August 2017, followed by a total lunar eclipse in July 2018. Live video feeds were supplied to Slooh on both occasions with good results during the August partial eclipse. Internet connectivity issues unfortunately put an early stop to the feed in July 2018. The total lunar eclipse on the 27th July 2018 was a good opportunity for some astronomy related outreach. Claire Flanagan did a fantastic job in setting up an ASSA web page for the event with numerous outreach events held successfully across the country. From social media reports it is apparent that these were well attended. The Southern Cape Astronomy Club hosted an open event that included visitors from Cape Town and Hermanus.

In conclusion I would like to wish everyone clear skies and encourage you to submit your observations to the relevant ASSA sections.

Kos Coronaios
ASSA Observing Director
Outreach Officer

Asteroid 2010 WC9



Photograph: Kos Coronaios ©