

ASSA OBSERVING DIRECTOR REPORT
and
OUTREACH OFFICER REPORT
2018 – 2019

Both Observing & Outreach reports are included.

Observing and Outreach events during the past year 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 specialist, Tim Cooper (Comet, Meteor & Asteroid Specialist), while satellite input from Greg Roberts was not required the past year.

Once again a special thanks to Tim for co-ordinating the meteor/fireball reports during the course of the year, especially the Western Cape event on January 16th 2019. This one was close to home with reports coming in from the Pearly Beach/Gansbaai/Hermanus areas and surrounds, as well as further afield. The full report can be found in the February 2019 edition of MNASSA, which includes my wife's one, who happened to be outside when it happened. Over and above the January 16 bolide, around 45 sighting reports were handled during the course of the year and the meteor/fireball ones have been logged by Tim Cooper. These reports can be found in the various MNASSA publications, and the latest will be made available in due course.

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

I have fielded a number of Outreach queries and calls and these have all been routed through to the Discussion group or answered directly.

For novae and variables I would like to thank Specialist Dave Blane for keeping us up to date during the past year.

There were many observing opportunities during the course of the year with ASSA members having varying success in observing/imaging these. Two of these that are worth mentioning are:

Shallow Sky Director, Clyde Foster's ongoing planetary imaging, specifically with reference to Jupiter observations.

And Jose da Silva and Neville Young on a successful observation of an exoplanet transit HD189733b on the 28th July 2018. Full report can be found in the December 2018 edition of MNASSA.

Comets observed and imaged during this period by myself:

C/2016 M1 (PANSTARRS)
21P Biacobini-Zinner,
46P Wirtanen (naked-eye)
C/2018 Y1 Iwamoto

During the year the ASSA Centres have hosted successful outreach events in the form of monthly meetings with stargazing opportunities. Closer to home the Southern Cape Astronomy Club has held a number of successful outreach events in the form of stargazing evenings. Unfortunately the Cape weather has scuttled a number of them as well!

I was invited by the Hermanus Centre to be their guest speaker on the 15th July. My presentation for the evening was on the subject of how to observe comets. The following evening, during the partial lunar eclipse, I provided a successful YouTube live feed to Slooh for their coverage of the eclipse.

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

Comet C/2018 Y1 Iwamoto

Comet C/2018 Y1 Iwamoto, 01/03/2019, 19:27 UT, Kos Coronaios, Pearly Beach, SA, Canon 60D, 200 mm EF lens @f2.8, 19 x 30 seconds cropped, ISO 6400, fov 4° x 2.8°, 4.5 arcsec/pixel.

