

# **ASSA: ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY SECTION ANNUAL REPORT (2022-2023)**

## **THE STATE OF ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY AND IMAGING**

The Astrophotography Section (formally known as the Imaging Section in the ASSA constitution) coordinates and promotes using astronomical imaging technology by amateur Observers and collects images created by amateur astronomers. In recent years, more and more South African amateur astronomers have begun using their imaging equipment to collect and provide data to professional astronomers globally. The quality of artistic astronomical images produced by both professional and amateur photographers in South Africa continues to improve.

## **MEMBER ACTIVITY**

The Astrophotography Section continues to encourage the submission of photographic images to the image archive on Flickr. We link to the photos on the ASSA website in the Gallery section, grouped by photographer and subject. We only accept submissions from Southern African photographers or images captured in Southern Africa. We do not require the photographer to be an ASSA member, nor do we refuse photo submissions based on quality. The section works to promote and encourage the art of Astrophotography.

## **INITIATIVES**

An ongoing collaboration between the Astrophotography Section and all ASSA Publications is proving very successful. It includes contributions to Sky Guide, MNASSA and Southern Skies. Image contributions go into consideration for publication in Sky Guide.

## **INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION**

International collaboration with sponsors like Optolong is an example of collaboration as an incentive for Astrophotography in South Africa. Collaboration opens many possibilities for international support for the growing local Astrophotography community.

## **ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITIONS**

The latest competition was the Big 5 of the African Sky Astrophotography Challenge. Fantastic prizes sponsored by Optolong resulted in great images captured for the challenge.

## **SECTION DIRECTOR**

The current Section Director is Martin Heigan.