

The primary focus of ASSA revolves around fostering and stimulating the exploration of Astronomy.

As my engagement with ASSA deepened over the past few years, I came to appreciate the immense potential of our network. It serves as a hub for remarkable events, discussions, and publications, including the Sky Guide and MNASSA, all contributing significantly to astronomical research.

Presently, Astronomy experiences a remarkable era, marked by the emergence of advanced telescopes such as JWST, SKA, and LSST, and South Africa takes the lead with noteworthy contributions from SALT, MeerKAT, and SKA. Moreover, we proudly anticipate hosting the prestigious IAU General Assembly in 2024.

The fortunate alliance with the government, exemplified by the Astronomy Geographic Advantage Act, investments in SALT and MeerKAT, and the recently devised National AstroTourism Strategy, provides invaluable support.

ASSA finds itself in a unique position, not only as a pillar of support but as an active driver of the future in astronomy. Our central role involves uniting South Africans, evoking excitement, imparting knowledge, and inspiring both upcoming astronomers and a curious and engaged public.

I eagerly anticipate ASSA's continued growth and its lasting impact on the trajectory of African Astronomy.

ASSA to give focus on opportunities to increase ASSA memberships across Centres and Country Membership.

The number of members has dropped from 2022

ASSA Member Numbers

	2022	2023
Country Members	100	86
Honorary Members	13	13
Bursar Members	0	2
Associate Members (Botswana Astronomical Society)	0	1
Garden Route Centre	42	28
Cape Centre	83	84
Hermanus Centre	56	51
Johannesburg Centre	62	96

Pretoria Centre	47	44
Durban Centre	138	68
	541	473