

ASSA AGM 2017 MINUTES

DATE	2 Aug 2017	TIME	20:00 to 21:50	VENUE	The SAAO Auditorium, SAAO, Cape Town
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Present

ASSA Council and Appointees

Eddy Nijeboer	Cape Centre Chair (AGM Chair)
Dr Pierre de Villiers	President, Chair - Hermanus Centre
Case Rijdsdijk	Vice President, Chair - Garden Route Centre, MNASSA Editor
Chris Stewart	Council Member, Section Director Instrumentation
Adv AJ Nel	Treasurer
Dr IS Glass	Committee Member
Lerika Cross	Secretary
Clyde Foster	Shallow Sky Section Director
Kos Coronaios	Outreach and Observing Director
Christian Hettlage	Web Master
James Smith	Web Manager

ASSET

Peter Cramb	ASSET Trustee
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VIP Guests

Andy Overbeek, Margaret Overbeek, Robin Overbeek
Berto and Brigitte Monard
Andre and Karen van Staden
Nielen Schafer

Apologies

Prof Matie Hoffman	Vice President
Bosman Olivier	Membership Secretary
Ronnie Glass	ASSA Independent Compiler
Tim Cooper	ASSET Trustee
Andrew Gray	Honorary Member
José Campos	Honorary Member
Dr Claire Flanagan	ASSA Scholarship Convenor
Auke Slotegraaf	Sky Guide Editor, Section Director Deep Sky
Percy Jacobs	Section Director ASSA Spectroscopy and Photometry
Dave Blane	Section Director Double and Variable Stars
Mike Hadlow	ASSA Durban Chair
Johan Smit	ASSA Pretoria Chair
Allen Versfeld	Section Director Imaging
Jerome Jooste	ASSA Johannesburg Chair

NOTES

1. Unfortunately, an attendance list was not able to be circulated. In addition to the specific names listed there were many Cape Centre Members and local visitors which brought the total in attendance at the AGM to 47.
2. The sequence in which the names are recorded in the attendance do not have any meaning.

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	Agenda Points	Discussions / Decisions / Actions
1	Welcome	Eddy Nijeboer, Cape Centre Chair, who fulfilled the role of host and Chairman for the AGM, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting. Apologies received are recorded in these minutes.
2	Minutes	The minutes of the previous AGM meeting held on 17 August 2016 were accepted without amendments (Proposed P de Villiers, Seconded C Stewart).
NOTE: All reports will be placed on the website http://assa.saa.ac.za/ and in MNASSA		
3	Report on Council	3. Report on Council The ASSA President, P de Villiers, presented his Report on Council.
4	ASSA Director Reports	4. Reports received from the ASSA Directors The reports for the year 2016 17 from ASSA Directors who were present at the AGM were tabled and presented by the Directors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Shallow Sky Section Report by the Director, Clyde Foster b) SA Astronomy History Section report by the Director Chris de Coning c) Instrumentation Section Report by the Director, Chris Stewart d) Observing Report by the Director, Kos Coronaios e) Outreach Report by the Director, Kos Coronaios f) Communications by the Director, Case Rijdsijk The reports for the year 2016 17 received from ASSA Directors who were not at the AGM were noted that these will be available on the website <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Double and Variable Stars Section Report from the Director, Dave Blane b) Deep Sky Section Report from the Director, A Slotegraaf c) Imaging Section Report from the Director, A Versfeld d) Photometry and Spectroscopy Report from the Director, P Jacobs As the Cosmology Section Director resigned during the year, no Report from Frikkie de Bruyn was reported.
5	ASSA Scholarships	5. ASSA Scholarships The report for the year 2016 17 was received from the ASSA Scholarship Convenor, Dr Claire Flanagan, and will be placed on the website.
6	Membership	6. Membership The 2016 17 Country Membership Fee wef 1 July 2017: subscription fee of R65 per year and R50 joining fee. The Membership Secretary, Bosman Olivier, reported to have tabled that 113 members have paid in 2016 (both renewals and new members) and have been invoiced R65 for the renewal of their membership in the new year.
7	Financial Report	7. Financial Report 2016 17 AJ Nel presented the 2016/17 Financial Report. The Report was approved (Proposed C Stewart, Seconded P de Villiers) and unanimously accepted.
8	Constitution	8. Amendment to the Constitution Adv Nel tabled some amendments to the Constitution which were accepted by

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		<p>Council and which included inter alia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Reference to “An Independent Compiler” for ASSA · Overbeek Award · Clarification that a subscription is not mandatory for an ASSA Centre. <p>No objections were received and the Constitution amendments were accepted and the latest version will be placed on the website.</p>																
9	Independent Compiler Appointment	<p>9. Independent Compiler Appointment</p> <p>It was tabled that ASSA has asked Ronnie Glass of Chartac Advisory Services Pty Ltd to continue as ASSA’s Independent Compiler. Ronnie was unfortunately out of the country and presented his apologies to the AGM.</p> <p>(After the AGM 10 August Ronnie Glass confirmed he will continue in the role of ASSA Independent Compiler)</p> <p>The nomination of the Independent Compiler was approved (Proposed AJ Nel, Seconded: C Stewart and P de Villiers) and unanimously accepted.</p>																
10	ASSET	<p>10. ASSA Endowment Trust</p> <p>Peter Cramb, one of the 3 ASSET Trustees, recapped the main points raised in the letter ASSET sent to ASSA dd 2 August 2017 which is also included as an annexure to these minutes.</p>																
11	Office Bearers 2017 18	<p>11. Office Bearers 2016/17</p> <p>The Council Members – other than the Centre Chairs – were tabled and as no objections were received, accepted as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="395 1178 1442 1935"> <tbody> <tr> <td>President</td> <td>Case Rijdsdijk - Incoming President</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vice President</td> <td>Dr Pierre de Villiers - Outgoing President</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vice President</td> <td>Chris Stewart Nominated by Pierre de Villiers Seconded by Case Rijdsdijk and accepted by nominee</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Treasurer</td> <td>AJ Nel Nominated by Case Rijdsdijk Seconded by Pierre de Villiers and accepted by nominee</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Membership Secretary</td> <td>Bosman Olivier Appointed two years ago 2014 and willing to continue.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Secretary</td> <td>Lerika Cross Nominated by Pierre de Villiers Seconded by Case Rijdsdijk and accepted by nominee</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Council Member</td> <td>Dr Ian Glass Nominated by Lerika Cross Seconded by Pierre de Villiers and accepted by nominee</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Council Member</td> <td>Clyde Foster Nominated by Lerika Cross Seconded by Pierre de Villiers and accepted by nominee</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The Appointees’ positions for the 2017 18 year were presented and accepted as listed in the attachment to these minutes and which will also be placed on the website.</p>	President	Case Rijdsdijk - Incoming President	Vice President	Dr Pierre de Villiers - Outgoing President	Vice President	Chris Stewart Nominated by Pierre de Villiers Seconded by Case Rijdsdijk and accepted by nominee	Treasurer	AJ Nel Nominated by Case Rijdsdijk Seconded by Pierre de Villiers and accepted by nominee	Membership Secretary	Bosman Olivier Appointed two years ago 2014 and willing to continue.	Secretary	Lerika Cross Nominated by Pierre de Villiers Seconded by Case Rijdsdijk and accepted by nominee	Council Member	Dr Ian Glass Nominated by Lerika Cross Seconded by Pierre de Villiers and accepted by nominee	Council Member	Clyde Foster Nominated by Lerika Cross Seconded by Pierre de Villiers and accepted by nominee
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12	Awards	<p>12. ASSA Awards</p>																

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	<p>The ASSA Awards Committee comprises the ASSA President and two Vice Presidents and the Committee decided on the following awards, announced by Dr Pierre de Villiers.</p> <p>12.1 Honorary Membership Dr de Villiers announced Honorary Membership Award to Chris Stewart.</p> <p>Citation for Honorary Membership to Chris Stewart Chris's contributions to Astronomy in SA is two-fold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · At a technical level he started the ATM classes 25 years ago and still serves as its technical leader. International recognition is illustrated by his being appointed as an Instructor of the Springfield Telescope Makers and their invitation to attend their 2017 Stellafane Convention as an Instructor at their cost · At management level became a Council Member in 2010 and serves as Director: Instrumentation. His rational, thoughtful and empathetic contributions have always been appreciated and generally accepted as a mark of respect. <p>Honorary Membership of the Johannesburg Centre recognizes his huge contributions to the Centre.</p> <p>ASSA now has 15 Honorary Members.</p> <p>12.2 Long Service Awards Dr de Villiers announced Long Service Awards to Chris de Coning and Willie Koorts.</p> <p>Citation for a Long Service Award to Chris de Coning Chris joined the Historical Section in 1992, which he still leads and quietly but diligently made huge contributions towards the preservation of the history and archives of both the Society and Astronomy in South Africa. He became the Bloemfontein Centre representative on Council in 1995 until Council meetings were conducted by Skype.</p> <p>Citation for a Long Service Award to Willie Koorts Willie's contributions to Astronomy in SA are multi-facetted and stretch over a long period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · MNASSA editorial board member since 2006, one-time Editor & still at the core of MNASSA activities · Participant in hugely popular "Sterre & Planete" on RSG · Frequent contributor to ASSA Discussion Group and "RSG Sterre & Planete" Facebook page with high level & well thought out specialist contributions · Leads the Orion Observation Group's activities. <p>12.3 Overbeek Medal Awards ASSA Council agreed to an award in October 2016 to be known as the Overbeek Award in honour of Daniel Michael Overbeek, one time President of the ASSA and prolific observer of variable stars. Refer to http://assa.sao.ac.za/about/awards/overbeek-medal/</p> <p>Dr de Villiers announced Berto Monard and Andre van Staden to be recipients of the Overbeek Medal. The meeting was very fortunate to have all three Overbeek siblings present i.e., Robin, Andy and Margaret, who jointly handed over the Medals to the recipients.</p>

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	<p>Citation for Overbeek Medal to Berto Monard SN are massive stars that end their lives by exploding, and for a short time can outshine their host galaxy. Berto has been searching for, and finding, SNe for over 16 years; first from his Bronberg Observatory, and from 2010 from his Klein Karoo Observatory in Calitzdorp. To date he has discovered nearly 150 SNe. What makes his work outstanding is that in an age when massive, robotic surveys are done at professional observatories using telescopes with huge CCD cameras, is that an amateur, using moderate equipment, can still discover SNe! This is in large part due to finding, and using, niche areas and times; where and when to look. To handicap amateur SN hunters even more, since 2010 discoveries needed to be spectroscopically confirmed. This would need to be done by a professional observatory; who often would not have the opportunity, or the inclination, to do the follow up in time. One would like to think that in future, local amateurs might be able to do this! Berto is a dedicated, committed and persevering observer; discovering SNe, and monitoring many other variable stars, the results of which have been published several times in MNASSA and are recognized by the AAVSO. These efforts makes him a worthy recipient of the Overbeek Medal</p> <p>Citation for Overbeek Medal to Andre van Staden Pulsars are rapidly spinning neutron stars resulting from the collapse of a massive star. Rather like the light beam from a lighthouse, the beam of radiation can be detected as the pulsar rotates. Often the pulsar has a companion star forming a binary system known as Red backs. The beam of radiation from the pulsar can heat the companion star, creating a hot-spot. Andre monitored the millisecond pulsar, J1723-2837, and its companion star, photometrically, continuously for over a year and plotted detailed light curves using his 300 mm telescope. The detection of a hot spot on the companion star had not been detected before, probably due to a lack of continuous observation. His results were published in several issues of MNASSA and in collaboration with Dr John Antoniadis from the Dunlap Institute for Astronomy and Astrophysics, University of Toronto, Canada, published the results in the prestigious Astrophysical Journal, ApJ. This makes Andre a worthy recipient of the Overbeek Medal.</p> <p>12.4 Gill Medal Award Dr de Villiers explained that the Gill Medal is awarded by Council for services to astronomy with special consideration to services in Southern Africa. http://assa.saao.ac.za/about/awards/gill-medal/ He announced Case Rijdsijk as the recipient of the Gill Medal.</p> <p>Citation for Gill Medal to Case Rijdsijk For his significant services and contributions towards Astronomy in Southern Africa in diverse fields. As one of the longest serving members of the ASSA Council his loyalty to the ASSA and its ideals are unquestionable. As the Editor of MNASSA he has contributed substantially to a publication of which ASSA can be justifiably proud; in addition he has been admirably successful as ASSA Communications Officer. He has made huge contributions towards Astronomy and Physics Education and Outreach. He re-introduced Astronomy into the school curriculum and established the Outreach Department at SAAO. He was active in SciFest's training workshops for Science Teachers, educational outreaches in the George area as well as other ASSA Centres such as Hermanus. He has been a prolific, effective and popular presenter at ASSA Centres, SciFest, ScopeX, Astronomy clubs, schools and Public meetings. Furthermore his active participation in promoting ASSA involvement with Astronomy</p>

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		professionals, has maintained a link between the two communities.
13	Cooke Scholarship	13. Cooke Scholarship C Rijdsdijk formally extended ASSA's sincere appreciation to Nielen Schafer for the very generous donation to ASSA for scholarship purposes by the PE Peoples Observatory Society further to the sale of their Cooke Refractor Telescope. The scholarship will be known as the Cooke Scholarship.
14	Any other business	As no other business was raised, the Chairman closed the formal part of the meeting.
15	Presidential Address	Dr P de Villiers presented his presidential address.
16	Next Council meeting	The meeting will be confirmed in due course.
17	Closure	Pierre de Villiers handed over the ASSA President's Baton that he made himself to Case Rijdsdijk. He extended a gracious thank you to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SAAO for the use of the venue; - Eddy Nijeboer and ASSA Cape Centre for their excellent arrangements and their kind hospitality, and - All the ASSA members that attended the AGM. <p>The meeting closed at 21:50</p>

Minutes Approved: _____ Date: _____

Attachments: all to be placed on the ASSA website:

1. Report on Council (P de Villiers)
2. Presidential Address (P de Villiers)
3. Financial Report: ASSA Financial Report 2016 17
4. Scholarships Report (Dr Claire Flanagan)
5. Report from ASSET (Peter Cramb)

Reports received from ASSA Directors

6. Astrophotography (Allen Versfeld)
7. Communications (Case Rijdsdijk)
8. Deep Sky Section (Auke Slotegraaf)
9. Double/Variable Stars (Dave Blane)
10. History Section (Chris de Coning)
11. Instrumentation Section (Chris Stewart)
12. Observing and Outreach (Kos Coronaios)
13. Photometry/Spectroscopy Section (Percy Jacobs)
14. Shallow Sky Section

15. Constitution

16. ASSA Council and Appointees 2017 18