

## ASSA AGM 2021 MINUTES

DATE	TIME	VENUE
4 Aug 2021	18:00 to 19:15	Virtual via Jitsi

### Present

#### ASSA Council

Bosman Olivier	Pretoria Centre Chair (AGM Host Chair)
Chris Stewart	President
Case Rijdsijk	Vice President (Outgoing)
Dr Daniel Cunnama	Vice President (Incoming)
Dr Ian Glass	Council Member
Dr Pieter Kotze	Council Member (Outgoing)
Dr Pierre de Villiers	Council Member
Adv AJ Nel	Treasurer
Lerika Cross	Secretary
Eddy Nijeboer	Membership Secretary (Incoming)
Piet Straus	Durban Centre Chair
Allison Coulter	Johannesburg Centre Chair
Dr Christian Hettlage	Cape Centre, Acting Chair, SAAO Website Liaison

#### ASSA Appointees

Auke Slotegraaf	SGAS Editor
Clyde Foster	Shallow Sky Section Director (Outgoing)
Dave Blane	Double and Variable Stars Section Director
Douglas Bullis	Deep Sky Section Director (Outgoing), Nightfall Editor
Dr Sally MacFarlane	Communications Coordinator (Incoming)
John Gill	Web Manager
Percy Jacobs	Photometry and Spectroscopy Section Director (Acting)

#### ASSA Centre, Country, and Honorary Members

Andy Overbeek	ASSA Johannesburg
Andre van Staden	Country Member
Carol Botha	Country Member
Cor Rademeyer	Country Member
Christo Nel	Country Member
Edward Foster	Country Member
Johan Grobler	Country Member
Magda Streicher	Honorary Member
Peter Cramb	Honorary Member
Tim Cooper	Honorary Member

### Apologies

Amith Rajpal	Durban Centre Chair
Angus Burns	Observing Section Director (Incoming)
Bruce Dickson	Cosmology and Astrophysics Director
Kos Coronaios	Observing and Outreach Sections Director
Dr Claire Flanagan	Convenor of Scholarships
Chris de Coning	Archivist and History Director
Martin Heigan	Astrophotography Section Director

#### Distribution:

The minutes and supporting documentation, including a transcript of the President's address, the Director Reports, ASSET Report, Scholarship Report are placed on the ASSA website page

<https://assa.saa.ac.za/about/council-and-officers/agm-reports/>

**ASSA AGM 2021 MINUTES**

	<b>Agenda Points</b>	<b>Discussions / Decisions / Actions</b>
1	Welcome	<p>Bosman Olivier, Pretoria Centre Chair, who fulfilled the role of ASSA Centre host and Chair for the AGM, welcomed everyone in attendance at 18:00 and opened the virtual AGM meeting.</p> <p>Apologies received are recorded in these minutes.</p>
2	Minutes	<p>The minutes of the previous AGM meeting held on 13 August 2020 were accepted (Proposed by Case Rijdsdijk, Seconded by Pierre de Villiers)</p>
3	Report on Council	<p><b>3. President’s Report on Council</b>            The ASSA President, Chris Stewart, presented his Report on Council. His report looked back on the year and highlighted activities by the various Sections within the ASSA.</p> <p>He reported the Overbeek Medal Awards awarded for both 2020 and 2021 at the previous AGM were formally handed over to the recipients at a small gathering at “Clyde’s Spot” (aka Clyde Foster’s home).</p> <p>The President’s Report was accepted.            (Proposed by Pierre de Villiers, Seconded by Auke Slotegraaf).</p>
4	ASSET	<p><b>4. ASSA Endowment Trust</b>            The report from the ASSET Trustees are available on the website. The report noted that the Trustees in the process of bringing the Annual Financial Statements up to date and the objectives are currently being reviewed to align with future requirements.</p>
5	Financial and Membership Report	<p><b>5. Financial and Membership Reports 2020 21</b>  <b>5.1 Financial Report</b>            The report for the 2020 21 was presented by AJ Nel and the summary is available on the website.            Some key points noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Income derived from royalties decreased substantially due to reduced SkyGuide sales and a continuous downward trend is expected in the upcoming year.</li> <li>- Sanlam Glacier came into its own in 2021, and capitalization of growth will be done annually to provide for the payment of bursaries. (Investment growth 57%).</li> <li>- The goal of cutting of expenses was achieved with around R 30 000 in expenses being cut, eg travel expenses.</li> </ul> <p>The outlook given was that bar for projects and bursaries, no substantial expenses are foreseen for the 2020/2021 year.</p> <p><b>5.2 Country Membership report</b>            AJ Nel reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There are currently 118 country members compared to 127, 142 country members in two preceding years.</li> <li>- 13 new country members joined the Society during the current period, compared to 4 in the preceding year.</li> </ul> <p>Country membership renewal fee cost for the 2021/22 year will be set at R100 due to increased postage cost. The entry fee remains at R50.</p> <p>It was noted that Country members will receive a renewal reminder email by mid-</p>

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		<p>August. Renewal fees now include forwarding by Fastmail of the Sky Guide.</p> <p>The Financial and Membership Reports were accepted. (Proposed by Pierre de Villiers, Seconded by Auke Slotegraaf )</p>																																												
6	Independent Compiler Appointment	<p><b>6. Independent Compiler</b></p> <p>It is confirmed that Peter Carlisle of CTFS would be willing to take on the task of Independent Compiler for ASSA. His Auditing business is independent of the normal bookkeeping and tax work done by CTF services for the ASSA.</p>																																												
7	Office Bearers 2021/22	<p><b>7. ASSA Office Bearers 2021/ 22</b></p> <p>Chris Stewart presented the Council Members and Appointees for the coming year and extended a warm welcome to the new incumbents and thanked them for their willingness to support the ASSA.</p> <p>(Further supporting information included below, for reference)</p> <p><b>7.1 Council Members</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="395 891 1481 1630"> <thead> <tr> <th>Role</th> <th>Council Members 2021/22</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>President</td> <td>Chris Stewart</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vice President (Outgoing President)</td> <td>Case Rijdsdijk</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vice President (Incoming President)</td> <td>Dr Daniel Cunnama</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Treasurer</td> <td>AJ Nel</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Membership Secretary</td> <td>Eddy Nijeboer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Secretary</td> <td>Lerika Cross</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Council Member</td> <td>Dr Pierre de Villiers</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Council Member</td> <td>Dr Ian Glass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bloemfontein Representative</td> <td>Thinus van der Merwe (TBC)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cape Chair</td> <td>Christian Hettlage (Acting Chair)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Durban Chair</td> <td>Amith Rajpal</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Garden Route Chair</td> <td>Case Rijdsdijk</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Johannesburg Chair</td> <td>Alison Coulter</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pretoria Chair</td> <td>Bosman Olivier</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hermanus Chair</td> <td>Dr Pierre de Villiers</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>7.2 ASSA Council Appointees reporting into Council</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="395 1742 1481 2085"> <thead> <tr> <th>Role reporting into Council</th> <th>Appointees</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Convener of Scholarships</td> <td>Dr Claire Flanagan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ASSA Communications Coordinator</td> <td>Dr Sally MacFarlane</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Webmaster</td> <td>John Gill</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Web Manager: SAAO Liaison for Website</td> <td>Dr Christian Hettlage</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ASSA Archivist</td> <td>Chris de Coning</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Role	Council Members 2021/22	President	Chris Stewart	Vice President (Outgoing President)	Case Rijdsdijk	Vice President (Incoming President)	Dr Daniel Cunnama	Treasurer	AJ Nel	Membership Secretary	Eddy Nijeboer	Secretary	Lerika Cross	Council Member	Dr Pierre de Villiers	Council Member	Dr Ian Glass	Bloemfontein Representative	Thinus van der Merwe (TBC)	Cape Chair	Christian Hettlage (Acting Chair)	Durban Chair	Amith Rajpal	Garden Route Chair	Case Rijdsdijk	Johannesburg Chair	Alison Coulter	Pretoria Chair	Bosman Olivier	Hermanus Chair	Dr Pierre de Villiers	Role reporting into Council	Appointees	Convener of Scholarships	Dr Claire Flanagan	ASSA Communications Coordinator	Dr Sally MacFarlane	Webmaster	John Gill	Web Manager: SAAO Liaison for Website	Dr Christian Hettlage	ASSA Archivist	Chris de Coning
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	Role reporting into Council	Appointees	
	Social Media Liaisons	Allen Versfeld (Youtube, Twitter) Martin Heigan (Flickr) Kos Coronaios (ASSA FB Admin) Chris Stewart (Mail groups)	
	<p><b>7.3 ASSA Section Directors</b> Note: additional detail included in the table for reference.</p>		
	Sections (Special Interest Groups)	Directors	Specialists & supporters
	<p><b>Dark Sky Section</b> Preservation of the sky conditions necessary for conducting astronomy, particularly with respect to combatting light pollution and its attendant ecological impacts. This topic requires engagement at a suitably high level in government.</p>	Dr Daniel Cunnama	<p><b>Volunteers</b> Wim Filmalter Johan Smit (ASSA Pretoria)</p>
	<p><b>Observing Section</b> Consolidates the previous Shallow Sky and Deep Sky Sections as well as the previous roles for Observing and Outreach.</p>	Angus Burns	<p><b>Contributors:</b> Andy Overbeek, Johan Smit, etc <b>Specialists:</b> Tim Cooper, Clyde Foster, Dr Pieter Kotze, Auke Slotegraaf, Magda Streicher</p>
	<p><b>Double and Variable Stars Section</b> Deep sky with focus on stellar dynamics (including novae)</p>	Dave Blane	<p><b>Specialists:</b> Berto Monard, Ian Glass</p>
	<p><b>Photometry, Spectroscopy Section</b> Specialist methods to measure characteristic properties of luminous objects</p>	Percy Jacobs (Acting)	<p><b>Specialists:</b> Dr Ian Glass, Tim Cooper, Berto Monard, Percy Jacobs</p>
	<p><b>Cosmology and Astrophysics Section</b> Understanding the origins, structure, composition &amp; evolution of stars, galaxies and the universe at large</p>	Bruce Dickson	
	<p><b>Southern African Astronomy History Section</b> Recording, preserving and archiving pertinent information, biographies &amp; artefacts relevant to the history of astronomy in the region</p>	Chris de Coning	
	<p><b>Astrophotography Section</b> Astrophotography &amp; image acquisition, processing, practise and techniques</p>	Martin Heigan	
	<p><b>Instrumentation Section (incl ATM)</b> All equipment necessary to observe, measure, image &amp; detect astronomical objects, with a particular focus on telescope making</p>	Chris Stewart	<p><b>Specialist:</b> Johan Smit</p>

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	<p><b>7.4 Publications Committee and Support</b> Chris Stewart noted that in recognition of the vital role our publications play and increased necessity for good communication, a more formalised approach is proposed to allow for extending the scope of publications.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Publications Committee Members</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>President</td> <td>Chris Stewart</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vice President (incoming)</td> <td>Dr Daniel Cunnama</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Treasurer</td> <td>Adv AJ Nel</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Secretary</td> <td>L Cross</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Communications Coordinator</td> <td>Dr Sally MacFarlane</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MNASSA Editor</td> <td>Case Rijdsdijk</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sky Guide – Editor</td> <td>Auke Slotegraaf</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nightfall – Editor</td> <td>Doug Bullis</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Publications Support</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Supporters</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Sky Guide Assistant Editor, MNASSA Assistant Editor/ Layout Editor</td> <td>Dr Ian Glass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MNASSA Assistant Layout Editor</td> <td>Willie Koorts</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Book Review Editor</td> <td>Maciej Soltynski</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Web Manager</td> <td>John Gill</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Web Master (SAAO Liaison)</td> <td>Dr Christian Hettlage</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Professional Astronomer</td> <td>Em. Prof Brian Warner</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Professional Astronomer</td> <td>Dr Ian Glass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Professional Astronomer</td> <td>Dr Vanessa McBride OAD/UCT/SAAO</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>7.5 Scholarship Committee</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Scholarships Committee</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Dr Claire Flanagan</td> <td>Scholarship Convenor</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dr Ian Glass</td> <td>Retired Professional Astronomer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sivuyile Manxoyi</td> <td>EUNAWE, SAAO outreach</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Maciej Soltynski</td> <td>Previous Scholarship Convenor</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dr Vanessa McBride</td> <td>OAD, SAAO, UCT</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Publications Committee Members		President	Chris Stewart	Vice President (incoming)	Dr Daniel Cunnama	Treasurer	Adv AJ Nel	Secretary	L Cross	Communications Coordinator	Dr Sally MacFarlane	MNASSA Editor	Case Rijdsdijk	Sky Guide – Editor	Auke Slotegraaf	Nightfall – Editor	Doug Bullis	Supporters		Sky Guide Assistant Editor, MNASSA Assistant Editor/ Layout Editor	Dr Ian Glass	MNASSA Assistant Layout Editor	Willie Koorts	Book Review Editor	Maciej Soltynski	Web Manager	John Gill	Web Master (SAAO Liaison)	Dr Christian Hettlage	Professional Astronomer	Em. Prof Brian Warner	Professional Astronomer	Dr Ian Glass	Professional Astronomer	Dr Vanessa McBride OAD/UCT/SAAO	Scholarships Committee		Dr Claire Flanagan	Scholarship Convenor	Dr Ian Glass	Retired Professional Astronomer	Sivuyile Manxoyi	EUNAWE, SAAO outreach	Maciej Soltynski	Previous Scholarship Convenor	Dr Vanessa McBride	OAD, SAAO, UCT
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8	<p><b>Awards</b></p> <p><b>8. ASSA Awards</b> The ASSA Awards Committee, comprising the ASSA President and Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary, decided on the following awards as announced by Chris Stewart.</p> <p><b>McIntyre Award to Auke Slotegraaf</b> For contributions to Pearls of the Southern Sky and the annual ASSA Sky Guide.</p>																																																

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		<p><b>President’s Award to Tim Cooper</b> For decades of professional-level work bringing recognition to ASSA</p> <p><b>President’s Award to Carol Botha</b> In recognition of her effective astronomy outreach initiatives spanning decades.</p> <p><b>Instrumentation Director's Award to Johan Smit</b> For decades of contribution to and support of Amateur Telescope Making, including innovative advancements to the art.</p> <p><b>Instrumentation Director's Award to Percy Jacobs</b> For contributing high-quality spectroscopic observations to science programs, using a self-built spectrograph.</p> <p><b>Astronomy History Director's Award to Emeritus Prof Brian Warner</b> For his many contributions to the field of History of Astronomy in South Africa.</p>
9	Presentation	<p><b>9. Presentation</b> As the final item on the agenda, Chris Stewart introduced Tim Cooper by saying the meeting is very fortunate and looking forward to hear Tim’s “exciting account of one of the greatest sleuthing adventures of all time”.</p> <p><b>From Vesta to the Kalahari: tracing meteorites from asteroid 2018 LA</b> <i>On 2 June 2018, asteroid 2018 LA crashed into the atmosphere resulting in a spectacular bolide and deposited meteorites on the ground. The scientific results of the study were recently published by 66 authors in Meteoritics and Planetary Science. Tim will show the processes followed to calibrate video footage to determine the fall location, determine the light curve of the bolide, and the October 2018 search expedition which found 22 fragments of 2018 LA.</i></p> <p>Tim kindly took some questions from the audience and Chris noted in conclusion that “it was a fascinating account and it highlights once again how pro-am collaboration is alive and well in the world of Astronomy”.</p> <p>Note: Tim kindly agreed to have his presentation available on the website page <a href="https://assa.saao.ac.za/about/council-and-officers/agm-reports/">https://assa.saao.ac.za/about/council-and-officers/agm-reports/</a></p>
10	Closure	<p>In closure of the AGM, Chris Stewart extended a gracious thank you to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bosman Olivier for hosting the AGM</li> <li>- All attendees at the AGM.</li> </ul> <p>The meeting closed at 19:20</p>
15	Next Council meeting	<p>The Council meetings for the year will be confirmed in due course.</p>

Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_