

Editorial

I recently received a copy of *Crux* – the newsletter of the Astronomical Society of Victoria, in Australia. The one thing that I noticed was that it contained a number of really good images taken by members. I have judged many astrophotographs over the years, including those at ScopeX, I know that our members are capable of producing some really stunning images that deserve a wider viewing. I am more than happy to publish good and

interesting images in *MNASSA*. I would like to suggest that those wanting to submit images, to send me* an image of about 200kB and I will then ask for a higher resolution image for those that will be published in *MNASSA*.

I look forward to seeing some of your efforts!

* Either at particles@mweb.co.za or case@sao.ac.za ☆

This year's Annual General Meeting of the ASSA was held in Auditorium of the SAAO, Cape Town on 7 August 2013 where the following reports were presented.

ASSA Council Report, 2012-2013

IS Glass, President

Membership

The following membership numbers have been provided by the relevant Centres:

Cape Centre	73
Hermanus	76
Pretoria	93
Garden route	49

The total of these is about similar to last year.

AGM 2012

The proceedings of the 2012 Annual General Meeting were published in the August 2012 issue of *MNASSA*.

Council Matters

The Council met on seven occasions via Skype during the 2012-13 year. Once again, Chris Stewart is thanked for setting up the on-line meetings.

The dates and attendances of the Council meetings were as follows:

Date	Present	Apologies
29 September 2012	9	6
27 November 2012	10	5
24 January 2013	8	7
18 March 2013	9	6
20 May 2013	11	4
17 June 2013	8	7
15 July 2013	13	2

The Hon. Secretary, Lerika Cross, is thanked for preparing the agendas and writing up the minutes for each meeting. Chris Stewart facilitated the Skype contacting.

Sky Guide

Auke Slotegraaf continues as editor of the *Sky Guide* and was given a contract for the 2014 edition, which is nearly ready for the press, awaiting last-minute items such as the Committee memberships from the Centres. A number of changes will be introduced in this edition. Sales of the 2013 edition came to 4144 as of 29 July, according to Struik Random House.

MNASSA

MNASSA has been published six times during the year, electronically on the website: www.mnassa.org.za. Case Rijdsijk has continued as editor and Willie Koorts has continued with the typesetting and layout. Maciej Soltynski remains book editor. All those who have contributed are thanked for their work. Most *MNASSA* articles are listed on the NASA-ADS data service and are findable via Google etc. About 1 500 hits per month were recorded. A new layout was introduced at the start of 2013.

ASSA Website

Auke Slotegraaf, assisted by the ASSA webmaster Christian Hettlage, undertook a revision of the existing ASSA website by reviewing the current content and incorporating new material, to produce a content analysis for a future site. The new structure contains the amendments to certain ASSA functions, primarily relating to the Society’s Sections, to create a final organogram. This has been implemented in WordPress and includes, as a major novelty, a discussion forum. The implementation has been beta-tested by a small group of interested volunteers. Migration of the data from the existing site to the new site continues. It is expected to go live mid-September or a bit later.

ScopeX

The Johannesburg Centres’ ScopeX event, organized by Lerika Cross, was held on 20 July and was attended by approximately 2 000 of which about a third were youngsters. A detailed report will in due course appear on the website www.scopex.co.za.

ASSA Symposium 2012

The biennial ASSA symposium on the theme “Looking backward, Looking forward”, was held on Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 October in the Auditorium of SAAO in Observatory, Cape Town.

Twenty-five papers were presented on a variety of subjects by members of the amateur and professional communities.

The programme and abstracts were reported in the October 2012 *MNASSA*. The talks are available in their entirety on YouTube thanks to Auke Slotegraaf who recorded them and edited in the power point slides. These generated 8300 views so far. A list can be found by Googling "assa symposium".

A special feature was a workshop on Astrophotography processing, held in the SAAO 1896 building under the leadership of Dale Liebenberg on Friday, 12 October.

Delegates also visited the Iziko Planetarium at the Museum in Cape Town on 12 October.

Special thanks are due to those who participated in this event, those who helped organize it, those who spoke, those who helped on the actual days and to SAAO for the venue. Members of the Cape Centre took care of many of the practical matters. Oxford University Press contributed to the funding. Garth Hampshire, Hon. Treasurer of the Cape Centre, looked after the accounting.

The Symposium resulted in a small profit to ASSA.

ASSA Symposium 2014

The next ASSA Symposium will be held in Durban at the Hotel School Auditorium of the Durban Institute of Technology on 25-27 September. The Durban Symposium Committee is already hard at work!

ASSA Midlands Centre

The ASSA Natal Midlands Centre ceased to be viable last year and was closed down. Its residual funds were transferred to the Durban Centre.

SA National Committee for the IAU

ASSA was invited to nominate a member of this committee. Council agreed to appoint Case Rijsdijk. This Committee deals with matters pertaining to South Africa's membership of the IAU, such as nominations for membership.

Constitutional Matters

1. Registration as non-profit organization

The Hon. Treasurer, Adv. AJ Nel, has been corresponding with the Department of Social Development on this matter. The initial submission has resulted in the need to make some constitutional changes to comply with their regulations. A referendum among members will have to be held to ratify these changes.

2. Section Directors and proposed changes

To Council's great regret, Tim Cooper resigned as Section Director of the Comets, Asteroids and Meteors section, effective the date of the AGM. It was felt by all that this was a great loss to the Society, particularly since Tim had carried out this task in a really excellent manner.

Tim's resignation sparked a review on alternative ways to approach the objectives set out for ASSA Sections envisaged in the ASSA Constitution. A number of Section

Directors contributed to the review – notably Auke Slotegraaf – and a number of volunteer Council members. The key outcomes were to appoint specialists to support the work of the Section Directors and also to deploy the new ASSA website to facilitate communication and information sharing among everyone in the various area of interests.

Astronomy “Town Meeting”

The National Research Foundation held a “Town Meeting” of the professional astronomical community in Cape Town on 1-2 August 2013. Astronomical activities have greatly expanded in South Africa with the KAT, MeerKAT and SKA projects as well as interest in Gamma-ray astronomy. A large number of new posts have been created and a number of universities now offer astronomy courses that did not previously do so. A presentation on ASSA was made by Ian Glass, Case Rijdsijk and Maciej Soltynski to promote the Society among the delegates and try to encourage more participation by the professional community.

Thanks

We have many people to thank for the help they have given to the Society during the year.

The Annual General Meeting has been hosted by the SAAO and members of the Cape Centre have arranged the refreshments. We thank their Chairperson, Lia Labuschagne, Tony Jones, Karen Koch and Christian Hettlage.

This is my last report as Chairman and I would like to take the opportunity of thanking all Council members for their help. As last year, Lerika Cross has done an excellent job of providing timeous agendas and minutes for each meeting. Much of the actual work of the Council rested on the shoulders of our Hon. Treasurer, AJ Nel. Chris Stewart set up the Skype meetings and much help was provided by Auke Slotegraaf and Christian Hettlage. Pat Booth is thanked for her work as Membership Secretary. ☆

Annual Report, Deep-sky Observing Section

Auke Slotegraaf

The recent surge in interest in observing the deep-sky, as reflected by observations submitted to the Section during the year, is surely mirrored by unreported observations made elsewhere (e.g. at Centre gatherings). Members are reminded that reports of all deep-sky observations are welcome.

New observers in the year under review include Allan Cassells and Jaco Wiese, who are hereby formally welcomed to the Section.

George Dehlen has distinguished himself by becoming the first observer to formally complete the “ASSA Top-100” deep-

sky list. In recognition he was awarded a Director's Certificate at a meeting of the Pretoria Centre on 22 May. The Pretoria Centre also issued him with a special (and handsome) ASSA Pretoria Centre Top 100 badge, a creative innovation inspired by Percy Jacobs.

Percy deserves his own gold star (or perhaps an entire open cluster) for his ongoing efforts to promote deep-sky observing amongst members of the Pretoria Centre. At the time of writing, active observers include Andre de la Ponte, George Dehlen, Percy Jacobs, Louis Kloke, Craig Kloke, Pat Kühn, Albie Lombard, Graham Low, Michael Moller, Michael Poll and Grant Thompson.

Magda Streicher continues her unfailing support through her series of articles in *MNASSA*, *Canopus*, and elsewhere.

Cape Town observer Richard Ford is approaching 400 observations and his dedication, sometimes under difficult conditions, deserves special mention. Richard is presently working on the Bennett Catalogue and is looking forward to its completion before the end of 2013.

Michael Poll and Johan Smit, through their efforts at the Pretoria Centre's observing evenings, continue to ensure that the deep-sky remains in the public eye, so to speak.

Imaging of the deep-sky continues to be a growing area of activity and although

outside the central scope of this observing section, the efforts of Kos Coronaios, Dany Duprez, Brett du Preez, Chris Forder, Louis Kloke, Dale Liebenberg, Michael Moller, Leslie Rose, and Dieter Willasch, beautifully complement the visual observations.

In October, the director held a Skype-based workshop with observers from the Pretoria Centre. The experience showed that, with some modifications, such online meetings should be pursued in future (in lieu of more logistically-challenging face-to-face meetings) and that informal live-chat sessions should be considered, too.

Work on digitising historical deep-sky observations and published sketches (to make these unique resources readily available) has continued in fits and starts throughout the year. Valuable discussions with Shireen Davis-Evans, SAAO Librarian, has helped clarify the way forward. Meanwhile, Richard Ford has begun assisting the effort as Digital Archivist, and his painstaking contributions are gratefully acknowledged.

In December, the German-language book "Pearls of the Southern Skies - A journey to exotic star clusters, nebulae and galaxies" was published (Oculum Press, Erlangen; ISBN 978-3-938469-55-2). Dieter Willasch provided the astrophotos and Auke Slotegraaf wrote the text. An English-language edition is scheduled for publication later in the year. ☆

Annual Report, Comet and Meteor Section

TP Cooper

Summary of observed meteor showers

Observer (no. of showers observed)	Showers Observed and duration	Total Time hrs
Tim Cooper (1)	Eta Aquariids (10.7)	10.7
Cliff Turk (3)	Pi Puppids 2011 (1.0), June Lyrids (1.0) Velids 2011 (0.3), Velids 2012 (1.5)	3.8
Michael Poll (2)	Leonids (1.5), Geminids (1.7)	3.2
Kos Coronaios (2)	April Lyrids (1.4), Geminids (1.5)	2.9
Auke Slotegraaf (1)	Geminids (2.7)	2.7
Total		23.3

Seven meteor showers were observed by five individuals totalling 23.3 hours observations. Notes on some specific showers observed

April Lyrids – observed by Kos Coronaios on the morning of 21 April, seeing 4 Lyrids and 4 sporadics in 1.4 hours under LM=4.4 skies.

Pi Puppids 2011 – observed by Cliff Turk, reporting no enhanced activity in 2011.

Eta Aquariids – unlike recent years, conditions remained clear for the entire observing period, though full moon coinciding with the predicted date of maximum on May 6 was problematic. Tim Cooper managed observations on all mornings from 30 April to 6 May, seeing 91 eta Aquariids out of a total of 136 meteors in 10.7 hours. This represented over two thirds of the observed number of eta Aquariids reported globally to the IMO during the 2012 campaign.

June Lyrids – observed by Cliff Turk on the morning of 15 June, seeing 1 Lyrid and 1 sporadic in 1.0 hours under LM=5.5 skies.

Leonids – Michael Poll observed on the mornings of 17 and 18 November under

considerable influence of cloud. Only two sporadic meteors and no Leonids were observed in 1.5 hours over both mornings.

Geminids – were observed by Auke Slotegraaf located at Hakos Observatory, Namibia and Kos Coronaios and Michael Poll who were both badly affected by summer weather up north. Auke spotted 115 Geminids and 39 other meteors in 2.7 hours on the night of 13/14 December with LM=5.8 skies. Kos managed to observe for 1.5 hours on 14/15 December, seeing 34 Geminids under LM=4 skies. The mornings before and after were clouded out. Michael observed on the mornings of 14 and 15 December, both heavily influenced by cloud. On the 14th he saw 6 Geminids in 0.8 hours with LM=5.5 in the parts of sky that were visible.

Velids – were observed by Cliff Turk, who logged 11 meteors in 1.5 hours of which 6 were noted as Velids.

Summary of observed fireballs

A total of four fireball reports were submitted during 2012. The full details have been submitted for publication in *MNASSA* as a

Summary of observed fireballs

Date, 2012	Time, UT	Observer	Location	V mag
March 20	20h50-21h00	Wim Filmatter Bennie Coetzee	Riversdale, Cape Ashton, Cape	-6
May 4	17h08	Peter le Roux	Benoni, Gauteng	-5
September 28	18h10	Jacques Cronje, Henry Atkinson, Andre Freeborn	Cape Town, W. Cape	?

separate article. The observed events are summarised in the table above.

mon Walsh and Auke Slotegraaf all imaged Comet 2011 L4 PanSTARRS.

Summary of observed comets

No visual observations of comets were received during 2012. Kos Coronaios, Si-

Summary of asteroid observations

No observations of asteroids were received in 2012. ☆

Annual Report, Double Star Section

David Blane

Magda Streicher has set up and calibrated the Meade Astrometric eyepiece on the 400mm SCT and has started a formal programme of double star measurement, concentrating on one constellation at a time. She is cutting back on her deep-sky observations and will in future concentrate on double stars. It is hoped that she will make a valuable contribution in this field.

The Johannesburg Centre of ASSA is in the process of renovating the cardex archive of double star measurements going back to 1835. Following discussions with Brian Mason of the US Naval Observatory, who maintains the Washington Double Star (WDS) Catalog, the writer has established that all of the entries in the cardex system have been captured in the WDS. This means that the information in the cardex system is more of historical interest rather than of any scientific value.

The dome of the 26-inch Innes telescope in Johannesburg has been repaired in anticipation of Bob Argyle’s visit from UK. There is still work required to lubricate the telescope bearings and the Johannesburg Centre is assisting SAASTA to get this done.

In an effort to generate grass roots interest in double stars, the writer has produced a “Double star of the month “ column in *Canopus*, the newsletter of the Johannesburg Centre and positive input has been received from several observers, with Jerome Jooste making a major contribution by imaging most of the double stars discussed.

The author continued his programme of measurements of double stars using a 150 mm refractor and an Astrometric eyepiece. ☆

Annual Report, Cosmology Section

Frikkie de Bruyn

Purpose

The purposes of the Cosmology Section of the Astronomical Society of Southern Africa are:

- To disseminate news of importance in the field of cosmology to members,
- To circulate scientific papers in the field of cosmology to members and
- To do research and promote the study of cosmology as a science.

Membership

The Cosmology Section was established in 2008 with a membership of 28. Currently the number of members is 51. Membership is restricted to members of the Astronomical Society of Southern Africa, but an exception was made in the case of Prof Ildus Nugarliev, a cosmologist at the Moscow State University.

Activities

A total of 381 submissions/discussions have been received by the Cosmology Section. The most important discussion was the awarding of the SKA to South Africa and Australia. Among others, the SKA will be able to receive the 21 cm signal emitted by neutral hydrogen even before recombination, which is of great importance to cosmology. The discovery of the signature of the Higgs boson at the Large Hadron Collider captured the imagination of particle physi-

cists and cosmologists. A great number of press releases and discussions and reports regarding this event have been devoted to the Higgs. The discovery of the furthest quasar ever was reported on. Of great importance was the results of 10 years of observation by the WMAP satellite of the Cosmic Microwave Background Radiation. This has confirmed the high energies and densities of the early universe, the expansion of the universe and has put cosmology as a science on a firm footing. It was a year of many highlights and the events mentioned above are by no means the only important events discussed. A low point was the claim by scientists at CERN that neutrinos travelled faster than the speed of light which turned out to be incorrect.

The Director was involved in a number of articles published and interviews by the local newspaper. This has resulted in an awareness of cosmology as a science among readers as shown by the number of questions received from members of the public. SKA promotional material has been given to the local library to form part of the reference section of the library.

Future activities

There are great expectations that the Higgs boson will be discovered at CERN. ☆

Annual Report, Historical Section

Chris de Coning

Introduction

During the past year (Calendar Year 2012) the following has happened concerning the History of Astronomy.

The centenary of the Cape Astronomical Association (C.A.A.) was in 2012. The C.A.A was the pre-cursor to A.S.S.A. Cape Centre and A.S.S.A. National. At the bi-annual A.S.S.A. symposium held in Cape Town a talk was given on the History of the C.A.A. as well as an article that appeared in *MNASSA*

Website

The Website has undergone a mayor change. In 2007 the look and layout was totally changed. In 2009 more content was added to the website. The process is ongoing in nature. In 2012 an archival section was added to the website, including the book by Andrew Gray named "Raindrops, Test Tubes and Galaxies" about the Natal Observatory.

Archive

The scanning of the most valuable documents in the Archive, the minute books of A.S.S.A. Council and Cape Centre, was completed. The digital copies of A.S.S.A. Council were then made available to researchers and the public in general by being placed on the web site of the Historical Section. Thanks to Lesley Hart for assistance and allowing us to use the A3 scanner, a special piece of equipment

required to scan imperial measurement (non-metric) documents.

Publications

Individuals in their private capacities wrote articles with historical content. Please note my appreciation to the following people:

- Ian Glass; "McClellan Telescope back in service", Vol 71, nos. 3 & 4, April 2012.
- Ian Glass; "The Astrographic Telescope of the Royal Observatory, Cape", Vol 71, nos. 5 & 6, June 2012.
- Ian Glass; Presidential Address: "Forty years of Infrared Astronomy", Vol 71, nos. 9 & 10, October 2012.
- Greg Roberts; "Station 13 - South Africa's Area 51", Vol 71, nos. 3 & 4, April 2012.
- Greg Roberts; "Early Days of Satellite Tracking in South Africa", Vol 71, nos. 5 & 6, June 2012.
- Greg Roberts; "Paardefontein Satellite Tracking Station, 1965 - 1981", Vol 71, nos. 7 & 8, August 2012.
- Greg Roberts; "Station 13 revisited", Vol 71, nos. 9 & 10, October 2012.
- Chris de Coning; "History of the Cape Astronomical Association", Vol 71, nos. 11 & 12, December 2012.
- E Swanepoel; "Zeekoegat Observatory - A Nostalgic Journey", Vol 71, nos. 11 & 12, December 2012.
- Willie Koorts; "ESO Site Testing in South Africa", Vol 71, nos. 11 & 12, December 2012.

Obituaries

MNASSA published obituaries on the following astronomers:

- Sir Bernard Lovell (OBE FRS) 1913 - 2012; Vol 71, nos. 7 & 8, August 2012.
- Pat Wild 1937 - 2012; Vol 71, nos. 9 & 10,

October 2012.

- William Gordon Pearson, 1939 - 2012; Vol 71, nos. 11 & 12, December 2012.
- Patric Moore, 1923 - 2012; Vol 71, nos. 11 & 12, December 2012. ☆

Annual Report, Scholarships

Maciej Soltynski (Convenor, ASSA Scholarships Committee)

The **ASSA Scholarship** was established in 2000 to encourage the study of Astronomy at any Southern African university at the 2nd and 3rd year level. The Scholarship is funded by ASSA with occasional financial support from the ASSA Endowment Trust.

There were a number of applicants in 2013 and the Scholarship was awarded to Emma Platts, a 3rd year B.Sc. student at UCT who plans to obtain her degree with three majors: in physics (already completed), and this year in astrophysics and applied maths.

Claire Antel, who held the ASSA Scholarship in 2011, obtained her B.Sc. Honours in Astrophysics and Space Science in the National Astrophysics and Space Science Programme (NASSP) at UCT in 2012 (she was the top student). She worked at the SANA base in Antarctica at the beginning of 2013. She is currently studying for an M.Sc. in Physics at UCT as part of the ATLAS collaboration at CERN. She is presently based at CERN.

The holder in 2006 and 2007, Wendy Williams, continues working towards her PhD on the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT) and LOFAR observations of radio galaxies at the University of Leiden.

Dr Renée Hlozek, holder of the ASSA Scholarship in 2005, is a Lyman Spitzer Jr. Postdoctoral Fellow in the Astrophysics department of Princeton University. Recently she has co-authored a number of papers relating to data obtained from the Atacama Cosmology Telescope.

SAAO - ASSA Scholarships

The purpose of the three SAAO - ASSA Scholarships is to encourage current or *intending* undergraduates (i.e. 1st, 2nd or 3rd year) studying for a B.Sc. degree at any university in South Africa, who have a stated interest in astronomy, to prepare for furthering their interest. The Scholarships are financed by SAAO and are administered by ASSA. The value of each Scholarship in 2013 was R10 000, up from R6 000 in 2012.

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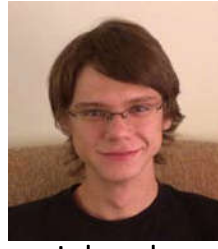
Emma Platts



Yusri Dollie



Jaco Brink



Izak van der
Westhuizen

In 2013 the Scholarships were awarded as follows:

- Yusri Dollie 1st year B.Sc. UCT
- Jaco Brink 3rd year B.Sc. UNISA
- Izak van der Westhuizen 3rd year B.Sc. UFS

Fawaaz Davids, B.Sc. student at UCT who held the Scholarship in 2011 and 2012, continues his studies, concentrating on computer science.

Mpati Ramatsoku, who held the Scholarship in 2007 and 2008 and Rocco Coppejans, who held the Scholarship in 2008 and 2009, both obtained their Masters degrees in the NASSP at UCT. Mpati is now a joint PhD student between Kapteyn Astronomical Institute at the University of Groningen, ASTRON and UCT. The topic of her PhD is 'A Westerbork HI imaging survey of the Perseus-Pisces filament across the Zone of Avoidance'. Rocco is a PhD student at Radboud University in Nijmegen working on LOFAR (Low-Frequency Array for radio astronomy).

Expression of appreciation

Dr Ian Glass, Sivuyile Manxoyi (SAAO) and Andrew Gray are thanked for their valued inputs in the evaluation and selection of candidates during the period under review. Thanks also go to the teachers and lecturers who supplied assessments of candidates. SAAO is thanked for making funds available for the SAAO-ASSA Scholarships. ☆

ASSA Council Appointees 2013/14

ASSA Council Appointees reporting into Council

The following people were appointed with these respective roles and responsibilities:

Editor – MNASSA, Case Rijdsijk:

Select and edit material submitted and liaise with authors or potential authors

- Is copied on ASSA Agenda and requested to give input and receive ASSA minutes
- Submit annual report to Council by end June

Editor – Sky Guide, Auke Slotegraaf:

Compile the annual *Sky Guide* and liaise with the Publishers and Advertisers

- Is copied on ASSA Agenda and requested to give input and receive ASSA minutes
- Submit annual report to Council by end June

Webmaster, Christian Hettlage:

Establish and maintain the website (including administrative aspects of the forum) , Communications Groups/Sections, ASSA Mail lists

- Is copied on ASSA Agenda and requested to give input and receive ASSA minutes
- Submit annual report to Council by end June

Convener Scholarships, Maciej Soltynski:

- Is copied on ASSA Agenda and requested to give input and receive ASSA minutes
- Submit annual report to Council by end June

ASSA Observing Director, Kos Coronaios:

Keep alive and promote cross pollination of astronomical observing using own knowledge and input from Specialists, Section Directors and Centre Observing Officers

- Produces Annual Report based on input received from the Centre Viewing Officers and the Section Directors
- Create awareness of other observing activities throughout the country
- Updates the website with resources obtained from a variety of sources (including ASSA Observing Guide)
- Contact Country Members on upcoming Observing Events

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- Co-ordinates Observing events using any appropriate Means/Mechanisms available with Country Members
- Visits /encourages/ promote observing practices with the Centre Viewing Officers
- Provides Council with updates and queries before Council meetings
- Issues ASSA Observing Certificates based on recommendations from Section Directors
- Is copied on ASSA Agenda and requested to give input and receive ASSA minutes
- Submit annual report to Council by end June

ASSA Communications Officer, Case Rijdsdijk:

Answers and provides info to public and Web Master

- Sends press releases to the general Media;
- Receives and answers queries from Media and where necessary contacts Facilitator for input and if necessary the Specialist
- Sends tweets (optional)
- Be available for interviews
- Is copied on ASSA Agenda and requested to give input and receive ASSA minutes

ASSA Outreach Officer, Johan Smit:

Guide/encourage Centre members and local public for practical astronomical outreach.

Example of involvement:

- Accreditation of Outreach efforts. Acknowledgement of achievement by approving submitted material and provide accreditation of such efforts in the form of an ASSA stamp of accreditation on certificate that is issued. Process
- consider training programmes in place
- obtain professional comment from the Editorial Board and approves the material and recommends to Council for approval - must be more than one person involved
- Is copied on ASSA Agenda and requested to give input and receive ASSA minutes
- Submit annual report to Council by end June

ASSA Archivist, Chris de Coning:

Looks after the ASSA history specifically.

Example of involvement:

- Obtains and secures all documentation produced by the ASSA and makes it

available - appropriately - for search and retrieval

- Is copied on ASSA Agenda and requested to give input and receive ASSA minutes
- Submit annual report to Council by end June

ASSA Section Directors

The following ASSA Sections were decided upon and their respective directors elected:

Shallow Sky (i.e. Asteroid, Meteors, Comets, Lunar, Occultations, Planetary, Satellites & Solar): Dave Blane

Deep-sky (i.e. Deep-sky, Double Stars & Variable Stars): Auke Slotegraaf

Photometry, Spectroscopy: Vacant

Cosmology and Astrophysics: Frikkie de Bruyn

Southern African Astronomy History: Chris de Coning

Dark Sky: Johan Smit

Imaging: Gary Els

Instrumentation; including ATM (Amateur Telescope Making): Chris Stewart

The responsibilities of Section Directors were defined to:

- Drive the activities in their respective areas
- Populate and update the website with relevant information received from variety of sources including own and from Specialist (such as Observing Guide/s)
- Solicit information from Specialists
- Moderates his section of the Forum
- Posts new information to the Forum and escalates to Specialist where necessary
- Inform the Communications Officer of significant events/information on forum/ website
- Submit annual observing report to the ASSA Observing Director (where applicable)
- Will be named in ASSA general publications and website – with contact details
- Are copied on ASSA Agenda for input and receive ASSA minutes
- Where required (such as in terms of Variable Stars) encourage observers to report their observations directly to external entities such as the AAVSO and also to send these in for publications for record purposes
- Submit annual report to Council by end June. ☆