

A.S.S.A. Historical Section 2025 Year Report

Introduction:

During the past year (Calendar Year 2025) the following has happened concerning the History of Astronomy.

Archive:

The minute books that the Historical Section received from the Hermanus Centre was deposited at the UCT Special Collections Archive. In the past the hardcopy minutes of meetings have always been scanned in and made into a digital PDF file, one meeting at a time. The individual meetings are placed on the ASSA website as well as filed into the ASSA Cloud based digital archive. The drawback is that to look anything up is laborious. To ease research the each individual hard copy minute book were recreated as searchable (where possible) PDF minute books. This was done for the minute books of ASSA Council as well as Natal Midlands, Cape and Hermanus Centres and placed on the ASSA Website and Archive.

MNASSA:

Publications:

Individuals in their private capacities wrote articles with historical content.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

- William, M.; Kate, O.: “Re-imagining the Planetarium as the Wits Anglo American Digital Dome” Mnassa vol 84, nos 1-2, February 2025.
- Spencer Jones, J: “The first southern observatory radial velocity”, Mnassa vol 84, nos 3-4, April 2025.
- Glass, I.S.: “Darwin and Fitzroy at the Royal Observatory”, Mnassa vol 84, nos 3-4, April 2025.
- Glass, I.S.; Slotegraaf, A.: “Heritage Items at the SAAO”, Mnassa vol 84, nos 3-4, April 2025.
- Glass, I.S.: “Some Important Historical Instruments in the SAAO Museum”, Mnassa vol 84, nos 5-6, June 2025.
- Manville, G.E.: “The making of a Large Mirror for an Astronomical Telescope”, Mnassa vol 84, nos 7-10, October 2025.
- Glass, I.S.: “Early Upgrades to the 74-inch Telescope”, Mnassa vol 84, nos 1 December 2025.

Obituaries:

MNASSA published obituaries on the following astronomers:

- Labuschagne, L.: “A Legend has passed – remembering Chris Forder”, Mnassa vol 84, nos 5-6, June 2025.

Chris de Coning

Archivist and Director Historical Section of ASSA