

ASSA Solar Section Annual Report

Reporting Period: 2025–2026

Overview

The Solar Section remained active throughout the reporting period, continuing its primary objective of promoting solar observing, maintaining observational records, and providing educational resources to ASSA members and the wider public. Despite limited participation from local observers, the section maintained a consistent programme of observations, publications and outreach.

Activities

During the reporting period the following activities were maintained:

- Monthly publication of the ASSA Solar Bulletin without interruption.
- Daily solar observations and the recording of solar activity.
- Collection, verification and archiving of observational data and solar images.
- Continued maintenance of the Solar Section observation database.
- Ongoing international collaboration through regular observations and images received from experienced contributors in the United Kingdom and Spain.
- Educational outreach through presentations, publications and discussions on solar astronomy.
- Continued public engagement through the *Jacques van Delft Solar Observations* Facebook page and associated educational material.

Challenges

The greatest challenge facing the Solar Section remains the limited number of active solar observers within Southern Africa. As a result, the section continues to rely primarily on the Director's observations together with the valued contributions of two international collaborators.

One of the long-term objectives of establishing a broader Southern African network of solar observers, with the eventual aim of developing a Southern African Sunspot Number, has unfortunately not yet been realised due to the limited participation of observers.

Conclusion

Despite these challenges, the Solar Section has continued to provide ASSA members with a consistent monthly bulletin, maintain valuable observational records, and promote interest in solar astronomy through education and outreach.

The future growth of the Solar Section will depend on encouraging greater participation by observers throughout Southern Africa and building a sustainable network of contributors.

The Solar Section remains an important part of ASSA's scientific and educational activities, and I trust that future efforts will continue to build on the foundation established over many years.

Yours sincerely,

Jacques van Delft,

Director ASSA Solar Section