

ASSA AGM 2026 MINUTES

DATE	5 Aug 2026	TIME	17.00 to 17:45	VENUE	Virtual via Jitsi Meet
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Attendance**ASSA Council**

John Lindsay-Smith	AGM Host, Johannesburg Centre Chair
Derek Duckitt	President
Prof Peter Dunsby	Council Member, Incoming President 2027
Dr Ian Glass	Council Member
Adv AJ Nel	Treasurer
Andre Bruton	Membership Secretary
Lerika Cross	Secretary

ASSA Appointees

Auke Slotegraaf	SGAS Editor
Dr Daniel Cunnama	Dark Sky Director
Dave Blane	Double and Variable Stars Section Director
Dr Christian Hettlage	SAAO IT Liaison, ASSA Web Manager
Chris Stewart	Instrumentation Section Director
Jacques van Delft	Solar Section Director
Clyde Foster	Planetary Section Director
Colin Steyn	Observing Director

ASSA Centre and Country Members

Dr Pierre de Villiers	Hermanus Astroomy Centre
Michael Poll	Pretoria Centre
Analize Jooste	Pretoria Centre
Cor Rademeyer	Country Member
Mike Hadlow	Durban Centre Chair
Analize Jooste	Country Member
Francois Zinserling	Durban Centre
Willie Koorts	MNASSA

Apologies (a) /Not present

Tim Cooper (a)	Comet, Asteroid, Meteor Section Director
Maciej Soltynski (a)	Honorary Member
Chris de Coning (a)	Archivist, ASSA History Director
John Gill (a)	Web Master
Martin Heigan	Astrophotography Section Director
Johan Smit	Pretoria Centre Chair
Willem Brazelle	Cape Centre Chair
Prof Matie Hoffman	Solar Eclipse 2030 Project
Dr Claire Flanagan	Convenor of Scholarships

Note:

Links to supporting documentation are underlined.

The links are to the [AGM webpage](#) or the [ASSA AGM 2026 folder in the Cloud](#)

Unfortunately, there is not recording of the meeting.

	Agenda Points	Discussions / Decisions / Actions
1	Welcome	John Lindsay-Smith – Johannesburg Centre Chair - fulfilling the role of AGM Host, welcomed everyone in attendance and opened the meeting.

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		Apologies received were noted and are listed above under Attendance.
2	Previous Minutes	The minutes of the previous AGM - held 11 August 2025 - were accepted. (Proposed to accept minutes by Chris Stewart, seconded by Auke Slotegraaf)
3	Report on Council	3. President's Report and highlights for 2025/26 year All reports are available on the ASSA webpage and the AGM Folder in the ASSA Cloud Derek proceeded with the Report on Council which included highlists from the various reports received. He extended appreciation to Council, the dedicated Section Directors, Centre committees, and each member who so generously gives their time and expertise. He noted that over the last twelve months, ASSA have built meaningfully upon its legacy, with notable successes in observational campaigns and community outreach. Lerika apologized for not including Clyde's Planetary Interest Group report in the agenda's list of reports and was thus not included in Derek's Report on Council. Derek asked Clyde if he would like to list some highlists and Clyde noted: - He remains focussed on the work from his Observatory in Namibia. - His highlight was his first attendance at the Namibia Scientific Society's Annual Star Party where he presented the main talk on his planetary work and experiences. In conclusion, Derek noted the unexpected privilege of serving a third year in his term - as result of Prof Matie Hoffman stepping away as Incoming President for 2026 27- and reaffirmed his steadfast dedication to Council. No questions were raised and John thanked Derek for his report.
4	Financials	4. Financials Report 2025/26 The Treasurer, AJ Nel, presented the Financial Report. In conclusion, AJ noted: - Income derived from most sources remained stable. - Sanlam Glacier continued a steady growth despite withdrawal of annual sholarships. - Expenses in general was on par with 2025, bar for increase in postage, which in turn will be set off against increase in country membership fees as from 2026 / 2027 and payment of both two current scholarships and the "catch-up" scholarship of 2025. - No major expenses are foreseen for the 2026 / 2027 financial year, though a special project which should strictly form part of 2025 / 2026 has already been incurred in 2026 / 2027 year in an amount of R10 000. Listed for the record: Independent Compiler, Peter Carlisle of CTFS, to remain Independent Compiler for ASSA. Note: his Auditing business is independent of the normal bookkeeping and tax work done by CTF services for the ASSA.
5	Country Member ship	5. Country Membership Not covered at the AGM – noted for the record: - 2026/27 fees increased: Entrance fee: R50; Membership July - June: R175. - Membership at year ending 30 June 2026: 113. - 94 registered members (74 already renewed), 6 Gratis 12 Honorary 1 Advertiser.

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		- 104 copies 2026 Sky Guide were distributed to members at a cost of R5973.65.
6	ASSET	6. ASSA Endowment Trust Trustees: Ian Glass, Tim Cooper, Peter Cramb. Acting secretary: Peter Cramb. Tim Cooper submitted the ASSET Trustees' Report but was not able to attend the AGM. The Report was read out by Derek: Annual Financial Statements up to and including 2025 are complete and for the year ending February 2026 are in the process of being completed. All tax liabilities were met. Chartac Advisory Services (Pty) Ltd., continue to act as independent compilers. The Trust moved its banking facility during the year from ABSA to Nedbank. Peter Cramb continues to stand for the time being as acting Secretary. The Trust is in the process of applying to SARS for registration as a Public Benefit Organisation, as contemplated in the 9th Schedule, Part 1 of the appropriate tax regulations. No question was raised.
7	Awards	7. ASSA Awards Derek proceeded with announcing the annual Awards. - Auke Slotegraaf received a Director's Commendation <i>in gratitude for his hard work done in the field of archiving and conservation of Heritage Objects in the field of the History of Astronomy. Due to his diligence valuable material was rescued</i> - Jacques van Delft received a President's Award <i>for his prodigious reporting on solar activity and forging a good alliance with the BAA's Solar Section. Thanks to Jacques the Solar Section is now very active.</i> - Johan Smit received a Long Service Award <i>as an ASSA member for more than 25 years. He has served on the Pretoria Centre Committee, been a driving force in the amateur telescope making community, conducted many public outreach activities that brought credit to the Society.</i> - Dave Blane received a Long Service Award <i>an ASSA member and prolific variable star observer for 50+ years. He shared his vast experience in ATM and observational astronomy with beginners and his contribution to the society's long-term good cannot be overstated.</i> Attendees applauded the award recipients. Derek concluded by congratulating all awardees again and noted a R900 honorarium is associated with an award.
8	Office Bearers 2026/27	8. ASSA Office Bearers 2026/27 Derek presented the list of ASSA Council and Appointees for the new ASSA year. Derek will remain as President for one more year, whilst Peter Dunsby accepted role of Incoming Vice President for one year and will be President from August 2027. Other updates: - John Lindsay-Smith accepted Council Member role in prep of Incoming Vice

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		President from August 2027. - Director vacancies for the Double and Variable Star and Solar Sections due to Dave Blane and Jacques van Delft stepping down. - Matie Hoffman will lead a team in prep of 2030 Solar Eclipse event. - Daniel Cunnama replaced Sivuyile Manxoyi of the SAAO on the Scholarship Committee. - A MNASSA Editor candidate required to join MNASSA team. In closure Derek thanked all the office bearers for their dedicated help to ASSA.
9	General	9. General The only item raised was that Chris Stewart thanked Derek for offering to stay on as President for one more year.
10	Closure	John thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 17:45
	Next Council meeting	The Council meetings for the year will be confirmed in due course.

Documents in support of the minutes:

- Item 2: ASSA AGM Minutes 11 Aug 2025
- Item 3: Report on Council
- Item 4: Financial Report
- Item 6: ASSET Trustees' Report
- Item 7: ASSA Awards 2026
- Item 8: ASSA Council and Appointees