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### NEWS FROM ASSA

#### ASSA Symposium, 1992

The Sub-Committee hopes to finish drawing up the programme for the ASSA Symposium by about 10th February and will send out the second newsletter about that date. The tentative arrangements were described in the December 1991 issue of MNASSA. All interested in attending should let the organizers know as soon as possible. Their names will be placed on the mailing list for further announcements. Letters should be addressed to ASSA Symposium, c/o SAAO, PO Box 9, Observatory 7935, South Africa.

### NEWS NOTES

#### New Director for SAAO

The Foundation for Research Development, parent body of the South African Astronomical Observatory, has announced that Dr Robert Stewart Stobie, at present Deputy Director of the Royal Observatory, Edinburgh, will succeed Prof M.W. Feast as Director when he retires at the end of March 1992.

Dr Stobie is known as an observational astronomer as well as a theoretician. He has been responsible at Edinburgh for the "Cosmos" automatic plate-measuring machine which has made many contributions to our knowledge of the structures of our galaxy and the Magellanic Clouds. He has been working in close collaboration with South African astronomers for several years on the "Edinburgh-Cape Survey of Southern Faint Blue Stars and has made frequent visits to SAAO for collaborative work on pulsating stars.

Bob Stobie obtained his BSc (Hons) at the University of Edinburgh in 1963 and received the Napier medal and the Gadgil prize. He worked with Fred Hoyle at Cambridge where he got his PhD in 1968 for a thesis on stellar pulsations.

After working at the Institute of Astronomy in Cambridge for two years, Dr Stobie spent a year in Cape Town at the former Royal Observatory (now SAAO). This was followed by three years at the Australian National University (Mt Stromlo Observatory) where he was a research fellow. He joined the Royal Observatory, Edinburgh, in 1974. He is married and has four children.