

Deep-Sky Report to the AGM (2018 August)

I'm pleased to present this 26th annual report to the AGM, and to note that the Section has had a good year.

Observing coordinators at the Society's Centres, and organizers of the various star parties, are thanked for their ongoing support. The Section's collaborators are thanked for their work throughout the year.

Magda Streicher continues with her visual review of the Magellanic Clouds, collaborating with Johan Moolman (Pretoria) to work towards a visual observer's atlas of the Clouds. Magda has several interesting writing projects lined up for the coming year, too.

Virtual Observing Pins were awarded to Debbie Abel, John Gill, Sihle Kunene, Brian Finch, Claire Odhav, Pieter Strauss, Jean Senogles, Mike Hadlow and Farouk Amod.

John Gill was awarded two Photographic Deep-Sky Pins, for the Big Five and the Lacaille catalogue.

The ConCards free star atlas was updated and is available for download from the Section's web pages.

The Deep-sky Observer's Companion online database (DOCdb.net) continues to be used as a growing online repository, with 261 registered users (a 5% increase from last year).

Deep-sky astrophotos from several members were received, for which they are thanked. The images were annotated and discussed, and notes added to the DOCdb online database.

Douglas Bullis continues to produce outstanding editions of Nightfall, the Section's newsletter. His vision and plans for this publication are particularly exciting.

Keeping the best for last, is the fantastic news that Doug has agreed to take over the role of Section Director. It's hard for me to imagine a more capable person. Doug is developing several other exciting projects and I will leave it to him to share the enthusiastic news at a future time!

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