

Astronomical Society of Southern Africa
Photometry & Spectroscopy Section

Section Report for ASSA Council

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The primary focus is to be accessible to people who are looking to participate.

We support with;

- why are these technologies used and the basics on how the technologies are utilised
- provide basic training data
- provide links to literature on the subject
- guidance to the many "on-line" international groups specialising in these subjects
- provide on-going support to the individual once his participation has commenced if there is a need

Most local specialists in these fields, are directly linked to one of the many International Groups and do not have the need to report into this Section regarding their activities. The activities around these technologies are now globalised, maintained internationally, and easily accessible to any interested party. They are the perfect link between amateurs and professionals.

Regarding the amateur side of this section, we want to educate interested people in the technologies, link them to one of the many international databases, submit data, self-analyse data, and if something very interesting is found, have it published in our MNASSA Journal.

Within this section this year, we have had little to no direct contact with people who are keen to participate. I am currently active within the AAVSO Spectroscopy Section. To date, I have over 330 spectra submitted of various stars of interest. Participating in the Group, I get the chance to analyse my own data, and have access to various Professional Astronomer support requests. We are also kept up-to-date with current activities in our night skies as they happen.

In light of the above objectives, we have started a project whereby we are handing out DIY Spectroscopy Kits, with memory sticks, that have pre-loaded training data on the subject. Twenty-five kits were purchased and distributed to the various ASSA Centres to hand out to Grade 10 to Grade 12 Students. Three kits per Centre. We want to promote Spectroscopy as a studying science within the astronomy field. We have asked the Centres to gather details and photo's of these "hand-out" activities, so we may compile and publish the activity in MNASSA.

Through the year, I have presented the subject of spectroscopy to two ASSA Centres as requested by them.

We continue to promote the science.