

A.S.S.A. Historical Section 2019 Year Report

Introduction:

During the past year (Calendar Year 2019) the following has happened concerning the History of Astronomy.

S.A.A.O. declared a National Heritage Site.

A momentous event occurred. The South African Astronomical Observatory (S.A.A.O.) was recognised as a National Heritage Site. The site used to be known as the Royal Observatory at the Cape of Good Hope, which was the first permanent scientific establishment in the Southern Hemisphere and today it is the de facto / practical headquarters / centre of astronomy in South Africa. It is of vital importance that the site be protected. The driving force behind this achievement was Dr. Ian Glass and the Historical Section would like to extend its gratitude and everlasting thanks to him!

Website:

Selected sections of the website was updated.

Archive:

Nothing to report.

MNASSA:

Publications:

Individuals in their private capacities wrote articles with historical content. Please note my appreciation to the following people:

- Glass, I.S, and Slotegraaf, A: “The Archives Project at the S.A.A.O”, MNASSA, Vol 78, Nos 1 & 2, February 2019.
- Glass, I.S.: “The South African Astronomical Observatory, 1972 – 2011”, MNASSA, Vol 78, Nos 11 & 12, December 2019.

Obituaries:

MNASSA published obituaries on the following astronomers:

- Michael Feast: MNASSA, Vol 78, Nos 3 & 4, April 2019.

Chris de Coning

Director Historical Section of ASSA