

ASSA OBSERVING DIRECTOR REPORT
and
OUTREACH OFFICER REPORT
2019 – 2020

Both Observing & Outreach reports are included.

Observing and Outreach events during the past year were advertised and posted using the various channels available, namely the ASSA Facebook page, web page and Discussion group. Sighting reports have been answered using input from specialist, Tim Cooper (Comet, Meteor & Asteroid Specialist), and satellite input from Greg Roberts.

Special thanks to Tim for co-ordinating the meteor/fireball reports during the course of the year. A larger number of sighting reports were handled during the course of the year, noticeably during the first couple of months during South Africa's lockdown due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

The meteor / fireball sightings, and subsequent reports have been logged by Tim Cooper, while other sightings consisting mainly of contrail and bright star/planetary apparitions were handled directly by myself. Fireball and meteor reports can be found in the MNASSA publications, previous and upcoming.

I would like to extend a warm thank you to John Gill for updating the website on my behalf.

For novae and variables I would like to thank Specialist Dave Blane for keeping us up to date during the past year.

I have fielded a number of Outreach, Ask an Astronomer as well as observing queries via email and calls during the course of the year, these have all been routed through to the Discussion group or answered directly.

Telephonic as well as written articles with Cape Talk as well as Time Live have been done during the course of the year.

There were many observing opportunities during the course of the year with ASSA members having varying success in observing/imaging these. One worth mentioning is Shallow Sky Director, Clyde Foster's ongoing planetary imaging, specifically with reference to Jupiter observations and NASA's reference to Clyde's Spot on Jupiter

Comets observed and imaged during this period:

C/2020 F8 (SWAN)

C/2019 U6 (LEMMON)

P2 Encke

T2 PANSTARRS

C/2020 F3 NEOWISE

During the earlier part of the year the ASSA Centres hosted successful outreach events in the form of monthly meetings with stargazing opportunities, but these of course were put on halt due to the pandemic.

One positive gained by myself during the lockdown has been the opportunity to have more observing time at the telescope due to less work commitments. Along with a fairly mild Cape Winter, this has afforded me the chance to do a substantial amount of imaging and capturing of the various comets that have been visible over this period. One in particular was Comet F8 Swan, which I was able to follow and record photographically well over the course of a month, but this did entail many successive 3am wake-ups!

Clear skies and stay safe,

Kos Coronaios
ASSA Observing Director
Outreach Officer

Comet C/2020 F8 (SWAN)

