

Communication Report

The Internal communications of the ASSA through the groups of ASSA-discussion, -cosmology and -announcements are working well and being widely used and serve members well.

ASSA liaison with the media has shown a marked increase since the CV19 Lockdown was announced and two events received wide publicity. Firstly Tim Cooper, our meteor, asteroid and comet specialist, has received international recognition for his work on Bolide 2018LA which struck Botswana in June 2018, and since then his efforts have been published and brought credit to the ASSA following his co-authoring a paper in a reputed Astronomical Journal.

Very much along similar lines, Clyde Foster's outstanding world-class work on planetary imaging is making an impact in scientific circles; his discovery of an eruption on Jupiter's surface, now known as "Clyde's Spot", has put both him and the ASSA on the world map. He has done us proud on local TV having given a number of radio and TV interviews.

Another item that serves ASSA well is the "Ask an Astronomer" feature on the website; it has produced over 120 questions since the last AGM, all of which needed at least one answer – sometimes more. The Director is grateful for the support he received from other ASSA members; often questions were passed onto other specialists. Astronomy career guidance queries were usually passed on to the SAAO.