

ASSA OBSERVING DIRECTOR REPORT
and
OUTREACH OFFICER REPORT
2020 – 2021

After much deliberation and with some deciding factors, I have decided to step down as Observing Director of ASSA and hand over the reins, with Councils approval, to Angus Burns. I have been following Angus's astronomy related path and endeavours over the past years and he will bring some new skills as well as experience to ASSA's Observing Section. I wish him all the best and lots of clear skies for his tenure.

I would like to thank Council, ASSA Directors and Specialists and everyone else who assisted in my role as Observing Director during the past few years. Thank you everyone.

Observing & Outreach reports for 2020 - 2021

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).

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 as well as an apparent spectacular worm hole event(!), were handled directly by myself. Fireball and meteor reports can be found in the MNASSA publications, previous and upcoming.

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.

Comets imaged and observed during this period:

156P Russell LINEAR
C/2020 R4 ATLAS
C/2020 T2 Palomar

The Covid Pandemic has also impacted our astronomy outreach. Due to the impossible task of social distancing at the telescope, there have not been any Outreach events that I have been involved in. Astronomy related outreach has always been my passion, but unfortunately in these times it has been a difficult task. Hopefully this will change in the very near future to allow us to bring astronomy and science to the schools and general public once again.

Clear skies and stay safe,

Kos Coronaios
ASSA Observing Director
Outreach Officer

Below is an 11 minute exposure of Comet 156 P near M33 on the evening of the 8th January, image is annotated. Seeing conditions were poor with the target just 15 degrees above the north-western horizon with a bank of cloud nearby. Comet was at around Vm +12 comet and not visible at the eyepiece (26mm) of an 8-inch F5, or in the viewfinder/live view of the camera.

