

## **ASSA AGM Agenda Item 7: Awards**

### **Transcript of President's announcement of annual Awards**

Here we come to the most gratifying of my duties.

The Society has a number of formal mechanisms for recognising and celebrating exceptional achievements or contributions by its members. None of these lightly conferred – and each represents notable effort, accomplishment, and service to the Society.

#### **Directors' awards**

Directors' Awards are our means to recognise hard work within - and excellent service to - our Sections.

#### **Instrumentation Section**

##### **Willie Koorts for Telescope Making**

Willie, an inventor and tinkered of note himself, has for many years supported the community by aluminising large mirrors. This is a painstaking job, fraught with difficulties. Whilst we fully appreciate SAO's indulgence in this regard, Willie is the one who with his expertise and dedication makes it happen. Without this, the scale of ATM in South Africa would be severely limited. In addition, Willie's ever-increasing plethora of marvellous well-edited YouTube videos on diverse topics of interest to aficionados of astronomical instrumentation are both enlightening and entertaining.

Well done, Willie!

#### **President's award**

The President's Award is a certificate awarded by Council – acting upon written motivation made by a Council Member or Appointee – to a member making exceptional contributions to furthering the aims of the Society.

#### **Chris de Coning for Archival excellence**

Section Directors do what they do from a sense of duty and a love for the topic. It is a way of contributing their expertise for the benefit of the Society and its members, not a vain attempt to seek glory. But the efforts of some unsung heroes need to be recognised, especially when the person slaves away for years with little to no help. Chris continues to work tirelessly on the massive long-term project of locating, collating, archiving and promoting information regarding the history of the Society, its luminaries, and the progress of astronomy through its long history in this county. This singular collection, will doubtless be mined from time to time for scholarly work that could otherwise not be possible.

Great job, Chris

#### **Overbeek Medal**

The purpose of the prestigious Overbeek Medal is to recognise long-term, high-quality observational programs, especially those having scientific merit. (It is named in honour of Danie Overbeek, the Guinness book of Records champion of visual variable star observations.) The medal is struck in Sterling Silver and engraved in Cape Town.

Not more than one medal can be awarded in any given year, and the requirements for consideration are stringent. This year, I am happy to announce Dave Blane as our worthy recipient.

Dave has long been involved in photometry and astrometry, with an emphasis on double stars, but also variables and novae. A particular interest is the search for unknown companions, which requires meticulous capturing of light curves over long periods of time.

Although he started doing photometry visually, mentored by the late great Danie Overbeek, he has for some time been using DSLRs, which enables 3 colour channels to be captured simultaneously.

Dave has been actively contributing his observations to the AAVSO for 47 years, being rather prominent among the southern hemisphere contingent. The value of his work is reflected in numerous papers of which he is author or co-author, apart from the articles he has contributed to MNASSA. Having himself originally been mentored by Danie Overbeek he is now also a mentor for newcomers in this area, for the AAVSO.

I believe his long-term commitment to and accomplishments within this field have done us proud, and that Danie would be happy.

Dave, well done. Your medal is currently wending its way up from the Cape

To the three distinguished gentlemen we are honouring today: Again, well done. Everything is prepared and as soon as circumstances allow, we will get your awards to you in a secure manner.