



THATCHERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA DEKKERSVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA

Newsletter 4/2010
28 July 2010



NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

NEWSLETTER

NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

The SANS 10400-T was published as a DSS document for public comment. The d-date is 24 August 2010. It caused much debate among members at the National Committee meeting. The Minutes of the meeting is attached.

We trust that the discussions presently under way with the SABS will see finalisation of this effort. This cloud hangs over TASA and dominates our activities for four years. The finalisation of the specification will resolve the question around compulsory fire protection systems for thatched roofs larger than 300 sq m and a Standard for the Thatching Industry. The focus can then move towards actions to establish TASA in the market and instill confidence in thatch roofs.

CERTIFICATION OF TASA MEMBERS

Members are positive about certification. The Training Manual also came under scrutiny at the National Committee meeting. This manual forms the basis for compliance to certification requirements.

As a test run Thatch-it will be used and the company will be the first to be certified. The certification test run will be used to refine the process and resolve problem areas. It will also decide the time required.

Members will be advised of the outcome. Members with paid up fees are eligible for certification. Members in the same area can arrange it such that application for certification is made at the same time so that travel and accommodation expenses can be shared.

Mr Abe Stears is leaving for Europe and will be able to start with the certification process after 20 August 2010.

ELECTION OF REGIONAL MANAGERMENTS

Regional managements are as follows:

Western Cape	Christiaan Munnik Kosie Theunissen Willem Prinsloo	Regional Chairman Regional Vice Chairman Secretary	Thatchscapes Theunissen Thatching Lucas Quality Thatchers
Gauteng	Darren Wilson	Regional Chairman	Thatch-it

	Pine Pienaar	Regional Vice Chairman	Africa Thatch & Game Farm Development
	Elzabie Meintjes	Secretary & Executive Officer	TASA
Natal	John Smith	Regional Chairman & National Vice Chairman	Biggarsberg Thatchers
	Shaun Smith	Regional Vice Chairman	Biggarsberg Thatchers
Mpumalanga	Louis Rautenbach	Representative	Barberton Grasdakke
South East Limpopo	David Hoffman	Representative & TASA Treasurer	Hoffmans Thatching Specialists
OFS	Bertus Nieuwenhuis	Representative	Recon Thatchers
Northern Cape	Danie Meijers	Representative	Kim Thatchers
North West	No representation		

The Constitution determines that the National Chairman will vacate his position as Regional Chairman the moment he is elected. The Vice Chairman will then take over as Regional Chairman.

INVOLVEMENT OF MEMBERS

Sound and constructive debate took place at meetings even though job practices and methods differ. This is conducive to positive growth of the Industry. Specification requirements still form the foundation of debate and construction practice. Constructive communication forms the corner stone of our Association.

COMPLAINTS

We were flooded with complaints from clients complaining about exploitation by thatch contractors. Lower quotations lead to bad workmanship. Most of the complaints were directed at non members. However, complaints indicated that the work of some of our members are below standard and does not comply with specification requirements.

Of great concern is repair work undertaken regarding insurance claims. Contractors are expected to do work on roofs with serious construction problems such as insufficient slopes by just repairing the thatch layer – the start of a vicious circle. Although such risk remains with the homeowner we often found that our members are caught up in the middle between the Homeowner and the Insurance Company. The Contractor that undertook the repair work is blamed for the premature disintegration of the thatch layer and the complaint referred again to the TASA office. This causes a bad name for the Contractor, TASA, and the Thatching Industry as a whole and also thatch as a roofing material. Prospective clients avoid thatch as roofing material or replace thatch with Harvey tiles or other roofing materials. We advise out members to be careful in this scenario and to make sure that they cover themselves contractually.

Badplaas Resort's thatched roofs replaced with tiles because of leaking against walls, no confidence in the quality of thatch used and damage done to the roofs by Hadedda Ibis birds.



Badplaas photos by Philip Boardman of Alternative Structures

We cannot lower the standards and members are urged to adhere to the Specification requirements. Your attention is again drawn to the TASA Newsletter no. 5 of 2009 as attached.

We trust however that the Industry will go from strength to strength despite the difficult economic climate and that sound workmanship and quality of service will give impetus to our expectations.

The opposite is fortunately also a reality. It is heartening to know that we have members being proud of their successes showing off their construction work and achievements with photos gracing the SAWPA calendar for 2011. SAWPA selected photos from the entries of the National Photo Competition of the previous three years.

The photos of the winners of the 2010 National Photo Competition are also published in the latest issue of the SA Roofing magazine.

Kind regards

Abrie Visagie
NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

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A interesting entrance to a private game reserve in the Bushveld