



THATCHERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA DEKKERSVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA

Newsletter 6/2013

NEWSLETTER

4 September 2013

Dear TASA member

Concerted efforts are being made to introduce and advertise the TASA and its members as much as possible. We encourage our members to send photos and interesting information to the office for publication in magazines.

The trend is that members of the public approach the TASA for help, only after they experienced problems with their thatched roofs. We would like to see that the public is kept informed of specification requirements and acceptable practices in the Thatching Industry throughout the establishment of our manual (A Guide to Thatching in South Africa) and articles in magazines.

1. **INTERNATIONAL THATCHING SOCIETY'S CONGRESS AND THATCHING FAIR**

The International Thatching Society's Congress and Thatching Fair are definitely on and we have a big task at hand! It will be held in Stellenbosch.

Mr. Abrie Visagie of Lucas Quality Thatchers, who is the coordinator of this event, reported that the response is overwhelming. At this stage there are 125 people attending (of which about 90 thatching contractors) and the rest consist of their family.

The invitation we sent to the foreign members of the International Thatching Society is attached.

All TASA members are invited to attend this exceptional event from 12 to 14 February 2014.

Members who would also like to attend the tourism program from 10 to 11 February 2014 are welcome.

The planned program is as follows:

12 February	-	Site visits around Cape Town
13 February	-	The formal ITS meeting in Stellenbosch
14 February	-	Fun fair, demonstrations and competitions
	-	Final Dinner

Mr. Abrie Visagie requested that your attention is drawn to the fact that we must urgently know the numbers by the end of September 2013.

2. **TASA'S 2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Thatchers Association's Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, February 15, 2014, immediately after the International Thatchers Society's Conference and Thatching Fair.

3. **CAPE CONSTRUCTION EXPO**

During the last Western Cape Regional Meeting, resident members decided to participate in the Cape Construction Expo from 31 October to 2 November 2013 in Cape Town..

You can visit their website for further information at:

<http://www.cape-construction.co.za/index.php/about-the-event#glance>

“Event at a glance

Infrastructure investment and spend in the Western Cape is poised to soar over the next few years as is evident by the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) being rolled out. The Western Cape Government has committed to substantial increases in the infrastructure budget (from R3.3 billion to R5.5 billion over the medium term expenditure framework), with focus in building new roads, education and healthcare infrastructures in the province.

Although the surging market demands in the Western Cape will drive new opportunities for the regions building and construction industry, there is a need for information and knowledge that will empower and networking that will move this industry forward.

The Cape Construction Expo is the only event focusing on construction and building in the Western Cape. The forum covers the entire value chain and targets small as well as large enterprises. The Cape Construction Expo features an interactive exhibition with the latest products, tools and technologies as well as a training programme that includes commercial and DIY content.”

Verdere reëlings en inligting sal met verloop van tyd aan ons lede deurgegee word.

More information and details will be given in due course to our members.

4. **SPECIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

The Thatchers Association of South Africa's elected representative on the SABS committees who is responsible for the establishment and amendment of the South African National Standards, is Mr John Smith of Biggarsberg Thatchers.

Suggestions regarding changes that are made in respect of the provisions of these standards are submitted to TASA members for approval at the TASA's Annual General Meetings which are attended by all the provinces' representatives. For example, the TASA's proposals regarding the SANS 10400 (T) (Fire) document were under discussion during the last AGM.

Our members are encouraged to attend the Annual General Meetings in order to become acquainted with the general view of our members in other provinces, and the reasoning behind the previous decisions taken after consensus was reached.

5. **FEEDBACK FROM OUR REGIONS**

3.1 The major problem for our members and the Thatching Industry as a whole is the advertisements of “contractors” at stop streets around every turn.
Many Thatching contractors retrenched their workers and it is usually them who try to make a living this way.

Mainly because many are under financial strain and choose a cheap "quick fix" option which consequences lead to an expensive repair, or the thatched roof is replaced by tiles and / or zinc.

A well-informed public who are aware of the risks associated with the above, will limit this problem to some extent.

3.2 **Cracking of Eucalyptus poles**

Feedback was received from some of our members regarding the excessive cracking of Eucalyptus poles.

100 to 125mm about 10%

150 to 175mm 50% after 3 months
150 thicker and 75% after 3 months

Mr. Abe Stears of SATAS (South African Timber Auditing Services) was asked to investigate this trend. We would like to know if there are members who also experience problems and the extent thereof in your region.

6. **NEWS SNIPPETS**

The following was received from Mr. Bertus Nieuwenhuis of Recon Thatchers in the Free State.

"About three weeks ago, I visited Botswana and Zimbabwe. I saw the most beautiful thatched roofs in Chobe.

By just looking at the roofs, I recognized the designs and styles of Mr. George de Ridder. The only Thatching contractor that I could think of that built such roofs is Mr. André Friis of Letaba Thatchers. It was therefore no surprise when I met André the next morning in the restaurant.

I just want to complement André on his brilliant work. He is such a wonderful ambassador for the TASA and our trade. No worker from the street is able to build such a roof!"



Messrs. André Friis (left) of Letaba Thatchers and Bertus Nieuwenhuis of Recon Thatchers

Many of the TASA's founding members learned their trade from Mr. George de Ridder who used to be an engineer. He was also involved in the establishment of the first specification for thatched roofs in South Africa, namely the SANS 10407:2004.

Kind regards

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