



## THATCHERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA DEKKERSVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA

Newsletter 3/2016  
8 May 2016

### TASA's TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AND LAUNCHING OF THE 'GUIDE TO THATCH CONSTRUCTION IN SOUTH AFRICA'

The 23rd of April 2016 was indeed a memorable day in the existence of the TASA! Not only was the President and Vice President of the International Thatching Society present on this important occasion, but they could also take a hardcover copy of our "Guide" along with their names in gold letters in the front of the book - just like our ten year members' books.

The following members could unfortunately not be present:

David Hoffman	- Hoffman's Thatching Specialists	Stephen Bursey	- Bursey Thatching
Jan Steyn	- Safari Thatching	Danie Meijers	- Kim Thatchers
Tinus Fick	- Thatchmaster	Johann Munnik	- Dupcrete
		Christiaan Munnik	- Thatchscapes



*Back:* Cobus Maritz (Waterfront Thatchers), Shaun Smith (Biggarsberg Thatchers), JC Steenkamp (Highveld Cape Thatchers), Abrie Visagie (Lucas Quality Thatchers), Kobus Strydom (Firelab), Bill Bragge (Ronayne Thatch and Decking Services), Jason Lucas (Lucas Quality Thatchers), John Smith (Biggarsberg Thatchers), Sias Hoffman (Hoffman's Thatching Specialists), Mike Hull (Hull Consulting Engineers) and Johann la Grange (Thatchscapes).

*Front:* Bruce Breedt (SAWPA) Kosie Theunissen (Theunissen Thatching) Abe Stears (SATAS), Elzabie Meintjes (DVSA), Andre Friis (Letaba Thatchers), Andre Fivaz (Hantam Thatchers) and Bertus Nieuwenhuis (Recon Thatchers).

### 2016 NATIONAL MANAGEMENT ELECTED

National Chairman	-	John Smith	Biggarsberg Thatchers	- Natal
National Vice Chairman	-	Cobus Maritz	Waterfront Grasdakke	- Limpopo
Treasurer	-	David Hoffman	Hoffman's Thatching Specialists	- Mpumalanga
Management	-	Abrie Visagie	Lucas Quality Thatchers	- Cape
	-	Shaun Smith	Biggarsberg Thatchers	- Natal
	-	Dawid Pretorius	Con-Thatch	- Gauteng
	-	Bertus Nieuwenhuis	Recon Thatchers	- OFS

The four National Chairmen of the past ten years, together with the President and Vice President of the ITS



*Fltr:* Bertus Nieuwenhuis, Kosie Theunissen, Michael Andersen (Vice President) Abrie Visagie, Nigel Turton (President) and finally John Smith who was re-elected as National President for the current financial year.

1,046 People have been reached within five hours after this picture was published on the TASA's Facebook page.

#### **OUR INTERNATIONAL GUESTS EXPRESS THEIR GRATITUDE**

*Dear Friends*

*Thank you so much for the very kind invitation to TASA's 10th anniversary celebrations.  
The evening was skillfully planned in every aspect.  
It was a total success- well done to all that made this happens.*

*My thanks must also go to June and John Smith for looking after both Amanda and myself so very well.  
Simply amazing hosts.*

*You all made our stay in your wonderful country such a memorable trip.  
Thank you again, and here's to the future of both TASA and the ITS.*

*Very best wishes*  
***Nigel Turton***

*Thank you for all and everything.*

*We had a wonderful stay in South Africa. We enjoyed the celebrations and again I want to congratulate you for a very good achievement in producing the Thatcher's Guide.*

*The hospitality of the Smiths was overwhelming, they showed us the best of Africa; homestead, wildlife and of course thatch!*

*In our endless discussions of thatch the idea of exchanging our national magazines came up. At least every board member of ITS should have a subscription of every country's roofing or thatching magazine. Also a column aimed for ITS matters and news would be appropriate. I'm asking Nigel to execute that matter in the ITS board.*

*I would like to be permitted to translate the article in SA Roofing, issue 78, about TASA turns 10, to Swedish and Danish for publishing in TAEK. I'll fill in the competition results and photos from the celebrations. Please send me, if possible, some of the professionally taken ones.*

***Michael Andersén***  
*Byggmästare*

The group mainly responsible for the creation and publication of the "Guide to Thatch Construction in South Africa"  
It can be downloaded for free from the TASA website and also on your cell phone at <http://www.sa-thatchers.co.za>



*Fltr.* Abe Stears (Certification and screening of new TASA members - SATAS) Natasja Blok (sponsor - Thatch Risk Acceptances) Bruce Breedt (Sponsor - SAWPA) Liesl Schoonraad (Publication readiness), John Smith (author of the main content - Biggarsberg Thatchers), Elzabie Meintjes (Administrative Officer - TASA), Mike Hull (Structural Engineer).

It was a wonderful reunion for the TASA team who attended the ITS Congress last year in Sweden



*Fltr.* Kosie Theunissen, Jason Lucas, Abrie Visagie, Bertus Nieuwenhuis and John Smith.

### **IMPORTANT DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Marketing:** The TASA now has its own publication that can be used for the benefit and development of the Thatching Industry. Every homeowner with a thatched roof /lapa or professionals, municipalities, banks, insurance companies, etc. can benefit from it.

Our "Guide to Thatch Construction in South Africa" together with our website which is being renovated, will be marketed aggressively in the next few months.

The TASA's Facebook page which is linked to our website, has reached over 30 000 people during the past two weeks and the „Guide to Thatch Construction in South Africa“ has already been downloaded almost 500 times for free from our website.

### **Selection of new members**

Since the SANS 10407 specification requirements are now made widely known and the Government, Parastatals, Banks etc., insist that only TASA members are contracted, prospective members are selected more strictly. SATAS (South African Technical Auditing Services) who also handle complaints and the certification of members, will attend to the screening before the TASA accepts the prospective member. It is applicable to new as well as old members whose membership expired or was canceled in the past.

A DVD will be made available containing the "Guide to Thatch Construction in South Africa" and the selection procedure followed by SATAS. In the past, prospective members only had to provide contact information of clients, architects and / or engineers and provide proof that they built thatched roofs for more than two years in order to become members.

Now physical inspections will be conducted of roofs that were constructed. The costs will be for the account of the prospective member. The value of this is that problems that may exist with regard to the implementation of the specification requirements can be sorted out. This eliminates unpleasantness and problems that have been experienced in the past to a large extent. The TASA will accept membership once the recommendation of SATAS is received.

**COMPETITION WINNERS**

**Trademax Media Competition:**

Lucas Quality Thatchers



**TASA's Photo Competition Winners**

- |   |    |                                 |                          |
|---|----|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| : | 1. | Biggarsberg Thatchers           | Largest single structure |
| : | 2. | Hoffman's Thatching Specialists | Most aesthetic structure |
| : | 3. | Biggarsberg Thatchers           | Smaller structures       |
| : | 4. | Hoffman's Thatching Specialists | Funniest photo           |



We believe that the TASA and its members are now, after ten years, in a much better position to lead the Thatching Industry to new heights. As evidenced by the National Photo Competition photos, our members are a formidable team that surpassed the best in the world.

We can now continue to build upon a very strong foundation due to the loyalty, perseverance and great creative ability of our members.

Kind regards

*John Smith*

**NATIONAL CHAIRMAN**

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