



# THATCHERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA DEKKERSVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA

Newsletter1/2018  
25 January 2018

## NEWSLETTER

Dear TASA member

After the holiday season, it became time to put shoulder to the wheel and to tackle 2018 with renewed zeal and courage. Some of our members had to struggle through very difficult circumstances and losses suffered last year, and we pray and firmly believe that this new year will bring positive breakthroughs and blessings.

### Membership

Many thanks to our members who have renewed their membership for 2018. We would like to encourage our bona fide thatching contractors to support our Associate members. The latest entries are:

Pole Suppliers	TWK Agri (Pty) Ltd Low's Creek Treated Timber
Lightning conductors	SP Industrial MIE (Pty) Ltd DEHN Africa (Pty) Ltd
Fibre glass ridges	Fibricon CC
Dormer windows	Tony Sandell Roof Windows

We trust that these members' association with the TASA will be satisfactory and positive.

### South African National Standards (SANS)

This year started with certain sections of the SANS 10400 being updated / modified and submitted for public comment which must be submitted before or on 30 ultimo before the publication thereof.

Messrs Abrie Visagie (National Chairperson), John Smith (Vice-National Chairperson with portfolio Technical matters and the Guide) and Dawid Pretorius (with portfolio SABS Committees) are involved.

The wording as negotiated by the TASA, and which is also incorporated in our Guide, is contained in the new standards as well. We are therefore waiting for final publication of the Standards.

Full feedback regarding the SANS 10400's parts to be published after update / amendment will be submitted at the next Annual General Meeting.

For the first time, chimneys and fireplaces are addressed in the SANS 10400-V (Space heating) Standard.



These installations above are incorrect and do not comply with regulations. The pole and thatch shows charring next to the steel flue.

## Spark arrestors inside chimneys



On page 87 of our "Guide to Thatch Construction in South Africa" it is described what a spark arrestor is and how it should be installed. It is found that the public is totally uninformed about this and believes that the Cowl on the chimney is the spark arrestor. The public is very negative about it because birds nests in it. Due to ignorance or indifference, many people do not install spark arrestors in chimneys.

The following is published on the TASA's Facebook page.

SPARK ARRESTORS (Guide to Thatch Construction in South Africa - page 87)

A Spark Arrestor is stainless steel wire mesh inserted into the chimney at a minimum of 750 mm deep.

Spark arrestors are fitted in chimneys to prevent floating coals from a fire setting light to a thatched roof surface. Make sure that your chimney system on your thatched roof is equipped with a spark arrestor. It is essential in the protection of your home or lapa.

A spark arrestor can become blocked with tar deposits, which in turn can slow down flue gases leaving the chimney and build up heat in the flue. It is recommended to have chimneys cleaned/swept at least once a year before winter season.

Our members are encouraged to send contributions and photos to the office, especially where problems are encountered in the Industry. Information of how problems are addressed or to advise on how these problems can be bridged will be appreciated. This may lead to informed home owners whose insurance claims will be paid out.

This is especially applicable to roofs where only the damage is restored, but the rest of the roof is left in a state that is very negative for the contractor who worked last on the roof, even though he did not originally build the roof, because the rest of the roof does not meet specification requirements.

The TASA's Facebook page is mainly used to inform the general public and the above information and photos are required for this purpose.

Each of our members' continued support and participation in the development of our Association and Industry is highly appreciated. May this year be a more satisfying and prosperous year for all of us.

Kind regards

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**NATIONAL CHAIRMAN**

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