



# THATCHERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA DEKKERSVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA



Newsletter 7/2016

5 December 2016

Dear member

## NEWSLETTER

The year of 2016 was indeed the most important year in the history of the Thatchers Association of South Africa! Not only could we celebrate our tenth anniversary in a glorious way, but we were also able to invite the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the International Thatching Society (ITS) to celebrate with us. Our tenth Annual General Meeting took also place on the same day, namely April 13, 2016.

During the function twenty-two members received certificates and a copy of our 'Guide to Thatch Construction in South Africa' to show the TASA's appreciation for their valuable contributions since the revival of the TASA.



*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 (TASA), Andre Friis (Letaba Thatchers), Andre Fivaz (Hantam Thatchers) and Bertus Nieuwenhuis (Recon Thatchers).



*Fltr:* Bertus Nieuwenhuis, Kosie Theunissen, Michael Andersen (Vice Chairman), Abrie Visagie, Nigel Turton (Chairman) en John Smith



### Outstanding highlights of 2016:

1. The introduction of our own "A Guide to Thatch Construction in South Africa" which was very well received.
2. The upgrade of the TASA website which attracted many visitors, especially due to the availability of the "Guide" that can be downloaded for free.
3. In addition to the ads and articles that we were able to place, the TASA's Facebook page generated intense interest - especially during our aggressive marketing effort during the first two months after its launch.
4. The TASA's compliance with all the FICA requirements. This is an achievement since our founding documents were accepted unchanged after we had to start from scratch since the revival of the TASA.

**International Thatching Society Conference and Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the National Society of Master Thatchers (NSMT) - taking place from Monday 18 to Friday 22 September 2017 in the United Kingdom**

The ITS can accommodate up to 100 representatives of the different member states and attendance has been awarded, taking into account the number of members from each country.

Six seats were allocated to the TASA, which were already taken by Lucas Quality Thatchers, Biggarsberg Thatchers, Recon Thatchers and Con-Thatch.

These members are truly wonderful ambassadors for our Society as well as South Africa and our prayers and good wishes accompany them.

The TASA's commitment to the ITS is of the utmost importance and indispensable for international recognition.

**Blessings**

Another wonderful blessed year comes to an end. It was truly a triumphant year with regards to the TASA. The Biblical analysis of the number ten [10] as such is: **witness, justice, responsibility and completeness of order.**

It is equally applicable to the TASA as we can **witness** in every way that **justice** has been done regarding the restoration of our SANS 10407 formerly withdrawn; and that each member of the TASA took **responsibility** to ensure the TASA's survival. This culminated in the creation of our "Guide to Thatch Construction in South Africa" and brought **completeness** and **clarity/order** in the industry.

Everyone has contributed to a greater or lesser extent that our ship could continue to sail with sails taut through stormy waters!

Our gratitude goes to each Board-, and individual member of our Association - but especially to our two national chairmen, Messrs. Bertus Nieuwenhuis and John Smith who stood at the helm of our ship during the past year.



We wish you a blessed and joyful Festive Season to enjoy with family and friends

May you be blessed.

**NATIONAL CHAIRMAN**

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