



THATCHERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA DEKKERSVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA

Newsletter 7/2010



Abrie Visagie
NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

NEWSLETTER

The year 2010 was in many ways a difficult time. The finalization of a workable specification for the Thatching Industry was in itself problematic. In addition to that the occurrence of bad workmanship, quality of materials used and absence of approved plans tarnished the image of the Industry.

Despite the difficult economic climate the majority of members paid their dues to TASA. We could therefore continue with our approach to bring to the attention of the public those contractors delivering outstanding workmanship which comprise the majority of our members.

Since the re-institution of TASA five years ago, two major determining factors for success or failure came to the fore, namely:

1. Supervision on site by a knowledgeable person
2. Quality of material and workmanship

The above caused a watershed resulting in a number of thatchers to disappear from TASA's membership list. Thatched roofs built in the absence of approved plans and without the supervision of a qualified engineer caused headaches for clients and TASA.

Bad workmanship, construction problems and inferior materials used provides enough evidence for a client to sue the contractor.

Certification

The first two TASA members to receive certification are Thatch-It and Biggarsberg Thatchers. These companies act as the Guinea pigs and we trust that this exercise will be in full swing in 2011.

Although potential clients are still inclined to accept the cheapest quote, the enlightened persons will in future tend towards making use of certified thatchers especially where the project is a major one. Members are encouraged to be certified as soon as possible.

SATAS enters into a separate agreement with each member applying for certification and quotations are based on the unique requirements of a business pertaining to the number of visits, size, etc. The time for the execution of the process can be shortened if members prepare themselves beforehand to comply with the requirements available on the website under the section "members only"

Training Manual

The TASA Training Manual is published on the website under the section "members only". Also available is information on certification. The manual is based on the SANS 10407 (Thatched Roof Construction)

Specification. It is still in concept form as input is still awaited from members re specification requirements for installing grass ridges and the correct servicing procedures to follow for reed roofs.
(The correct method to follow to service thatched (grass) roofs is available on TASA's website).

However, sufficient information is available for preparation for certification.

SANS 10407 & SANS 10400

The section "T" of the National Building Regulations SANS 10400 is again referred to members of the committees for comment. This was done after considering appeals and correspondence received including that of TASA.

The CR3 document replacing SANS 10407 is awaiting member's comments and input. The SABS is eager to publish the documents before the end of this year.

TASA Website

The website is more users friendly and can be brought up to date by the Executive Officer herself. This is more cost effective. Although information added can be improved in time, it creates an informative platform for thatchers and the public alike.

Malpractices are put under the magnifying glass and the proper construction processes point out. Insurance companies as well as clients will be in a position to make informed decisions.

The website would have served its purpose as a marketing instrument for members and the Industry if improvement can be brought about in the quality of workmanship.

More photos and suggestions will be appreciated.

The following comments were received on the website:

Recent Comments



From *Exercise Balls* on [Should I become a member of Thatchers Association of South Africa](#) #

Great information! I've been looking for something like this for a while now. Thanks!



From *gebhardt insurance* on [Pole Structure in the Thatching Industry](#) #

This is the greatest paper I have read all day??? <http://insurance-jargon.info>



From *free government grant* on [Pole Structure in the Thatching Industry](#) #

Superb blog post, I have book marked this internet site so ideally I'll see much more on this subject in the foreseeable future!



From *rachat de credit* on [Pole Structure in the Thatching Industry](#) #

Find and pick some good points from you and it helps me to solve a problem, thanks. - Rob



From *magnific* on Pole Structure in the Thatching Industry #

This is the way a blog should be! Thanks!



From *dropping health insurance* on Pole Structure in the Thatching Industry #

Could be the BEST blog that I read ever??? Jerry event insurance services

Kind regards

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Winner of TASA's first photo competition in 2007
Section: Funniest Thatch Photo
Photo submitted by Highveld Cape Thatchers

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