



# THATCHERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA DEKKERSVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA

Newsletter 5/2018  
11 August 2018

NEWSLETTER

## **FROM THE DESK OF THE NEWLY ELECTED NATIONAL CHAIRMAN**

Against all odds TASA got off the ground and achieved a lot in the last twelve years.

- It created the platform to be involved with the rewriting of the National Building Regulations that resulted in the publication of SANS 10407 in 2007.
- TASA was one of the founding members of the ITS (International Thatching Society) in 2009. Since then TASA could attend ITS congresses in Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Holland and England. A TASA delegation is going to attend the ITS congress next year in Japan.
- In 2014 TASA hosted the ITS meeting in Stellenbosch. One hundred and forty Thatchers from Europe and Japan attended and both the tourism part and the official part was a huge success due to a formidable team effort – and in particular the members of the Western Cape that helped hosting the event. It is still regarded as one of the best ITS events.
- In 2016 TASA published its own “Guide to Thatch Construction in South Africa” – again due to a massive team effort and this year the Guide was translated into Setswana and isiZulu which were made possible by a sponsorship by SAWPA.

All above gave TASA purpose and goals over the last twelve years. The question is what is the purpose and goals over the next twelve years.



### **South African Qualifications Authority**

#### **Policy and Criteria for Recognising a Professional Body and Registering a Professional Designation for the Purposes of the National Qualifications Framework Act, Act 67 of 2008 (as amended, March 2018)**

To grant more status and recognition to Thatching as a professional Trade and to give our members the opportunity to register as a Professional Thatcher, the TASA is busy making preparations to register with SAQA to be recognised as a professional body and to register its professional designations.

Workers who worked for many years as a carpenter, thatcher, etc. can't show anything for it. This registration now also allows workers to register as a professional carpenter, thatcher, etc. It depends on the name and qualification assigned to the specific designation.

It is the responsibility of the TASA to define these designations in the Thatching Industry and what the qualifications for the various designations entail.

In addition to our “A Guide to Thatch Construction in South Africa” based on the SANS, further information is also made available through the information guide, “Pros and Cons in the Thatching Industry”. The purpose thereof is to advise, identify and address malpractices in the Industry due to lack of knowledge or merely ignorance.

Confidence is expressed that, due to this registration, the Thatching Industry will benefit greatly and that TASA membership will be sought after. It will also mean that due to regular inspections of registered thatching contractors, the Thatching Industry will be lifted from the mud in which it currently finds itself. Therefore, due to targeted planning of where the TASA is heading, we have full confidence in the continued existence of the TASA as well as the promotion and prestige of the Thatching Industry in South Africa.

### **TASA INFORMATION GUIDE: 'PROS AND CONS IN THE THATCHING INDUSTRY'**

In addition to our "A Guide to Thatch Construction in South Africa", the concept of our information guide 'Pros and Cons in the Thatching Industry' has been sent to our members for their input and comments. As discussed at the Annual General Meeting held on 2 June 2018, we are currently working to define the different designations in the Thatching Industry and what the qualifications for the various designations entail.

This draft document will also be made available to our members for their comments.

### **ITS 6th GENERAL MEETING 2019 IN JAPAN FROM 17 TO 23 MAY**

The TASA delegation currently consists of nine members. We booked for ten people. **So there is another opportunity for one TASA member to join this tour.** Please inform

the TASA office as soon as possible if you would be interested.  
The cost of the ITS - JTCA Conference 2019 will be \$1,000 USD.

What is included:

- Accommodation
- Transport for all excursions
- 3 Meals a day throughout the week

### **PROGRAMME**

**May 17 (Fri)**

**Arrival**

Collected from the Airport, Kansai International Airport (KIX, Osaka)  
Dinner in the TOYOTA Shirakawa - Go Eco-Institute

**May 18 (Sat)**

**Shirakawa Village, Gifu Prefecture**

Gymnasium of Shirakawa Junior High School.

**May 19 (Sun) Shirakawa Village thatched roof (World Heritage)**

**"Yui" Thatching work by community**

Thatchers' exchange Workshop

**May 20 (Mon) Kyoto City, Kyoto Prefecture**

(Intangible cultural buildings) Thatchers' exchange Workshop

**Thatching Olympic**

**May 21 (Tue) Nantan City, Kyoto Prefecture**

– Thatched roof and Hinoki barked Thatched roof temples and Shrines, Tea house

**Farewell party**



**May 22 (Wed) Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture  
and Village Kabuki Stage**

**May 23 (Thu) Depart, Kansai International Airport (KIX)**

An exciting time lies ahead for us with a lot of challenges that may bring so much benefit to our members and industry that we can't back off from it. Therefore, we rely on the input and support of our members because as a team we can accomplish what seems for now, possibly not attainable in view of the current political and economic climate in the country.

Kind regards



**Andre Friis**  
**NATIONAL CHAIRMAN**

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