



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

Newsletter 7/2015  
15 October 2015

**NEWSLETTER**

### **THATCHERS ASSOCIATION TENTH ANNIVERSARY!**

It is with great pleasure that we can look back at the past ten years to reflect on what has been established during this period.

Starting with no source documents, registration of TASA's trademark, a handful of members, etc., we can now proudly say that the TASA really established itself as the mouthpiece of the Thatchers Industry in South Africa.

### **SANS 10407**

Not only did the TASA acquire representation on the SABS committees and participate in the creation of the specification requirements for thatching, it was also responsible for the establishment of the SANS 10407 (Thatched Roof Construction) specification which forms part of the National Building Regulations (SANS 10400).

### **Guide to Thatch Construction in South Africa**

*Then of course the TASA's showpiece!* - The "Guide to Thatch Construction in South Africa."

This manual is the product of ten years of loyal support and input of our members and without the contributions of Messrs. Kobus Strydom, John Smith, SAWPA (South African Wood Preservers Association) and SATAS (South African Technical Auditing Services) we would have had difficulty in achieving this milestone.

Special mention must be made of Mr John Smith who took the initiative to initiate a Training manual which developed into the "Guide." He is also the TASA's representative on the SABS committees. Mr. Smith is currently working to finalise the document and you will be notified as soon as it is downloadable for free from the TASA's website.

During the 2016 Annual General Meeting an Award Ceremony will take place and TASA wishes to make it an auspicious occasion. It is not only our tenth anniversary celebration, but also the official launch of the "Guide." Thatch Risk Acceptances offered a sponsorship for this event for which we are very grateful.

### **Membership of the International Thatching Society**

The membership of the TASA and presentation of the International Thatching Society's Congress during 2014 was a major milestone in the TASA's existence. Proof that the Thatching Industry in South Africa can compete with the best in the world, was the awards presented by the ITS to Biggarsberg Thatchers (2014) and Recon Thatchers (2015) for the "Best Thatch Roof in the World".

### **Membership of SAWPA (South African Wood Preservers Association and Association member of The Wood Foundation**

The TASA and SAWPA exchange membership while the TASA is also one of the eight Association members of the Wood Foundation.

The other Association members are:

Forestry South Africa  
PAMSA  
Sawmilling South Africa  
SAUPA  
ITC  
Southern African Institute of Forestry  
SAWPA



It is recommended that our members visit these Associations' websites where valuable information is found with respect to the larger Industry.

The TASA's logo forms part of a month advertisement in the SA Forestry's Desktop Calendar together with those of the SSA, FSA, SAWPA, SAUPA, ITC and PAMSA. This confirms that the TASA is recognized and forms part of the greater industry together with the other major role players.

### **WoodEX for Africa**

WoodEX for Africa is foremost a trade event in Africa focusing exclusively on the Timber Industry.

Although the TASA does not man a stall during the WoodEX for Africa show, TASA's logo and information are published in the documentation of this show.



### **Cape Construction Expo**

The same applies to the Cape Construction Expo. The TASA is an Association Member. When one click on the TASA's logo which appears under the heading "Association Partners", TASA's information and link to our website open.



### **TASA membership**

Over the years an essential screening process occurred in respect of TASA membership. Today we can rightly say that the members currently on the TASA's membership list is a team with which the TASA has built a solid foundation over the past ten years and can continue to do so.

It may be said that almost without exception no complaints have been received from our current members. Problems were sorted out before the customers found it necessary to report it to the TASA, or the complaint was immediately resolved to the customer's satisfaction after the Administrative Officer contacted the member.

### **Screening**

The TASA is now such a strong established Association where strict selection regarding new membership can be applied to protect our current members and clients. Hence, the TASA wants to express its special thanks to our members who were continuously members since the reviving of the TASA. During the 2016 Annual General Meeting's Awards ceremony, special recognition will be made by means of a "Ten Year" certificate and vehicle sticker.

### **Unauthorized use of TASA's registered trademark**

The membership list published on the TASA website is always kept up to date. Please report those contractors immediately that unlawfully abuse TASA's registered trademark to the office of TASA. These contractors mislead the public and usually only after losses were suffered, the TASA is notified of the abuse.

Evidence of abuse such as pictures of vehicles with the TASA's logo, advertising, quotations, etc. contribute much to the fact that the abuse can very soon be terminated.

### **The road ahead**

The foundation is now laid and through the SANS 10407 and "Guide to Thatch Construction in South Africa", we can now put shoulder to the wheel to build the Thatching Industry to be one of the most relevant and successful industries in South Africa.

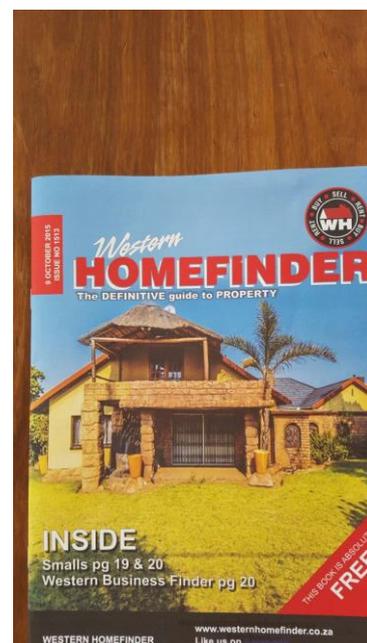
**Thatched roofs like this cannot be allowed to make up the front pages!**

Through the TASA's website, Facebook page and articles, valuable information and photos are made available to the industry and public.

Sincere thanks are extended to those members who made contributions, but our other members are encouraged to send interesting information and photos to the TASA's office.

The TASA has now at its disposal a formidable team who can and should send the Thatching Industry on a road to victory.

We trust that now, after ten years, that our members can proudly refer to their TASA membership.



Kind regards

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**NATIONAL CHAIRMAN**

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