



THATCHERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA DEKKERSVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA

Newsletter 10/2021
29 November 2021

NEWSLETTER

Dear TASA member

A GRATEFUL REMINISCENCE OF THE LAST FIFTEEN YEARS OF THE TASA'S EXISTENCE

MESSAGE FROM ABRIE VISAGIE (JNA THATCHERS)

Over the last 15 years with my involvement with TASA the biggest question in my mind always been: "Are we on the right path with TASA?" and I think this way of critical thinking is important for TASA – in the past and on the way forward!

To answer this question in context I would like to look at the high and low points during the 15 years.

1. The passion that we all share for what we do always amazed me – national and international; when we agree and disagree – we are passionate about what we do.
2. The new friends I made – in SA and through ITS.
3. New knowledge and perspective that not only developed me as person, but also open up new business opportunities.
4. The inspiration and motivation every time we got together and shared our successes.
5. I learned from mistakes made by others – and saved the school money!
6. The publication of SANS 10407 – and the re-publication after it was withdrawn at some point.
7. The publication of TASA Guide.
8. The involvement with ITS and the highly successful ITS 2014 conference in Stellenbosch that was a huge team effort.
9. To know that TASA plays a vital role to keep the thatching trade alive.
10. To work with dedicated TASA executives.

And on a personal level – the ITS trips with SA friends to Denmark, Sweden & Japan.
So what are the low points and the goals that we could not achieve?

1. The involvement of the SA Thatchers – Despite huge efforts there are still a lot of relevant role players that are not affiliated with TASA.
2. The inclusivity of TASA – we need to find a way to include thatchers from all walks of life.

Clearly the upside outnumbers the downside by 10 – 2 !!!

It was a wonderful journey of meeting new people, seeing new places and getting inspiration and new ideas.

Long live TASA and the legacy of what has been achieved the last 15 years.

DOWN MEMORY LANE



2006 The first National Management

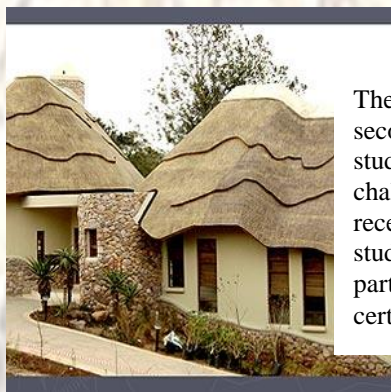
Natasha Still (Dolphin Coast Thatching)
Abrie Visagie (Lucas Quality Thatchers)
Elzabie Meintjes (TASA) Pat Wilson
(Micon Coatings)

2007 First Photo Competition

Categories: Most aesthetic structure
Largest thatched roof
Funniest thatching photo

2008 The final draft of the SANS 10400-T:2008 came to our attention. It was with dissatisfaction and astonishment that we noticed that TASA's objections were not only ignored but the specification had been changed to the utmost detriment of the Thatching Industry if it was promulgated in that form. Members and role players in the Industry were informed of TASA's objections and suggestions to the Technical Committee of the SABS. Negotiations with the SABS continued.

2009 The First National Thatched Roof Competition held for Architects and Architecture students were so successful that the competition was repeated in 2010

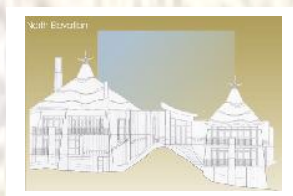


The University of Pretoria's second year Architect students accepted the challenge. Three entries were received to which seven students worked. Each participant also received a certificate of participation.

2009 Winners of the Architectural Design Competition
Best Design: Walker Smith Architects



Most Aesthetic Design: WJA Architects



2011 First National Thatched Roof Construction Competition

All the participants and judges of the first Thatched Roof Construction Competition

2012 During October, a delegation of eight TASA members attended the International Thatching Society's Congress in the Netherlands and Germany, during which it was decided to hold the 2014 Congress in South Africa.

2013 The TASA Constitution and Source documents had been revised.

U- and R-Values – Energy Efficiency in Buildings

All thatched roofs must comply with the SANS 10400-XA and SANS 204 Standard requirements. The correct U-values must be available to the Industry. Air permeable roofs like thatched roofs, were not provided for in the above Act. Discussions were successfully held with the various relevant authorities such as The National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS), various Committees of the SABS, representatives of the Thermal Test Laboratory, etc.

2014

TASA HOSTED THE ITS CONGRESS IN THE CAPE WHICH WAS THE HIGHLIGHT OF THAT YEAR

One of the events arranged for our international visitors was a visit to Robben Island



During 2014, certification of TASA members was established by SATAS (South African Technical Auditing Services).

MESSAGE FROM SOUTH AFRICAN TECHNICAL AUDITING SERVICES

On behalf of SATAS, we extend our heartiest congratulations to TASA for completing 15 glorious years of success. You have always been on the top of the list for serving the industry with your unselfish services.

Companies like yours and particularly the dedication of Elzabie Meintjes can only aim for high results. Working with TASA has been a real honour and we value the working relationship.

With your service, commitment and sincerity you have time to time proved your worth and have gained the much-deserved recognition in the industry.

We wish you all the success for many more years to come.

Abe Stears
MANAGING DIRECTOR

2015



Fltr: Morné Smit, JC Steenkamp, Abrie Visagie, Cobus Maritz, Christiaan Munnik, John Smith, Kobus Strydom, Kosie Theunissen, A Theunissen, Bertus Nieuwenhuis, Hendrik v Zyl, Kobus Landman and Liesl Schoonraad

This Annual General Meeting will be remembered for the sense of belonging and the spontaneous spirit in which discussions took place regarding the “A Guide to Thatch Construction in South Africa“.

2016 THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE THATCHERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA



The four National Chairmen over the past ten years with the President Nigel Turton and Vice President Michael Andersen of the International Thatching Society
Back: Kosie Theunissen, Abrie Visagie and John Smith
Front: Bertus Nieuwenhuis, Michael Andersen and Nigel Turton

2016 Ten years of uninterrupted TASA membership



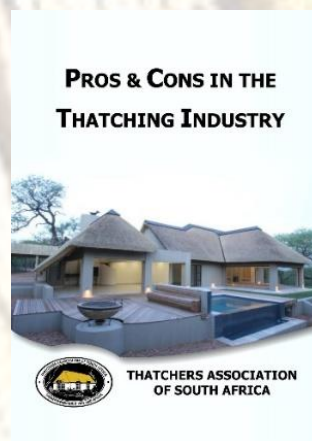
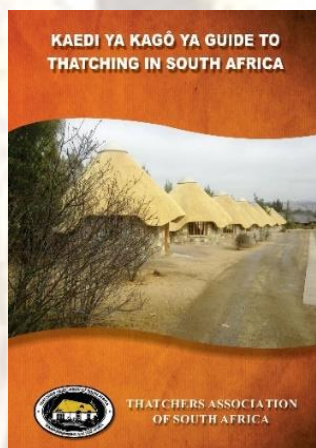
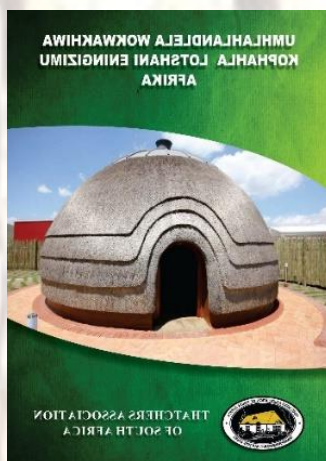
Back: Cobus Maritz (Waterfront Thatchers), Shaun Smith (Biggarsberg Thatchers), JC Steenkamp (Highveld Cape Thatchers), Abrie Visagie (Lucas Quality Thatchers), Kobus Strydom (Firelab), Bill Bragge (Ronayne Thatch and Decking Services), Jason Lucas (Lucas Quality Thatchers), John Smith (Biggarsberg Thatchers), 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).

2016 The launch of the TASA's "A Guide to Thatch Construction in South Africa"



The group that was mainly responsible for the establishment and publication of the "A Guide to Thatch Construction in South Africa" from left to right. Abe Stears (Certification and selection of TASA members - SATAS) Natasja Blok (sponsor - Thatch Risk Acceptances) Bruce Breedt (Sponsor - SAWPA) Liesl Schoonraad (Publication readiness), John Smith (Author of main content - Biggarsberg Thatchers), Elzabie Meintjes (Administrative Officer - TASA), Mike Hull (Hull Consulting Engineers).

2017 The TASA's "A Guide to Thatch Construction in South Africa" is being translated into Setswana and isiZulu and can be downloaded for free from the TASA website. The translation was sponsored by SAWPA. The "Pros and Cons in the Thatching Industry" also saw the light of day.



MESSAGE FROM SOUTH AFRICAN WOOD PRESERVERS ASSOCIATION

The South African Wood Preservers Association (SAWPA) would like to congratulate the Thatching Association of South Africa on their 15 year anniversary celebrations. As a relatively young organisation, TASA and its members have taken great strides and reached several achievements in the past 15 years. Among these are undoubtedly the goal to strive for quality and excellence in thatch roof construction, which we believe contributed hugely to the development and publication of “A Guide to Thatch Construction in South Africa” in 2016. SAWPA is proud to be associated with TASA and we wish the Association and its members all the best for the future.

Bruce Breedt
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2018 For the first time, chimneys and fireplaces are being addressed in the SANS 10400-V (Space heating) in thatched roofs as requested by TASA, and included in our Guide.

2019 **TASA participated in the ITS's Congress in Japan**

TASA's DELEGATION

Back: John Smith, Bertus Nieuwenhuis and Abrie Visagie.
Front: June Smith, Gloria Tkach (June's sister), Cecilia Nieuwenhuis, Sanrie Visagie (Abrie's daughter) and Andre Friis.



WINNER OF THE WORLD'S BEST THATCHED PROPERTY COMPETITION

John Smith of Biggarsberg Thatchers



2020

The first year that an Annual General Meeting was not held due to the restrictions that applied during the lockdown period due to the Covid pandemic

Recognition of the TASA

The Department of Architecture of the Steve Biko Campus in Durban asked TASA to make available to their department for learning and teaching purpose TASA's "A Guide to Thatch Construction in South Africa" and our "Pros and Cons in the Thatching Industry".

2021 **Our first Annual General Meeting was held by means of a zoom meeting and our SANS 10407 is reviewed**



The current National Management Committee

Messrs. Bertus Nieuwenhuis (Recon Thatchers), André Friis (National Chairman, Letaba Thatchers), Willie Coetzer (Vice National Chairman, Top Poles & Thatch), Conrad Myburgh (National Treasurer, Mycon Projects), Dawid Pretorius (Con-Thatch) and Mrs. Elzabie Meintjes (TASA's Administrative Officer).

MESSAGE FROM BERTUS NIEUWENHUIS (RECON THATCHERS)

My gedagtes gaan ver terug toe al die "ou manne" by die WNNR bymekaar gekom het en om 'n braaivleis vuurtjie geskerts en van al hul wysheide gedeel het. Ek dink Phillip Boardman (Alternative Structures) was toe die Voorsitter van die Grasdakvereniging van Suid-Afrika.

Kobus Strydom (Firelab) was die minister van braaisake. Pat Wilson (Micon Coatings) het baie energie in die bedryf ingesit. George De Ridder (paalstruktuur ingenieur) het so baie van ons geleer om veilige konstruksies te bou. Terry Wilson (Thatch-it) wat ons gehelp het met tegniese tekeninge.

Ek het vanaf Bloemfontein Pretoria toe gery om van 1700 tot 19h00 by die voete te sit van al die groot grasdakbouers en daarna weer teruggery Bloemfontein toe. Mense soos Jan Grobbelaar (Redruth Thatchers) Pine Pienaar, Andre Friis (Letaba Thatchers) dink ek het die meeste dekkers in die land opgelei.

Later toe die Dekkersvereniging van Suid-Afrika weer herleef het, het ek manne soos Abrie Visagie, toe nog van Lucas QualityThatchers, ontmoet wat die DVSA aan die International Thatching Society (ITS) bekend gestel het. Wat 'n belewenis.

Ook John Smith (Biggarsberg Thatchers) wat hom daartoe verbind het om met ander lede se hulp die Dekkersvereniging se Gids te verwesenlik.

Ek wil elke lid bedank vir hul bydrae wat gehelp het en kennis gedeel het om hierdie Industrie van ons n Elite Assosiasie te maak wat deurgaans erken word as gespesialiseerde grasdakbouers.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank our accountant, Carina Langner, for her faithful service over the past fifteen years.

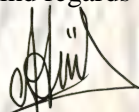
It can be stated with the utmost confidence that every facet of the Thatchers Association of South Africa's administration runs on oiled wheels.

1. The TASA's registered trademark is in order.
2. The TASA's name is registered and our Companies and Intellectual Property Commission fee is up to date.
3. South African Revenue Service return filed and completed.
4. TASA's International Thatching Society membership fee has been paid.
5. The TASA's Constitution and source documents are in order.

Last but not least! Our members without whose support and contributions the Thatchers Association could not continue to exist. South African Auditing Services (SATAS), South African Wood Preservers Association (SAWPA) as well as Firelab and the committee members of the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) can also not be omitted. The TASA's success is truly due to teamwork.

We can look back with pride and satisfaction on the past fifteen years and what has already been accomplished in that time.

Kind regards



André Friis

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

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