



# THATCHERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA DEKKERSVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA

Newsletter 4/2014  
20 June 2014

## NEWSLETTER



Bertus Nieuwenhuis  
National Chairman

Dear member

We would like to once again confirm that the following individuals were elected to the Executive Committee after a very fruitful Annual General Meeting. Our members have already been placed in possession of the minutes.

|                                |                       |                                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| National Chairman              | Mr Bertus Nieuwenhuis | OFS & Northern Cape             |
| National Vice Chairman         | Mr Kosie Theunissen   | West & Eastern Cape             |
| National Treasurer             | Mr David Hoffman      | South East Limpopo & Mpumalanga |
| Management                     | Mr Christiaan Munnik  | West & Eastern Cape             |
|                                | Mr Cobus Maritz       | Limpopo North                   |
|                                | Mr Hanro de Jager     | Gauteng                         |
| Representative SABS committees | Mr John Smith         | Natal                           |

For the sake of continuity, TASA will always endeavor to include the former National Chairman (in this case Mr. KosieTheunissen) in the Executive Committee.

The Constitution states that the National Chairman may only serve for a period of two years in the same position. It is policy to have at least one member from each region elected to the Executive.

### **MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN**

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone who put confidence in me to be the National Chairman of the TASA.

I want to make it clear that any association is as strong as the synergism between the members. Without everyone's desire to make TASA to work, the best efforts of the Executive are in vain. Your contributions are important.

I also want to thank my predecessors for their selfless service. I think, for instance of Abrie Visagie, who broke the ice for us to link to the ITS. It was great pioneering work without which our members could not have the opportunity to enjoy the same level of exposure. We salute you Abrie.

My sincere thanks also go to John Smith for his dedicated service as the TASA's representative on the SABS committees. Without any compensation he delivers input in the creation of regulations and specification requirements which closely affect the Thatching Industry.

Because of his involvement with the SABS, TASA could:

- Have the SANS 10407 (Thatch Roof Construction) specification restored after it was cancelled and incorporated in different parts of SANS 10400 (National Building Regulations). Due to his intervention, information has been partly recovered and a reference in the SANS 10407 has been made for the information that could not be returned.

The updated SANS 10407:2014 (Thatch Roof Construction) specification would be published during September 2014.

- John was also responsible for the thermal test sample and testing of thatch grass and reed to determine their R and U-values. A map of the different zones and cover thickness are indicated at the bottom of this letter.
- He was also responsible for the Training Manual for members that is currently being revised and supplemented.

We can only extend our sincere gratitude.

Kosie Theunissen, with his soft and comfortable charisma, managed to put out fires which he has not even started - even just at the very beginning of his term as National Chairman.

Many thanks to everyone who were involved with the presentation of a wonderfully successful ITS earlier this year in Stellenbosch. You Capetonians have truly done well.

I cannot neglect to express my concern towards the lack of interest of our members to attend such an event. It was an opportunity that cannot easily be repeated.

In South Africa today we are living on the edge of a recession. We also noticed the decline in our membership. To make it in our Industry today, more creative thought must be given to set your business apart from others.

Some of our members, for example, operated their businesses during 2013 at a loss. This next season will be a challenge for the TASA to retain and try to assist members. It is easier to help and get an existing member right back on track, than to recruit new members. This includes associate members.

As you all already know, advertising in newspapers and magazines is expensive and the results are usually limited. Most of the time other businesses see an opportunity to market their printers' ink, insurance, or new vehicles to the advertisers.

I think we better start focusing on other sustainable industries, to point out to them the benefit of using a TASA member. The cost may initially seem more, but when errors have to be repaired due to unprofessional work or the use of inferior material, the recovery costs will be much more than the initial higher cost. Examples are banks and insurance houses. To market the TASA intensively to them may cause a passive flow of insurance claims in our direction.

If you can contribute any other positive suggestions of how we can help grow the TASA, please do not hesitate. Every member's input is required.

May 2014 be a blessed year for everyone. Even though it may not seem so now - you only need one project to get you out of a predicament.

Good luck

## R & U-VALUES OF THATCH GRASS & REED ROOFS

The information below is for our members' information regarding covering layer thickness in order for you to know what to expect. The regulation (SANS 10400 XA) in which they are recorded, is still in draft form and may have changed somewhat since now. During the last meeting of this committee, a proposal was submitted that the country rather be divided into (12) twelve zones and not (6) six.

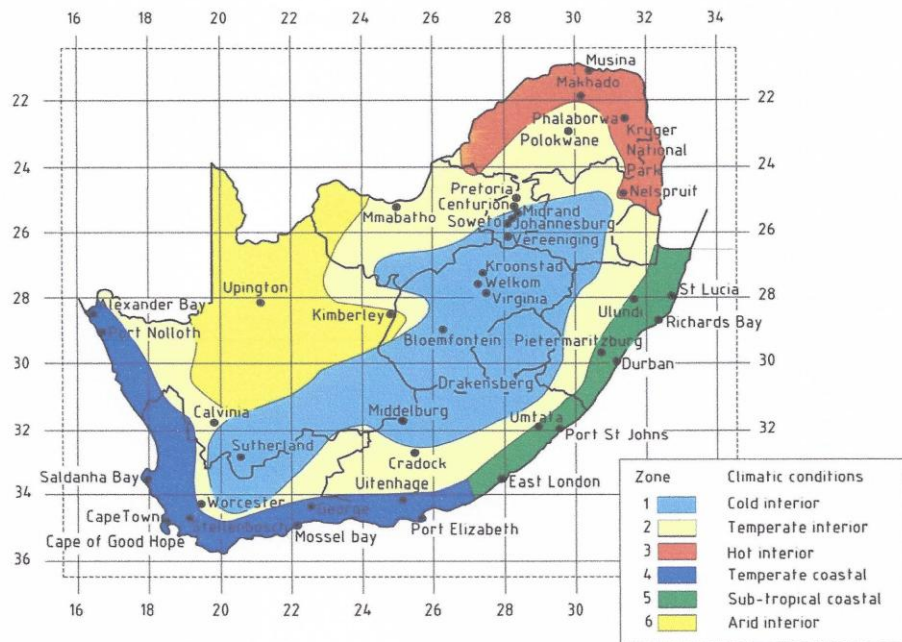
Our members will be kept informed of any changes or developments. If you have any queries in this regard, or even regarding other specifications, please contact Mr. John Smith of Biggarsberg Thatchers. His cell number is: 083 270 3826



### Climatic zones in RSA

The deemed-to-satisfy provisions are based on climate zones, including dry bulb temperatures; thermal neutrality, humidity and southern coastal condensation risk (see Map of Climatic Zones of South Africa).

| Overview of climatic zones |                      |                                   |
|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Zone                       | Description          | Major Centres                     |
| Zone 1                     | Cold interior        | Johannesburg, Bloemfontein        |
| Zone 2                     | Temperate interior   | Pretoria, Polokwane               |
| Zone 3                     | Hot interior         | Louis Trichardt, Nelspruit        |
| Zone 4                     | Temperate Coastal    | Cape Town, Port Elizabeth         |
| Zone 5                     | Sub-tropical Coastal | East London, Durban, Richards Bay |
| Zone 6                     | Arid interior        | Upington, Kimberley               |



Drq 727

| <b>Table7—Minimum total R-values of roof assemblies</b> |                      |                      |                      | <b>SANS 10400 XA</b> |                      |                      |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>(minimum thicknesses of thatched roof inserted)</b>  |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |
|   | <b>Climatic zone</b> | <b>Climatic zone</b> | <b>Climatic zone</b> | <b>Climatic zone</b> | <b>Climatic zone</b> | <b>Climatic zone</b> |
| <b>Description</b>                                      | <b>1</b>             | <b>2</b>             | <b>3</b>             | <b>4</b>             | <b>5</b>             | <b>6</b>             |
| Minimum required thickness for thatched roofs (mm)      | 207                  | 179                  | 175                  | 207                  | 175                  | 196                  |
|   |                      |                      | <b>Adj up</b>        |                      | <b>Adj up</b>        |                      |
| Direction of heat flow                                  | Up                   | Up                   | Up & Down            | Up                   | Down                 | Up                   |

### **NATIONAL EXECUTIVE**

As indicated in the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on June 7, 2014, the new National Executive was tasked to conduct a marketing document into which the benefits of thatched roofs are pointed out and to compile a "Guide to Thatching in South Africa".

The concept of the latter is in possession of the Executive members. Their comments must be transmitted to the TASA office not later than the end of July 2014.

TASA members are invited to contact a National Executive member in your region to bring problems, or uncertainties regarding specification requirements under his attention. A written note can also be forwarded to the TASA office for presentation at the next National Executive meeting.



AGM 2014

Kind regards

Bertus Nieuwenhuis  
**NATIONAL CHAIRMAN**

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