



THATCHERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA DEKKERSVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA

Newsletter 8/2013
24 November 2013

NEWSLETTER

Dear TASA member

The year is already at an end and it was another difficult year for most of us. In the Western Cape we experienced abnormal weather conditions which made work difficult. I thought that fishing would be a better idea, but then even the fish did not bite!

We can only hope and pray that an upsurge in the industry will come in 2014. The TASA also had a difficult financial year, but it appears that during 2014 it will get better with everything planned.

An extract from the Master Builders' report states:

“Issues in building industry need to be addressed

4 NOV 2013 07:28
[SUBMIT A COMMENT/BIZLIKE](#)

It has not been plain sailing for building contractors as the recovery from the slowdown following the world financial crisis has been characterised by a very moderate rise in building activity and profitability.



MBSA president Collin Cozens

Now, more than ever, it is critical for key role-players and government departments to engage on issues that affect the growth and development of the industry.

This was the message from the immediate past president of the Master Builders South Africa (MBSA), Danie Hattingh, at the opening of organisation's recently held annual congress.

Mike Schüssler, an economist at Economists.co.za, echoed Hattingh's statements by saying that building activity is making a comeback but from a low base. "Construction plans have been positive for about ten months, after five years in the doldrums. Residential and shopping centre building are now bouncing back. Banks are also lending more for motor vehicles than for homes, which is unusual but this has been going on for four to five years. Loans for homes are likely to be a better bet for the banks than car loans in the next five years. As a result we are unlikely to see the previous highs in residential building for another five or even ten years."

There were fewer complaints this year from clients and members compared to 2012 which gives us more hope for the future. It is once again proof that the TASA does have a place.

The effort in the creation of a Thatching manual during 2013 drew a lot of criticism among members and it was decided to wait until all the U-value and SABS' issues are sorted out. The feeling has arisen that this must not be a Training manual, because there are big differences between the provinces as well as the contractors. The manual should be more of a Marketing manual for the public and professional organizations to raise awareness about how a reed / thatch roof should be constructed.

The arrangements regarding the "Fun Fair" in 2014 are well under way and it should give us more industry exposure.

I want to thank Elzabie and my committee for their work and input. To all our members and their families I wish a well-deserved break, a Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2014.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2014

We would like to point out to our members that next year's Annual General Meeting will be held in Stellenbosch on Saturday, February 15. The entire ITS program and dates are listed below for the convenience of our members who must book flights from other provinces.

INTERNATIONAL THATCHING SOCIETY CONGRESS 2014

Received from Mr Abrie Visagie : ITS Coordinator

On behalf of the ITS 2014 organising team (TASA Western Cape)

All TASA members and associated members are hereby invited to attend the ITS activities in Stellenbosch from 12 to 14 February 2014 at Stellenbosch Lodge, Stellenbosch.



Yes! ITS 2014 is a reality!

Why ITS 2014 and how will you benefit from it?

Since 2011 the TASA management had sporadic contact with international thatching societies. International contact was one of the goals we set for ourselves when TASA was founded. This resulted in TASA being a founding member of the ITS and that led to a visit of eight South African Thatchers to the ITS Fair in Germany during 2012. Numerous European and even Japanese Thatchers visited South African Thatchers during the last three years.



TASA see South African Thatchers as among the best in the world and the creativity and unique designs of South African Thatchers are recognized worldwide. As the world opened up not only for South Africa, but also due to technology, one realise that we are not on a thatching island and that a lot is happening and developed worldwide in the thatching trade. Even if we cannot learn that much from each other, we are inspired and motivated by new ideas and a shared passion for thatch.

With my involvement with the ITS over the last few years, I found that there is no conflict of interest or any threat to the business interests of South African Thatchers. We can only gain from the knowledge and friendship of our international competitors.

Program

- 6/7 February: International guests arrive in Cape Town
7-11 February: Tourist Program
- 12 February: South African guests join the international group
Fun Fair and Demonstrations
Spitbraai dinner for everybody
- 13 February: ITS meeting / Ladies program at a Spa
- 14 February: Site visits – Thatching projects around Cape Town
- 15 February: TASA Annual General Meeting

Any South African member that would like to join the Tourist Program is welcome.

Cost of Tourist Package

The cost of the Tourist package is R1560 per day p/p including accommodation, transport and breakfast with one main meal per day

Cost of Ladies' Day at Spa

Ladies' day at the Spa cost R1300 p/p. Any South African ladies are welcome

We have a unique situation in South Africa namely that, due to the scale required to be profitable, most of the TASA members do not spend each day on the roof, but attend to the running of their businesses. Therefore, we would like to extend this invite to include Thatchers employed by TASA members. We will only limit numbers if we are overbooked, but please indicate on your booking form the number of employees that you would like to bring with.

Accommodation

We booked the Stellenbosch Lodge for the international guests. The overflow will be booked in nearby hotels/guest houses.

Cost of Accommodation

The cost for bed and breakfast for twin rooms is R 695 per person.

Please indicate on your booking form if you want us to book accommodation on your behalf. You will not be able to book individually at Stellenbosch Lodge since we booked the entire hotel.

Cost for Employees

Accommodation and transport for workers that attend will be arranged as well. We will communicate the information after we receive the bookings. The cost will depend on the numbers, but it will be reasonable.

Cost of the ITS Program

Cost of the ITS program (*excluding accommodation*) is R450 p/p per day including one main meal and all venue and transport costs.

Could we confirm your booking by December 9, 2013?

The booking form is attached to this newsletter.

We are looking forward to see you all there.

If you need any more information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly on 083 675 0518.

Kind regards

Kosie Theunissen

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

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BOOKING FORM : ITS 2014

TASA
 Member Associated Member NAME: _____
 COMPANY: _____

Number of persons attending.....

7-11 February: Choice of Tourist package **7** **8** **9** **10** **11**
 @ R1 560 per day p/p

12 February: Fun Fair and Demonstrations @ R450 pp per day.....

13 February: ITS meeting @ R450 pp per day

Ladies program at Spa R1 300 pp

14 February: Site visits – Thatching projects around Cape Town @ R450 pp.....

15 February: TASA Annual General Meeting at no cost

ACCOMMODATION

DATE

Accommodation for twin room @ R695 pp Number From To
 Name (s) _____

Accommodation for employee(s) required
 Name (s) _____

Please confirm booking by 9 December 2013 by sending this form to the following e-mail address: elzabie@fivaz.co.za / Fax 086 6409 151