



THATCHERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA DEKKERSVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA

Newsletter 1/2015
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NEWSLETTER

Dear member

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The short break is over and it is once again time to tackle the issues head on in order to pull us out of the proverbial financial pit.

The picture is a good portrayal of the dilemma in which the Thatching Industry finds itself

As a result of the fact that many contractors had to lay off some of their workers, they are not able to build the same quality roofs and the trend is now that contractors water down specification requirements to their level and ability of delivery.

The TASA will only survive if the Industry believes in it and itself.

Therefore, it is of paramount importance that the TASA set and maintain a standard through the SANS 10407, which we fought for, for almost the entire existence of the revived Association.

TASA'S RELEVANCE : SANS 10407

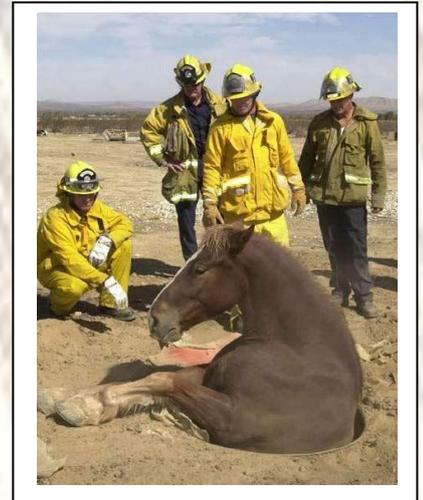
There was no specification for thatched roofs before 2004 and no written standard against which quality could be measured. This dilemma regarding what is acceptable and what is not, caused the old Grasdakvereniging to be dissolved.

After the publication of the SANS 10407:2004 by the SABS, the old Grasdakvereniging was revived as the Thatchers Association of South Africa. After that, the SANS 10407:2004 was replaced with the SANS 10407:2006 to which the requirements for fiber glass ridges were added.

After that, the SABS, without any knowledge of the TASA, divided the SANS 10407:2006 between the different parts of the SANS 10400. For example, roof structures were incorporated in part "L", Fire went to part "T" and so on.

The TASA was then left with a CR3 document that contained almost only the specification requirements for thatch and reed. This caused the dilemma that a paragraph, or two had to be taken from different parts of the SANS 10400 to be able to get to know something of the standards with regard to thatch roofs.

Only after numerous meetings the SABS granted the TASA permission to retain the SANS 10407. Reference to the SANS 10407:14 where applicable, will be made in the different parts of the SANS 10400. At an Annual General Meeting which was held in Bloemfontein, the SANS 10407:2006 **was revised and**



updated by TASA's own members and this specification was published by the SABS in 2014 as the SANS 10407: 2014.

The question may well be asked to what extent the TASA could be held liable for the condition the Industry presently finds itself in. On the other hand, it could also be asked whether the TASA meets the expectations of its members. Do members really get value for their membership fees, or is the TASA operating as a social club? The next Annual General Meeting provides a platform where clear answers can be obtained and solutions will have to be found.

Price and quality will become a crucial factor. Therefore, it is absolutely essential that contractors are aware of specification requirements and the application thereof.

The TASA is making a great effort by means of the creation of "A Guide to Thatching in South Africa" to fill this gap.

A GUIDE TO THATCHING IN SOUTH AFRICA

We are confident that when the TASA's "Guide to Thatching in South Africa" is introduced to the Industry, Banks, Insurance Companies, Public, Government Institutions, etc., our members will receive more exposure. It should also contribute to ensuring that the said Institutions may insist on business being conducted only with TASA members.

It should also lead to more thatching contractors applying for membership

At the time the TASA was revived during October 2004, it was decided to accept all contractors who applied for membership in order to enable the TASA to function. However, it resulted in contractors being accepted who had almost no experience in constructing a thatch roof.

The TASA was not just inundated with complaints, but we also lost a lot of "good" members in the process, due to the fact that they were not prepared to be associated with an Association where this kind of practice took place.

2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We now have the opportunity to restore the TASA's honour, but it requires that our members will have to pull their weight.

Recognition must be given to those members who, in spite of the difficult times, implemented quality control and has maintained a high standard.

Where the TASA initiated a project, we ensured that the project paid for itself and also if possible, generated an income, such as the presentation of the ITC conference.

In the event of the Guide, SAWPA (South African Wood Preservers Association) sponsored the cost to prepare the TASA's "Guide to Thatching in South Africa" for publication. SAWPA and SATAS' (South African Technical Auditing Services) involvement in this publication is of immeasurable value for the TASA and their support and cooperation is greatly appreciated.

To give expression to the Word that says "JUST what you sow, so shall you reap" (Gal. 6: 7), the TASA would like to seek this year to sow as much as possible into the Thatching Industry.

If we allow others to excel and do well, then it will go well with the TASA and its members also. Isaac, despite of a severe drought sown and won a hundredfold (Gen.26: 12), but the man who received the one talent and buried it (keeping it to himself), this was also taken away from him. (Mat.25: 25).

Let us join hands and make plans together to put the Thatching Industry in order.

Feel free to participate in this conversation and send your proposals to the TASA's office.

- In which province would you want the AGM to be held?
- Do you have a suggestion of a venue?
- Points that you would want to be included in the Agenda
- Any suggestion that this General Meeting should involve / should look like?
- Proposal to represent the TASA in a positive light and to improve its status

Our annual financial year end takes place on February 28, 2015. The Annual General Meeting must be held within six (6) months after this date and notice shall be given to members three weeks (21 days) in advance.

Please send your suggestions to the TASA office. We would like to hear from you.

JAPANESE VILLAGE CONVERTED INTO GORGEOUS OPEN-AIR MUSEUM FOR THATCHED ROOFS

Link: <http://en.rocketnews24.com/2015/01/24/japanese-village-converted-into-gorgeous-open-air-museum-makes-an-easy-day-trip-escape-from-tokyo/>

Japan is also a member of the International Thatching Society and was well represented at the ITC Congress held last year in South Africa. This is a reflection of Japan's conservation awareness.



Neba contains no less than 20 structures with the sort of thatched roofs that could still be seen decades after Japan became an industrialized nation. Actually, until about 50 years ago, Neba was a farming community. In 1966 a typhoon tore through the region and severely damaging homes and causing the residents to pack up and relocate.

As this sort of architecture became less and less common even in the Japanese countryside, though, cultural conservationists took up the cause of restoring the Nenba farmhouses. In 2006 their efforts led to the opening of the current facility, which gives visitors a peek at how the town used to be.

Farmers who lived in thatched-roof houses, had a periodic maintenance program called *ibusu*, which involved lighting fires inside the building to produce fumigating smoke that would drive out bugs and mold from the reeds.

Lacking residents, Nenba's thatched roofs don't go through this process, however, and have to be replaced every ten years or so at a cost of more than 10 million yen (US \$83 300) per roof.

Kind regards

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