



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

Newsletter 1/15  
29 January 2021

### NEWSLETTER

Amid all the turmoil in the world surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic and the US Presidential election, we want to wish our members a blessed 2021 and trust that everyone could spend a well-deserved holiday with loved ones.

The following wise words apply to our situation: "Do not be discouraged today, keep praying, there is no hopeless situation, only people who have lost hope in their situation!"

In terms of the availability of good quality thatch grass, this year should be a particularly good year due to the generous rains that are currently falling over many areas in our country.

#### **RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP**

Many thanks to our members who have already renewed their 2021 membership. Invoices have been sent out again and the 2021 membership stamps for your membership certificates will be mailed after the financial year closing.

To further assist our members, the following letter can be sent to you on request (which applies to the specific member) and which confirms membership.

"TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

#### CONFIRMATION OF MEMBERSHIP

This letter aims to confirm that ..... is a member of the Thatchers Association of South Africa since ..... with membership number GSA0.....

The TASA further confirms that ..... has delivered extremely satisfactory work over the past ..... years and that no complaints or any dissatisfaction with their work or customer service have been received by this office.

Their membership fee is always paid in full."

#### **CORRESPONDENCE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN TEST REPORT ON R-VALUES WITH THAT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL THATCHING SOCIETY**

For the sake of interest, Mr. Abrie Visagie of JNA Thatchers' letter to Mr. Joost Kreuger of the Vakfederatie Rietdekkers who is also a member of the ITS, is included.

*Mr. Abrie Visagie writes, among others:*

"Thank you very much for the December 2020 edition of "Het Drijfbord."

I always looking forward to your excellent magazine.  
(Fortunately my Afrikaans mother tongue helped me with the Dutch!) Of particular interest was the article.

"De R-waarde berekening van riet op een gesloten constructive."

A very well written and informative article!

On page 17 the article came to the conclusion that the k – value for a new thatch roof, as well as for a thatched roof aged 27-54 yrs is 0.056 W/mK

This number looked familiar and I retrieved a laboratory report of 2013 when we contracted an independent certified testing facility to determine the R – value of Cape Winter Reed thatching material (that we use in Cape Town).

This test was done in terms of ASTM C 518-10 – Steady-State Thermal Transmission Properties.

This report found the thermal conductivity of our specimen as 0.056 W/(m-K)!

This correlates 100 % with the work Ruud and his team did. Although this is pure coincidence since the material and test method is not related, it is good to know that our figure compares well with others."

***Mr. Joost Kreuger of the Vakfederatie Rietdekkers comments:***

"Thank you very much for the report and your mail.

It is reassuring to know the outcome of the report correlates with Ruud's work and ours.

Another conclusion that can be made out of the several international reports is that the insulation capacities of thatch is generic and doesn't depend on the origin of the thatch.

We have placed a download of the Rvalue on our website. You can find it here:

[https://www.riet.com/media/vfr/pdf/R\\_waarde\\_berekening\\_riet\\_15-12-2020.pdf](https://www.riet.com/media/vfr/pdf/R_waarde_berekening_riet_15-12-2020.pdf) "

***For the sake of completeness, the reports as well as the article referred to are attached hereto.***

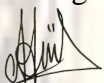
This was truly a team effort by Mr. John Smith of Biggarsberg Thatchers who prepared the test sample for the Thermal Test Laboratory at the CSIR in Pretoria, while Mr. Abrie Visagie negotiated with Thatchco (Thatch Consultants & Assessors). As a result, the correct information regarding the Thatching Industry could be passed on to the SABS so that it could be included in the SANS 10400-XA.

**PUBLICATION OF SANS 10400-LED4: 2020 -ROOFS**

The following were received from the SABS. The TASA's "Guide to Thatch Construction in South Africa" is kept up to date with any changes made to the SANS documents applicable to our industry. The Regulations themselves belong to the SABS and if members want to obtain them, they must be purchased from the SABS. The TASA may not distribute it among our members.

"It is our pleasure to inform you that SANS 10400-LED4:2020: The application of the National Building Regulations Part L: Roofs, has been approved for publication and will be available for sale once the publication process has been finalized. Please contact SABS Standards Sales on 012 428 7911, or visit our website at [www.sabs.co.za](http://www.sabs.co.za) regarding the purchasing of documents."

Kind regards



André Friis

**NATIONAL CHAIRMAN**

Thatchers Association of South Africa

Private Bag X 1015

LYTTELTON 0140

Fax

Mobile

Email

Website

086 6409 151

083 283 8429

[admin@sa-thatchers.co.za](mailto:admin@sa-thatchers.co.za)

[www.sa-thatchers.co.za](http://www.sa-thatchers.co.za)