



THATCHERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA DEKKERSVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA

Newsletter 4/2015
8 June 2015

NEWSLETTER

Dear TASA member

2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The TASA's ninth Annual General Meeting took place in the Western Cape on a glorious sunny day after a whole week of rain and cold.

It was not all work. We also had a wonderful time socializing together - as evidenced by the picture! This Annual General Meeting will be remembered for the sense of belonging and the spontaneous spirit in which discussions took place.



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

„A GUIDE TO THATCH CONSTRUCTION IN SOUTH AFRICA“

The greater part of the day was devoted to finalizing the Thatchers Association's "A Guide to Thatching in South Africa." It was decided to change the name to "A Guide to Thatch Construction in South Africa" to avoid confusion with the CSIR's "A Guide to Good Thatching Practice " published a few years ago.

Valuable input was provided. After the recommended changes have been made, the Guide will be placed under the scrutiny of a technical expert and then resubmitted for approval to the TASA's management before it is released to the market. Messrs. Abe Stears (SATAS who also directs the certification of thatching contractors) and Bruce Breedt (SAWPA) have already worked through the Guide and gave their approval. Both of them were previously employees of the SABS and are currently either serving as Chairman, or a member of the SABS' executive committees.

It was decided to make this Guide available for free as an e-book that can be downloaded in PDF format from the TASA's website, so that it can be distributed as soon as possible and as widely as possible. Members may make copies thereof to give to their clients, architects, engineers, building inspectors, insurers, employers, etc. The Guide consists of photos and sketches with explanatory descriptions so that even a layman can understand its contents.

This "Guide to Thatch Construction in South Africa" is based on the SANS 10407 (Thatched Roof Construction) Specification requirements with which ALL thatched roofs must comply and it also highlights other specification requirements of other SANS documents that form part of the National Building Regulations.

The most serious offense which currently causes devastating damage to thatch, is the wrong methods applied with regard to the service of thatch roofs. The fact that the uninformed public hire incompetent persons for as cheap as possible to "comb and brush" their roofs, is causing not just the shortening of the lifespan of the roof, but also excessive hail damage and leaks. This undesirable practice gives a very bad name to thatch and causes it to be replaced with tiles or zinc. In the end, every thatching contractor's future and livelihood is impeded by it.

Decision which members should urgently take cognizance of:

It was decided that this "A Guide to Thatch Construction in South Africa" will be made available free of charge, but to cover the costs thereof, members are asked to inform the TASA office whether they are interested to advertise at a cost of R1 000 ON OR BEFORE THE 15TH OF JUNE 2015 in respect of the current edition.

An invoice will be sent with the payment date. On receipt of proof of payment, the member's name and contact details will be included in it if the payment is received in time. Nine members have already indicated that they would like to advertise therein.

This Guide will be reviewed annually and members who made a contribution to make this Guide available, will have their names included therein. This advertisement is renewable on an annual basis, just like membership fees.

ELECTION OF THE TASA'S MANAGEMENT

The following members are elected to the TASA's Executive :

OFS & Northern Cape	National Chairman:	Bertus Nieuwenhuis	Recon Thatchers
Western Cape	National Vice Chairman:	Kosie Theunissen	Theunissen Thatching
Mpumalanga	National Treasurer	David Hoffman	Hoffmans' Thatching Specialists
Natal	SABS Representative :	John Smith	Biggarsberg Thatchers
Western Cape	Member	Christiaan Munnik	Thatchscapes
Gauteng	Member	Dawid Pretorius	Con-Thatch
Limpopo	Member	Cobus Maritz	Waterfront Pole & Thatch

INVITATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL THATCHING SOCIETY'S CONGRESS IN SWEDEN

An invitation and program was sent to our members from the ITS regarding their 2015 Congress which will take place in the southern part of Sweden from 9 to 13 September 2015. Nine members have already indicated that they want to go. Since the ITC only provides for 100 delegates, the number of attendees are fairly limited.

If you want to be part of TASA's delegation to Sweden, please inform the TASA office on, or before the 25th of June 2015. Some of the members indicated that they want to visit other parts of Sweden before the commencement of the conference and would like to take their spouses along. A lot of planning will therefore have to be done and advance notice must be given to the ITS of how many TASA members will be attending.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Here follows a summary of Mr Bertus Nieuwenhuis' Chairman' report:

After a word of welcome and acknowledgments he expressed his wish that those present will experience the meeting as fruitful and urged them to remember that all of us are playing for the same team.

Members must keep afloat in very difficult financial circumstances such as recessions, 47% unemployment among the youth, strikes, load shedding, late or no payment for services rendered, and so on.

Mr. Nieuwenhuis quoted Jack Welch by saying: "You have to get better, move faster and you have to stay relevant. You need to have the Muscle of a big company. But you also need to have the Soul of a small company. You must have a Small Start Up Strategy, but the Muscle of a Big company. If you cannot move quick - you are dead. Only two words matter today: TRUTH and TRUST. Leadership is all about trust and truth".

He stressed that leadership almost exclusively rely on confidence (to build) and truth (to gain momentum). When you have momentum, you can act, but everyone knows that if there is no inclination to deliver quality service and satisfy the customer's needs, there is no satisfaction in this career which should be everyone's passion

The following is so true: As long as you focus on rendering value, not on generating income, the doors of opportunity open up in ample supply. It's not your circumstances that define your future, it's your choices.

He concluded with these words: "Do not let your past affect your future. Live for what tomorrow has to offer and not what the past deprived you of.

FOR INTEREST SAKE

The world's first written Building Codes!

World's First Known Building Code

2/14/2006 (Thompson Engineers)

Hammurabi was the ruler who established the great nation-state of Babylon (in modern day Iraq), the world's first metropolis. Hammurabi reigned from 1792-1750 BC. The most remarkable of Hammurabi's records is the Code of Laws, the earliest-known example of a ruler proclaiming publicly an entire body of laws so that everyone might know what was required. Hammurabi pre-dates the Law of Moses by approximately 300 years. His reign would have coincided roughly with the Biblical account of Joseph in Egypt.

The Code of Hammurabi was carved upon a black stone monument (considered by some to be the basis for the stone tablets of the Law of Moses), eight feet high, and clearly intended to be reared in public view. This noted stone was found in the year 1901, in a city of the Persian mountains.

Hammurabi's Code also gave the world the first written Building Codes. They were unusually simplistic by today's standards, but very matter-of-fact. There were not many lawyers in those days to haggle over the details.

228. If a builder build a house for some one and complete it, he shall give him a fee of two shekels in money for each sar of surface.

229. If a builder build a house for some one, and does not construct it properly, and the house which he built fall in and kill its owner, then that builder shall be put to death.

230. If it kill the son of the owner the son of that builder shall be put to death.

231. If it kill a slave of the owner, then he shall pay slave for slave to the owner of the house.

232. If it ruin goods, he shall make compensation for all that has been ruined, and inasmuch as he did not construct properly this house which he built and it fell, he shall re-erect the house from his own means.

233. If a builder build a house for some one, even though he has not yet completed it; if then the walls seem toppling, the builder must make the walls solid from his own means."

Kind regards

Bertus Nieuwenhuis
NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

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