



THATCHERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA DEKKERSVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA

Newsletter 4/2017
13 June 2017

NEWSLETTER

Dear Member,

Many thanks to our members for their support and especially to those who were able to attend our eleventh Annual General Meeting on 3 June 2017. It was not just a pleasant reunion and discussion of issues that required attention, but also an enjoyable social around the Spitbraai with Cape wine.

The Minutes and Chairman's report is attached to this Newsletter for your attention.

Notable issues were:

1. The fact that new members' roofs are first inspected before acceptance and that the TASA and existing members are not involved in disputes is invaluable for the TASA.

Disputes are attended to by an independent certification body. This of great benefit to the TASA.

It was even recommended that members, as part of their respective contracts, state that SATAS acts as arbitrator between client and contractor if any dispute arises.

2. In an attempt to generate more funds for the TASA to prevent a cash flow problem in the future, it has been decided to:
 - Increase membership fees with immediate effect to R5 000 for *bona fide* thatching contractors and R2 500 for Associate members.
 - Members who recruited sponsorships will receive a commission of 20% of the total amount of the sponsorship.
3. TASA has no legal status as an Association and can't issue any report, or certificate. For example, members who write a report for insurance purposes do so at their own risk and in their own capacity. Inquiries received by the TASA office are referred to SATAS, which carry out inspections and provide a report which may be referred to later if a Court case would require it.
4. The newly elected Executive Committee with the different portfolios assigned to them, are as follows:

National Chairman	Abrie Visagie	Western Cape	Marketing of Thatch & Finances
National Vice Chairman	John Smith	Natal	Guide & Technical matters
National Treasurer	David Hoffman	Mpumalanga	Finances
Executive member	Dawid Pretorius	Gauteng	SABS liaison
Executive member	Christiaan Munnik	Western Cape	Members' welfare
Executive member	Bertus Nieuwenhuis	OFS	Sponsors

There is a definite surge in new applications for membership that might be attributed to information published on the TASA's Facebook page and website. We found that new applicants are hesitant to be inspected. Unfortunately, it is a safety measure that can't be watered down. Due to the fact that it is no longer so easy to become a member of the TASA, we found that members take care of their membership and regard it as valuable.

The TASA's Guide to Thatch Construction in South Africa is also sent regularly to Banks, Insurance companies and companies that have an interest in Thatching, when inquiries and queries are received.

Emphasis is placed on the marketing of Thatching as an Industry and not the Association as such.

The TASA is first in respect of Organic Results with regard to Google ranking, which is very good. This means that if the words: "Thatchers Association of South Africa" is typed in on Google, the TASA and its Facebook page appear at the top.

We want to encourage you to visit TASA's Facebook page, like it and share it with other relevant institutions and businesses.

Without a Thatching Association, thatching contractors have no voice and cannot influence specification requirements and regulations. They also will not be able to play a role in the larger Industry and have an effect on National Standards.

We have full confidence in the survival of the TASA and the role that the Association plays in the Industry because we have members who value their membership and give their full cooperation. For this we have the greatest regard and gratitude.

Kind regards

Abrie Visagie
NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

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