



SACNASP Newsletter December 2017

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**Dear Registered Scientist**

**Continuing Professional Development (CPD)**

In April 2017 CPD was initiated at SACNASP for all Professional and Certificated Natural Scientists. This is still a learning curve for SACNASP but there has been a very positive response to from Scientists, Voluntary Associations (VA) and Service Providers. A simple breakdown of the expectation is 25 points over 5 years so 5 points a year in across all 3 categories. The link to the portal to update CPD points is <https://cpd.sacnasp.org.za/#/>

***In this edition:***

1. Introduction to Voluntary Associations
2. From the office of the Registration Manager
3. From the office of the Finance Manager
4. From the office of the Operations Manager
5. Future events
6. Achievements
7. Announcements

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**INTRODUCTION SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY FOR AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION (SASAE)**

The SASAE was established in 1966 as a legal entity and can act in law in its own name as client and defendant and can execute all actions required by and pertaining to the achievements of its objectives.

**Mission Statement**

The South African Society for Agricultural Extension (SASAE) is a Scientific Society, which in the interests of its members is committed for the promotion of the science and vocation of Agricultural Extension, through its members.

**Objectives**

The objectives of the Society are as follows:

- a) To advance and apply the **science and practice of agricultural extension** within rural development as a scientific discipline by stimulating thought, study, research, discussion and the publication and exchange of knowledge both nationally and internationally.
- b) To promote the professionalism, status and dignity of the **agricultural extension profession** amongst members, the scientific fraternity, agricultural extension practitioners, the general public and with the studying youth.
- c) To practise the natural-, economic- and managerial sciences responsibly and in **public interest**.
- d) To act as representative **mouthpiece** for the extension profession in agriculture.

**1. COUNCIL**

The affairs of the Society are managed by a Council, who is responsible for the maintenance of balanced representation on its board.

There are six branches representing the provinces at the Council.

## **2. SOUTH AFRICAN JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION**

SASAE is the owner and publisher of the South African Journal of Agricultural Extension and publish at least two volumes annually.

## **3. SASAE CONFERENCE**

SASAE annually plan and host a National conference where extensionists present papers and posters. Attending the conference and presenting a paper/poster will earn them CPD points. The six branches are responsible to organise and host annually symposiums.

## **4. SASAE AS VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION WITH SACNASP**

SASAE is responsible for the registration of Extensionist and every Extensionist that registered with SACNASP must register with SASAE. SASAE as Voluntary Association is responsible for the CPD Program in close collaboration with SACNASP.

Applications to register with SASAE should be directed to:

The Secretariat, P O Box 20773, Protea Park, 0305 or Email: [ben@sasae.co.za](mailto:ben@sasae.co.za)

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### **FROM THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRATION MANAGER**

#### **Registration cards**

SACNASP no longer routinely issues cards. If you require a card for 2018, please request a card from us by emailing [sacnasp@sacnasp.org.za](mailto:sacnasp@sacnasp.org.za).

#### **How do I get CPD points?**

We are frequently asked how to gain CPD points in categories 2 and 3. Two of our professional scientists Ms Lindi Richer and Dr Izak Breytenbach have accumulated one CPD credit by helping SACNASP test the service provider system. There are many other ways for example:

- Publication of technical articles: 1 credit per article published.
- Papers presented at conferences or congresses / poster presentations: 1 credit each.
- Participation in statutory, professional, institutional, technical or non-technical committees or task groups: one credit for every 10 hours of active participation.
- Evaluation of educational programmes at Universities and Universities of Technology for accreditation purposes: 1 credit for every 10 hours of active involvement.
- Evaluation of educational qualifications for SACNASP's Qualifications Examination Committee: 1 credit for every 10 hours of active involvement.



*Ms Lindi Richer and Dr Izak Breytenbach with their CPD certificates*

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### **FROM THE OFFICE OF THE FINANCE MANAGER**

#### **Annual Fees**

Annual fees will be due 31/03/2018, the Finance Office will be issuing out invoices as from January 2018. We encourage all scientists to pay their fees on or before 31/03/2018 to receive the new certificate.

For payment, please make sure you quote the correct reference number – **registration number** or **account number**.

### **Long overdue debtors**

We have been sending statements and invoices for all long overdue debtors. Please ensure that we have your correct contact details so that we can send statements and invoices.

A reminder to all registered scientists who have not as yet paid their current annual fees, please pay urgently as this was due earlier this year. If you have any enquiries, please contact the office.

For further information on fees, documents required and the submission process, please contact the SACNASP offices on: +27 012 748 6500 or [www.sacnasp.org.za](http://www.sacnasp.org.za)

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### **FROM THE OFFICE OF THE OPERATIONS MANAGER**

#### **First ever science festival at North West**

The P-STEM Foundation in collaboration with the Department of Science and Technology hosted the first Science Festival in Rustenburg, North West Province on 14 – 15 October 2017. SACNASP had an opportunity to engage and interact with learners, teachers and community members about different career opportunities in natural sciences.



*Primary school learners from Rustenburg, North West Province*

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> AFAAS Africa-Wide Agricultural Extension Week and 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the South African Society for Agricultural Extension**

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) in partnership with the African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS) and the South African Society for Agricultural Extension (SASAE) hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> AFAAS Africa-Wide Agricultural Extension and the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the South African Society for Agricultural Extension joint international conference. The event was held at Tsogo Sun Elangeni & Maharani Hotels, Durban, KwaZulu-Natal from 30 October to 3 November 2017. The theme of the joint conference was “Scaling up climate smart agriculture: Integrating youth, women, and the digital revolution”. The conference was official opened by Honourable Minister, Mr Senzeni Zokwana, emphasized that the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices is of utmost importance to address issues of climate change that poses a threat to productivity and long-term sustainability of the agricultural, forestry and fisheries sector.



*Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Mr Senzeni Zokwana address*

### **Engagement with universities**

SACNASP had an opportunity to engage with the University of Limpopo officials and post graduate student at the Faculty of Science. The information session was opened by the Dean: Faculty of Science, Prof Hlengani Siweya and the Director: School of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Prof. Paulus Mafeo. The purpose of the engagement was in relation to the free student enrolment campaign that will be rolled out 2018 as well as to create awareness about the relevance and importance of SACNASP.



*Dr Pradish Rampersadh presenting at the University of Limpopo*

### **Stakeholder engagement**

South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) had an opportunity to engage with the Malaysian Board of Technologists (MBOT) through the Department of Science and Technology (DST). MBOT is a registration and regulatory body for Professional Technologist and Certified Technicians. It was established in the 10<sup>th</sup> Malaysian Plan (2011-2015) with the aim to broaden access to high quality Technical and Vocational Education & Training (TVET) programs as well as to improve public perceptions of TVET in Malaysia. Dr Pradish Rampersadh, the Executive Director at SACNASP, gave a presentation about SACNASP.



*SACNASP, MBOT and DST delegation*

Science Forum South Africa (SFS2017) that was held on 7 December 2017 at CSIR International Convention Centre, Pretoria.



*SACNASP Discussion Forum panellists*

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## **FUTURE EVENTS**

### **SACNASP Discussion Forum**

South African Council of Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) hosted a discussion forum on 6 December 2017 at SCIR International, Convention Centre, Pretoria. The purpose of the discussion was for SACNASP to engage with key stakeholders to ensure that its future activities serve the dual function of providing for the interests of its scientists in maintaining their credibility and standing in their professions. Scientists registered with SACNASP play a key role in 'shaping systems of knowledge creation and diffusion' through the activities of its scientists organised into VAs. With 26 Higher Education Institutions in South Africa, interpreting the competency of natural scientists has resulted in disparities in terms of knowledge and skills in the natural sciences. Although these degrees meet requirements of the Council of Higher Education in terms of quality, questions always arise about the work readiness of the natural scientists. The discussion forum was aimed at identifying gaps in ensuring a competent natural science workforce for South Africa. The outcomes of the presentations were held at the

### **Networking session, Durban, Kwa-Zulu Natal**

South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) hosted a networking session for registered members at the Tsogo Sun, Elangeni Maharani, 12 December 2017. The event was attended by 88 delegates from various organisations such as government, research councils, industry, etc. The guest speaker, Ms. Renelle Karen Pillay (Water Quality Planning, Integrated Water Resources Planning & Information Management, Department of Water & Sanitation), gave a talk on Integrated Water Quality Management Strategy. The SACNASP Operations Manager, Mrs Sarah van Aardt, highlighted on the progress of SACNASP.



*SACNASP Operations Manager, Mrs Sarah van Aardt handing over a gift to the guest speaker, Ms Renelle Pillay*



*Delegation at the KZN networking session*

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## 2<sup>nd</sup> International Women in Science Without Borders Conference



### 2018 International Women in Science Without Borders (WISWB)-Indaba

Johannesburg, South Africa, 21 - 23 March 2018

On behalf of the organising committee it gives us great pleasure to invite you to attend the **2<sup>nd</sup> international Women in Science Without Borders conference** which will be held during 21-23 March 2018 in Johannesburg. This is a gender-inclusive conference, as no workplace is single-gender! We have exemplary plenaries who will share their thoughts around the theme of the conference which is '**Resilience in Diversity**'. Besides parallel sessions devoted to scientific/technical talks around trans-disciplinary problems - we will have a very clear scope within the conference to discuss and deliberate on gender aspect within STEM research. The conference website is <http://wiswb2018.co.za/> where the abstract submission details are available.

**Delegates can accumulate 1 SACNASP CPD point per day of the conference.**

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## ACHIVEMENTS

### Pierre Gy Sampling Gold Medal

Richard (Dick) Minnitt (**Pr. Sci. Nat.**) is the JCI Professor of Mineral Resources and Reserves at Wits University's School of Mining Engineering. Dick Minnitt (third from left), received the Pierre M Gy Sampling Gold Medal at the Eighth World Conference on Sampling and Blending 2017 in Perth, Australia recently. The award recognises excellence in the teaching and

application of the Theory of Sampling, the main contribution of the French chemist and statistician Pierre Maurice Gy, who forged the basis for sampling theory from the mid-1900s. His work was driven initially by the need to be more exact in the sampling and valuation of minerals – to ensure the fairness of financial transactions in mined products. The award was sponsored by Australia’s government research agency CSIRO and the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM).



*Photographed with Professor Minnitt are previous award winners: Professor Pentti Minkkinen (far left) from Lappeenranta University of Technology in Finland; Dr Francis Pitard (second left) of Francis Pitard Sampling Consultants in the US; Professor Kim Esbensen (third right) of KHE Consulting in Denmark; Dr Dominique Francois-Bongarçon (second right), President of AGORATEK International Consultants in Canada; and Dr Ralph Holmes (far right), Chief Research Scientist at CSIRO Mineral Resources Australia.*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SASAS elects first female president



It is with great pleasure to announce that Prof Esté van Marle-Köster (**Pr. Sci. Nat.**), Head of the Department of Animal and Wildlife Sciences in the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Pretoria (UP), was elected as the first female president of the South African Society for Animal Science (SASAS). SASAS is a voluntary association that represents the animal science field of practice. Prof Esté started her career as an Animal scientist at the South African Trust Development Corporation in 1983. An Honors and Master’s degree in Animal Breeding were obtained in 1988 and 1992 at the University of the Free State while working full time. In July 1995 she accepted a position as lecturer at the Department of Animal and Wildlife Sciences and obtained PhD in Animal Breeding and genetics in 2002. Her research concerns the application of genomics in the animal sciences with specific interest in beef and dairy cattle genomics. She serves as the coordinator of the subcommittee for research for the Beef genomic program and she is also the coordinator of the Dairy genomic program

funded by the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) for establishing genomic selection in South African dairy cattle. She is registered as a professional animal scientist with the South African Council for Natural Science Professions. Este has served on the Professional Advisory Committee for Animal Science for 5 years at SACNASP. She was recently elected as President of the South African Society for Animal Science at the recent SASAS congress in Port Elizabeth in September, the first female in South Africa to hold the position. Congratulations Prof Este!