



September is always a wonderful month as it brings with it a new season, signalling the end of winter, and the final stretch of the year.

August was quite a month here at SACNASP, with record numbers of Extension Science applications received in the various provinces we visited, new staff members joining and the exciting announcement of our ability to assess critical skills for visa purposes. With that being said, here is a quick recap of the past few weeks:

SACNASP annual financial audit

We have completed our annual financial audit and are, once again, unqualified. This means that all is above board and nothing is amiss, allowing us to proceed with the finishing touches to our annual report. The annual report will be published within the next two weeks and will be made available on the SACNASP website at www.sacnasp.org.za.

SACNASP team – growth and change

As the Extension Science applications continue to increase, and awareness spreads throughout the industry, it makes sense that we continue to grow our Extension Science team.

We have taken up additional office space to accommodate the growing team, which was quite an urgent necessity as the project is taking off and shaping up at a rapid rate. As of 1 September 2014, our six temps, two scanners, admin assistant and supervisor all moved into their new offices in the Regus building, near Menlyn, bringing our capable and enthusiastic team to 10 members.

Department of Environmental Affairs collaboration

I attended the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) workshop on the Conservations (Environmental) Consulting Industry Sector last week (2 September 2014). My participation was aimed at encouraging greater interaction and closer collaboration between the DEA and SACNASP.

Nominations for new Council

It is time to submit nominations for the new Council according to the Minister of Science and Technology's mandate. Voluntary associations and public nominees are to forward details and nominations to the SACNASP office by 12 September 2014 at the latest. Please contact Landi Jacobs at yjacobs@geoscience.org.za for further information and requirements for nominations.

Extension applications continue

We were pleasantly surprised by the positive interest in KwaZulu-Natal during our most recent Extension Science registration drive, with an exceptional 1 031 applications received in the province.

We then went to the Eastern Cape, visiting East London and Queenstown, where we received 241 applications. We will return to the Eastern Cape to visit Aliwal North in the near future.

Our team also visited Kokstad in KZN, where they received 71 applications, and then rounded off the Eastern Cape trip with visits to Mthatha and Port Elizabeth, with a final take of 231 applications bringing this application drive total to 543 – a testament to the hard work and excellent execution by the SACNASP team.

Sarah van Aardt gave a presentation on the registration process at the South African Society for Agricultural Extension's central branch symposium on 3 September 2014.

That's all for now

Dr. Rolf Becker

"Growth is never by mere chance; it is the result of forces working together." – **James Cash Penney**

