



2014 was a roller-coaster year with a lot of positive developments throughout the SACNASP fold and we are sure that 2015 is going to be just as fruitful.

Starting 2015 on a high note

SACNASP has kicked off 2015 with an abundance of enthusiasm and excitement. We now have an incredible 7 239 registered scientists on our database. This number is expected to climb rapidly as our project to register Extension Scientists with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is still in full swing.

We are planning weekly Professional Advisory Committee meetings in March to ensure that the project stays on course and meets its deadline.

Continuing to broaden the SACNASP sphere of influence

We will also be working on an exciting new project that will see the registration of final-year natural science students with SACNASP.

Our Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programme will continue into 2015 and we will also see the enhancement of our website, which will enable us to capture accredited training programmes. We are starting with Geology as a trial roll-out. Other fields of practise will be informed when their turn happens.

Just a bit of admin

Please note that invoices have been issued for the financial year 2015/2016 and they have to be paid by end of March 2015. No registration cards will be issued without payment. Registration cards will be sent by normal mail in early March or can be collected from the SACNASP office.

Referee reports

The number of people applying for registration with SACNASP is continuously growing and this has created somewhat of a backlog. In order to expedite the process, please ensure that your referees:

- Are fully aware that they are indeed your referee
- Are qualified and in a position to be able to supply you with a referee report detailing your scientific expertise

- Get back to our email request for reports

We have found that the backlog of registrations is mainly due to a large number of incomplete referee reports.

On a sad note

Unfortunately 2015 started with the sad news of the passing of the esteemed Prof. Pieter Marais. Prof. Marais was a former President of SACNASP and a former Executive Dean at the Tshwane University of Technology's Faculty of Science.

Prof. Norman Casey, current President of SACNASP spoke on behalf of all of SACNASP when he said: "It is with great sadness that we have learnt of Prof. Marais's passing. On behalf of the Council, I would like to express our sincere condolences to his wife Fiona and their four sons, two daughters, family and friends. He will be greatly missed." I share the sentiments and wish to add my personal commiserations.

SACNASP giving back

SACNASP will continue its social responsibility project to support the Bright Beginnings day-care centre with the essentials that they require. In addition to this, we are helping the centre prepare for an assessment by the Department of Social Development. As part of this assessment, Bright Beginnings is required to ensure that certain areas close to its classrooms are paved and that teachers are supplied with name badges and uniforms. I commend the staff who find time in their busy schedule to engage in this worthy cause.



At the beginning of each year I am filled with excitement. I am very proud of what we achieved in 2014 and I am grateful for all the hard work put in by the SACNASP team. The year ahead is filled with promise and SACNASP will continue its stellar work in everything it does.

That's all for now

Dr. Rolf Becker

"The best way to predict your future, is to create it."
– Abraham Lincoln

