



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR THE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION

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Newsletter No. 1 of 2008

Dear registered professionals and candidates,

The SACLAP endeavours to, on a more regular basis, update and interact with the registered and candidate landscape architectural professionals in terms of the happenings of the Council, as well as on general information that is important to the well being and functioning of the profession, hence this newsletter.

In the last couple of months there have been significant changes in the Council with our former president's, Gwen Theron's resignation. This resulted in the restructuring of Council and the Executive Committee with me, Hendrik van der Hoven as the new President and Bernadette Vollmer the new Vice President. Johan Barnard is also now officially the acting Registrar of Council. Furthermore one of the Public representatives, Maliga Naidoo of IERM also resigned. The Council therefore currently consists of: Hendrik van der Hoven, Bernadette Vollmer, Johan Barnard, Sonette Smit, Lebeau Labuschagne, David Gibbs, Megan Anderson and Karyn Richards. Proposals for the replacements have been forwarded to the Minister and feedback is awaited.

You are most probably aware that we are the smallest of all the Councils in the Built Environment with a low number of individuals registered with Council. The basic source of income for Council is from registration fees. This means that Council has limited financial resources and therefore does not employ any full time staff as the other councils do. All the work of Council has, to date, been undertaken on a voluntary basis by the respective Council members. This may have resulted in a situation where issues have not been addressed as speedily and as thoroughly as we would wish, as all of the members have a full time job with the added responsibilities and duties of Council. The Council wishes to thank the current Council members for their hard work and dedication.

In order to lighten the administrative burden on the Council members, SACLAP decided to appoint van der Walt & Company to assist with this role. This company specialises in Association Management and administration. You may have received correspondence from them already and have noticed that the contact address for Council has changed. This is a significant step for Council in that we now have a formal administrative support system – a secretariat. The scope of work includes most of the administrative functions of Council to relieve the Registrar's office and some of the individual Council members of this duty. **In future please use the above address as the contact address for Council. All queries, concerns, requests for information etc. are to be directed through the newly established secretariat.** Our designated person at the secretariat is Cynthia Badenhorst.

NEWS IN BRIEF FROM THE VARIOUS SUB-COMMITTEES

FINANCE COMMITTEE

SACLAP has reviewed the non-payment of registration fees after an audit of all registered persons and took a decision at the February Council meeting to suspend all persons who are more than three years in arrears. Correspondence has been circulated to the registered professionals that are affected.

The Council of the Built Environment has circulated a draft Policy Document regarding Fees. A discussion workshop to finalise the document together with other related issues will be held on 27 October 2008 at

the offices of van der Walt and Company in Randburg at 15:00. Please confirm your attendance with Cynthia no later than 17 October 2008 if you intend attending.

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

The SACLAP exams to register as a professional took place in March 2008. Currently only 2 of the 4 categories of professional registration are being written namely for Professional Landscape Architect and Professional Landscape Technologists. The requirements as well as the exam procedure are being reviewed currently and a policy drafted to address the issues which have arisen during the past few years. The requirements for Landscape Technicians and Landscape Assistants are in the process of being completed and persons will soon be able to register as candidates in these categories.

Council congratulates the following candidates that have qualified to be accepted as Professional Landscape Architects: G Brand, A Comrie, H de Lange, H Joubert, A Kerrin, D Louw, N Molenaar, E Otto, M Punt, B Rumble, S Swanepoel, M van Rensburg, and L van Wyk. F Rawjee was accepted as a Professional Landscape Technologist.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

As per the Landscape Architectural Professions Act (Act 45 of 2000); SACLAP is mandated to conduct accreditation visits to institutions of higher learning offering 'professional' landscape architectural qualifications. These institutions are obliged to invite SACLAP to conduct periodical accreditation visits; to ensure *curriculum*, facilities, staff and student and graduates are sufficiently capacitated to meet the professional standard. Institutions that are granted professional accreditation can then produce graduates who are eligible to sit the SACLAP Professional Registration exams after the minimum two-year period of practical training (as a candidate) under registered mentorship.

UCT: During September 2007, Programme Convenor: Dr Finzi Saidi invited SACLAP to visit UCT's School of Architecture and Planning, to review the Master of Landscape Architecture programme, then in its seventh year of existence. The visit was conducted between the 25th and 28th of September 2007; the panel recommended that full accreditation be granted to the Landscape Architecture programme at UCT for the following four years, until September 2011. The MLA degree meets the requirements of NQF level 7: graduates of the Masters programme are eligible to register with SACLAP as Candidate Landscape Architects.

UP: During April 2008, Head of Department Professor 'Ora Joubert invited SACLAP to participate in the Department of Architecture accreditation process at the University of Pretoria – concurrent with programmes in Architecture, Interior Architecture and Landscape Architecture. The panel recommended that full professional accreditation be granted, for a period of four years, to the following landscape architectural degree courses: the BSc(LArch) degree, which meets the NQF level 6 requirements: graduates of this degree may register with SACLAP as Candidate Landscape Technologists for a minimum period of two years; after which they may sit the SACLAP Professional Registration Exam to become Professional Landscape Technologists. The BL(Hons) degree was seen as a stepping stone towards the ML(Prof) and was not evaluated separately. The ML(Prof) degree meets the requirements of NQF level 7: graduates of the Masters programme are eligible to register with SACLAP as Candidate Landscape Architects.

Concerning the PrLTechno (NQF 6) and PrLTechni (NQF 5) levels of registration, and the level of tertiary education necessary to meet these levels, SACLAP proposes to conduct Accreditation visits to the following institutions which offer courses in Landscape Technology: The Cape Peninsula University of Technology; Tshwane University of Technology; and Durban Institute of Technology.

In light of the above, practices are requested to ensure that the titles assigned to staff are in line with the SACLAP categories of registration.

IDENTIFICATION OF WORK

Council is currently in the process of updating its Identification of Work Document. The discussion document has been circulated as part of the ILASA AGM documentation for all parties to go through and provide comment. Should you not have received this document and wish to comment please email

Cynthia Badenhorst (cynthia@vdw.co.za) at van der Walt and Company for a copy. A **discussion workshop** to finalise the document will also be held on **27 October 2008** at the offices of van der Walt and Company in Randburg at 13:00. Please RSVP with Cynthia no later than 17 October 2008. Please come prepared to the workshop as we would like to maximise on the time available.

Councils have certain duties and responsibilities as required in terms of the present legislation. Please do have a look at the Act for a better understanding of why Council exists and what the functions are. In spite of our limitations and constraints, Council has managed to do some significant work for our profession and will keep reporting thereon in future newsletter.

Council will attempt to have a quarterly newsletter for distribution to all individuals registered with Council to keep you abreast of developments. Please do not hesitate to contact myself or Bernadette Vollmer should you have any issues that you wish to have addressed.

Kind regards

Hendrik van der Hoven
President of Council