

"Tackle a Block at a Time".

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No 1.

New President Des Langa, Pr Tech Eng (left) accepting the chain of office from the Past President (right),

Willie Lotter Pr Tech Eng.,



No 2.

Popular Mechanics Magazine Subscriptions.

Those members who paid for the special offer from the publisher are thanked for their interest and action.

As the offer closes at the end of February 2008 your association will, in March, forward the bulk payment, names and postal addresses of the members concerned to the publisher for processing. This then means that the first magazine they should receive will be in very late March or probably in April 2008.

A list of the members who took up this offer will be published at the end of this newsletter and also will be placed on our Web site. If you were one of those who took up this special offer kindly check out the list to ensure your name is there.

We unfortunately had a few members who paid into our bank account but did not fax copies of deposits to us so we have a few unknowns on the books. We are unable to identify who they were. If you are one of them please resend proof of payment together with your membership number, name, initials and postal address to us so we can fix any problem.

Thanks from the Editor Viv Nel, Pr Tech Eng

No 3. New President for IPET.

At the recent IPET AGM Mr Des Lange, Pr Tech Eng, was appointed President for 2007/2008. Mr Lange is a Civil Technologist, a past senior lecturer at University of Johannesburg and now the Technical manager of Maccaferri SA (Pty) Ltd in Randburg.

No 4.

Engineering Council of South Africa obtains interdict against Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality

Last week the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) was granted an interdict against the Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality to stop all disciplinary actions against one its members, Mr. AJ Weyers.

Weyers, a registered Professional Engineer and employee of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality, reported in writing to ECSA that the Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality appointed inexperienced candidates in a quest to accelerate transformation. These candidates were appointed as systems operators at the Tshwane Power Control System while they tested poorly prior to their appointment.

Following his action, Weyers faced disciplinary action at the Municipality. Weyers' concern about the appointments stems from his belief that it imposed a danger to public safety as well as to the lives of these system operators. System operators are exposed to substantial and defined dangers whilst performing their duties.

The Court's ruling was that it was the duty of a professional engineer, as is stated in the Engineering Professions Act (EPA), Act 46 of 2000, to pay due regard to public safety considerations as per Section 39(2) and 27(3) of the EPA. This duty entails that a Professional Engineer needs to satisfy himself on the strength of his qualifications, skills and experience that his employer does not embark on acts or omissions likely to endanger the safety and/or health of either the public or his fellow employees.

A Professional Engineer (or other Registered Person in terms of the EPA) who has the substantiated belief that his employer is intent on doing so, is not only indemnified against disciplinary action for disclosing irregularities, but is obliged to make such a disclosure.

In addition, the Court disapproved of acceleration of transformation at all costs while disregarding safety considerations. The Court requires a sensible balance between transformation and safety.

While ECSA is fully committed to transformation, this ruling comes as clear confirmation that standards in engineering can under no circumstances be compromised. It also reaffirms ECSA's mission to set and maintain internationally accepted standards in ensuring the quality and competence of the profession.

Professional Engineers and Other Registered Persons should pay attention to the correct procedures when reporting about any person or company's intent to endanger the lives of its employees or the public.

This case is a major breakthrough in terms of uncompromisingly pursuing the conditions of the EPA while following the mandate ECSA received from government.

No 5. IPET News Is On E-Mail & The Web Site.

The latest news is to be found on the IPET Web Site. If you did not get the last IPET E News sent out a month or so ago then your supplied E-mail address may be a problem. Some Internet Service Providers (ISP) block our E News as they suspect that it is Spam. If you have any E mail News problems take it up with your computer expert and your Internet Supplier or internal Company IT person.

Our database shows that over 90% of all our members have valid E Mail addresses. **If you do not have E-mail then you will miss out on news as we seldom publish a hard copy of news.** For a number of years we have warned members that due to postage costs and the unreliable nature of the postal system we would be going the way of E News and Internet news on our Web site. For those few who do not have E Mail we humbly suggest that you consider getting E Mail or at least visiting an Internet Café occasionally so you can view our Web site. It is cheap and easy and you will find a whole new world of information out there!

No 6. Engineering Council of SA (ECSA) Annual Fee 2008.

The following is a summarised, edited extract out of a letter received from ECSA.

Kindly note that this applies only to ECSA registered individual members and not unregistered persons or companies!

""ECSA is planning to send out its annual fees invoices in the last week of March. It would be nice if we could again receive your database of members in Excel format so that we can attempt to match your database to ours and give your members the discount ECSA grants its registered members who are members of acknowledged voluntary associations. The match is not always possible, seeing that our databases differ so greatly, but at least we can try.

The information required is :

- Firstly I only want the names of those persons who are in good standing. People in default are not entitled to any discount.
- Should you have new registrations or some of your defaulters get their fees up to date, you are welcome to send me an additional list as at **31 May 2008. That is the last day for qualification for a discount at ECSA.** Registrations/re-registrations after 31 May will only qualify for an ECSA discount in 2009. You do not need to keep me updated of these persons registering after 31 May – they can be included in next year's database submission.
- I would appreciate if you could give me the following information:

- Member's surname (in a separate column)
- Member's initials (in a separate column)
- Member's full first names (if available) in a separate column.
- His/her member number at your association
- ECSA's registration number for that person, should you keep that information on record
- Member's ID number (preferably) or date of birth (if available)

If your database cannot comply or you do not have the required information, so be it. We will just have to handle the queries one by one as we receive them.

I do not require any further information. It just becomes too hard and lengthy to compare addresses, e-mail addresses, phone numbers, etc. I will attempt a match on surname, first names and ID number/birth date. If I find a match, that person will receive a discount.

It is obvious that some of your members will not be picked up. Spelling mistakes, different order of the first names, your or our surname could have an umlaut or some other funny character in the surname whilst the other party does not have it, ID numbers could differ (ours could end with "007" whilst yours ends with "086"), etc. There are so many reasons for missing a person in the match, but I will try my best. People who do query about not receiving a discount can be looked up in your database in our possession, and if we find the name there, that person will receive the discount.

I am at this stage not at liberty to say how much the discount for 2008 is going to be, as it still needs to be discussed at committee and council level. Our discount in 2007 was R600 for professionals and R230 for candidates".

Your association will then submit as much of the above information as we have on hand to ECSA at the end of February 2008.

If your 2007 association membership fees are still outstanding your name will not be forwarded to ECSA.

No 7.

Membership Notes.

If you have paid your 2007 annual fees then your membership is valid until 31/03/2008.

The Institutes financial year runs from 1st April to 31st March in the following year. Invoices / Statements are normally sent out under separate cover. Final, Final Invoices for 2007 were posted in February 2008. Invoices for the year 2008 / 2009 are due to be posted in March / April 2008. Kindly note that continued membership is dependent on the receipt of the annual membership fees each year.

Your original **Membership Certificate**, which was posted to you after joining IPET, is still valid.

We do not issue new Certificates each year and neither does the Engineering Council of SA (ECSA)!! Current membership validity may be checked by visiting our Web site <http://www.IPET.co.za>.

No. 8

Office Hours.

Kindly note that our office is staffed mainly by volunteers and on a part time basis. This means that when phoning you may get our answering machine. Please leave a message and repeat your contact details including Fax and Postal address and the nature of your enquiry. We get some calls on very bad lines and persons speaking so fast that it is impossible to decipher what they are saying. Calls from Cell phones are of particularly bad quality!! Often return numbers given are indecipherable or incorrect and dial codes are also often not given!

Calls, Faxes and E-Mails are normally answered on the next working day.

During the Jan / Feb period of load shedding we experienced approx a total of 11 work days of no power! When the power is down nothing works including our telephone and fax service! So if you phone and the phone sounds like it is just ringing and ringing you will know we have no power (again).

Thanks

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No. 9

News from the American Society of Civil Engineers in the USA.

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) today announced that a serious design flaw was found in some of the gusset plates on the I-35W bridge in Minneapolis, which collapsed on August 1, 2007. As a result, the NTSB issued a recommendation that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) require bridge owners to verify that the stress levels in all structural elements, including gusset plates, remain within applicable requirements whenever planned modifications or operational changes may significantly increase stresses. This would apply to all non-load-path-redundant steel truss bridges within the National Bridge Inventory.

The collapse of this bridge led to 13 deaths, 145 injuries and serious disruption to the lives of thousands of motorists and residents in the region. ASCE again extends its condolences to the victims of this tragedy. As a profession, it is our obligation to learn all that we can from such events. ASCE will continue to monitor the NTSB's investigation and will incorporate the recommendations and lessons learned into our future technical and professional policies and standards.

No. 10

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Update from the Engineering Council of SA.

In case you do not know, our proposals which were backed by other organisations as well, have now been made official.

These are designed to ease the process for registered persons to obtain CPD credits.

AMENDMENT OF THE POLICY AND RULES ON RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION AND CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)

Since the implementation of the new renewal of registration through CPD requirement in January 2006, the co-operation from registered persons has been very disappointing.

The main cause for the poor response from the registered persons due for renewal thus far, is the requirement that at least one credit per year, has to be obtained in Category 1 (developmental activities), which activity has to be validated by the relevant Voluntary Association or Tertiary Institution. At their most recent meeting, the relevant Committee of Council came to the conclusion that the first "batch" of 3047 registered persons due for renewal of registration during 2007, have either been ignorant of the fact that Category 1 activities have to be validated, or have not been able to find a suitable Category 1 activity to attend, as not enough activities have been validated during 2006.

The Committee has since the implementation of the CPD system, gone out of their way to indicate to registered persons that the system will be applied as flexible as possible. The introduction of this policy was a major change for the profession as a whole, and it was not unexpected that there would be difficulties in phasing in the policy. To facilitate the start of the policy, the Committee recommended to Council, that each registered person be allocated two Category 1 credits, essentially one for 2006 and one for 2007. In addition, for the transition from the initial phase in period to the first full five year cycle, a carry over of Category 1 credits will be allowed. In this way, no person will be disadvantaged if they have in fact completed any Category 1 activities. The Committee further recommended that an amendment to the Policy and Rules was also required.

The recommended change is a minor one, essentially with a change of focus rather than a reducing of standard. The proposal is that the requirement of obtaining at least one Category 1 credit in each year be changed to five credits in a five year cycle.

The amended Rules were published in terms of Board Notice 4 of 2008, in Government Gazette No 30666 of 18 January 2007.

No. 11.

SAQA News Concerning Qualifications for the Lifting Machinery Inspectors (LMIs).

National Certificate Lifting Machinery Inspector (LMI) Level 5 was registered by SAQA's Authority on Wednesday 28 November 2007.

The Engineering Council of SA (ECSA) has currently registered approx 160 persons as LMI's.

No 12.

Unsubscribe Option.

As a member of IPET you should want to receive the E News. If however you do not want to receive the IPET E News as an E Mail then you have the option to unsubscribe.

To unsubscribe send an email with ""IPET unsubscribe"" in the text to engineer@netactive.co.za

Number 13.**O. & O. E.**

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**List of members who took up and paid for the special offer of the Popular Mechanics subscription.
(See item 2 above)!!**

Members Name	Initials	Members Number
Antunes	JM	1806
Beykirch	RJ	1293
Caruso	P	2604
Du Plessis	JJ	1995
Erasmus	CP	2447
Ewest	WAW	0574
Horton	AJM	1128
Knoll	RO	2112
Lambert	SG	2777
Niehaus	D	2939
Nysschen	JT	2141
Piper	JH	2558
Rooknodien	GG	2862
Schenker	R	2630
Trowbridge	KA	2792
van Wyk	S W	2370
Williams	E G	2745
Wilmot	RE	2021