

"Tackle a Block at a Time".

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No 1. Report on Activities in 2010.

2010 was a busy year for IPET committee members. IPET was represented at a few daylong working sessions at ECSA Council by Messrs D Argyrakis & P Moncur. These meetings involve a lot of preparatory work before the meeting and a lot of hard work over many man-hours of follow up work. IPET, who supply the majority of the ECSA Registration Committees members (all volunteers), put in over 2500 man-hours of work assessing ECSA registration applicants as well as approx three hundred man-hours in some 293 interviews. Some 915 ECSA applications were handled resulting in registering 152 new LMIs, 337 Pr Techni Engs and

No 1. Continued.

301 Pr Tech Engs. This was in addition to handling around 1600 candidate applications. Other ECSA activities include the development of new assessment and interview procedures as well as serving on various other ECSA working groups and committees. Your association had a large and positive influence in ECSA tasks. No monetary value can ever be attached to this aspect of your association's work; suffice to say that probably no monies could ever buy the results achieved.

With our December 2010 mail shot we supplied all our ECSA registered members with a CPD certificate for the year. We have endeavoured to assist members to obtain CPD credits as required by ECSA, by validating quite a few CPD Courses. These courses are presented by accredited providers and not directly by your association.

The list of CPD courses we have validated appears on our Web site and lists are published from time to time in our Newsletters.

We distributed 6 E Newsletters in 2010, approx one every two months, which amounts to 50 pages of printing. News letters appear on the our Website www.ipet.co.za

The association continues to attract new members but with members neglecting to pay their fees and then being written off total membership has remained more or less static around the 1000 mark. Membership fees have only increased very slightly and far below inflation rates over the past few years. Our annual fees are amongst the lowest of all engineering associations.

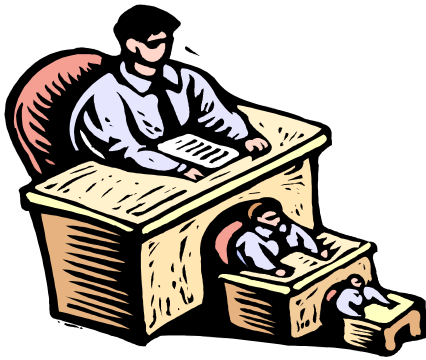
Ed. To the small group of workers numbering around 30 we gladly say big thank you for all your hard work

No 2. Notice to All Members.

In the process of doing the accounts for 2011 all members who have not paid their annual fees for the past two years have been deleted from the database.

The result is that around 100 members have been written off as bad debts.

A list of members in good standing as at December 2010 appears on the Web Sites. Invoices for 2011 are to be posted out in early March 2011.



No 3 Editors Comment.

A big thank you to all the members who sent in Information Update forms with their current contact details.

We have more than 100 persons so far who have changed addresses, E-mails or telephone numbers. The database has now been updated with these current contact details. This will assist in getting news to our members!

For a number of years now we have warned that the number of hardcopy newsletters sent out will reduce. This has happened with the number of copies posted out getting less each year.

There are a number of reasons for this trend. These include the huge increase in paper, printing and postage costs over the past number of years. Postage alone has increased by some 35% since 2006 while printing costs have nearly doubled! Delivery of the posted items is also a problem. While this seemed to improve a few years back, it seems that the current situation is slowly deteriorating again.

We get quite a few envelopes returned (eventually) marked address unknown, box closed, gone away etc only to find when phoning the member that the address is actually still correct! Some post just disappears completely.

With each batch of new member certificates posted we get a few back unknown etc, as well as a few complaints by members that they never received their certificates.

Even using insured and registered mail has problems but thankfully usually only about the condition that the item is received in.

The vast majority of our members have E Mail addresses so we will continue to send out E Mail Newsletters on a regular basis (approx every two months). The E News is kept to a reasonably small file size with the minimum of graphics so that even people using dial up lines can download the file in a few minutes.

E-mail has proved to be much faster, more reliable and costs only around 6 to 8% of the hardcopy costs. The most important items of news, plus a whole lot of other information is placed on our websites, so if you have missed something you can always check on the Website.

See www.ipet.co.za

Warning.

Members are advised that in terms of the associations' ethics and common good manners, competitors in the same or similar businesses must refrain starting or from spreading or repeating smear campaign rumours about fellow members, the association and/or ECSA. This is not professional and has in the past led to a few complaints being investigated by ECSA as well as defamation (civil) court cases. Such actions can prove to be extremely costly.

Thanks.
Editor



No 4. Is Our Mail in the Junk?

Please add the following addresses to your **SAFE SENDERS list**.

jjconsultancy@gmail.com
jameshellerjhb@gmail.com
206on8th@gmail.com
engineer@netactive.co.za

As the Internet becomes ever more invasive, computer savvy members and companies are using **SPAM FILTERS** to separate legitimate email from the hoard of promotional messages that invade the email **INBOX** every day.

These filters are very smart and useful but sometimes are a little too smart for their own good. They can shift essential emails into your Junk mail folder and cut you off from critical and essential information.

So to ensure you receive our newsletters add us to your safe senders list!

jjconsultancy@gmail.com
jameshellerjhb@gmail.com
206on8th@gmail.com
engineer@netactive.co.za

(Yes, The above is a duplicate of the list on the previous page but it is so important that it needs to be restated again and again)!

Just because you get E-mails that are sent to you **INDIVIDUALLY** from us does not mean that you receive bulk E-mails. Some Companies and Internet Service Providers block E-mails when they are addressed to more than a few people as they suspect that these E-mails are Spam.

Members who supplied E mail addresses which end in Spoornet, Transnet, Eskom and Gov (Government) are warned that our E News is often blocked as it is suspected of being Spam.

Although the worst cases are Eskom, Government, Spoornet and Transnet, Absa and Telkomsa.net also sometimes block our E-mails.

This unfortunately also applies to some other firms and consulting companies.

Members must sort this out with their IT people at work or their Internet supplier. Your own Computer settings also need to be checked and set especially if you have filters of any sort in your machine.

It is not something we can do from our end!

Your co-operation in this will be beneficial to you and the Association.

No 5. Artisan Training.

The National Artisan Moderation Body has been set up to ensure that a minimum quality standard is met by all training institutions.

In 2011 the Department of Higher Education and Training under Minister Blade Nzimande, will undertake a comprehensive review of the curriculums taught by the Further Education and Training Colleges (FETs).

The new body will be located at the Institute for the National Development of Learnerships, Employment Skills and Labour Assessments within the Department of Higher Education and Training.

It seems that a single approach of apprenticeship based artisan development as opposed to the Sector Education and Training Authority (SETA) driven process is favoured.

The Department of Economic Development recently announced it plans to produce 50 000 additional artisans by 2015 as part of its plans to create 5 million new jobs over the next 10 years.

In a country where more than 25% of the working population are without jobs it is a tough target to reach!

With approx 1 million school leavers each year this is a time bomb that desperately needs defusing.

**POLITICIAN: *One who shakes your hand before elections
And your confidence later.*



No 6. R32m Artisan Training Programme Launched.

The Department of Public Works in the Northern Cape opened the Artisan Development Programme at the Nuclear Energy Corporation where some one hundred learners attended their first day in the program.

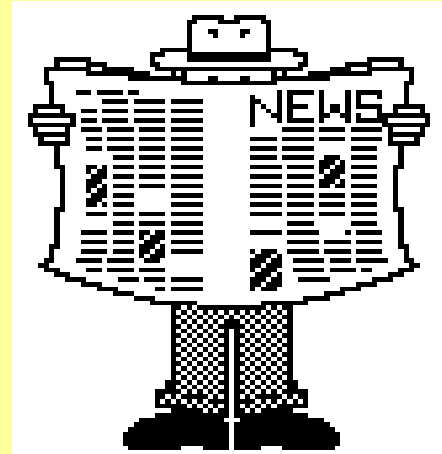
The Public Works Deputy Minister Hendriette Bogopane Zulu said that the 18-month development programme would provide learners with an income while obtaining technical skills. The programme focuses on boilermaking, fitting and turning, mechanical, electrical and welding. The Programme consists of 6 months of theory and then 12 months of experiential learning. Further learnerships are planned to complete the 4-year artisan training development programme. The National Skills Fund is to cover the training related costs.

The Devil is in the detail.

Note. Engineering Snippets.

The following mini articles and notices follow the trend of interesting scientific and engineering developments put in our previous newsletters. See our Website and news for more. We hope you find them of interest!

Ed.



No 7. CSIR News.

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) announced recently that it had achieved “outstanding” financial results during the 2009/2010 financial years. In addition, it unveiled 38 inventions and obtained 13 new international patents. The science council has also made significant progress regarding its skilled personnel corps.

(Source: CSIR)



No 8. Siemens 8800 Inventions in 2010.

Siemens CEO Petyer Loscher honoured 12 particularly successful Research & Development (R&D) employees who accounted for some 1 300

individual patents at an award ceremony in Munich in November 2010.

The 8 800 patent applications is more than 15% up on the previous year. To put this into some perspective the total number of patents granted have increased to some 57 900 in 2010.

Siemens has some 30 000 research and development professionals!

Source: Siemens

No 9. ESKOM News.

Eskom's net profit recorded in the 6 months to September was 9.5 billion Rand, up from the R1.1 billion Rand in the same period last year.

The Department of Public Enterprises estimates that SA needs 32.4 billion Rand by the end of 2010 to deal with the backlog in its electricity infrastructure! Eskom reports that its Medupi power station of 4800 MW, where construction started in 2007, is progressing with an estimated deadline of completion towards the end of 2012.

It will probably be the biggest coal powered generating station in the world. It probably also makes it the world's most expensive plant at more than \$3 000 for each installed kilowatt!

The total cost is expected to be some R125 billion Rand.

Source: Compiled from ESKOM data and many News sources.

No 10. NSTF News.

The Executive Director Jansie Niehaus recently reported that the first international conference of UNISA's Institute for Science and Technology Education, took place in the Kruger National Park. Among other topics, discussions at the conference highlighted the importance and challenge of self-study by teachers as a way to learn new topics in mathematics, science and technology education (MSTE), and the need to teach MSTE at high levels of content complexity to ensure in-depth understanding of concepts. The NSTF is planning to provide a platform for a summary and outcomes of this conference to be presented to NSTF members, and for interaction with the Department of Basic Education around the issues identified.

She also stated that an exciting initiative aimed at addressing the insufficient numbers of engineering professionals available to deal with the challenges facing South Africa is under way. The [Engenius](#) initiative aims to promote national collaboration, coordination and support amongst organisations involved in advancing the engineering profession. This initiative has been revitalised and the emphasis is now on collaboration with all parties and stakeholders. The initiative is being co-ordinated by

Ms Liesel Kirsten who previously worked for the Engineering Council of SA.

The NSTF will also be hosting a series of workshops in 2011 tackling burning SET issues, including the following topics:

- **STEM education:** School education issues, including career guidance, science centres, technology-assisted education, and outcomes of the ISTE conference.
- **Undergraduate bursaries for SET:** Coordination among existing initiatives
- **Scarce skills:** FET colleges, SETAs , training issues, universities of technology
- **Higher education and research:** Universities and universities of technology
- **Innovation:** Commercialisation, IPR issues
- **Ethics:** Standards, codes of conduct, accreditation and registration issues
- **Environmental issues:** Global change (DST grand challenge), environmental health, biodiversity, food security
- **Energy:** DST grand challenge, renewables

Conference:

A place where everybody talks, nobody listens and everybody disagrees later on.

No 11. Standards: The New SI; Proposal for an Updated System of Measurement Units.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is taking part in a worldwide effort to recommend major revisions to the International System of units (SI).

The new SI would be based on seven constants of nature to allow researchers to express results of measurements at new levels of consistency and accuracy.

The kilogram for instance, currently defined in terms of a material artifact being a 130 year old platinum-iridium cylinder maintained at the International Bureau of Weights and Measures in France, could change. The current artifact poses long-term problems because its mass changes slightly over time.

Other SI's are also affected by this change in the kilogram. These include Ampere (electric current),

Mole (amount of substance) and Candela (luminous intensity).

The new proposal defines the kilogram in terms of the Planck constant h .

The new SI would specify agreed upon values of the seven constants, based on results of an analysis published by CODATA (Committee on Data for Science and Technology).

Before any revision could be implemented additional experiments to obtain more accurate results for some of the constants have to be done.

It is expected that the new SI could be in practice later in the decade.

The 7 SI base units are; the second (time), the metre (length), the kilogram (mass), the ampere (electric current), the Kelvin (thermodynamic temperature), the mole (amount of substance) and the candela (luminous intensity).

No 12 Cement-Like Creation Could Help the

Environment.

A Temple University researcher has developed a cement-like substance that could help with storm water management while potentially keeping millions of plastic bottles out of landfills.

Naji Khoury, an assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering at Temple in the USA, uses a mixture of recyclable plastic bottles and soil to create "Plastisoil," a trademarked product he describes as an impervious cementing agent. When mixed with coarse aggregate and heated, it produces what Khoury calls "porous Plastisoil," which functions like pervious concrete and porous asphalt. Khoury said that Plastisoil could help alleviate environmental problems created by storm water runoff because storm water can filter through it into the ground below. The material could be used to form sidewalks, bike/jogging paths, driveways and parking lots.

The product has an additional environmental benefit. Since it is made with polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic bottles, it will help reduce the 200 billion plastic bottles that are sent to landfills each year in the USA. Khoury said that it takes 30,000 of the no. 1 recyclable bottles to make one ton of porous Plastisoil. He hopes to be able to use different types of recyclable plastic bottles in the future.

In addition, Khoury said that an energy analysis shows that it uses less energy to produce one ton of Plastisoil than one ton of cement or asphalt. He added that preliminary results also show porous Plastisoil to be cheaper to manufacture than existing technologies/products.

Khoury first developed Plastisoil with co-inventors while at the University of Oklahoma, but he created the material after moving to Temple in 2008. He is currently doing life-cycle assessment on the product and a slab of porous Plastisoil has been laid in a walkway outside Temple's College of Engineering Building.

Source: Science Daily



No 13. Asteroid dust returned to Earth.

It was a mission crippled by several devastating blows, including a fuel leak, communications breakdowns and malfunctions with its ion engines. But in the end, the Japanese spacecraft Hayabusa set a record — it returned the first-ever samples from the surface of an asteroid.

The 1.25 billion-mile (2 billion-kilometer) voyage the spacecraft made to the silicon-rich asteroid Itokawa took seven years to complete. Hayabusa (Japanese for "Falcon") was supposed to drop a lander on the asteroid, but the lander missed the space rock's surface. In the end, Hayabusa itself landed twice on Itokawa to force samples into its return capsule.

The probe made a fiery return to Earth on June 13 2010, with most of it burning up in the atmosphere during re-entry as planned. Its return capsule landed in the Australian outback, and researchers confirmed that Hayabusa had brought back some 1,500 dust grains from the asteroid.

No 14. Private Space Craft Success.

NASA took a giant leap away from the space flight business in Dec 2010 as a private company launched a spacecraft into orbit and for the first time guided it safely back to Earth. This is a feat previously achieved only by large national governments.

The capsule built by Space Exploration Technologies Inc. (SpaceX) splashed down into the Pacific Ocean, right on target, following a three-hour

mission that should pave the way for an actual flight to the International Space Station in 2011. The company has poured more than \$600 million into the test flight effort so far and received \$278 million from NASA.

NASA wants to enlist private companies to handle space station supply runs as well as astronaut rides after the shuttles stop flying in 2011. Until then, the space agency will have to continue paying tens of millions of dollars to the Russians for every American astronaut ferried back and forth.

Prior to the test flight, recovering a spacecraft re-entering from orbit was something achieved by only five independent nations: the United States, Russia, China, Japan and India, plus the European Space Agency, a consortium of countries.

NASA immediately offered up congratulations, as did astronauts, lawmakers, and aerospace organizations and companies.

Speaking from the company's headquarters in Hawthorne, Calif., Mr Elon Musk said his Falcon 9 rocket and the capsule named Dragon operated better than expected.

If astronauts had been on board, "they would have had a very nice ride," Musk told reporters. "The vehicle that you saw today can easily transport people," with the addition of escape and life support systems.

The Dragon flown is approx 17 feet tall and 12 feet in diameter and is reminiscent of the NASA capsules of old, which ended their missions with ocean splashdowns.

Designers of most next-generation spacecraft have abandoned the shuttle system, which proved extremely complicated, expensive and vulnerable to damage. Many engineers believe Apollo-style capsules will be cheaper, safer and capable of a wider variety of missions.

The December flight was only the second for this type of rocket some 158 feet in length.

This early version of the capsule circled the world twice, then parachuted into the Pacific. It splashed down roughly 500 miles off the Mexican coast, within a few miles of the targeted area. Recovery crews were quickly on the scene, putting floats on the spacecraft.

"This was done with 1,200 people," Musk noted, versus the efforts of entire countries and their supporting industries.

“SpaceX changes the game in space flight,” noted the Space Frontier Foundation.

Online:

NASA: <http://www.nasa.gov/offices/c3po/home/index.html>

SpaceX: <http://www.spacex.com/>



No 15. Cool Roofs Can Offset Global Warming!

Can light-coloured rooftops and roads really curb carbon emissions and combat global climate change? The idea has been around for years, but now, a new study by researchers at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory that is the first to use a global model to study the question has found that implementing cool roofs and cool pavements in cities around the world can not only help cities stay cooler, they can also cool the world, with the potential of cancelling the heating effect of up to two years of worldwide carbon dioxide emissions.

Source: Compiled from The Green E Building Journal of SA

No. 16. Automatic & Intelligent Road Signs

A well known South African signage distributor has teamed up with a local agent and one of Europe’s most accomplished variable message sign manufacturers, to provide a range of variable speed warning signs that can be used in locations where conventional signing has been ineffective in reducing vehicle speeds or warning drivers of a specific hazard. These types of electronic signs are also known as Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS).

VAS are products that combine information and communication technology with transport infrastructure, thus allowing it to be classified as a form of Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) technology.

There is an established relationship between vehicle speeds and road traffic crashes. Driving too fast for the prevailing road conditions is more likely to be a contributory factor to a crash than exceeding the speed limit. Therefore, encouraging motorists to adjust their speeds to suit the road conditions are critical, given that driver error is a contributory factor in 90% of all crashes and the sole factor in 60%, according to UK statistics.

Sign information displayed can feature text and/or pictograms (regulatory or warning signs) to maximise the impact of safety warning required, as well as flashing amber lanterns.

VAS can be manufactured in any size required and the signs are suitable for use on all road types, i.e. freeways, arterial / collector roads and local streets. Installations range from being permanent to temporary and mobile (e.g. trailer mounted or car roof mounted for road works sites).

VAS also have the capability to collect traffic data through a built-in microwave vehicle detector or inductive loops, which collects constant traffic data.

Sign activation may be triggered once a vehicle has been detected travelling in excess of the programmable speed limit set within the sign. Vehicle speed detection is optimised by the use of a microwave vehicle detector placed on the top of the sign, which activates the sign immediately, illuminating the warning message and flashing amber lanterns if fitted.

In Sweden signs at rural bus stops decrease the speed limit when buses have stopped and are disembarking passengers.

For locations where electrical supplies are limited or absent, the signs can be wind, solar, generator or battery powered.

More product information is available on the following website:
<http://transeng.weebly.com>



No 17. Small Adverts - Policy.

IPET is prepared to place very small text only adverts in the Newsletter if they are deemed to be of direct interest and value to members. The Editor and Executive's decision on any particular advert is final. The adverts may not exceed 100 words and are, for the time being, free. Adverts that just advertise companies and / or their products are excluded from this offer. Other adverts, for which payment will be required, may be entertained in the future.

As our country is experiencing a difficult economic and financial crisis your organisation is trying to assist members where practical. Those seeking permanent positions in industry or younger persons who need experiential training in order to complete their degree or diploma may advertise their requirements with their contact details in a mini advert which will be included in the regular E Newsletter. As we also have requests from ECSA "Candidates" for Mentors, this request will also be covered in a mini advert. This is a free service to members.

No 18. Adverts.



Engineering Mentor Required.

An Engineering Student at UNISA requires a mentor. Anyone able to help please see the details below.

From: jackie.britton@za.pwc.com
[\[mailto:jackie.britton@za.pwc.com\]](mailto:jackie.britton@za.pwc.com)
Subject: RE: Engineering Mentor

The Mentor needs to be registered at the ECSA. I don't seem to have any luck with Unisa's tutors. I only either do not get an answer or they don't reply or phone back.

According to Unisa's tutorial letter the "function of a mentor is as follows:

"The functions of your mentor are the following:
(a) help you in a constructive manner and
(b) verify that it is your own work.

Your mentor should thus be appointed in order to fulfil the above-mentioned task.

Your mentor must preferably be professionally registered with ECSA (Engineering Counsel of South Africa) for us to accredit his authorisation of your work. If the person acting as your mentor is not registered with ECSA, then someone who is professionally registered with ECSA, should also authorise your assignment. The mentor **must** supply his particulars as requested on the authorisation form attached to each experiment, for us to accept his authorisation.

Regards

Jackie Britton

PwC | Administrator

Direct: +27 (12) 429 0075 | Mobile: +27 (82) 374 7169 | Fax: +27 (12) 429 0675
jackie.britton@za.pwc.com

Another Mentor Required.

I am Jakobus Nakoo and currently staying in Upington, Northern Cape.

I have registered with ECSA as an Engineering Technologist recently and would like to know about a mentor in or close to Upington.

ECSA referred me to your company.

Thanx

J Nakoo – 083 390 0871

ECSA Looking for Volunteers for Committees.

The registration committees at ECSA require suitable registered persons to assist on the following committees:

Professional Engineering Technologist
Professional Engineering Technician
Registered Lifting Equipment Inspector.

To improve the representivity of registered persons Females and especially non-white volunteers are sought. This does not mean that white volunteers will not be accepted.

The disciplines required include but are not limited to, Civil, Electrical (Heavy Current), Mechanical, Chemical, Mining, Instrumentation etc.

The work involved requires some homework and attendance of some 11 working group meetings a year. Reasonable travel expenses etc may be paid. Here is a chance to influence policy, decisions and to give something back to your profession!

Interested persons please send your name, registration number, discipline details and contact details to our office.

The association nominates the volunteers to ECSA for the committees and vacancies.

Our contact details are on the letterhead above.

No 19. Publication Policy.

Our policy is to be informative but not to compete with Newspapers or Engineering Journals. We try to give a selective rational overview of the engineering scene relative to our members. We endeavour to cover matters of importance that might not make it into the general press. While we publish regularly, we may not always have the latest scandal!

Articles/ Letters to the Editor.

We encourage members to submit articles or letters to the Editor for publication.

Articles and pictures submitted should be non-commercial in their content and intent, and relevant to the scope and target audience of the association, namely the engineering and science field. This includes all disciplines from Electrical, Mechanical, Civil, Telecommunication, IT, Computers, Lifting Equipment etc.

Appropriate subject matter comprises:

Awards, achievements and good news

Open industry events

Failures, disasters and bad news

Dangers to workers and the public

Poor maintenance

Public and occupational health and safety

Non-compliance with compulsory or safety standards

Environmental non-compliances

Consumer and quality issues

Unfair business practices

Corruption and fraud

Exposé's and whistle-blowing

Views, comment and opinion

In general articles / letters submitted to us anonymously will not be considered. However it is recognised that in some cases there may be good reason why the confidentiality of the author(s) should be maintained. In such cases, such good reason must be provided

The Editor reserves the right to shorten and edit letters / articles or reject them for publication where he deems it fit to do so.



No 20. The Joke Column.

Warning / Disclaimer.

Sensitive readers are warned that the following may erroneously be taken to contain sex, violence, strong language, gender, race, ethics etc. Readers are warned not to read or have any of the following read to them. Recommended readers age is limited to 120 and 121 years of age. A further requirement is you must have a sense of humour.

The improved National Health Insurance

The South African Medical doctors have weighed in on the new health care proposals.

The Allergists are scratching their heads, but the Dermatologists advised not to make any rash moves.

The Gastroenterologists had a sort of a gut feeling about it, but the neurologists thought the government had a lot of nerve.

The Obstetricians felt they were all labouring under a misconception.

Ophthalmologists considered the idea short-sighted.

Pathologists yelled, "Over my dead body!" while the Pediatricians said, "Oh, Grow up!"

The Psychiatrists thought the whole idea was madness, while the Radiologists could see right through it.

Surgeons decided to wash their hands of the whole thing. The ENT specialists wouldn't hear of it.

The Internists thought it was a bitter pill to swallow, and the Plastic Surgeons said, "This puts a whole new face on the matter....."

The Podiatrists thought it was a step forward, but the Urologists were pissed off at the whole idea.

The Anesthetists thought the whole idea was a gas, and the Cardiologists didn't have the heart to say no.

In the end, the Proctologists won out, leaving the entire decision up to the a*&%holes in Pretoria!!

We know about the December ghosts of Xmas Past, Present and Future.
What do ghosts do at the January sales?
They go bargain *haunting!*

#LECTURE:

An art of transmitting Information
From the notes of the lecturer
To the notes of students
Without passing through the minds
Of either.

Here is an actual sign posted at a golf club in Scotland.

BACK STRAIGHT, KNEES BENT, FEET
SHOULDER WIDTH APART.

2. FORM A LOOSE GRIP.
 3. KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN!
 4. AVOID A QUICK BACK SWING.
 5. STAY OUT OF THE WATER.
 6. TRY NOT TO HIT ANYONE.
 7. IF YOU ARE TAKING TOO LONG, LET OTHERS GO AHEAD OF YOU.
 8. DON'T STAND DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF OTHERS.
 9. QUIET PLEASE...WHILE OTHERS ARE PREPARING.
 10. DON'T TAKE EXTRA STROKES.
- WELL DONE... NOW, FLUSH THE URINAL, GO OUTSIDE, AND have a good round!

A Phone answering machine message.

"If you want to buy marijuana, press the hash key!"

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly. They lit a fire in the craft, it sank, proving once and for all that you can't have your kayak and heat it.

"Doc, I can't stop singing The Green, Green Grass of Home."

"That sounds like the Tom Jones Syndrome."

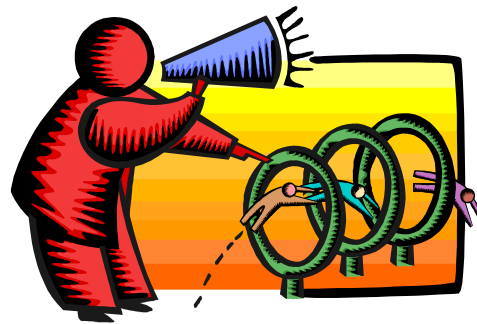
"Is it common?"

"It's not unusual"

Blonde to Blonde.

"You know someone actually complimented me on my driving today.

They left a little note on the windscreen – It said "Parking Fine" – so that was nice!"



The following column is a regular feature. It is hoped to publish useful technical and other information from time to time, which can be cut out and stored in your own information file. Start your collection now!

Editor.

No 21. For Your File Only!

It is recommended that you all pass this item of news on to your local municipality, local municipal councillors, provincial councillors, ministers of parliament etc!!

Help save our roads!

CSIR Issues Free Repair Guide for Potholes.

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in December 2010 unveiled guides covering the causes, prevention and repair of potholes in the country's roads.

CSIR Built Environment Executive Director **Hans Ittmann** stated that the asset value of South Africa's roads has been estimated at just over R1-trillion, of which R800-million was accounted for by paved roads and the remainder by gravel roads. National roads are the responsibility of the South African National Roads Agency (Sanral). These currently

total 16 000 km, but there are plans to increase the roads under the agency's jurisdiction to 38 000 km.

Potholes are estimated – in a study by the South African Road Federation – to cost motorists R50-million annually in vehicle repairs and injuries. Potholes are the result of interaction between vehicles and water according to CSIR Built Environment Chief Researcher Dr **Phil Paige-Green**. Poorly or unmaintained roads develop cracks, into which water can seep. This water weakens the road structure, making it unable to bear the stresses being put on it by traffic, and a pothole develops. The problems are greatly exacerbated if a road is subjected to heavy truck traffic that it was not designed to take.

The recommendation is that provincial and local authorities move away from the current practice of reactionary maintenance – repairing potholes – to preventive maintenance – keeping the roads in good condition so that potholes do not develop. Preventive maintenance is much cheaper than reactive maintenance.

When potholes occur, they must be properly repaired. The quality of repairs does not appear to be good.

The CSIR guides released are available free from the CSIR website and comprise a technical guide and a non-technical guide.

The former is aimed at road engineers, technicians and artisans, to help them identify the types of potholes they encounter and lays out what the correct repair procedures are in each case.

The latter is aimed at administrators and local and provincial politicians, explaining how potholes form and how they can be prevented, highlighting the importance of preventive maintenance.

See www.csir.co.za

And then view

Summer Rains Will Lead To More Potholes.

Editor: V Nel, Pr Tech Eng.

Further News on Potholes.

The Insurance company Dial Direct and Trafficare, in association with the Gauteng Provincial Department of Roads and Transport and the Johannesburg Road Agency have joined forces to fight potholes in Johannesburg.

Simply report a pothole to the Dial Direct Pothole Brigade on their website www.potholebrigade.co.za or by dialling *120*1551# on your cell phone and follow the screen prompts (Std USSD rates apply). If the potholes are not within their scope of operation they will forward them to the relevant agency.

Ed. Again private enterprise has to rescue tasks that Government and Local Authorities are unable to do!! We wonder what will be next that is rescued!!

What do you think of this newsletter?

If you have any comments or suggestions on how we can improve this newsletter, please email us at

engineer@netactive.co.za

Criticism is easy, creativity is harder. Jon Foster-Pedley



Teamwork!

No 22. Faulty E-mails.

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