

# President's Report – AGM, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2002

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It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Corrosion Institute of Southern Africa.

There has been a further downturn in the South African economy over the last year, mainly associated with negative outlook due to the events of September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001. This past year has also been a fairly difficult year for the Institute with a continuing apparent lack of interest on the part of many of our members. This is partly attributed to the increasing demands placed on their time in this increasingly difficult economic climate. This has also affected attendance at our monthly Council meetings where we were unable to convene a forum on three occasions during the year. Mr. Walter Barnett stood down from Council at the beginning of the year after more than twenty years continuous service; this was a great loss but I have sought his advice and guidance regularly during my term. Mr. Gerald Haynes, a new member of Council, resigned during the year because of pressure of work, thus placing a greater load on the remaining Council members.

Mr. Richard Elsass was Chairman of the KwaZulu Natal Region. During the year Mr. Robert Boyter, Programme Coordinator and Mr. Johann van Wyk, Secretary resigned putting additional pressure on the remaining members. Mr Malcolm Wilson took over as Secretary and Malcolm Smith as Programme. Richard Elsass has resigned as Chairman at the end of his first year, for personal reasons. On a sad note, Mr. Rajan Thavar, an enthusiastic member of the Institute, was shot dead in an ambush near Durban in October 2001. Malcolm Smith was elected as Chairman of the KwaZulu Natal Region for the coming year.

Mr. Roly Maidment was Chairman of the Western Cape Region. Activities were slow and a number of Committee meetings had to be cancelled. I am also sorry to report that Mr Chick Malcolm, who served as Treasurer in this region for 11 years, died after a long illness on 27 September 2001. Mr. Dan Durler was elected as Chairman of the Western Cape Region for the coming year.

Notwithstanding all of the problems a great deal has been achieved during the year and there are a number of new ideas in the pipeline for next year.

I will now report on the major activities for the past year.

## Technical Programme

The programme in Gauteng has been ably organised by Dr Michelle Sephton, with support from Bruce Trembling. They have done a sterling job in providing a varied and interesting technical programme for the year with subjects ranging from protective coating at Mozal, wear in lubrication, corrosion in mine shafts and the performance of galvanized fencing wire. In November, a very successful visit to the BMW plant in Rosslyn was arranged. This trip generated a great deal of interest but unfortunately the number of participants was limited to

twenty five, and therefore several people could not be accommodated. The attendance at the nine meetings arranged this year has averaged twenty two; this is similar to the attendance we have maintained in the last few year but continues to be disappointing. A notable exception was the joint meeting held with OCCA in July, where the attendance was almost fifty. Our thanks go to Michelle and Bruce.

KwaZulu Natal continued to put together a good and varied programme under extreme pressure. First Robert Boyter, the programme coordinator resigned. Johan van Wyk took over the programme in addition to his function as Secretary. He also left the committee and the portfolio was then ably taken over by Malcolm Smith. Nine technical meetings were hosted with an average attendance of twenty two; this is slightly lower than achieved in previous years.

Dan Durler continued to run the technical programme in the Western Cape. Four meetings were held, which is much lower than in previous years.

The monthly Newsletter has been sent out to the majority of our members by email since September last year; this has resulted in significant savings on postal charges. It has been in a new format since June. Thanks to Michelle Sephton for designing the new format.

## Education

Prof. Chris Pistorius continued to ably run the Education portfolio and a number of courses and activities were undertaken.

The lecture notes and presentation slides for the flagship course "Corrosion Engineering" were updated during the year. Two courses were run in Gauteng with twenty five learners in July 2002, and sixteen learners in October. Both these generated a healthy income. A Corrosion Engineering course was scheduled for KwaZulu Natal earlier this year, but this has been postponed until early next year.

The course notes and lecturing material for the basic corrosion awareness course "Understanding Corrosion" is presently being updated and restructured. Chris Pistorius is managing this venture, which should be completed next year.

At the tertiary level, poster sessions were held at the University of the Witwatersrand in November 2001, where two students presented posters on corrosion, and at the University of Pretoria in May.2002, where twelve students presented eight posters. Institute prizes were awarded at both the events. Thanks to Chris Pistorius and Michelle Sephton for organising these events and to Dr. Colin Alvey for giving his time for adjudicating the posters at Pretoria.

Almost all of the copies (1000) of the first edition of the textbook "Corrosion Control in Southern Africa" have been sold. Council decided to update the content of the next publication. Slow progress is being made and the second edition should be published early next year.

A SAQCC Coating Inspector Level 2 course was held by the Institute in Gauteng with 7 candidates of which four passed.

Dr. Colin Alvey resigned as Chairman of the SAQCC (Corrosion) at the end of last year. The position was taken over by myself as incumbent President of the Institute. Several courses were held under the auspices of the SAQCC (Corrosion) during the year, and the following numbers have qualified:

Coating Inspector Level 1 - 31      Total 282

Coating Inspector Level 2 -	4	Total	27
Paint Supervisor -	7	Total	125
Paint Applicator -	11	Total	90

The response for formal registrations as Coating Inspectors has continued to be poor with only two applications during the year; both of these were granted. There are now three formally registered Level 1 inspectors and only one formally registered Level 2 inspector.

Attempts to have the SAQCC (Corrosion) courses approved to SAQA and NQF requirements have continued to be unsuccessful. The courses are not comprehensive enough to comply and must be incorporated into an approved SETA. Discussions were held with SAPMA/SAPITI and ECSA to determine whether the courses could be incorporate into their programme. SAPMA have not agreed and we are still awaiting a decision from ECSA.

### **Membership**

The byelaws were changed during the year to remove all reference to gender. Changes were also made for the requirements for the grades of Associate and Fellow and the grades of Affiliate and Student were combined into one grade defined as Affiliate.

Our overall membership has decreased by seven during the year; currently it stands at a total of 321 comprising as follows:

Sustaining members	96
Honorary Life members	10
Retired members	32
Fellows	13
Members	73
Associates	56
Affiliates	41

As with previous years, some difficulties were experienced during the year with the receipt of membership fees. We continued to take a strong line with defaulters, and nineteen members were removed from our system because of continued non payment of subscriptions. Much administration time was wasted trying to secure fees from recalcitrant members. This was an onerous task and thanks go to Mr. Chris Gross for his endeavours in this regard.

## **Journal**

Industrial Publications have now been publishing our official journal, Corrosion Paint and Coatings for almost three years. It continues to maintain a very high standard providing interesting topics and good coverage of general industry events, enhancing the image of the Institute. Our thanks to Gerd Muller and his team for their efforts.

### **Web Site**

The web site continues to be a valuable information portal for our members and also non-members. It has gone from strength to strength and the total number of individual "hits" has now exceeded 1800. A Bulletin Board has been instituted so that up to date information is immediately displayed on the home page. Our thanks go to Dr. Philippe Scheers for maintaining and updating the Web Site every month.

## Awards

One of the most important functions of the Institute is to recognise excellence in our industry and to promote the development of corrosion engineering by means of awards. It is traditional that the awards are given at the Annual Dinner.

During the year Council decided to institute a new award for the student who achieved the highest marks in the Corrosion Engineering course during the year. The award is the reimbursement of the course fee. Mr. Mohammed Khan Saud from Lethabo Power Station is the recipient of the first award. He achieved 88%

The Ivan Ogilvie scholarship will be awarded to Ms Louise Greeff. Louise who is conducting research towards a MSc degree in metallurgy at the University of Pretoria; her project deals with the effect of welding on the corrosion resistance of chromium-bearing ferritic steel.

The Institute Bronze Medal is awarded for loyal support and service to the Institute. I am pleased to announce that we will be awarding a Bronze Medal to Dr. Philippe Scheers, Mr. Jake Pressly and Mr. Malcolm Smith in recognition of their support and hard work for the Institute for a number of years. Philippe and Jake have been valued members of Council for more than ten years. Malcolm has been a very respected member of the KwaZulu Natal committee for six years and was Chairman from 1999 to 2001. He is the incoming Chairman for 2003.

The Silver Medal will not be awarded this year.

An Honorary Life membership will be conferred on Mr. Eric van Marcke. Eric has worked in the paint industry for almost forty years. He served on Council for more than ten years and was the Honorary Treasurer from 1989 to 1995.

The most prestigious award, the Institute's Gold Medal will be presented to Mr. Rob White. Rob is the seventh recipient of the award. His contributions to the industry and the Institute in particular are multitudinous and too many to list here, but mention must be of his achievement in hosting the 14<sup>th</sup> ICC in Cape Town in 1999. This conference still remains the largest technical and scientific gathering to be held in Africa.

## Social

The regional golf days continue to be very popular providing a relaxed social occasion for our members and of course, to the benefit of well deserving charities. These events do not just happen – they involve a lot of behind-the-scenes effort. Our thanks to Walter Barnett, Mr. Geoff Harris and Ms. Genevieve Budler who were responsible for arranging the very successful golf day at Germiston, where R3000 was donated to Cotlands Baby Sanctuary. Our thanks also go to Mr Anthony dos Santos and Michael Brett for arranging the event at Mount Edgecombe, where R7000 was donated to Highway Hospice.

## Thanks

My thanks and appreciation go to all the Council members and Regional Committee members for giving up their valuable time during the year. To our secretary, Bev van Niekerk. I would also personally like to thank Walter Barnett, Colin Alvey and Rob White for their valuable advice. I hope you all enjoy the evening.

John McEwan  
PRESIDENT  
21 October 2002