

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

4TH SEPTEMBER 1998

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 4TH 1998

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 24th Annual General meeting of the Corrosion Institute of Southern Africa. A special welcome to those members who have joined us during the past year. My annual report this year is one of optimism of a successful year gone by and, hopes and expectations of an exciting year ahead.

The Institute has grown and matured considerably over the past few years and we are fortunate in having an active retired membership. This currently stands at 19, and I am pleased that many of these see fit to continue to play a role in the activities of the Institute. Our honorary life membership comprises 9 members and again, I wish on behalf of Council to thank these members for continuing to contribute to the various activities of the Institute.

The South African economy has shown a mixed year. Early expectations of better things were quickly dashed by the local economy becoming embroiled in the economic crises in Asia and the Western world's cautious view on emerging markets. Notwithstanding this, government infrastructure development projects, especially in the area of water delivery, and the continuation of projects such as Saldhana Steel have required support from the corrosion protection fraternity. It is hoped that, a return in international economic stability, combined with new developments such as the Mozal refinery, the Coega Harbour project and, a decline in interest rates, so cruelly denied us this year, will provide for a better year to come.

I would like to start my report on the activities of the Institute over the past year by focusing upon its core pursuits

The program committee under the stewardship of Dr Chris Ringas ably managed the technical evenings in Gauteng. A change of strategy was employed whereby the meetings were available to be used as more commercial forums than in the past. As a result there were 8 papers presented with an average attendance of 30. This is a welcome improvement over the past few years. This system was borrowed from the practice of the Kwazulu Natal branch where this year 7 papers were presented also to an average audience of 30. Dick Elsass was in charge of running the Kwazulu Natal program. Tony Kerbel was responsible for the Western Cape technical program where some 5 papers were presented to an average audience of 20.

An active education program continues to show that there is a need in the South African community for training in the field of corrosion protection. The Introduction to Corrosion course was run locally in Gauteng in February this year to 15 delegates. The Kwazulu Natal Region also ran the course successfully to 15 delegates in October of last year. The

Western Cape Region is also running its own course "Certificate Course in the Corrosion Protection of Steel" currently as part of the SAQCC level 1 program.

SAQCC continues to serve the industry needs as a benchmark qualification in competence. Level 1 courses are currently run by the SAIW as well as by other bodies. The Institute was able to conduct a Level 2 refresher course in November 1997 as a follow up to the August 1997 course and, demand from the Level 1 fraternity was so great that another was run in July of this year. There are now some 137 Level 1, 9 Level 2 Coatings Inspectors and 62 Painting Supervisors in industry and, this level of inspector requirement is becoming incorporated into many tender documents. All these activities, together with the coordination of the Institute's education portfolio are under the guidance of Dr Colin Alvey. Indeed, Colin has embarked upon a review of the Institute's courses with a view of streamlining them to provide for a progressive development program encompassing the SAQCC courses. A need has been identified for training in Cathodic Protection and PIG will take up this challenge in the forthcoming year.

Student presentations were organised by the Western Cape Region last November. Three presentations were given. In Gauteng a poster session was organised at Wits in November last year and at Pretoria University during May this year. Encouragement of student interest in corrosion science continues to be a major focus area of the Institute. Indeed the provision of bursary assistance is considered important as an investment into future membership and industry competency.

The Coatings Interest Group has had a successful year whereby it was able to offer members an opportunity to exhibit. The June "Corrosion Protection Africa Expo" was a triumph of determination over adversity when one considers that the venue had to be moved two weeks prior to the Expo being held. This was the result of the chosen venue, the World Trade Centre, being suddenly made unavailable. Nevertheless, another venue was available in the form of Gallagher Estates and, over 1000 attendees walked through the exhibition. We are currently concluding compensation negotiations with the World Trade Centre, but nothing should be taken away from the organising committee in providing a service to the CIG membership.

The Pipeline Interest Group had a somewhat more pedestrian year but I am pleased to report that the PIG committee has put in action plans for a busy forthcoming year.

No seminars were run during the year. However, a Forum discussion on the relationship between the various parties involved in corrosion protection projects was held in Kwazulu Natal in May.

As most of you are aware the Institute's journal, Corrosion and Coatings, was purchased from George Warman publications by the Primedia Group in 1997. Despite a number of initial hiccups, I am pleased to report that the content and structure of the journal is now meeting the needs of the members and importantly the advertisers. The journal is currently produced on a bimonthly basis and, despite a rise in commercial presentations at technical meetings, as mentioned previously, sufficient papers of quality are available for publication. Whilst it is important to continue to strive for an even better journal, good communication channels are now in place between the publishers and the Institute. We hope that we can continue with the improvements seen so far, especially in view of

the exciting times ahead. We have received acknowledgement of the improvements by some members, and I can assure you that we on Council intend to assist the publishers in their efforts to provide a top class journal.

Although most of the activities above are part of the Institute's role in support of industry, it is important to recognise that this would not be possible without an active and supportive membership. I am pleased to report that our membership continues to grow with the current statistics being:

Gauteng 297

Kwa zulu Natal 93

Western Cape 71

Within this figure we have 56 members of PIG and 47 members of CIG. Although membership is up year on year, a number of members are still outstanding in respect of their dues for the year 97/98. A program is in place to address this issue.

Social functions provide an important role whereby members can relax and simply enjoy the atmosphere. However, as with all events, someone has to organise it. I would like to thank Walter Barnett and Genevieve Budler for their tireless energy in arranging the Gauteng golf day on November 11th. 116 players perambulated around the field. In Kwazulu Natal thanks go to Mike Brett for organising a successful golf day during September last year. As is tradition the profit from the golf days was donated to charity, the Avril Elizabeth home in the case of Gauteng and to Highway Hospice by the Kwazulu Natal branch. The Kwazulu Natal region held a Rock 'n Roll party in Pinetown during July.

Arrangements for the 14th International Corrosion Congress are progressing well. International interest is high with over 200 potential papers being offered. Local support is still weak and I urge members and non-members alike to provide the support we require to ensure that this event is a success. We need to bear in mind that this is the first time that such a prestigious forum has been held in Africa, never mind South Africa. Much activity is focusing upon ensuring good attendance from sub-Saharan Africa. Some information on the progress so far is, The Cape Technikon has been secured as the primary venue. All the parallel sessions and the exhibition will be held there. The welcoming function will be held at the Castle (incidentally the oldest building in South Africa). The banquet is to be held at Groot Constantia. Accommodation has been secured over a range of types and costs. Transport on a limited basis will be provided. Final agreement on registration fees will be made shortly. More sponsorship can always be accommodated and, I encourage all our sustaining members to assist us in this regard.

In conclusion, I would like to say that all the activities mentioned would not be possible were it not for an efficient and capable administration. Our financial system is now performing within the bounds of the law and I would like to thank Messrs. Chris Gross and John McEwan for their diligence in seeing this project through. I am pleased to inform you that we have engaged the services of Beverley van Niekerk as our Institute secretary. Bev has been with us since the end of April and I would like to welcome her to

this evening's function and hope that she will enjoy a long lasting relationship with the Institute.

Finally, it is tradition that a number of awards are given at the Annual Dinner. I am pleased to announce that tonight we will be giving two Silver Medal Awards and the Ivan Oglevie Research Scholarship.

I hope that you all enjoy this evening and I wish to thank those hard working members of Council and the Regions without which much of the workings of the Institute would simply grind to a halt.

Rob White
President: Corrosion Institute of Southern Africa

4th September 1998