



NEWSLETTER – August 2008

1. President's farewell message

Dear Fellow SASAqS Members,

This newsletter represents the final issuing to members from the Zululand Exco. It is already three and a half years since we took over the running of the organisation's affairs. I would have like to have sent this outgoing letter stating that we have gone from strength to strength but the truth of the matter is that we have struggled over our period of office to sustain our current numbers. Despite going to a cheaper subscription option of the journal online and a steady and increased publication output from our Journal we have only managed to increase the membership by about 10 people.

Whilst speaking about membership, I am reminded that there are a number of members who have yet to pay this year's subscription. In addition there are also some who are still in areas from last year. I would urge you all to pay you dues as you will be aware the society only gets R25.00 from each member toward its coffers the rest is paid over to NISC as the cost for you getting the journal online. It is my intention to personally contact each of you that have outstanding dues in the hope that it will encourage you to pay your subs.

Several factors have contributed to a lack of growth in the membership. It could be argued that lack of a major recruitment drive has contributed to this. However I believe that a major factor has been the lack of an annual conference as it tends to be the focus of the Society, the place where everyone gets together and interacts and most importantly the place where students are introduced to the wider world of aquatic sciences. In 2005 we secured an aquatic session at the Zoo Soc Conference in Rhodes while the 2006 conference in Maputo was very popular and raised a lot of interest. Since then there has been a dearth of volunteers to host a SASAqS conference. As a result there was not one in 2007 and despite efforts by the Pietermaritzburg contingent to get one off the ground for 2008 there will not be one this year. Hopefully this group, who have committed to arranging one in 2009, will get things back on track. Conferences do however require volunteer groups as it is not possible for the Exco to host a conference whilst running the Society's affairs.

The Journal on the other hand has gone from strength to strength under the hand of Mike Coke, his editorial team and with input from our publishers NISC. The number of papers submitted and published has increased on a year on year basis. I would like to thank all involved and particularly Mike for all the effort that has been put into AJAqS over the past three years. The journal still remains a South African accredited journal on the Department of Educations SAPSE list which means that academic institutions receive subsidy for their staff publishing in it.

At this point I would like to thank my fellow Exco members for the input they have made to the society over the years. As Secretary, Rodney Owen has kept you informed via the newsletter and handled the bulk of queries and correspondence that has been received. Hendrik Jerling took on the role of

Treasurer and quickly demonstrated his skill with handling the accounting package. Wynand Vlok as Vice President, (now no longer President in waiting!!) was always willing to give input on society matters when we were bouncing ideas around.

Whilst our term of office officially ended at the end of last year the Zululand Exco has been assisting to keep things going whilst Wynand who recently moved into private practice tried to twist a few arms to get the portfolios filled. Word has it that he is still looking for a Treasurer so if there is anyone, preferably up north, who is interested please contact him.

In closing I would like to wish the new Exco well and I am sure that under Wynand's leadership SASAqS will remain a society that you are proud to be associated with. The new Exco will now have to look towards taking over the reigns fully, arranging for the 2008 AGM to be held and to liaise with PMB group regarding making sure that there is a conference next year.

I wish you all the best for the future,
Digby Cyrus
Outgoing President

2. Exco: 2008 - 2010

Details of the new Exco are:

President
Wynand Vlok
wynandv@mobileemail.vodafonesa.co.za

Vice President
Jan Roos
roosjc.sci@ufs.ac.za

Hon Secretary
Paul Fouche
psa@univen.ac.za

Hon Treasurer
Vacant

Editor
Mike Coke
mdcoke@futurenet.co.za

Please direct all general correspondence to Wynand or Paul. Hendrik has sent the finances to our auditor pending the AGM and will manage the finances until then.

3. AJAqS to receive a JCR Impact Factor

NISC are pleased to announce that the *African Journal of Aquatic Science* has been accepted for indexing and abstracting in Thompson Reuters's Journal Citation Reports® (JCR) as from the first

issue of volume 32 (2007). Acceptance for coverage in this product follows a rigorous evaluation process and is an endorsement of the quality and international relevance of the journal. Coverage in this product will unquestionably raise the journal's visibility in the international academic community and, among many other features in this product, from 2010 the journal will receive a JCR 'impact factor' (Inclusion of a journal in JCR was formally referred to as having an "ISI-rating").

4. Print copies of AJAqS available

From Lester Isaacs (Nisc)

Print copies of 2007 and 2008 Volumes

Due to changes in the printing industry we are now able to offer subscribers print issues of the African Journal of Aquatic Science again. SASAqS members who have subscribed to a volume of the journal online can purchase print issues at the following rates:

African Journal of Aquatic Science Volume 32 2007 (print issues) = ZAR250 (African Society members)

African Journal of Aquatic Science Volume 32 2007 (print issues) = ZAR390 (International Society members)

African Journal of Aquatic Science Volume 33 2008 (print issues) = ZAR250 (African Society members)

African Journal of Aquatic Science Volume 33 2008 (print issues) = ZAR390 (International Society members)

All prices quoted above include vat and postage where relevant. In 2009 we will be offering print and online subscriptions to all subscribers. If you have any further queries or would like to purchase print copies of 2007/2008 volumes please don't hesitate to contact me. lester@nisc.co.za

Finally, thank you to Lester Isaacs at Nisc for e-mailing the newsletters for me when our Unizul server started truncating the address list. My apologies for the long interval between this and the last newsletter, especially to those that send job adverts that I did not circulate. Unfortunately the conference I was waiting to announce did not happen this year but look forward to having a good one in the Drakensberg next year.

That's all from me

Cheers

Rodney Owen