



SOUTHERN AFRICAN SOCIETY OF AQUATIC SCIENTISTS

NEWSLETTER – August 2006

1. Maputo conference

Thanks to Richard, Victor, Piet, Johan, Nico, Wynand, Gordon and their assistants for a most enjoyable conference at the Pestana Rovuma Hotel in June. The venue was very comfortable and the food excellent. The variety of pastries and cakes on offer was staggering, and that was only breakfast! The programme was interesting and varied with a high proportion of students, who gave excellent presentations. Thanks to the Water Research Commission who made funds available for student support.

The conference was combined with the Phycological Society and this worked well with a lot of common ground between the two societies. A generous sponsorship of Laurentina Beer ensured that many discussions carried on well into the night. Most managed to squeeze onto the RAU bus to visit the Ncomati estuary at Macaneta followed by an obligatory seafood dinner at the legendary Costa da Sol.

2. SASAgS AGM report back

The AGM, held during the Maputo conference, was a reasonably quiet affair with the Journal and our publishing agreement with NISC generating most of the discussion. Michelle Weyl, representing NISC, was able to clarify many of the issues and concerns raised especially those relating to ISI rating, quality of figures and page charges. SASAgS already subsidises page charges for the 'rest of Africa' and NISC is willing to do the same. Paid up Society members also receive a discount on page charges. Details relating to the Journal and NISC taking over the billing for the Society will be given in a later newsletter.

The honorarium given to Mike Coke as Honorary Editor of the Journal was substantially increased to R12,000 pa in recognition of the huge effort he devotes to the task, not least of which is finding and cajoling referees.

Conferences in the next few years were discussed. With no firm offers received, suggestions were to pursue the possibility of a combining with Zoosoc in Potchefstroom in 2007, persuade the Pietermaritzburg members to look at the Drakensberg for 2008 and to investigate a Botswana or Angola venue for 2009. We are also following up on the SIL conference in 2010.

3. Membership and fees

Hendrik has prepared the accounts for 2006 and they are being posted out. Many, mainly new, members paid the old fee of R175 and they have been billed for the difference between this and the new fees accepted in the postal ballot. Note that only members who were paid up at the end of 2004 will receive accounts. We have many DORMANT members. These members have fees that are more than TWO years outstanding (This includes 2005 and 2006: i.e. those who were last paid up for 2004 or before). Such members WILL NOT receive an account and are effectively no longer members of the Society. I will be sending a separate posting in the next week to these members to (a) let them know who they are and (b) to invite them to contact the Treasurer if they want to reinstate their membership. Only members who are paid up for 2005 will be authorised for online access of the Journal in 2006. Members who still owe for 2005 will be billed but will not receive Journal access.

4. Position offered: Hydrobiologist



Internal & External applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the following vacancy in the Analytical Services Department within the Scientific Services Division at Vereeniging

**HYDROBIOLOGIST
L (BAND)**

The overall responsibility of the successful candidate will be to perform analyses in the Hydrobiology Section

PRIMARY DUTIES

- ❖ Performing routine and non-routine analyses on samples received by the Hydrobiology Section.
- ❖ Perform invertebrate identification and SASS invertebrate assessments.
- ❖ Perform aquatic biomonitoring assessments.
- ❖ Preparation of chemicals and reagents and assisting with sample preparation related to the analytical tests.
- ❖ Perform quality control checks related to the analytical tests as well as the checking and documentation of the results on respective databases.
- ❖ Responsible for the checking, identification, documentation and reporting of non-conforming results.
- ❖ Maintaining of biological cultures which are kept under hygienic conditions and are in a healthy state
- ❖ Basic maintenance of instruments, identification and reporting of problems experienced with instruments or reagents.
- ❖ Assisting with the implementation of new methods or upgrading of existing methods.
- ❖ Completion of SHE checklists and the adherence to SHE practices in the areas of work.

JOB REQUIREMENTS

- ❖ National Diploma or B. Tech or B.Sc. in Zoology or Limnology or entomology.
- ❖ One year experience in aquatic biomonitoring.
- ❖ One year experience in the identification of invertebrates.

COMPETENCY PROFILE

<i>Knowledge</i>	<i>Skills</i>	<i>Attitude</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Sound theoretical knowledge of aquatic biological, aquatic invertebrate identification and aquatic biomonitoring ❖ Working knowledge of Statistics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Computer literacy ❖ Effective written and verbal communication skills ❖ Ability to prioritise, organise and plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Quality and output driven person who can handle pressure and routine work ❖ Ability to interact with staff and customers ❖ Team worker but can work independently ❖ Conscientious and pays attention to detail

In evaluating prospective applicants and making the final selection, consideration will be given to Rand Water's Employment Equity Objectives

Should you not receive correspondence from Rand Water within 30 days from the closing date, please accept that your application has been unsuccessful

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
SCIENTIFIC SERVICES –DIVISION – VEREENIGING
SUSAN RAMETSE

Fax: 016 421-5104 OR E-MAIL

srametse@randwater.co.za

Postal: P.O Box 3526 Vereeniging 1930

CLOSING DATE: 21 August 2006

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