

# **WATER INSTITUTE OF SOUTH AFRICA**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**2<sup>nd</sup> MAY 2004, CAPE TOWN**

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**May 2003 – May 2004)**

#### **PAST PRESIDENTS, SENIOR FELLOWS, HONORARY MEMBERS, PATRON MEMBERS, COUNCILLORS, FELLOWS, MEMBERS AND ORDINARY MEMBERS**

It has been a real honour to serve as the WISA President over the last twelve months. The experience of stepping into the footsteps of our great Aqua-Presidents has truly humbled me. My term office has been fairly smooth simply because WISA is managed and supported by the most dedicated professionals- and administrators in the water sector. WISA has this amazing ability to attract people who are truly committed to the advancement of water sciences over a broad spectrum of water disciplines. This visible dedication has strengthened my commitment to serve and contribute to the realization of the organization's ideals.

Very few people truly understand the sacrifices that YOU make in ensuring that the ideals of our organization are fulfilled to the benefit of the water sector and the nation as a whole. Council and particularly the Board are truly grateful for his commitment.

WISA is a section 21 Company and its operation and management systems are government by its Articles and/or Operation's Policy, which are subject to the provisions of the Company Act, Act No.61 of 1973. WISA therefore needs to comply with various legislative requirements as well as the provisions of the Articles. I am therefore privileged to present to you the **Presidential- and Annual Report**. Both of these reports summarize important events that took place during the year under review and confirms the correctness of the current operational- and administrative status of our organization.

#### **MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

##### **Summary of our operational and administrative status**

- Members can be assured that WISA's business is in the hands of a highly competent CEO supported by two dedicated female employees;
- WISA Administration is well managed:
  - Detailed records are kept of all meetings and these are filled in accordance with the requires of the Act and are easily retrievable;
  - Our electronic communication system is fully functional and regular backup copies are made of all important correspondence, Company policies, Contracts etc;
  - All statutory requirements relevant to the Board of Directors has been complied with;
  - Finances are being prudently managed as reflected in the Company's financial report and the Auditor's report, which has already being accepted by the Board subject to Council's approval.

##### **Summary of Council – and Board Meetings**

- Four Council meetings were held during the period under review:
  - 18<sup>th</sup> September 2003;
  - 19<sup>th</sup> November 2003
  - 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2004
  - 02<sup>nd</sup> May 2004

- **Five Board Meetings were held during the period under review:**
  - 19<sup>th</sup> June 2003;
  - 21 August 2003;
  - 20 November 2003;
  - 22 January 2004;
  - 22 April 2004.

**Summary of critical decisions taken during the period under review:**

*(This specific section is covered in greater detail under the Annual Report 2003)*

- The de-registration of WISA as a section 21 Company was put on hold until agreement was reached on the proposed restructuring of WISA;
- The slogan “Caring for Water” was accepted;
- eThekweni Municipality was accepted as a new Patron Member;
- New membership fee structures have been approved;
- Public Liability Insurance was taken out to cover all WISA activities;
- Non-Attendance of Members and the impact thereof was tabled before Council;
- A protocol for inviting the WISA Presidents was agreed upon;
- An Advisory Panel consisting of Past Presidents and Senior WISA members was established to assist WISA with its new strategic direction;
- Various contractual agreements were concluded (as can be seen in the Company's Annual Report);
- Nine (9) Members were bestowed with the prestigious membership of Senior Fellow;
- A proposal to solicit closer relationships between WISA, IWA and IWA-SA was approved. A 'Memorandum of Understanding' is currently in draft as a result of this initiative and a final announcement in this regard will be made in due course.

**Resignations:**

- Two key staff members resigned during the year under review viz Ms Colette Joubert and Mr. Nigel Walker. Ms Colette Joubert (Office Manager) accepted a job offer from Mr. Nigel Walker as from the 01 February 2003. Mr. Nigel Walker (*WISA Treasurer and Conference Coordinator for the past 12 years*) regrettably tendered his resignation from all structures of WISA citing increased work pressure and conflict of interest due to his working as a Conference Consultant for WISA. However, Mr. Walker has offered to stay on as Treasurer and Conference Coordinator until after the 2004 Biennial Conference. The loss to WISA as a result of the said resignations has dealt us a severe blow because both Ms Joubert and Mr. Walker were key functionaries of the organization and highly competent individuals. Their presence will be sorely missed by WISA.

**OUR CORE BUSINESS**

Our core business is '*Building Expertise, Sharing Knowledge and Improving Quality of Life*'. This mission is achieved through a complex network of professional groupings who coordinate and facilitate debate around various scientific, technical, institutional and social issues associated with the water sector.

**Branches and Divisions**

WISA has five established branches and are situated in Gauteng, KwaZulu Natal, Eastern Cape, Free State and Cape Town. These Branches have collectively held approximately fifteen water-related-educational workshops and/or meetings for the year under review.

Technical Divisions stretching over a broad spectrum of disciplines have held approximately twenty water-related workshops/seminars in the field of Anaerobic and Sludge Processes, Industrial Water, Management and Institutional Affairs, Membrane Technology, Mine Water, Nutrient Management, River Basin Management, Watercare, Water Distribution, Water-related Health Aspects, Community Water Supply and Sanitation, Education and Training. Some of the most successful seminars/workshops during the year under review were those organized by Mine Water, Management and Institutional Affairs, Nutrient Management and South African Industrial

Water Association (SAIWA). The Mine Water Division has also offered a monetary award for the best presented paper in ' Mine Water Management.'

### **Membership**

Our membership has increased from 1322 to 1712 as at the end April 2003. This total includes 160 members that are currently on a **default-list** for non-payment.

### **Website**

The WISA website is very well structured and has a multitude of information and key links to other water institutions such as WRC, Rand Water, DWAF and Umgeni. The website information is regularly updated. Members should take time and visit this website and to encourage others to do likewise. The site can be accessed either through a **private Internet connection** or at an **Internet Café** at [www.wisa.org.za](http://www.wisa.org.za). New web surfers should contact WISA for their membership access number and password, which will ensure them access to certain membership-only information.

### **Publications**

Each WISA member should be receiving a quarterly publication of Water, Sewage and Effluent and a free monthly publication of the Wheel from WRC.

Prof. Frik Schutte (University of Pretoria) currently in the process of drafting a new book for water purification. The WRC is sponsoring this project.

### **WISA Conference 2004**

The Western Cape Branch, under the leadership of Mr. Danie Klopper, has been intensely involved in the organization of the WISA Conference 2004 over the last twelve months. A preview of the current status indicates that all systems are in place.

### **Patron Member's Lunch**

This is a special lunch arranged by the Board as a token of appreciation to our Patron Members for their financial support towards WISA's activities as well as for encouraging their Members to join WISA. This year's Patron Member's lunch took place on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2003 at the Gallagher Estate. The lunch was well attended.

### **Presidential Visit to Branches**

The President was also privileged to visit the various branches during the period 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> October 2003. It was interesting to note that each Branch had its own unique character.

- **The KwaZulu- Natal Branch**

The KwaZulu Natal Branch has a longstanding practice of assisting with the education and training of Process Controllers. We were privileged to form part of the ceremonial hand out of technical certificates to various Process Controllers and most encouraging was to see quite a number of women process controllers – this is a rare feat for the industry, which is still dominated by males. Mr. Tony Bailey served as our host. The CEO and I also had the opportunity to engage in discussions with Ms Gugu Moloi (CEO Umgeni) and Neil Macleod (Executive Director: Water with the eTekwini Municipality). Our discussions were most fruitful which lead to eTekwini Municipality's joining WISA as a patron member.

- **Eastern Cape Branch**

This branch showed strong cooperation and a healthy interaction between the professional and non-professional sectors of the Branch. The CEO and I were accorded the privilege to visit the Coega Development Project accompanied by Chris Dickinson and Owen Wentzel. We were also privileged to watch a practical demonstration of the workings of the Gorman Rupp Pump. Divisions targeting process controllers and/or operators should engage more often in practical workshops and encourage competency-based competitions amongst these groups.

- **Cape Town Branch**

CEO and I visited Cape Town on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2003. We were privileged to listen to an inspiring talk by Prof. CG (Tally) Palmer on: "Environmental Water Quality – What does the industry need to know?" Two interesting books were also handed out in support

of her talk – entitled: “Environmental Water Quality in Water Resources Management” and “Some, for All, Forever”. These are free publications obtainable from WRC. An Honorary Membership certificate was presented to Dr. Bill Ross, in honour for his long-standing service to WISA and the water sector in general. The Western Branch AGM also took place at this day.

### **Free State Branch**

The President was regrettably unable to visit this Branch due to logistical problems. We, however, express our sincere gratitude to the Chairperson of the Branch and members for the continued work for the interest of watercare in the Free State.

### **Presidential Comments for publication WASE Africa**

The President made five presidential comments during the year under review that were published in WASE Africa magazine: Water, Sewage and Effluent and these were supported regularly by comments from the CEO. Topics are as follows:

***“ No Success Without Support”*** : July 2003, Vol. 23, No.4

***“ Deserving Our Praise”*** : September 2003, Vol. 23, No.5

- A tribute to Madiba who turned 85 in July 2003;
- A tribute to the Centenary Celebration of Rand Water
- A background on the establishment of WISA

***“ The Myths of Professional Purism”*** : November 2003, Vol. 23, No.6

- Emphasizing the need for the professional to narrow the communication gap between the water scientist (professionals) and the applications (process controllers) for the benefit of the country as a whole.

***“ Are We an Industry in Disarray”*** : January 2004, Vol. 24. No.1

- A plea to our National Regulator to intervene into the ever-deterioration of wastewater- and sewage conveyance systems and the continuous stripping of assets primarily by local authorities.

***“ A decade of Water Achievement”*** : March 2004, Vol. 24, No. 2

- Pays tribute to the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry and the Water Ministry for their sterling achievement in providing water access to almost 10 million people since 1994.

***“ Amanzi Amakosikazi”*** : May 2004, Vol. 25, No. 3

- Importance of the “ Women in Water Awards” and the “Baswa le Meetse” Youth in Water Awards.

### **Invitations that were accepted**

The President received invitation to attend the following functions and accepted:

- Debate on the budget vote for DWAF at the National Assembly on the 06<sup>th</sup> June 2003
- Afriwater Exhibition and Management and Institutional Affairs Workshop held 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> August 2003;
- CEO attended IWA International Conference 14<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> September 2003;
- Handing over of the WRC Report 2003/2004 to the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry on the 02<sup>nd</sup> October 2003;
- Watercare AGM held on the 05<sup>th</sup> November 2003;
- ERWAT’s the opening of the Welbedacht WWTW and ERWAT’s 10 year celebration that was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2004;
- Women in Water Awards (Amanzi Amakosikazi) 19<sup>th</sup> March 2004 where Dr Eustina Musvoto (WISA Board Member and current Executive Director for Ninham Shand) was one of the nominees for the category Management & Policy. This award was eventually won by Nomxolisi Matyana;

- Baswa le Meetse Awards held on the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2004;
- Attended various Branch Meetings in Gauteng:
  - Venues at ERWAT, JW and Rand Water.
- Attended various Branch- and Conference Planning meetings in Cape Town;
  - Venue: Cape Technikon and Scientific Services.
- Participated in various workshops associated with the Development of Regulations for Water Care Works and Operators.

#### **Invitations that were regrettably declined**

- Inauguration of the WEF President: Mr. Lawrence P. Jaworski;
- 103<sup>rd</sup> AGM of the Geological Society of South Africa 26<sup>th</sup> June 2003;
- WEFTEC 2003 that was held in Los Angeles during 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> October 2003;
- Nutrient Management Seminar;
- Mine Water Division 27<sup>th</sup> November 2003;
- Workshop on the Chapter on Research and Development 27<sup>th</sup> February 2004;
- Groundwater Division AGM & Dinner 31<sup>st</sup> March 2004;
- Minister of Water Affairs & Forestry: Celebrating 10 years of Democracy on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2004;
- Community Water Supply and Sanitation AGM CT Group 16<sup>th</sup> January 2004;
- A cocktail function in celebration of 10 years of democracy and service delivery 20<sup>th</sup> April 2004;
- WISA Branch Western Cape (two – three meetings).

### **OUR CORE STRATEGIES**

#### **ADAPTING TO CHANGE**

WISA has always been at the forefront of Institutional change. Since its inception in 1987 WISA has consistently encouraged association through diversity and the collective participation of the sector over a broad spectrum of water disciplines to ensure the effective transfer of technology. WISA has specific in-built features that clearly distinguishes it from other professional institutions within the water sector:

- It is the only professional organization that **truly caters** for a multitude of professional disciplines and operations to be found in the water sector;
- It is the only professional organization that **encourages and facilitates** the collective participation of non-professionals and professionals in its activities and its decision-making structures;
- It is the only professional organization that **ensures cross-subsidization** of its resources to support marginalized disciplines and/or operations within its structures;
- It is the only professional organization, through the Division Community Water Supply and Sanitation (CWSS), **that facilitates constructive debate** on the challenges facing effective water supply and sanitation to impoverished communities;
- It is the only professional organization that is **engaged in driving initiatives** to consolidate the forces of volunteerism within the water sector. Thereby ensuring that organizational resources are not duplicated but optimally utilized for the benefit of the water sector and the nation as a whole;
- It is the only professional organization that **advocates for a balance** to be maintained between the advancement of the science and the application of the science at an operational level;
- It is the only organization that **provides free membership** to students, Educational Institutions, Honorary Members and longstanding retired Members;
- It is the only organization that leads and never follows. We are always in the forefront of change and innovative ideas to stimulate the industry.

WISA therefore makes a passionate appeal to emerging organizations within the water sector, whose activities and target groups and at times even having similar names to that of WISA to join hands and strengthen the forces of volunteerism for the benefit of the entire water sector and not just a few individuals bent on the commercialisation of volunteerism for their own egos and selfish

gain. The greatest call to true Africans is to **strengthen the forces of volunteerism** in the water sector and not to contribute **to its fragmentation**. Water is life - it is our most precious resource. Therefore any attempt to fragment our collective input to the management of this resource and/or the empowerment of the sector to protect and control it, is destructive in its very nature and only serves the selfish needs of a few. The **passionate consolidation of volunteerism** will undoubtedly accelerate the process of transformation in the water sector, it will allow us to share our resources and empower marginalized disciplines especially at the operational level. The funds that we generate through our partners in government and the private sector will be used to cross-subsidize marginalized but essential disciplines in the sector. These funds will also be used to increase the output of PhDs focused specifically at the water sector. Funds are also needed to formulate strategies that standardized different methodologies used for competency training and to accelerate the development of the operators and process controllers that operate at a functional level. Appropriate skills need to be developed and consistently measured to ensure that they meet and satisfy the needs of the industry. In order to achieve these objectives, WISA's new structural model proposes the establishment of a business unit that will generate the necessary funds to support our vision. However, this vision that we harbour will never be realized if the professional purists achieve their objectives of '**Some, For Few, Forever**'. WISA has the infrastructure to support the diverse intercommunication of both professional - and non-professional sector without any group losing its identity, status and/or autonomy.

It is for this very reason that we have started initiating discussions with various associations who have similar objectives and support our initiatives and in particular with IWA and IWA-SA. Dr Ralph Heath (Past WISA President), Messrs. Willie Lötz (CEO) and Jay Bhagwan (WRC) have played a pivotal role in forging greater cooperation between these two organizations. A draft 'Memorandum of Understanding' has already been drawn up between WISA and IWA and is currently in the process of being finalized. WISA is confident that a workable relationship can be established without impeding on the operational autonomy of either organization. The IWA is viewed as the largest global network of water professionals involved in a diverse field of professional disciplines. Prof. Eugene Cloete (a South African) is currently the Vice-President of the IWA and the Chairperson of the IWA-SA. It has over 6,000 members who collaborate on the effective and sustainable utilization of water resources with the 'emphasis on science and the management of drinking water, wastewater, stormwater and the conservation of water throughout the world. The IWA seeks to create value and is determined to drive the advancement of both the science and best practice of water management in cooperation with other similar international efforts in the fields of water resources, and irrigation and drainage.'*(Water Wheel March/April 2003 – Vol. 2 No.2)*

#### **OTHER COOPERATIVE INITIATIVES**

The WISA has also been invited to engage with its water-related counterparts in the Netherlands and will be represented by Mr. Willie Lötz. The suggested period for these discussions is 8<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> June 2004.

WISA, through the presence of Mr. Willie Lötz also provides input to the Business Council for Nepad. The Council facilitates interaction between various Water Utilities and the business sector. The CEO of Rand Water (Mr. Sumo Lushaba) is currently the Chairperson of this Council. WISA with the assistance of its CEO is also engaged in the initiation of a project called "TUSHIRIKIANE." It is a Swahili word when translated means "Let us cooperate". The primary trust of the project is to create better cooperation amongst similar water-related institutions in Africa and also develop a greater degree of self-sufficiency within the African continent. Mr. Lötz is in an ideal position to ensure the success of this initiative because he is also the Vice-Chairperson of the Africa and Middle East leg of WEF. WEF is the World Environment Federation, situated in the USA, of which WISA is a member. Through its membership with WEF, WISA also has the right to display the WEF logo on all its correspondences.

Our organization is also actively involved, through the representation of our CEO, in the Water Task Team of the SETA and the Water Sector Strategic Leadership Group.

## **OUR NEW STRATEGIC DIRECTION**

Our core business is 'Building Expertise, Sharing Knowledge and Improving Quality of Life'. This strategic intent was agreed upon by the 'Misty Hills' Strategic Group and endorsed by Council during the year under review. As Willie Lötz describes it: '... the change stresses the 'human connections' and responsibilities of the water industry, stressing aspects such as training and capacitating, as well as acknowledging the priority of the welfare of consumers whilst not neglecting scientific research and exchanges.' This is a strategic direction that will undoubtedly shift WISA into a higher gear placing it in a better position to better serve its members and the broader community interaction, improve its international and regional presence.

Strategic goals and objectives proposed by the Misty Hills Strategic were condensed into six **Key Strategic Areas** (KSAs) viz:

- Structure and Management : Coordinated by:- Willie Lötz
- Infrastructure : Coordinated by:- Marc de Fontaine
- Governance and Ethics : Coordinated by:- James Chimpelo
- Income : Coordinated by:- Nigel Walker
- Membership : Coordinated by:- Dr Marlene van der Merwe-Botha
- Services
  - Marketing and Liaison : Coordinated by:- Randall Adriaans
  - Legislative Liaison : Coordinated by:- Tony Turton
  - Services – Branches : Coordinated by:- John Clayton
  - Services – Education and Training : Coordinated by:- Dr Machiel Steynberg

### **Purpose of KSAs**

<b>Structure and Management</b>	Primary Objective:	Identify an optimal institutional model for structure and management of WISA
<b>Infrastructure</b>	Primary Objective:	To strengthen the IT capabilities of WISA and to expand its web page services
<b>Governance and Ethics</b>	Primary Objective	To develop governance procedures and aspects around ethical behaviour of members
<b>Income</b>	Primary Objective	To investigate new income sources for WISA
<b>Membership</b>	Primary Objective	To enhance the membership of WISA, improve membership identification, increase membership and improve membership representation
<b>Services</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Marketing &amp; Liaison</u></li><li>• <u>Legislative Liaison</u></li><li>• <u>Services – Branches</u></li><li>• <u>Services – Education &amp; Training</u></li></ul>	Primary Objective	To strengthen the branches, increase the technical capacity of the industry, improve local, regional and international relationship.

The various Coordinators for each KSA were then tasked to develop practical Key Strategic Objectives (KSOs) for each KSA.

### **Progress to date:**

- The Structure and Management Committee's proposal has been accepted by the Board and has now been tabled before Council for approval;
- The Infrastructure Committee tabled their interim proposals to Council on the 19<sup>th</sup> February and these were very well accepted.

## **WAY FORWARD**

As volunteers in the water sector we need to be alert to ensure that we do not lose focus of the objectives set by our predecessors. WISA has developed a professional culture that has **aligned its strategic intent with both its partners in Government and the private sector.** We embrace our Water Ministry's slogan of "Some, For All, Forever" not only with respect to water but also in the broader context of empowerment. As professionals we need to be passionate and sincere about the work we do. We need to continue in our drive and commitment to make a difference, inspire our youth and to promote diversity within our organization. I am confident that the new direction, which WISA is about to embark upon, will undoubtedly elevate us to a level in our own class. Our collective efforts and dedication will eventually allow us to contribute to more constructively to the ideals of NEPAD specifically with respect to the water sector. We are also committed and will continue to advocate for a balance to be made between the advancement of the science and the development of skills at an operational level.

## **EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE**

On behalf of Council I would like to thank each and every one of you for the support that you have provided to WISA, all branch Chairpersons and their Committees, all Divisional Chairpersons and their Committee and Conference Committee. Thank you for your regularly attendance to our meetings. Without your support, the water sector would be much poorer.

A special thank you to all our strategic coordinators and their Committees - your work will undoubtedly be paving a new direction for WISA. To our Board Members I say thank you. The reflection of the organization for the year under review is a reflection of our collective leadership and teamwork. Thank you to all our officials: Dot, Evelyn and Colette - managing a diverse organization such a WISA's is no easy task.

### **Special thank you to:**

- ❑ **Dr Heidi Snyman:** Thank you being a silent driving force behind WISA, especially in coordinating the awards and the development of the youth. Thank you for your strong input and your will to challenge practices that pose a threat to the professional status of WISA. Thank you for upholding our international status at WEF. Our presence at WEF has dwindled from 10 in 1999, 16 in 2000, 7 in 2001, 1 in 2002 and 2 in 2003.
- ❑ **Nigel Walker:** Thank you for loyalty and dedicated support of WISA spanning over twelve years. WISA is today largely because of your efforts and support. Your resignation indeed saddened us. However, we are comforted by the thought that you will always be there for us. We may not see you in the dark, but your protective shadow expose under God's light shines upon you. We trust that you would become more involved in developing WISA's business unit especially viewed in the light of emerging organizations who are determined to steal a share WISA's market for their own selfish gain.
- ❑ **Willie Lötzt:** Thank you for your leadership, intuition and foresight in guiding WISA's professional direction and improving our image both at local, regional and international level. Working with you over the past year has being most inspiring and a personal learning curve for me. Your dedication to continuously elevate the professional status of WISA without compromising on our social and functional responsibilities was most encouraging. Your willingness to accommodate WISA for another year has already saved us thousands of Rands, improved WISA's recognition and status at local level-, regional- and international level. Your constant plea to the Board not to put you on a lease has paid dividend.
- ❑ **Lani H van der Merwe:** What a gift! Lani's journalistic contributions to the water sector via WASE Africa (Water, Sewage and Effluent) are simply awe-inspiring. This is a Brooke Patrick Publication. Lani's topics are well researched, very well written and presented. This tremendous contribution has also assisted WASE Africa capturing three prestigious trophies from the Sappi 2002 Magazine Publishers Association of South Africa;
- ❑ **Danie Klopper:** Danie is a Past President of WISA but despite reaching this ultimate achievement in the organization he has continued to serve the water sector for the past thirty years. He is also the current coordinator of the Conference and is moving rapidly

- towards registering the highest level of delegates for a Conference. To you and your Committee we say thank you.
- **Dries Louw:** Our past President and my mentor for the past twelve months. You were simply great. Your humour, encouragement and guidance will be sorely missed. We love you.
  - **To all our Partners:** You remain the backbone of our organization. WISA plays both a supporting and empowering role in the water sector - however, without your dedicated and financial support the water sector would become a dog-box.

**Antonio Bowers MWISA, B.Tech Watercare  
WISA President**

***This report is dedicated to Messrs Basil Steyn and Harold Basson of George Municipality who played a pivotal role in the constructive development of my career.***