

# SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF TOWN AND REGIONAL PLANNERS

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT: 1994/1995

Piet Claassen

Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen.

We all know of the Chinese curse: "May you live in interesting times". The Institute certainly went through a very interesting year - but I prefer to see it as a challenge rather than a curse.

The Institute stands or falls by the dedication and the amount of time and work that Council members and members of Branch Committees voluntarily devote to Institute affairs. I therefore want to start by thanking these members for their time and effort.

Eerstens my dank aan die Universiteit van Stellenbosch, my kollegas en spesifiek prof Colin Welch, vir hulle tegemoetkoming om my die tyd te gun om my pligte as president van die Instituut na te kom.

### COMMITTEES & EXCO

Thanks also to the Secretary Franca Giudici, and the members of the Executive Committee Piet van Zyl, Vice President, Robert Lamont-Smith, Past President, our Honorary Secretary Charlotte Moss, our Honorary Treasurer Brian Grey. Without their dedicated hard work Council and the Institute cannot function.

Much of the work of Council is done by committees and I want to thank the members of these committees, the convenors of which are:

Planning Issues - Robert Lamont-Smith; New structure of the Institute - Schalk Potgieter; Liaison with the DPASA - Robert Lamont-Smith; Handbook - Peter Dacomb; Consolidated fund & bursaries - Piet van Zyl; Merit awards - Ndabe Ndzombane; Professional fees - Chris Kannenberg; New branches - Tommy Brümmer; Position papers - Chris Kannenberg; Newsletter - Robert Lamont-Smith; Environment & EPPIC - Karin Bur-

ger; Liaison with the SACTRP - Paul Waanders; Liaison with ADP - Peter Dacomb; Liaison: Government Depts - Robert Lamont-Smith; Liaison with ACTRP - Peter Dacomb; Liaison with Local Governments & Municipal Planners - Johnny Coetzee.

### BRANCHES

The most important element in the Institute is the Branches. That is where members interact with the Institute and with each other. That is where essential activities such as discussions, seminars, mid-career courses, liaison with other professionals and social events take place. Branch committees must not only be active but they must be in close communication with their members and with Council. There are so many interesting things happening in South Africa at present that Branches should be able to hold meetings at least every second month, if not more often, to inform members, and to give feedback to the various levels of government.

It is important that branches should be informed about the activities of Council and *vice versa*. In this the branch representatives on Council (and other councillors in that branch) play a very important role. If that link breaks down, the Institute is in real trouble.

I want to thank branch chairpersons and their committees for all their efforts. The branch representatives on council were:

Border	Christo Theart
Eastern Cape	Schalk Potgieter
Far Northern	Theo Pieterse
Transvaal	
Free State	Nic Aucamp
KwaZulu/ Natal	Rodney Harber
Transvaal	Johnny Coetzee
Western Cape	Tommy Brümmer
(Chairperson: Geoff Underwood)	

The Branch reports will be tabled for your scrutiny.

It came to our attention that the KwaZulu-Natal Branch was contemplating seceding from the Institute. On invitation by Simon Vines, the Executive Committee asked Robert Lamont-Smith to investigate the reasons for the dissatisfaction. His report was tabled at Council today.

The problem arose partially because the KwaZulu-Natal branch was not kept abreast with development in the Institute in general, and Council in particular.

We owe thanks to Robert for his effort as mediator in this regard and also for Simon Vines and the members of the KwaZulu-Natal Branch Committee who kept an open mind on the issue. The Branch undertook to withhold their efforts at secession pending the outcome of our efforts to amalgamate with the DPASA.

Council took note of the complaints of the Branch and hope that, between Council and the Branch, all the problems will be smoothed out.

I sincerely hope that the KwaZulu-Natal Branch will see the advantages for them, for the Institute and for the profession and for the promotion of the RDP, to stay in the fold. All the Branches and Council will never agree 100% on all aspects of policy. There must be a degree of give and take. Furthermore, I also want to point out that the Branches do have a large degree of independence from Council.

### FINANCES

Thanks to the surplus that the Western Cape achieved with the conference, our finances look healthy. However, our books should balance on the basis of annual membership fees alone, as the surpluses of conferences are earmarked for the Consolidated Fund

from which bursaries are financed. We must thank Brian Grey for his efforts to keep the costs down. This year membership fees were increased by only 13%.

Ever since I have been a member of the Institute, Branches have been unhappy that they get nothing of the membership fees. At our June meeting Council decided to earmark a small portion of membership fees for the Branches, based on the paid up membership of each Branch. This year we shall only be able to help the Branches in this way if there is a surplus. From next year we shall have to add the payout to Branches on to the membership fee.

Indications are that, to cover this, as well as rising expenses, Council will have to ask members for a substantial increase next year.

Council constantly strives to spend less on administration, and rather increase the proportion spent on development.

#### MEMBERSHIP

There are several reasons why we should be worried about membership. On our books membership shows a slight increase, but from these figures have not yet been deducted those members who have not paid their 1994/95 membership fees. Council decided not to strike them off, but to rather write another letter urging them to pay. We also asked Branch Committees to approach these non, or shall I hopefully say, late payers to ascertain what their reasons are for not paying. In that way we hope to keep some from leaving the fold, and perhaps we shall also ascertain the reasons for dissatisfaction.

I shall therefore speak to the adjusted figures shown in the last column of Table 1. Membership declined by 39 (3,8%). Corporate membership declined by 18 (2,9%) and graduates by 15 (4,6%). We now have almost the same membership as in 1991, and from that time at least 500 town and regional planners must have become eligible for membership. We are therefore not only losing members, but we are attracting very few of the new

**Table 1: Membership**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1995*
Corporate	611	649	668	615	648	597
Graduate	276	323	350	323	340	308
Associate	30	37	40	32	34	30
Retired, Hon. & Life	45	32	44	49	45	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>962</b>	<b>1041</b>	<b>1102</b>	<b>1019</b>	<b>1067</b>	<b>980</b>

\* Minus Non-Payers of 1994/95 not yet struck from membership.

entrants to the profession.

As membership is now completely voluntary, we shall have to apply our minds as to how we can make the Institute more attractive. Unfortunately many Members do not know how much Council and Branch Committee members do for promoting the profession.

An aspect which complicates matters for the Institute is that Members see the fee that they pay for the Institute and for the Statutory Council as one. That is, they do not feel that they necessarily get too little for their R250 Institute fee, but they feel that they get too little for their combined fee of R610. As they have to be registered, resignation from the Institute seems to be the first option.

#### Membership by special entry

Last year the rules of the Institute were amended to allow membership by special entry. According to this rule Council can invite a planner who has made her/his mark in the planning field, and who holds an appropriate planning qualification, but who is not a member, to become a member. Two persons have become members by special entry - Alan Mabin of the Department of Town and Regional Planning at WITS University and Peter de Tolly, Deputy City Planner, of Cape Town. We are very proud to welcome them in our midst.

#### AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Some time ago Council accepted the principle of constructive affirmative action and in this regard Council have

also been active.

#### Pro bono work

At its February meeting Council requested the Branches to investigate the possibilities for members to do *pro bono* work in cases of hardship where people cannot afford the services of a planner.

Considerable progress was made by the Association of Consulting Town and Regional Planners (ACTRP) (Northern Region) with their PLANCOM-Project (Planners for Disadvantaged Communities). They are compiling a list of consultants who will be willing to offer their services for this purpose. Once the scheme gets off the ground, communities can apply to PLANCOM for assistance, who will evaluate the application and assign a PLANCOM participant.

Council fully supports PLANCOM and we urge our members to participate. For this effort we must thank Peter Dacomb.

Of the smaller branches indicated that their members are unofficially involved in voluntary work and they did not see the need for an official organisation.

In KwaZulu-Natal there is an organization called ACCESS with which members can associate.

#### Our own exam

Another attempt at affirmative action was the change in the rules adopted last year to allow Council to set its own examination. The purpose of this

new rule was to allow persons who are active in the planning field, but who lacked the opportunity to attain a degree in planning to take such an examination which will qualify them for membership. We unsuccessfully approached the heads of planning schools through the Statutory Council to assist in this effort.

I am convinced that we should not abandon this effort at affirmative action. One of the complaints of the KwaZulu-Natal Branch was that the Institute is too elitist, and that people with hands on experience cannot become members. Our own exam is a means to change that in a constructive way.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

### RDP-Bursary

Council increased our usual two annual bursaries by adding the RDP-bursary, specifically aimed at affirmative action. The three recipients are: Alfred X Sam of UCT, Anton Lotz of Stellenbosch, and Bernadette Leon of UCT, the recipient of the RDP-Scholarship of R5000.

Council also awarded our usual prizes of R200 for the best final year student at each of the seven university and three technikon planning schools.

### Studietrust

Owen Taylor en Johan Prinsloo van die Kaapse tak het die inisiatief geneem om die moontlikheid te ondersoek om 'n beurs trustfonds in te stel. Die Raad het sy seën op die projek, wat ons saam met die Vereniging vir Raadgewende Stads- & Streekbeplanners (VRSS) aanpak, uitgespreek. Die belangrikste voordeel van 'n trustfonds, teenoor ons huidige werkwyse, is dat bydraes tot so 'n trust aftrekbaar sal wees van inkomste vir belastingdoeleindes. Op dié wyse sal ons hooplik vrywillige bydraes tot die Trust kan bekom. Die uiteindelijke mikpunt is om genoeg kapitaal te bekom sodat beurse uit rente bekostig kan word. Die ideaal is om 'n beurs elke jaar vir elke universiteit en technikon toe te ken - d.w.s. 10 beurse per jaar. Om beurse van R5000 elk te kan toeken

sal ons minstens R500 000 moet bekom.

Die eerste struikelblok is om 'n trustakte op te stel wat die Ontvanger van Inkomste tevrede sal stel.

## NEWSLETTER

When I was editor of the Newsletter I developed it to, what I thought, was a high level. I am however very pleased to say - and I am sure you will all agree with me - that the present editor, Robert Lamont-Smith, improved it substantially. Thanks also to his assistants Elsona van Huyssteen, Sharon de Gois, Floors Slabbert en Charl Kruger.

## JOURNAL

The Institute also owes a lot of thanks to Prof Colin Welch and his staff, Charmagne Marais and Jolanda de Villiers for producing the journal. We are inclined to become so used to receiving this high quality publication regularly that we tend to forget the amount of work that goes into producing it.

## COMMENTS ON LEGISLATION

Council commented on proposed legislation and policy documents, *inter alia*:

The proposed new Constitution;

The Development Facilitation Bill;

The Wetlands Conservation Bill, and

to the Commission on Red Tape of the Western Cape Provincial Administration.

We also wrote to Minister Hanekom, Minister of Land Affairs, reacting to an article in *The Argus* in which he indicated that he may consider scrapping the Subdivision of Agricultural Land Act. We argued that the Act should not be scrapped because it provides for a real need, and because the ideal of reallocating agricultural land can be achieved within the constraints of the Act.

## FOOISTRUKTUUR

Vir geruime tyd reeds probeer die Raad, in samewerking met die VRSS die fooistruktuur van raadgewende stads- en streekbeplanners te rasionaliseer. Die Noord- en Suidstreke van die VRSS is tans besig om saam 'n nuwe fooistruktuur uit te werk wat via die Raad van die Instituut aan die Statutêre Raad voorgelê sal word.

Vir hierdie werk moet ons Chris Kannenberg en Peter Dacomb bedank.

## KONFERENSIES

Ons is almal baie dank verskuldig aan die Kaapse Tak vir die baie suksesvolle konferensie wat hulle verlede jaar gereël het. Groot dank aan die lede van die reëlingskomitee: Geoff Underwood, Tommy Brümmer, Larry Aberman, Nigel Burls, Owen Taylor, Jens Kuhn, Merle Price, Stephan Harris, Stephan Conradie en Anneke Muller.

Die surplus van die konferensie was R110 000. Dié meevaller het net betyds gekom om die Instituut se HOP-beurs te steun.

Die volgende konferensie word deur die Verre Noord-Transvaaltak gereël vir 25 tot 27 September 1996 in die Kruger Nasionale Park. Ons wens hulle alle voorspoed toe. Die onderwerp "Beplanning - Balans tussen bewaring en ontwikkeling" is sekerlik van die grootste belang in die Suid-Afrika van vandag.

Ons hoop u sal die konferensie baie sterk steun, veral deur dit bekend te stel.

## DIE POSISIE VAN DIE BEPLANNER IN PLAALIKE BESTUUR

By die Jaarvergadering in September 1994, het Rian Booysen 'n mosie ingedien, wat in 'n gewysigde vorm aanvaar is. Die mosie lui soos volg: "Dat die Nywerheidsrade van Plaaslike Bestuursonderneming versoek word om dringend 'n regstelling van die vergelykende skedule van poste, ingedeel ooreenkomstig posfamilies, te maak met betrekking tot Stads- en Streekbeplanners en wel ten effekte

dat die pos van Stads- en Streekbeplanner ooreenstem met die hiërargie van posindelings vir stadsingenieurs, stadstesouriers en stadsekretaris.

Sodanige briewe is geskryf. Die terugvoer was oor die algemeen nie bemoeëndigend nie. Die Komitee: Plaaslike Bestuur van die Raad is nou besig om die terugvoer te evalueer vir verdere aksie.

## LOCAL AGENDA 21

A number of our members attended the Local Agenda 21 seminar hosted by the Department of Environmental Affairs in April. Agenda 21 represents the aims and objectives agreed to at the Rio Earth Summit. Our members made valuable contributions. What is more important is that we could demonstrate that planning forms an essential part of environmental conservation and sustainable development.

A report on Local Agenda 21 was published in the June issue of PlanNews. I urge members to stay abreast of developments in this field.

## HABITAT II

As you will remember the Institute originated the Habitat II action in South Africa by alerting the late Mr Joe Slovo to it. Habitat II is the second United Nations Conference for Human Settlements, organised by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS), to be held in Istanbul in June 1996. It is also called "The City Summit" with the aim of "Better living for all". I attended the first Habitat II conference late last year, and I was invited by the Minister of Housing to attend the second South African Habitat II conference from 16 to 18 October as President of the Institute (which I could do with much appreciated financial support from the University of Stellenbosch).

This October conference was the Regional Ministerial Meeting for Africa, to prepare a policy document for Africa to be submitted at Istanbul. The policy document is called "Johannesburg declaration on the African common position for the second United Nations Conference of Human

Settlements (Habitat II) by African ministers responsible for human settlements".

This declaration *inter alia* states that "Environmentally sound land use planning is therefore central to the achievement of healthy, safe, productive, and sustainable human settlements". A report will appear in the next issue of PlanNews.

## THE FUTURE OF PLANNING: WORKSHOP

The Department of Land Affairs is hosting a two day workshop at Club Mykonos in the Western Cape Province (22 & 23 November) on the "Future of the Town and Regional Planning Profession". Although the Institute was not involved in organizing the workshop, the Director General of Land Affairs did invite me to attend the workshop as their guest and to introduce the Minister. On behalf of myself and the Institute I want to thank the Director General for the invitation.

You have all received the application brochure and I hope many of our members will be there.

## POSITION PAPERS

Some years ago Council undertook to publish papers on the position of the Institute on various topics of concern to planners. The purpose of these position papers is in the first instance for us to formulate our ideas and second to act as a guide in the future - both to planners and to the public. Chris Kannenberg has been bearing the brunt of this responsibility. Three position papers have been published and you have all received copies. The latest is our position on the environment (the other two are on rural development and on urban form).

These papers are circulated to all branches before they are finalised and we thank the Branches for their valuable inputs.

## STRUCTURE OF THE INSTITUTE AND AMALGAMATION WITH DPASA

The committee of Council tasked with investigating the structure of the Institute, with Schalk Potgieter as coordinator and assisted by Hans Zerwick, did a substantial amount of work and consulted widely with the Branches. Two of the main issues that arose were that Branches want more autonomy, and they want a cut of the annual membership fee. However the work of this committee was overtaken by another event affecting the structure of the Institute, that is the pending amalgamation with the DPASA.

As you will be aware, another planning organization was started a few years ago, called the Development Planning Association of South Africa (DPASA). From the inception of this new body the Institute cooperated closely with it. We even distributed their membership application forms.

However, the Institute did feel that it is not desirable to have two organizations with exactly the same purpose. We felt it divides our efforts and it confuses planners and the public. The Institute therefore approached the DPASA with the view to working more closely together - and ideally, amalgamating.

The Executive Committees of the Institute and of the DPASA met with Prof Malloes as chairperson and facilitator. The DPASA indicated that they would consider amalgamating into a new organisation. A committee was set up with Prof John Muller and Phekane Ramarumo of the DPASA and Robert Lamont-Smith and Brian Grey of the Institute to draw up a new constitution for the to be formed new body. (The work of the Institute's committee on the structure of the Institute was taken into account in the drafting of the new constitution.) After a second meeting of the two Executive Committees, a provisional draft constitution was agreed upon.

At its meeting in June the Council of the Institute adopted the draft constitution provisionally, requesting that five changes be affected to it. In the meantime the DPASA held a referendum amongst its members to deter-

mine if they want to amalgamate with the Institute.

If the outcome of this referendum is positive, the final differences must be thrashed out, and the draft constitution must be circulated to the Branches for discussion by all members. The last step, as far as the Institute is concerned, will be to submit the final constitution to the members in the form of a referendum. A two thirds majority is needed for the amalgamation to be legally possible.

I am convinced that amalgamation with the DPASA is essential and I want to urge you all to propagate it amongst members. If all goes well this may well be the second last AGM of the Institute.

We also owe thanks to the four members of the working committee for the tremendous amount of work that they put into this effort, and to Prof Mal-lows for his able mediation.

#### MEETING WITH MINISTER SICELO SHICEKA

In May we were informed by Phekane Ramarumo, Chairperson of the DPASA, that Minister Sicelo Shiceka, Minister of Development, Planning, Environment and Public Works of Gauteng, had invited them to a meeting to discuss the relation between his Department and the planning profession. Phekane informed us of this meeting, and that she had indicated to the Minister that he should also invite the Institute as we are in the process of amalgamation. Consequently we were invited and the executive committees of the two organizations met with the Minister on 22 June.

It was a very fruitful meeting and the Minister showed great interest in, and knowledge of planning. He has also gone to the trouble to study the Draft Constitution of the anticipated new planning institution, and made valuable contributions in this regard. He expressed great interest in the amalgamation, and indicated that it should be expedited.

The planning profession can consider itself lucky to have a Minister that shows so much interest and faith in

planning in the cabinet of the biggest province of the country.

#### CONCLUSION

I am sure you must all have heard that planning and planners in general, and the Institute in particular, are accused of having played a major role in the implementation of Apartheid. It is often said that "we must first change our attitude" and that we should be "reoriented".

This is a very serious accusation that we cannot take lightly and that we should face head on. We cannot hide behind the fact that all professions played a role in apartheid.

However, I do not feel that the annual report of the president is the right place to clear this matter. For such an important and complex matter, that concerns all of us so intimately, we must arrange a meeting where as many members as possible can get together and discuss the matter. Ideally this should be thrashed out at Branch level first.

However, I shall be failing in my duty as President of this honorable institution, if I do not emphasize that the constitution and rules of the Institute specifically forbid members to participate in any form of discrimination. Further on the positive side, I want to point out that the Council of the Institute strongly objected when the former Government proposed that group areas should be demarcated through the planning process. Furthermore I want to remind members of the Mark Callaghan motion, adopted by the Western Cape and Natal Branches, which stated that members should indicate to their employers and clients that they should not pursue racial discriminatory practices in planning.

The purpose of town and regional planning (or environmental planning, or development planning, or environmental management) can be defined as being: "to improve the quality of life of people, especially the poor, in a sustainable way". As Institute members it is also our purpose, as the stated aim of the Institute is "to promote the art and science of town and regional planning".

That is, we want to promote the effectiveness with which our members, the Government and the public, can improve the quality of life of especially the poor in South Africa. That is also the purpose of the Reconstruction and Development Programme. It should therefore not be necessary for members, if they subscribe to the Rules and Credo of the Institute to be "re-oriented".

We know, and I get the impression that many of the leading people in Government are also realising, that the ideals of the RDP, of the housing policy, of Habitat II and of Local Agenda 21, cannot be achieved without a substantial planning input.

The purpose of the Institute is, and has always been, what the RDP is striving to achieve. That is what we stand for as planners. I sincerely hope that we can put the past, whatever it is, behind us, and that we be allowed to pursue this aim with all our energy, and that our *bona fides* in this regard will not be doubted.