

## **SAIT PRESIDENTS REPORT 2022**

A lot has happened in the past few years, not the least being the long term effects of the Covid lockdown. The SAIT's income is predominantly derived from the training courses that we run, which, due to the lockdown, were severely curtailed, and greatly reduced our income. Further, Gill Fuller elected to retire early in 2021. Gill's responsibilities were taken up by Isabel Bradley, who had worked with Gill. Isabel performed her responsibilities with admirable care and dedication, keeping the committee in line with our responsibilities. Thank you Isabel for the hard work that you put in.

Unfortunately the weight of the institute, together with Isabel's other responsibilities, had a negative effect on her health, which made her to decide to retire in February this year. As a committee we decided that the institute Secretary needed to be a younger person with good marketing and communication skills. We were fortunate to find Jo-anne Stadler whose work experience was predominantly in the service industry, from hotels to running her own marketing promotions company. As with any new job, the detailed responsibilities of Secretary of the SAIT have been a challenge at times to Jo-anne, but her dedication is awesome. She has brought a very welcome breath of fresh air to the institute. Well done Jo-anne, and a very big welcome to the SAIT.

As we all can see the institute has been through a tough period, and as we all know the committee is made up from unpaid volunteers, elected by our membership. Where needed, additional committee members with appropriate experience are co-opted. I am deeply indebted to the dedication of the current committee, who have carried and continue to carry the institute. A heartfelt thank you to each one of you for your dedication and guidance.

For many years the SAIT has been respected as the tribology institute of Africa, and certainly the tribology institute of Southern Africa. We have trained tribologists from many African countries, from Southern, Central, Eastern and Western Africa.

In an effort to build on the great reputation of the SAIT in this fast changing world, we have decided to rebrand and reposition the SAIT to better match the needs of our members. We have repositioned the SAIT as a non profit company and changed the name from the South African to the Southern African Institute of Tribology. This is now a completely new step in the history of the SAIT and we look forward to all the ground work that we have painstakingly put in place flourishing. Our MOI has been re-written to more accurately represent our commitments to our members, because it is the members who make up the institute. A link to the new MOI has been emailed to all members. If you have not already done so please familiarise yourselves with the new MOI because in terms of our constitution we need to vote on its acceptance at our AGM, which is this meeting. This vote will take place later in the AGM.

If all of the above was not enough to keep the committee busy during the past year, we also negotiated and presented a formal bid to hold the next World Tribology Congress, WTC 2026, in South Africa. This bid was supported by most universities and other major institutes, such as the

SAIMechE and the Institute of Corrosion. David Beard made the presentation during the International Tribology Council meeting in Lyon, France, which preceded WTC 2022. He has prepared a presentation on WTC 2022, which he will present on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022, in our first hybrid meeting.

Finally, the SAIT committee have agreed on the following responsibilities and goals for the institute:

- To be more responsible for the everyday operation of the SAIT.
- To support Jo-anne in her position as Secretary of the SAIT.
- To increase the number of evening presentations to a minimum of one per month, with regular seminars.
- To establish an independent working group that oversees the quality of lubricants marketed in South Africa. Many of you will be aware that this is already in progress, and is very ably chaired by John Fitton.

Please join us and support the proposed changes that are required to support the members and the tribological community as a whole.



P G Swan  
SAIT President 2021/2022