

The South African Institute of Tribology

The SAIT began its existence as The Wear Club of the University of the Witwatersrand in July 1982. In March 1985 it was inaugurated as the South African Institute of Tribology.

The SAIT is a member of the International Tribology Council and has regularly been represented by a small delegation at the World Tribology Congresses held in London in 1997, Vienna in 2001, Washington in 2005, Kyoto in 2009, and in 2013 in Torino, Italy. As well as attending the congresses, SAIT members have presented well-researched and –received papers.

2012 was an extremely busy and successful year for the SAIT, with two extra Five-day Lubrication Engineering Courses being introduced into our curriculum. Over the year, 110 delegates wrote the Lubrication Engineering exam at the end of these five-day courses, with a total of 74 passes, 32 distinctions and 4 failures. These courses are run regularly in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban, and can be presented in-house on request.

During 2012, 4 Introductory Courses in Lubrication Engineering and in Wear and Materials, were held, attended by 41 delegates.

The SAIT courses were introduced in 1989, since when 106 5-day Lubrication Engineering, 23 1-day Introduction to Lubrication Engineering, and 15 1-day Introduction to Wear and Materials have been run and recently two 1-day Introduction to Lubricating Oils Courses. The 3-day course, Materials and Wear, of which 11 have been held, was replaced by the Introductory Courses. A total of 3,068 students have attended the SAIT Courses in the last 23 years.

The year's educational programme ended with our hosting of the STLE - CLS, OMA & CMFS exams & "SAIT CLS study course", the most recent addition to our courses.

In addition to our educational programme, the SAIT hosts an International Tribology Conference every three years, the first being in 1986. We are currently looking forward to our 11th Conference in 2014.

We also host several short seminars each year, this year were Energy Reduction through Materials Selection in May and Metal-Working Fluids in October.

Several times a year we host evening Technical Presentations, the most recent was given by Charles du Bois on the Lubrication of Non-Moving Parts.

The SAIT anticipates an equally busy and successful 2013.

By Gill Fuller and Isabel Bradley, SAIT Secretariat.