

## A site visit, an annual general meeting and a birthday braai - all in one afternoon!

### The first SASTT site-visit in many years

Shortly before 12:00 on 28 February 2012, the parking area in front of the main boardroom of the Zandfontein Depot of Johannesburg Water (SOC) Ltd was unusually crowded with beaming people shaking hands with other beaming people they had not seen for a year or more. There was also an assortment of hired cars plus even a touring bus. All of this served to celebrate the twentieth birthday of SASTT.

The event began with a brief presentation about the trenchless rehabilitation and upsizing of two trunk sewer lines in Alexandra township, with the aid of a layout drawing and a series of photographs. The project had presented very tricky challenges, mainly due to the extreme density of formal and informal dwellings around and over the servitudes.

Inside one informal dwelling an occupant was asked if he had any idea where the sewer manhole might be. He knew where it was. After he had moved his bed, he pointed to the manhole cover, which made up part of the floor of his house!

In some instances, parts of informal dwellings had to be demolished and neatly rebuilt after the rehabilitation of the sewer had been completed.

Inside one dwelling, the occupants had removed a manhole cover and built their long-drop toilet right over the manhole. Somehow the family had not been killed by an explosion of sewer gas...

Next, the audience of some 25 people was invited to board the touring bus for a ride through Alexandra in order to see the sites in real life.

It struck the writer that trenchless technology, which is generally non-invasive in nature, will not always be plain sailing. In Alexandra it certainly was anything like easy going. However, it is almost too awful to contemplate the disruption if the sewers had had to be dug up in order to lay a larger pipe!

The audience expressed its appreciation for the site visit which had been arranged and sponsored by Insitu-Pipelines (Pty) Ltd. Well done, André Germs!

By the time the touring bus got back to the Zandfontein Depot, another crowd was already waiting to attend the annual general meeting.

### The 21<sup>st</sup> annual general meeting of SASTT

The annual general meeting was attended by nineteen members who comfortably made up a quorum. In addition there were ten guests and one apology was noted. The meeting was chaired by the president, Andries Löt, who welcomed everyone present.

The usual formalities of an AGM were quickly taken care of. Then Andries presented his annual report for 2011. It had indeed been a notable year for SASTT, with several highlights, such as:

- The first *No-Dig South Africa* conference; ISTT masterclass and exhibition at the CSIR International Convention Centre in Pretoria on 23 and 24 August 2011.
- The Institute of Municipal Engineering of Southern Africa (IMESA) had admitted SASTT as a professional affiliate member. SASTT had reciprocated the honour and had



*Kevern Ramborosa and president Andries Löt, with Mike King looking on*

admitted IMESA as an honorary affiliate of SASTT. Kevern Ramborosa handed the president a certificate which confirmed the status of SASTT as professional affiliate of IMESA.

The SASTT award of excellence for 2011 was bestowed upon the construction of the irrigation water pipeline for the Green Point Common. The chairman presented the award certificate to representatives of the City of Cape Town, BKS and Insitu-Pipelines (Pty) Ltd.

On behalf of the project team, Tim Pollard and Rob van Vuuren gave a fascinating presentation about a very deserving project.

After this the new president, Mike King, was inducted and he took the chair. Following the announcement of the members of the board for 2012, the meeting was closed.

The particulars of the members of the board for 2012 are at <http://www.sastt.org.za/boardmem2012.html>.

The minutes of the AGM are at [http://www.sastt.org.za/agm\\_minutes\\_2012.pdf](http://www.sastt.org.za/agm_minutes_2012.pdf).

### **SASTT's 20<sup>th</sup> birthday braai**

Everyone present was invited to partake of the braai which had been arranged and sponsored by Insitu-Pipelines (Pty) Ltd to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the inauguration of SASTT. And partake they did. The sun was already getting low by the time the last people started out for home!

### **The SASTT award of excellence for 2011: The irrigation water pipeline for the Green Point Common**

The City of Cape Town had identified the need for irrigation water for the Green Point Common, which covers an area of 86 ha and incorporates, among other features, the Cape Town Stadium.



*Rob van Vuuren, of Insitu-Pipelines (Pty) Ltd; Tim Pollard, of BKS; and Zamokuhle Chauke, of the City of Cape Town, receiving the award certificate from president Andries Löt*

It identified a sustainable natural spring below Table Mountain, which in the early days had irrigated the Company Gardens. By the time the spring was “rediscovered” the water had been running through the stormwater system and into Cape Town harbour for many years!

To utilise the spring would require building a 350 mm pipeline of 5,2 km through the heavily built-up city. The upper part of this pipeline, over a length of 3,5 km was mainly created by trenchless means in order to minimise disruption of the particularly narrow roadways.

The route planning focused on locating disused pipes in which pipe cracking and

sliplining could be applied. The result was that 2,3 km of old water reticulation pipes were found and inspected by CCTV surveys. These pipes were rehabilitated by trenchless means. 130 metres of pipe were laid by drilling and only a kilometre was laid in open trench.

Particular care was taken to avoid disruption, especially of the events around the 2010 Soccer World Cup, and to preserve the numerous heritage sites.

## **SASTT-TS-TT1:2010: *The SASTT standard for sliplining of pipelines***

**DRAFT 2010-04-23**

### **Another call for comments**

The above **draft** standard is displayed on the SASTT website. When it was originally published, SASTT invited comments on the draft and several members responded in a very constructive manner. The draft has now been in the public domain for two years. The feedback is that it has been put to good use - and not only by SASTT members.

The board of SASTT would like to publish the final version of the standard. However, during discussion it transpired that some members of the board had used the standard and had spotted some shortcomings. They would like another opportunity to submit comments prior to its publication. The board took the view that there might well be other users who would like such an opportunity.

Therefore, if readers would also like to comment on the standard, they are requested to submit such comments to the editor before the end of May 2012.

### **Call for a South African engineer to work on the establishment of an engineering initiative under UNESCO**

SASTT received an announcement (forwarded by ECSA) from the Department of Science and Technology which requests an expression of interest from South African engineers to be involved in an initiative, under UNESCO, for the development of a programme of activities. In an effort to make this a broader request, ECSA forwarded the request to the engineering fraternity - including SASTT.

If readers with advanced engineering experience or qualifications would like to apply for this interesting *but temporary* position, they can request the full text of the request from Ms Sharon Marimuthoo at [sharon@ecsa.co.za](mailto:sharon@ecsa.co.za).

The closing date for applications is 30 April 2012.

### **Conference on marine waste water discharges and marine environment**

Trenchless technology can offer clever solutions for sea outfalls or inlets, or in general for any marine application.

The chairman of the upcoming conference in Montenegro, viz *Marine waste water discharges and marine environment* (see [http://www.mwwd.org/site/page.asp?dsy\\_id=3585](http://www.mwwd.org/site/page.asp?dsy_id=3585)) is inviting ISTT members to present a paper (see [http://www.mwwd.org/site/page.asp?dsy\\_id=3599](http://www.mwwd.org/site/page.asp?dsy_id=3599)) on TT outfalls or inlets. They have been promised the participation of Herrenknecht, but some other paper on tunnelled outfalls or marine pipelines would be welcome.

Furthermore, they are planning to publish a book on large diameter marine pipelines where TT can also be utilised - see [http://www.mwwd.org/site/page.asp?dsy\\_id=3611](http://www.mwwd.org/site/page.asp?dsy_id=3611).

If readers are interested, they should feel free to contact:

Dr Carlo Avanzini  
Chair: MWWD Organization  
Tel: +90 (0)216 360 2011  
E-mail addresses:  
[carlo.avanzini@mwwd.org](mailto:carlo.avanzini@mwwd.org)  
[carlo.avanzini@sealinecons.com](mailto:carlo.avanzini@sealinecons.com)  
[organization@mwwd.org](mailto:organization@mwwd.org)