

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

23rd May 2024

Currently, the Members of Executive Committee and their portfolios are as follows:

William Martinson	:	Chairman
Jonathan Stone	:	Vice-Chairman
Elwyn Harlech-Jones (with Richard Hill)	:	Professionalisation
David Gibbs	:	Liaison with heritage authorities and related bodies
Dorelle Sapere	:	Transformation
Jonathan Stone	:	Membership
William Martinson	:	Finances
Yasmin Mayat	:	Co-opted member (without portfolio)
Gavin McLachlan (ex-officio)	:	Events

I wish to record my sincere thanks to the members of the Executive Committee for their time and thoughtful contributions to the ExCo meetings.

The past year has required persistence on the part of the Executive Committee in their commitment to achieve professionalisation. Our grateful thanks are again due to Dr Richard Hill, who has been an advisor in this role together with Elwyn Harlech-Jones.

The **professionalisation** process continued to receive high priority. Dr Hill and Elwyn report as follows:

The ExCo has met regularly over the past year and dealt with *inter alia* the aspect of Professionalisation, with the assistance and guidance of consultant Richard Hill. The Membership has been kept informed over this period of progress and developments in this regard.

Since 2022, APHP has worked with the Environmental Assessment Practitioners Association of South Africa (EAPASA) to add another designation of Professional Heritage Practitioner (PHP) to EAPASA's status as a Professional Body recognised by the South

African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). This was to have been a non-statutory or voluntary designation, in effect a market instrument to regulate practice rather than a legal requirement.

In September 2023, SAHRA informed EAPASA of their intention to provide a statutory basis under the NHRA for the registration of PHPs and requested EAPASA to withdraw their application to SAQA.

SAHRA's response to date has been foremostly to request to meet APHP regarding our Core Competencies, Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements, Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Policy as well as the overall Registration process. It should be noted that our Core Competencies, Constitution, RPL Policies and CPD requirements have already been put in place, before and during our lengthy association with EAPASA.

The APHP ExCo has at the time of writing formally requested a meeting with SAHRA to discuss the `roadmap and timeline` for the finalisation of the regulatory framework for the professionalisation of the Heritage sector. This meeting has not eventuated to date despite numerous letters and requests for the meeting to take place by the APHP Chairperson. SAHRA has confirmed in response that APHP will be consulted when it (SAHRA) is `ready to consult with key stakeholders`.

Members are reminded that it is not our intention to become the Registration Authority or Professional Body, due to its complexity and cost, but that the expertise present in APHP as a Voluntary Association would be invaluable in supporting SAHRA in establishing a Registration Authority and a Professional Body for Heritage Practitioners.

We are of the opinion that meaningful transformation of the Heritage Practitioner Discipline will take place through the professionalisation process, and it is the intention of the APHP ExCo to continue to pursue this process in the interest of the Membership.

Work on **transformation** has received interesting insight from Dorelle Sapere, who has brought new understanding to the portfolio. Dorelle reports as follows:

During the last year a number of engagements and conversations have contributed to the understanding of possible mechanisms towards transforming APHP. These include:
one on one discussions with "critics" of APHP,
the engagement on the topic of Heritage and Tourism with more than 100 key stakeholders and organisations in Gqeberha to map a way forward for increasing tourism and transforming the sector in Nelson Mandela Bay,
analysis of dialogues with Architectural Students at NMU,
understanding the Heritage and Museum Sector through attendance at a SAMA conference and
conversations within NMBM Local Government sector.

While within APHP the conversation of transformation is closely aligned to that of Professionalization, it is suggested that re-imagining Heritage Management, could extend to broader conversations that seek to transform the sector from a social, spatial and economic perspective. Making Heritage Work in terms of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals and National Development Plan provides opportunities for APHP to carve broadened roles for itself and in so doing to diversify and ensure inclusivity.

Transformation implies a change in institutional practice, how we are structured, how we diversify in terms of age, race, gender, qualifications, management of the sector. We seek transformation in order to be more sustainable and more effective or simply to diversify and do things differently. What is required is a paradigm shift, a radical revision.

The change could include both internal change and external focus. What is necessary is to seek new opportunities - a possible shift from heritage preservation and promotion to a role as activists, enablers and collaborators to attract many new members contributing to current debates about heritage, culture and memory. There is a distinct possibility of contributing to community building through education and giving form to the cultural landscape in South Africa while enabling innovation in areas such as cultural planning, scrum masters, digitalisation and broader accessibility to knowledge. There must be something new to attract new members – APHP must become relevant, bring issues to the table, collaborate and form partnerships across the Quadruple Helix.

The recommendation for the next step in the development of a Transformation Strategy is to host an online think tank with a wide range of stakeholders to explore possibilities for a re-invented APHP. Some proposed objectives emerging from the dialogues to date, point to the following as possibilities to be debated and expanded.

- Objective 1` Make Heritage Young;
- Objective 2 Establish partnerships within the Quadruple Helix, for transformation;
- Objective 3 Establish Digital networking and good practice information sharing, nationally and Internationally;
- Objective 4 Strengthen existing activities;
- Objective 5 Change mindset attitudes and image of Heritage;
- Objective 6 Build capacity and knowledge base and promote new roles within the Heritage sector.

It is believed that opening up membership to a far broader spectrum of heritage practitioners, trainers, activists, implementers and managers offering opportunities for growth, continuous development, networking, knowledge banks, mentors and international connection to like minded associations, would attract a new and diverse pool of members. APHP could become sustainable and ensure its effectiveness in an ever changing South African Heritage landscape.

The **membership** sub-committee has been run by Jonathan Stone who reports as follows:

The current Membership Committee consists of the following members:

Jonathan Stone (Chairperson)
Nicolas Baumann
Brendan Hart
Antonia Malan
Cindy Postlethway
Trevor Thorold
Bryan Wintermeyer

Membership Policy

The recent compilation of a *detailed* database of the present membership has allowed for the consideration of additional membership categories such as Fellow Membership and Honorary Membership. The APHP Exco will invite proposals from APHP members in this regard.

As before the Committee continues to acknowledge the need to balance membership diversity implicit in the multidisciplinary nature of working in the field of heritage. Those members / applicants who have indicated that they are intending to acquire or complete post-graduate qualifications are encouraged by the Membership Committee to do so.

Unfortunately, due to non-payment of annual subscriptions some memberships have had to be withdrawn but, upon consideration, may now fall into one of the newer categories proposed above.

Membership Application Process

As before, the membership application process consists of completion of a standard application form, provision of a CV and indication for which category of membership application is made. The application documents are circulated to all members of the Committee for consideration. Comments are submitted to the Chairperson and a consensus recommendation is made to the APHP Secretary who then communicates the outcome to the applicant. The process is intended to be streamlined and avoid delays.

Current APHP Membership

Presently the APHP has a total membership of 113, this includes:

Accredited Member / Professional Heritage Practitioner 82
Candidate Member 22
Associate Member 9

Membership categories are further defined in Section 3 of the APHP Rules for Accreditation, 2016. The detailed breakdown of disciplines and qualifications being assembled from previous records is nearing completion and will provide a useful tool.

On behalf of the APHP EXCO sincere thanks is again conveyed to the members of the committee for their diligence in expeditiously carrying out membership application evaluations.

The **events programme** of the APHP fell under the duties of the past Chair, Gavin McLachlan. Gavin's reports the following:

On the 25th October last year we staged the Virtual Symposium "Ethics And The Conflicted Nature Of Heritage Assessments". We were fortunate to have three excellent presenters, namely, Graham Jacobs from Clanwilliam in the Cape, Bruce Eitzen from the Cape Town Metro and Dr Simon Makuvasa from Bulawayo in Zimbabwe.

Graham Jacobs' presentation was titled "Reconciling international heritage principles with current projects in the former Soviet Republics." Dr Makuvasa's presentation was titled "Let Sleeping Dogs Lie: The Proposed French Development of Great Zimbabwe and the Challenges of Defining the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the World Heritage Site." Bruce Eitzen spoke on "Naked Heritage: A Perennial Conflict between Development Pressure, the Planning Environment and Landscape Heritage Value".

The Symposium was well attended by members of the APHP as well as a number of non-members from related professions. The Symposium was run through Zoom which was managed by Grace Martinson. Attendees were welcomed by William Martinson, and the Symposium was hosted by Johathan Stone who introduced the speakers and managed the lively discussion that followed.

Subsequent to the Symposium an APHP YouTube channel has been created and Bruce Eitzen's presentation is currently being processed for uploading. Dr Makuvasa did not grant permission for the uploading of his talk because of the nature of his research commitments. We await a new recording from Graham Jacobs with sufficient digital clarity for us to upload. Hopefully we will be able to upload Graham's presentation at some point in the future. The Symposium had minimal cost implications for the APHP and was a manageable undertaking.

The Committee is looking into hosting another virtual symposium later this year which will also be run from our Zoom platform. The Committee recognises that eventually a traditional face-to-face symposium will have to be held, but feels that in the current economic climate, the time is not right for such an undertaking.

The culmination of the professionalisation process is going to lead to an adjustment of the expectations of professionalism from Heritage Professionals. Dr Stephen Townsend has pointed

out in the 2023 AGM that a face to face congress is needed, where the implications of accredited professionalisation can be discussed by the profession both in formal presentations as well as in discussion. When this is achieved and budget allocated, this will be a priority.

David Gibbs continues to **liaise with National and Provincial heritage authorities** and reports:

Although the easing of COVID-19 lockdown restrictions has resulted in the return to work, many of the committee meetings of the heritage authorities have remained online via remote meeting platforms in the interests of minimizing costs. (This includes sessions of the Built Environment and Landscape Committee (BELCom) and Impact Assessment Committee (IACom) of Heritage Western Cape, amongst others, for which members of the public have been able to join electronically). APHP members have voiced concerns with respect to the discontinuation of in-person meetings, a sentiment which has been conveyed to the Heritage Authorities. In response, HWC has explored the intention for quarterly in-person meetings to facilitate better interpersonal engagement, depending on the availability of budget.

In response to Board Notice of 520 of 2023 (Published by the National Department of Sport, Art, and Culture on 5 January 2024) in which SAHRA gazetted a DRAFT NATIONAL THEMATIC FRAMEWORK FOR HERITAGE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (FOR COMMENT), HWC convened a workshop session to discuss matters relating to the draft, and to formulate a consolidated comment on the possible impacts on the management of heritage resources as a result of the implementation of the national framework.

This follows an initial call for comment on the first draft in September 2023 for which comment was submitted. The revised draft national framework outlines new themes and sub-themes which will be used to assign significance, grade, declare and ultimately manage cultural heritage resources in South Africa, and notes that underlying all themes and sub-themes are three historical connections to **people, place, and time**.

The workshop recognised that heritage themes, whether landscapes, sites, built form and practices are valued by multiple and diverse groups and communities, and to ensure that collective responsibility for the management and safeguarding of the significant attributes, meanings, and values of heritage resources is shared, it is important that all themes representing national heritage filter through to policies and guidelines at the provincial level. The workshop hosted by HWC was divided into two sessions: the first session, chaired by Mr Ron Martin, HWC Inventories, Grading, and Interpretation Committee (IGIC) and Ms Heidi Weldon, South African Heritage Resources Agency (Grading and Declaration specialist), and a guest speaker will share their views on the significance and importance of upgrading the thematic framework. During the second session participants engaged in focused group discussions regarding conceptual and practical approaches to heritage themes.

With respect to professionalization, APHP has initiated informal dialogue with SAHRA officials engaged with the process, who have confirmed that efforts are being undertaken by SAHRA to professionalize the heritage sector, however, this remains at a preliminary stage. SAHRA has also been approached by ICOMOS SA in this regard. SAHRA has confirmed that contributions from APHP as an established institution that has taken great strides toward professionalization over the years are welcomed, and that our efforts thus-far have not been in vain.

Finances have been the portfolio of the Chairman, William Martinson, and the Financial Report as well as the Annual Financial Statements will be presented as per Agenda item 6.

An **APHP Website and POPI Act compliance** request was circulated to all members to complete a Google Form and upload a short CV. Thank you to those who have done so, to date 65 responses of 113 members, have been received. Those who have not done so, can still access the link and fill in the form. The information is being used to create a more in depth understanding of our membership, and unless where stated, is not distributed.

In conclusion, I wish to thank my colleagues on the Executive Committee, Elwyn Harlech-Jones, Jonathan Stone, Dorelle Sapere, David Gibbs and Yasmin Mayat for their presence and support over the past year. Thanks also to Gavin McLachlan for his continued contribution and Richard Hill for the depth of knowledge he brings to the professionalisation process.

William Martinson
Chairman: APHP Executive Committee