



Southern African Online User Group Chair's Report: Dec 2011 – Nov 2012

SAOUG

COMMITTEE:

Chair	Madelein van Heerden
Honorary Treasurer	Chris Cromhout
Membership	Susan Scheepers
Membership Secretary	Rejaene van Dyk
Minutes Secretary	Devind Peter
Meetings Organiser	Petro van der Berg
Branch & Liaison Officer	Janet Zambri
Web and Blog	Pavlinka Kovatcheva
Co-opted Member	Siphethile Gcukumana
Co-opted Member	Janice de Wee
Eastern Cape Representative	Jean Thomas

MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS FOR 2012:

- **14 February 2012: Valentine's breakfast**
Change your words, change the world / Lawrie Golding
Venue: Dainfern Country Club, Dainfern, Fourways
- **5-8 June 2012: 11th SAOIM and Workshops**
Innovation in an age of limits
Venue: Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg
- **21 August 2012: Meeting**
Follow a librarian: social networking and the library / Prof Louis Fourie
Venue: Centurion Theatre, Centurion
- **15 November 2012: End of year function and voting AGM**
Personality matters: put your strengths to work! / Joni Peddie
Venue: Johannesburg Country Club, Auckland Park

ACTIVITIES:

The period under review was busy with much time spent on the organisation of our 11th biennial conference. This conference proved extremely successful and positive feedback was received on the quality of the programme, the keynote speakers as well as the workshops. For the first time ever, we had a social reporting team in place. This group of energetic volunteers used social media to create a narrative

report of the event which included commentary from delegates, a Twitter stream (#SAOIM) and blog posts with daily overviews. As in the past, this conference would not have been possible without our sponsors and exhibitors and their continued support is much valued.

Besides organising the abovementioned conference and meetings, the Executive Committee has, during the past year, focussed on the following:

- **Regional branches:** Jean Thomas continues to expertly manage the Eastern Cape branch. With the assistance of Pelisa Vanga and Madeleine Clare, two events were organised:
 - 18 May 2012 *Relevant research* / Delia Thompson
 - 12 October 2012 *Social media: a double-edged sword* / Prof Reinhardt Botha from the School of ICT at NMMU
- **Website:** The SAOUG website was redesigned and is now more reflective of the group. Member participation is encouraged through the newly established blog. The guidance and contributions of Elmi Bester and Pavlinka Kovatcheva are gratefully acknowledged.

NOTE OF THANKS:

This has been my final term of office as Chair and I would like to thank the members of the Executive Committee for their support, hard work and dedication. It has been a privilege working with this team. Special thanks go to our long serving committee member, Chris Cromhout, who after many years of expertly handling our finances, has decided not to stand for re-election. His expert guidance to the committee will be sorely missed. I also wish to thank Siphethile Gcukumana and Janet Zambri for their valued contributions. Both these committee members have resigned due to pressure of work.

I would like to express my appreciation for the efforts, on behalf of their organisations, of Adele van der Merwe (SLIS) and Fanus Olivier (OSALL) with regard to arrangements for the 2012 SAOIM.

Finally, I would like to thank all members for their participation in the Group's activities and contributions to the organisation.

Madelein van Heerden
Chair: SAOUG
14 November 2012