

ASSOCIATION NEWS AND BLUES

Peter Dacomb reports from the capital:

The South African Association of Consulting Professional Planners, with its acronym "**SAACPP**", dangerously close to being recognised as a political grouping of activists on the fringe of the mainstream political circus being dished up in Parliament, is ever growing in stature and numbers.

The **SAACPP** recently welcomed to its ranks the following firms, companies and practices as new members:

- **Tony Walker TRP (Pty) Ltd, Centurion**
- **Work in Development CC: WID, Greenside, Johannesburg**
- **Southern African Development Consultants and Planners: SADC (Pty) Ltd, Westville**
- **Planworks Town Planners, Mafikeng**
- **U-Space (Pty) Ltd, Linden, Johannesburg**

It appears that old planners never die, they merely feign retirement and resurface as active specialist consultants in a different guise. A case in point is the old stalwart, **Nico Kriek**: he of the prior **APS Plan Africa** which somehow fused into **Gibb (Pty) Ltd** (yes - the multidisciplinary engineering giant), later to emerge in the sparkling fresh attire of **U-Space (Pty) Ltd**. Here's wishing **Nico** a prosperous semi-retired round 3.

Tony Walker recently pretended to retire from a long and distinguished career in the service of the City of Tshwane. It has long been rumoured that Tony secretly suffers from "town-planning-scheme-titis", an incurable urge to interpret the impossible, zone the unconscionable and present it all on a colourful map to the chagrin of other lesser mortals. Here's hoping that Tony enjoys his second round – albeit on a different side of the mud-puddle.

Consulting planners, being the lateral thinkers they purport to be, often with somewhat overinflated senses of creativity, have started mimicking the trend of allied professions such as the architects and consulting engineers to adopt acronyms or abbreviations as their insignia or firm identities. Here are a few of the more quirky points to ponder:

- ❖ **FSP**
- ❖ **HEPD**
- ❖ **SynchroniCity**
- ❖ **VeloCity**
- ❖ **Planning Matters**
- ❖ **LTE**
- ❖ **PMI**
- ❖ **WID**
- ❖ **SADC**
- ❖ **EJK**
- ❖ **EPM**
- ❖ **EVS**
- ❖ **PVB**
- ❖ **SJJ**
- ❖ **SMG**
- ❖ **MOK**

Little wonder that many pop bands are turning green with envy.

Whatever happened to the more regal sounding examples of "Smith Rutledge and McCullum" or the veritable tongue twisters such as "Haacke Shere and Aab", "Rohrs Nichol De Swardt and Dyus", "Manfred, Hermer, Grosskopff and Lombart" and "Viljoen, Van Zyl and Graae"? Guess they ran out of paper.

Alliteration used to play an important role in choosing partners to participate in former firms. For example, "Vorster, Van Niekerk, Venter, Viljoen, en Vennote" (later to be marginalised to "V5").

In conclusion, against the background of the **SPLUMA Splash** and the impasse surrounding its long awaited enactment, the first passages of the Charles Dickens novel of 1858, aptly named "A Tale of Two Cities" may equally be relevant under present day circumstances:

"It was the best of times, ..., It was the worst of times, ..., It was the age of wisdom, ..., It was the age of foolishness, ..., It was the epoch of belief, ..., It was the epoch of incredulity, ..., It was the season of Light, ..., It was the season of Darkness, ..., It was the spring of hope, ..., It was the winter of despair, ..."

Here's hoping that the ups and downs of the planning world won't last beyond 2014!

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