

# Message from the NACA President



I would like to start this message by thanking all of those people who have helped make 2014 an interesting and successful year for the National Association for Clean Air (NACA). Firstly, I would like to thank the outgoing NACA president, Dr Kristy Langermann, for all her hard work and dedication to the organisation. I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the KZN Branch committee for all the effort and organisation that went into hosting the NACA conference. Finally, I would like to welcome Dr Caradee Wright who has been elected to the position of Vice President, the two new national committee members (Mr Benton Pillay and Mr Napo Ntsasa), and the newly elected committees for the Northern Branch, the Western Cape Branch and the North-West Branch. I look forward to a successful working relationship over the next two years.

The survey that was conducted last year showed that NACA members wanted information on new legislation and further training opportunities in relation to air quality management. During the course of the year, various branch and national activities have sought to address these requirements. The Northern Branch held a breakfast seminar where Ms Elizabeth Masekoameng from the National Department of Environmental Affairs presented and held a discussion on new and upcoming air quality legislation. The Mpumalanga Branch held a mini seminar with presentations from the Department of Environmental Affairs, McRobert Attorneys, EcoMetrix, C and M Consulting Engineers, Levago and Frazer Alexander, covering many aspects of air quality management in terms of legislation, reporting and monitoring. Similarly, the Western Cape branch held a seminar on the Atmospheric Emission Licensing (AEL) processes.

In addition to the branch seminars, NACA held the following courses;

- Air quality management,
- An introduction to AerMod and CalPuff, and
- Advance dispersion modelling which was taught my Jesse Thé of Lakes Environment.

These courses were well attended and we received positive feedback from attendees. NACA has also entered into an agreement with the Department of Environmental Affairs to offer training to local authorities on ambient air quality monitoring.

The annual Air Quality week, including the Air Quality Lekgotla (for regulators) and the NACA conference, was held in Umhlanga from 6-10 October 2014. The theme of this year's conference was "Unlocking Clean Air Opportunities". The conference attracted approximately 50 peer reviewed presentations and posters, and over 180 delegates. I would like to congratulate Dr Patricia Forbes from the University of Pretoria who won the award for the best presentation, titled "Air Dispersion Modelling: A South African Pesticide Validation Case Study". The prize for the best student presentation was awarded to Tafadzwa Makonese for his paper titled "Aerosol Particle Morphology of Residential Coal Combustion Smoke".

This is the second edition of the Clean Air Journal to be published in 2014 and the third under new editorship. Since the Clean Air Journal has been available online, we have had more than 5000 downloads of each of the last two editions. Dr Wright and her team at the CSIR have digitised the Clean Air Journal archive dating back to 1971 (71 editions), providing a remarkable record of the state of air quality management in South Africa. I would encourage you to peruse the archive as it is a great source of information about the progression of air quality research and management in South Africa over the last 43 years.

**Dr Gregor Feig**

NACA President