

## THE NEW YEAR

We ended 2016 with an excellent and well attended Xmas function and things are already underway for 2017. In this month's newsletter we outline our planned events for the first part of the year and work we are doing with other Business Chambers.

We also welcome the most recent new members and talk about the Mining Indaba.

## AUSTRALIA DAY

A number of our members attended the **Australian Day** moon-light cinema event at the High Commissioner's house on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January which was a great success despite some heavy rain at times. Early in the evening, one of our members **Cotton On** – the clothing retailer, announced that are committing R100 million to education across South Africa which of course is a fantastic gesture. Well done to Cotton On!

## BUSINESS BREAKFASTS

After a very successful Business Breakfast at Macquarie near the end of the last year, we are continuing with this format. Our next event will be with **Herman Mashaba**, the Mayor of Johannesburg as the guest speaker. That is planned for early March and invites will be going out in due course.

In May **Nedbank** will be sponsoring another Business Breakfast at their offices in Sandton with a speaker from the Bank who will be giving the latest economic forecast on the local economy.

## A BIT MORE SOCIAL . . .

The end of March is set aside for a **wine tasting** event, including some foreign labels. In addition to these events, we are starting a more casual **networking drinks session**. This will be very informal and after-work at various venues to meet, chat and relax a bit. The first session will be on **Thursday 23 February - 5:30 pm** at the Maslow Hotel in Sandton and the drinks will be sponsored by Austrade to kick this off. See our page [www.abcsafrica.org/events](http://www.abcsafrica.org/events) for more information on all these events.

## EVENT SPONSORSHIP

We offer a variety of event sponsorship opportunities to showcase your company's services and strengthen your corporate brand in the ABCSA business community. Sponsorship packages are available at various price points and can be fully tailored to suit your organisation's needs and requirements. If you have a specific idea about sponsorship and brand exposure or would like to do something out of the ordinary, please contact [alison@abcsafrica.org](mailto:alison@abcsafrica.org)

## COLLABORATION WITH OTHER CHAMBERS

We have also been making contact with other Business Chambers in order to widen our net-working capabilities and join forces where appropriate. So far we have been in contact with the **British, German, American and Irish** Chambers. As this progresses will provide further relevant details. We are also planning on extending invites to members of other chambers to some of our events and we should be receiving invitations from them.

## OPEN TENDER PROCESS

Following on from the letter we sent out last year on the Gauteng Provincial Government Open-Tender Process, a recent article appeared in the Business Day with a further update on this from the Mayor of Johannesburg, Herman Mashaba. From February this year, the public will be able to attend the tender adjudication proceedings, as outlined in the link below;

[www.businesslive.co.za/bd/national/2017-01-27-herman-mashaba-says-the-public-may-attend-tender-adjudication-hearings/](http://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/national/2017-01-27-herman-mashaba-says-the-public-may-attend-tender-adjudication-hearings/)

Overall this is a very positive initiative that is aimed at ending corruption and making it more viable for all companies to bid for government work on an equal basis.

## NEW MEMBERS



We would formally like to welcome new members who joined the Chamber in the last quarter of 2016.

- Catherine Mauvais from ITC Global
- DRA
- Worley Parsons-Advisian
- Flight Centre
- Chris Hamilton from Bankserv Africa
- Ensign Solutions

We look forward to actively participating with these new members and anticipate them playing an active role in the Chamber going forward.



## THE 2017 MINING INDABA

In conjunction with **Austrade**, The Chamber will be participating in the 2017 **Investing in Africa Mining Indaba** in Cape Town from 6 to 9 February. This is an annual event attended by mining industry players from across the world showcasing products and investment opportunities. After first starting in 1995, the Mining Indaba has grown into a premier event in the global mining calendar. Twenty seven African Nations will be represented at the Indaba.

It is also worth noting that a Round-table will take place regarding financing projects and

infrastructure with **Chinese SOEs** and China's resources strategy over the next 10 years. A number of our member companies are taking part in the Indaba – **Orica**, **ITC Global** and **Macquarie** are sponsors of the Austrade Lounge while **Thiess** and **Flight Centre** are participants in the Lounge. **South 32** who are a Platinum Sponsor will also be sponsoring a Woman in Mining lunch in conjunction with Austrade. Initial indications are that a more optimistic tone is in the air compared to 2016. ABCSA members that are attending the Indaba are also be invited to the two net-working cocktail evening functions being hosted by Austrade.



## WELCOME TO AUSTRADE'S NEW SENIOR TRADE COMMISSIONER

We'd like to officially welcome Kym Fullgrabe, Senior Trade Commissioner for Austrade Sub-Saharan Africa who arrived in Johannesburg later last year. Kym leads Austrade offices in **Johannesburg, Accra, Nairobi and Port Louis**, covering the promotion of trade, investment and education activities in Sub Saharan Africa. Prior to this position, Kym was Senior Trade Commissioner and Consul General based in Sao Paulo. Kym is also on the ABCSA committee.



## PREVIOUS EVENTS

Thank you to everyone who came to our **Christmas Drinks** at Fine Living and to our sponsors **Sun International**, and **Qantas** for donating some amazing early Christmas gifts for some of our members.

One lucky member walked away with a weekend for two at the Palace of the Lost City. **Michael Page (recruitment)** and **Gridbow Engineering** also sponsored drinks on the evening,

*The Christmas function . . . .*



Thank you to the economist, Dr. Elna Moolman, from **Macquarie** for the in-depth economic outlook presentation at our last Business Breakfast. Members who attended this event requested a regular update on the economic forecast which we are planning into our event calendar.

*The Macquarie Business Breakfast . . . .*



We will pass on information on events lined up for later in the year as we progress with those details. We are looking forward to a full year of events and we urge you all to attend where possible and get the most out of the activities on the calendar.

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