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Week ending 2 August 2019

# Welcome to **ELPA NEWS**

We bring you the latest news and updates on events in the  
Earthing & Lightning Protection Industry.



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# Why join ELPA?

The Earthing and Lightning Protection Association (ELPA) has been formed to bring the industry together, to protect the consumer and to establish a uniform interpretation of the codes of practice by aligning the codes of practice in regulations, standards and legislation to effective protection of lives and property. To ensure that the industry has a recognisable framework within which to operate.

## We do...

- ✓ Form an important addition to the safety standard in the South African Lightning Protection Industry.
- ✓ Offer certification of qualified designers, installers and inspectors.
- ✓ Support tertiary education through coordination to develop training apprenticeship at all levels.
- ✓ Support Architects, Structural, Consulting and Electrical Engineers through their representative bodies.

[JOIN US](#)





# Our Services



## CERTIFICATION

- To Installers, Designers and Inspectors
- For SETA/SAQA/QCTO registration
- For Installations with ISR and Maintenance Report of SANS 10142



## RECORD KEEPING

- All ELPA Member exams
- Free Industrial Safety Review formats for Installers and Designers
- Industrial Safety Reviews
  - Drawings



## MEMBERSHIP

- Five levels of Membership
- Reduced Training Fees
- Reduced Training Manual fees
- Weekly Newsletter
- Reduced Advertising rates



## EVENTS

- ELPA/AREP seminar  
Cape Town - 14 Aug 2019  
JHB - 20 Aug 2019
- Nigeria Lightning Seminar  
Date TBC

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## LETTER FROM NATIONAL DIRECTOR

A fantastic 1st meeting of the newly elected and appointed Board of Directors of ELPA took place this week on Tuesday and Wednesday.

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## FEEDBACK ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The 2019 Board of Directors meeting took place at the German Country Club in Paulshof this week.

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## WOMAN DIES AFTER BEING STRUCK BY LIGHTNING WHILE HIKING IN SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS

A woman who died after being struck by lightning while walking on a mountain range in the Scottish Highlands has been named as Isobel Bytautas.

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## LIGHTNING STRIKES 1000 TIMES IN AN HOUR IN EASTBOURNE

A prolific thunderstorm in Eastbourne last night saw lightning strike around 1000 times in one hour.

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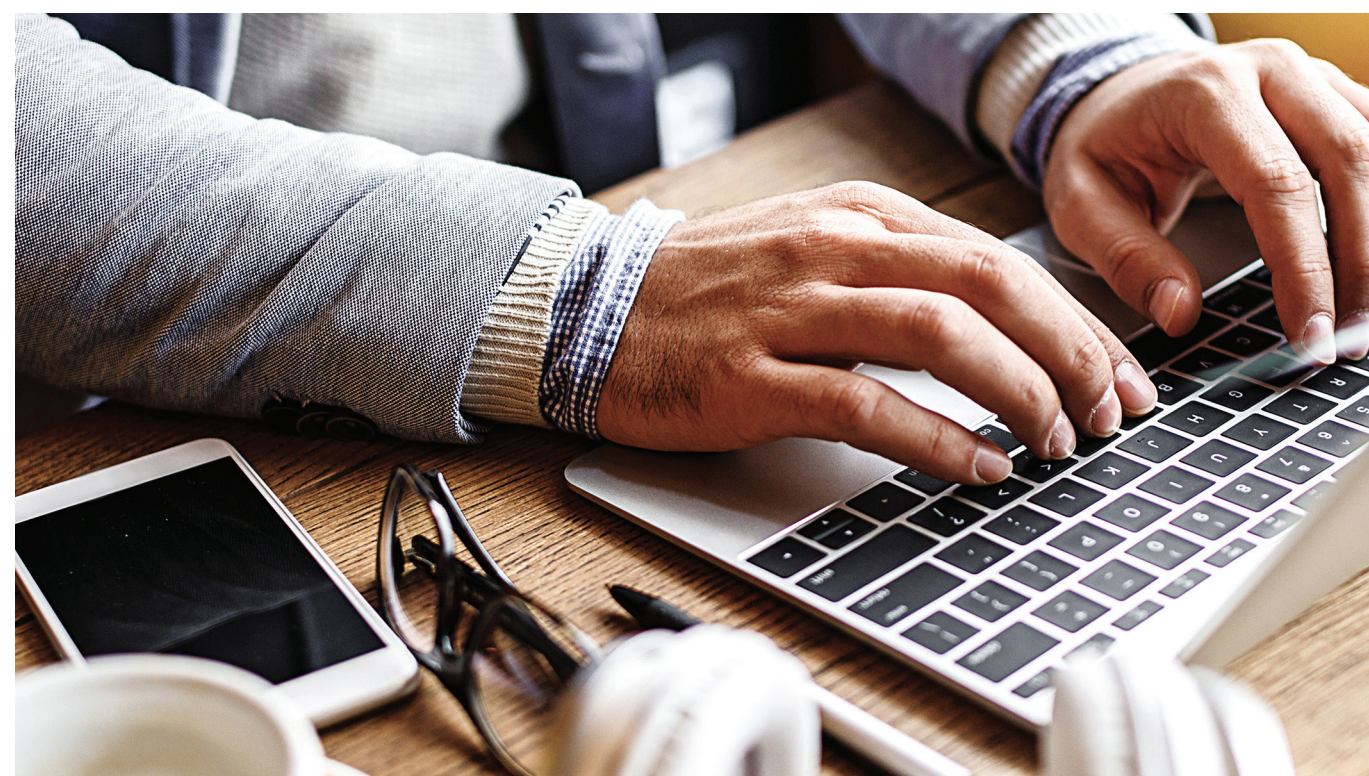
# Upcoming Events



**20**  
**AUG** Earthing & Lightning Seminar - JHB

This Earthing & Lightning Seminar is aimed at informing stakeholders, system designers, contractors, consultants and other interested parties on the topic of Earthing, Lightning and Surge Protection for Solar PV Plants. Don't miss this brilliant opportunity to learn something from our experts.

**BOOK NOW**



**22**  
**AUG** SAIEE Technical Talks - Lightning

Join the SAIEE in their first SAIEE Technical Talks (ST-Talks) at the head office in Johannesburg.

A unique networking event 15 minute talks from the authors of the feature articles in the wattnow magazine. Book your seat now!

**BOOK NOW**



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This Earthing & Lightning Seminar is aimed at informing stakeholders, system designers, contractors, consultants and other interested parties on the topic of Earthing, Lightning and Surge Protection for Solar PV Plants.





# FROM THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Good day ELPA Member companies,

A fantastic 1st meeting of the newly elected and appointed Board of Directors of ELPA took place this week on Tuesday and Wednesday. Over the next few weeks, we will share critical decisions that have been made and mandates established.

It is with humble appreciation that I thank the ELPA Board of Directors: Hano Oelofse, Tertius Oelofse, Helmut Kanwischer; Israel Melodi, Rhyno van der Westhuizen, Graeme Smart, Mike Visser and Gerhard Human for their time invested in the matters of ELPA.

Many urgent matters need attention. Most importantly is the certification of individuals, accreditation of training centres, caring for our existing certified installers and designers, growing our certified base of designers and creating the certification program for inspectors.

With the chairmanship of Matthew Shuttleworth and under the guidance of Nick du Plessis, the certification and inspection task force will treat these matters urgently:

- Installers – establish multiple levels of installer;
- Designers – disseminate the existing complex designer exam assignments into categories of designer levels – examples: thatch roof structure designs, multi-story structures, and hazardous materials sites. Thus allowing for proportioned certification according to designer application requirements;
- Inspectors – A vital role in the future strategies of our industry and must establish both independence and objective clarity to regulations and asserting right from wrong. No work has been done to create an inspector program yet, so this will be a challenging start but equally urgent.

Also vitally urgent is membership registrations. ELPA stands by the certified installer and designer, and as such, the certified person must be a member of ELPA which commits that accredited person to the ELPA code of ethics. If your company is ELPA registered, your individual membership is FREE, no matter how many certified installers, designers or inspectors there are in the company. If not, you will need to register with ELPA as an individual and the annual fee is equivalent to that of a Class III member company.

So please encourage your company to join ELPA immediately. In addition to certified staff, all staff active in the industry can register with ELPA to formulate a support infrastructure for skills development. This is to ensure we have training capacity in the country to service every member company in full, in the province of residence.

Finally, we as ELPA have never declared the framework of the certification renewals in writing directly to each certified person. The validation of the Certificate is one year, annually renewable.

To rectify this, the Board of Directors have agreed to extend renewal dates for all certification for installers and designers who qualified before August 2018, to end August 2019. That is if you wrote your exams in August 2017, your certification was up for renewal and due on 1 August 2018. You will receive a status update of your certification in the next few weeks, together with the details of what is required to renew your certification before 1 September 2019.

A reduced fee will be charged, and no examination is required. Due to compromised security, you must be issued with a new certification number replacing the old INS# and DES# numbers. This also means you will be issued with a new ID card and Certificate for which we will need to confirm the delivery address.



## Richard Evert

If you do not renew by the deadline date, end August 2019, your certification will lapse, and you will be required to redo your exams. Please note that the new examination process will be more stringent. We are adding both practical exams and field application reviews to the theoretical examinations to comply with SETA/SAQA/QCTO competency requirements.

So do not allow these to lapse if you intend continuing in the lightning protection industry this year.

This is my message in a nutshell - I will keep you updated weekly on what we are achieving in making a difference in our industry.

Have a good week.

Richard 

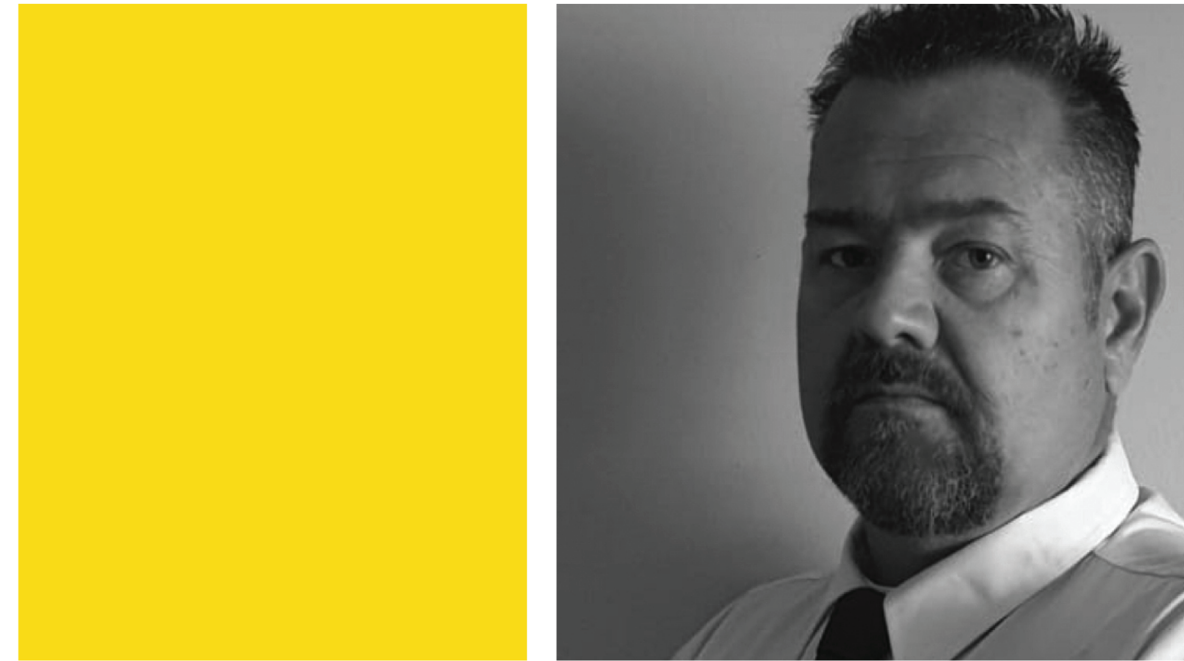
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In alphabetical order by surname...

# OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

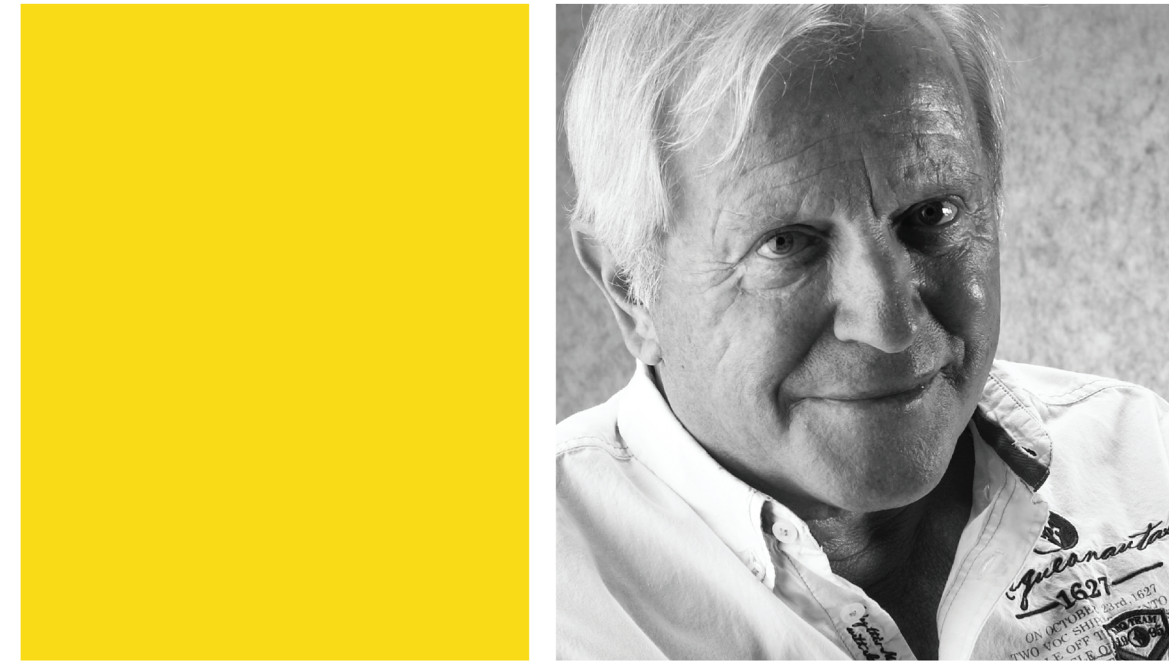


## Gerhard Human

Gerhard hails from Limpopo Lightning and Earthing and has been actively involved in the industry for the last 14 years installing, maintaining and designing lightning protection systems on thatched roofs in the Waterberg district.

He joined the SANS 10313 working group to make a difference in the trade, voicing matters that need urgent consideration. He has a good understanding of all SANS codes and specifications about LPS systems on thatched houses.

In 1989, he started working for Telkom and part of his duties included the building and maintenance of all outdoor cable routes. He left after 16 years to open his own business to focus on lightning



## Helmut Kanwischer

HHK was established in 1976 by Helmut Hermann Kanwischer (HHK).

Helmut emigrated in the late 1960s to South Africa and saw the potential in South Africa as having one of the highest ground flash density of lightning discharges in the world. From humble beginnings of having a simple secretarial service and garage, he developed his business plan. Through his vision, innovative thinking, unrelenting determination and will-power, Helmut forged the Company into what it has become today.

HHK is the biggest lightning protection and earthing contracting Company in the Southern Africa region, which has never changed hands, Company name or logo, etc. for the last 40+ years.



## Israel Melodi

Israel is the Managing Director and owner of ELS Earthing and Lightning Solutions. His installation career started in 1996. In his 23 years of installation experience in the lightning protection industry, Israel has acquired comprehensive knowledge and expertise in installation, reading and analyses of drawings and site management.

Israel has worked in many significant projects across South Africa and other African countries such as Mozambique, Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Ghana and Rwanda.

He has worked for various companies including HHK, Dynamic Instrument, ENL Electrical and Pontins, where he worked as contracts manager before resigning in 2017 to start his own business.

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# OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Hano Oelofse**

Hano is the Managing Director at DEHN AFRICA. He joined DEHN AFRICA back in 2013 when the subsidiary was opened in South Africa with the focus to bring technical expertise into the African market.

Hano's career boasts of international experience gained globally. This has helped him gain insight into different methodologies, standards and engineering practices across all industry sectors. He serves as an active member on several national committees and working groups and holds a bachelors degree in electrical engineering. Throughout his career, he has gained an in-depth knowledge as an electrical design engineer, systems engineer in the world of EPCM contracts/fields across several different industries.



**Tertius Oelofse**

Tertius, Branch Manager of Rolling Sphere Lightning Protection, is involved in various areas of the construction industry since 2009. He obtained a vast amount of experience in the electrical, civil engineering, mining and building sectors.

He started from ground level and worked himself up in different areas. This enabled him to understand challenges and act quickly to prevent and resolve issues that may occur in the engineering sector. He's involved in the lightning protection industry for the past five years. He is passionate about designing lightning protection systems and managing the installations thereof. He is acutely aware of the standards and procedures and is a member of the SANS 10313 working group for thatch roofing.



**Graeme Smart**

Graeme joined the O-line Industrial project team in 1997 responsible for the supply of cable management and structural support systems to projects, both locally and abroad. His profound technical knowledge of the product and expertise in Programme and Project Management provided a successful combination of his well-established sales and marketing background.

In 2007 O-line Holdings Limited was restructured, and Graeme was appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Group. He listed the Group on the JSE whereby the company undertook a vertical acquisition and acquired Armco (Pty). The German company, OBO Bettermann Gmbh has since acquired the Group, and Graeme holds the position of CEO of OBO Bettermann Holdings Africa Ltd.

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# OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Rhyno van der Westhuizen**

Rhyno, CEO of Universal Lightning Protection & Earthing Services, established in 1976, leads a team of 60 and provide turnkey solutions in the Lightning Protection Industry.

A big believer in ELPA, Rhyno supports the fundamentals of this organization and emphasizes the need for good governance in the market.

Rhyno is no stranger to the Lightning Protection industry having spent the last five years managing Turnkey Projects in all sectors of Lightning Protection in South Africa as well as Africa. He has more than ten year's experience in the Engineering industry. Before joining ULPS in 2014, Rhyno worked for five years for a diverse range of organizations.



**Mike Visser**

In 1990, Mike started Power Quality with his wife Elva, initially importing next-generation surge protection from the USA. Innovative Technology developed a training program to educate clients on the changing nature of the usage of electricity with the widespread adoption of electronics and its implications for damage from surges, along with their very durable solution. After learning that earthing was fundamental in the power quality problem and solution equation, Mike and Jan Jordaan (his procurement manager) gathered members of the industry and started what was then the SA Institute of LP Installers, which later became ELPA.

Mike continues to educate and upgrade clients towards obtaining industry-standard recognition of their skills and skillsets.



**FEEDBACK ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
30 - 31 JULY 2019**

The German Country Club, situated in Paulshof Rivonia, played host to ELPA's first Board of Director's meeting recently. A big thank you goes out to Mr Helmut Kanwischer, who is Chairman of the Club, for the sponsoring of the venue, and to Graeme Smart for footing our lunch bill on both days.

The meeting was intense as we had to work through financials for the past two years and make serious decisions. We had laughs, and we had debates, but all went well.

We have an action plan for all parts of ELPA including building membership base. We are currently looking at the Membership benefits, and one coming out of this meeting was that the ELPA pdf copies of the installers and designers handbooks will be available on sale at the reduced price of R250 to ELPA registered members until the new ELPA handbooks are published.

Office bearer appointments are Mike Visser as Company Secretary (with assistance from Graeme Smart) and Helmut Kanwischer as Treasurer.

The Board resolved that the position of "Chairman of the Board" was redundant in the new business model and has been removed.

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