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# 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

- Board of Directors meeting  
30 July - 1 Aug 2019
- ELPA/AREP seminar  
Cape Town - 14 Aug 2019  
JHB - 20 Aug 2019
- Nigeria Lightning Seminar  
Date TBC

# NEWS



1

## **LETTER FROM NATIONAL DIRECTOR**

BALLITO - Richard Evert shares with you his views and events taking place since he took over the role of National Director.

[Read more](#)

2

## **INTRODUCING THE ELPA BOARD OF DIRECTOR**

We are proud to announce our new Board of Directors - with our first meeting taking place on 30 & 31 July 2019. [Read more](#)

3

## **TERRIFYING VIDEO CAPTURES A LIGHTNING BOLT STRIKING A BOAT IN THE US**

A video shows lightning striking the mast of a sailboat named Perseverance in Boston on recently. [Read more](#)

4

## **DOWNTOWN IDAHO FALLS BUILDING STRUCK BY LIGHTNING**

IDAHO FALLS — The ARTitorium on Broadway building in downtown Idaho Falls was struck by lightning Saturday evening, according to multiple witnesses. [Read more](#)



# Upcoming Events



**30**

**JUL**

**ELPA Board of Directors Meeting**

This 2 day meeting will be the first sitting of the new Board of Directors. We have an extensive agenda to work through and will announce to members the election of our Executive Committee, Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer after voting. The Board of Directors are:

[READ MORE](#)



**14**

**AUG**

**Earthing & Lightning Seminar - CT**

AREP (Association for Renewable Energy Practitioners) and ELPA (Earthing Lightning Protection Association) will be hosting two, 1-day seminars covering Earthing, Lightning and Surge Protection for Solar PV systems.

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**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.



# FROM THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Good day ELPA Member companies,

A lot has happened since June 2017 and even more has transpired in the last 6 years with the inspiration of people wanting to get more out of the industry by getting more involved. I reviewed minutes of a meeting of the founders of ELPA in 2015, more than two years before the official launch of ELPA at Wits University in June 2017.

In the minutes of the meeting on 8th May 2015 at the ECB offices in Pretoria, section 3 (Proposals) item 3.3 read: *"The name "Earthing and Lightning Protection Association", for the association was proposed."*

The concept of an 'Association' was preferred allowing for a voluntary membership, and "is less prescriptive and will bring unification of the codes of practice".

With the launch of ELPA in June 2017, the razzmatazz went hand-in-hand with weekly and monthly behind-the-scenes meetings trying to set up a foundation to launch ELPA.

Turning the vision into reality has been a tough job requiring perseverance, overcoming many obstacles not anticipated. Not least of which is the human dynamic that makes us all very different and yet very much alike. Often in a voluntary organisation, the resources available are the most passionate and their talents may not be ideal for the job at hand. But such is the nature of our passion as human beings

that we will endeavour to move heaven and earth to achieve goals that we believe in. Often over-extending ourselves in the process and applying "square pegs in round holes" resulting in non-ideal marriages of relationship.

And it is here where we find ourselves in July 2019.

Since taking over as National Director of ELPA in June 2018, I have made it my mission to activate the technical media in our country to carry our message to the masses.

People do not need to die when lightning occurs, and properties do not need to get damaged when due diligence is applied. The only way to know if we are competent in our industry is when lightning occurs.

South Africa has more than its fair share of lightning, and South Africans cannot rest on their laurels. In an interview with Sparks Electrical News in September 2018, I was asked: "What challenges is the lightning protection industry currently facing?" "Ignorance is our enemy and arrogance its ally".

So to that end, I want to welcome you as a reader to our new ELPA newsletter, which will be circulated to members weekly.

I am very excited to be able to announce this new venture to increase awareness in the industry, amongst property owners and developers, insurance, the mining industry, municipalities, factories, architects,



**Richard Evert**

consulting engineers, scholars, young adults, parents, leaders and governance bodies.

Two points:

1. I urge you, our valued member, to circulate the ELPA News to those you deem benefiting by our news.
2. Please feel free to send any news stories you want to see featured in the newsletter to us.
3. To join our newsletter or send us news email us on [info@elpasa.org.za](mailto:info@elpasa.org.za).

Herewith our very first ELPA NEWS - happy reading! 

**GO BACK**



In alphabetical order by surname...

# OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

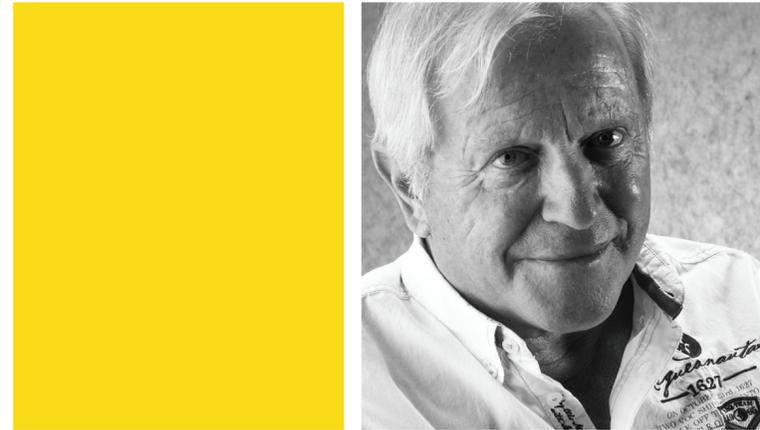


## Gerhard Human

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.

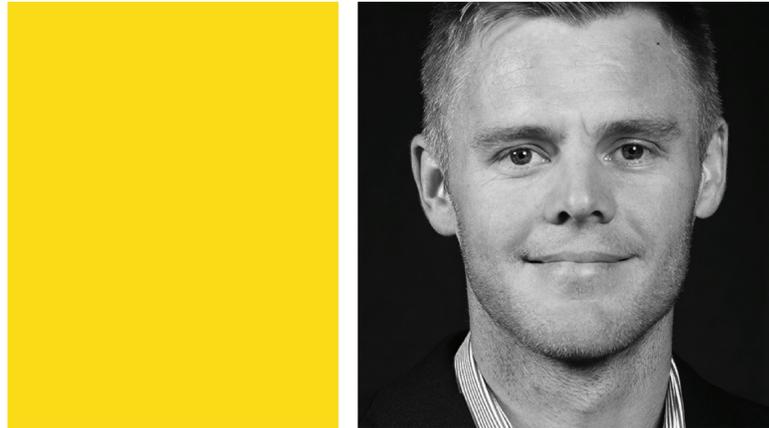
He has worked for various companies including HHK, Dynamic Instrument, ENL Electrical and Pontins, where he worked as contracts manager before resigning in 2017 to start his own business.

[READ MORE](#)



# OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In alphabetical order by surname...



## Hano Oelofse

Hano is the Managing Director at DEHN AFRICA. Oelofse 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 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 Gmbl has since acquired the Group, and Graeme holds the position of CEO of OBO Bettermann Holdings Africa Ltd.

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In alphabetical order by surname...

# 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.

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