

## BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT

The South African Society of Dairy Technology (SASDT) held its Biennial General Meeting (BGM) on 29 August 2025 via Teams.

The committee extends its sincere thanks to all attendees for their participation.

### PRESIDENTIAL REPORT

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**Christine Leighton**  
**President: National SASDT (2021–2025)**

As I conclude my term as president of the SASDT, I reflect with pride on the milestones we have achieved together. The annual symposiums were a highlight – transformed into themed, world-class events that offer delegates a cohesive and meaningful experience. These gatherings have addressed critical issues such as sustainability, innovation, nutrition, and product development, strengthening the SASDT's reputation locally and globally through our engagement with the International Dairy Federation.

The Covid-19 pandemic challenged us, but it also spurred renewal. Guided by member feedback, we modernised the society with a refreshed identity and logo, a renewed mission and vision, streamlined governance under a national committee, and centralised financial management. These changes have created a stronger, more agile platform for growth.

Through webinars, student evenings, and regional events, the SASDT has remained vibrant and future focussed, ensuring that members and young professionals stay engaged.

As I hand over the presidency to Rian Marren, I remain committed to supporting the SASDT's work. My heartfelt thanks go to the committee, members, and industry partners for their collaboration and dedication. With this strong foundation, the SASDT is well positioned to continue sharing knowledge, fostering innovation, and promoting dairy in sustainable food systems.



## NEW MANAGEMENT OF THE **SASDT COMMITTEE**

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Rian Marren was appointed as the new president and Colin Ohlhoff as the vice-president. Natalie Harmse was welcomed as a new member to the committee.

<b>President</b>	Rian Marren
<b>Vice-president</b>	Colin Ohlhoff
<b>Treasurer</b>	Stephan Steyn
<b>Secretary</b>	Christine Leighton
<b>Communication and administrative assistant</b>	Jeandré Johnston
<b>Membership administration</b>	Charle Warneke
<b>MEMBERS</b>	
<b>Gauteng</b>	Adri Venter
	Wayne Witthoft
	Chané Pretorius
	Janice Harmse
	Suzaan Kruger
<b>Western Cape</b>	Natalie Harmse
	Jodie Treu
	Breyton Milford
<b>KwaZulu-Natal</b>	Lauren Longo

## MEMBERSHIP

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- From 2024 to 2025 the SASDT's membership has increased by 48.
- In 2026, the membership fee will increase from R600 to R650.

	2024	2025
Total members	141	189
Professional	127	168
Honorary	8	9
Students	6	12

## FINANCIAL MATTERS

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The financial statements for the 2023–2024 fiscal year were tabled and duly approved by the national committee on 10 June 2025. The committee further resolved to retain the services of Kapish Financial Services and Griesel Nel for the external audit and preparation of the financial statements. The approved financial statements are available upon request at [info@sasdt.org.za](mailto:info@sasdt.org.za)

## AWARDS

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### Society awards

2023: Rina Belcher.

2023: Kobus Mulder.

2024: Will be handed over at the year-end function in 2025.

### Student awards: Best graduate student in Animal Science or Food Science

2023:

Jacobus M Behrens (University of the Free State).

Shahiëda Cloete (University of the Free State).

Lesedi Jessicah (University of Pretoria).

2024:

Chloe Morrison (University of Pretoria)

Philippus JL Kotze, Animal Science (University of the Free State)

## SOCIETY EVENTS AND SYMPOSIUMS FROM 2023–2025

2023	
17–18 April	Symposium: “The next decade: Opportunities and challenges in the dairy industry”.
19 July	Webinar: Lactoperoxidase, Bienca.
20 July	Western Cape: David Faulker, Intel food and drink associates.
17 August	Gauteng: Student evening, University of Pretoria.
29 August	SAAFOST congress: Parallel session: Prof Blaauw, Enrike Maree, Andre Adendorf, Prof Elna Buys.
28 September	Western Cape: Prof Blaauw, Stellenbosch University.
November/December	Year-end functions in Western Cape and Gauteng.
2024	
16 May	Symposium: “Dairy’s Boundless Potential: Advancing Science and Technology through the International Dairy Federation”.
24 July	Western Cape: Dr Nick Smith, Dairy in sustainable diets.
13 August	Gauteng: Student evening, University of Pretoria.
31 August	KwaZulu-Natal: Exhibited at the Milk Producers’ Organisation Dairy Fest.
26 September	Western Cape: Dr Mark Chimes, Foot-and-mouth disease.
November/December	Year-end functions in Western Cape and Gauteng.
2025	
27 February	Western Cape: Mike La Grange, Efficiency in your NPD/Innovation Programme.
13–14 May	Symposium: “More for less: Enhancing value and efficiency in dairy”.
27 August	SAAFOST congress: Prof Jay Stock, Dr Josphat Gichure, Carsten Orzol, Nomsa Leatswe.
4 September	Gauteng: Student evening, University of Pretoria.
25 September	Western Cape members evening.
November/December	Year-end functions in Western Cape and Gauteng.