An old African proverb says: Return to old watering holes for more than water – friends and dreams are there to meet you!

Joggie Hattingh, President: SAAHIP

Can you believe that the “Call for abstracts” for SAAHIP Conference 2017 is out once again? How time flies!

Many of us must consider whether to attend again, or do we give it a pass this time? It is not for me to decide for anyone else what they should or should not do, but I can certainly give you a couple of pointers.

For the past 30-odd years, SAAHIP conference has become an oasis to many a pharmacist during our annual trek through our calendar. There is the year-end with the big stock-take, the closure of the past financial year, a new budget to navigate, staff allocations and leave planning, mid-year stock-take, preparation for the holiday season etc. Actually, the cycle never stops…… round and around we go!

BUT…. There is the watering hole to look forward to! Very little rest (in terms of sleep, that is) but so refreshing to hear about best practice from colleagues spread throughout the country. And then to also be informed of research done by colleagues, and to be given the opportunity to see how it might be applicable to my own situation! There are the members of Trade sharing information with us and not to mention the wonderful social evenings!

It is also an opportunity to pick up threads with friends from the profession we have not seen in years and if that is not all, it gives us the chance to make new friends. Really, at conference there is never a dull moment. Indeed old friends are there to meet us when we reach this watering hole!

But having had 30 previous SAAHIP conferences, there are so many good memories to await us and to be shared amongst friends. This is possibly the main difference between the different pharmacy conferences. The fact that we share true friendship and so many good memories makes SAAHIP as an organisation and the SAAHIP Conference, different from all others!

I believe that many newcomers (and maybe a couple of regular delegates) to our conference also leave conference with dreams of presenting at the next conference, or with dreams of implementing many of the new ideas they picked up at conference, or maybe with dreams of serving on their branch committees or on the national committee.

Whatever moves you to attend SAAHIP conferences, now is the time to make sure your spot is reserved at the waterhole!

See you there!