

## FOSAF CHAIRMAN'S 2012/13 ANNUAL REPORT

### INTRODUCTION

It is once again my pleasure and responsibility to account to the membership and other interested parties on FOSAF's activities during the year under review.

### EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT:

#### State:

As reported last year we became aware that the Department of Environmental Affairs was an intent on pressing ahead with implementation of a framework that appeared (on what little we could ascertain) to be entirely different to that we worked so hard on in the past. We thus wrote to the Minister and the Director General expressing our concern at what appeared to be intended and requesting the opportunity and to meet and discuss the matter. The meeting eventually transpired in early February and the Department agreed to provide us with copies of the draft regulations on a confidential basis. The environmental team has had an opportunity to consider the draft regulations and have prepared a comment document which will be forwarded to the Department. We do not believe that the draft regulations are proper given the wording of the NEM:BA and continue to demand that the framework must be consulted upon in an open and public manner as required by both the Constitution and NEMA. We will keep you all posted on further developments.

#### Public:

FOSAF has continued to make an effort to improve its outreach through our website, Facebook, Flyfishing magazine, the Tippet and through the efforts of its members and leadership. Despite this many fly- and other anglers remain unaware of our achievements and our profile leaves a lot to be desired. As agreed at our previous EXCO we have begun to examine our marketing issues and met with a professional for advice in this regard. This will be discussed at the EXCO. Nevertheless, despite our best efforts we will need to find better ways to get our message and information about FOSAF to all anglers and other stakeholders. One positive spinoff of our NEM:BA struggles has been the support shown by organised sport angling and aquaculture.

#### Anglers:

The next iteration of the new Favoured Flies card collection has recently been launched. Hopefully members and other will find these useful. The Tippet continues to be well received and thanks are due to Stuart and Liz Tough who work behind the scenes to get it out. We need to reach more anglers and some discussion on this vexed matter will be part of the EXCO's deliberations.

### INTERNAL ENVIRONMENT:

#### EXCO

As with last year, given our financial constraints, the EXCO only met once on a face to face basis. However, regular emails and telephonic discussions on an individual basis have sufficed to ensure reasonable contact. In addition, the secretariat has facilitated contact with all chapters.

#### Chapters

Full chapter reports will be forthcoming at the EXCO however I will briefly note some observations:

Eastern Cape: I and others were again privileged to attend the EC AGM in November 2012. Alan Hobson stood down and he was succeeded by Brian Clark. Suffice it to say that the Chapter is in a healthy state and they have had an excellent season. One notable achievement is that the chapter hosted FOSAF's 25 Anniversary Dinner at the Eagle's Ridge Hotel, the very place we were founded. It was a wonderful occasion with great speeches and bonhomie.

Northvaal: the Chapter continues to be led by Peter Mills and his excellent team. Peter Arderne must be commended for his sterling efforts in expanding the Chapter's involvement in the Steenkampsberg environmental project aimed at securing the health of the many rivers in the chapter's area of influence. Peter Mills continues to lead the Yellowfish Working Group and once again wish them well with their annual deliberations in April at Vaal Streams, Deneysville. We always look forward to the proceedings publication ably edited by Peter Arderne.

The Western Cape: Gerald Penkler has stood down as Chairperson of the WC Chapter and he has been succeeded by Leonard Flemming who is back from his travels abroad. The Chapter reports that they have been less active this year but continue to be involved in activities supporting aquatic

biodiversity conservation efforts. While the committee continues to try and find a balance between the interests of indigenous species and trout there appears to be much more that needs to be done in this regard.

KZN: Jim Read continues lead an active and committed chapter committee. While the chapter has maintained a relationship with the provincial conservation agency and other stakeholders, the freshwater fishing liaison committee has not met for some time. We are concerned at the apparent breakdown in effectiveness of this and other communication channels with EKZNW. While some clubs in the region remain active there is a need to ensure other clubs remain viable.

Free State: Dirk Human once again reports that he has had a difficult year and has struggled to achieve significant buy-in from the various fly-anglers and clubs in the province. The state of many of the rivers and the fish in them remains a concern. As noted previously FOSAF will have to find new alternatives to achieve its goal of uniting flyfishers in the region and we once again commend Dirk for his persistent efforts.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**

Dr Bill Bainbridge continues to ably guide the environmental team's efforts with regard to NEMBA and other matters. The committee provided input on the Biodiversity Risk and Benefit Assessment conducted by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries with particular reference to the trout species. Based on feedback received the assessment is being extended due to shortcomings we and other pointed out in the rather narrow terms of reference. The NEM:BA issues are reported on above.

### **MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Peter Arderne continues to update the FOSAF website and Facebook page on a regular basis. He communicates regularly with a range of people gleaned information that finds its way onto our communications. We thank him for his efforts in making FOSAF's voice and achievements heard. We will however as noted above need to improve in this sphere.

### **CONCLUSION**

As always, special thanks are due to Stuart and Liz Tough for their dedication and efficiency in administering and managing FOSAF, the AGM and EXCO and for always handling the travel arrangements and logistics so well.

Once again thanks are also due to: John Webber for the preparation of our AFS. He keeps us on the straight and narrow and ensures financial accountability; our President Andrew Levy and vice-presidents Tom Sutcliffe and Bill Mincher for their consistent wise counsel when and if called upon; Bill Bainbridge for continuing to chair the Environmental Committee; and my colleagues on the EXCO for their on-going support and commitment.

I again want to thank the wives and partners of EXCO members for sharing their significant others with us and holding the fort in their absence on FOSAF business.

We need to find a way to get through to anglers in general and to speak in voice that they find meaningful. This does not mean we have to change our mission and values but it does mean we will have to find new ways of being heard and ensuring that what we do and say find resonance with those we seek to partner with. If we are unable to attract new and younger members or at least people who would support our efforts much of what we have achieved may well be in vain.

I again look forward to sharing FOSAF's vision and objectives to address the issues and opportunities that face us in the year ahead. We have to ensure that will better see and appreciate the value proposition FOSAF represents. FOSAF has an impressive legacy and it is our privilege to build on that.

Ilan Lax  
FOSAF Chairperson  
08 March 2013