

# **NORTHERN REGION CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE 2018 AGM & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN KZN**

## **1. Finances**

The 2017 accounts for FOSAF NR and the Fly Fishing Publications cc accounts for 2017/18 have been submitted to the auditor and are expected to be audited within the next 2 weeks. As the honorary auditor is now 83 we cannot expect him to keep up this service for much longer. The costs are about R500 per annum as he has now retired and only accepts small gifts.

Reserves have now dropped to R11 000 and even with the reimbursement of about R20 000 for the share of membership fees later in 2018 we can expect to run out of funds by April 2019. Please find attached the budget for 2018.

## **2. Donors**

Millstream continue to be a major sponsor NR for which we are very grateful, and we are hoping they continue through 2018 with an amount of about R45 000. John Grun made one donation of R1000 during the year.

## **3. Membership**

The National secretariat reports that our membership will probably remain at the 250 level despite efforts in the media and elsewhere to increase numbers. A series of ads have been developed based on the ad which appeared in the electronic version of the 'Mission' magazine. Although Exco permission has still to be granted an ad has already appeared in the DFT Bobbin magazine and the NFFC and other newsletters have already been asked to include it in their newsletter.

## **4. Environmental Issues**

We have been increasingly involved in the pollution and illegal netting issues on the Vaal and are actively supporting SAVE (Save the Vaal Environment) in this respect.

The mining issue is covered in the SEI report.

## **5. Legislation**

Have given full support through the media to the NEMBA/Trout issue campaign.

## **6. Fly Tying & Flyfishing Expo**

The 2017 event was considered only moderately successful as the venue was too far from Johannesburg and sales were lost because for most of the time there was no connection for credit card machines. The FOSAF stand was manned by NR committee members and the national secretariat and NR purchased a pop-up FOSAF exhibition stand and a few FOSAF caps. These items will be lent to the national chairman for the 2018 Lourensford Expo.

## **7. Northern Region Projects**

### **7.1- FOSAF Books**

Sales of books, mainly Favoured Flies, increased to R14 000 in the last year partly due to sales at the 2017 Expo. It appears that it is not feasible from a cost point of view to convert

the Favoured Flies series to Ebooks, but Loot have agreed to take stock and some sales have been made through this channel.

A fairly large number of books have been donated to various flyfishing events or included in orders as a sales incentive.

#### 7.2 - Communications :Website, Facebook & Twitter

Reasonable progress has been made in this area with improvements in the 'Fly of the Month' and the circulation of newsletters such as the 'Bobbin'.

It should also be noted that there has been no increase in the monthly fee from the webmaster since his appointment. We are still searching for a replacement for Peter Arderne to take over the duty of communications.

#### 7.3 - Yellowfish Working Group.

Although the proposal put forward by the YWG group to Exco at the meeting in 2017 was turned down in hindsight this proposal would probably have failed anyway because of the irreconcilable differences with the then chairman over the trout issue. No champion for the YWG has come forward yet, but the NR have kept the organisation going through newsletters and especially as a method of representing ourselves to other organisations such as SAVE. It is also important to note that the YWG brand is still admired in the Vaal River area. It is proposed that Chris Williams take over as interim chairman and he will be assisted by Martin Rudman.

#### 7.3 -SEI (The Steenkampsberg Environmental Initiative) & GLPE

This work has been taken over in the main by the committee for the Greater Lakenvlei Landowners PE which not only has the interests of the Protected Environment as its brief, but is determined to keep the Dullstroom plateau free of mining. Working together with a number of other NGO's they have succeeded so far, and appear to be winning against two determined miners trying to establish on the borders of the GLPE. This has of course cost money and R160 000 was raised in 2017 to fund this battle. It is important to note that the trout destinations are the most active supporters of this campaign.

#### 7.4 -The Mpumalanga Trout Association (MTA)

The MTA is in good health and currently has 59 paid up members. By May 2018 they expect to have raised over R600 000 since inception in late 2015.

At the February 2018 AGM it was proposed that the organisation incorporate KZN plus the much smaller Free State, Gauteng and Limpopo provinces to become the Northern Trout Association. At this stage there is some doubt whether there is a champion in KZN who is prepared to volunteer the time needed to canvass and sign up members in the province.

#### 7.7 -Youth Education/Issues

Mike Mitchell has made excellent progress with the Ecoculture project which is supported by Rand Water. Presently there are about 6 educators doing instruction amongst schoolchildren in the black areas of Gauteng.

At St Stithians from grades 3 to 8 there are two -hour sessions at the school dams every week while about another 9 schools in Gauteng and Mpumalanga have set up environmental committees.

Chris has been invited to join the SAVE committee. This well-known organisation is

targeting mainly black and Afrikaans schools in the Vaal area where our programmes may be used. Programmes will be passed on to Andrew Fowler of the NFFC and will be available to any other interested parties.

Orvis will make their beginners guide to fly fishing available, and Kloofzicht have offered their venue at no charge.

With regard to the business plan Chris said he was waiting to hear from Sandton Rotary whether sponsorship would be offered by them before he completed the plan.

### 8 Succession

At this stage no replacement has been found for Peter Arderne who is prepared to carry on for the meantime. However, we do need a younger person with IT experience and new ideas to take over communications.

**Chris Williams**  
**Northern Region Chapter Chairman**