

# DIRT ROAD TRADERS

## Newsletter 1, 27/3/2022

### Dates for 2023

First and foremost, the dates for the 2023 event will remain the same to take advantage of the public holiday on the 21<sup>st</sup> March i.e. 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023. The festival will get underway on Thursday evening, the 16<sup>th</sup> March with fishing on the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and Monday the 20<sup>th</sup>. The 21<sup>st</sup> is Human Rights Day so exercise your right to travel home – or stay on!

### The Dirt Road Wild Trout Festival, 2022 auction

By all accounts, the 2022 festival was described by some as the best ever. The festival auction turned over a record amount of R53 950,00. Our thanks to all of the auction item providers. See page 2 for a schedule of what was kindly provided by whom and my apologies for any omissions! Of the total, R6000 accrued to Tony Biggs for his famous flies and R2800 to the Rhodes Animal Care project for the Rhodes Stoepsitfees hand-knitted blankets. The balance of R45 150 will be applied to worthy causes such as the FOSAF NEMBA war chest and other worthy causes as and when they arise during the passage of time until the next festival auction.

### Goodie bags

In addition to the usual fly tackle, flies, guidebook and garment, the 2022 goodie bags enjoyed the provision of additional items that added lustre to the contents. I trust that those who are in a position to do so will source “goeters” for the 2023 event. Also, thanks to Mukheibirs Supermarket, Barkly East for their substantial contribution to the goodie bags.

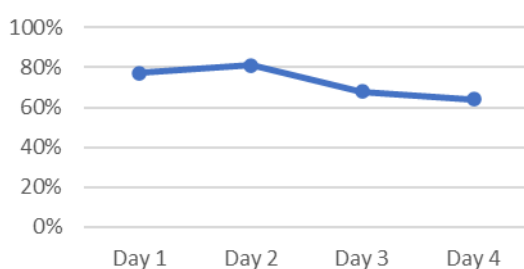
### Participant limit

One way and another, the limit on the number of participants was exceeded for the 2022 event but will be more closely monitored for 2023. The bottom line is, record your intention to participate by paying a deposit ASAP. Account details remain the same as for the 2022 event. Please use your surname and “2023” as a reference with a copy of the PoP e-mailed to us for record purposes

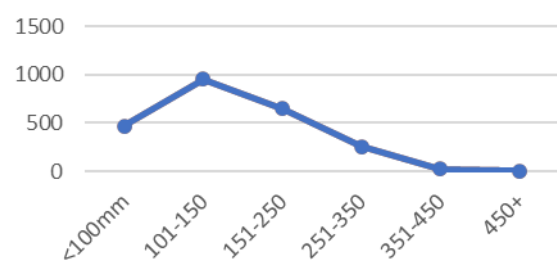
### Catch returns

Illiteracy continues to prevail and only 154 of an expected 212 catch returns were received, i.e. 73% including those of the sheppards. Of those received, a total catch of 2362 trout was recorded, an average of 15.3/return/day. The size range was much as expected and the fish were all reported to be in excellent condition and of which 6 were in excess of 450mm. All-in-all, testimony to fine genetics and the excellent condition of mainly the Bok and the Riflespruit that produced 92% of the total, the balance of 8% from the Upper Bell River & Loch Ness.

Catch returns received, 2022



Size range, 2022



## 2022 festival auction item schedule

Item	By	Sourced by
3 x framed prints	Rowland Ward	Ken Bruyns
3wt double taper Mastery line	Scientific Anglers	vdMescht/Scott
3wt rod, reel & line outfit	Kingfisher	Jan Korrubel
Accommodation voucher x2 nights	Cullen Trout Farm	Russell Dickson
Accommodation voucher x2 nights x 4	Franshoek Guest Farm	Gerrie du Toit
Accommodation voucher x5 nights x 2	Gateshead	Carien Vosloo
Accommodation voucher, x3n x 2	The Bothy	Ronald Dunn
Accommodation voucher, x2 n x2 B&B	TUKS HPC Sports Hotel	Colin Stier
Box of flies, 26	Brigg/Korrubel	Brigg/Korrubel
Call of the Stream	Peter Brigg	Peter Brigg
Fine wine by the case of 6	Anthonij Rupert Wyne	Johan Bouwer
First day envelopes, 1982 & 1984	Butterworth fly factory	Ritchie Morris
Flies	Tony Biggs	Ed Herbst
Glass coasters, coffee mug, tin mug	Tim Martin	Jan Korrubel
Hand-knitted blankets x 2	Rhodes Stoepsitfees	Stoepsitfees
Knife	Rob Hibbert	Rob Hibbert
Net	Andrew Savides	Peter Brigg
Net	Tim Martin	Peter Brigg
Net	Tim Martin	Jan Korrubel
Rod & Reel combo	Frontier Flyfishing	Mike McKeown
SA Fishing Flies	Brigg/Herbst	Brigg/Herbst
Sutcliffe sketch	Tom Sutcliffe	Peter Brigg
The Compleat Angler	Izaak Walton reprint	Ken Bruyns
Tin cups, decorated	Andrew Savides	Peter Brigg
WTA branded beer stein	Dirt Road Traders	Matt Findlay
WTA branded briefcase	Dirt Road Traders	Matt Findlay

Our thanks to both the providers and the procurers for a fine range of goods and our thanks to Dirt Road Traders for the garments and the guidebooks that, judging by local sales, have turned out to be a winner! 😊😊😊

Thanks also to all of the participants and congratulations to Ken Quick for being the recipient of the 2022 Nymph Award in recognition of his longstanding support of the WTA and of the festival as well as his exemplary conduct both on and off the water.

The Wild Trout Association would also like to record our thanks to all of our riparian owners, without whose cooperation, there would be no festival or organized fly fishing on more than 200km of running waters and almost 10ha of still waters in the Rhodes area of the headwaters of the Kraai River.