



DIRT ROAD TRADERS

Newsletter 1, 2024 festival

G'day folks,

I trust that this finds you all well and enduring, about which, say no more!

It has been decided that in line with charity beginning at home, the Wild Trout Association will apply the principle in order to ensure that our annual event continues well into the future. Accordingly, a thorough review of the festival and its format has been concluded. The bottom line being that cognisance of the dire economic situation in the country has been "front of mind" in our deliberations. This includes taking travelling costs and local self-catering accommodation rates into consideration.

First and foremost, despite ever-increasing costs, a token R250 has been added to the 2023 festival rate. The participation fee will therefore amount to R7 750/flyfishing participant. In order to achieve this, it has been decided that the WTA will not be purchasing items for the goodie bags. In fact, goodie bags per se will become a thing of the past. As a matter of interest, the value of the 2023 goodie bags and contents was well over R1000 per participant!

It has also been decided that the association guidebook will not be printed on an annual basis but only as and when necessary i.e. only in the event that any significant content contributions or changes should arise such as, for example the "What3Words" addition for beats in the 2023 edition.

Other aspects of the festival emerged during our deliberations and the fact of the matter is that the organization of and the participation in the event is a two-way street. We endeavour to provide as best we can however, at the risk of sounding like a pontificator, it is nonetheless incumbent upon me to raise a few pertinent points so, in no particular order, please take note of the following points;

1. **BEATS;** Whereas we endeavour to accommodate participants' beat preferences as far as is possible, a well-established system of beat allocations has developed and been refined down the years.
2. Accordingly, for the 2024 festival, beat allocations may only be made in consultation with the "Director of Beats", Heather Ralph, aided and abetted by Rudi Hiestermann.
3. Individuals making their own beat arrangements or in fact, arrangements made with an arbitrary sheppard by way of recording beat & group info on the beat board WILL NOT be recognized.
4. **SHEPPARDS;** The services of the sheppards are voluntary and are, as far as is possible, spread over the field during the course of the festival.
5. **CATERING;** Catering for a large group of people is not a simple process. It is severely impacted upon by individuals or groups of participants who arrive late i.e. after the commencement of serving that begins at 19h30 and which point which extends into Point 6 below.
6. **SEATING;** Seating is another aspect which must be mentioned. There are more than enough seats available in the venue and for which there is no seating reservation system.
7. This approach creates an opportunity for participants to associate with other participants whom they may not have had the opportunity of meeting in the normal course of events. The relevance of this is that late arrivals should sit where there is space, albeit bereft of their buddies.
8. **ELIGIBILITY;** Any 2023 participant who has not settled outstanding amounts for participation or auction items will not be eligible for participation in the 2024 festival

Should any of the above require clarification, please feel free to contact me.

All of the best,
Dave.