

# TFFC Newsletter July 2019

## Our new logo

After much deliberation and plenty of "back to the drawing board" moments, we have finally decided on the new TFFC logo. It's fresh and clean and speaks to the nature and excitement we all experience at the farm.

Thanks to Hugh for spearheading this and to the committee and of course to all the members and shareholders for your input.



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## Fishing & Stocking Report

Our fishing season runs from June 1 to May 31 and the report for the 2018/19 season has been posted on our website at [www.tffc.co.za](http://www.tffc.co.za). What it tells us that 359 rainbows and browns were killed and 946 were released which is an acceptable result, but extremely hot temperatures during the summer and predation by white breasted cormorants and otters had an impact on the fish population. Fortunately, late rains topped up our dams, so we enter the new season with full dams. Comprehensive stocking has continued and this season we have ordered extra stocks of browns.

Mechanical weeding with a cable was carried out in March and will be repeated in August. A further 95 x 1 kg triploid grass carp were placed in some of the more heavily weeded dams in February bringing the total up to 290 which have been stocked since 2015. We have another 90 in our cages for release next year and a further 100 on order for delivery to our cages in September for stocking in 2021. Thereafter we believe the programme will be complete and from now on it will be a matter of these fishing growing out to a large enough size to control the weed which in some of our waters is excessive.

We must remind you again that effective stocking is based primarily on the records which you complete during your fishing visits. It is therefore vital that you enter all fish caught after each fishing session and you ensure your kids and visitors do the same. We also need at least 10% of the fish to be correctly weighed before gutting, preferably with the scales provided at the house. And if you have your own scale please check it against one of the weights at the house as we find many of these scales hopelessly inaccurate.

If you wish to keep a couple of fish do not feel guilty about choosing the younger stockies. These are the most vulnerable to predation whereas anything over about 45cm is a survivor which has already seen off numerous attacks from predators.

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This is just a friendly reminder that Katie and Elizabeth's daily cleaning fee is now R7.00 per person, per day.

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## The Secretary Bird

This bird has been chosen by BirdLife SA as the bird of the year for 2019. This magnificent bird is under threat, but we are lucky that we have regular sightings at Middelpunt and the surrounding GLPE protected area. If you are lucky enough to see one or a pair or even better find a nest, please record the sighting and location on the member WhatsApp so we can pass on the information to BLSA.



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## The Mining Wars

The parties opposing the illegal WPB coal mine at the Elandsfontein crossroads had a major setback in May. A hearing at the Water Tribunal was scheduled for 16/17 May and our lawyers were confident that the outcome of this hearing would result in this operation being closed. Then, in a move which can only be described as completely unacceptable, the Dept. of Water Affairs & Sanitation submitted their defence affidavit on the 15 May. This has postponed the hearing for months and increased costs which of course is the aim of the department. However, the opponents of the mine which include the Greater Lakenvlei Protected Environment

Landowners Association are determined to keep up the struggle and to eventually have this unlawful mining stopped and the site rehabilitated.

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## Harvesting wood in the top gum plantation

Those of you visiting mid-weed may have noticed that we have a contractor cutting the gum trees at the rear of this plantation. This operation should be complete within the next month but will leave a bank of trees on the sides facing the road and the houses so as not to be unsightly.

It will be bringing in badly needed cash at a time when income from membership has dropped and when we have fairly heavy expenditure planned for the next 2 years.

We will still have more than enough firewood for our own purposes from the lower plantation below the staff quarters and one of the tasks of the wood cutters is to also supply us with firewood while the contract runs.

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## The TFFC Champs

The 2019 TFFC Champs started last weekend with superb style. Three teams competed;

**The Castaways** – Bryan Botha & Tim Garner

**The Woolly Bikers** – Hugh Dean & Francis Sherwell

**JackedUp** – Luke v.d.Merwe & Gary Viljoen

With only 3 teams fishing, the rules were amended to all teams fishing the same dam. The banter was ripe ... chirps and comments flew across the waters. It was an awesome day with the weather playing its part - typical winter sunshine.

JackedUp team (Luke & Gary) smashed the day with 18 fish caught in total and a whopping score of 1649 (normalised score: 52.6). They've set the bar high for the teams that follow this weekend (6th July) and next weekend (13th July)

There is still space for one extra team this weekend and one extra team next weekend if you are tempted to get into the final on the 3rd August and have your name etched onto the Champs wall of fame board.

Contact Ivana if you are keen to enter.



