

DIRT ROAD TRADERS

Newsletter 2, September 2021

You are receiving this newsletter as you have participated in previous events or have expressed an interest in participating in 2022. You are therefore eligible to participate in the 2022 event provided you complete and submit the entry form ASAP. With a limit of 50 participants, participation will be a “**First come, first served**” basis. A word of thanks to those who have submitted their entry forms already.

Report for E. Cape Chapter, FOSAF, September 2021

The Wild Trout Association continues to provide enthusiasts with as much fishing as they can deal with in the Eastern Cape Highlands and mainly in the Rhodes area.

Although expected, the passing of founder member and association stalwart, the late Basie Vosloo, came as a shock nonetheless. A moments silence in his honour would be appreciated and it would be remiss not to add that a toast and plenty of pints would not go amiss either for those who knew the man (or not, for that matter). He would certainly appreciate the latter. The most recent tribute was published in the current edition of The Mission. This was preceded by one penned by Tom Sutcliffe in his most recent newsletter. Fine wordage indeed and “Vos” aka Basie will be sorely missed.

Jonathan Sephton of Pitlochrie Farmstay Accommodation has joined the association adding another 9,5km of running water to the fold. This beat is located on the headwaters of the Diepspruit in the New England area.

We were fortunate enough to dodge the Covid lockdowns in both 2020 and 2021 for the annual flyfishing festival. Entries for the 2022 event from 16 to 20 March are now open and attached, a copy of the entry form FYI. The festivals remain popular to the extent that entries have been limited to 50 participants. We are fortunate enough to have had Dirt Road Traders as the main sponsor for the past two festivals and who will continue to do so in 2022.

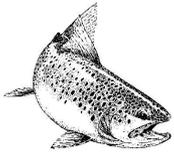
Good precipitation over the past two years has left the streams running well for this time of year. They are teeming with trout fry and fingerlings, probably much to the disgust of the anti-trout lobby. The good news for that lot is that smallmouth yellowfish have also spawned well in the headwaters of the Kraai River during the past summer.

The Rhodes Info Centre continues to provide a fine service regarding the sales and administration of association day permits. Taking advantage of modern technology has seen the establishment of a chat group where day permit sales are noted each day. This facilitates vendors knowing which beats have been booked. In addition, it allows riparian members to be able to see whether their water is being fished by legal enthusiasts or by visiting poachers for whom the WTA Wall of Shame awaits them. See: <http://www.wildtrout.co.za/index.php/wta-home/the-wta-wall-of-shame>

“Loch Ness”, the still water near the Tiffindell Ski Resort (and in fact, the highest self-sustaining still water in the country), continues to provide great sport for those using appropriate tackle. Toothpick rigs and wild spawned submarines just don't go together!

Best wishes,

Dave Walker,
Chairman.



Dirt Road Wild Trout Festival
16th to 20th March 2022



Entry form

Please read carefully, complete legibly and e-mail to: info@wildtrout.co.za

Name: _____ Package number? _____ Age _____

E-mail address: _____

Cell no: _____

Name of partner, if applicable _____

Have you fished in the area before? _____ Yes/no Do you require a sheppard?* _____ Yes/no

Other requirements? (Vegetarian meals/allergies?) _____

Garment size/s _____

Breakfast bookings can be made by sending an e-mail to: bookings@walkerbouts.co.za or sms to 079 875 2009

***Definition:** A shepherd is a person who tends, herds, feeds, or guards herds of sheep. Not being sheep, the label has been corrupted to avoid confusion etc hence "sheppards" applies to assistance on the water during the festival.

Package details:

1. **The Full Monty;** 5 evening meals, 4 days of fishing, 4 lunch-packs, a goodie bag plus participation in the auction as well as bar banter at no charge
2. **Early birds;** as described below
3. **Partner package;** as described below

The assistance of a sheppard can be arranged each evening during the event. Ensure that you make contact with the beat organisers to make the appropriate arrangements on a daily basis.

- Fishing beats & sheppards will be allocated each evening in consultation with participants.

Packages	
1 Dinners, Fishing, Goodie Bag, Lunch-pack and shepparding by arrangement	R6750
2 Early birds - Payment in full by 30/11/2021	R6450
3 Non-fishing partner; i.e. including dinners but excluding fishing, goodie bag & lunch-packs	R3900
For categories 1 & 2, paid up members of FOSAF are entitled to a R360 discount. For FOSAF membership details, see: https://www.fosaf.org.za/join.php	
The first six fully paid <u>first-time</u> entrants will receive a copy of Peter Brigg's "Call of the Stream" publication	

Confirmation:

- Your booking will be confirmed on receipt of a 50% deposit or payment in full to qualify for the early bird discount. It must be paid by **30/11/2021** into the following account;
- **Wild Trout Association, FNB, Barkly East, 210220. Acc. no: 51610009669, Current acc.**
- The balance is due by **31/1/2021**
- Please e-mail a copy of the EFT PoP to info@wildtrout.co.za or contact@rhodesinfo.co.za

Accommodation:

- Self-catering accommodation should be arranged with Margie Murray at the Rhodes Tourist & Information Centre: Tel. 045 971 9003 or e-mail: contact@rhodesinfo.co.za
- Although the festival includes 4 days of fishing, participants are welcome to arrive earlier to fish in the Eastern Cape Highlands - after all, a week's fishing beats a week in the office any time!

Terms and conditions

As described above & participation is at own risk and the sheppards are in no way responsible for participants health & safety on the water or elsewhere, for that matter.