

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2017/18

*Details on most of the items reported here can be found in our website <http://www.foster.org.za>*

### Preamble

This has been another busy year for FOSTER. Indeed, Dave Bowmer reports that **2018 has been the busiest of the 25 years** that he has been managing our reserve network. But all this activity costs money. We spent **R165 000 on reserve management this year, about double the normal**. Much of this funding was used for firebreak maintenance and expansion.

It is **not sustainable that FOSTER continues to raise funds from the public to undertake actions that are clearly the urgent responsibility of the Kouga Municipality**. Acting on advice from Councillor Ben Rheeder, we have submitted a budget to the KM via the IDP process. Let's hope for a positive response.

Promisingly, we have been approached by Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency to provide a budget for our costs of managing the Cape St Francis Nature Area. However, we have been told by the official not to harbour any expectations of funding.

And still more positive news...I hope you have all seen **our splendid new maps produced pro bono by Martin Barbour**. They are on our website and Facebook site, and we intend to place maps at the major entrances to each of the reserves. In gratitude for Martin's sterling support, we have conferred upon him Honorary Life Membership.

**Sadly, three members resigned this year:** Garry Milford (who remains an Associate Member of the committee), Debbie Hudson and Jenny Rayment. We are, however, **happy to announce that Ross Turner has joined our ranks**.

### Committee members

Membership and responsibilities are as follows:

Richard Cowling	Chair
Lilian Baker	Treasurer
Dave Bowmer	Reserve management
Joan Brady	Secretary; Membership and marketing
Jal Rigaard	Marketing; Infrastructure
John Elliot	Fire management; Events
Paul Nicholson	Fund raising; Events
Ross Turner	Membership and marketing

### Associate members

Chris Cowling  
Al Brady  
Emily Buchanan  
Shirley Cowling

Garry Milford

## Fundraising

**Lilian Baker reports:** We would like to reiterate that FOSTER is registered with SARS as a public benefit organization, in terms of section 30 of the income tax act. ***Donations made to us are tax deductible.***

We continue to benefit from generous donations from supporters, despite the hard times; over the past year (since our last AGM) ***we attracted donations totalling R58,720, about half that was raised last year.*** This amount ***excludes*** income generated by events, which totalled ***R57,050.00.*** Special thanks are due to the following donors who have donated amounts in 2017/18 of R500 or more, with many members donating more than once:

Allens' Woodworks	Lincey, M. and J.
Baartman, H.	Malherbe Family Trust
Birkett, B. and M.	Mennen, J. and P.
Bodotex Composites	Mol, W.
Boonzaier, J.	Nicholson, P. and D.
Brady, K./McGee, T.	Phillips, B.D.
Briscoe, T. and A.	Pike, R.
Buchanan, E./Ritchie, R.	Rayment, J.
Coultas, B. and J.	Rodgers, G. (Timber Concepts)
Cowling, R. and S.	Ruffel Family
De Waal, I.	Saloojee, R. and M.
Fine and Country	Seal Point Estates
Gammie, K. and H.	Seeff Properties
Gennrich, M.	SFB Golf Club
Goulding, R.	Sherman, P. and T.
Grundling, A. and H.	Smith. R. and G.
Hempel, C. and M.	Stewart, L. and L.
Hogan, D. and T.	Uys, H. and W.
Horne, J.E. and E. (monthly s/o)	Uys, P.
Jansen, F.A.	West, G. and M.
Jendemark Automation	Wilson, G. and W.
Jordaan, L. and B.	Wilson, J. and G.

FOSTER submitted a ***budget of R160 000 per annum to the Kouga Municipality,*** via the IDP process, for the management of the reserves on its property as well as the maintenance of all firebreaks. The latter is essential for protecting the village from wildfires

Funds raised at FOSTER events are reported on in the next section.

## Projects and events

### Fun Run

**Lilian Baker reports:** The ***FOSTER Fun Run*** – held on the 28<sup>th</sup> December last year - ***attracted approximately 135 to 150 entrants. The event generated an amount of R17,000.00*** around R5,000.00 more than during 2017. ***A huge vote of thanks to the Cape St. Francis Resort management and staff for hosting and running the event and donating the proceeds to FOSTER.***

### Golf Day

The **FOSTER Golf Day** – held on 26<sup>th</sup> December last year **generated an amount of R40,050.00**. Thanks to **Garry Milford** and his team

## **Wildflower event**

**Dave Bowmer reports:** The popular **Pennywhistle Wildflower Chase** was held again during October at the Cape St. Francis Resort, as part of the three-day Seal Point Wildflower Festival. On display in the Francolin Room were almost one hundred species of fynbos found in the reserve network, several recovered artefacts from shipwrecks in the area and a slideshow of flora and fauna found in the reserves. Information sessions and discussions with participants were also held, as well as four outings to chase down the wild flowers in the area. The Resort provided a minibus to transport participants to the wild flower sites in the **Irma Booyesen Flora Reserve** and the **St. Francis Field Estate (Airpark)**. During the Festival weekend a Beer Run and Wild Flower Festival Trail Run were held on the trails in the **Irma Booyesen Flora Reserve**. Dave and FOSTER would like to take this opportunity to thank the Cape St. Francis Resort team for their assistance in making the event a success. Thanks also go to the online publication St. Francis Today for the information which it published pertaining to the event.

## **Marketing and membership**

**Joan Brady and Jal Rigaard report:** Membership numbers are currently 230 which is down from the record 300 of 2017 and sadly, our funds reflect this. All members who have renewed and our generous donors are hugely appreciated ...they are the life blood of FOSTER.

Newsletters continue to go out and all the latest news and reserve videos are available on our Facebook page.

Social media, Facebook and Youtube interactions remain popular, we have nearly 500 followers on FB. Please like, follow and share the content.

The inaugural Nautical Half of St Francis Runners supported Foster with a R2000 donation.

Coastal clean-ups in association with Kromme-Enviro trust and Beach co-op were well attended.

The CSF Community survey supported extending these initiatives.

## **Reserve management**

**Dave Bowmer reports:** FOSTER maintains the Irma Booyesen Flora Reserve, the Seal Bay Nature Reserve, the Seal Point Nature Reserve and the Cape St. Francis Nature Reserve, which together comprise approximately 330 ha of indigenous vegetation. FOSTER's **core management tasks are the removal of alien regrowth, the maintenance of the path network (including litter removal), the maintenance of reserve signage, maintaining system of firebreaks**, and keeping the roads through the Irma Booyesen Flora Reserve and in the Cape St. Francis Nature Reserve accessible for fire and other emergency services. **Since the last Annual General Meeting**, a total of **R165,000** was spent on the general maintenance of trails, plant hire, widening, clearing and spraying of firebreaks with herbicide, cartage, upgrading of paths and staircases with grit, gravel and poles (**R151,000**), new signage (**R3,000**), and the purchase of a brushcutter for cutting firebreaks (**R11,000**).

The past year has been the busiest of its twenty five years that FOSTER has had in the **Cape St. Francis Nature Reserve Network**.

In the **Cape St. Francis Nature Reserve** (100 ha), the entire trail system has been maintained and the Rooikrantz regrowth removed. Two new signs have been erected. The firebreak between Shearwater

Drive and da Gama Road has been cleaned and brushcut with FOSTER's new brushcutter and one large truckload of cut bush taken to the tip in Humansdorp.

In the 66 ha- **Irma Booyesen Flora Reserve**, the trail system has been maintained and a new trail established from the tennis court leading into the reserve. A major clean-up of the firebreaks in the reserve was undertaken. All the firebreaks have been sprayed for weeds and undesirable plants and all the firebreaks and fire roads have been brushcut with FOSTER's brushcutter. In sensitive areas which could not be sprayed, Bietou and Rooikrantz regrowth was removed by hand. The end result is a grassed country road bordered on either side by fynbos, ideal for mountain-biking, jogging and hiking. The firebreak in front of the electrical transformers on Osprey Road has been transformed into a *fynbos* garden where many different low-growing species can be found. All Rooikrantz regrowth in the reserve has been removed, and old signage is being replaced.

In the **Seal Point Nature Reserve** (38 ha), FOSTER has upgraded the trail around the lighthouse with 6 tons of fine stone in order to fill in the grooved areas. Rooikrantz regrowth has been removed and undesirable yuccas have been sprayed with herbicide. The old boardwalks were removed and replaced with a natural system and includes a stone staircase at the Rocky Coast Farm entrance to the reserve. FOSTER has also cleaned the verge along Queen of the West Boulevard to make it safer for pedestrians.

In the 36 ha- **Seal Bay Nature Reserve** the trails have been maintained and alien vegetation such as Myoporum and Inkbos have been sprayed with herbicide. All the Rooikrantz regrowth in the reserve has been removed.

New **FOSTER Reserve Maps** of the four nature reserves in full colour are available on the FOSTER website ([www.foster.org.za](http://www.foster.org.za)). These beautiful maps were created by Martin Barbour as a gift to FOSTER, for which FOSTER thanks him. Thank you very, very much, Martin. The maps are user friendly. For example, should you wish to walk the **Des Green Educational Trail** in the **Irma Booyesen Flora Reserve**, park at the Full Stop Café, access the map, and follow the trail markers one to fifteen.

## **Fire management**

Other than the work done by FOSTER of fire prevention, there is nothing else to report. Attempts to get Working on Fire to do a controlled burn have been unsuccessful. We will now approach the Sarah Baartman Fire Protection Association for assistance.

## **Responding to development pressures**

The decision by the Department of Environmental Affairs to identify the Koeberg nuclear site instead of Thyspunt, for the location of the nuclear build (which appears to have been postponed, perhaps indefinitely) was regarded as a **major victory for the Thyspunt Alliance**, of which FOSTER is a member.

## **Reserve proclamation**

There is very little progress to report on this item.

## **Financial report**

Financial statements (balance sheet and income and expenditure report) for the period 1/3/17 to 28/2/18 are attached to this report.

Thanks to Lilian for her impeccable financial records – much appreciated.

### **In closing**

I am pleased to report on another highly successful year for FOSTER. Many thanks to our committee members for their dedication and hard work. Given the importance of a healthy reserve system to our well being (and the value of our properties), we urge you keep your membership in good order and to donate funds. In return, we will ensure ***cost-effectiveness, accountability and innovation***.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "RM Cowling". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

RM Cowling  
Chair: FOSTER

**FRIENDS OF THE ST. FRANCIS NATURE AREAS  
(FOSTER)**

**A Public Benefit Organisation (registered in terms of Section 18A of the  
Income Tax Act No. 58 of 1962)**

**BALANCE SHEET FOR YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2018**

Bank balance carried forward for year ended 28 February 2017	R78,680,76
Income over expenditure for year ended 28 February 2018	R27,191,71

**BANK BALANCES AT YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2018:**

Business Cheque Account First National Bank 62179531598	R17,516,05
Moneymarket Account First National Bank 62179527745	88 356,42
<b>TOTAL BALANCES:</b>	<b>R105,872,47</b>

**SIGNED:** .....  
**R.M. COWLING**  
**CHAIRPERSON**  
6/3/18

**SIGNED:** .....  
**J. BRADY**  
**SECRETARY**  
6/3/18

**SIGNED:** .....  
**L.J. BAKER**  
**TREASURER**  
6/3/18

**FRIENDS OF THE ST. FRANCIS NATURE AREAS**

**(FOSTER)**

**A Public Benefit Organisation (registered in terms of Section 18A of the  
Income Tax Act No. 58 of 1962)**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2018**

<b>INCOME</b>	
MEMBERS' SUBSCRIPTIONS	R6,950,00
DONATIONS FROM MEMBERS	R161,373,22
DONATIONS FOR FIRE MANAGEMENT	R2,000,00
INTEREST ON CREDIT BALANCE	R4,001,50
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>R174,324,72</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
CAPITAL EXPENSES	R10,828,70
RESERVE AND FIRE MANAGEMENT	R128,035,17
BANK CHARGES	R1,633,75
RESERVE SIGNAGE	R2,774,59
WEBSITE	R1,428,00
TAXATION CONSULTANT	R 800,00
PRINTING, POSTAGE AND PETTIES	R1,632,80
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>R147,133,01</b>
<b>INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE:</b>	<b>R27,191,71</b>

SIGNED: .....  
**R.M. COWLING**  
CHAIRPERSON  
6/3/18

SIGNED: .....  
**J. BRADY**  
SECRETARY  
6/3/18

SIGNED: .....  
**L.J. BAKER**  
TREASURER  
6/3/18