

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2018/19

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

Preamble

2019 has been an eventful year thus far. We were greatly saddened by the passing of Lilian Baker, a FOSTER stalwart for almost 20 years. As treasurer, Lilian, managed our finances with utmost integrity and efficiency. She kept us buoyed by her quaint choice of words, and applying her instinctive frugality, was ever prudent with our funds. As a retired magistrate, she provided us with invaluable guidance on legal matters. We shall miss her dearly. Emily Buchanan is our new Treasurer and Glenda Mudumaa has been contracted to manage FOSTER's bookkeeping and membership.

Dave Bowmer has resigned as reserve manager but will remain on the Committee where his experience is much needed. We have appointed Ross Turner as our new reserve manager. More on this under "Reserve management" below. Other movements have been the resignation of Joan Brady after serving on the Committee for 12 years as our marketing and membership person, and more recently as our secretary. Thank you, Joan, for your outstanding contribution; we will miss you on the Committee but are delighted that you will remain an associate member. Joan has been replaced by Shirley Cowling after an absence from the Committee of four years.

We have argued for some time that it is not sustainable for FOSTER to raise funds from the public to undertake actions that are clearly the urgent responsibility of the Kouga Municipality. Principal amongst these actions is the reduction of the fire hazard our village faces. Since the fire of 2016, FOSTER has spent about R230 000 on making firebreaks and access routes. We have recently heard that the Kouga Municipality has allocated funds for firebreaks and fuel reduction in the Greater St Francis area (perhaps in response to our submission to the IDP) and that a Working on Fire team will soon be permanently stationed at St Francis Bay. This will relieve FOSTER the financial burden of fire-proofing our village.

Committee members

Membership and responsibilities are as follows:

Richard Cowling	Chair
Emily Buchanan	Treasurer
Shirley Cowling	Secretary; Marketing
Dave Bowmer	Events
Jal Rigaard	Marketing; Infrastructure
John Elliot	Fire management; Events
Paul Nicholson	Fund raising; Events

Associate members

Chris Cowling
Al Brady
Garry Milford
Joan Brady

Honorary life members

Martin Barbour

Fundraising

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 of R300 or more are tax-deductible.

We continue to benefit from generous donations from supporters, despite the hard economic times; over the past year (since our last AGM) we attracted donations totalling R58,120, about half that was raised last year. This amount excludes income generated by events, which totalled R55,952. We also received a generous donation of R20,000 from Rotary in July this year. Special thanks are due to the following donors who have donated amounts in 2018/19 of R500 or more, with many members donating more than once:

Allens' Woodworks	Hogan D & T
Anderson B	Horne family
Boonzaaier J	Hide family
Bowmer/Baker	Jendemark Automation
Brady K	Kuhn A
Brady A & J	Lippstreu PE
Burman family	MSWK 10
Briscoe family	ONE 33
Coultas B & J	Retief 51
Cowling R & S	Rigaard Family
Cape SF Resort	Ruffel Family
De Wet family	Saloojee R & M
Emdel Trust	Seeff Properties
Flaviana Kupczyk	St Francis Runners
Fourie K&T	Stewart L & L
Farquar family	Uys H
Gennrich M	Van Zyl family
Goulding family	West G & M
Grundling A & H	Wilson John
Hempel erf 233	

FOSTER submitted a proposal for 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. While no funding was received, the municipality has allocated in this financial year (2019/20) large amounts of funding for the fuel hazard reduction and development and maintenance of firebreaks in the Greater St Francis region. Some of these funds can be used to maintain fire breaks in the reserve system. FOSTER does not envisage having to bear the costs of fire hazard reduction activities in the future. This means that all our funding can focus on the ecological and recreational aspects of the reserves.

Projects and events

After almost 25 years of fund raising via events and grant applications, FOSTER no longer has the capacity to do this. Given that our focus will be strictly on the recreational and ecological management of the reserves, we estimate that we will need about R80 000 per annum to do this. We would like to raise this amount entirely from membership fees and donations. So please join and donate. In return, we promise a level of cost-effectiveness that exceeds by orders of magnitude that which a government agency would provide.

Fun Run

The FOSTER Fun Run was held on the 28th December last year. The event generated an amount of R9 690 around R7,000 less 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. The holiday season is now replete with events that are run by commercial (for profit) enterprises and these have placed constraints on non-profits such as FOSTER. We hope that the resort will hold a FOSTER fun run this year.

Golf Day

The FOSTER Golf Day – held on 26th December last year - generated an amount of R46 205, about R6 000 more than last year. Thanks to Paul Nicholson and his team for running this event. We are uncertain as to whether we will run this event this year as we cannot find volunteers to assist.

Wildflower event

The popular Wildflower Chase was held again during October (11-13) at the Cape St. Francis Resort, as part of the three-day Seal Point Wildflower Festival. The Resort provided transport participants to the wild flower sites in the Irma Booysen 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 Booysen Flora Reserve. Thanks to Dave Bowmer and 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 promoting the event.

Marketing and membership

Membership numbers are currently 200. 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. The website is regularly updated.

Reserve and fire reduction management

FOSTER manages the Irma Booysen Flora Reserve, the Seal Bay Nature Reserve, the Seal Point Nature Reserve (all Municipal) and the (Provincial) Cape St. Francis Nature Reserve, which together comprise approximately 330 ha natural habitat. 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 tracks through the Irma Booysen Flora Reserve and in the Cape St. Francis Nature Reserve accessible for fire and other emergency services.

Since the fire of 2016, FOSTER has spent about R230 000 on making firebreaks and access routes to reduce the fire hazard posed by the reserve's vegetation. In April this year, the Kouga Municipality implemented the first controlled burn in the Irma Booysen Nature Reserve based on preparatory work and advice provided by John Elliott and Dave Bowmer. It is great to see the Kouga Municipality getting involved; this reduces the burden on our funds and time enormously. The good news is that Working on Fire will soon have a team permanently based in St Francis Bay. We will ensure that this team assumes responsibility for maintaining firebreaks and access routes in our reserve system. Furthermore, the Kouga Municipality has made available funds for establishing firebreaks in the Greater St Francis area. Suffice to say that we are delighted with these developments and can hand over to the appropriate authorities the best fire hazard reduction network for any area in the Kouga Municipality.

Dave Bowmer is no longer able to provide the services required for managing the reserve system. Therefore, we hired Ross Turner to do this for a monthly stipend of R5000. Ross holds a MSc in plant ecology and is currently writing up his PhD on *Erica* pollination. Ross' duties are as follows:

1. Patrol entire reserve system every two months.
2. Implement trail maintenance and rehabilitation tasks not incurring capital expenditure and additional labour costs.
3. Identify and manage the implementation of trail maintenance and rehabilitation tasks that do incur capital expenditure and additional labour costs.
4. Remove all individuals of alien invasive woody shrubs and trees.
5. Remove all litter encountered on the trail system.
6. Report and arrange for the removal of material illegally dumped in the NRS.
7. Erect new and replace damaged signage.

8. Monitor on an *ad hoc* basis human and animal activities.
9. Submit to the FOSTER Committee a brief report on the 25th of each month.

Responding to development pressures

Rocky Coast Farm has launched its Basic Assessment in July of this year. The project entails development of 46 individual properties with the total development footprint being less than 2%, the remaining 98% of the 460ha being proclaimed Nature Reserve. The proposed nature reserve is adjacent to the Irma Booysen Reserve and will link to the current network of FOSTER reserves. FOSTER has supported this “win-win” proposal from its conception.

Reserve proclamation

Jal Rigaard (FOSTER) and Wentzel Coetzer (Conservation Outcomes) are heading the proclamation process. We have identified priority properties for the KM to transfer to their ownership from expired entities so that the process or proclamation can continue. Every avenue of collaboration and assistance is being explored to assist KM with resolutions taken to proclaim the remaining portions. The project is ongoing with the Environmental and Town Planning Departments of KM as well as our local councilor, Mr. Rheeder. FOSTER thanks Wentzel for his assistance and expertise which is invaluable.

Financial report

Financial statements (balance sheet and income and expenditure report) for the period 1/3/18 to 28/2/19 are attached to this report.

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 wellbeing (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.



RM Cowling
Chair: FOSTER

F. .S.T.E.R

friends of st francis nature areas

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

BALANCE SHEET FOR YEAR ENDED FEBRUARY 2019

Bank balance carried forward for year ended 28 February 2018	R 105, 872.47
Income over expenditure for year ended 28 February 2019	27, 580.58
adjustment	5.37

BANK BALANCES AT YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2019

Business cheque account FNB 62179531598	R 76, 541.99
Money market account FNB 62179527745	56, 916.43

TOTAL BALANCES: R 133, 458.42

Signed on behalf of the Friends of St. Francis Nature Areas (F.O.S.T.E.R)



**MRS. L.J. BAKER
TREASURER**



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 FEBRUARY 2019

INCOME

Member's subscriptions	R 10, 300.00
Donations	129, 945.00
Interest on Money Market	3, 554.64

TOTAL INCOME R143, 799.64

EXPENDITURE

Reserve management	R102, 475.00
Administrative and misc	1, 249.39
Other reserve costs (herbicide, etc)	5, 887.11
Bank charges	1, 276.15
Signage and maps	1, 109.41
Website	1, 428.00
Taxation Consultant	800.00
Printing and petties	1, 994.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURE R116, 219.06

INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE R27, 580.58

Signed on behalf of the Friends of St. Francis Nature Areas (F.O.S.T.E.R)

MRS. L.J. BAKER
TREASURER