



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2021

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

Preamble

2021 has been another busy year for FOSTER fueled by a renewed and reinvigorated Committee. FOSTER recruited three new members, namely Trevor Gascoyne, Nita Claassen and Antoinette Grundling. Jal Rigaard resigned in the face of mounting work pressures; we thank him for his excellent contribution to the proclamation of the reserves and for providing liaison with the Kouga Municipality. John Elliott has also needed to step back from direct involvement in reserve management but will be available to provide advice as an Associate Member. Shirley Cowling is not available for re-election. The Committee expresses huge gratitude to Shirley for her enormous contribution to the establishment and growth of FOSTER over the past 30 years. We will continue to tap into her knowledge and wisdom regarding the management of our reserves. Thank you, Shirley! I will be standing down as Chair this year but will continue to serve on the Committee where I will assist with the reserve management portfolio. The committee and I recommend that the chair be occupied by the ever-capable Matt Gennrich.

Buoyed by generous funding from our supporters, and under the experienced eye of Dave Bowmer (our reserve manager), FOSTER has revamped all the trails in Cape St Francis Nature Reserve, cleared woody alien invasive plants and conducted routine maintenance of paths and firebreaks in all the reserves. The revamped trail to the “two bays lookout” has attracted a lot of positive comment.

As Treasurer, Emily Buchanan has ensured FOSTER's practices are aligned with our constitution and the law, generally, and has ensured fiscal oversight. She and Matt Gennrich have done a superb job marketing FOSTER's activity and attracting new members. At the end of 2021, membership stood at 229, the highest ever. Matt has also kept tabs on the proclamation process which is, believe-it-or-not, on the cusp of fruition.

Led by Trudi Malan, our website has received a much-needed makeover. Trudi also oversaw the production of new trail maps, which are available on the website. Thanks to Wentzel Coetzer of Conservation Outcomes for digitising the trails and preparing the maps. Trudi also designed our new logo (displayed above) that features a plant (Red satyr) emblematic of our region. Thanks Trudi!

FOSTER is delighted to include in the reserves part of the extensive trail network for cyclists in the Greater St Francis region. Trevor Gascoyne has facilitated productive dialogue between FOSTER and the St Francis Cycle Club representing the many cyclists who use the trails in the nature reserves. The Cycle Club have agreed to provide R20 000 per annum for the maintenance by FOSTER of cycle trails. Trevor and Matt Gennrich erected our new, robust “no cycling” signs (thanks to Wentzel for the poles) prior to the holidays; fortunately, only a few were vandalized.

Paul Nicholson, with the help of other FOSTER members ran a highly successful Golf Day, and the Cape St Francis Resort, assisted by FOSTER, organised a Fun Run during the holidays. Nita Claassen has agreed to revive the FOSTER jol during 2022.

Sadly, our Honorary Life Member, Martin Barbour, passed away during 2021. Martin produced our first series of trail maps. He will be sorely missed. Condolences to his family

Committee members

Membership and responsibilities are as follows:

Richard Cowling	Chair, networking, monitoring, reserve management
Emily Buchanan	Treasurer, outreach
Shirley Cowling	Secretary, marketing, and communication
Matt Gennrich	Marketing and communication
Paul Nicholson	Fund raising; events
Jal Rigaard	Proclamation, municipal liaison
Trevor Gascoyne	Reserve management; networking
Nita Claassen	Outreach

Associate members

Chris Cowling
Al Brady
Garry Milford
Joan Brady
John Elliott

Honorary life members

Martin Barbour

Fundraising

Emily Buchanan 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 of R300, or more are tax-deductible.

We continue to benefit from generous donations from supporters, despite the economic hardships; over the past year we attracted membership fees and donations totaling R298 501.92. This included an exceptionally generous donation from Anne-Marie Ferreira and a healthy injection of funds by Myles Japhta for the revamp of trails for the Cape St Francis Nature Reserve. Special thanks are due to the following donors who have donated amounts in 2021 of R500 or more, with many members donating more than once:

Adler R & A	Burman family
Anderson B	Cape St Francis Resort
Bateman R	Charnock B
Birkett M & B	Charter family
Boonzaaier H	Corns family
Boonzaaier J	Coultas B & J
Brady A & J	Cowling C & L
Brady K & McGee T	Cox D
Briscoe T & A	Cranswick D & family
Buchanan/Ritchie & family	Da Silva D & D

Davies G & W
Davies M & A
Dekker family
De Waal Ilse
De Wet P
Dieperink P & family
Dold M & E
Du Preez R
Driscoll/Anderson
Elliott C & family
Farquhar M & family
Ferreira A-M
Ferrey M & E
Fish M
Flanagan S & N
Fox L & N
Gammie H & K
Gennrich M
Goedeke U
Goulding R
Grundling A & H
Hardtke family
Hellon K
Hide A & M
Hogan D & T
Holmes P & L
Horak family
Jackson K
Japhet M & J
Jordaan B & L
Kroon family
Kuhn A & L
Lagaay J & T
Maingard M

Manthe M & JL
Moolman MA & SE
Morris M
Moulang family
Nel C
Nicholson D & P
Opperman family
Pam Golding St Francis
Pearson G & family
Pike R
Prins J & J
Raney F & family
Retief W
Rigaard F & J
Rigaard J
Schoombee E
Silberbauer F & S
Smith G & family
St Francis Cycling Club
St Francis Golf Club
Stanley W
Stewart L & L
Sylvester M
Truter family
Uys H & W
Van Rensberg R
Voerman H & J
Vogel A
Watts D & F
Willows D
Wills H
Zietsman R & E

Projects and events

Paul Nicholson reports:

Golf Day

The Foster Golf Day was held on 6th November 2021 after almost a 3-year gap since the 2018 Golf Day held on 26th December 2018, largely due to the Covid pandemic. We were not sure how the date change would impact on the support we would receive but were overjoyed at the amazing support - ending up with generous donations, sponsorship, and a full field of 179 golfers participating in the event, increasing our membership and raising R39,500.00. One of the reasons for the success was that the PGA tournament was being held at the St Francis Links that week & will be held in early November for the next 2 years. On the strength of the success in 2021 we have reserved the St Francis Bay Golf Club early November 2022 to have the FOSTER Golf Day coincide with the PGA tournament again in 2022. FOSTER would like to thank all the generous sponsors (too many to name here) of our prizes and some of the holes and tees make a golf day very attractive to the players and of course the golf club for hosting the event.

Fun Run

The annual FOSTER/CSF Resort Fun Run was also revived in 2021 and so on the 26th of December's runners and walkers came out in their droves to do a morning's exercise in our reserves.

The new route carefully planned and marked out by Dane Shaw from the resort was well received by the participants who enjoyed the mix of terrain and scenery whilst shedding some calories. Some R7 800 was raised through entry fees and the Cape St Francis Resort apart from sponsoring most of the prizes also generously donated a further R5 000 to FOSTER, so a total of R12 800 was raised on the day, which will be put to good use improving the signage in the reserves.

Wildflower event

Once again, Dave Bowmer ran a successful flower chase at the Airpark reserve during our beautiful spring. Don't miss this opportunity to experience our wildflowers next spring.

Marketing and membership

Matt Gennrich and Emily Buchanan report:

The renewed marketing and membership drive campaigns paid handsome dividends in 2021 with FOSTER being able to more than double its membership numbers with some 229 paid up members at the end of 2021, which contributed substantially to our fund-raising efforts. The support received from our local media who always willingly carry any news submitted by FOSTER played a significant role in helping increase our membership and a big thank you to Colin Watt the previous editor of St Francis Today (who is unfortunately no longer with us) and his successor Craig Jarvis and Bev from the St Francis Chronicle for your generous support. Craig also carries FOSTER as well as environmentally important articles in his excellent publication "The Westwind." We look forward to continuing and building on these relationships going forward.

Facebook and of course our new website are playing an increasingly important role in our communication efforts with some 1000 followers on Facebook. Our followers especially enjoy our posts of the wildlife that our camera trap has caught, and it is heart-warming to note an increase in the numbers of several species despite the increased use of our 4 reserves by the hikers, walkers, cyclists and trail runners. Our new partnership with the cycling club has also seen the number of delinquent cyclists using the pedestrian paths drop off significantly.

For those who have not yet been on our new website, please do yourselves a favour and do so. Trudi Malan has done a fantastic job together with DNA Online, With Wentzel Coetzer from Conservation Outcomes remapping the reserves trails and the maps are now user friendly and full of information and easy to follow or download.

The website also makes paying your membership fees so much easier with online instant options available. We are also now able to send out renewal reminders. So please renew your membership if you have not done so yet.

Reserve and fire reduction management

Richard Cowling reports

FOSTER manages the Irma Booyesen 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 Booyesen Flora Reserve and in the Cape St. Francis Nature Reserve accessible for fire and other emergency services. In total, FOSTER spent about R300 000 On reserve management during 2021.

Much of our efforts this year were spent on revamping the trail and fire access routes and removing alien plants in the Cape St Francis Nature Reserve. We were assisted by generous donations from an ardent conservationist who prefers to remain anonymous and by John Lagaay, the latter contributing to the removal of a wreck that had been occupied illegally. Dave Bowmer and his team did an excellent job in widening paths, building steps, and removing aliens. The routes used by cyclists were upgraded by providing hard surfaces where necessary. Unfortunately, progress by the Working on Fire team to establish a new fire access route in this reserve has been disappointing.

Dave also supervised the maintenance of all routes in the Irma Booyesen Reserve, including clearing of fire access routes.

By the start of the season, the reserve was in excellent shape for the influx of visitors, who are using the reserve in ever-increasing numbers. Despite the increase in human and dog traffic on the paths, the camera trap suggest that the composition of our fauna is still healthy.

Finally, I would like to request that the public do not establish memorials to deceased pets or erect signage in the reserves. Please enquire about your proposal before it is implemented.

Reserve proclamation

Matt Gennrich reports:

As previously reported FOSTER and Wentzel Coetzer from Conservation Outcomes continue to collaborate and drive this project. Having identified the priority properties in 2020, CO completed their biodiversity assessment which was tabled to the ECPTA Review Panel and accordingly qualified for full Nature Reserve Status in terms of the Protected Areas Act. One of the first priorities was to resolve the ownership issue of these parcels of land and CW Malan Attorneys were appointed to affect the complicated process of getting

these erven registered into the Kouga Municipalities name. We are delighted to report that this was finally completed in January 2022, which means that the declaration process can now proceed. We thank Wentzel and Conservation Outcomes for their support and hard work for driving this process and for paying the fees to C W Malan.

FOSTER continues to work with the municipality and is currently engaged in finalising a new MOU which continues to give FOSTER the mandate to manage the reserves on their behalf. Managing and caring for the reserves including the removal of alien vegetation is the Municipalities responsibility as per various acts of legislation, but due to their resource constraints FOSTER continues to perform this function for them despite the obstacles that are at times placed in our way.

Financial report

Emily Buchanan reports:

Financial statements (balance sheet and income and expenditure report) for the year end 2021 are attached to this report. We are delighted that despite 2021 being another Covid-dominated year, and six months of intense work in the reserves, we show a negligible shortfall of merely 2509.65. We are planning a year of even more work thanks to promises of large contributions in 2022.

Thanks to the administrative help of Glenda Mudamaa.

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

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 END DEC 2021

INCOME

Member's subscriptions	74 950.00
Donations	188 300.00
Interest on Money Market	3 036.92
Golf day	32 215.00

TOTAL INCOME	298 501.92
--------------	------------

EXPENDITURE

Rooikrantz Project	171 016.98
Reserve management	42 964.00
Firebreaks/MTB Tracks	31 091.75
Bookkeeping	11 000.00
Bank charges	1 504.50
Snapscan charges	135.37
Payfast charges	672.81
Signage and maps	2 625.00
Golf Day	10 330.90
Website	6 740.00
Accountant (Tax)	0.00
Weed Control	6 083.50
Wreck removal	7 757.76
Shearwater Dr Clearing	9 089.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURE	301 011.57
-------------------	------------

INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE(Deficit)	-2509.65
----------------------------------	-----------------

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

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

BALANCE SHEET FOR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 2021

Bank balance carried forward for year ended December 2020	133979.65
Income over expenditure for year ended 31 December 2021	-2509.65
	131470.00

BANK BALANCES AT YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Business cheque account FNB 62179531598	28 218.72
Money market account FNB 62179527745	97 374.98
Payfast Account	5 876.30
TOTAL BALANCES:	131470.00

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