



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2022

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

Preamble

On the one hand it seems like yesterday since I became the chair of FOSTER whilst on the other hand it seems like forever with so much happening and in fact so much to do. I am indebted to Richard Cowling for his ongoing advice and support and for continuing to oversee the management of the reserves. Thankfully, Emily continues to keep a watchful eye over our finances and thank you, Emily, for playing the role of elder statesperson for FOSTER reminding us of our mission when we start to stray off course. We did end the year with a small deficit and managing a now not-insubstantial budget has certainly changed the dynamics of the treasurer's function.

Antoinette, our secretary, has taken to her role like a duck to water and has brought FOSTER into the digital era and simplified much of the administration. Trevor has continued to build relationships for FOSTER and he now sits on the Kromme Enviro-Trust Board as FOSTER's representative, and he works with the cycling club for the good of both organisations. Without Paul and Nita our Golf Day and the FOSTER Jol would not have gotten off the ground, never mind been the success for FOSTER that they were in terms, of both fundraising and as marketing tools. So, thank you to the committee for your support and commitment. This is a team effort, and all the cogs need to mesh to be successful.

Whilst Trudie Malan is no longer on the committee, she needs a special thank you for being the brainchild behind and executing the new signage now in place at all the main entrances to the reserve.

This brings me to Dave Bowmer, who continues to be our man on the ground, working tirelessly with Chris, Richard, and David to improve and maintain the reserve system. His passion for and knowledge of our fynbos remains an example to me and if I lived for another 65 years, I doubt I would be able to assimilate his, and of course Richard Cowling's, knowledge about our natural environment. We can all be grateful that we have such a capable team responsible for our network of reserves. It is with sadness that we remember Sonwabo Mpemvana whom we knew as David, who passed away at the end of last year. Our sincere condolences to his family.

The reserves have never been in a better state.

We have managed to put a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place with the Kouga Municipality (KM) and are making progress with the reserve proclamation process. Many thanks to Wentzel Coetzer, from Conservation Outcomes, for all his assistance with this.

During 2021 we set ourselves the following key short- medium-term objectives. Whilst some have taken longer than others, I am delighted that we set out what we wanted to achieve in the period of two years.

- Purchase a gazebo, and six teardrop banners so that FOSTER can have an active marketing presence at key events – **Achieved.**
- Produce a refreshed and functioning website including updated and easy to use trail maps – **Achieved.**
- Arrange for new signage for the reserves - **Achieved.**
- Arrange that maintenance of shared pedestrian and cycle paths (excluding the lighthouse) to be funded 50/50 between the St Francis Cycle Club and FOSTER. Dedicated cycle paths to be funded by the cycle club – **Achieved.**
- Firebreaks and firefighting access trails to be cut and maintained by the local relevant authority – **Achieved.**
- Encourage the implementation of the finalised bench policy. No more benches allowed as per the Kouga Municipal directive – **Resolved.**

We do have another list of long- term objectives we are now working on.

Some of the projects we have planned and are working on for this year are:

- Working with the Cape St Francis Civic Association to upgrade the shipwreck/anchor display at the entrance to CSF. Thanks to Chris Milne architects and Sturt Obrey from Lighthouse Construction for assisting us with the design proposed building of the display wall.
- Embarking on placing 365 identifying tree tags in the reserves, by Richard Cowling, no mean task. Thanks to Ingrid and Trevor from the Sands (PE Hotel Group) and VITAMINSEA store for sponsoring these.
- Setting up a register of resources for FOSTER. We know that there are many people in our area with skill sets and knowledge that want to help FOSTER. We are often asked: “What can we do to help, apart from funding?” Of course, we may need professional advice, in-kind assistance such as a loan of a tractor, bush cutter etc. and the donation of material/s is also always welcome.
- Planning to make the Flower Chase or festival in early October a bigger and more interactive event.
- Taking the website up a level.

The issue of the berms on the cycle track around the light house is in the process of being resolved between the St Francis Bay Cycling Club and the Department of Economic, Developments, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEA) and the rehabilitation of the area will then commence. There are some processes that need to be followed and complied with.

The new committee was confirmed for 2022. No new nominations were received at the meeting. However, people are welcome to come forward at any time to either join the committee or help with special projects or provide resources.

Committee members for 2022

Membership and responsibilities are as follows:

Richard Cowling Reserve management

Emily Buchanan	Treasurer, social media marketing
Antoinette Grundling	Secretary
Matt Gennrich	Chair, communication and municipal liaison
Paul Nicholson	Fundraising; events
Trevor Gascoyne	Reserve management; networking
Nita Claassen	Outreach, events

The portfolio committee members reports:

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 of 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 R470 000 on reserve management during 2022, the largest amount since the inception of the organization. A massive thanks to the donors who enabled this.

Buoyed by this injection of funds, Dave Bowmer and his team did a huge amount of work; by the end of 2022, and in time for the start of the holiday season, the reserve system was in the best state ever. Here is a list of the major achievements:

1. Rehabilitation of all trails in the Seal Point Nature Reserve as well the lighthouse and wild side entrance points.
2. Follow-up alien plant removal in Cape St Francis Nature Reserve.
3. Completion of the new fire-access route in Cape St Francis Nature Reserve.
4. Rehabilitation of the Anchor Garden entrance to the Irma Booyesen Nature Reserve.
5. Rehabilitation of the trail leading from the tennis court entrance to the Irma Booyesen Nature Reserve.
6. Chemical and manual control of troublesome indigenous plants, main bitou.
7. Erection of new signage throughout the reserve system.

The camera trap continues to be monitored, showing a big increase in reserve use as well as a healthy composition of fauna, even during peak season. We have been lent four additional cameras which have been placed in strategic places in the reserves allowing us to monitor a much wider area. I will report on trends later in the year. Thank you to Justin O' Riain from UCT for lending the cameras to FOSTER.

St Francis Bay Cycling Club, Kromme Trust and Other

Trevor Gascoyne reports:

FOSTER has continued to strengthen its relationships with the St Francis Cycling Club and Kromme Trust over the last year.

The continual engagement with the cycling community has resulted in greater awareness of the impact that cyclists have on our various reserves and, as a consequence, there has been minimum transgression of riders on the "non-cycling" trails. Furthermore, and for the first time in many years,

we were not made aware of any adverse incidents between cyclists, walkers and/or runners over the peak season in December. The signage in the reserves was also not tampered with in any way (unlike in the 2021 season). Given the significant increase in pedestrian and cycling traffic in the reserves, safety has become a factor and signage has been placed in the Cape St Francis Reserve to warn cyclists to slow down at one of the busier intersections. The cycling community has embraced the trails in the reserves, and we have received many compliments regarding the great condition and quality of the trails that have been maintained by FOSTER. The Cycling Club continues to contribute financially towards the maintenance of the trails in the various reserves. Special thanks go to Greg West, Nevil Hulett and Richard Arderne for the close working relationship that has developed between FOSTER and the cycling community. Plans are currently under way to reintroduce the very successful annual St Francis Mountain Bike Race and FOSTER is working closely with the organisers to ensure that the cycling paths in the reserves are traversed safely and that there is minimum impact on the environment.

FOSTER and the Kromme Trust have developed a strong working relationship over the last year and we now have representation at each other's committee meetings to share ideas and improve communication between the two parties. FOSTER is actively involved in organising the regular beach clean-up activities with Kromme Trust and Rotary and we hope to see these develop into a major project over coming months and years. FOSTER and the Kromme Trust constantly engage on areas affecting our biodiversity and ensure that a "common voice" is heard when dealing with matters of importance over and above each other's primary focus (e.g., regarding the now withdrawn mining licence request in the Sand River).

Projects and Events

Paul Nicholson and Nita Claassen report:

FOSTER Golf Day 5 November 2022

Despite earlier predictions of potentially foul weather, the 5th of November, though initially cloudy with a very slight drizzle, turned into a peach of a day with ideal conditions for a day's golf.

In fact, those who started later in the day may have been wishing for some of that cloud and drizzle as the sun beat down in windless conditions.

The first four-ball of a full field for the day teed off at exactly 07h00 with the last four-ball coming back to the clubhouse at around 17h30. As always, our local businesses, as well as some companies from Port Elizabeth, rose to the occasion with their generosity, ensuring that the top six four-balls were rewarded with some amazing prizes, as were the four players closest to the pin of four of the holes - certainly worth playing for. Not only that, but lucky players were rewarded for their entry by winning a string of lucky-draw prizes.

A total of R26 000 was raised through sponsorship and it is really gratifying to see how the work that FOSTER does in the four reserves is noted and rewarded because of support from our sponsors and donors. When adding the FOSTER's share of the entrance fees, close to R40 000 will have been added to FOSTER's coffers.

The winners were:

- 1st – Greg Bentley, Dave Micklem, Jannie Botha, Dean Nysschen - 96 pts
- 2nd - Craig Haverly, Paul Lawrie, Richard Kellett, Don Spiers - 93 pts

In addition to thanking all our sponsors and donors listed below, a special word of thanks goes to the St Francis Lower Golf Club for hosting the event and for their all their help; the players for supporting our FOSTER GOLF DAY; and lastly, members of the FOSTER golf organising committee ,Paul, Trevor, Nita and Antoinette who, as always, gave selflessly of their time to make the day a success.

List of sponsors and donors:

Jendamark Automation	Sandy Coffee Photography
Specsavers	Investec
Horak Family	Port Elizabeth Hotel Group
Gallup Strengths Finder (Sandy Coffey)	Build It
Grindstone Property Management Pty Ltd	Calibre Security
St Francis Links/St Francis Bay Golf Clubs	Lindy & Keith Schlosz-Tranquility
Dirk Ellis VW - Jeffreys Bay	Spar Group EC
Village Square Spar	Lempriere Wool Services SA
Stone Pine Holdings Pty Ltd	A C Whitcher Pty Ltd
Pam Golding Properties	Remax on Sea
Ilse de Waal-Anna's On The Beach	Chemdry
Fresh Laundry	Liquid Lines
Bayline Pools	Albert Saunders Attorneys
Blue Bottle Store	Allister Robertson
Hempel Family	Hogan Family
Meikles	Hibiscus Health & Beauty Studio
Never Mind Restaurant	The Quays
22 Eatery	Bruce's Coffee Shop
Cape St Francis Resort-Joe Fish Restaurant	Trade Winds Coffee Shop
Resort Adventures/St Francis Safaris	Kouga Print & Design

Fun Run

Over 100 runners turned up on a perfect day to enter the Cape St Francis/Foster Fun Run/Walk on Tuesday 28th December. Dane and his team from the resort were up early to mark out both the 5 and 10 km routes which were, in effect, a trail run, starting at the resort and then down to the beach through the Seal Point Reserve to the lighthouse and then through Cape St Francis whilst traversing the Irma Booysen, Seal Bay and Cape St Francis Reserves. Meanwhile, FOSTER was on hand to man the water points and help with the registration.

Runners and walkers were treated to some of the best our reserves have to offer and whilst the beach sections were tough going due to the high tide, participants commented on the beauty of the reserves and how well maintained the trails were. For many, especially visitors, it was the first time that they had been in one of the FOSTER reserves and they promised to be back with friends and family.

Gerrie was the first under-12 boy in and he was followed closely by Lizzi-Marie, whilst Jethro and Andrew won the 5 and 10 km men's races respectively. The first woman back at the resort in the 5 km race was Janet and Melissa won the 10 km race.

FOSTER would like to thank Anita, Dane and all the Cape St Francis Resort Staff for their ongoing willing support of FOSTER, it is much appreciated.

Wildflower event

Once again, Dave Bowmer together with Colleen Smith ran a successful Flower Chase at the Airpark reserve during our beautiful spring. We are partnering with the Cape St Francis Resort this year and the Flower Chase will be situated at both the Air Park and in the FOSTER Reserves. It will be a both an educational and fun event and something quite special.

FOSTER Jol

The revived FOSTER Jol was held on 28 May 2022. The Cape St Francis Resort really pulled out all the stops that night when they hosted the event in the Joe Fish Restaurant. Jason, Danny and Anita assisted in ensuring that all ran as smoothly as possible. Jason and his friendly staff ensured that all were fed, and some even went for seconds, as there was plenty. On the menu were three different potjiekos selections: Beef, Chicken and Vegetarian. For the children younger than 12, we had hamburgers and chips on offer. Our very talented local band, Lions Gate, gave us a blast of entertainment and they ensured that the dance floor was packed with people to rock-and- roll and boogie until late into the night. The band members Chris, Steve, Anthony, Dominique, Ralph, Zeppi, Mike, Chris, Ryan, Lethabo, Rob and Dylan, all did exceptionally well. People dressed up and wonderful prizes were handed out to first, second and third best dressed. Plenty of other prizes were also sponsored and given out. The Jol was a happy and successful event and the money raised will help FOSTER to continue with our primary role to nurture and preserve the biodiversity of our reserves. FOSTER is busy planning our Jol for 2023 with the willing support of the Resort. The date and event will be confirmed soon. We are expecting a full house in 2023, so please ensure that you buy your tickets before the 300 allocated tickets are sold out.

Marketing and Management

Matt Gennrich and Emily Buchanan report:

I am pleased to report that our continued marketing and awareness efforts are paying off with our membership numbers now stable at just over 200 paid-up members who remain the backbone of FOSTER and our fundraising efforts. FOSTER was pleasantly surprised to be made the beneficiaries of a number fundraising events held in St Francis Bay. The monthly Story Slam, organized by Sandy Coffey and held at the St Francis Brewpub, made FOSTER one of the recipients. We also received a substantial donation from the Jarred De Wit Memorial Golf Day as well as a donation from the Just Property Bingo evening. The running club also made a donation after their annual run traversed some of the reserves. Thank you to all of you. We also received two very generous donations from Rotary one from the local club who organised a grant as well from the district. We have a very generous anonymous donor who has not only donated R120 000 to FOSTER but also encouraged 10 of his friends to contribute R12 000 each to our coffers. This has been one of the reasons that FOSTER could embark on a step-change approach to our reserve management as outlined in Richard's report.

The support received from our local media, who always willingly carry any news submitted by FOSTER, has played a significant role in helping to increase the awareness of FOSTER and a big thank you to Craig the editor of *St Francis Today* and Bev from the *St Francis Chronicle* who readily carry any of our articles or announcements in their publication at no cost. Thank you for your generous support. We look forward to continuing and building on these relationships in 2023.

Facebook, and of course our new website, continue to play an increasingly important role in our communication efforts and we now have over 1200 followers on Facebook. Our followers especially

enjoy our posts of the wildlife that our camera trap has caught, and it is heartwarming to see some new species such as duiker, in our four reserves, despite the increased use of these by the hikers, walkers, cyclists and trail runners.

The website also makes the payment of 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 yet done so.

FOSTER'S new signage which has been placed at all the main entrances to the reserves, have been very well received and I often see people now familiarising themselves with the trails before embarking on their walks. The trail maps are also available on the website. We also plan to digitise these in 2023, meaning that you will be able to download the map to your phone and follow the trail live as you walk.

Irma Booyesen Flora Reserve - Declaration Process

All the required documents for the declaration process were submitted to the manager of the Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency (ECPTA) Biodiversity Stewardship Programme in July 2022, with the request that they start with the declaration process as soon as possible. Conservation Outcomes will engage with ECPTA throughout the declaration process on behalf of FOSTER for which we are very thankful. The following need to be followed to conclude the declaration process. As one can see we have a lengthy journey ahead of us and this will take two to three years to complete.

1. A 60-day public participation and consultation process must be concluded. This process must be facilitated by ECPTA and the Member of the Executive Council (MEC).
2. Since the properties are state-owned land, the MEC must obtain the concurrent consent from the MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) to declare the properties. This process must be facilitated by ECPTA and the MEC.
3. Once steps 1 and 2 above are completed, the MEC must publish a declaration notice in the Provincial Government Gazette, whereby the properties will be declared as an expansion to the existing Irma Booyesen Flora Reserve. This process must be facilitated by ECPTA and the MEC.
4. Concurrent with step 3 above, the MEC will assign KM as the Management Authority of the expanded Irma Booyesen Flora Reserve. When the time comes, Conservation Outcomes will engage with KM to get the relevant documents signed by the Municipal Manager, and ECPTA will in turn facilitate the process to have the relevant documents signed by the MEC.
5. Once steps 3 and 4 above are completed, the MEC will provide the Minister with a copy of the gazette notice declaring the expansion. The MEC will also notify the Registrar of Deeds of the declaration of an expansion to the existing nature reserve. This must be facilitated by ECPTA and the MEC.
6. Once steps 3 and 4 above are completed, we will then have 12 months to submit a management plan for the nature reserve to the MEC for approval. Once the management plan is submitted, ECPTA will facilitate a public participation and consultation process during which interested and affected parties will be given an opportunity to comment on the management plan. Once this consultation process is completed, ECPTA will then facilitate the process to get the management plan approved and signed by the MEC.

A huge thank you to Wentzel Coetzer from Conservation Outcomes and its management as well as Ndlovu de Villiers Environmental Law Specialists for helping us to get to this point in the process.

In the interim FOSTER has managed to finalise a new MOU with the Kouga Municipality which is valid for 5 years (from July 2022) 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

Municipality's responsibility as laid out in various acts of legislation, but due to their resource constraints FOSTER will continue to perform this function.

Financial Report

Emily Buchanan reports:

Please find the balance sheet and income/expenditure report attached. We have had a very busy year, both receiving and spending approximately R200,000 more than we did the previous year. This was possible due to some very large donations from a few individuals who prefer to remain anonymous. It meant we could get a huge amount done in the reserves, as well as employing four full-time employees through our very reliable contractor, Dave Bowmer.

Unfortunately, we ended the year on a sizeable deficit of R47,000. The good news is that the amount is deceptive, in that over 17,000 owing for the FOSTER golf day was deposited in January, and a further 15,000 has been promised as a donation to pay for the tree tags FOSTER purchased in 2022. When this donation is made, our true deficit for 2022 will be closer to 15,000.

We have not listed those who have given more than R500.00 this year, in the interests of privacy and in deference to the POPI act. Please know that we value your contributions hugely.

Big thanks to those on the committee who have fund-raised so well, and helped secure other sponsorships and donations: Matt, Richard, Nita, Paul and Trevor. Thank you to Glenda Mudamaa who so reliably keeps our books in order.

As we did last year, we would like to reiterate that FOSTER is registered with the South African Revenue Services (SARS) as a public benefit organisation, in terms of section 30 of the Income Tax Act. Donations made to us of R300, or more are tax-deductible.

Balance Sheet and Income Statement

Balance sheet for year ending December 2022

Bank balance carried forward from 2021	131,470.00
Expenditure over income 31 Dec 2022	47,925.22
Balance	83,544.78
Bank balances year end December 31, 2022	
Business cheque account FNB 62179531598	4,784.66
Money market account FNB 62179527745	74,517.56
Payfast account FOSTER	4,242.56
Total	83,544.78
Signed on behalf of FOSTER.	
Emily Buchanan Treasurer	
Income and Expenditure for financial year January - December 2022	
INCOME:	
Member's subscriptions	117,146.13
Donations	266,108.00
Interest on money market	4,688.88
FOSTER golf day	*21,500.00
FOSTER Jol	51,568.19
Jarred de Witt memorial golf day	23,523.84
TOTAL INCOME:	484,535.04
* A further 17,050.00 from the golf day was deposited in Jan, 2023	*
EXPENDITURE:	
reserve maintenance and signage	468,874.68
signage and maps	17,368.00
bank charges	2,645.58
bookkeeping	14,000.00
accountant	850.00
FOSTER jol expenses	26,322.00
website	2,400.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE:	532,460.26
EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME (DEFICIT)	47,925.22
Signed on behalf of FOSTER.	
Emily Buchanan Treasurer	

In Closing

It is organisations such as FOSTER that do and will make a difference to the preserving of our natural heritage and protecting our precious, beautiful natural areas against the onslaught of development, greed and corruption. Your support and those of our generous donors are critical in this fight and essential to our work. Importantly it is not always money that we need but if you can offer help with the loan of equipment, vehicles, materials, professional advice or in any other way you feel you could contribute, we would welcome your help. I mentioned the register earlier in my report, so if you feel that you can assist in some way, please give Antoinette, our very able secretary your details with how you can assist us. Lastly, many thanks to our committee members for their dedication and hard work and being willing to be a part of the FOSTER team to make a difference in the area where we live.

Matt Gennrich
Chair: FOSTER