



FROM THE CHAIR

TFFC – July 2009 Newsletter

Hi all,

It is the end of July and we are in the middle of one of the coldest winters that I can remember. Had it only been my bones taking strain, I would have to concede that I am getting older and thus feeling the cold more, but even the “kids” are complaining that “this is the coldest that we remember”.

All reports from those hardy, no reference intended to the illustrious rod makers, fly fishers who have been up to the farm, is that the farm is looking great, with the dams fishing well on some days and proving a little challenging on others. Overall, the fishing remains at a high level, thanks in the main to the good rains over the summer and Peter Arderne’s efforts for the rest. Dams 1 and 2 have produced both high quality and quantity fishing, with Dam 3 prov-



ing a little difficult as a result of the high level of weed. We are monitoring the situation, and had plans in place to drain Dam 3, but these may have to be put on hold as low rain falls have been predicted for summer 2009 / 2010. We will keep you posted.



The new fire place was installed just at the right time. The heat that is generated by the fireplace is sufficient to almost warm the entire house. I have no doubt that there will be those who say that the house is now too hot – this problem is easily solved by opening the door on a regular basis, thus reducing the temperature to “accept-

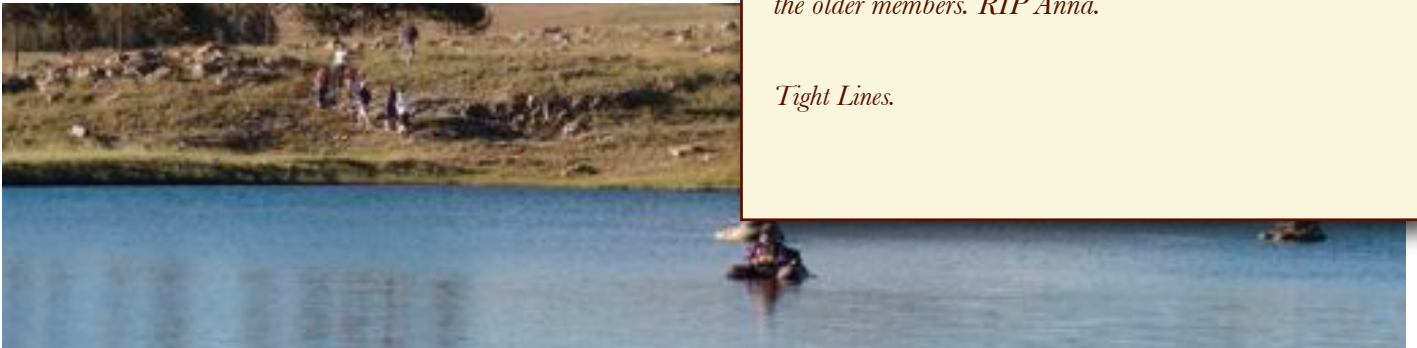
able” levels.

A couple of enhancements to the accommodation:

- A new light will be fitted in the lounge
- A couple of wooded benches have been purchased to make better use of the paved area in front of the house
- The corner on the veranda closet to the braai has been bricked off which will give the smokers somewhere to puff out of the house and out of the effects of the weather

Please remember to let us have any suggestions that you may have to enhance the house – all reasonable suggestions will be considered.

Following a fairly unpleasant incident at the farm, where a member who was not known to others at the farm was “given a rough time” by AN Others, I appeal to you to report the matter to the weekend warden, who should approach the matter with diplomacy in an attempt to ascertain the identity of the unknown person.



Lastly, we have had reports of helicopters and quad bikes on the premises – please report these to the weekend warden and / or Sheila.

Enjoy the fishing.

Editorial

I had the pleasure of visiting the farm for the weekend at the beginning of July. Man it was cold and my boys and I spent only a little time fishing. I did, however, initiate my sons to the pleasure of watching a test match at the Dullstroom Inn. I have to say that Dullstroom is not the same for me anymore, too much Touristy for my pallet.

The company at the Farm was, as ever, casual and warm and thanks to all who were there that weekend.

It's very dry at the farm and the danger of a veld fire is high, so PLEASE be careful about lighting the braai and how you put your cigarettes out. I noticed that Murrey Pedder stocks a stompie holder, please go buy one and solve both the fire-hazard and the litter problem.

I have been asked to inform you of the passing of Anna at age 97, Flap's original wife before Rose, and who was known and would be fondly remembered by a number of the older members. RIP Anna.

Tight Lines.

AGM Sunday 25th October 2009

at

Santon Field and Study Centre

TFFC (Middelpunt) Fishery Report for the 2008/2009 Season

Summary

The last season was very favourable for trout fishing at Middelpunt with dams full or reasonably full for most of the period, above average rainfall and mid-summer temperatures on the low side due to good rains and cloud cover. In addition we also cancelled the May 2008 delivery of 100kg rainbows as most of our dams were overstocked at that point.

Although it should have been a bumper season the fishing results were no more than average. The average size of rainbows recorded at 41,1cm and 836 g was very acceptable but no trophy fish over 2 kg were recorded during this period which is very surprising although there were large numbers in the 1,8 to 2 kg class.

A total of 1859 rainbows and browns were caught during the season of which 789 were killed (42%) and 1070 (58%) were released.

Dams 1 and 2 gave outstanding results which is often the case when these two dams are full. Dam 3 did not live up to expectations and is currently being lowered to facilitate weeding.

1. **Rainbows stocked vs. captured: 1994 - 2009**

Season	No. stocked	No. killed	No. C&R*	% killed	% killed+C&R.
1994/5	3206	1923	454	60,0	74,1
1995/6	2684	1730	373	64,5	78,3
1996/7	2523	1864	518	74,1	94,4
1997/8	2599	1784	454	64,3	93,8
1998/9	2518	1188	708	47,2	75,3
1999/00	3352	1394	715	41,6	62,9
2000/01	3035	1778	1360	58,6	103,4
2001/02	2746	1714	1477	62,4	116,2
2002/3	2455	1454	850	59,2	93,8
2003/4	2349	888	576	37,8	62,3
2004/5	2400	1236	1063	51,5	95,8
2005/6	2480	1019	1142	41,1	87,1
2006/7	1495	715	860	47,8	105,4
2007/8	1861	861	1159	46,3	108,5
2008/9	1498	767	992	51,2	117,4

*C&R = Catch & Release

2. Relationship between size of Rainbows stocked & recapture rate: 1994 – 2008

Season	Avg. size stocked - grams	% killed	% killed+C&R.
1994/5	530	60,0	74,1
1995/6	672	64,5	78,3
1996/7	718	74,1	94,4
1997/8	649	64,3	93,8
1998/9	596	47,2	75,3
1999/00	556	41,6	62,9
2000/01	759	58,6	103,4
2001/2	765	62,4	116,2
2002/3	734	59,2	93,8
2003/4	673	37,8	62,3
2004/5	721	51,5	95,8
2005/6	706	41,1	87,1
2006/7	755	47,8	105,4
2007/8	645	46,3	108,5
2008/9	768	51,2	117,4

Although there is a strong correlation between size of fish stocked and recapture rate dry cycles coupled with high temperatures tend to drive recapture rates down while cooler summers result in lower mortality and therefore improved angling.

3. All trout (rainbows + browns) stocked vs recapture rates: 1994 – 2008

Season	No stocked	No. killed	No. returned	No. killed + C&R
1994/5	3206	1923	454	2377
1995/6	2684	1730	373	2103
1996/7	2523	1864	518	2382
1997/8	2599	1784	454	2238
1998/9	2590	1188	708	1896
1999/00	3403	1417	766	2183
2000/01	3235	1807	1454	3261
2001/2	2891	1766	1622	3388
2002/3	2625	1516	940	2456
2003/4	2349	901	594	1495
2004/5	2521	1260	1131	2391
2005/6	2455	1050	1231	2281
2006/7	1645	732	941	1673
2007/8	2064	879	1178	2057
2008/9	1520	789	1070	1859

C&R= Catch & Release