



---

Chairman's Newsletter June 2017

### **Changing Seasons and Green Shoots**

The winter solstice is around the corner. Night-time temperatures, in particular, are cold. The spawning and stripping in the rivers and hatchery respectively have been successful. The winter work programme is in full swing. The aim of this circular is to share key developments and activities that have or will take place over the next couple of months.

Don and Anne are settling into their new role as the Management Couple which they have approached with determination, energy and urgency. They are finding their feet and becoming familiar with the details and nuances of running an operation the size of Finsbury.

Members will find a great article on Finsbury in the current edition of the Complete Fly Fisherman magazine. This feature is part of an on-going drive to raise the profile of the farm.

Construction will shortly commence on the Environmental Officer's accommodation. Grant Lotter helped us with the design of the building which will be constructed by Hannes Potgieter and his team at Urban Dynamics Gauteng Inc.

Hannes has not only brought expertise, organizational capacity and purchasing power to the project but has been most generous in carrying a significant portion of the costs. This much needed project will be funded from internal sources and it will not be necessary to raise a special levy on members therefor.

We enjoyed late rains during May. The rainfall at the Reception Area since November last year amounts to 1147mm. Amongst other things, this has resulted in the veld remaining moist which will delay the timing of fire breaks and other burning programmes. Water levels remain good for this time of the year.

It would appear that the insurance issues regarding the reconstruction of Unit 23 have been resolved. This has been a painful and frustrating experience for the families directly involved. Reconstruction work could commence during August.

The Hatchery is in good shape. Simon Shongwe and John Nkosi have done a wonderful job with the breeding programme. Over the coming weeks, we will populate the farm waters with fish so as to make room in the Hatchery for the season's breeding stock.

---

*General Manager: Donald MacCrimmon, Tel: 013 235 4024 / 087 150 0807, Mobile: 063 012 2313  
P O Box 637 Lydenburg 1120  
Directors: M Beaumont (Chairman), A van Heerden, I Libera, , C Stewart, R Leigh, C Thomas, H Potgieter*

*Registration Number 1988/000749/07*

# Finsbury

ESTATE  
Share Block (Pty) Ltd



---

The Board has settled on a winter programme with input from Don. Work will concentrate on Kliprots and Spekboom as these waters do not interfere with the integrity of the Hatchery at a sensitive time as eggs mature.

Our approach is to maintain the progress made over the past year with de-silting and, where necessary, to return to previously de-silted weirs. The sludge pump is proving very effective and efficient in removing fresh silt in these areas. The stability of the walls of certain weirs will be assured. W9 will be repaired and a trial project will be launched to tackle some of the reed growth in K9.

Focus will also be on parts of the Spekboom which carries the combined waters from the rest of the farm. In coming months, members will see significant improvements in the area immediately after the confluence of the Kliprots and Whisky streams and, hopefully, new weirs or repairs will be done at SPK1 and SPK4.

Anne and Don had planned an overseas holiday prior to joining us and will be overseas for two weeks from 29 June. We wish them a safe and enjoyable vacation.

Our financial year end is at the end of June. Whilst we have had a number of extraordinary expenses over the past year, we have managed to operate within our budgeted parameters. Huge thanks go to August van Heerden for his oversight role in this connection. You will be informed in the near future of the increase in levies from July.

Members continue to give positive feedback about the farm. If you have any suggestions or concerns, please do not hesitate to communicate these to any members of the Board.

Kind regards,

Mike Beaumont

6 June 2017

082 828 4925

mikeb.pelotonconsulting.co.za