
Chairman's Newsletter Autumn 2022

Dear Finsbury Members,

1. Raincoats and umbrellas have rarely been put away, suntan lotion hardly used, cosmos is in flower, Easter is upon us and Finsbury enters the final quarter of the financial year.
2. Despite the high rainfall in the country's summer rainfall areas, it was only good rains at the end of February that took us over the 1000mm mark for the summer. For the most part, rains were gentle and were easily absorbed, streams have flowed strongly and clearly and, most importantly, no damage was caused to infrastructure on the Farm.
3. Mosaic burning of the veld has quickly recovered and is proving to be a satisfactory formula to manage the health of the grasslands.
4. Members have enjoyed fishing experiences in the riverine areas where plant growth has been encouraged on the edges of the streams, pathways moved slightly back and foliage trimmed to facilitate casting. Fish stock and the mix of size of fish are more than sufficient for our purposes and will still allow us to generate sales of fish to cover the cost of feed.
5. The Covid-19 protocols have served our community well over the past two years and continue to apply. Details can be found in the reception area and in separate correspondence from Anne.
6. The Farm is on course to meet its budget for the year. There is some flexibility within the budget to meet the expected increase in fuel and energy prices. Typically, the Winter Program entails use of plant and equipment (such as the sludge pump) when additional fuel costs are incurred. Accordingly, there will be no interruption in this program based on increase in fuel costs.
7. The access road levy fund was exhausted last year to cover the rehabilitation costs of damage caused by Storm Eloise. The Board

- considers it prudent to rebuild this fund and road levy will, to this end, be increased to R100 per vehicle with immediate effect.
8. Collaboration is underway with the local roads authority and some Valley owners to effect repairs to the public section of the access road. From a Finsbury perspective, a balance is to be struck between work on the access road and maintaining our own infrastructure. The focus is therefore on the latter for the remainder of March whereafter the outstanding work on the public section will be completed.
 9. Doug Starling has retired to the Midlands and has sold his remaining interest in Highland Run (HR). Two thirds of the shares are now held by Dream Vacations (DV) and the balance by 4 individuals. There are no plans to build further houses on the property. The two houses “owned” by DV will be available to members of the holiday schemes run by that organisation. Appropriate steps will be taken to alert visitors to HR not to venture onto Finsbury.
 10. Members were briefed at the AGM last year on the initiative to revalidate the conservation status of the Mount Anderson Water Catchment Reserve. Progress has stalled since the AGM but is expected to pick up in the coming months once 2 property owners sign off on the exercise.
 11. We look forward to welcoming members to the Farm over the forthcoming school and public holidays. Travel safely and enjoy all that Finsbury has to offer.

Kind regards,

Mike Beaumont
Chairman
17 March 2022