



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2010/2011

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

Committee members

The Committee remains unchanged (John le Roux resigned when he relocated to Karatarra but since coming home, he has rejoined the Committee). Membership and responsibilities are as follows:

Richard Cowling	Chair
John le Roux	Secretary
Lilian Baker	Treasurer
Dave Bowmer	Reserve management
Helmie Tilders	Fundraising and marketing
Joan Brady	Membership and marketing
Shirley Cowling	Marketing, acting secretatry
Des Green	SCOSS representative
Godfried Potgieter	St Francis-Kromme Trust representative

Fundraising

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 are tax deductible.**

We continue to benefit from donations from supporters, despite the hard times; over the past year we attracted donations totalling R75,030.00 but **we urgently require more funding to complete our current project, so please, do support FOSTER with donations.** Special thanks are due to the following donors who have donated amounts in 2010/11 of R500 or more:

Atkinson P. and D.	Marshall-Smith, W. and C.
Birkett, B. and M.	Maskew, P. and S.
Buchanan/Ritchie family	Savage, I.
Coultas, B. and J.	Scheiner, B. and A.
Destiny Trust (v.d. Walt)	Stanley, J. and N.
Frost, P. and K.	Stuart-White, A. and D.
Glanvill, D.	Tilders, E.G.W. and R.
Gooch, B. and Davies L.	Tilders Trust
Goulding, R.	Uys, L.R.
Hempel Family	Anonymous 1
Holmes family	Anonymous 2
Illing, M. and E.	
Ketchington, R.	

Funds raised at FOSTER events are reported on in the next section.

Projects and events

This year, FOSTER hosted three events: the **FOSTER Fun Run** – held on the 28th December last year - **attracted a record 430 entrants and raised R13,500.00**; The second event, **the FOSTER Golf Day** - held on the 19th February - **raised R29,900.00** (huge thanks to our sponsors listed below). Special thanks Terry Smith and Al Brady, and Jeff Clause and his team at the St Francis Links for their support.

Barrons Grill
Bennet, R.
Bruces Surf Shop
Brown, J. and C.
Buchanan, E./Ritchie.
BJK Solutions
C.S.F. Resort
Chas Everitt
Christy's Catch
Country Feeling
Cowling, R. And S.
Debbie Nicholson Properties
Duval, P.
Emlyn Horne
Farol Bistro
Five Elements
Hogan, D. and P.
Hugo, J. and L.
Joan Barnes
Kraak, C.

Lyngenfjord Manor
Marydale Properties CC
Maskew, P. and S.
McHardy M. and T.
Mickey Lindsay/Nixon
Neighbourhood Watch Band
Pam Golding St. Francis
Pennypinchers Humansdorp
Smhart Family Trust
Skelton, S.
St Francis Links
St Francis Liquor
St Francis Pharmacy
Stuart-White, A. and D.
Terry Smith and Associates
Trattoria
Van der Walt, P. and L.
Watts, D. and F.
Willows, D.

The third event is the **FOSTER Jol**, reinstated by popular demand and starting immediately after this AGM.

Our major project for reporting period was the **"A Walk on the Wild Side"**. Lilian Baker, our project implementer, reports:

Funding has been granted to FOSTER by the Table Mountain Fund, in conjunction with the World Wildlife Fund for Nature, to implement the "Walk on the Wild Side Trail", a coastal education trail in the Seal Point Nature Reserve, managed by FOSTER.

The principle objectives of this project are:

- to rehabilitate, upgrade and provide interpretative facilities for the trail, which features wetlands, flora and fauna, the penguin rehabilitation centre, the historical Cape St. Francis lighthouse and Later Stone Age and Khoe-khoe shell middens
- to conduct guided excursions for learners from the schools in the Kouga area
- to create environmental awareness and provide biodiversity and conservation-related information for local residents and holidaymakers of the Greater St. Francis area

To date five excursions have been conducted with learners from Sea Vista Primary School, Humansdorp Secondary School, the Fourcade Botanical Group and holidaymakers from the Cape St. Francis Resort. Schools in the area are currently being canvassed to make use of the facility.

Four educational signboards donated by WESSA have been erected on the trail, with additional signage in the pipeline. Educational material for learners has been compiled and



Figure 1: Lilian Baker (centre) guiding pupils from Woodridge Preparatory School And St Francis College at the “Otters and Dolphins” information board on the Wildside Trail, 6th June 2011.

provided to learners utilizing the trail. Boardwalks have been erected by FOSTER at the Rocky Coast Farm entrance to the trail and across the wetland within the Reserve.

FOSTER would like to thank our sponsors, Mrs. Caryl Logie, Mr. Godfried Potgieter and Mr. Ron Thomassen for the valued and unwavering support given to me to get this project off the ground and make it a success.

Marketing and membership

Joan Brady reports:

At the end of 2010 we had 220 members, slightly more than the 2009 total.

Our thanks go again to all the existing members who renewed their membership, to new members who joined and especially to those who responded to our appeals with generous donations. Every membership and donation is significant. Not only do we desperately need the funds in these difficult economic times, but membership numbers give us more credibility when fighting the various issues that currently threaten the ethos of our village .

Electronic newsletters have been going out quarterly and we have had much publicity in the local media. ***Our website www.foster.org.za was revamped and given a whole new look.*** It is updated regularly with the latest newsletters, reports on various local issues and information on upcoming events. It also has a facility whereby one can check if one's membership is currently paid up. The new look Gallery is under construction and should soon be up and running with photos and names of local flowers.

Shirley Cowling has worked tirelessly to have many of the old signs replaced and to erect the colourful new informative signs in Seal Point Reserve.

Reserve management

Dave Bowmer, reserve manager, reports:

FOSTER is responsible for the maintenance of the Cape St. Francis Reserve Network which comprises 130 ha. The major management tasks are the removal of alien plants, maintenance of the trail system and maintenance of the reserve signage. FOSTER also maintains the entrance garden as a gateway to the reserves as well as the village. ***My team are firmly on track with the Business and Management Plan for 2011*** (as of 30/6/2011, a total of R21 610 has been spent on the Cape St. Francis Reserve Network and entrance garden until). The trail system has been maintained and widened where necessary. Alien regrowth, litter and snares have also been removed from all reserves on a monthly basis.

Owing to the success of fund-raising events such as the FOSTER Fun Run and Walk and the FOSTER Golf Day, ***we were able to allocate funds for the removal of alien plant regrowth from approximately 70 hectares of the Cape St. Francis Nature Reserve*** (Fig. 2). As of 30/6/2011, a total of R10 010 has been spent in the Cape St. Francis Nature Reserve.



Figure 2: Vukile Ndwayana and Mthetheleli Dingana- Dave Bowmer's management team members – clearing rooikranz regrowth in the Cape St Francis Nature Reserve.

Thanks to Dave and his team for looking after our reserves in such a hugely effective and efficient way.

We look forward to ***suggestions from our members about reserve management activities.*** Please contact Dave or Richard.

Responding to development pressures

FOSTER has registered as an Interested and Affected Party for two Environmental Impact Assessments for developments that will impact on our reserve system, namely the nuclear facility at Thyspunt, and to a development proposal for Rocky Coast Farm. ***Three FOSTER members*** (Helmie Tilders, Shirley Cowling and myself) ***serve on the Thyspunt Alliance, a grouping of interested and affected parties who are vehemently opposed to the nuclear facility.***

Helmie reports below on the Thyspunt saga:

As mentioned in last year's chairman's report, ***FOSTER believes that the siting of a nuclear power station (NPS) at Thyspunt is wrong, and must be vehemently opposed.***

The much awaited 2nd Draft environmental impact assessment (EIA) report has been released by Arcus Gibb, consultants to ESKOM on the NPS project. As before, Thyspunt has been identified as the preferred site for Nuclear 1.

ESKOM and their consultants, Arcus Gibb, have to a large extent ignored comments made by a number of interested and affected parties, including the Thyspunt Alliance, and experts canvassed by the Alliance:

- 1) With respect to Geo-Hydrology, the new Draft EIA totally ignores input from Prof Fred Ellery, an expert in this field.
- 2) The report ignores a study and comments made by Dr Johan Binneman, a leading archaeologist, who specialises in this area. The site happens to be of major archaeological importance, covering time spans of millennia.
- 3) The site is of major importance in terms of the cultural heritage of the Khoisan people. The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) has refused to approve the relevant Heritage Impact Scoping Report. Last year the minister of Arts and Culture stated that the NPS would not be built at Thyspunt for this very reason. The consultants to ESKOM deal with this matter by stating that an application has been made to SAHRA for a permit to perform test excavations.
- 4) The report states that the squid industry will only minimally be affected. This is in spite of the fact that various experts appointed by the South African Squid Management Association (SASMIA) have stated the contrary. Pumping 6,3 million cubic meters of sand (during construction) into South Africa's prime squid breeding ground will have a huge affect and will in all likelihood spell the end of the St Francis squid industry.
- 5) The report concedes that the surf break at Cape St Francis may be adversely affected by the above spoil pumped into the sea at the construction site.
- 6) The report does not address the fact that the R330 (Humansdorp – Cape St Francis road) will be used as the main transport road to the site during the 8 odd years of

construction. During peak traffic times a heavy vehicle will pass any given point every 25 seconds. There will also be times when extra heavy vehicles will stop all normal traffic on this road for many hours. We may add that ESKOM has already bought land to the West of Sea Vista to build the extension of the road through to the NPS site. Routing of heavy traffic on the R330 will have disastrous consequences for the inhabitants and property owners of the St Francis Bay, Sea Vista and Cape St Francis areas.

- 7) The report incorrectly states that agriculture will be positively affected by the NPS project! (Do cows produce more milk when near an NPS or transmission lines?)
- 8) Little, if any attention is paid to the fact that the project will employ some 8000 people during construction, and the effects of this influx. Also no attention is paid to what happens to the workforce after completion of the project.
- 9) Arcus Gibb states that they have found a route for heavy vehicles to by-pass Humansdorp during the construction phase. The “new” route uses Saffery Road, which runs through a residential area and is already used extensively by traffic avoiding the Humansdorp main road.
- 10) The Draft EIA report states that the predominant wind in the Thyspunt area is “West-Northwest to Northwest”. This is INCORRECT and makes a huge difference to disaster management planning.

The above are some of the salient points.....the list could go on much longer. ESKOM, with government backing and taxpayers' money is determined to go ahead with the Thyspunt NPS. We plan to do our best to help stop the project, or at least slow the process down until common sense can prevail. However, we need to face up to the fact that the only way in which ESKOM may possibly be stopped, could be in Court.

Financial report

Financial statements (balance sheet and income and expenditure report) for the period 1/3/10 to 28/2/11 is attached to this report.

Thanks to Lilian for her impeccable financial records – much appreciated.

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. Owing to the financial downturn, our funding situation is not what we would like it to be. Given the importance of a healthy reserve system to our well being (and the value of our properties), we urge you to donate funds. In return, we will ensure cost-effectiveness, accountability and innovation.



RM Cowling, Chair: FOSTER

		FRIENDS OF THE ST. FRANCIS NATURE AREAS		
		(FOSTER)		
		A Public Benefit Organisation (to be registered in terms of Section 18A of the Income Tax Act No. 58 of 1962)		
		INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2011		
		INCOME		
		SUBSCRIPTIONS		R5,100.00
		DONATIONS		R75,030.00
		INTEREST ON CREDIT BALANCE		R1,431.24
		TOTAL INCOME		R81,561.24
		EXPENDITURE		
		MAJOR PROJECTS		R17,955.11
		RESERVE MANAGEMENT		R38,162.56
		BANK CHARGES		R1,456.78
		SUBSCRIPTIONS		R500.00
		MARKETING AND EVENTS		R900.00
		RESERVE SIGNAGE		R10,081.00
		WEBSITE		R2,888.00
		PRINTING, POSTAGE AND PETTIES		R1,256.80
		TOTAL EXPENDITURE		R73,200.25
		NET INCOME		R8,360.99