



## YWG Newsletter

September 2009

Dear All,

As I leave for the UK in a couple of days I was planning to skip the September Newsletter but in the meantime a couple of important matters have come up that need reporting. Johan Hardy tells me that the Willem Pretorius resort is rumoured to be in a state of disrepair at the moment and if this is confirmed we will have to look for an alternative venue for the 2010 conference. Cost and accessibility for the majority of delegates will be important factors when selecting an alternative.

### Other News

1. By now many of you will have heard of the tragic death of Erwin Schroeder in a motor accident on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August. Erwin was an active member of the YWG, passionate about conservation and the author of many articles. He recently played a major role in the current NEMBA mapping of invasive species, particularly bass. He will be sorely missed by the angling community. Our deepest sympathy goes to his family and friends.
2. An email received from Morne Viljoen on August 19 was titled, "*8 munisipale hoëe aangekla oor waterwet*". The case, the first of its kind in terms of the Water Act, involves eight past and present municipal managers of the Matjhabeng Municipality in the Free State and arises from pollution caused by the municipal sewage works which has been out of action for some time. Apparently the authorities are at last getting their act together and R65 million is being spent to upgrade the offending plants.
3. From the Western Cape Leonard Flemming reports that their chapter of the YWG had a very successful meeting recently with Dr Ernst Swartz, the draft mapping project facilitator, and the Clanwilliam yellowfish and sawfin draft maps were concluded. Since these species are not endangered, there will be no conservation strategy necessary (from a conservation perspective) in the work plan yet. These species will be promoted for angling by area, such as in the case of the Ratels catchment indigenous fishery. An additional mapped area in the Kouebokkeveld for Clanwilliam yellowfish and sawfin is currently being taken into consideration by Ernst, and he should be able to give the chapter feedback within the next two weeks. The final mapping process for witvis is still under way, and Ernst will also hopefully provide feedback shortly. The CAPE rehab. project, including the 4 selected pilot streams for alien eradication (3 in the Cederberg and 1 in the Eastern Cape), has been approved and should start in March next year, with the Rondegat River first in line. Anyone interested in getting involved in the chapter's work should contact Leonard at [leonard@sun.ac.za](mailto:leonard@sun.ac.za) or 084 7718843.

4. Regarding the draft maps I have been informed by Ernst Swartz's office that they plan to start posting all the draft maps on the SAIAB website in about a week's time. We can view them well before Environmental Affairs reach public participation process. The website address is [www.saiab.ac.za](http://www.saiab.ac.za) and there will be a well marked link to the maps.
5. SAVE, our ever vigilant watch dog on the Vaal urgently needs assistance from an expert who can do water analysis and an expert on sewage works during the months of September and October 2009. Persons available should please phone Fiona at 083 286350 or email [save@mweb.co.za](mailto:save@mweb.co.za) with their particulars.
6. Apologies, I stated incorrectly last month that we will be launching Volume 5 of "Favoured Flies & Select Techniques of the Experts" on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October whereas the correct day is **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup>** Oct. This is 18h00 for 18h30 at the Wanderers Golf Club, Johannesburg. Meanwhile the preparations for the 'FOSAF Guide to Flyfishing in Southern Africa' which is due for launch in 2010 are moving ahead quickly. We should emphasise that the Guide is an invaluable tool for promoting fly fishing in Southern Africa and a number of the previous Nedbank Guides were also sold overseas.
7. Last month all the newsletters with DEAT and DWAF addresses were returned. I assume that with the recent changes in the departments, email addresses were changed without at least taking steps to advise senders of the new addresses or re-route emails. Unfortunately on a + 350 mailing list I do not have time to follow up all returns but if there is still a problem I will try and resolve the matter later in the year.
8. Lastly, there is a premier flyfishing festival coming up, the Bell's Three Provinces, at the Protea hotel, Christiana from 15 to 18 October.. Those of you who have been there will know that it is a choice stretch of Vaal, renowned for both large and smallmouth. Contact either Nicholas or Corne at 053-4412244 or email [rooms@phchristiana.co.za](mailto:rooms@phchristiana.co.za).

Regards,  
Peter