

Millstream Muddler

Autumn of 2015

*We all breathe a sigh of relief as the winds abate
and the rainclouds eventually open, soaking
the parched earth. The rains are gentle,
no deluges, soft and soaking,
just what we need to start off
the season of plenty.*

We wrote the above in November of 2014, hoping to produce two newsletters last year but then the silly season hit us and here we are putting the finishing touches to the same newsletter 5 months later. The good news is that it was a season of plenty. The rainfall, although slow to start with, bucketed down in December making up for the low figures in October and November. The cottage rental income and sundry revenue was way above the expected budget line adding to the coffers, reducing the risk of an above inflation rate levy increase for 2016.

"The Royal Coachman"

Geoff Greathead, a member of the Board since 1991 and Chairman for the past 22 years, recently advised his Board colleagues that he would not be seeking re-election at the next AGM to be held on the 20th August this year. Geoff said that he felt that it was time for "new blood" to take over the Millstream reins. All the other Directors said that they would not accept his stepping down and that he had to serve as Chairman for at least another year. However Geoff was adamant at the time that he would not seek re-election but has graciously said he would make himself available as a consultant to the Board if required.

We, as management, would like to take this opportunity to thank Geoff Greathead for all the time he invested in Millstream, many hours unpaid, for at least the first 10 years of his tenure. The dedicated and comprehensive input given to overseeing the running of the Farm is going to be difficult to match. Thank you for the thoughtful encouragement, support and guidance given to Management over the many years served as Chairman. We look forward to welcoming you and your family to the Farm as owners for many years to come. We also say goodbye to Graham Drake this year, a long standing member of the Board who, as part of the "New Blood" takeover schedule, will be stepping down in August. Graham represented the Fixed Week owners for many years until the 4 week modules were split into single module weeks. We thank Graham for his 20 years of service on the Board and he will be fondly remembered for his very down to earth advice, pole type fishing seats and after dinner antics at the annual Board dinners at Mrs Simpsons.

"Vertical Emerger"

The 2015 RCI OSCAS took place at the Velmor Hotel and Conference Centre on the 17th of March. David Mathebula (Fly Fishing Bailiff) had been nominated for a RADA award and so attended the function with Jackie and Steve. Much to our and his delight, David won an award for excellence in the Resort support category. Those of you who have made use of David's excellent fly fishing tuition skills or sent your children for lessons will know only too well how well deserved this award was.

Millstream was again positioned in the Top 5 Gold Crown Resorts (small category) and much excitement ensued when it was announced that we (for the 3rd time since 2010) had won the award again.



It is due to your constructive input and comments that we are able to maintain and upgrade the resort so please take the time to complete your guest comment card during your next stay.

"Woolly Bugger's" Woe's

Speeding on the Farm

It is with concern that management has noticed a new trend on the Farm – speeding. Owners, guests, exchanges and rentals - all seem to have been affected by the "need for speed". And we regret that we have to report that several dassies (Rock Hyraxes) and a number of night jars were run over by speeding vehicles last year.

25 Kilometers per hour is the speed limit.

Please stick to it!

"Free range children roam this Farm"

Not to mention the wild animals and birds that use the roads, whose beauty we have been able to admire from close proximity due to the reduced speed limit. The horse outrides often use or cross the roads and speeding could spook the horses which may lead to serious accidents.

Bottom line is you're on holiday, so chill, wind down your window, take in the fresh air and smell the wild flowers. Drive slowly!

Gate fees

Many guests will be pleased to note that the gate levy was not increased this year. It remains at R135 per vehicle payable at Reception. The process of placing the gate fees on the accounts and then receiving payment at Reception is working well. Guests wishing to pay gate fees in advance of settling their account must please produce the gate permit when paying. Should you pay with cash please insist on proof of payment.

Fire Blankets

Please note that as an additional safety precaution to the fire extinguishers already in each of the cottages, fire blankets have been installed. These are located in the kitchen near the fridge. Please note that should the blankets be tampered with or used for any purpose other than extinguishing fires the owner of the



cottage will be charged for a replacement blanket, the same applies with regards to the fire extinguishers.

“Tellico Nymph”

For all of those souls who have to keep in contact with the working class, a wi-fi hot spot is available at the Recreation Centre. Please call at Reception for the access code.

“RAB’s”

2015 Calendar - Important please note:-

WEEK ONE in 2015 started on WEDNESDAY 7th JANUARY 2015.

This is very important as it pushes all the **FIXED WEEKS OUT BY 6 DAYS.** Please check the calendar on the website (www.millstreamfarm.co.za) carefully or contact the Resort (013 253 9910/1) regarding the dates of your week/s in 2015.

Fortunately this does not happen very often. We have however recently had some Owners arriving for their week on the wrong date. An excellent way to avoid this is to call the resort in advance and ask us to check:-

- 1) That it is your week coming up (for your own peace of mind)
- 2) And tell us when you anticipate arriving. This is for the resort, as it allows us to deploy our labour resources more efficiently and save on electricity by keeping the geysers/heat pumps switched off and your fridges set on low.

AGM for 2015

A tentative date for the AGM has been set. Thursday 20th August 2015 @ 18:00 at a venue still to be confirmed (probably the Wanderers Club). Please pencil this date into your diaries. We will send out all the documentation via e-mail.

Cottages being left very dirty.

We recently charged a family an additional R300 for cleaning fees over and above our normal daily cleaning service included in the levy. The family had 5 children but the state of the cottage and the total lack of parental control with regards to general hygiene was astounding. The lack of respect for their own possessions and Millstreams was eye-opening and what was expected of the cleaning staff was unacceptable. We took photos of the state of the cottage and on presenting them to the guests they paid the additional monies.

Please leave your cottage in a reasonable state, if your kids throw or drop food on the floor, clean it up or even better, if they are old enough, get them to clean it up. We will charge you for cottages left in a state that necessitates extra cleaning resources be it manpower, material or both.

Fishermen’s “Tippets”

FOSAF and Trout SA and in particular two legal minds have done a sterling job in interpreting and challenging the Alien & Invasive Regulations relating to trout in South Africa.

The following persons and or groups who are shareholders have made donations towards covering some of the costs of these gentlemen who have devoted enormous amounts of their time to this cause and continue to do so as the saga continues, more attention now falling on the Trout Producers.

Millstream Farm donated R10 000.

A big thank you to the following owners who heeded our call and made private donations:

Adrain B.; Boyes D.; Cowden Barry, B.C.; - name withheld, Crisp Tom, de Jager T.; Greathead G.; Horsf.... Shaun; Hobson A.M.; King Greg; Preston, Retief; Serrano; and Gary V.; their combined donations came to R13200.(If we do not have you on the list and you have made a donation please accept our apologise in advance for this omission).

A number of owners made donations through other syndicates or clubs and contacted Millstream to inform us.

Some 14 owners and perhaps at best another ten others, that is only 24 out of 700 odd shareholders! Millstream will donate R40 000 to FOSAF this year as part of its on-going support for this organization. Together with the once off R10 000 donated last year, it represents a R72 per shareholder donation. Is this sufficient to ensure that your sport/hobby/pastime does not fizzle away? Don’t allow apathy on the part of stakeholders result in such severe restrictions being placed on the Trout Production and the Trout Fishing Industry in this country; that we are not able to stock our dams 5 years from now! And make no mistake you are a stakeholder. Surely we can do better than that?

“Steve and Jackie Vincent, as Management and stakeholders have donated R250 towards the legal fees and challenge all owners who have not yet contributed to the cause to do at least the same if not better”

Get involved - make a difference - make a substantial donation.

Details

**Culverwell & Co, Money Market Trust, Nedbank
Branch 134025 Account No. 1340349108.
Ref:- MACR + Your Name + Millstr.**

Fishing Returns Year on Year to 31st March 2015.

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015
Stocked	3529	3205	3180	3379
Caught	1891	1910	2099	2849
Killed	499	499	472	528
Returned	1392	1411	1627	2321
% Permits Returned	66	71	65	77
Ave.No.Fish Caught/Rod	6.1	5.9	5.7	7.1
Rods Fishes	311	322	367	403

White Breasted Cormorants (WBC’s)

For some years the Board has been conscious of an increase in the number of WBC’s visiting Millstream. Various measures were unsuccessfully used to try and discourage the birds from spending too much time on our waters as they are known to be serious predators capable of taking quite large trout.

At the 2014 AGM the subject of the WBC population on Millstream was raised from the floor and after some debate the Board was requested to do whatever was necessary to reduce the level of predation on Millstream fish stocks. As a result the Board decided to implement the recommendations of a select committee and begin an experimental programme of shooting (culling) WBC’s once a month for a period of six months. This programme commenced in January 2015 and will be complete in June 2015. Detailed records are being kept and at the completion of the experiment will be carefully evaluated. Early indications are that the number of WBC’s on Millstream is reduced on average. However, how long population reduction and the disturbance factor will continue to affect the number of WBC’s visiting Millstream still has to be determined. (For more information contact Geoff Taylor on geofft808@gmail.com)

The Dams & Road repairs.

Lake Crystabel

The work on Lake Crystabel’s dam wall has been completed



and the wall itself fenced to prevent game from feeding on the wall and in the process trampling the downstream face. Access to the wall is obtained through a V formation in the fence next to the locked gates on either end of the wall. With fair local rainfall we were able to open the dam to fly-fishers in late February. This to be honest is much earlier than anticipated.

Ongoing repairs to some of the Weirs will take place in August/September this year.

Roads

During the winter months we regularly undertake repairs on our strip road. Last year we concentrated on the area in front of Reception. This year we will be tackling the area around the Entrance Gate and other areas of strip road that require attention. We will have to create a detour road around the repair work. These projects will be conducted in stages and in between burning fire breaks. Please be aware of this and look out for any detour if you are visiting the Farm between late May and August. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience this may cause.

“Mrs. Simpson’s” Snippets

“Black Chenille” and other wonderful improvements.

We continue with our painting and general maintenance of cottages this year. We have programmed to tackle 6 cottages throughout the year, these being Cottages 1, 3, 5, 6, 12 & 17a&b.

With some savings on replacements anticipated and not required, we were able to purchase bar fridges for all the large cottages at the end of 2014. This should provide that much needed space for the extra beers. Please remember that should the Eskom power supply fail, the inverter in the cottage only powers the main fridge.

The additions to the existing jungle gym up on the lawn in front of the Recreation Center, new swings and an elevated platform and slide, were completed just in time for the annual children influx over the December holidays. The amazing thing is that Mbulawa (our physically challenged cook and mechanic) shaped and welded the slide together himself.



Five more 10 sleeper cottages were fitted with new curtains and blinds in 2014 and we are anticipating completing another 11 cottages this year. This should bring to a conclusion the purchase of new curtains in the 10 sleeper cottages for some years to come. It is however nearly 8 years since we hung the new curtains in the small cottages and these may well need to be replaced shortly. How time flies.

For those guests with small children, we have “clip on feeding chairs” and camp cots in storage. These can be booked at reception on a first come first served basis.

Fleeing Damsel

Thando, our Mobile Masseuse, has put together a selection of treatment combos. Don't forget to enquire about them when making bookings for treatments. We also have gift vouchers available should you wish to spoil your significant other or any member of your family.

“Red Buzzer” (alternate energy supply)

Heat pumps

After struggling with a number of heat pump settings, we convinced the suppliers to provide us with a new heat pump for cottage 24 and they are replacing all the circulating pumps as and when required (free of charge). The supplier now seems to have sorted out all the other niggles

and 90% of the heat pumps have been running relatively problem free since mid- December.

Load Shedding & Inverters

Remember that should you find that your stove/oven is not working and the plug points have stopped functioning (except the plug below the Microwave), this could mean that the Resort is more than likely experiencing an Eskom power outage. Please feel free to contact Reception to confirm this. To prolong the stored power supply in the inverter batteries please take note of the following:-

Switch off lighting not needed (Multi-lights - screw out two of the three globes).

Limit the opening of the fridge (take two or more beers at a time) Unless absolutely necessary avoid boiling the kettle for tea or coffee (drink wine instead but remember not to drink and drive).

Continued daily load shedding will prevent the batteries from charging fully and will reduce the capacity of the inverter to provide the full range and length of service it should have with fully loaded batteries. Please consider bringing your own gas cooker if braaiing or using the weber is not your thing.

In the “Coch-Y-Bondhu”

Steve’s “Olive caddis”

Justin Mampheu has now been with Millstream for just over a year and as mentioned previously his Saturday morning nature walks have proven to be very popular. Please book at reception to avoid disappointment. Summer walks start at 8am, Autumn and Winter walks at 9am.

Tree Planting

Towards the end of November last year some 60 indigenous trees namely; Wild Olive, River Bush-willows, White stinkwood and Karees were planted, 30 trees north of the line of Gums, east of Wordsworth Waters and the remainder around cottages where trees had died off during a cold snap in 2014.

Alien Invaders

Again with the onset of the rains there is a re-insurgence of *Verbena bonerensis* on the Farm this year and although not currently a major threat to the bio diversity, we will be removing pockets by hand, when the ground is rain soaked and the plants are easily pulled. Should you be interested and wish to get involved in assisting us in removing this invader, please talk to Steve or Justin when you are next on the Farm. Every plant removed means fewer seeds will germinate the following season. Trimming or removing of selected gum (*eucalyptus*) plantations is also an ongoing project, releasing much needed ground water into the river system, creating job opportunities for locals, as well as providing fire wood for the Farm guests and for our staff, many of whom do not have access to any other form of heating during the winter months.

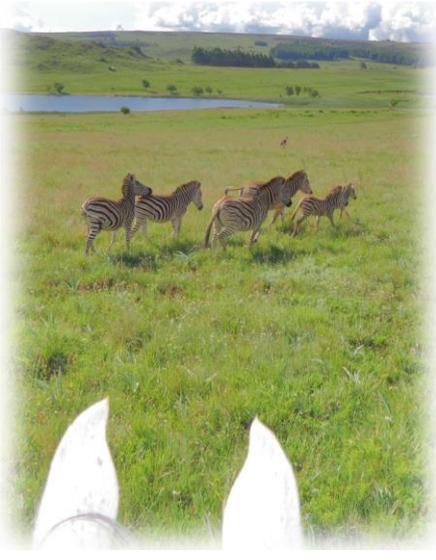
“Dullstroom Orange”

We have already started creating our fire breaks for the coming fire season. A reminder to please be vigilant during the dry season. Do not leave your braai unattended during windy evenings and when retiring for the night, please ensure that your braai has been extinguished. Smokers please ensure that your cigarettes butts are out before placing them in a bin and do not discard them in the veld. Thank you.

“Noisy Popper”

A reminder that fire crackers, fireworks, in fact any type of incendiary device, is not permitted on Millstream. Please ensure that if you see any of your fellow guests using these that you report it immediately to Reception.

About the beasts



So far for this season we have had 9 zebra foals, 25 blesbuck and 12 springbuck lambs. Some of our zebra have the notion that the grass is greener on the other side. We had one sub-adult mare cross the fence in 2013 and we struggled to get her back. In the end we actually sold her to the farmer. Subsequent to this we have had several foals get through but we have managed to retrieve all of them as they have immediately realized the folly of their wandering ways and patrolled the fence trying to get back to

Mommy, not sure how they ended up on the other side of the fence in the first place! It's then a very simple process of dropping the fence for 50 or 60 meters and encouraging them into the opening.

We had a second adult female zebra escape to the south earlier this year and join the mare that got out in 2013.

Due to this we have been replacing longer sections of the aging boundary fence (now 25 years old in some places) and by 2016 we should have completely replaced the total boundary fence over the last 7 years. Having replaced some 2000m of fencing on our southern boundary in February, March, we thought we were now safe from zebra breakouts in this area. No sooner had we done this than one of the adult stallions from the bachelor herd must have spotted the unattended mares on the neighbour's farm and decided that they required his immediate attention. No measly bit of wire, new or rusted, was going to stop him from reaching these lovely ladies. We are not sure how but he managed to flatten the fence sufficiently for him to go over it, not a strand broken, some Y-standards and droppers bent and Bonnox twisted and over he went. He rounded up his ladies and a few days later he and his two girls were at the fence asking to come back in. It was then just a simple process of dropping the fence and letting them back onto the Farm.

It was with much excitement that we received the news that our cranes have once again laid eggs. Notices were erected to ensure that the birds are not disturbed. But after 6 weeks of sitting on the eggs we realized that it was once again a false alarm, we have been told by the experts that this is to be expected. We hold thumbs for next year.

Late last year Steve's attention was caught by what looked like an injured or very young Forked-tailed Drongo, falling about the branches of the tortured willow tree in the Managers garden. On closer inspection it turned out to be a Black Cuckooshrike, not previously recorded at Millstream.

Horse Bits

Our treasured Carthorse Flame, who we estimate arrived at Millstream when he was about 16 or older and had been with us for 15 years had developed arthritis over the last few years, which (especially in the Winter months) has resulted in him losing condition.

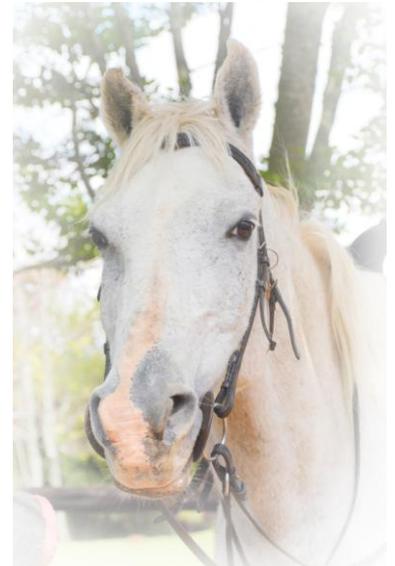
We supplemented his diet with bran and he no longer did much more than minis or half hour walks. On the



morning of Thursday 22 January, the grooms reported that he had not eaten his breakfast and was lying down in the paddock. On investigation Steve feared the worst and decided that Flame would probably not make it through the night but in order to relieve any pain he was administered a fairly robust dose of anti-inflammatory drugs. Later that evening the Vincent family went to the paddock to see how "the old man" (as he is affectionately known) was doing. Armed with carrots and a blanket they arrived at the paddock only to find Flame up-and-about, munching on the grass. Flame rallied for the next 3 days and we were optimistic that he was going to be fine. Unfortunately on Sunday 25th January he was again found lying down on the grass next to cottages 1 & 4. Steve administered more anti-inflammatories and a shelter was erected to protect him from the sun. Jackie and Steve rolled him over often to keep him as comfortable as possible. Steve called the vet who advised that he would come through the following morning. Later that evening the Vincent's went to check on him only to find that he had managed to get himself up and had wandered off. On Monday morning he was found lying in the paddock. The vet arrived and after conducting a thorough investigation advised that due to his age and deteriorating liver and kidney functions it would be best that he be euthanised. A really tough decision - as he was part of the family. Flame was buried under the gum trees in the paddock next to his "friend" Andre The Giant.

Not a week later on returning from an out-ride Jasper spun round, reared up, threw Petrus (the groom) off and them fell to the ground dead. The vet was again called out and after an "in the field" autopsy it was concluded and blood samples taken for testing. The test came back negative for any unusual diseases and it was concluded that he had had a heart attack.

We have been lucky enough to purchase a replacement horse who came with the name Bismarck. Both the manager Steve and his daughter Savannah decided that this was not a "cool" name for a horse and due to his very ginger tail renamed him Ginger. However after a few days of grooming and a wash down his ginger tail reverted to its original colour, white, like the rest of him but by now the name had stuck.



Just a reminder, the grooms are there to guide you and when you are on an out-ride you should always stay behind them. They know where and when it is "safe" to canter or gallop and when it is not. Please listen to the grooms; they are there to ensure you have a safe and enjoyable ride.

Other Minnows

Cottage Invasions

Late last year Management and a couple of our guests experienced a most bizarre incident. If we recall correctly it was a Thursday afternoon and a couple arrived at the entrance gate announcing to Siphso, who happened to be manning the gate at the time, that they were coming to stay with the Stuarts. Siphso, who has been with us for a number of years and knows many of our owners by name, instantly connected the name with the Stuarts of cottage 9, who as luck would have it, had passed through the gate 10 minutes earlier on their way to Dullstream. Siphso explained to the new arrivals that the Stuarts had just left the Resort and gone into the village for the morning. The new

arrivals duly called at reception for a spare key as their friends were in the village. Reception promptly arranged for Maintenance to open the cottage for them (we cannot recall their surname) so that they could settle in. The Smiths (for want of a better name) unpacked their vehicle, placed their food stuff into the fridge and grocery cupboards, emptied the suitcases in one of the unoccupied bedrooms, noticed that there were some used dishes in the sink and so cleaned up and packed them away before settling down to enjoy their first time at Millstream.

About an hour later, a strange couple arrived at the door demanding to know what the "Smiths" were doing in their cottage! The Smiths, not knowing all the guests that their friends the Stewarts had invited to Millstream for the week, jokingly made a counter demand and wanted to know what the other couple were doing in "their" cottage? Management then received a telephone call from Mrs Stuart stating that there were intruders in their cottage and that there had been a serious breach of security. Dana and Steve were close by and fearing that Millstream may be experiencing its first daylight robbery, broke the Millstream speed limit a few times over to get to the cottage. (Did you get the subtle difference Stuarts /Stewarts?)

As coincidences go this was a clangor, the Stewarts that the Smiths were staying with, were in fact staying in cottage 6 and neither the gate controller, nor reception picked up on this important fact. Our apologies to the Stuarts and the "Smiths".

Hand Held Shower Rose.

Dear owners, guest; please note that the hand held shower rose's placed in the on-suite baths are there for assisting with the washing/rinsing of one's hair and the upper wall bracket is not to facilitate having a shower in the bath but to keep the flex hose out of the bath while you are participating in a bath! Please do not use the **hand held** shower rose while it is located in the upper bracket. That is, please do not use the baths to shower in as you will end up with water all over the floor.

2014/15 Dullstroom Ladies Fly Fishing Festival (DLFFF)

The 2014 Dullstroom Ladies Fly Fishing Festival raised R31000 and we have been asked to thank the Millstream owners who so graciously gave up the use of Lake Tintern for the weekend of the competition. As usual much fun was had by all the entrants and we have been told that some of the teams (no names) provided some rather interesting entertainment for the Millstream owners who came out to observe. The funds generated have been shared between The Diana Institute (Soup kitchen and crèche),

Epilepsy SA and the Bird of Prey Centre with some funds being held back for smaller projects.

Cheryl Haynes (an owner at Millstream), who is President of South African Fly Fishing as well as a member of the Protea Fly Fishing Team, won the longest bag for 2014 and Franciska Pile, also an owner at Millstream and a member of the Protea Fly Fishing Team, won the prize for the most fish caught.

2015 DLFFF is scheduled to take place on the weekend of the 16th of September. Lake Tintern will therefore be off limits for the duration of the competition, but you are encouraged to come and watch (maybe even get your giggle quota filled as you watch the novice teams).

As mentioned previously this competition is very popular and it is not often that slots become available, however should you wish to put your name on the waitlist, please contact Debbie Vink on 083 408 5352.

2015 Dullstroom Bonanza

The other charity event that Millstream sponsors waters for is the Dullstroom Bonanza, now it's 5th year. This event has capacity for 90 entrants who fish at several other dams in Dullstroom and its surrounds.

This year's Bonanza will again take place in the first weekend of October.

It is always very gratifying to see private and corporate owners so willing to sponsor waters for this very worthy cause which raised R56 000 last year. Millstream will again be sponsoring either Solitary Reaper or Lake Crystabel for this event.

Anyone wishing to participate should contact: Alan Hatton at info@dullstroomflyfishers.co.za

Support for underprivileged Dullstroom scholars

It is with regret that the local school which Millstream has been involved with for many years has closed at the end of 2014. Economic pressures, insufficient learners and continual staffing issues meant that Birchcroft was simply no longer viable. We are currently investigating other worthwhile local community upliftment projects to support or front.

In Parting....

*"They say that sometimes,
when the water is very quiet,
you can almost hear
the fish laughing at you.*

We look forward to seeing you on your next visit to the Farm.

Steve, Jackie, Dana, Pheona, Ritha & the Millstream Team.

This Newsletter is also available on our website

www.millstreamfarm.co.za

Please visit our facebook page for news and updated photos of the Farm. fb ID. 119049508110143

