

# AMATOLA FLY FISHING CLUB

Incorporating the Frontier Acclimatisation Society and the Stutterheim Trout Angling Club



Diarise the weekend of 28 – 30 September, that's when we'll be having this year's annual fundraising competition followed by the AGM. More details will go out as the plans evolve, but if anyone has any ideas for the weekend beyond what we've typically done, then please let me know. Further to that, if anyone would like to donate any form of prize, please send me a message ([truter.edward@gmail.com](mailto:truter.edward@gmail.com) / 0781141669) so that we can include your contribution in the plan.

We'll be following up last year's brown trout stocking with another stocking this year. The ova are of prime genetics from Denmark and of much the same origin to that of last year's fish but these will be coming from Peak Trout Hatchery at Cathedral Peak in the Drakensberg. Collection and transport, which will be quite a process, and stocking, is set for sometime during the last two weeks of July. More details in the weeks ahead.

The biggest brown I've heard of from Gubu from the last stocking, so far, is one that Robin caught. He said it was about 2lb, but the average is currently 37–40cm/350–500g, like the one in the pic overleaf, caught by Ryan Smith. Ryan has also been sending through some photos of solid rainbows from Maden Dam.

From my fishing and what I hear, the rainbow fishing at Gubu has mostly been spikes and dips lately, twenty–fish days followed by near–naught–fish days, which is fishing I s'pose. When I was last at Gubu, in late April, the surface water temp was still 19 deg. C. That's very warm for then, and I hope this will not be an ongoing, annual trend, though I fear it's part of the whole global warming phenomenon. As part of the trout dynamics study currently being undertaken by Dr. Olaf Weyl at Gubu, there are a number of temperature loggers in the dam, it's going to be interesting to see what they tell us over the short term.

As always we are slowly working on improvements to the Gubu clubhouse. The ladies' bathroom has now been tiled and looks really good. Thank you to Belinda Enslin for getting the job done and to Richard and Cindy Field at Lifestyle Decor and Flooring for donating the materials. One of the next steps is also to tidy up the sleeping arrangements and mattress/bed mess. The plan is to have a number of double bunks and decent beds in the 'dorm' section, and a double bunk and double bed in each of the private rooms. This way we can get mattresses off the floor, which will help with mould and similar skankiness. It's going to cost a bit to have the bunks made but we're working on a plan to get robust, weekend–proof bunks made as cost–effectively as possible. If, however, anyone is in the bunk–bed/

## NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN / MAY 2018

pine furniture/pine timber or similar business, or has connections to such, then let me know so that we can explore other options. Incidentally, note that on the subs-renewal form there's a section for "Buy a Bunk", that's if anyone would like to donate R1000 to buying a bunk, we can have their name engraved on it if they wish.

Further to the above, we would also like to remove all of the unused private cupboards that are standing around. There are cupboards in the clubhouse that no doubt belong to dead people, so if you are not a dead people and are a paid-up member, we ask that you write your name on the cupboard by the time of the AGM (end September 2018). All unmarked cupboards will be removed after that. If you can't make it to Gubu by the cut-off, let myself or Robin know and we'll make sure your cupboard doesn't go to the Stutterheim Location.

We also wish to get all other non-essentials out of the clubhouse, that includes boats, so if you have a boat in there, or know an ex-member who has one in there, please do the necessary to get it moved outside or taken home.

Because some folks have been behaving non-exemplarily with respect to Gubu clubhouse keys, which results in various assorted ball-aches, a R100 deposit will now be levied each time a key is collected. The R100 will be returned upon return of the key.

The Eastern Cape Fly Fishing Association (ECFFA) will be holding their first round of trials for the 2018/2019 year from the 7th-10th June at Gubu dam. For those who are interested in partaking in the competitive arm of fly fishing, chat to ECFFA chairman, Gareth Webster, ([gareth@deadrift.co.za](mailto:gareth@deadrift.co.za) / (072) 508-3381). And the PE and surrounds' fly fishing club, the EPFFC, will be having a club outing to Gubu over the weekend of the 16th June.

You will note that there are quite a few wattle and pine trees reaching near-seeding age in the area between the Gubu dam wall and the creek west of the clubhouse. We need to nip these in the bud, so next time you're there, please consider carrying a machete and ring-barking any aliens you come across. The rest of Gubu's shoreline is the responsibility of the forestry guys who are keeping it more or less clean.

And that be that. Happy fishing, Edward Truter



Ryan Smith with a Gubu brownie, May 2018