



THE STABLE FLY ACTION GROUP INC (SFAG)

CHAIRMANS REPORT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

23 September 2025

This is my 20th Chairman's report. I'll say no more about that!

I'm going to make this a fairly light Chairman's report this year as many of the items mentioned will be in our next newsletter which will be coming out soon with much more detail in it.

I welcome everyone who has gathered here today at our first AGM that has been held during the day. We most probably have a mixture of reasons for being here today, from long suffering people who have been affected by Stable Fly [SF] over the years, to financial sponsors of the SFAG, financial supporters of "*The Stable Fly Chronicle -1992 to 2022*" and of course those who have come along to hear the guest speakers presentations. We are pleased that you have joined us today.

As most of you would be aware the 2024/25 season was a particularly bad one for SF. Our website's online reporting system was running hot from this time last year, through the worst of the spring-summer-autumn period and we even had reports through the winter period. This could be a portent of a particularly nasty fly breeding season to come. I will leave it to Mick Emmanuel, the Shire of Gingin Stable Fly Officer, to give you a more detailed overview.

The SFAG committee met nearly every month to discuss and plan strategies to minimise this problem into the future. Some or all members of the committee attended the following functions during the year.

- **November 2024** – A momentous event took place after our AGM when I contacted our entomologist friends in Japan who had been working with certain insects as biological control agents of SF in that country. Japan had just suffered an outbreak of Lumpy Skin Disease and the order was given that in order to rid the country of this disease, all known vectors of LSD had to be eliminated. As SF were one of the main culprits, this meant that all SF had to be sprayed and killed. The upshot of this was that all their experiments were totally destroyed in the process.
- **November [cont]** – This focussed our attention on the Biosecurity implications for Stable Fly and Lumpy Skin Disease in Australia. One of the results of this is here today with our keynote speaker being Dr Marion Seymour, WA's Deputy Chief Vet, giving us the latest information on LSD and its associated biosecurity risks.
- **December 2024** – meeting with DPIRD to discuss progress [or not] of the review of the SFManagementPlan 2019. The SFAG committee regards the review of this document to be crucial as we have pointed out many deficiencies in the old Management Plan. SFAG had submitted a number of changes and additions to the upgraded MP and these were discussed in detail at this meeting with Ron Shepherd, Peter Adams and Jacky Grayson. More on this issue later.

- **2025 February** – the SFAG committee met with Scott Wildgoose, the new CEO of the Shire of Gingin to bring him up to speed with the SF problem in the Shire and to assure him of our continued support for the GG SF Officer, Mick Emmanuel. This was a very worthwhile meeting in our opinion. Executive Manager James Bayliss from the Shire was also in attendance.
- **February [cont]** – SFAG Chairman, Secretary and Shire of Gingin SF Officer Mick Emmanuel met with City of Swan Mayor Tanya Richardson, Neil Harries PEHO and Leon van der Linde, Executive Manager, to discuss SF issues around the Bullsbrook area as well as issues arising from the review of the SF Management Plan 2019.
- **May** – a couple of SFAG committee members attended a public meeting held at Neergabby where the local residents, who this season have been at Ground Zero for the worst effects of the SF infestation, gathered to discuss their experiences with Mick Emmanuel the Shire SF Officer. I urged the residents to continue writing to the Minister for Agriculture and Food to make her aware of their suffering.
- **June** - Following on from much lobbying and letter writing by local residents as well as SFAG committee, the SFAG hosted our local member of parliament Shane Love and Lachlan Hunter the Shadow Minister for Agriculture at the Shire of Gingin Council offices to discuss the SF issue. The Shire of Gingin CEO Scott Wildgoose was in attendance as well as a number of councillors and Shire staff.
- Following this meeting the politicians had particularly asked if we could organise for them to meet with as many members of the affected community as possible. A very lively get-together was held at the CU@Park.
- **June [cont]** – SFAG developed a Privacy Policy, which is posted on our website. It was a long time coming but with the way things are nowadays we decided it needed to be done, particularly to safeguard the personal information provided by reporters to the SFAG Reporting System.
- **July** – We met with the Minister! It has been 2 1/2 years in the making but with some correspondence going awry, plus a pesky election in the middle, we finally made the trip to Dumas House. The SFAG committee was accompanied by Shire of Gingin CEO Scott Wildgoose and SF Officer Mick Emmanuel and we met for just over half an hour with the Hon Jackie Jarvis MLA and Senior Policy Adviser Patrick Page. [note – more details in Newsletter]. As far as meetings go, we were impressed that the Minister listened to everyone who spoke, asked many pertinent questions and took lots of notes. Things are already starting to happen at a senior level with a note of apology for not being able to attend today coming from the Biosecurity Council of WA. In their email they said the following: ‘Biosecurity Council is preparing advice for the Minister for Agriculture and Food on improving the local and coordinated management of stable fly in Western Australia. As part of this process, the Council is seeking input from certain key stakeholders. Council is keen to engage with the SFAG and are planning a visit to Gingin to meet with local stakeholders’.

Retiring: During the last 19 out of 20 years that SFAG has been operating, Mr Bevan Gresele has been our go-to man to audit the SFAG financial books. We thank Bevan for this unsung community support that he has given to us over that time and we would like to show our appreciation with a certificate as well as a small token for his efforts.

Sponsorship: Also, during this year the SFAG committee decided to more formally recognise the groups and individuals who sponsor our cause. With that in mind we created three levels of sponsorship –

- Bronze Level: \$250
- Silver Level: \$500
- Gold Level: \$1000

It is with a great deal of appreciation that we would like to acknowledge our first “official” Gold Sponsor, the Western Australian Broiler Growers Association [WABGA]. The past president of WABGA, Mr Len Brajkovich, was a longtime generous supporter of SFAG and we acknowledge his support over the years. We have with us today the current President of WABGA Mr Stephen Edmondson to accept this Certificate of Appreciation from SFAG.

The Stable Fly Chronicle: Over the previous three years we have been raising funds to get the Chronicle printed into a hardcover book. Due to some generous donors, we have now reached a level of funding that will allow this to happen.

Today we would like to acknowledge those donors by recognising their contributions and if those of them who are present are willing, to have a photo taken that will go into the next newsletter and local press. When we have printed the book we will have an official launch when they will be thanked again.

The donors to date are –

- Adam Shields Realty – Adam Shields
- WA History Foundation – Clem Mulcahy & Dr Lenore Layman
- Geoff Slater
- David Ottaway
- Benalong Holdings Ltd – David Roe
- Cr Andrea Vis, representing Minderoo Foundation in the absence of David Wilson from Minderoo
- WABGA – President Steve Edmondson
- Meredith Dixon from Rio Tinto Community Giving 2024
- Linda Balcombe, Gingin & Lancelin Community Bank - but she said to ask David Roe or Rob Kestel to represent the Bank in her absence

Bob Wilson
CHAIRMAN, SFAG
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