

DARGLE CONSERVANCY

Draft Committee Meeting Minutes · 13th of August 2015

Present: Nikki Brighton, Brenda Grant, Gugu Zuma, Ashley Crookes, Brandon Powell

Apologies: Robin Barnsley

Nature Reserve M.C.F. – B.S.P.

Nothing Further	X
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Dassie Relocation

NB has connected people trying to get rid of their dassies (Rosetta and Hilton) with people trying to reintroduce them (Coleford) – the Dargle Conservancy comes up in searches for successful Dassie relocation!	X
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Alien Plants

<p>The DC will not be participating in the MCF alien-clearing project due to a lack of capacity. DC members were circulated, too, but there was unfortunately no interest.</p> <p>Mr Zuma is busy clearing log jams this weekend (14th/15th) at R1,500 a day. Winter is a good time for clearing log jams and he'll be back for further clearing and follow up on the banks in the Summer.</p> <p>Ben & Kim Goodwin have offered to make sculptures out of Mr Zuma's cleared wattle for the picnic site to be cleared. This is turning into a real team effort!</p>	NB
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Liaison with the K.Z.N.C.A. & Other Conservancies

<p>The KZNCF really has a new lease on life. NB attended their AGM on 14 May .</p> <p>NB had Rob Crankshaw (the KZNCF CEO) up to lunch recently and gave him a tour of the Dargle and an overview of the Dargle Conservancy's projects and</p>	X
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interests. His response was glowingly positive.

Living Local

Kite-Flying Day was the latest theme of the Dargle Market. BP set up a Conservancy Stall to generate interest and to help sell Free Me raffle tickets as part of their fundraising campaign. As the response was positive we have decided to have a Conservancy Stall every so often.

BP

Committee Tasks & Portfolios

Nikki Brighton – Chairman – 083 473 3074
chairman@dargleconservancy.org.za

Ashley Crookes – Vice-Chairman & Wildlife Sightings – 082 460 1815
vicechair@dargleconservancy.org.za

Brandon Powell – Secretary – 082 657 1518
secretary@dargleconsevancy.org.za

Robin Barnsley – Treasurer – 083 307 1212
treasurer@dargleconservancy.org.za

Brenda Grant – Development Secretary – 082 853 7815
development@dargleconservancy.org.za

Gugu Zuma – Education 063 104 5046
education@dargleconservancy.org.za

ALL

The DC requires dedicated management for its Facebook page by the time of the next meeting.

All agreed il Postino is a good place to meet.

Finance

Bank Balances for August 2015
Current account: **R17 513.81**
Call Account: **R58 934.13**

Now that we no longer have Oak tree Cottage as a venue, the DC Committee has agreed to hold all forthcoming meetings at Il Postino, and for the modest bill to be funded by the DC in each case, once a quarter.

This venue is ideal too as it is public and we connected with quite a few members while we were there.

Communications

NB & BP to put together Spring Newsletter for the end of October. Include Snakes, River, Inhlosane walk, Nxamalala visit to Mpop, Movies.
BP to start writing.

NB
BP

Membership Programme

Harry Wells gave a fascinating (yet sadly ill-attended) talk at the Lion's River Club.

Neville van Leyveld will soon be doing a "where to find snares" workshop for landowners at Lemonwood and will liaise directly with Katie Robinson.

Pat McKrill is to be invited to give a clutch of snake talks again, before we get into the snake season. 7 October 3 schools in morning, staff in afternoon at LRC, evening at Tanglewood

NB

The DC is to sponsor R5000 in installation fees for members who would like to buy Shane's owl boxes. Ten DC members ordered and boxes have been installed. Just three members still to install. There are three boxes outstanding.

A spring Inhlosane walk is to be planned for the 26th September. The DC will encourage local children to attend with GZ.

AC
GZ

AC has acquired the films Revolution (about our seas – this was very well received at St Ives on the 12th) and True Cost (about the clothing industry) for a future film evenings. The DC has set aside R310 for this. The DC is also to call for movie topics from members on our Facebook page. There was an excellent turnout for *Dirt*. Films are to be held at different venues each time to maximise catchment area of viewers.

AC
ALL

The DC is selling 500 raffle tickets for FreeMe.

Development Monitoring

BG is to work with Barry Downard and Penny Rees to find out about DC development concerns and recent history. BD has prepared a summary of very technical documents and to start with he and BG are to attend meetings together. BG is to formulate a standard DC response in order to lodge the DC as an interested and affected party whenever a new development is announced. BG is also to prepare a Development Monitoring paragraph for the newsletter to keep DC members up to date on this essential and challenging (yet often overlooked) work of the DC.

BG

Thank you Brenda for taking on this important portfolio.

Membership & Recruitment

Welcome to our new members Mike & Jann Gafney of Tillietudlum – it is wonderful to have that wildlife-rich corner of the valley part of the DC once more. BP is to ask whether we might organise a DC walk there sometime.

There are 7 outstanding subscriptions to whom NB will write. Heather Mackenzie and two others have requested that they receive their subscription notices by post and the DC obliged. Peter Gush paid by cheque.

NB

Education

Nxamalala kids excursion to Inhlosane 26 Sept. Gugu has arranged a taxi with Mr Ngubane to transport kids. R40 each so about R600. Ideally, we would like banking details to do an EFT – Gugu will try and get these. Leaving Nxamalala about 8.30 for 9.30 start. All to bring own water bottles. Nikki will buy easy snacks – apples, buns and cereal bars. Percy Duma from Dargle School will also be collected by the taxi at the D666

NB
GZ

Fieldtrip to Mpophomeni Community +Garden planned for Nxamalala ladies who attended Mary Mlambo's garden workshop last year (funded by DC). Gugu would like them to see that it is possible to grow food during winter and learn from this inspiring garden. Cost R400 for tour and petrol money for Eidin and Gilly Nelson who have offered to transport them. In Summer, Gugu plans to hold a cooking competition in Nxamalala – participants prepare food they have grown. DC to provide prizes.

Trashion Show – great day, but not as many kids as hoped. Next year, planned to coincide with Dargle Local Market for more pizzazz. Also, Gugu will invite all three schools supported by DC to participate and Shea O'Connor. Gugu thinks the inter school competition will ensure more participation.

GZ would like to volunteer to make the Nxamalala Club a monthly one.

GZ

The Nxamalala children are to be encouraged to make their own contributions to the monthly Dargle Wildlife Sightings, via GZ and Sabelo Zuma. No photographs required but names and surnames, please.

GZ

Trail Cameras

The DC Committee has decided that when there are no members waiting to use the wildlife cameras they may be rented to Friends of the Conservancy

AC

(non-members from neighbouring conservancies, for example) for R200 a month. DC Members take precedence (still R100)
Judy Douglas from Curry's Post and Caroline Leslie from Kwa Wula are the first two non-members to approach us.

Dargle River

The DC is fundraising and managing an awareness campaign with the help of Jethro Bronner, driving his Alfa Romeo that he is driving from the Dargle, South Africa to Dargle in Ireland. The QR code and logo (designed by Barry Downard) on his car enables anyone he meets along the way to easily make a donation to the DC efforts to remove invasive plants from the Dargle River.

Steampunk Café in Lion's River (Michael Goddard) and il Postino (Chris Darroll) are supporting this project.

Dedicated Rivers page to be created on the DC website.

Nikki to set up easy payment methods, including GivenGain and SMS.

NB

The DC has agreed to pay Mr Zuma and his team R3000 for two days of clearing log jams on the Dargle River and to have him brush-cut a picnic site for spring. As ever he is to be commended on his good management of this Augean task!

DC members with land bordering the river are to be encouraged to send along some of their staff to learn from Mr Zuma and his team so that landowners and their staff will better know how to tackle invasive plants and log jams of their own accord.

Constitution Revisions

NB to send revised DC Constitution to NPO and SAPS.

NB

Gifts

Gift for Pam Smit who is having her baby this month.

NB

Road Signs

Bongani Mncube from KZN Dept of Transport (and others in his office) have not responded.

NB

Poaching

<p>Hunting with dogs is increasing. The hunts no longer take place only Sundays, but Fridays and Saturdays too. We encourage you to report to SA CAN Hotline 083 799 1916 rather than taking matters into your own hands which can be dangerous.</p> <p>Soon we are hosting a workshop on Lemonwood Farm facilitated by Neville van Lelyveld. Neville will show us where to look for snares and what to do when encountering poachers. All donations will go to the recently launched AWR Anti-Poaching Campaign.</p>	NB
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Biodiversity Stewardship Programme

Nothing further.	X
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Budgets

<p>Estimated Income for 2015 (Based on 2014): R48 000</p> <p>Proposed Budget for 2015:</p> <p>Speakers: R2 000</p> <p>Education: R13000 (MMEP R10 000 & Nxamalala R3 000)</p> <p>Free me Donation: R1 800</p> <p>Subscriptions: R550 (MCF & KZNCA)</p> <p>Alien Clearing: R10 000 (Mr Zuma + Workshops)</p> <p>YMLP: R1 500</p> <p>Website Hosting: R1 000</p> <p>Post Box: R260</p> <p>Auditors: R1 500</p> <p>Bank Charges: R200</p> <p>Stationary: R1 500</p> <p>Gifts: R2 000</p> <p>Meetings: R1 500</p> <p>River Campaign: R1 500</p> <p>Six Info Boards for Il Postino: R 3 000</p> <p>Contingencies: R 5 000</p> <p>Approximate total: R45 000</p>	X
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Cape Parrots

Nothing further.

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Next Meeting Date: October 2015