

# DARGLE CONSERVANCY

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at The Cairn of Old Kilgobbin**

The meeting was chaired by Nikki Brighton, Chairperson of Dargle Conservancy (DC).

Nikki opened the meeting by welcoming all members present and thanked everyone for attending.

### **APOLOGIES**

- Rob Crankshaw; Josie Rowe-Setz; Irene Warner; Jenny Goddard; Andrew Goddard; Chris King; Giles King; Sandra Merrick; Pat Merrick; Tim Bates; Kate Bates; Derek Millier; Sue Millier; Gary Barlow; Camilla Barlow; Barry Hodgkinson; Jenny Hodgkinson; Sergio Guerrero; Jessica Francis; Kathy Herrington; Wayne Herrington.

### **PRESENT**

- Ian Field; Sally Field; Brian Lewis; Marashene Lewis; Mike Weeden; Anne Weeden; Barend Booyesen; Helen Booyesen; Bernard Janisch; Barry Downard; Rose Downard; Robin Barnsley; Sharon Barnsley; Zandile Sikhakhane; Alfred Zuma; Xola Keswa; Peter Warren; Merrill King; Gilly Robartes; Wyndham Robartes; David Crookes; Alvera Crookes; Robin Fowler; Tinks Fowler; Jenn Fly; William le Cordeur; Nicole Schafer; Isabel Verwey; Rayanne Schafer; Jonathan; Julia Colvin, Lynne Garbutt; Gugu Zuma; Ashley Crookes; Brenda Grant; Pauline Holden; Nikki Brighton; Maureen Zimu; Ian King.

### **MINUTES OF 2016 AGM**

- As the minutes of the 2016 AGM had been circulated prior to the meeting and made available on the DC website, the minutes were taken as read. No comments or reservations were noted and there were no matters arising.

### **Adoption of Minutes of 2016 AGM**

Proposed : Robin Barnsley    Seconded : Merrill King

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

- Nikki Brighton presented on behalf of Lynne Garbutt, Treasurer a summary of the DC's financial position and explained the main items.
- Having been pre-circulated, the detailed Annual Financial Statement (AFS) was taken as read. No objections or questions were raised.

### **Adoption of Treasurer's Report**

Proposed: Robin Barnsley      Seconded: Wyndham Robartes

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Nikki presented highlights of 2016/17, a full copy of which is available to be viewed on the DC website: <http://www.dargleconservancy.org.za/docarchive.php>

- The Dargle Trashion Show has been successful in encouraging children to participate in environmental awareness. Most of the participants have been impressive in their creativity. The next show will be on 3 June 2017 at the Howick Agricultural Hall at 12 noon.
- The DC has continued its work in clearing the Dargle River. Mr Alfred Zuma was thanked for his commitment and hard work on this project. He was awarded a Dargle Dassie Certificate for his contribution. The Natal Fly Fishing club has been clearing the uMngeni & Furth banks.
- The DC has received herbicide donations through DUCT, which has been distributed by Pauline Holden.
- Game Count weekend – Nikki thanked Neville van Lelyveld for his work. It was agreed that members would like this project to continue, but that it could be run by What's App.
- The DC Education programme has provided assistance to MMEP, which supports the Dargle, Corrie Lynn & Lions River schools. NB reported that the Forest Excursions were successful and rewarding to the Grade 7 learners of Dargle and Corrie Lynn schools who participated. The Impendle Sustainable Schools Programme is run by Zandile Sikhakhane, who has been working in 5 schools. The project has focussed on enhancing water wisdom, low energy cooking solutions and creative waste disposal. Zandile has also been working on food gardening in Impendle, which has been running smoothly. Zandile was thanked for her commitment to Environmental Education and presented with a Dargle Dassie Certificate.
- NB summarised all other events held during the year and expressed appreciation to all the donors. She reported that there was a Spring Hike up Inhlosane with children from Nxamalala Enviro Club and other members of the public. There were also walks to Mpophoma Falls and along the uMngeni River and Lions River on Woodcroft and surrounding properties. Barend Booysen was thanked for hosting regular monthly walks in the forest. Gardeners from Nxamalala & Engonjeni visited the Mpophomeni Garden.
- NB appealed for continued support by members to Freeme, which is providing a useful service with few resources.
- There were no Cape Parrots recorded in Dargle on the Annual Count this year, although many were spotted in Creighton forests and two at Linwood across Midmar.
- NB reported that the Spekboom Cycle Tours have partnered with DC and will donate profits for river clearing.
- Fracking: Recent successful court action was encouraging in this regard. NB reported that there has been an increase in fracking activism in Dargle, and Jasper Finkeldy was thanked for his fracking activism.
- Dargle Trade is active and held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at the veranda of il Postino.
- NB encouraged members to participate in DC media in the form of Instagram; Facebook and the Blog. Members commented that they found the DC newsletter useful.
- Peter Warren requested members to assist him by allowing access to properties for CREW's exploration of wild flowers in the region.
- Barry Downard was commended for designing the very popular Info boards and advertising posters.

#### **Adoption of Chairperson's Report**

Proposed: Barry Downard Seconded : Barend Booysen

## **COMMITTEE FOR 2017**

The current Committee was unanimously re-elected to office “en masse”:

Chairman	Ashley Crookes
Treasurer	Lynne Garbutt
Secretary	Jenny Goddard
Development	Brenda Grant
Education	Gugu Zuma
Agriculture Liaison	Robin Barnsley
Additional Members	Pauline Holden; Irene Warner; Nikki Brighton & Paul Alford

### **Adoption of 2017 DC Committee**

Proposed: Barry Downard

Seconded: Tinks Fowler

Members thanked Nikki for her dedication and tireless efforts as the chairman of the DC.

## **WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS**

- The meeting watched the spectacular presentation by Ashley Crookes. Winners – Most unusual: Rose Downard; Best Trail Camera Capture: Josh Field; Best Photo: Evert van Breemen; and Most Contributions: Sandra & Pat Merrick. Barry Downard extended a vote of thanks to Ashley Crookes for his hard work with the Wildlife sightings.

## **GENERAL**

- There were no items.

There being no further matters arising, the meeting was closed at 8.15 pm.