

# DARGLE CONSERVANCY

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 at Tanglewood Boutique Hotel**

The meeting was chaired by Ashley Crookes, Chairperson of Dargle Conservancy (DC).

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

### **APOLOGIES**

- Brenda Grant, Lynne Garbutt, Pauline Holden, Tim Baynes, Robin & Sharon Barnsley, Peter Warren, Kathy Herrington & Wayne Lourens, Barend & Helen Booysen, Kevin Culverwell, Wendy de Waal, Rikki Wedderburn, Alan Turner, Gilly & Wyndham Robartes, Jenny Fly.

### **PRESENT**

- Ashley Crookes, Jenny Goddard, Nikki Brighton, Gugu Zuma, Garth Johnstone, Nerissa Card, Derek & Sue Millier, David & Alvera Crookes, Gail Wray, Andrew Weymouth, Wade Whitehead, Kirsten Steytler, Tom & Lucinda Bate, Chris King, Barry & Rose Downard, Mike & Anne Weeden, Steve & Rose Wiseman, Des & Lorraine Curin, Barend van Rooyen, Leanne Pelser, Merrill King

### **MINUTES OF 2017 AGM**

- Minutes of the 2017 AGM had been circulated prior to the meeting and made available on the DC website, and were taken as read. No comments or reservations were noted and there were no matters arising.

### **Adoption of Minutes of 2017 AGM**

Proposed : Mike Weeden    Seconded : Barry Downard

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

- Ashley presented a summary of the financial position of the DC according to the audited financial statements, and pointed out the main items of income and expenditure.
- Having already been made available on the DC website, the audited Annual Financial Statements (AFS) were taken as read. No objections or questions were raised.

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

Proposed: Lucinda Bate    Seconded: Gugu Zuma

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Ashley presented highlights of the DC activities during 2017/18, summarised below and a full copy of which is available to be viewed on the DC website:

<http://www.dargleconservancy.org.za/docarchive.php>

- The Umgeni River Project was showcased, with before and after photographs depicting the positive difference made. Appreciation was extended to the Natal Fly Fishers Club (Honorary member Andrew Fowler in particular) for the hard work and effort put into this successful initiative.
- The Dargle River Project remains an ongoing project. Additional funding was raised by Spekboom Tours (Julia Colvin) who donate 10% of their Dargle tour profits to this cause.
- Alien plant control is an important item on the DC agenda. However, we no longer receive donations of herbicides from DUCT and the meeting was asked for ideas/options to replace this source. (Tom Bate offered to investigate, possibly through Cedara.)
- Many education activities were conducted throughout the year, for example the popular Inhlosane Spring Walk.
- The committee expressed sadness at the passing of Eco-Star Nkanyiso Ndlela whose contribution to so many education programmes will be greatly missed. In his memory, the DC made a donation to Happy Earth Forum.
- The Kilgobbin Forest Walks, conducted by Barend Booyesen, take place on the first Thursday of every month, with donations he receives being passed on to the DC.
- Sincere gratitude to Carl Bronner for enabling DC talks and meetings to be held at Old Kilgobbin over the past year. Everyone is delighted that Tanglewood has now re-opened, and thanks to Jenny Walsh and her family for hosting this evening's meeting.
- Summary of other activities/talks/events during the past year:
  - Anti-poaching Day (Zulu)
  - Mr "X" – successful rehabilitation on a poacher
  - Cranes of South Africa
  - Dargle History
  - Trashion Show
  - Various anti-fracking activities
  - Wildlife/Dargle Diaries
  - Free Me support (Wade Whitehead then gave some insight into some of the great releases that have taken place in the Dargle recently – blue & grey duiker, serval etc - and asked that members contact him should their properties be suitable for use for this purpose.)
- DC communication is now being facilitated via the mailing programme "MailChimp". This is a free internet resource which is saving the conservancy having to pay for this service.
- Special thanks to Barry Downard for designing all the fantastic DC posters and notices.
- A plea was made for anyone to volunteer to help with the DC website, a task previously undertaken by Paul Van Uytrecht. Thanks for his hard work in this regard.
- Ashley reminded us that Lynne Garbutt (DC Treasurer) had resigned and thanked her for having served the DC so competently.
- Finally, on behalf of the committee and members, Ashley formally bid a sad "farewell" to Nikki Brighton and recognised the tremendous contribution she has made to the DC and our community in general during her tenure. In acknowledgement of the important role she has played it was put to the meeting that she be awarded Honorary Membership.

#### **Adoption of proposal to award Honorary Membership to Nikki Brighton**

Proposed : Barry Downard Secoded : Jenny Goddard

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

Proposed : Nikki Brighton Secoded : Gugu Zuma

## **COMMITTEE FOR 2018**

Gail Wray was nominated to the Committee to replace the vacant Treasurer position. (Nominated by Jenny Goddard and duly accepted)

### **Adoption to elect Gail Wray as Treasurer on the Committee**

Proposed: Jenny Goddard

Seconded: Nikki Brighton

The current/remaining Committee members were unanimously re-elected to office "en masse":

Chairman	Ashley Crookes
Secretary	Jenny Goddard
Development	Brenda Grant
Education	Gugu Zuma
Member	Pauline Holden
Agriculture Liaison	Robin Barnsley

### **Adoption of 2018 DC Committee**

Proposed: Barry Downard

Seconded: Lucinda Bate

Ashley extended a plea for volunteers who wish to join the Committee. Additional help would be most welcome!

## **WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS**

- Nikki Brighton presented a spectacular screening of Wildlife photographs, set to beautiful original music ("Dargle Waltz").
- The winners of this popular competition were announced:
  - Best Photo : Barry Downard
  - Most Important for Conservation : Sandra Merrick
  - Best Collection : Christeen Grant
- Winners were handed prizes from our sponsors : Il Postino, Farmers Daughter, Eat @ Andrews and Nikki Brighton

## **GENERAL**

- Tom Bate thanked the Committee for the work they do.

There being no further matters arising, the meeting was adjourned at 7.45pm.