

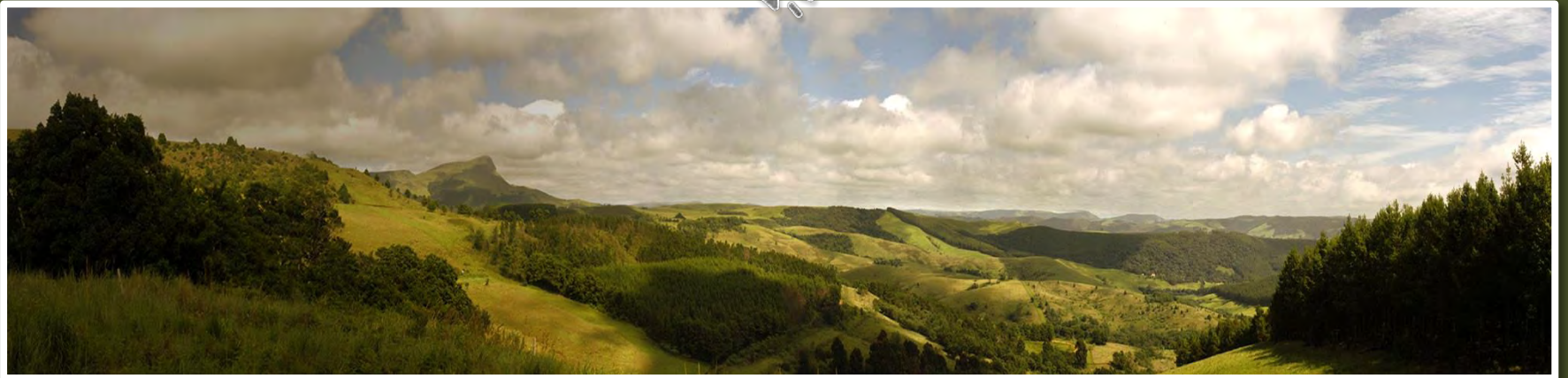
# Dargle Conservancy

2015

*Annual General Meeting*

*Barry Downard*

*Once upon a time,*



in a valley stretched beneath Nhlosane...

...lived a humble woodcutter . musician .  
photographer . designer . animal lover .  
story teller . photoshop wizard . blacksmith .  
luckiest person on the planet



Over lunch beside the uMngeni at  
Hopedale in 2003,



Conversation turned to the thought that a Conservancy be formed.

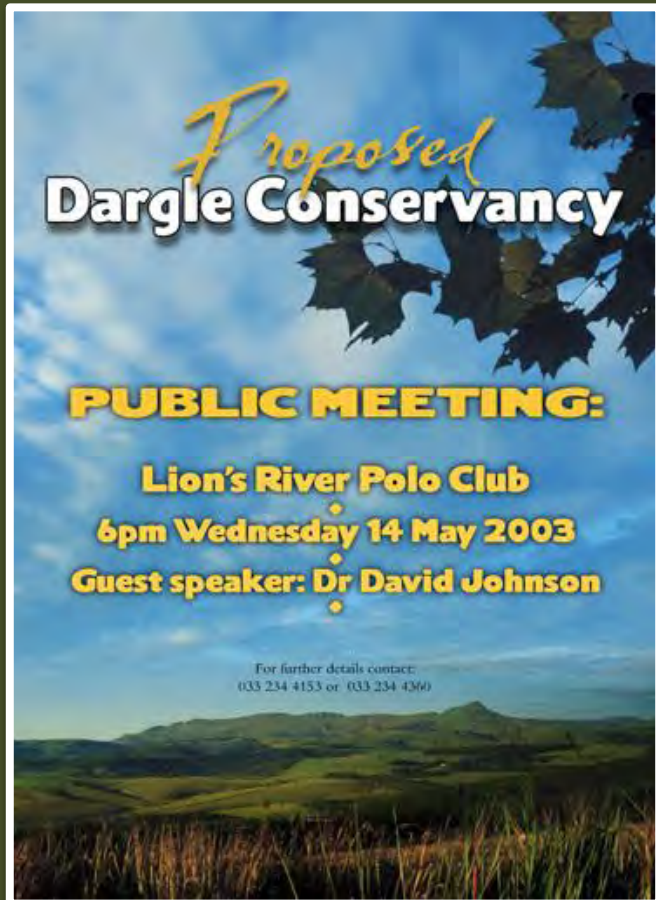


“We all agreed it was a great idea, but that we'd support it as long as someone else actually set it up and ran it.” Barry Downard

Jennifer Willan explored the idea and with the help of George Zaloumis - DCO for Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife we embarked on establishing a Conservancy.



# The first committee – May 2003



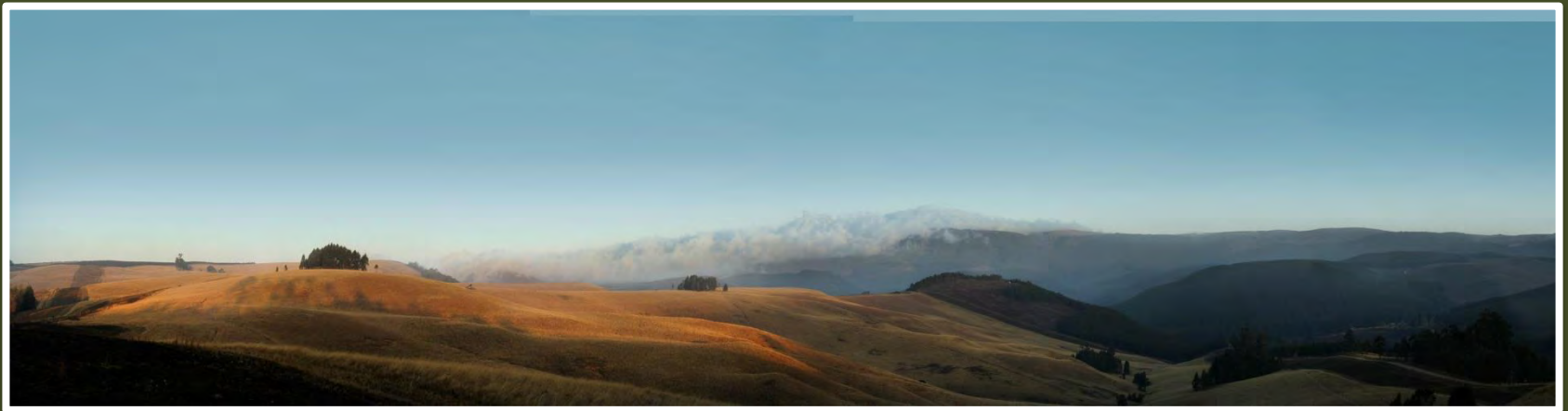
- Brian Griffin
- Andrew Nash
- Struan MacGregor
- Jennifer Willan
- Peter Hanbury
- Jill Hamilton
- Barry Downard

“It was a steep learning curve as there wasn't much experience of such matters, but between us we contrived the balancing act that established the basis for the Conservancy that has grown to what it is today.”

Barry Downard



The first issue to galvanize support was that of looming development. Much time was spent formalizing a policy and appropriate approach towards inappropriate development.



Barry studied national, provincial and local legislation, conferred with experts nationwide, sat in municipal meetings and learned to decipher development doublespeak.

Dargle was consulted for assistance by concerned Conservancies throughout SA, and was commended by Government departments on taking a principled approach.



# Penny Rees – DUCT

“Commenting on EIAs is a thankless, frustrating task. Barry has managed to keep his sanity whilst being a voice for Dargle and the Midlands.

His comments are always level headed, insightful and un-emotional.

There are few people – far too few - who take on the task of submitting comment when the inevitable development applications are circulated, we all owe him an enormous thank you for standing up and tackling often contentious issues head on.”



# Early member events



Education was an important component from the start - both for farm staff



and support for local schools



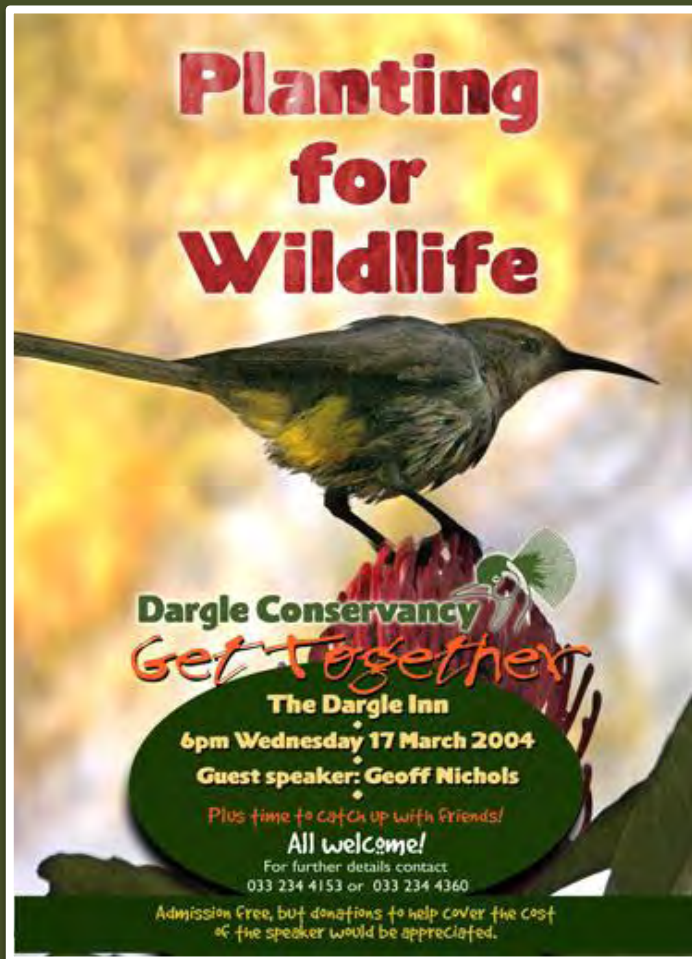
Barry has participated with enthusiasm,  
lead with integrity



# Spread the message, volunteered time, skills & knowledge



Created magnificent posters  
(that ensured Dargle stood out from the crowd)



**Planting  
for  
Wildlife**

**Dargle Conservancy  
Get Together**

**The Dargle Inn**  
**6pm Wednesday 17 March 2004**  
**Guest speaker: Geoff Nichols**

*Plus time to catch up with friends!*  
**All welcome!**

For further details contact  
033 234 4153 or 033 234 4360

Admission Free, but donations to help cover the cost  
of the speaker would be appreciated.



**Dargle Conservancy  
Get Together**

**Walking  
UP INHLOSANE**

**Date: Saturday, 11th October 2014**  
**Meet at Everglades Hotel car park.**  
**Time: 09h00**

**Bring water & something to snack,  
sunscreen & a hat.**

**Cost R20 per person.**

Further details: [secretary@dargleconservancy.org.za](mailto:secretary@dargleconservancy.org.za)

# Dargle is clearly not an ordinary Conservancy!

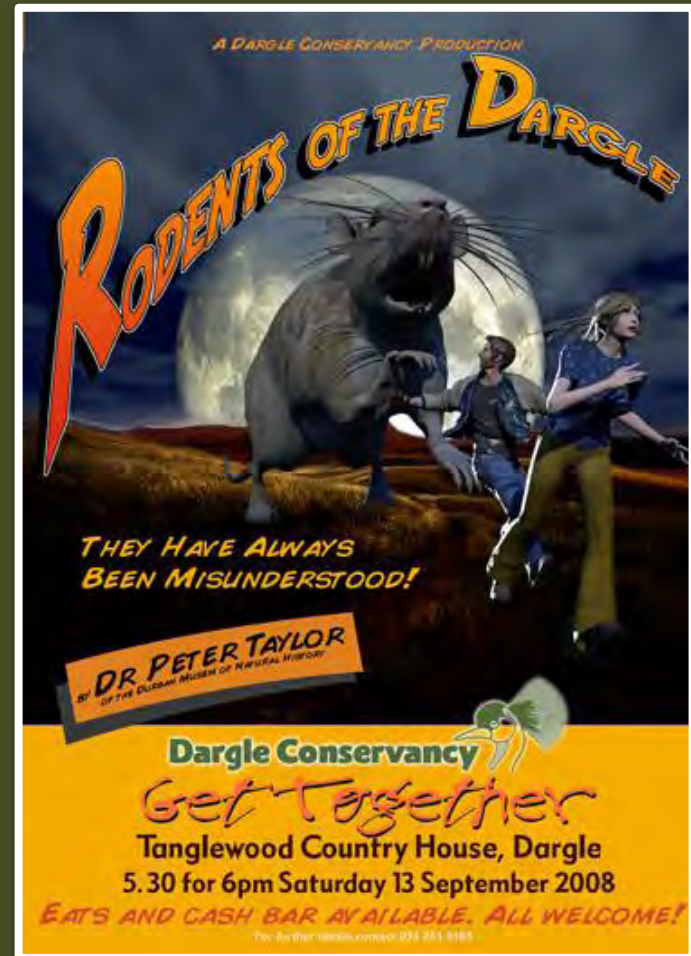


**THE GREAT, BIG DARGLE  
BAT ADVENTURE!**  
BY DR PETER TAYLOR  
& THE DURBAN BAT INTEREST GROUP

HEAR THEM! SEE THEM! GET TO KNOW THEM!  
FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY  
WITH LIVE DEMONSTRATIONS FROM 5PM  
& A TALK AT 7PM!

**Dargle Conservancy**  
*Get Together*  
at Hebron Haven Hotel  
from 5pm on Saturday 15 October 2005

ALL WELCOME! GREAT MEALS & DRINKS AVAILABLE!  
FOR DETAILS, CONTACT ADAM 033 234 4484



A DARGLE CONSERVANCY PRODUCTION

**RODENTS OF THE DARGLE**

THEY HAVE ALWAYS  
BEEN MISUNDERSTOOD!

DR PETER TAYLOR  
OF THE DURBAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

**Dargle Conservancy**  
*Get Together*  
Tanglewood Country House, Dargle  
5.30 for 6pm Saturday 13 September 2008  
EATS AND CASH BAR AVAILABLE. ALL WELCOME!

For further details contact 033 234 4484

# Judy Bell

Chair - Midlands Conservancies Forum

“Barry’s vision for a greater Midlands managed wisely by all, for all – the Guduza initiative - was a large part of the inspiration that lead to the formation of the Forum. His contribution to the local conservancy movement cannot be underestimated.”

No doubt, Barry has had heaps of fun  
and laughed a lot,



become an integral part of the  
Dargle community.



Having conquered the mountain - Barry is hanging up his conservancy boots.



Thanks Barry, for your  
contribution to biodiversity  
conservation and community in  
Dargle and beyond.

