

DARGLE CONSERVANCY

Committee Meeting Minutes · 10th of February 2016

Present: Nikki Brighton, Brenda Grant, Lynne Garbutt, Ashley Crookes, Brandon Powell

Apologies: Gugu Zuma, Robin Barnsley

Nature Reserve M.C.F.

Nature Reserve has been proclaimed (see last set of minutes. The MCF gave the DC R10,000 for Nature Reserve legal fees. The money did not end up being required as first thought and has been kept by and the MCF may ask for it back.)	X
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Dassie Relocation

Nothing further.	X
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Alien Plants

DUCT donated herbicide has been issued to DC Members and keen river caretakers Ashley Crookes, Howard Long, Carlene Bronner, Mike Weeden and Andrew Anderson.	X
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Liaison with the K.Z.N.C.A. & Other Conservancies

Our members have contributed generously to a request for accommodation prizes for a fundraiser KZNCA are organising (Katie Robinson, Andrew Anderson, Louise Ghersie, Carl Bronner, Barend and Helen Booysen, Mandy Crookes, Tom and Lucinda Bate.)

Our thanks to them as this is great be great PR for Dargle.

NB

Living Local

Nothing further.

X

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

Lynne Garbutt – Treasurer – 082 457 2583

treasurer@dargleconservancy.org.za

Brenda Grant – Development Secretary – 082 853 7815

development@dargleconservancy.org.za

Gugu Zuma – Education 063 104 5046

ALL

education@dargleconservancy.org.za

Robin Barnsley – Agricultural Liaison – 083 307 1212

nutrifresh@iuncapped.co.za

AC and NB will be managing the DC Facebook page.

Finance

Bank Balances for February 2016:

Current Account: R11 577.25

Money Market: R56 322.33

NPO Documents: We need to send a tax certificates to SARS.

RB is following up on this.

RB

Communications

LG to be made an Administrator of the Dargle Conservancy's Facebook page.

NB to show LG how the YMLP email system works.

Two fracking circulars have been sent to DC Members.

NB

Carte Blanche aired an investigative piece on Fracking and Unconventional Gas in KZN on Sunday 14 February. 50/50 has filmed much of their fracking programme in Dargle

Country Life magazine article on the Dargle Trashion Show and Market in the June 2016 edition.

Membership Programme

Neville van Leyleveld has approached CROW to ask that the Dargle be considered for CROW release sites.

AC will be showing the film *Chasing Ice* at Everglades on April 20th and *Unearthed* was shown at Tanglewood on Wednesday 17th of February with lively debate following.

AC

On the 4th of March Éidín Griffin will be co-ordinating a team of DC Members and Dargle locals to repaint the brown walls of the Dargle School with wonderful murals featuring Dargle Fauna and Flora.

NB

The Trashion Show and Dargle Drag Race are set for the 5th of June and will include all four local schools. It will be held at the Lion's river Polo Club.

The introduction of an Annual Game Count in the Dargle has been put forward as a solution to getting a better idea of the game population of the district so that we might have better information with which to face up to the poaching crisis and questionable hunting rights. Neville van Leyleveld and the KZN Hunting and Conservation Association have offered assistance. The Saturday night of the 25th of June has been selected as a date with a party afterwards at the Lion's River Club organised by DC member Jeremy Barlow.

Development Monitoring

New chicken sheds is going ahead and has been approved through the proper legal channels and adjudicated by the firm Terratest: Environmental Authorisation for the Expansion of the Ndiza Poultry Facility, Dargle

We are registered as IAP in Wesley Smit's application to build chicken sheds.

We need to register DC as an IAP in ALL the fracking exploration applications

BG

Membership & Recruitment

Welcome to our new members Sue and Derek Millier.

Education

Gugu still to take the Nxamalala Gardeners to Mpophomeni Garden for an inspirational morning. Gugu to get transport quote and set date.

GZ

Trail Cameras

Nothing further.

AC

Dargle River

Unfortunately not a great deal of money has been raised by Jethro Bronner's and the DC's Dargle River Campaign but we shall push on into the New Year. The DC is partnering with Steampunk to push the zipper campaign in the hope of further fundraising – SP to offer a discount on coffee if customer makes donation, DC to split the cost.

NB

BP

Brandon will arrange a picnic at the river for when Jethro comes home in March/April to generate some publicity.	
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Gifts

The DC has made a gift of organic baby products to DC Committee Member Gugu Zuma and her new baby boy!	NB
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Road Signs

Bongani Mncube from KZN Dept of Transport has responded and the application is still in process.	NB
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Poaching

<p>The poaching problem is now enormous and the Dargle appears to have overtaken the Karkloof as the hunting ground of choice. Neville van leyleveld is doing a sterling job collecting photographs and information for the authorities.</p>	
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<p>We encourage DC members to report poaching to SA CAN Hotline 083 799 1916</p>	
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<p>KZNCA has intervened on our behalf to discuss with Ezemvelo the legislation regarding permits for the capture or hunting of animals – hoping to ensure that conservancies are consulted before permits are issued. It appears the people</p>	NB
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concerned went through the proper legal channels but the numbers of animals were not corroborated by anyone in authority. EKZNW are severely short staffed, but DC would suggest they should err on the side of NOT issuing permits if they are unable to verify game numbers.

We have been given to understand that bush-pig are being hunted in the Lidgetton/ Dargle hills risk so taking this matter up with the authorities is key.

Biodiversity Stewardship Programme

Nothing further.

X

Budgets

Estimated Income for 2015 (Based on 2014): R48 000

Proposed Budget for 2015:

Speakers: R2 000

Education: R13000 (MMEP R10 000 & Nxamalala R3 000)

Free me Donation: R1 800

Subscriptions: R550 (MCF & KZNCA)

Alien Clearing: R10 000 (Mr Zuma + Workshops)

YMLP: R1 500

Website Hosting: R1 000

Post Box: R260

Auditors: R1 500

Bank Charges: R200

Stationary: R1 500

X

Gifts: R2 000 Meetings: R1 500 River Campaign: R1 500 Six Info Boards for II Postino: R 3 000 Contingencies: R 5 000 Approximate total: R45 000	
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Cape Parrots

Annual Count Day is on 4 & 5 June We need a coordinator for the area as Sally Cummings is unable to assist.	NB
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Fracking & Unconventional Gas

Believing that exploration for unconventional gas in the midlands (and beyond) would be detrimental to human and environmental health, Dargle Conservancy has contributed to the Frack Free SA campaign in various ways. We contribute to keeping the Frack Free Facebook page interesting, Tweeting latest news, liaising with media (including Malvina van Bremem hosting a film crew from 50/50 and Nicole Schafer collaborating with Carte Blanche to do a documentary), have collated an extensive mailing list and sent out regular updates, Lynne Garbutt collected signatures for a petition at the Dargle Market, Eidin Griffin facilitated a poster painting workshop, and of course, we had a strong presence at the follow up Rhino Oil & Gas meetings held in Howick West and Mooi River recently.

ALL

Once again, the crowd was vociferous in its opposition to any exploration that may, or may not, lead to fracking. You may have spotted Darglilians in The Witness featured photographs and on the Carte Blanche feature. If you missed the

meetings, you can read about them

here: <https://umngeniriverwalk.wordpress.com/2016/02/08/we-cant-drink-gas/>

Carte Blanche aired an investigative piece on Fracking and Unconventional Gas in KZN on Sunday 14 February.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday 13^h of April