

PEARLY BEACH CONSERVANCY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Pearly Beach Conservancy, held at 10:00 on Tuesday 17 December 2013, in the NG Church Hall, Pearly Beach.

PRESENT: 30 Members.

1. **OPENING AND WELCOME:** The Chairperson Jason Stonehewer welcomed everyone and Elrina Versfeld opened the meeting with prayer.
2. **APOLOGIES:** Ken and Louise Smith, N Ravenscroft, Pieter Reyneke, Andrew Murray, N & C Keet, Dirk Linde, F Kriel, R Stanvliet, V Potter, J Crichton, K Botha, C Jordaan, M. S. Lamb, Mr & Mrs Lutman.
3. **CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Confirmation of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 17 December 2012: proposed Dr H Steyn, seconded M Ravenscroft.
4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Feedback regarding the browning of the tips of the Milkwood trees was received from the floor. Sean Privett mentioned that this was a natural occurrence, a possible method of self pruning. He advised that no chemical spraying should be done.
5. **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** Jason Stonehewer thanked the following people for their help regarding the building and maintenance of the new herbarium: Kat Myburg / Overstrand Municipality, Dudley Coetzee / Councillor, Steve Peck / Pearly Beach Ratepayers for the original organisation and fund securing and Gerald Henrici for on the ground logistics. Additional thanks went to Jan Carstens / building plans and Hakkie Hückstaedt, Ben Electric, Terry Corbet, John Swart / artisans and to Sandra Prinsloo (Rooibier) for her fundraising effort. The Chairperson elaborated on the plant display for the public and thanked the volunteers who pick and label the exhibits: Robin Stonehewer, Anke Henrici, Dianne Boerssen. He thanked Heilie Mostert for the recording of the plant diversity and general organisation of the display area and herbarium. The ladies were thanked that keep the display area clean and dust free. Further information regarding pollination and more exhibits will be added. He thanked Steve Peck and Heilie Mostert. Heilie was praised for her tireless input into the layout and planting of the fynbos garden. The efforts of the Caring for Coast workers, as well as the organising and hard work of Steve Peck were applauded. The Pearly Beach Ratepayers and the Overstrand Municipality were thanked for securing the initial funds for the development and purchasing of over 300 indigenous plants. Jason invited members and the public to visit both the herbarium display area as well as the fynbos garden. The Conservancy web page, part of Gansbaai Explore.com, was top rated among the non profit organisations due to the diligent upgrading and adding of new information. New tortoise aware signs have been erected to hopefully reduce tortoise road mortalities. The alien plant clearing will be an ongoing project. Jason thanked all the committee members for the enthusiasm and hard work. He urged members to feel part of and take ownership of the herbarium and fynbos garden.
6. **FINANCIAL REPORT:** The financial report, as well as the budget presented by the Treasurer Gerald Henrici, was accepted: proposed Elrina Versfeld, seconded Rosie Garcia. He thanked Villet & Pitzer for auditing the annual finances. The balance sheet for 2013 and budget for 2014 are annexed to the minutes.
7. **CONFIRMATION OF THE MEMBERSHIP FEE:** The meeting agreed that the annual subscription should remain at R30.00 per single member and R50.00 per household.
8. **ELECTION OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:** The following committee members were re-elected: Jason Stonehewer / Chairperson; Elrina Versfeld / Vice Chair; Gerald Henrici / Treasurer. The new secretary will be Susanne Fuchs, assisted by Beatrice Bollmann / Membership secretary. Additional members: Dr Hans Steyn, Heilie Mostert, Anneke Potgieter, Rosie Garcia. Irna van Zyl will be co-opted.

9. GUEST SPEAKER: Jason welcomed the guest speaker Sean Privett. Sean, a botanist with a passion for fynbos, stressed the importance of organisations like the Pearly Beach Conservancy. He commended the committee and the members for their enthusiasm towards the upkeep of the natural fynbos in the area. He elaborated on the Cape Floral Kingdom and explained the term "hot spot" in relation to an area with great biodiversity and threatened plant species. The Cape Floral Kingdom has 9250 species in a 90,000km² area. He explained the term fynbos; a fine leaf woody plant. Proteoids, Ericoids (largest genus in the Cape), Restioids and Geophytes make up this vegetation type. The Cape Floral Kingdom is home to 60% of Southern African bulb species. The members were further treated to tales of his encounters with foreign photographers interested in the fynbos and birds, specifically the Cape Sugar Bird. The different species of plants were shown as well as maps of the fynbos areas. He explained the importance of fire to fynbos areas, with exception to the coastal areas \pm 500m to 1km inland adjacent to the sea. The significance of different animals, insects and birds involved with the pollination of fynbos was described. Much information was gleaned by all attending.

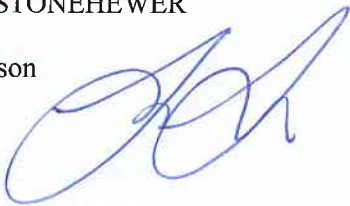
10. DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS: Dr H Steyn urged that the Conservancy make better use of tax exemption opportunities. No further questions were raised.

11. CLOSING: The Chairperson thanked the guest speaker Sean Privett and everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 11:55.

JASON STONEHEWER

Chairperson



Date:

17.12.2014.