

DARGLE CONSERVANCY

Committee Meeting Minutes · 16th of February 2015

Present: Barry Downard, Nikki Brighton, Ashley Crookes & Brandon Powell

Apologies: Robin Barnsley

Nature Reserve M.C.F. – B.S.P.

Nothing Further	x
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Dassie Relocation

Nothing Further	x
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Alien Plants

The DC is hopefully going to be allocated some free herbicide from DUCT for landowners on the Dargle River who are clearing. Depends on available funding and will be part of the DUCT River Custodians Project.	NB
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Liaison with the K.Z.N.C.A. & Other Conservancies

<p>On 26 Feb, Lion's Bush Conservancy are hosting Chris Galliers to speak about community participation in development monitoring/EIA's etc. at Rawdons. It is really important that we get some more Dargle people involved in this besides BD. The DC will offer to buy supper for any member who does go and 5 people have confirmed.</p>	<p>NB BD</p>
<p>We have paid the Midlands Conservancies Forums our R100 (minimum annual subscription). In the past we have given them R1200 towards Development Monitoring, but won't be this year, unless there is a special request.</p>	
<p>AC was contacted by Mbali Mkhize with CREW (Custodians of Rare and Endangered Wildflowers) for information including location and possible GPS co-ordinates for specific wildflowers photographed last month which are rare or endangered. AC has posted this information on the DC Facebook page, and it will be included on the next Wildlife Sightings in early March.</p>	<p>AC</p>
<p>AC was contacted by Kim Gillings of FreeMe looking for safe wildlife release sites. FreeMe will need the landowner and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife's authority. Only species which already exist on the property will be released and only onto sites which meet all of that species needs. AC will circulate this information.</p>	<p>AC</p>

Living Local

<p>Nothing Further</p>	<p>x</p>
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Committee Tasks & Portfolios

<p>Barry Downard – Vice-Chair</p>	<p>ALL</p>
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Nikki Brighton – Chair
Brandon Powell – Secretary
Ashley Crookes – Wildlife
Robin Barnsley - Treasurer

Approach to be made to Marashene Lewis to participate, or at least contribute to the DC Facebook page.

Finance

Bank Balances for the 16th of February 2015

Current account: **R10 971,28**

Call Account: **R57 975,12**

In preparation for our AFS Pam Smit will correspond with Vinusha at Culverwell & Co and provide her with the relevant information.

PS

The NPO Return for 2013 has been submitted by BD. Clive Shippey is glad to help us with the 2014 one.

We probably won't have a signed-off AFS in time for the AGM so, as in the past, the figures from Pam Smit's Quickbooks records will be used.

RB

Communications

NB & BP to put together Autumn Newsletter to go out after the 20th of March (Equinox).

NB
BP

Topics: Water, Education Projects, Wildlife Sightings, Owl Box Report, Hunting &

Poaching Concerns, Films List, Mr Zuma & the Dargle River, Development Concerns, a call for Library Books for the Corrie Lynn School.

Membership Programme

BP to invite an archaeologist to speak about Early man in the Dargle for a Wednesday in May.

BP

Neville van Lelyveld will soon be doing a "Where to find Snares" workshop for landowners at Lemonwood and will liaise directly with Katie Robinson.

Tammy Caine from Raptor Rescue will talk to us about Owls on the 10th of June. (suggestion we get a Zulu speaker on the topic for farm staff too)

NB

The DC is to sponsor R5000 in installation fees for members who would like to buy Shane's owl boxes. Ten DC members have ordered and installation is due in March-April.

AC is going abroad for a few months after our next film, World Water Wars, on the 11th of March at Everglades.

AC

Development Monitoring

The DC to send out a single email to all its members to inform them about the following:

1. The new Petrus Stroom Bridge
2. Everglades Housing Development
3. The N3 Bypass

BD

BD to write to TerraTest and register the DC as an interested party in the case the

<p>Gugu Zuma would like to volunteer to make the Nxamalala Club a monthly one, held on Sundays. The DC applauds her dedication and will allocate part of its education budget to her to buy material for her programme.</p> <p>Tammy Caine will be asked if she can find a Zulu-speaker to deliver a talk to farm staff this winter on the subject of Owls.</p>	<p>NB</p>
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Wildlife Camera Traps

<p>AC and Brian & Marashene Lewis are the current holders.</p>	<p>x</p>
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A.G.M. 2015

<p>Set for Wednesday 15 April 2015. Invitations to be sent out at the end of Feb 2015. Tanglewood available and Nicky Farquharson to provide snacks in lieu of subs.</p> <p>No speaker and fun programme. AC to devise a Wildlife Sightings Presentation & Competition and adjudicate winners with the DC Committee.</p> <p>After 11 years of sterling service Barry Downard is to stand down as a member of the committee but remain on call for artistic input.</p> <p>He has the heartfelt thanks of the DC committee.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
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Dargle River

<p>Mr Zuma & the DUCT Rivercare Team have done a great job of following up at the Dargle River for two days in January.</p> <p>DUCT supplied the herbicide so DC didn't have to pay for that (nor will we in</p>	<p>x</p>
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future).

Liaison with the Lion's River Club

NB has written to Julia Rees offering to use the DC's contacts and media to publicise the Lion's River Club's Trails Festival.

NB

Constitution Revisions

NB to send a list of changes to Members tomorrow. Members are to comment by the 1st of March in writing. There is some disagreement from Barend Booysen (on behalf of the DNR landowners) about whether DC is the management authority for the DNR or not. NB has spoken to Greg Martindale of EKZNW Biodiversity Stewardship unit who has assured her that the DNR folk decided to form a Landowners Association so DC has no responsibility.

NB

Gifts

BP took Vinusha a present and she will send him a list of things we can send her to help her with her DC finances work at Culverwell & Co.

x

Road Signs

NB to speak to Bongani.

NB

Poaching

Monkey Dealing on the Petrustroom Road, with sales in Lidgetton, has been reported by DC Members. NB reported to EWT who suggested we give people the SA CAN poaching hotline number.

Other Members have reported regular Saturday morning forays by parties with hunting dogs. The witnesses and the DC are unsure as to how to manage these two issues.

NB going to post the SA CAN anti-poaching hotline number onto DC facebook page.

NB

Biodiversity Stewardship Programme

There is a small amount of funding left with MCF for the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme and it will be allocated to the Snowflake and Dunsisk Reserves at Giant's Castle. Both are important extensions of the uKhahlamba Drakensberg National Park.

NB

Cape Parrots

NB is looking for someone to organise the Cape Parrot Count this year as Sally Cummings will be away. Sandra Merrick will be approached.

NB

Next Meeting Dates: To be Confirmed