

WESTERN HEADS GOUKAMMA CONSERVANCY (WHGC)

Minutes of the 16th Annual General Meeting of the Conservancy, held at 15h00 on Thursday 15 August 2024, at the Home of Johan Labuschagne.

Present

Johan Labuschagne	Landowner and Chairperson of WHGC (Uitzigt 216/46)
Dave Edge	WHGC ManCom – Treasurer
Hanna Edge	WHGC ManCom – PR and membership
Nicky van Berkel	Private (Brenton on Sea)
Fred van Berkel	Private (Brenton on Sea)
Dirk van Driel	Private (Lake Brenton)
Annelise Kolbe-Van Wyk	Private (Lake Brenton)
Annatjie Roodt	Private (Brenton on Sea)
Erina Juyn	Private (Brenton on Sea)
Russel Wheeler	Landowner (Uitzigt 216/42)
Gretchen Wheeler	Landowner (Uitzigt 216/42)
Monique Vercueil	Landowner (Uitzigt 216/47)
André Vercueil	Landowner (Uitzigt 216/47)
Guy Thesen	Private (Old Belvidere)
Amanda Louw	Private (Brenton on Sea)
André Kruger	Private (Brenton on Sea)
Dirk Smit	South Cape Fire Protection Agency
Dave Davies	Private (Lake Brenton)
Ivonne Albers	Private (Brenton-on-Sea)
Louis du Toit	Private (Belvidere Estate)
Judy Bruwer	Private (Belvidere Estate)
Tony Rischbieter	Brenton Ratepayers Association
Henry Fairweather	Lake Brenton Resident's Association
Christo Lombaard	Private (Brenton on Sea)
Lorna Watt	Private (Garden Gates)
Renier Pienaar	Knysna Municipality
Colin Burns	Private (Lake Brenton)
Susan Campbell	Landowner (Uitzigt 216/39 and 75); WHGC ManCom – Legal
Rudi Neethling	Landowner (Uitzigt 216/152)
Vanessa Weyer	SanParks, Southern Right Estate
Judy Harrison	Private (Brenton-on-Sea)
Christa le Roux	Landowner (Uitzigt 216/77)

Apologies

Chris Gow	Private (Belvidere Estate)
Mark and Tessa Scott	Landowner (Uitzigt 216/109)
Mike Bird	Private (Old Belvidere)
Andy Crawford	Landowner (Uitzigt 216/113)
Anne and Doug Davis	Private (Lake Brenton)
Jacques Malan	Buffelsbaai Inwonersvereniging

Welcome & apologies

The AGM was declared open at 15h00.

1. Confirmation of minutes of the 2023 AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 5 May 2023 was accepted. Proposed by Susan Campbell, seconded by Hanna Edge.

2. WHGC Annual Reporting

Annual reports were presented in the form of presentations. The presentations are attached to these minutes. Matters arising during the presentations are summarised below:

- a. Overview and Confirmation of WHGC Objectives – Johan Labuschagne
- b. Table Mountain Fund Project – Dave Edge
 - i. Alien Vegetation Clearing – Dirk Smit mentioned that Cape Nature is handing out biological control materials for hakea and fungal paint for the control of alien vegetation.
- c. NPO, Fundraising and Finances – Dave Edge
Dave stressed that the financial reports for the WHGC and the TMF Project cover different periods – from 1 March to 29 February for the WHGC and from 1 September to 31 August for the TMF Project.
- d. PR, Marketing, Website, Newsletter – Hanna Edge
- e. Membership – Hanna Edge
Judy Harrison suggested that information evenings be held at the Brenton Hall to recruit more members and to inform the public of the Conservancy's activities.
- f. Fauna and Flora – Christa le Roux and Nicky van Berkel
- g. Fire Management – Dirk Smit
 - i. FreightRail (Transnet) - FreightRail has appointed a fire protection officer, who is also the Fire Chief for the Garden Route Municipality. His responsibility will be to enforce and look at enforcement of rules and regulations. Dirk will ask him to clear the road reserves with the Buffalo Bay road as the first priority.
 - ii. Ecological Burns – The SCFPA is willing to assist and give advice on ecological burns.
- h. Trails – Johan Labuschagne

3. Objectives for the coming year – Johan Labuschagne

- Deliver on WHGC-TMF project objectives
- Increase awareness or education
- Foster stronger relationships
- Strongly encourage eradication of invasives
- More effective and inclusive core team

4. Election of Management Committee Members

The following persons were elected for the following period:

- Chairman – Johan Labuschagne
- Treasurer – André Kruger (Nominated by Dave Edge, seconded by Susan Campbell)
- Secretary – Judy Harrison (to be confirmed)
- PR and membership - Hanna Edge
- Legal – Susan Campbell
- Land Use - André Vercueil)
- Flora and Fauna – Nicky van Berkel and Christa le Roux
- Fire Management - Christo Lombaard
- Table Mountain Fund – Dave Edge

5. General issues

- a. Municipal Rates Change
Susan Campbell gave a short talk about the new proposed municipal rates change. According to the rates **Act** agricultural rates exclude accommodation, ecotourism, and subsistence farming, and is 75% lower than residential rates. If it can be proven that the owner is practising agriculture and has shown it on his tax return the property should remain an agricultural property. Practical farming could include bee keeping or selling firewood (from alien vegetation).
- b. Foreign bees and firewood
Christa le Roux mentioned that foreign bees (from areas outside the Conservancy) might carry the American Foulbrood bacterial disease which can devastate the bee population. Firewood from outside the area might also carry foreign organisms which could be harmful to the indigenous populations. It was asked whether signs to this effect could be erected at the White Bridge.

6. Closure of meeting

The meeting closed at 17h30.