

KIRSTENBOSCH BRANCH

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Old Mutual Conference Centre, Kirstenbosch
6 July 2019 at 10h30**



1. Opening of Meeting

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present including Werner Voigt and Christopher Willis of SANBI, Marinda Nel, Chair of Council, and Antonia Xaba, General Manager of the Society.

2. Confirmation of Quorum

The Register was signed by 123 members which constituted a quorum.

Committee and Branch Staff present

Keith Kirsten, Natie Finkelstein, Cathrin Jenkins, Margaret Kahle, Dee Rees, Tom Robbins, Bob von Witt, Jeremy Wiley, Marilyn Wilford, Catherine Gribble, Gianpaolo Gilardi.

3. Apologies

Philip Howes (Committee Member), Dirk Muller, John Yeld, Iona & Andrew Peile, Maaiké Duk, Di Oliver, Shirley Atkinson, Heather Johl, Ron Cammack, Norma Ratcliff, Denise Murray, Amanda Ackerman, Lindsay Hooper, Adre Marshall, Susan Cozien, Elaine Holmes, AV Proctor, Eva van Belle, Anthony & Norma Davison, Ginny Hulse, David Marais, Klaus Wehrin, AS O'Connor-Smith, JC Macfarlane, Anne-Marie Roodt, Pam Harper, Alison James, Brian Christie, Peter & Jenny Ryan, Lewis Sparks, Ineke Mosely, Dave Wheeler, Hanneke Hawkes.

4. Approval of Minutes of the AGM held on 7 July 2018

The Minutes were available on the website prior to the AGM. With no objections the Minutes were proposed by Eugene Moll and seconded by Keith Gottschalk.

5. Chairman's Report – Keith Kirsten

- The Chairman reported on the year ending 31 March 2019. This report is available on the Branch website.
- The Branch Committee focused on drafting the new Branch Constitution after the Model Branch Constitution was adopted by the Society at the SGM held on 18 August 2018.
- Branch Manager, Catherine Gribble and Administrative Assistant, Gianpaolo Gilardi were appointed.
- The operation of the Bookshops will be transferred back to the Branch in September 2019. A Bookshop Manager has been appointed to begin 1 August 2019.
- Major projects for the Branch include developing youth projects with a focus on biodiversity education and outreach, and collaborating with SANBI on a floating solar panel installation on the Kirstenbosch dam. Improved communication with Members is a priority.
- The Chairman presented commemorative keyrings to outgoing Committee Members, Margaret Kahle, Natie Finkelstein and Bob von Witt, in appreciation of their contribution to the Branch.

6. Treasurer's Report – Margaret Kahle

- The Annual Financial Statements for both the 2018 and 2019 were presented. The balance sheets form part of the Consolidated AFS of the entire Society. These were available on the Branch website prior to the AGM.
- Mrs Kahle thanked Annelie Lucas, the BotSoc auditor, and Crystal Beukes, the National Finance Manager at Head Office for their assistance and co-operation.
- The Branch has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.
- Fixed Investments grew by an average of just over 7% through the capitalisation of Interest.
- Current assets fell by some R500,000 which is attributable to the loss of income from the Bookshops and the Plant Fair in 2017.
- The 2019 Plant Fair made a profit of R110,000.

- No disbursements on any projects or support of the Garden or other branches were made during the two years under review.

6.1 Approval of the 2018 AFS

Proposed by Eugene Moll and seconded by Patrick Fraser.

6.2 Approval of the 2019 AFS

Proposed by Eugene Moll and seconded by Patrick Fraser.

7. Approval of the new Branch Constitution

The Branch Constitution was approved by a show of hands of the clear majority of Members present.

A two thirds majority was required for the approval of the Constitution.

The draft was available for download on the Branch website from 14 January 2019.

8. Nomination for and election of Committee Members

Nominations were received for:

- Carol Cornell
- Munier Dalwai
- Dayne de Wet
- Keith Kirsten
- Cathrin Jenkins
- Tom Robins
- Jeremy Wiley

With no further nominations from the floor, all the nominees were duly appointed.

9. Any Other Business

○ Keith Gottschalk

Proposed that the Branch lobby and fundraise to help the Edith Stevens Wetlands Park, currently under the management of the City of Cape Town, with the following:

- To eradicate the invasive Port Jackson
- To erect a boardwalk and educational signage adjacent to the *Isoetes capensis*
- To erect a new fence on the western border of the park which was removed some years ago
- To open the park to the public during daylight hours on weekends
- To acquire and demolish the warehouse on the eastern side to consolidate the integrity of the park.

○ Tony Rebelo

Point of procedure: questions on the Chairman's and Treasurer's reports should be invited.

Thanked the Branch and Members for their participation in the City Nature Challenge. Cape Town is the second worst city in the world for plant extinctions.

○ Eugene Moll

Called for better communication with Members and a regular newsletter.

Questioned whether volunteers fall under SANBI or BotSoc. Currently volunteers may volunteer for SANBI without being a BotSoc member.

○ Sue Kingma

Suggested the Branch consider the 17 sustainable goals of the UN and decide which ones to support.

○ Julian Hare

Called on the Branch to take a stand on global warming and climate change, and get involved in the clearing of alien trees and planting of indigenous trees.

10. Closure

The meeting was closed and Members were invited to enjoy light refreshments.