

**KIRSTENBOSCH BRANCH**  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**  
**Held via Zoom on 16 September 2020 at 16h00**

**1. Opening of Meeting**

The Chairman welcomed all present and called for a minute's silence to remember those who are ill and who have passed on.

**2. Confirmation of Quorum**

Quorum was confirmed with 53 members present, including 2 proxies and 10 postal votes.

**Committee and Branch Staff present**

Keith Kirsten, Jeremy Wiley, Munier Dalwai, Tom Robbins, Carol Cornell, Chris Moir, Catherine Gribble, Greg Donnelly.

**3. Apologies**

Lewis & Nicky Sparks, Eugene & Alice Moll, Ivor & Cora Jardine, Dennis Nick, Maaiké Duk, Zephne van der Spuy, Thea & Alan Ramsay, Allen & Daphne Parry, Adré Marshall, Jean Eva, Peter & Margaret Gibbard, Sue Harsant, Elinore Manning, Refrew Christie, John Rainier, Davey Family, Pat Thompson.

**4. Approval of Minutes of the AGM held on 6 July 2019**

- The Minutes were available on the website prior to the AGM. With no objections the Minutes were proposed by Keith Kirsten and seconded by Jill Gribble.
- The minutes were approved by 46 votes.

**5. Chairman's Report – Keith Kirsten**

- The Chairman reported on the year ending 31 March 2020. This report is available on the Branch website.
- The SGM on 3 August allowed for the AGM to be held remotely via Zoom.
- Awards to the following members were announced at the National AGM on 29 August 2020:
  - Honorary Life Membership: Dirk Muller
  - Botanical Society Certificate of Merit: Glenda and Owen Moore, Jean Eva, Natie Finkelstein and Gerry Adlard, Jo Neser, Tessa Brewis, Nick Muller, Bob von Witte, Brian Christie, Helgo Kahle.
  - Centenary Medal: Dr Guy Preston.
- Staff operated remotely during the lockdown.
- During this time the online bookshop was created. The Garden Centre Bookshop opened during level 3 and the Visitors' Centre Bookshop opened at Level 2.
- New membership cards were available when the Garden reopened on 3 August.
- The Plant Fair scheduled for April 2020 was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- Kirstenbosch Branch has financially supported two projects this year.
  - Princess Vlei Conservancy Forum Restoration Project including volunteers who assisted with mass plantings
  - Ingcungcu Sunbird Restoration Project.
- Kirstenbosch Branch funded a nature conservation student for a six month internship in the Kirstenbosch Records Office working.
- Kirstenbosch Branch Volunteers participated in the Fynbos Festival at The Range in Tokai.
- Kirstenbosch Branch took over management of the Botanical Society Bookshops at Kirstenbosch on 1 December 2019. Greg Donnelly was appointed as Bookshop Manager in September 2019.

- Two Committee members resigned during the course of the year – Cathrin Jenkins and Dayne de Wet. Chris Moir was co-opted onto the Committee.
- Member Communication included four newsletters, five invitations and six announcements of various kinds.
- Workshops and presentations included the PSHB talk and two Streptocarpus propagation workshops presented by Cherise Viljoen.
- Book launches of *Cradle of Life*, *Wildflowers of the Cape Peninsula* and *Cultures, Cures and Curiosities*.
- The Lady Tait exhibition was held in the Richard Crowie Hall from 15 January to 15 March. It was curated by Mary van Blommestein and co-sponsored in part by Duncan Spence and Rickety Bridge Winery, also showcasing local botanical artists.
- Several alien vegetation hacks took place during the year and will resume once the Lockdown restrictions have been lifted.
- Thanks to the Committee – Jeremy Wiley, Vice-Chair; Munier Dalwai, Treasurer; Carol Cornell Chris Moir and Tom Robbins. Thanks also to Branch Manager, Catherine Gribble; Administrative Assistant, Gianpaolo Gilardi and Bookkeeper, Keith Christian.

## **6. Treasurer's Report – Munier Dalwai**

- A complete set of Kirstenbosch Branch Financials for the year ending 31 March 2020 are available on our website.
- The Financials of Botanical Society of South Africa were audited by the auditor Annelie Lucas; which included the financials of the Kirstenbosch Branch.
- The bookshop financials have not been included in the Kirstenbosch Financials as the bookshops only migrated to Kirstenbosch Branch from 1 April 2020.
- Total income for the year was R1,169,225 compared to R501,434 in 2019.
- Total expenses for the year were R1,522,316 compared to R286,035 in 2019.
- This leaves a deficit of R353,091 compared to a surplus of R215,399 in 2019.
- Membership fees income increased by 27% mainly due to an increased allocation by Head Office.
- The Plant Fair held in April 2019 was very successful and raised a net surplus of R174k. The April 2020 Plant Fair was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- Employee costs increased mainly due to employing two additional staff members on a half day basis.
- The Lady Tait Exhibition was a Members' event which gave the Society both local and international exposure.
- The Kirstenbosch Branch donated a much needed lawnmower and other equipment to SANBI.
- Investments increased due to capitalisation of interest received.
- Trade and other receivables increased mainly due to accrued income from Head Office.
- Cash and equivalents decreased mainly due to increased operating expenses.

### **6.1 Approval of the 2020 AFS**

Proposed by Sean McGivern and seconded by Wouter van Warmelo.  
The AFS were approved by 50 votes.

### **7. Election of Committee Members**

- Carol Cornell was elected with 45 votes
- Munier Dalwai was elected with 50 votes
- Keith Kirsten was elected with 48 votes
- Chris Moir was elected with 47 votes
- Tom Robins was elected with 48 votes
- Jeremy Wiley was elected with 48 votes

### **8. Resolutions proposed in terms of Paragraph 20.1.5.6 of the Constitution**

No resolutions were received from members.

### **9. Honours & Awards**

These were covered in the Chairman's Report.

### **10. Keynote Speaker**

*Due to unforeseen circumstances this talk has had to be postponed.*

### **11. Questions & Answers**

#### **o Nathan Finkelstein**

National amended their constitution to make provision for a virtual meeting. Should the Branch's constitution be likewise adapted to allow this?

- The change in the National Constitution adopted at the SGM on 3 August 2020 also changed the Branch Constitution to make provision for Branch virtual meetings, so the meeting is in order. The Kirstenbosch Branch will amend its Constitution to incorporate this.

### **12. Closure**

The Chairman closed the meeting and invited members to remain to watch a video of the Ingcungcu Sunbird Restoration Project.