



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Kirstenbosch  
on 8 June 2024 at 10h00 in the Old Mutual Hall**

**1. Opening of Meeting**

The Chair, Jeremy Wiley, welcomed all present, The Chair especially welcomed the guest speaker, Dr Jasper Slingsby and thanked him for accepting the invitation.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from BotSoc CEO, Antonia de Barros, Guy and Melany Harris.

**3. Confirmation of Quorum**

Quorum was confirmed with 43 members present. The auditor was thanked for attending in her official scrutineer capacity at the meeting.

**4. Approval of Minutes of the AGM held on 10 June 2023**

The Minutes were available on the website prior to the AGM. With there being no objections adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Jill Gribble and seconded by Carol Cornell. The Minutes were approved.

**5. Chairman's Report**

- The Chairman reported on the year ending 31 March 2024.
- Highlighted in the Chairmans report which will be posted on the branch website was the branch's financial profitability and resilience under adverse circumstances.
- The report also highlights the conservation initiatives supported by the branch, outdoor activities for members, support for Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens, branch finances, future sustainability, communication, branch administration and the new committee. The report also congratulated the team led by Keith Kirsten, Marinda Nel and Leon Kluge in winning the Gold Medal, Best Exhibit and the most innovative Display of Cape Flora at the 2024 Chelsea Flower Show in May.

**6. Treasurer's Report – Louis van As**

The Audited Financial Statements of the Kirstenbosch Branch of the Botanical Society of South Africa were presented by the Treasurer. They had been audited by the auditor Annelie Lucas. A copy of the financial statements may be viewed on the Branch website.

- Even in challenging times the branch has shown financial stability. The aim is to raise more funds to support conservation projects.
- The treasurer thanked Branch bookkeeper, Mr. Keith Christian, for ensuring that we follow proper processes. He also thanked the auditor for checking and signing off the financial statements.
- The key figures in the financial statements show a marked improvement in sales and profitability of the Kirstenbosch Bookshop. More attention must be given to boosting e-commerce trade for the bookshop business.
- The income statement records a few generous donations from members and private donors. After the financial year ended April and May 2024 the branch received another

two substantial donations. The branch endeavors to ensure those funds are being applied as best as possible to further the objectives of the Botanical Society.

- The branch no longer receives a percentage of annual membership subscriptions which are retained by the National Office of the Botanical Society. This is consistent throughout all BotSoc branches.
- Despite not receiving any income from membership fees the Branch has been able to generate a surplus for the year.
- Members are encouraged to engage with the treasurer if they have any suggestions on how to improve the financial and operational performance of the branch.

### **7. Approval of the 2023 Annual Financial Statements**

Adoption of the Annual Financial Statements was proposed by Jonathan Cornell and seconded by Shaun McGibbon. The accounts were adopted.

### **8. Appointment of the Auditor for 2024/2025**

The reappointment of auditor, Annelie Lucas, was proposed by Carol Cornell and seconded by James Gribble.

### **9. Election of Committee Members**

In terms of the branch constitution the committee comprises between four and nine members. There were two new nominees for the committee and their Curriculum Vitae, Biographies and Nomination forms were made available prior to the meeting.

New members:

- Julia Watson
- Shaun Schnier

Members eligible for re-election:

- Christine Moir
- Louis van As
- Mmei Matjuda

All committee member nominations were proposed by Catherine Gribble and seconded by Jonathan Cornell.

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

No resolutions were proposed for 2024/2025 term.

### **11. Guest Speakers Dr Jasper Slingsby/ University of Cape Town-Faculty of Science**

- Dr Slingsby introduced members to the BioScape Project which focuses using cutting-edge airborne remote sensing technology to collect field data to better understand biodiversity, distribution and areas under threat.

### **12. Questions & Answers**

A thought-provoking discussion ensued based on the BioScape Project's interesting data collection methods and how it can be used to advance scientific knowledge.

### **13. Closure**

- The Chair proposed a special note of thanks to Carol Cornell and Christine Moir for their dedication and service as members of the branch committee, the years of the support they had given him during his term of office which ends at this AGM. The Chair thanked everyone for attending the AGM and closed the meeting.

