

**MINUTES OF THE 66TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
BIRDLIFE PORT NATAL
HELD AT PALMIET NATURE RESERVE, WESTVILLE, 14h00 21 FEBRUARY 2015**

ATTENDANCE: 42 members present as per attendance register.

1. **WELCOME:** Honorary President, Roy Cowgill, opened the meeting by welcoming the members present and the guest speaker, Trevor Hardaker and his wife, Margaret, from Cape Town.
2. **APOLOGIES:** G & H Cairns, J & C Greener and as noted in the attendance register.
3. **MINUTES:** The minutes of the 65th AGM held on 15 February 2014 at Krantzklouf Interpretive Centre, had been distributed. Acceptance of these minutes was confirmed.
4. **MATTERS ARISING:** None.
5. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer David Bishop briefly explained that he had volunteered to be Treasurer with help from Jo. The audited financial statements had been distributed and were available. Dave is resigning the position and appealed to all members to get involved and that as one of the biggest bird clubs in the country, it would not survive if nobody wanted to join the committee and volunteer their services.
6. **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** This was presented by Lesley Frescura, copies of which had been distributed. She welcomed everyone present, especially the guest speaker and his wife. Lesley also thanked everyone for attending and paid tribute to each committee member, and all who had worked tirelessly during the past year.

The Honorary President thanked the Chairperson for all her hard work and commented that birds fly in formation and the leader is changed constantly. We need to change constantly as well. Functionality of the committee needs to be borne in mind.

7. **ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS:**
Lesley Frescura was co-opted
Rowena Pankhurst, Frankie Berghorst and Des Porter offered to stand and were elected
Paul Bartho, Arnia van Vuuren, Virginia Cameron, Crystelle Wilson and Rob Jamieson were available for re-election to the committee
8. **APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS:**
It was agreed that Dianne McArthur cc would continue as the organisation's auditors
9. **GENERAL:**
Lesley announced that there were books and some t-shirts to be given away.
Crispin Hemson spoke briefly on the work of 'Friends Groups' around the country, mentioning Virginia Bush, Burman Bush, and that work done in Pigeon Valley had borne fruit – alien clearing leads to more birds and asked all to support these efforts.
Herman Bos spoke on behalf of the Honorary Officers – they would like to create a liaison with bird clubs and connect at provincial level. Roy to discuss at Forum.
Rob Jamieson spoke on Public Open Spaces and Herman Bos noted that 'education is the key' to keeping these places accessible to the public.
There followed a presentation to Mike and Jane Roseblade who were standing down from the portfolio of 'Weekends Away'. Thankyou to them for the years of dedication and they will be missed. Bevan and Cheryl will be taking over.
The Honorary President reminded all of the Forum at Howick on 7 March.
Thank you to people making the braai and the caterer, Bridget Webber.
Roy then introduced the guest speaker, Trevor Hardaker, who is one of South Africa's finest birders and whose topic was "Around the World in 80 Birds".

10. **CLOSE OF MEETING:**
The Honorary President thanked Trevor Hardaker for the amazing presentation which had so enthralled his audience. He thanked everyone for their attendance and invited them to partake of the refreshments available, despite the threatening storm.
The meeting closed at 16.20.