



FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIRDS AND THEIR HABITATS  
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## MINUTES OF THE WESTERN CAPE BIRDING FORUM MEETING HELD ON 18 February 2017 AT THE HELDERBERG NATURE RESERVE

### Present:

A Odendal	Chairman
A Grump	BLSW
S Krynauw	BLSW
B Butler	BLSW
M Brookes	ADU
B VanderWalt	TBC
T Williams	Independent
J Fincham	CBC & TBC
C Oettle	WBC
J Hobbs	CBC & Paarl
Wessel Uys	WBC
A Krynauw	BLSW
F Brett	BLSW
P Beeton	CBC
K Harrison	WCBC
A Stewart	WCBC
D Wright	BLSA

### Apologies:

C Malan	BLO
Kobus Graaff	WBC
P Nurse	LBC
C de Kock	WCBC
D Whitelaw	CBC & Conservation
K Shaw	Cape Nature
Y Weiss	CBC
P Hochfelden	SBC
Dr G Murison	BLSA

### **1. Welcome and apologies**

The Chairman welcomed everyone present and noted apologies forwarded. See attendance register. Concern was expressed about developments and continual changes of the committee at the Stanford Bird Club.

ACTION: Anton tasked with discussing matters with the committee.

### **2. Approval of Previous Minutes (1 October 2016)**

Minutes approved with one change. Page 2 should read Keith Harrison and not Kevin.

### 3. GUEST SPEAKERS:

#### 3.1 Dale Wright, BirdLife SA

Dale gave a brilliant overview of progress over the last 5 years. Very few changes to Dale's report of October 2016 and therefore no written report submitted.

Points that Dale emphasised:

- The Strandfontein Birdathon 2017 scheduled for 6 May
- We need to ensure that we include a meaningful description of how KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS will impact on the status of IMPORTANT BIRD & BIODIVERSITY AREAS, so that everyone understands.

#### 3.2 Dr Giselle Murson, BirdLife SA

Dr Giselle Murison unfortunately fell ill and could not attend the meeting. The WCBF will invite her again in the future.

ACTION: Anton

#### 3.3 Paarl Bird Sanctuary

**John Fincham** gave an overview of the combatting of crime and vandalism at the sanctuary.

A summary of John's presentation is available on page 2 of the attachment describing reports.

Also refer to the conservation report by Jo Hobbs on page 6 of the attachment describing reports.

#### Matters arising:

- Representatives of the Cape Bird Club proposed that the possibility of the appointment an Education Officer by the Forum to serve schools on a regional basis be investigated. After some discussion, it was decided to appoint a sub-committee consisting of Mark Brown, Johan Schlebusch, Priscilla Beeton and Dave Whitelaw to investigate this matter. We need to ensure that this position is sustainable, i.e funding, etc.

### 4. CONSERVATION REPORTS

#### 4.1 DALE WRIGHT, the Regional Conservation Manager for BirdLife South Africa

See comments above.

#### 4.2 Mark Brown, the regional representative on the Board of BirdLife South Africa

Dr Mark Brown's written report briefly reviewed by Anton.

- Keith Harrison and Anton Odendal expressed their appreciation to Mark for his co-operation and support with objections to development applications.
- Anton informed the meeting that BirdLife Overberg donated R 10,000.00 to the Nature's Valley Conservation Trust

- Decision: The WCBF to sponsor Mark's attendance of the next meeting scheduled for 3 June 2017.

ACTION: Treasurer

## 5. FEEDBACK FROM CLUBS

### 5.1 Cape Bird Club

Priscilla Beeton's report on club activities: She emphasised their excitement with Ross Soller joining the committee to develop youth interests.

- CBC congratulated with progress with CMAK project.
- Tony Willams indicated that photographers should not be allowed onto the top of the artificial breeding banks.
- John Fincham indicated that the Groenheuwel Primary School visit to the Paarl Sewage Works will be on 22 and 23 February and not 23 and 24 February.
- It was decided to nominate Intaka Island and/ or Alan Liebenberg for an Owl Award.

ACTION: Dale

### 5.2 West Coast Bird Club conservation report.

Keith Harrison highlighted West Coast conservation issues from the submitted report.

Keith Harrison & Dale Wright to keep tabs on possible rezoning in the WCNP.

Michael Brooks and Simon Gear to receive appropriate information in view of the lagoon's RAMSAR status.

ACTION: Keith & Dale

### 5.3 BirdLife Overberg

In addition to Anton Odendals report hereto attached the following:

- Anton to start with a monthly column on birding matters entitled DIE VALKOOG in Landbouweekblad as from March.
- The increased interest in bird and birding along the Garden Route as illustrated by three capacity Flight for Birders courses over the last six months discussed. A further course to be presented at Hartenbos in May. A strong need for a bird club for Mossel Bay expressed by locals. ACTION: Anton to investigate.
- Spontaneous "pop-op birding outings" put together through a WhatsApp group discussed. Great potential.
- Anton thanked all Forum members who sent letters of support for his objection to the Arniston Spa Hotel's application for a permit to take 4X4 tours along the beach. See comments later.

- The findings of the December marketing campaign discussed. Tony Williams suggests that these findings should be forwarded to Alan Winde, the provincial Minister for Tourism in view of further sponsorship.

ACTION: Anton.

#### 5.4 ADU

Michael Brooks gave feedback on developments at the ADU. Anton to approach Peter Ryan regarding Fitz representation on the Forum at future meetings.

ACTION: Anton

### 6. GENERAL

#### **WESTERN CAPE BIRDING FORUM ACTION PLAN FOR 2017:**

This matter was discussed extensively at the Forum meeting held on 18 February 2017. A decision was taken to simplify matters by setting fewer goals for this year in view of achieving more sustainable and measurable outcomes. All role-players concerned will give feedback on progress at Forum meetings and written reports will have to be submitted in February 2018. The following goals were set:

- Greater emphasis will be placed on educational programs over the next year. Projects to be used as case-studies include those at the Paarl Sewage Works, (Cape Bird Club), the Friends of the Helderberg Nature Reserve (Somerset West Bird Club) and a variety of projects being undertaken by BirdLife Overberg and BirdLife Plettenberg Bay.
- Methodologies for the development of LIBAs (Local Bird Important Areas) will be investigated. Note that the use of the term “LIBAs” will be debated and most probably changed at the next Forum meeting. Pilot projects will be at the Paarl Sewage Works (Cape Bird Club) and Dick Dent Nature Reserve (Somerset West Bird Club). The Vermont salt pan could also be considered as a possible pilot project (BirdLife Overberg). Project to be co-ordinated by Dave Whitelaw.
- The various clubs to develop combined approaches to objections to development applications. The BirdLife Overberg objection (on behalf of the WCBF) to the Arniston Spa Hotel application will be used as an initial case-study in view of monitoring progress. Project to be co-ordinated by Dave Whitelaw and Anton Odendal.
- A comprehensive database of guest speakers for club monthly meetings will be developed to assist new clubs and particularly those in rural areas. Action: All club chairs to give feedback, with the Secretary co-ordinating.

#### **APPOINTMENT OF OFFICE BEARERS:**

Appointments agreed by unanimous decision:

- WCBF Chairman: Anton Odendal
- Regional Representative on BLSA Board: Mark Brown (Mark agreed also to accept the role of Vice-Chair for WCBF).
- Secretary: Carin Malan



<u>WESTERN CAPE BIRDING FORUM</u>					
Budget forecast for 2017					
<b>INCOME</b>			<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Club contributions	R 3 630,00			3 x meetings (3 x R2000)	R 6 000,00
Grant BLSA	R 10 000,00			Travel cost Mark Brown 1x	R 7 200,00
				Quest speakers	R 7 000,00
				Paarl education support	R 15 000,00
	<b>R 13 630,00</b>				<b>R 35 200,00</b>
			<b>deficit</b>	<b>R -21 570,00</b>	
16-Feb-17					
I Krynauw (treasurer)					

#### Matters arising:

- R 15,000.00 allocated in three installments to the Paarl Sewage Works educational project. ACTION: Sakkie and Priscilla to co-ordinate and supervise.
- Travel allowance for members to be increased to R2.00 per kilometer.
- Anton and Sakkie have submitted the action plan for 2017 and budget to BLSA in view of receiving the annual subsidy. This was approved by BLSA – payment of annual subsidy pending.

#### 8. EVENTS IN THE WESTERN CAPE

8.1 Seabirds Identification Course prior to Flock at Sea Again

Action: Priscilla Beeton

#### 9. NEXT MEETING

3 June 2017. Venue: Intaka Island

#### 10. BIRD CLUB CHAIRMEN DISCUSSION CHAIRED BY BRYAN BUTLER

##### General issues discussed:

- Bryan Butler (Somerset West Bird Club), Charl Oettle (BirdLife Worcester) and Wessel Uys (Witzenberg Bird Club) discussed a variety of activities.
- Somerset West Bird Club congratulated with their official affiliation with BirdLife South Africa.
- It is of critical importance that all outstanding reports be submitted to Carin by 26 February for inclusion in the minutes. ACTION: Forum.
- It was decided to develop an index of guest speakers for monthly meetings and to disseminate this to Forum members on an annual basis. All club chairs are requested to submit a list of guest speakers over the last three years to Carin by 15 March. Kindly include name of speaker, topic and email address and telephone numbers (if available). ACTION: Forum.
- The Somerset West Bird Club thanked for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments.

10. Meeting concluded at 14:00 and members of Somerset West Bird Club were thanked for hosting the meeting.

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**Chairman**

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**Date**