



Minutes of the 71st Annual General Meeting of the Cape Bird Club held at the Nassau Centre Groote Schuur High School on 14 March 2019

Meeting Chair: Priscilla Beeton

Meeting Secretary: Barbara Jones

Register of Members Present: A total of 45 members registered their attendance and a quorum (40) was declared.

Apologies: Graham and Barbara Pringle, John Fincham, Jo Hobbs, Marilyn and Duke Metcalf, Andrew and Heather Hodgson, and members of the Tygerberg Bird Club whose AGM is on the same evening.

1. **Confirmation of Minutes:** The Minutes of the AGM dated 12 April 2017 were accepted.
Proposed by Simon Fogarty and seconded by Peter Steyn

2. **Matters Arising:**

The chairperson was pleased to report that all the money that went missing from our investment account was recovered.

There were no other matters arising.

3. **Chairperson's Report:**

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the 71st AGM of the CBC. The full report is available on the Cape Bird Club website

There are 755 paid up members, including family members. In terms of our constitution we are supposed to be a welcoming club to 'young and old who wish to share their appreciation, understanding and knowledge of birds'. However, we do not really cater for the young and for some time we have not had many regular specialist activities or outings for them.

The objectives of the CBC as stated in our Constitution are to promote the enjoyment, understanding, study and conservation of birds and their environments. Regarding the enjoyment of birds, the CBC has regular outings, camps, and the end of year quiz evening. The chairperson thanked all those who have offered their time and expertise in leading, organising and managing these activities, many of whom do so on a regular basis. Daryl and Lynette de Beer were thanked for taking on the organisation of the outings roster, which is a not inconsiderable task. In 2018 we held 2 camps for young people – the family camp which was well attended and the camp for Floreat Primary School bird club. Many of the Floreat children had never been on a camp and they enjoyed every minute. The quiz evening is a fun get together for members, and Mike Buckham who sets the questions and runs the quiz, as well as the committee who helped make sure the evening run smoothly, were thanked for their efforts. A plea was put out for more and new leaders, and new venues for outings, and members were asked to please volunteer in whatever way they could.

The second objective of the CBC, to promote the understanding and study of birds, was well

addressed in 2018 through the CBC monthly evening meetings and our birding courses. During 2018 there were nine very interesting and entertaining evening meetings on birds and bird-related issues, and even one meeting on Cape Clawless Otters in the South Peninsula. These meetings are always well attended, as were the three extremely interesting birding courses held in 2018. The guest speakers were warmly thanked for the hours they spend in preparation and for sharing their knowledge and experiences with us, and Patrick Riley was thanked for his unwavering and willing audio-visual support at these events. Regarding promoting birding to children, the educational outreach programme to Floreat Primary School has been piloted very successfully so far, with workshops, outings and a camp for the children, enthusiastically championed by a teacher at the school, Kristi Jooste, and supported by colleagues and the headmaster. The Birdathon was another event aimed at children that the club participated in this year, despite gale force winds that made it difficult for all. Thanks were given to all members who have assisted with the organising and running of these programmes and events.

The third objective, to promote the conservation of birds and their environment, had a focus in 2018 on building breeding walls for terns, martins and kingfishers (TMAK project) at Strandfontein sewage works, and these were completed in November. There has been some interest from birds in these potential breeding sites, but we will have to wait for the breeding season to see how well the birds take to them. Problems being experienced at Strandfontein are reduced water flow to the pans – largely due to water saving measures and CoCT removing water for purification – and typha and water hyacinth invasions in the pans. The Conservation sub-committee is engaged in trying to address some of these problems and a full conservation report will be in the July issue of Promerops.

Another conservation issue the CBC has supported has been via a substantial donation to the W Coast National Park for improving the bird hides. We have links with conservation projects such as Communitree and Ingcungcu and members are involved in citizen science projects and bird counts. The CBC has also given a sizeable donation to SANCCOB for the rehabilitation of the flamingo chicks rescued from Kamfers Dam. Warm thanks were made to the Conservation Committee and others members and non-members who have assisted with the various conservation issues with which the Cape Bird Club is connected.

Our communications team ensures that all our activities are advertised, promoted and recorded. Fiona Jones and her team were thanked for all the work they put in to compiling, publishing and distributing Promerops to CBC members, and for the excellent quality of the magazine, as well to those who contribute articles and material for the magazine.

The website committee was thanked for producing and maintaining an excellent quality and informative website, to which we had over 13,000 'hits' in the last year. Cheryl Leslie was thanked for her commitment in keeping members apprised of events in the e-newsletter and for updating the Facebook page. Linda Johnstone was thanked for advertising CBC outings, meetings and events in the radio and print media.

Promerops awards for outstanding service to the CBC: Priscilla read the citations and Peter Steyn presented the CBC Promerops awards to Merle Charlton and Fiona Jones. Other awardees, Mel Tripp and Paul and Cathy Jenkins were not present and their citations will be read and the awards presented at the next general meeting

The adoption of the chairperson's report was proposed by Sylvia Ledgard and seconded by Johan Schlebusch.

4. Treasurers Report:

Joy Fish presented the Treasurers report. She reported that the club's financial situation is good, in that currently we have funds of R600 000. We have a Sustainability Fund, a Conservation Fund and a Capital Replacement Fund.

Our membership report shows 565 main members and 190 family members – 755 in total. 54 new members joined through the website during the year.

Joy thanked Mary Debrick for doing the payments and Paul Slack from Fasttrac auditors, who have not increased their fees. A proposal that the auditors be kept on for 2019 was unanimously approved.

The adoption of the Treasurer's report was proposed by Peter Hill and seconded by Dave Whitelaw

5. Election of new committee. Priscilla Beeton, Johan Schlebusch, Dave Whitelaw, Joy Fish, Barbara Jones, Linda Merrett and Gillian Barnes had been nominated and had accepted their nominations. Vincent Ward has been nominated as a new committee member and accepted. The meeting unanimously approved the appointment of the nominated members to the CBC Committee for 2019.

There was no further business and the AGM was declared closed at 21.15