



# DUIWENHOKS CONSERVANCY

Annual General Meeting 2025

## MINUTES

Meeting:	Duiwenhoks Conservancy (DC) Annual General Meeting 2025
Chairperson:	Josie Borain (JB)
Venue:	Community hall, Vermaaklikheid
Date:	Easter Saturday, 19 April 2025, 10 – 11:30.
Attendees:	<u>Committee:</u> H. Melck (HM), Anthony Black (AB), Justin Cooke (JC), Margaux Newdigate (MN), Rookan Podesta (RP) <u>Community:</u> B. Black (BB), B. Oberholzer, N.Irving, R.Hill, I.Smith, M.Hill, C. Stutterheim (CSt), C. Wesselink (CW), D. Feast (DF), L. Oberholzer (LO), M. Muller (MM), P. Hathorn (PH), J. Loewenthal (JL), P. Moir (PM), J. Smith, C.Giffard, A.Northnagel, D.Steyn, L.Steyn.
Apologies:	

Items
<p><b>1. Introduction</b></p> <p>a) JB welcomed all and introduced meeting agenda:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Welcome &amp; Introduction</li><li>2. Youth programmes (HM)</li><li>3. Fire and chipper (RP)</li><li>4. Conservancy building guidelines (JC)</li><li>5. Finances (MN)</li><li>6. Gouritz Cluster Biosphere Reserve: Wilhelm de Beer</li><li>7. SouthSouthNorth IKI grant: C. Wesselink</li><li>8. New committee (all)</li><li>9. Questions (all)</li></ol>

## Items

### 2. Youth programmes

HM presented feedback on the after school program, which has been a success. This year there are 6 Grade 11s. They are keen to use the after-school program, actively seeking tutors. Also supporting a holiday program with groups like the Magpie Art Collective. HM also shared some of the work Hannah Loewenthal has also been doing with the children of Vermaaklikheid, which is called the Bloekomboom project. Started in late 2019, it is an visual arts and dance program for the children of Brakfontein school. Artist Henk Serfontein is supporting Hannah in delivering the program. It's a great success and has helped develop the attending children's emotional intelligence. Older children don't want to graduate from the program, so they're hoping to be able to develop the program for two separate groups. HM thanked all the donors who've supported the program.

AB presented feedback on Tiny Treasures:

Tiny Treasures started at DC AGM in 2019. It's funded completely through donations. Brakfontein teachers say the children who've been at TT are better prepared for school. AB thanked all donors too.

### 3. Fire and chipper

All fire equipment is stored safely at Karl Zeelie's. Also the DC chipper stored at Karl Zeelie. KZ is well placed to be first-call support for maintenance. Hired with an operator (Patrick Hill). It has a new motor (replaced recently). A source of revenue for the DC. Other operators also want to be trained to use the chipper.

### 4. Conservation Management Plan (CMP)

JC recognises that we are all present because we care for this place. Also JC remembered some of the characters who have lived in our place, Julian Cooke, Peter Borain, Robert Andrew, who among many others have all appreciated the peace and tranquillity offered by Vermaaklikheid. JC read a poem written by his dad.

JC is trying to put together a way to develop the conservation of our place. Conservation is more than protecting the buildings. It is quite a difficult job and requires a communal effort. Remnants of the old way of life are few, and precious. We all need to protect it. Some of the landowners are following a conservation-oriented process currently of a voluntary submission to review building or renovation plans. We have an existing building guideline currently which is not prescriptive. We have strengthened our relationship with Hessequa Municipality which has been helpful. If anyone has any ideas of how to assist in developing a conservation plan for Vermaaklikheid, please contact JC.

### 5. Finances

In the financial year of 2024/5, the revenue was as always, very small. The chipper has contributed R8000 and subscriptions R23000. MN ensures that the finances are impeccably maintained, we have auditors who write up our finances each year into financial reports, and the DC is in good standing with SARS and CIPC. We have audited financial reports up to 2022/3. The total revenue generated by the DC for 2024/5 is in the order of R150k, because we also operated the finances for the VermaakVerbeter program, as well as the security operation of October 2024, as well as the fire fund.

Items
<p><b>6. Gouritz Cluster Biosphere Reserve.</b></p> <p>Wilhelm de Beer presented the interests of the GCBR, but also has long interest in Vermaaklikheid. Wilhelm is the Coastal Extension Officer from Gouritz Cluster Biosphere Reserve in our area. Wilhelm was Associate Professor in Microbiology/Forest Pathology at the University of Pretoria until March 2022, and joined the GCBR in April 2024. He also coordinates research efforts and collaborations in the GCBR. The presentation is available on request.</p>
<p><b>7. SouthSouthNorth IKI grant:</b></p> <p>Carl Wesselink, director of SouthSouthNorth (SSN) and long-time local presented information about the IKI grant likely to awarded to SSN to progress on an alien-clearing initiative which may benefit our area. SSN supports national and regional responses to climate change through policy and knowledge interventions, partnerships and collaboration. The presentation is available on request.</p>
<p><b>8. New committee</b></p> <p>Existing members of committee were all nominated and seconded by attendees. The committee is therefore Josie Borain (chair), Anthony Black (vice-chair), Justin Cooke, Margaux Newdigate, Rookan Podesta and Hilary Melck.</p>
<p><b>9. Closure</b></p> <p>LO gave thanks to the DC committee for the work done over the past year. Alfredo Northnagel requested our community to continue to work together.</p>