



Bushman's Kariega Estuary Management Forum

We Care For Our Estuaries -The Heart of Our Community

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON Friday 23rd
DECEMBER 2016 IN THE KENTON TOWN HALL AT 10h00**

Present 151 members and visitors

Welcome:

The Chairman Ted Gilfillan opened the meeting by extending a warm welcome to all members and visitors.

Apologies:

Doug and Sue Walters, Dot Cohead, Tjaart & Audrey Barnard, Tom Lawless, Glen Craig, Vanessa & Royce Long, Willem van Rensburg, Sheila Swanepoel, Nick Fox.

Confirmation of the Minutes of the AGM December 2015

The minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting had been published on the web site after approval by the committee at their meeting held in January 2016.

Matters Arising:

There were three matters arising from the meeting:

- . The derelict boathouse on the Kariega towpath had been demolished
- . The access path on the mouth side of the Kariega slipway had been made wheel-chair friendly.
- . The eastern abutment of the Kariega bridge was currently being repaired by contractors from SANRAL.

Chairman's report for the AGM on 23rd December 2016

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to our Annual General Meeting. Estuary Care via its committee has continued to be active on both the Kariega and the Bushman's Estuaries and the paths and banks serving both Estuaries. We have also been involved in the monitoring of pollution, recycling, rubbish disposal and property development, all of which affect the health of the river systems.

The Committee

I wish to thank all members of the committee and other members of Estuary Care who have contributed to our efforts this past year. The committee is drawn from local people, from representatives of the Ndlambe Municipality, and from SA National Parks. Our thanks also go to Dr Angus Paterson who has continued to act as a consultant to Estuary Care on Environmental issues. The committee met seven times during the year. It operates on a “portfolio” system with various members of the committee taking on different duties. I shall introduce them separately and ask them to stand.

- Chester Wilmot (who is also our Vice Chairman) has undertaken much work on towpaths, beach front walls, slipways and jetties. This year Chester has continued to focus on trying to find a workable solution to the problem of the sand dune advancing up Dry Bones Valley.
- Dr Bill Northrop looks after estuary signage, channel markers and Bushman’s Estuaries paths.
- Trish Milliken fulfils the role of Communication, which carries with it the maintenance of the web site, and the production of News Letters.
- Daphne McNeil performs a vital interlinking role with Sustainable Seas Trust (SST) and its associated Education groups. She also checks on the cleanliness of the Kenton side of the Bushman’s towpaths.
- Dr Dirk Meiring acts as a watchdog looking after the interests of his community in Bushman’s River.
- My wife Rem acts as secretary for committee meetings and has taken on the project of the beautification of the Bushman’s River bridge embankment.
- Dot Cohead keeps us in touch with the local Police forum.
- Johan Grobler keeps a watch on property developments.
- Dr Tony Ribbink heads up the Sustainable Seas Trust (SST) and has joined our committee as an associate.
- Peter Reed has taken on the monitoring of pollution into the estuaries.

Each of these people deserves special mention for the results they have achieved this past year.

Here is a brief overview of our activities:

The siltation of Bushman’s Estuary

Estuary Care members and concerned members of the public have expressed rising concern at the ever increasing sedimentation occurring in the Bushman’s and Kariega Estuaries. This is threatening the navigability of the estuaries and could ultimately lead to the closure of the estuary mouths with all of the consequences that would bring.

Thanks to the generosity of a local resident, a firm of internationally recognized Harbour Consulting Engineers from Cape Town, PRDW, was engaged to undertake a detailed survey of the Bushman's Estuary and to build a two dimensional computer model. This was used to test various proposed interventions. Stephen Luger from PRDW and Dr Chantel Bezuidenhout will be addressing us on their findings and recommendations later this morning.

The dune advancing down Dry Bones Valley

Chester Wilmot has been at the forefront of this project: surveying, gathering information, discussing the problem and proposing solutions. The size and movement of the dune has become much more obvious over the course of the year and concerned home owners have formed an interest group which, largely, has taken over from Chester and Estuary Care. In addition possible solutions and a possible Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) have been proposed as part of the PRDW study.

Construction, Repair and Maintenance

We continue to maintain the towpaths along the banks of the Kariega and Bushman's estuaries. This involves repairs to the curbing and surface of the paths as well as attention to the drains. We engage a local contractor who, on a regular basis, trims the bush along both towpaths and keeps the grass under control. We are also obliged to cut back the reeds and to remove the cut sections from portions of the Bushman's towpath since we believe that the dense growth of reeds on both sides of the path constitutes a security hazard.

We, together with Kenton Ratepayers' Association (KOSRA) and Bushman's River Mouth Ratepayers' Organisation (BRRAG) look after the upkeep of paths and stairways leading down to both estuaries.

Rubbish Disposal and Recycling

Kenton Rate Payers (KOSRA), with Natures Landing (NL) and Estuary Care won a court action against the municipality during the past year which led to the closure of the Marselle dump site. Since then we have joined with representatives from BRRAG in encouraging the municipality to embark on a properly organised method of collecting recyclable material (being bottles, cans, plastic and cardboard) which we believe can constitute up to 30% of disposable material. This programme has been initiated via IWARS and at the moment is not yet working effectively.

Clearing of rubbish along the banks of the Bushman's and Kariega Estuaries

Estuary Care continues to support the efforts of concerned Bushman's residents who undertake a regular clean up along the banks of the Estuary. Our thanks go especially to Doran Herringer and his team.

Pollution Survey

Concerns were expressed regarding infections apparently contracted by swimmers in the Bushman's river over the last December/January holiday period. We decided (together with Nature's Landing) to conduct laboratory tests whose results would be accepted by a court of law should the need arise. Meetings were held in order to establish agreed procedures for sampling and transport of samples. The first set of samples has been taken in order to establish a "base line" from which comparisons could be made with samples drawn over the current holiday season.

Three sets of samples were drawn from:

- The dam at Nature's Landing. The catchment includes the outfall from the Marselle sewage works.
- The perennial flow of water into the Bushman's below Paisley Road on the East bank of the Bushman's. This promotes the growth of a big patch of reeds in this area and we suspect a leaking water main.
- The ooze on the inland side of the Kariega towpath downstream from the Sibuya jetty.

Results:

- One set of results from the dam showed an unacceptably high level of e coli.
- The Paisley Road outfall showed very low levels of e coli well within acceptable levels.
- The Kariega towpath samples yielded by far the worst results indicating a serious contamination of sewage in the water. This almost certainly comes from overflows from septic tanks.

Further Action

- To continue sampling over the holiday period to establish if there is an increase in pollution levels.
- To encourage homeowners to consider investing in home digester plants or to modify their septic tanks systems with a Grey Water system or to fit a conservancy tank. We are undertaking this via our web site and newsletter.

Estuary Signage and Channel markers

Bill Northrop has recently upgraded channel markers and boating signs at the slipways and up the estuaries. These signs are invaluable guides to boaters using the estuaries. We consult with regular users of the estuaries as to the placement and content of the signs. Our thanks go to Sibuya for the use of their boats and expertise in the placing of river signs.

Communications

Trish Milliken has put her considerable energy and talent into the production of four newsletters. She has managed the website www.estuarycare.co.za which has become a mine of useful information. We continue to post items of interest to our Facebook page: Bushmans Kariega Estuary Care

Sustainable Seas Trust

The Sustainable Seas Trust (SST) is producing a book about Bushman's and Kariega estuary management care. The purpose of the book is to develop caring communities who know, understand and promote the estuaries. The vision for the book is to see involvement by people caring for the environment. SST encourages members of the public to share their knowledge and photographs about the Bushman's and Kariega estuaries by sending materials to info@sst.org.za or to drop in at the SST Offices, 1st Floor Threeways Centre to share their contribution/s.

We are pleased to report that Estuary Care has contributed towards funding the book.

Assistance to estuary users

Estuary Care pays for an employee over the holiday periods to assist estuary users at the slipways, with the issue of pamphlets and general information regarding boating and fishing regulations. He also assists with boat launching and he services the Municipal toilets at the Kariega slipway.

Estuary Care Caps

We have bought 100 caps sporting our logo on the front and 'We love our Estuaries' on the back. They are available from Daphne McNeil after the meeting at R100 each. Please do not leave without your cap.

Benches

We continue to supply and erect benches on the tow paths and the beach fronts. These benches are given in memory of loved ones and serve as a most useful addition to our facilities.

Finance

Estuary Care		
Financial statement for year end 31 Oct 2016		
Income		
Interest from Savings account	R 269.09	
Interest from Money Market	R 12,954.35	
Subs	R 40,833.50	
Benches	R 14,021.00	
Contribution towards brochure & boat licence guide	R 5,374.30	
		R 73,452.24
Expenditure		
Bank charges	R 251.25	
Path clearing & mowing	R 7,218.50	
Web site set up and costs	R 5,085.86	
Wages	R 10,380.06	
Stationary	R 5,962.10	
Xtreme embroidery caps.	R 7,000.00	
Pollution testing	R 7,340.96	
Signage	R 8,807.21	
Contribution to SST for book on our Estuaries	R 10,000.00	
Benches purchase	R 12,882.00	
AGM expenses	R 1,587.00	
Legal fees	R 5,000.00	
Year end function	R 2,158.34	
Kareiga jetty refurbishment	R 794.64	
Bushmans river cleanup contribution	R 1,800.00	
		R 86,267.92
Total		
Opening balance as at 1st Nov 2015		
Cash on hand	R 8.65	
Bank account	R 36,232.94	
Money Market	R 143,498.65	
Surplus/(deficit) for the period	-R 12,815.68	R 166,924.56
Closing balance as at 31st Oct 2016		
Cash on hand	R 23.65	
Bank account	R 62,884.71	
Money Market account	R 104,016.20	R 166,924.56

The Chairman spoke to the Financial statement which was approved on the proposal of Mr Dave Hidden seconded by Mr Tim Bradbury.

Election of Committee members for 2017

The committee has 14 elected members. Three are to stand down in 2016 of whom all three are available for re-election.

Title	Name	Resident/position	Elected From	To stand down	Availability for 2016
Mr	Ted Gilfillan	Resident Kenton on Sea	2013	Yes	Yes
Mr	Johan Grobler	Resident Kenton on Sea	2014	No	
Mr	Chester Wilmot	Resident Kenton on Sea	2012	No	
Mrs	Daphne McNeill	Resident Kenton on Sea	2012	No	
Dr	Bill Northrop	Resident Bushmans	2012	No	
Mrs	Trish Milliken	Resident Kenton on Sea	2013	Yes	Yes
Dr	Dirk Meiring	Resident Bushmans	2013	Yes	Yes
Mrs	Rem Gilfillan	Resident Kenton on Sea	2014	No	
Mrs	Dot Cohead	Resident Kenton on Sea	2014	No	
Mr	Peter Reed	Resident Kenton on Sea	2015	No	

The three committee members available for re-election were proposed en bloc by Chester Wilmot and seconded by Bill Northrop. Additional members: Kevin Bates proposed by Mr Peter Reed and seconded by Ted Gilfillan. The ward 4 councillor Ayanda Nqosha proposed by Chester Wilmot and seconded by Ted Gilfillan. The Ward 3 Councillor to join ex officio proposed by Ted Gilfillan and seconded by Rem Gilfillan.

General

- Bruce Steel-Gray thanked Estuary Care and especially Busy Bee for the attention paid to the Bushman's towpath.
- Jeremy Turner raised the issue of the summary removal of mooring buoys from the Bushman's estuary. The Chairman responded that this had been done by Ndlambe and said that Estuary Care would endeavour to improve communications between Ndlambe and boat owners in the future.
- Dave Hidden reported that the Bushman's eastern bank towpath from below 13 Westbourne Road toward the sea was disintegrating and required to be repaired. The chairman responded that Estuary Care would look into this.

- . Kerry Lee requested that positive action be taken to persuade home owners with septic tanks (especially those with properties along the estuary frontage) to install either a digester system or a grey water system or a conservancy tank. The chairman said that this matter would receive attention via Rate payers and also Estuary Care in the coming year.

Presentations

Robert Rose gave a brief overview of the background to the problem of the sediment accumulation in the Bushman's river and how his awareness of the problem had led him to bring in the services of an internationally recognized firm of Harbour consultants from Cape Town, PRDW. He introduced Stephen Luger from PRDW.

Stephen Luger of PRDW

Stephen explained the process which PRDW had followed in doing a most detailed survey (both aerial and on the ground) of the Bushman's estuary which then led to the development of a computer based 2D model which they had used to test various interventions on the river system to assess their effectiveness in reducing the sediment in the estuary basin. Of the 14 options explored only the dredging options showed significant benefits in reducing the sediment load.

Dr Chantel Bezuidenhout of EOH

Chantel explained the process of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and how it worked.

These two presentations were followed by vigorous questions which continued after the meeting informally once the Chairman had thanked the speakers and declared the meeting closed.