



# Bushman's Kariega Estuary Management Forum

We Care For Our Estuaries -The Heart of Our Community

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>  
DECEMBER 2017 IN THE KENTON TOWN HALL AT 10h00**

**Present** 71 members and visitors

## **Welcome:**

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

## **Apologies:**

Tjaart & Audrey Barnard, Tom Lawless, Willem van Rensburg, Sheila Swanepoel

## **Death of Mrs Olive Wilmot**

The Chairman said he had just been told of the death of Mrs Olive Wilmot, widow of the late Keith Wilmot (a long-standing member of the Estuary Care Committee) He offered the meeting's sympathy to the Wilmot family.

## **Confirmation of the Minutes of the AGM December 2016**

The minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting had been published on the web site after approval by the committee at their meeting held in January 2017.

## **Matters Arising:**

There were three matters arising from the meeting:

- . The issue of the removal of mooring buoys from the Boesmansrivier. The Chairman said that he would comment on this in his report.
- . The condition of the Boesmans East bank towpath from below 13 Westbourne Road towards the sea. The Chairman reported that this had been repaired.
- . Action required by home owners with septic tanks. The Chairman said that this matter was covered in his report.

Chairman's report for the AGM on 23rd December 2017

## **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 Boesmans Estuaries and the paths and banks serving both Estuaries. We have also been involved in the monitoring of pollution, recycling and rubbish disposal, and of 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 including the ward councillors from Wards 3 and 4, 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. 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.
- Nicholas Albrightson has been co-opted on to the committee and has recently taken over much of Chester's work. Chester will continue to serve on the committee,
- Dr Bill Northrop looks after river signage, channel markers and Boesmans Estuary paths.
- Trish Milliken fulfils the role of Communication, which carries with it the maintenance of the web site, and the production of News Letters. Trish Milliken has put her considerable energy and talent into the production of four newsletters. She has managed the website [www.estuarycare.co.za](http://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.
- Daphne McNeil performs a vital interlinking role with Sustainable Seas Trust (SST) and its associated Education groups. She also checks on the cleanliness of our towpaths.
- Dr Dirk Meiring acts as a watchdog looking after the interests of his community in Boesmansriviermond.
- My wife Rem acts as secretary for committee meetings.
- 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 is an associate on our committee.
- Peter Reed has taken on the monitoring of pollution in the rivers.
- David Curran has taken on Fishing and Boating which includes the setting up and maintenance of our co-operation with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries through our Honorary programme.

## **Here is a brief overview of our activities:**

### **The siltation of Boesmans River and the Dune advancing up Dry Bones Valley**

At last year's AGM we had a presentation from Harbour Consulting Engineers PRDW from Cape Town who had carried out a detailed survey and made recommendations on clearing of the siltation in the Boesmans Estuary. Their recommendation was for dredging as the only workable solution. Estuary Care has had very little contact since then but has received an update on progress as follows:

Their committee is actively carrying on with removing the Dune from the carpark at the end of Westbourne Rd and has obtained the cost of the necessary equipment to pump the slurry sand away, for action when permission can be obtained from the Council and Environmental Affairs. It is planned that this will be funded by the residents most affected by this problem. The Dune committee will not be seeking funds from the wider community. The committee accepts that our communities wish these major issues to be addressed by the relevant authorities as soon as possible as the longer there is delay, the greater the problem and cost."

Dredging is unlikely to commence before 2020.

For the forthcoming year attention will be focused on financing and on environmental issues.

### **Boat mooring in Boesmans Estuary**

We sent an email to our members in early September advising of Ndlambe Municipality's boat mooring regulations in the Boesmans Estuary. This issue is out of our hands and all queries should be addressed to the Ndlambe Municipality's Environmental Liaison Officer, Mr Willem Nel. His contact details are wnel@ndlambe.gov.za, 046 604 5500 or 082 388 4600.

### **The Big Floats on the Kareiga**

This event has grown and grown and last year involved perhaps 2000 people. It needs some form of regulation otherwise accidents could result and there is also an ever present danger of pollution from detritus discarded by floaters. I am pleased to report that Ndlambe have taken charge of the events. Estuary Care has received offers from two people willing to provide boats for rescue and pick up of trash.

### **Construction, Repair and Maintenance**

We continue to maintain the towpaths along the banks of the Kareiga and Boesmans 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 also cut back the reeds and remove the cut sections from portions of the Boesmans towpath since we believe that the dense growth of reeds on both sides of the path constitutes a security hazard.

We have undertaken repairs to the Boesmans East Bank towpath at Dassie Rocks and attended to the drainage on the towpath.

Recently Chester has refurbished both jetties (our thanks go to BRAGG for their contribution to the costs for the Boesmans jetty). We have undertaken work on the wall protecting the picnic area on the sea side of the Kariega slipway and also on the front edge of the carpark and the braai fire places. The wall and the car park had been badly damaged and eroded by storm surges. The wall had broken completely in a number of places and constituted a serious safety hazard. To our delight Ndlambe Municipality offered to pay some of our costs on this project and we have also been delighted to accept help from local members as in the picture.

### **River 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 rivers 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. We have recently placed Estuary Care Indemnity signboards at strategic spots. Our thanks go to George Poole for drawing up the wording.

### **Recycling and plastic waste**

It is most pleasing to report that progress has been made with the initiation of an effective recycling programme. This programme is being run via IWARS and is now working for the collecting of recyclable material (being bottles, cans, plastic and cardboard) which we believe can constitute up to 30% of disposable material.

We have been made aware of the spillage of container loads of nurdles which occurred when, on 10th October 2017, during a massive storm in Durban, a container ship in the harbour lost its mooring. As a consequence, one of its damaged containers fell into the harbour and hundreds of millions of 'nurdles', which are very small plastic pellets, were washed into the harbour and out to sea. Nurdles are a raw plastic material which get re-melted and moulded in factories to make plastic products. They are not biodegradable and marine species will think they are a food source.

Apart from this we are becoming increasingly concerned by the amount of plastic waste being lost/dumped into the sea. Here are two horror pictures:

Dead seal – Thanks to: xray-mag.com

Remote beach covered with trash: Thanks to: Sarah Rakowski/FFI.

I show these pictures together with the reality of the Nurdles to show how careful we must be as a society with how we dispose of our waste.

### **Clearing of rubbish along the banks of the Boesmans and Kariega Estuaries**

Estuary Care continues to support the efforts of concerned Boesmans residents who undertake a regular clean up along the banks of the Estuary. Our thanks go especially to Doran Herring and his team and to a group organized by SST for the Kareiga.

## **Pollution Survey**

Earlier this year, Chester Wilmot, Peter Reed and I were conducted on tours of the Marselle and the Ekphumleni sewage works. The Marselle works is modern and big, utilizing open digester dams. It appears well managed. It also accepts the discharge from vacuum tankers (honey suckers) and providing this process is properly managed, should not pose a pollution threat. The Ekphumleni plant has tight security and uses chemical dosing to treat the eventual outfall. We are unable to sample the outfall from the Ekphumleni plant because of geographical access problems. Our concerns are based around the ability of the relatively small plant to cope with the considerable new load which is being placed on it with the building of 550 new houses in Ekphumleni.

Peter has once again sampled the ooze flowing into both estuaries coming from homes along the banks of both estuaries. The brown patches in this picture are ooze. The levels of e coli along the Kariega towpath are unacceptably high. Our recommendation remains to home owners along the banks of the estuaries to either install a bio digester or a conservancy tank or at least to install a grey water system to take a considerable liquid load off your septic tank. My home is on the banks of the Kariega and we were contributing to the ooze. We have installed a grey water system which has dried up our ooze outlet completely.

## **Boating and Fishing**

David Curran has reinstated a revised Honoraries programme in conjunction with the Dep of Agric and Fisheries. Volunteers now take officials from the Department on weekly inspection trips up one or other of the estuaries. This enables the officials to check on taking of bait, fishing and on fishing licences.

## **Sustainable Seas Trust**

The Sustainable Seas Trust (SST) plans to produce a book about the Boesmans and Kariega estuaries. 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 Boesmans and Kariega estuaries by sending materials to [info@sst.org.za](mailto:info@sst.org.za) or to drop in at the SST Offices, 1st Floor Three ways Centre to share their contribution.

## **Assistance to river users**

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

## **Estuary Care Caps**

We 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 usually given in memory of loved ones who have died and serve as a most useful addition to facilities.

## **Amendment to the Constitution**

The Receiver of Revenue requires that we amend the constitution as a registered Public Benefit Organization. The change is in fact only an addition and no other part of the constitution requires change. I am therefore only displaying the additional clauses for which I require your approval.

### **COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 30 OF THE INCOME TAX ACT**

The above organization was approved as a public benefit organization on 19 July 2013. To comply with the conditions of the exemption approved, the constitution must be amended to comply with the requirements of section 30 of the Income Tax Act

15.1. The activities of the Forum are carried on in a non-profit manner and with an altruistic or philanthropic intent.

15.2. No activity will directly or indirectly promote the economic self-interest of any fiduciary or employee of the Forum otherwise than by way of reasonable remuneration.

15.3. At least three persons who accept fiduciary responsibility for the Forum, will not be connected persons in relation to each other, and no single person directly or indirectly controls the decision-making powers relating to the Forum.

15.4. No funds will be distributed to any person (other than in the course of undertaking any public benefit activity).

15.5. The funds of the Forum will be used solely for the objects for which it was established.

15.6. On dissolution of the Forum, the remaining assets must be transferred to -

15.6.1 A public benefit organisation, which has been approved in terms of section 30 of the Income Tax Act ("the Act").

15.6.2 Any institution, board or body which is exempt from the payment of income tax in terms of section 10(1)(cA)(i) of the Act, which has as its sole or principal object the carrying on of any public benefit activity; or

15.6.3 Any department of state or administration in the national or provincial or local sphere of government of the Republic, contemplated in section 10(1)(a) or (b) of the Act.

15.7. No donation will be accepted which is revocable at the instance of the donor for reasons other than a material failure to conform to the designated purposes and conditions of such donation, including any misrepresentation with regard to the tax deductibility thereof in terms of section 18A: Provided that a donor (other than a donor which is an approved public benefit

organisation or an institution, board or body which is exempt from tax in terms of section 10(1)(cA)(i), which has as its sole or principal object the carrying on of any public benefit activity) may not impose any conditions which could enable such donor or any connected person in relation to such donor to derive some direct or indirect benefit from the application of such donation.

15.8. A copy of all amendments to the constitution will be submitted to the Commissioner for the South African Revenue Service.

15.9. No remuneration will be paid to any employee, office bearer, member or other person which is excessive, having regard to what is generally considered reasonable in the sector and in relation to the service rendered and has not and will not economically benefit any person in a manner which is not consistent with its objects.

15.10. No resources will be used, directly or indirectly, to support advance or oppose any political party.

*These proposed amendments were approved on the proposal of Mr George Poole seconded by Dr Tony Ribbink.*

### **Financial report for the year ending Oct 2017.**

The Chairman tabled the financial report for the year ending Oct 2017. He highlighted the salient points. The report was approved on the proposal of Mr George Poole seconded by Mr Chester Wilmot.

### **Election of office bearers for the 2017/2018 year**

The committee has no more than 14 elected members. Three are to stand down in 2017 of whom three are available for re-election for the 2018 year.

<b>Title</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Resident/position</b>	<b>Elected From</b>	<b>To stand down</b>	<b>Availability for 2018</b>
Mr	Ted Gilfillan	Resident Kanton on Sea	2016	No	
Mr	Johan Grobler	Resident Kanton on Sea	2014	No	
Mr	Chester Wilmot	Resident Kanton on Sea	2012	Yes	Yes
Mrs	Daphne McNeill	Resident Kanton on Sea	2012	Yes	Yes
Dr	Bill Northrop	Resident Bushmans	2012	Yes	Yes
Mrs	Trish Milliken	Resident Kanton on Sea	2016	No	
Dr	Dirk Meiring	Resident Bushmans	2016	No	
Mrs	Rem Gilfillan	Resident Kanton on Sea	2014	No	
Mrs	Dot Cohead	Resident Kanton on Sea	2014	No	
Mr	Peter Reed	Resident Kanton on Sea	2015	No	

The Chairman tabled the above schedule. He proposed the re-election of the three members who were up for re-election and proposed the election in addition of Mr Nicholas Albrightson. This

proposal was seconded by Mr Dave Hidden.

## General

- . **Boat Licence Money.** Dave Hidden asked what happens to the boat licence money. The Chairman responded that all funds collected went into Municipal coffers. Ndlambe funds the Environmental officer and the River patrol officer who have many estuaries to cover and so are not seen too often on our estuaries. Estuary Care would continue to press to be reinstated to sell boat licences and so gain some extra revenue which it would put back directly into our two estuaries.
- . **Polluted Ooze into the Estuaries.** Mary Hodgkinson enquired whether something could not be done to force homeowners to be more pro-active in preventing ooze. The Chairman responded that this was an issue for Rate Payers. He would be raising it at the KOSRA meetings.
- . **Changes to the Ski zones and degradation of the banks and Prawns on the Kariega.** Noel Ross spoke about the erosion of the banks of the Kariega especially where water skiing boats turned. He suggested that the ski-zone boundary be moved to a portion of the bank lined with rock which would be far more erosion resistant. He said that as a result of over exploitation and bank erosion, the prawn population was reducing alarmingly. The Chairman undertook to discuss this with the Ndlambe authority.
- . The Chairman also undertook to re-engage the Dep of the Environment on the issue of building of protective walls at venerable points along the Estuary.
- . A question was asked if Estuary Care was doing anything about the sand build-up in Dry Bones Valley. The Chairman invited Mr Rose to comment and he explained that they were looking into the possibility of pumping the sand out of the valley towards the sea providing the necessary environmental permission could be obtained. Chester Wilmot responding on behalf of Estuary Care said that we continued to hold the view that the sand must be moved down the valley towards Middle Beach car park. This plan of action had also been endorsed by engineers engaged by Mr Rose.

## Martin Fick of Aquaponics.

The Chairman introduced Martin Fick who delivered an illustrated talk on Aquaponics.

## Closure

There being no further business the meeting closed.

Read and agreed this

Day of

2018

Chairman