MINUTES OF ROOI ELS CONSERVANCY AGM – 2 JANUARY 2013

1. OPENING & WELCOME

Anuta Scholtz (Chair) welcomed the attendees and thanked the hosts, Mark and Linda Butler.

1. APOLOGIES

Hettie Claassens, Kay and Mike Leresche, Ronnie Schild, Riaan and Elize Prins, Diarmuid Baigrie, Janette Yeats, Robert Baigrie, Marie Philips, Lynne Fryer, Eldie Brink, Lyn Harris.

1. ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the AGM of 16 December 2011 were accepted and seconded without amendment.

1. FINANCIAL REPORT

REC relies for funds on membership subscriptions and a generous donation from the Boat Club. The year started with a balance of R22,000 and has ended with a n amount of R27,112.09. Monies committed for this year are R16,000, leaving a balance of R11,000. A submission should be made to the Boat Club before Easter. The bulk of their donation is to be used for the boardwalks.

1. ANNUAL REPORT (see full report on RE website)

Highlights:

* We need to find a way to encourage property owners to become involved and subscribe to the RE vision.
* Hacks: how do we attract younger, energetic people to join the hack group?
* Leopard camera: two donations have been promised towards a second camera which is sorely needed.
* Gardens: As there is only one volunteer left to see to the gardens and she is retiring. A possibility is to employ a garden service.
* Shop: With the departure of Joe and Margaret Hensen, Rooi Els has lost the shop. The eco-centre could be taken over by the new eco-centre to be set up at Stony Point in Bettys Bay. Alternatively, it could remain should someone take over the lease of the shop premises.
* Dustbins: Everyone needs to take personal and total responsibility for their rubbish and bins.
* Dune Rehabilitation: The dunes are recovering nicely due to work by Janette Yeats. The Priestleya road exit onto the beach will have to be closed.
* Amalgamation of RERA and REC: Chris Burlock, before leaving RE, was working towards this. Members are asked to consider this as an option. Any changes to the constitution would have to be ratified at a special meeting or at an AGM.

1. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION
   1. Frank Raymond told the meeting that, according to the Protected Areas Act, every provincial and local nature reserve is to have an advisory committee, to be established by the Municipality. It would be advisable for REC to be involved in this process. It is important that a marine component of the biosphere be incorporated.
   2. Breeze: In place of 4 issues, we now only have 2. Each copy costs R60 to print. Griet Odendaal is willing to continue, on a more structured basis. Costings for the Breeze should be sent to the Boat Club. Frank Raymond suggested that a proper stipend be paid to whoever does the Breeze and/or monthly Breez-e. Dave de Klerk asked that more items be sent to the webmaster.
   3. Evette Weyers asked that REC organise a new push against alien grasses, maybe creating a game of it.
   4. Birdlife SA are running another birding course on 24/25 January in Hermanus.
2. VOTE OF THANKS

Many people were thanked for their contributions in the past year (see report).

1. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE FOR 2013

Members from 2012 who are eligible for re-election are Keith Moir, Janette Yeats and Mark Butler (Treasurer). Marti Louw and Sandra Yeo will continue when they are here or by correspondence. REC requires one more committee member constitutionally.

The meeting closed and was followed by a talk by Jennifer Butler on her trip on the SA AGHULAS to the Antarctic.