

**GREYTON TRANSITION TOWN
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Greyton EcoLodge, 2 Park Street
2nd March 2016; 4.30 pm**

MINUTES

Present

Vera Jonkers	Jasmine Apollis	Virginia Jansen
Marie Hector	Nicola Vernon	Alex Jellen
Tarryn Van Wyk	Debsalem Bloom	Janet Richards
Mike Ash	Annalisa du Gard	Patricia Leme
Clever Chinaglia	Rohan Millson	Bea Coetzee
Noelle Steegs	Vivianne Dijkstra	Lisa Wilson
Mark Van Wyk	Rodney Woodley	Warrick Kemp
Collette Kemp	Gillian Wainwright	Marshall Rinquest
Liezel Majiedt	Piet Majiedt	Colleen Phillips

4.30 Arrival and welcome

Nicola Vernon, Chairperson, greeted and welcomed everyone to the AGM of Greyton Transition Town

1. Apologies

Quentin Philippies, Di Dawes, Leonie Ash, Anne Landon, Tristram Wilson

2. Minutes of Last AGM and Matters Arising

Mike Ash proposed that the minutes of the 2015 AGM be accepted as a true record; seconded by Virginia Jansen.

3. Update on activities of GTT 2015 – 2016

Building resilience

Thanks to the community for their hard work, especially

The Team

Marshall Rinquest, Director
Janet Richards, Manager EcoLodge
Annalisa du Gard, humane education
Tarryn van Wyk, community liaison for humane education
Colleen Phillips, Samantha Vent and Vianca Jafta, Pure Café
Chevonne and Rudine, Greyton EcoLodge
Hendrik Davids and Hilary du Plessis, Green Park
Marcel Windvogel and Miles Loff, school gardens

RIP Donnie Bantom, Green Park manager, who died suddenly during the year from respiratory failure while helping to build a straw bale house in Tesselaarsdal.

Volunteers and Interns

Special thanks to:

Wyk for his organisational support

Nina and Daniel, permaculture garden and fruit forest

Hanko Poolman for his help with the Saturday morning markets

Debs Bloom, for social work mentorship and guidance

Clever Chinaglia (materials engineer) and Pazu Leme (Professor, Doctor in Environmental Education),
Interns from Brazil

Jan Henk Tigelaar and Wilhelmiijn de Groot interns from the Netherlands

James Dorman intern from UK

Hanne Madsen Intern from Denmark

Sponsors

Cape Agulhas Biodiversity Initiative

Chic Mamas

Food Bank SA

Greenpop

Humane Society International

Klipheuwel Wind Farm Community Foundation

Mike Ash

Paul Bruins

The Foschini Group

The Industrial Development Corporation

TWK Municipality

The people of Greyton for support in cash and kind for our eco-crews and swop shop beneficiaries.

Achievements and Awards

Marshall Rinqest, Nicky Vernon and Greyton Transition Town are finalists in the national eco-logic environmental awards with the winners to be announced on April 21st.

Stories about GTT appeared widely in regional, national and international newspapers, on national television and there were interviews on radio and TV. Marshall Rinqest has been a guest presenter on the children's TV programme Hectic 9 Nine which was filmed in and around Greyton. He is also camping consultant for Getaway Magazine.

Environmental Education

Presented by Marshall Rinqest

There are now 6 eco-crews in 6 local schools, each with 20 to 30 or more children. They focus on waste management, gardening, hiking, team building. There are 260 kids involved in 2016, up from 180 in 2015. The acquisition of a VW Kombi has helped with transport issues.

The aim is that each school become an accredited eco-school. Greyton House is one; Emil Weder high school working on becoming one.

Two children accompanied MR to Zambia with GreenPop for six weeks, planting trees and learning about the environment. One of them, Byron Majiedt, is self-funding a trip to Zambia this year, and also trying to raise funds for a younger child to go too.

Mindful movement and quiet time is to be introduced to kids this year to enable them to be more focused for learning.

Humane Education

Presented by Annalisa du Gard

Funding from Humane Society International during 2015 enabled the appointment of Annalisa du Gard who is rolling out the programme in all six local schools. A further tranche of funding has been received for 2016 enabling GTT to expand the programme further with the appointment of a community liaison staff member.

HE is inspiring empathy in children by teaching them how to care for animals. It slots into the national curriculum through life orientation and other subjects. Subjects include conflict resolution and communication, the ultimate aim being to build a non-violent society.

The programme was piloted in LR Schmidt and is now active in all schools. Teacher training has taken place with one workshop for primary school teachers. A High School teacher workshop is being scheduled and a bullying workshop will also take place later this year.

As well as in-class teaching the programme includes visits both from and to animals. Animals were introduced into the schools with pigs from Greyton Farm Animal Sanctuary and rehabilitated birds from Tarryn van Wyk. The positive impact on the children was significant.

The children also made dog beds from donated coffee bags and straw.

An academic doctor working for Humane Society International recently visited from the UK with a view to GTT taking part in an international study to assess the effectiveness of Humane Education.

Tarryn van Wyk has joined the staff complement. She is a veterinary assistant and her role is to support the humane education programme as community liaison, working alongside Greyton Animal Welfare, Child Welfare South Africa, to support the unfolding of humane education into the wider community.

Waste management

Presented by Nicola Vernon

a. Swop Shops

GTT completed the set up of four swop shops during the year with funding from Industrial Development Corporation. They are in Caledon, Greyton, Riviersonderend and Genadendal/

The Foschini Group offered some sponsorship to support the swop shop programme and also rolled out ecobricks in their Cape Town offices with a sophisticated marketing campaign. The Department of Environmental Affairs has also started eco-bricking with the result that over 5000 people in each of two five storey office blocks in Cape Town are now creating eco-bricks. These will be used by the EcoBrick exchange (started by Ian Dommissie after a visit to Greyton) to build a school in Delft.

Ecobrick classroom almost finished in Green Park now that there is 24/7 security there. A community centre in Heuvelkroon is on the cards, to be built out of eco-bricks.

b. Plastic Bag Free Greyton

This programme continues. There has been a decline in plastic bag usage in Greyton from 50,000 per month to around 10,500. OK wants to be first supermarket nationwide to be totally plastic-bag-free. Multiple use bags are being made by five workers in Greyton.

c. Green Park

Now has 24 hour security, with accommodation for 2 workers in a large new wendy house. Many fruit trees doing well, with thanks to GreenPop, now more than 1000 new trees have been planted at the Green Park and around Greyton.

Our greatest wish: wood chipper, cost R350,000, which will generate sufficient funds to cover the wages of the two workers at the Green Park, currently being funded by Nicola Vernon.

Food Security

Presented by Marshall Rinquest

The Wednesday morning market is growing in size and popularity with a much broader range of organic fruit and veg grown locally, especially from local school gardens, subsistence farmers in Boesmanskloof and Genadendal and two community gardens. Via's, Searles, OK Supermarket and the Frail Care Centre buy organic veggies from the market every week. GTT maintains a consistent presence at the Greyton Saturday morning market and has not missed a single Saturday or Wednesday since the markets started three years ago.

Surplus veg is sent to the swap shops to augment the regular donations from Food Bank.

School gardens are looking very good, especially at Emil Weder and LR Schmidt where the gardens are right next to the school kitchen for the feeding scheme; producing a surplus for markets and swap shops. Children are learning from young how to grow their own food

GTT enjoys a very strong partnership with GreenPop with trees planted in school and community gardens in Genadendal and Greyton. Emil Weder has been linked with Cape Town schools for tree planting activities. Pure Café has a contract now to cater vegan food to all GreenPop events! Grootbos next month; Zambia later in the year

Housing

Presented by Nicola Vernon

Through Mike Ash (our very generous website provider and Pure Café's landlord at Greyt Oak Centre), we have received an Abod from the Kikkoman Co. Originally a disaster relief solution, they're now used to upgrade people's living conditions and are a fireproof, long lasting alternative to shacks, fully compliant with SA building code.

GTT is talking to PowerBlox from Switzerland and a US company making composting toilets, both of which are bringing their new technology to South Africa for local manufacturing, with a view to piloting their inventions in the Abode. Rain is to be collected from roofs of the Abodes to create a zero impact housing solution. The Abod Foundation is sponsoring 50 units for Greyton under the auspices of Ty Pennington of Extreme Makeover to build an eco-village. GTT is waiting for land to be allocated. Jacques Hammer of Abode is meeting with the housing committee of TWK in April

LED - Local economic development

Raising money to create jobs

Ecolodge - Janet Richards has made it much more cosy and welcoming - braai pit, Bedouin tent, infinity pool! Wonderful music events - guitar camp, concerts. A home for the excellent Cloud School. Ecolodge is on the SA Camino route. Greenpop hold regular camps.

Pure Café

Pure Café is gaining more and more support. The staff have embarked on intensive regular training. Pure is sharing some of its stock with Vigne Pharmacy to help the pharmacy become more sustainable.

Co-operatives

Twenty co-operatives are in various stages of writing business plans. NV, MR and Charl Pienaar, the consultant who is assisting us as a volunteer, visited Parliament to try to find out why the co-operative incentive scheme, which grants funding to new businesses, appears to have stalled. The scheme is moving from Dept of Trade and Industry to Dept. of Small Businesses and we went to see the minister with that portfolio, Ruth Bengu, MP, who wants to make Greyton a pilot project. However, this has to move through Parliament and it seems they have a lot more on their mind at present.

Renewable energy

A German company called Miniwind approached GTT with a view to piloting the installation of 100 Miniwind turbines. These are made in Germany but have rotor blades made of plastic bottles squashed flat. We are waiting on the German company to raise sufficient funding to provide the turbines.

We still hope to put solar panels on the roof of Emil Weder High School but are awaiting the feed-in tariff opportunity from Eskom which will help us attract investors.

Green Leaf Campaign

In association with Greyton Tourism, this is an initiative to encourage the hospitality industry in Greyton to recycle and be as environmentally friendly as possible. Three levels of sustainability can be achieved, each earning a green leaf to a total of three green leaves.

4. Plans for 2016 – 2017

Included in the other sections above.

5. Treasurer's Report

See separate report as provided by the Treasurer, Janet Richards. GTT is in excellent financial health.

6. The Election of Members to serve on the Board for the Following Year

A vote to amend the constitution to allow board members to serve for longer than 3 years was successful, achieving unanimity amongst all members except for three abstentions (from people who did not have the right to vote, being temporary visitors to the area). The reason behind the change in the constitution is that this is a small community and all NPOs are finding it difficult to identify

trustees/board members. People who are willing to serve should be able to do so for as long as they comply with the duties and requirements expected of trustees. The Board of GTT also feels that the charity will become unstable if its two longest serving members, the Chairman Nicola Vernon and The Secretary Rohan Millson, should step down at this point. The clauses will be changed as follows:

FROM:

8.2.1 The members of The Board shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting at which this Constitution is adopted, and shall hold office until the first Annual General Meeting held after their appointment. Board members shall retire by rotation at the first Annual General Meeting that falls due after three years of service. The members to retire shall be those who have been in office the longest since their last appointment. As between members of equal seniority, the members to retire, in the absence of agreement between them, shall be determined by ballot.

TO:

8.2.1 The members of The Board shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting at which this Constitution is adopted, and shall hold office until the first Annual General Meeting held after their appointment. Board members can offer themselves for re- election at the first and subsequent Annual General Meetings.

The board asked for new members. Mark van Wyk indicated his willingness to serve and was nominated by Nicola Vernon and seconded by Rohan Millson. (Piet Majiedt has now also volunteered to join the board. As this happened after the AGM and according to the terms of our constitution he will be co-opted and his position will be formally voted on at the next AGM).

7. Any Other Business

Mike Ash voiced his appreciation for all the work Nicola Vernon puts into GTT, and this was received with warm applause.

Mike Ash has received funding for restoring the Heuwelkroon rugby pitch, and for building a clubhouse and changing rooms.

The meeting ended with the showing of a short film shown at COP21 in Paris last year about Greyton Transition Town; featuring Marshall Rinquist with the eco-crews, tree planting, the Wednesday morning market and building with eco-bricks. The theme song was sung by local eco-crew member Andrea Harker, with piano accompaniment by Annalisa du Gard. The film was produced by Tertius Meintjies.