



Hi Everyone,

Winter hit the coast with a big bang last week bringing howling winds and huge seas; some really spectacular waves could be seen and our local photographers were there to capture them. Huge driftwood logs that have hardly moved for years were pushed right up to the dunes, the power of the sea is just awesome. The big front hit us on Thursday and Friday but by Saturday the weather had settled again, allowing locals to enjoy an interesting walk on the beach among the debris brought ashore by the big seas. The days since have been beautiful but although there is a bit of a nip in the air some folk are still swimming in the sea, we are really blessed with such mild winters, we shouldn't complain.



Photo by Beverleigh Annegarn



Photo by Malcolm Sutton

There have been a few posts on Facebook recently about birds getting entangled in fishing line or plastic ties which are often fatal. If you are a regular beach walker, please pick up a "doggie bag" at the entrance, even if you don't have a dog. If you come across litter, especially anything that can harm birds, please bag it and put it in the bin when you leave. We are fortunate to have an abundance of birdlife, some of which is threatened, but it is important that we keep our beaches clear of hazards to ensure our grandchildren are also able to appreciate them.

It is a pretty quiet time of year at the coast but there are one or two items to bring to your attention as well as a few reminders for our visitors coming down for the holidays.

SECURITY

Your Community Policing Forum are doing an excellent job to keep crime in our area to the absolute minimum, however your personal security is first and foremost your own responsibility. Please ensure alarm systems are up to date, serviced regularly and of course activated. Please also ensure your alarm battery is in good condition, load-shedding can shorten the life of batteries and they must be checked regularly. Many alarm companies are now offering this service free of charge.

Remember that if you are arriving to an empty holiday home criminals may be watching your house from the moment you arrive, if not before, the bush telegraph is amazing, therefore be extra careful about your security measures. Don't leave valuables lying around in view or leave all the doors and windows wide open while you are busy settling in. Keep gates and garage doors closed. If you are socialising outside ensure all other access doors are secure.

Our Facebook group is a great forum for passing on local news but please do not divulge personal information, such as where you live, how many dogs you have, where they sleep, how many TV's, if you have outside beams, if you live alone or are going away, etc. Criminals have ways of accessing this info even if they are not members of the group; don't send them a personal invitation.

REFUSE COLLECTION

We would like to remind you that refuse is collected on Mondays. Please ensure you deposit both your regular "black bag" refuse and your 'clear bag" recycle refuse on the verge preferably in a cage or wheelie bin, early on Monday morning. If this is not possible when you are leaving then please take your bags to the Outlook Road depot (close to the south entrance). Do not leave bags on the verge for monkeys and dogs to spread all over.

If you encounter service delivery problems during your stay please refer to our website www.southbroom.org for contact details of local services and volunteer groups. There is also a list of local businesses, all of whom support our community and we ask you to support them where possible.

CELEBRATE THE WINTER SOLSTICE

WHERE: THE OUTLOOK, SOUTHBROOM (to the north of the Admiralty apartments)

WHEN : SUNDAY 21ST JUNE 2015

TIME : 16H30 FOR 16H45

WHAT: JOIN THE COMMUNITY AROUND A BONFIRE TO CELEBRATE THE WINTER SOLSTICE

an astronomical phenomenon which marks the shortest day and the longest night of the year.

Worldwide, interpretation of the event has varied from culture to culture, but many cultures have held a recognition of rebirth, involving holidays, festivals, gatherings, rituals or other celebrations around that time. (Wikipedia)

Bring your own chairs, tables, drinks and snacks and maybe a blanket.

The ship the FASCADALE went down 7th February 1895 on the rocks behind the tidal pool and we plan to unveil an information board concerning this historic event at the Solstice celebration.





CONSERVATION CORNER

What are these guys up to?



Photos by Malcolm Sutton

A few weeks ago some of you may have seen groups of people taking notes whilst clambering over the rocks between main beach and Granny's pool, and no doubt wondered who they were and what they were doing.

They were in fact a group of twenty 3rd year Geology students from UKZN Durban campus under the watchful eye of Prof. Mike Watkeys. This two day field trip, which took place on Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th May, had them marking out a 5 meter grid and then mapping the metamorphic rock. These rocks are in the region of 1 billion years old.

Wow! I wonder what stories those rocks might tell us.

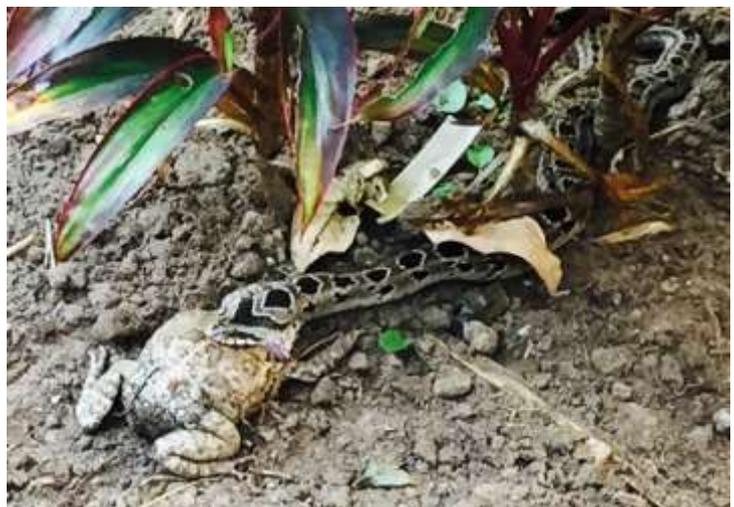
SNAKES ALIVE!

Found this guy in my garden the other day. I looked him up and local experts confirmed that he is a Rhombic Night Adder (*Causus rhombeatus*) also known as a Common Night Adder. Generally they are nocturnal so we were very lucky to see him lying around in the daytime eating his lunch. They are fairly common in this area so keep a look out for them.

According to Wikipedia they are venomous but "*the few documented bites involved pain and minor swelling with minimal necrosis. These symptoms usually disappear within 2-3 days. There have been no modern well-documented cases to back up earlier claims of fatalities due to bites from this species.*"^[2] *Venom yield has varied from 20-30 mg to 300 mg, but the venom toxicity is low*"

Remember that not all snakes are dangerous and you should never kill a snake, it is more likely to get you first and it is always a good idea to keep dogs away from any snakes.

If in doubt call an expert such as Pure Venom :| 039 685 0704



Rhombic Night Adder - Versus - Guttural Toad

SOUTHBROOM GOLF CLUB – MENS AMATEUR CLASSIC

2015 is the 25th anniversary of the Southbroom Amateur Classic. 180 players will be coming from all over South Africa to play in this four day event starting on Monday 6th July through to Friday 10th, Wednesday being a rest day. I have absolutely no doubt they will all receive a very warm Southbroom welcome and enjoy playing our beautiful course.



Southbroom Conservancy Golf Day - 18 July 2015

Join us for a day full of good golf, great prizes, soup & rolls and lots of fun, all whilst supporting a good cause.

All funds raised are for the exclusive use of the Southbroom Conservancy which ensures that Southbroom remains an unspoilt and well-maintained village – by beautifying the entrances, keeping alien invader plants under control, re-establishing indigenous garden areas, clearing and maintaining unique walks like the Bushbuck and Frederika Trails, maintaining the beautiful Grannies Pool area and protecting and managing the many forms of fauna and flora that form an integral part of the natural beauty of Southbroom. Your participation in this annual event will contribute to keeping Southbroom unique and special for the enjoyment of residents, golfers, visitors ... and our wildlife.

If you would like to donate a prize or cash, please phone Cathy on 0836369993

Competition Fee: R85 Visitors' Green Fees: R195 Format: Alliance Stableford
Book at Pro Shop: 039-3166051



Very best wishes from

SOUTHBROOM RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

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