



Southbroom

KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2014

Hello again Southbroom members and friends.

Welcome to everyone who will be visiting during the April holiday. This time of year can be glorious and we hope you will be able to enjoy some lovely days on the beaches, golf course, wild life walks or whatever outdoor activity you and your family enjoy. However the weather can throw us the odd curved ball in the form of wind rain and storms so be prepared with the right gear.

SOUTHBROOM RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

In our January Newsletter we included an Invoice for subscriptions and this brought about a good response during February and March, we thank all of you who have supported SRA and/or Conservancy. If you have not yet paid you can go to http://www.southbroom.org/sign_me_up.htm complete the on-line form, and pay by EFT. If you are not sure if you have paid contact Richard Derman: rpderman@telkomsa.net.

We have now increased our email database to almost 600 members but this is still woefully short of our goal, which is to have EVERY Southbroom ratepayer on email. We will be doing a mail-drop shortly to those without email, meantime if you know anyone who is not receiving their Newsletter and other important notices, please ask them to contact us with their email address and details. The more people we can keep informed and the more feedback we can get from our members, the better chance we have of our town and facilities fulfilling all our expectations.

CHAIRMANS REPORT by Brian Thompson: MARCH 2014

Municipal Interaction

I attended a meeting on 10 March 2014 between the South Coast Ratepayers association and HCM management to discuss service delivery. The meeting was chaired by the municipal manager and the responses and tone from HCM were positive, and it was agreed to have these meetings every 6 months. The main items discussed were the customer service charter, municipal labour costs and productivity and road maintenance. The municipal manager advised that road maintenance is the top priority and a comprehensive maintenance plan is in progress, including road classification and lifespan. The major problem is funding and HCM have requested approval for a R300m loan, and also made funding requests to DOT, KZN Province and Road Accident Fund (RAF).

Roads

Eagle road (which was badly damaged by a major water leak in December 2014) was repaired in February.

HCM have agreed to repair the drainage and wash-aways on Lagoon road (which was damaged by heavy rains), which is planned for March.

We are waiting for a response from HCM with regard to a cooperation agreement to investigate initiatives to improve Southbroom roads.

Main Beach

The repairs to the drain and septic tank near the estuary which HCM made in January were not effective, and we have requested that HCM attend to this urgently.

Tenders have been received for the repair of the tidal pool, and HCM expect to issue a contract to complete the repairs in September.

Verge Cutting

HCM awarded a new contract for verge cutting in March 2014, but the new service provider did not have the capacity for this work. We arranged for HCM to ensure that the service provider increased the capacity, and the service seems to have improved. Please send any specific complaints to services@hcm.gov.za

SERVICE DELIVERY

We continue to work closely with HCM on service delivery issues, as our chairman has mentioned above, but in this regard every one of us can assist. If you are aware of ANY problems regarding services, e.g. roads, verges, beaches, ablution facilities etc. **PLEASE EMAIL YOUR COMPLAINT** to: services@hcm.gov.za with a copy to southbroom.rpa@gmail.com so that we can follow up. The more complaints HCM receive about a specific issue the higher it is likely to go on their list of priorities.

DOGS ON THE BEACH

In recent weeks there have been one or two incidents with dogs on the beach. Southbroom has some lovely long 'dog friendly' beaches and both locals and visitors have enjoyed this privilege for many years. Remember dogs are NOT ALLOWED on the bathing beaches, namely: Main Beach, Grannies and Umkobi Beach. If you take your dogs to the beach please keep to the dog friendly area between Shad Rock (just south of Grannies) and the rocks on the north side of Umkobi beach. Please ensure that your dogs are under control at all times. Unfortunately as always, a few spoil it for the majority.

REFUSE COLLECTION

We would remind you that Southbroom collections are on Mondays. Please ensure your bags go out as early as possible, preferably in a cage or wheelie bin to discourage monkeys. Ordinary waste must go into black bags and your recycle waste into clear bags. It is not essential to sort your recycling but please ensure cans, glass, plastic etc., is clean and dry. Both bags will be collected separately on Monday morning. If you are leaving before Monday you can drop off your bags at the Outlook Road transfer station, where there are cages for both black and recycle bags, open 24/7. Please DO NOT put your bags out on any other days, especially if you do not have a cage.

WEBSITE

If you are visiting on holiday and looking for stuff to do, don't forget to check our website: www.southbroom.org for lots of local info, and follow the link to www.tourismsouthcoast.co.za for current events and places to visit up and down the coast. You can also pick up a "Southern Explorer" from the Tourism office at the Crocodile Farm.

There is an accommodation listing as well as a list of local businesses and services on the Southbroom website. If you own an accommodation establishment, restaurant or business please check that your details and links are correct. You can also advertise on the website; contact Jackie Pratt for details. You can also find contact details for members of all the local volunteer groups on the website.

IN THE VILLAGE - EXCITING NEWS

You may have been wondering about all the building activity currently taking place at the old Southbroom Store in the Village. We are very excited to inform you that the premises are being converted in to the “Village Med-Vet Centre” with Doctors rooms, Veterinary Hospital and Care Centre.

Doctor Stephen Stewart will once again be practicing in Southbroom, “seeing the old store, that has lain dormant for the last six years coming alive again, is like seeing green buds in the spring” says Stephen. For those new to Southbroom, Stephen Stewart qualified at Wits in 1991 and started his practice in Southbroom in 1994, the practice is now 20 years old this month. For the last few years Stephen has been practicing in Shelly Beach but will be relocating back to Southbroom, and is planning to open Easter weekend. Temporarily he will be on the corner opposite the coffee shop, next to Realty1 from Easter until the new Med-Vet centre is finished. He has managed to retain the telephone numbers from his original practice: 039-316-8046/7.

The Veterinary Hospital and Vet Shop will be run by Stephen’s partner Dr. Lezelle Floyd. Dr. Lezelle qualified at Onderstepoort in 2003, worked in the UK for 2 years and in South Africa for 9 years. The Care Centre will be run by a group of volunteers who will have free run of the consulting rooms and theatre for dressings and day to day “clinical” issues.

Robin and Carol Petterson are the proud new owners and developers and Russel Dugmore is the contractor. The building will be remoulded and extended to a total of 355 square meters to accommodate the veterinary hospital, the vet shop, and consulting rooms. About 30 extra off street parking bays will be created extending from behind the Sensasia building to behind the vet. Between Realty1 and the Med-Vet centre will be a vet casualty entrance for collapsed animals where the owner can drive in and enter at the rear of the building. The Med-vet centre is getting a new colonial roof to fit in with the style of other buildings in the village.

SOUTHBROOM CONSERVANCY MEMBERSHIP

A big thank you to all members who faithfully contribute every year to the efforts of the Conservancy and to our many new members, a very warm welcome and thank you for joining in with your contributions – it is greatly appreciated for the on-going work taking place in and around our village; to name a couple: the tireless endeavours of Joseph the “snare man” whose task is to track and remove snares frequently found in our green areas and moreover try find the people who are responsible; as well as Anne Skelton and her team who identify and remove alien plants/trees from within our green areas, she also keeps an eye on local gardens to encourage more indigenous planting; and not to forget the dear man who trundles round Southbroom picking up the litter; Conservation is a collective effort so we truly value your input. If you have any queries regarding your membership please do not hesitate to address them to: Sharlene van der Slikke, Membership Secretary, churashamba@telkomsa.net

Have you heard? The Chameleons are back in town. Years ago they were a regular sight in our gardens but have not been seen for a number of years. Good news to know they are back, keep your eyes out and please send us your photos of these lovely little creatures or any other interesting sightings.

Sharlene's Frog Blog

Frogging season is officially closed off now.
It will re-open mid-August 2014.

Thank you to everyone who has participated, shared knowledge and helped with growing Frog awareness. The first ever South Coast Frogging Forum will be up and running soon! Please keep those emails coming to [<churashamba@telkomsa.net>](mailto:churashamba@telkomsa.net) and posts on Southbroom News Update Facebook page. If you would like to include a talk at your local club, I may be contacted on the above email address.



Greater Leaf-folding Frog

In the meantime, with the cooler weather beginning to move in, please spare a thought for our Frogs whilst tackling winter renovations to home and garden, as they take to their various spots for winter hibernation. Many will burrow deep into the earth and adjust their heart-rate and hormones, build layers of non-moulted skin as protection, find their annual nook or cranny to creep and fold into; rocks, stones, cracks in walls, doors, pots, just about anywhere. If you do happen to disturb one, PLEASE try and replace it as gently as you can, it is a delicate time for these creatures!

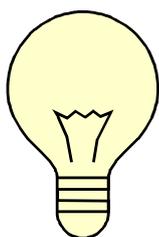


BIRDING ENTHUSIASTS TAKE NOTE!

National Annual Event of Birdlife South Africa : Birding Big Day 2014

30th Birdlife SA Birding Big Day will be held on
Saturday 29 November 2014

Brush Up On Your Birding!!! Watch Southbroom pages and spaces electronically and around the village for more news of talks on birds – upcoming events.



DID YOU KNOW?

Fireflies contain a chemical in their abdomens called luciferin, when combined with oxygen it becomes an enzyme called luciferase. This chemical reaction causes their abdomens to light up; which they do for only a few hours until it runs out and the body makes more for the next night! Much like bioluminescence in the sea (magnesium driven), these are cold energies producing no heat.

Don't forget to check out our website www.southbroom.org for up to date news and join our Facebook group "Southbroom News Updates" to have your say on all things Southbroom.

Southbroom Ratepayers Association