

Southbroom *Kwa Zulu Natal, South Africa*

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER MAY 2019

Photo SB Elite 30th April 2019

Hi Everyone,

By now everyone will have heard and seen all the photos and videos doing the rounds of the enormous rain and floods over the Easter weekend. During the holiday period leading up to Easter the south coast enjoyed some wonderful weather but, on Saturday night the rain started falling and fell continuously, drowning the coast with 450mm in the space of 48 hours and transforming the beaches in ways many have never experienced. The headline photograph was taken on Tuesday after the weather cleared. Our wonderful community had already rallied round and were soon out collecting bags of rubbish including a frightening amount of plastic waste. Within a couple of days most of the debris had been cleared from the pool and beach, thanks also to Brad Vervey and Southbroom Elite. (See Chairman's report below) Unfortunately a considerable amount of damage was done, not only to private properties, but our roads already in a bad way, were hit hard. This is due to the fact that the storm water drainage is blocked, has not been maintained or is non-existent.



Granny's pool



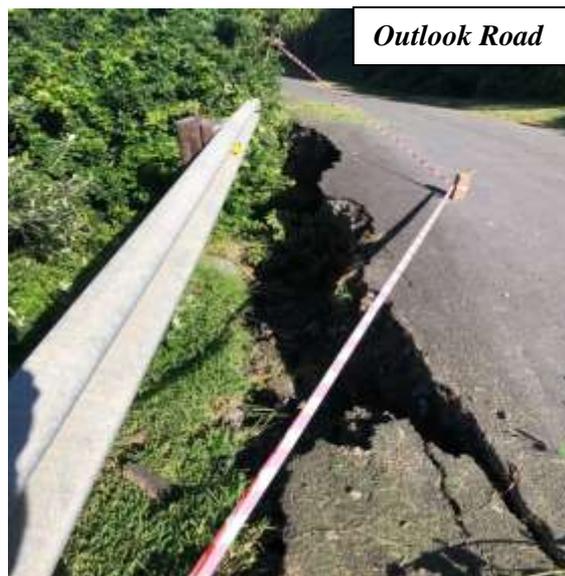
Southbroom Ratepayers Association (SRA) circulated a letter a week after the floods asking people to report pot holes, flood damage, storm water drain blockages and any problem related to roads and verges, to services@rnm.gov.za and bit.ly/uguresidentsrequest with a copy to Richard Bridgeford rbdr52@hotmail.com. It is worrying to note that Richard only received copies of NINE complaints. SRA are working hard to try and get things done in Southbroom but we need **EVERY SINGLE ONE OF YOU** to report the problem in your area and keep reporting if the matter is not attended to. If you do not report it, SRA cannot follow up, and it will not be attended to.

SRA work towards maintaining Southbroom for the whole community, but only about one third of ratepayers have joined the association. It is interesting to note that it is often the non-members who complain the most on social media but do very little to help themselves. Help SRA to help you by making sure you are a paid up member and report all issues to RNM.

If you are not a member of Southbroom Ratepayers Association send us an email or pick up a membership form in the Library, the Estate agents, The Store or the Medvet Centre.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: *by Brian Thompson*

EASTER FLOODS



Southbroom had about 450 mms of rain in two days over Easter, which caused considerable damage to our beaches, roads and the walls of several houses.

As usual, the Southbroom community rallied round and assisted where possible, and I would like to thank a few that I am aware of:

- Richard Bridgeford who cordoned off the badly damaged roads and arranged for some of them to be filled very promptly
- Brad Vervey who arranged a clean-up at the main beach
- Dunja Gudegast and the eco warriors for cleaning up the beach between the main beach and Granny's pool.
- Nicola McKenzie and her team for cleaning up Umkobi beach
- All other helpers (including Charlene van der Slikke) who helped to clean up other beaches

MUNICIPAL INTERACTION

We had several meetings with senior municipal management in April:

RNM Municipal Manager (MM)

- The MM instructed the HOD to review the shortage of skips and poor collection at the Southbroom garden refuse centre.
- The MM instructed the HOD to investigate the poor collection of Southbroom refuse.
- The MM agreed to arrange for a meeting before 31 May for a presentation on the way forward with Southbroom roads

RNM Budget Meeting with Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

- The focus of the meeting was to build a relationship and understand the budget statements (as there had been quite a few changes in accounting policies)
- RNM has a cash flow problem, mainly because of R200 million outstanding rates, which is impacting service delivery. They are focussing on debt collection and new sources of revenue to counter this.
- Salaries are 39% of total expenditure, which is also impacting funds for services.

- RNM acknowledge that the condition of roads is unsatisfactory (after numerous complaints), and the roads budget has been substantially increased, but is still inadequate to meet the backlog of maintenance.

Ugu Municipal Manager (MM)

- The MM advised that there are insufficient funds available to fund ageing bulk water infrastructure
- Ugu are still having problems with the new billing system which was implemented in January 2018, and this will only be resolved by November 2019.
- Illegal connections account for 24% of total water supply, and they are trying to resolve this.
- Ugu are making an operating loss from bulk water supply, as the cost is R16 per kl and they are only charging R13 per kl
- In order to address the operating loss they plan to increase water tariffs by 22 % from 1 July, and remove the 6 kl of free water, which is only meant for indigent people.

BEACHES AND POOLS

We arranged for labour to remove all the logs and debris that were deposited by the floods in the main beach tidal pool. We will also arrange for the pool to be drained and cleaned.

The inside of the Lifesavers building at the main beach is in a terrible condition. We have prepared a scope of work to bring this facility to a good condition and South Coast Tourism has agreed to share the costs of the upgrade. We have appointed a contractor to complete the upgrade by the end of May.

Granny's pool and access via the ablution block is still in reasonable condition despite the floods, but we will appoint a contractor to varnish some of the wooden railings.

ROADS

- RNM have agreed to repair potholes in Churchill, Imbezane, CBD, South Ridge and Bruton roads in May.
- We arranged for the parts of the roads that were badly damaged by the floods (Lagoon Drive, South Ridge road and Outlook road) to be barricaded, and RNM responded promptly to make South Ridge and Outlook safe. RNM graded Lagoon Drive and commenced drain clearing on Tuesday 14th May.
- The DIY initiative in Q1 of 2019 was not as well supported as the 2018 initiative; there are still 61 bags of cold asphalt left over. We have arranged to hire labour to repair the small potholes with these bags.
- The RNM municipal manager has agreed to arrange a meeting before the end of May for us to make a short presentation on the condition of our roads, and a proposal to improve maintenance.

WATER

Fortunately, there were very few problems with the bulk water supply, largely due to the fact that when a break did occur our water team were able to contact the Ugu plumbers and they responded quickly. Our water team continue to monitor the level of our water reservoirs.

We arranged to clear the long grass and refuse at the water reservoir, after numerous requests to Ugu were ignored.

GARDEN REFUSE TRANSFER CENTRE

We have again complained to RNM about the shortage of skips and poor service by the refuse removal trucks, which are causing the centre to be closed for use nearly every day.

REFUSE AND VERGES

We met with the RNM Depot Manager and verge cutting contractor and they agreed:

- The Contractor will prepare and supply us with a program, road by road, for the clearing of the stacked piles which we, together with RNM, will monitor. This will be a separate team from the grass cutters but to date we have not received the programme.
- The contractor agreed to train/educate his grass cutters and task them road by road, rather than doing half a job.
- The contractor will revert to poisoning the grass by the road kerbs, rather than using a spade which doesn't kill the grass/ weeds.
- They have until end of May to get it to our satisfaction otherwise they are in danger of their contract being cancelled.

TOWN PLANNING

RNM advertised a notice for comments on an application to install a base station and 30 metre cell phone tower in Erf 607 (1 Beacon Road). After reviewing the application and justification we consulted with the owners of neighbouring properties, and lodged an objection to the application with RNM.

SOUTHBROOM TENNIS CLUB

is focussed on tennis development for everyone!

Resident coach Frank Hall provides an amazing service to all players including encouraging seniors wishing to play again and introducing juniors to a sport that lasts a life-time.

The Tennis Development Hub with Gcilima Primary School is also very active and fast identifying talented youngsters soon to compete in KZN Tennis Association tournaments.

The clubhouse and grounds have been beautifully renovated and membership has grown to 92.

The challenge now is to resurface the courts, illuminate them for night tennis and to replace the gabion walls that were washed away from the banks of the stream during the recent floods. Containing the stream is of major concern as it severely threatens the construction of court number three.

Southbroom Tennis Club is a community amenity that adds value to locals and visitors to Southbroom. Please come out in support of their fund-raising golf day.

With appreciation – Dunja Gudegast



Southbroom Tennis Club

GOLF DAY

Friday, 24th May 2019

At Southbroom Golf Club - Visitors welcome

- 4 Ball Alliance
- Two scores to count
- Any Mix
- Super Prizes & Surprises
- Snack & Entertainment after play
- Competition fee R100
- Green fee R200



GOLF IN SUPPORT OF
DEVELOPMENT TENNIS

Book your T-OFF TIME: Southbroom Pro Shop
Telephone: 039-316-6051
E-mail: play@southbroomgolfclub.co.za

EXQUISITE MUSIC ON A SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Listen to an extraordinary selection of beautiful and favourite classical music at the new time on a Sunday afternoon!

Sunday 9th June at 14h30 - Riverbend Crocodile Farm.

Elena and Boris Kerimov will form a string trio with David Snaith to play The Swan (Saint-Saens), Hungarian Dance No 5 (Brahms), Ave Maria (Caccini) and Meditation (Massenet) amongst others. These world class musicians will amaze you with their brilliance.

Tickets (R120) are on sale (0900 – 1630) at the Crocodile Farm reception from 20 May (credit card or cash).

Tea or coffee and cream scones will be available during interval at R32. There will also be a cash bar. Lunch beforehand at Crocodile Café is recommended. Please book in advance on 039 316 6204.

If you are interested in finding out about music on the Lower South Coast please email

Eric Annegarn at eric@cza.co.za and you will be added to the mailing list.



SOUTHBROOM CONSERVANCY

During the recent storms most of the bridges on the Bushbuck Trail in Eyles Park were washed off their supports, probably due to the surge from the collapse of the old dump. The Conservancy would be most grateful if any community members with knowledge of construction would be kind enough to volunteer their expertise to assist in the repair of these bridges. All the local contractors

appear to be busy with more pressing repairs and your help would be greatly appreciated.

The Conservancy will be able to provide the labourers to do the actual work, but experienced supervision is needed.

After the storms the Conservancy successfully employed men from Tent City, a refuge for homeless whites, to clean the beaches, help clear the tidal pool on Main Beach and to clear the Bushbuck Trail. They are keen and motivated workers, but not skilled in the tasks that need to be completed.

Please contact Conservancy Chairperson Anne Skelton on 082-8967814.

SAVE THE DATE: The Southbroom Conservancy will be holding their annual fundraiser Golf Day on Saturday 20th July 2019. As you know the conservancy do some amazing work to maintain and restore the indigenous bush, eradicate aliens and preserve the natural habitat for our wildlife, all of which costs money.

We would like to appeal to you to support Conservancy in this fundraising effort by sponsoring a hole on the course at a cost of R1000, or by donating prizes, or by making a cash donation. As a sponsor you will be recognized on the day.

If you are able to assist in any way please contact:

Dawne Murray: 083-703 2171 imageworks@ibi.co.za

LIBRARY NEWS by Elaine Harrison

The library organisers would like to thank our members for their on-going support and kind words about our library. We shall be buying new books next week, and these should be on the shelves shortly thereafter.

We will, as always endeavour to find titles to appeal to a wide range of tastes.

Hours Tuesday and Thursday 09H00 – 13H00 : Saturday 09H00 – 12H00

TEL NO. 039 316 6999

BOWLING CLUB NEWS by Julie Walker

Southbroom Bowling Club is delighted to have hosted two groups of young visitors to the South Coast during the last month. One was a group of 12 fellows on a bachelor's party; the other was 10 couples who were guests at a wedding and making a long weekend of it. None of them had played bowls before, but by the end of the afternoon, they were all googling for bowling clubs in their own home towns, such was their enjoyment of the game.

The club's coaches also gave a few impromptu lessons to casual visitors, who often stroll in to watch and are just dying to have a go. The Ear Institute is sponsoring a bowls day at 1.30pm on Friday 28th June and a quick format of "BlitzBowls" has been developed by the club to ensure both competitiveness and fun. Visitors are most welcome to come and watch while enjoying a drink on the terrace.

Five members have entered the district's Novices' Singles tournament taking place on 18th, 19th and 26th May. Best of luck to Glenn Hatfield, Geoff Evans, Dick Plaistowe and Neale and Brigitte Cary-Smith – all Southbroom residents.

Visiting bowlers are welcome: tabs in by 1.30pm for 2pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays; and by 2.30pm for 3pm on Fridays. Lessons and bowls days can be arranged via the club secretary Julie – 083 273 6840.



Groom and bride François and Petroné from Pretoria, who really enjoyed their bowls day- especially as they were the winners!

THE LEGENDS @ SOUTHBROOM GOLF CLUB
TO BOOK 039 316 6026

MEL'S FAREWELL
Mel Richard Deon & Des

3 COURSE DINNER DANCE
R200 pp
SAT 18 MAY
6.30 FOR 7PM

SRA are here to assist our members, please do not hesitate to contact your committee should you have any queries. All contact numbers can be found on the website www.southbroom.org .

Jackie Pratt – Secretary : admin@southbroom.org