



Hi Everyone,

Those of us who are fortunate to live in this beautiful part of Africa marvel every year at the wonderful weather we enjoy in April and May. That draining humidity has gone but the days are warm and balmy, the beaches have flattened out so we can enjoy some lovely long walks and the nights are pleasantly cooler. It really was a bumper holiday and long weekend season this year with our visitors making the most of the lovely weather but if you are not tied to school holidays you should seriously consider taking a break in May



CemAir now fly into Margate daily making it easier to pop down for a mid-week break or long weekend; and you won't have to battle to get a tee-off time on the Golf course or a reservation in a restaurant. You can find a list of local accommodation on our website. We hope to see you soon.

## **SOUTHBROOM RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION**

We are no doubt preaching to the converted as the majority of you reading this Newsletter who own or rent property in Southbroom are already members of the Association. However we have recently had a number of new people moving into the area who may not know what SRA is all about. Basically SRA represent the interest of all ratepayers by working closely with the Municipalities, acting as ratepayers "hotline" for specific issues, and supplementing services where it is deemed necessary. (See Brian Thompson's report below)

The SRA is funded entirely by membership fees but whilst membership is voluntary, if every ratepayer and long term tenant joined the association we would be in a far better position to continue to carry out major improvements, such as the recent upgrade to Main Beach and the footpath on Captain Smith.

The SRA committee members are elected annually at the AGM in December and give up their time and expertise, often at their own expense to help preserve our wonderful village.

Many of you are members of our Facebook Group "Southbroom News Updates". Whilst we understand people's frustration at lack of service delivery and especially being without water, there has recently been an outpouring of complaints on Facebook.

Many of those who complain are not even members of the association but expect assistance from committee members when they have a problem. If you have a problem with services, make sure your membership is paid up then contact the appropriate SRA committee member direct. Our long suffering team of "water boys" have made a huge difference to the system now operating in Southbroom and it is thanks to them that the recent problems are confined to one area, but however closely they are able to work with Ugu the problem of poor maintenance and ageing infrastructure is one that only Ugu can tackle. It is not going to get fixed overnight and we have to accept that in order to avoid these frustrations we need to be self-sufficient.

While on the subject of Facebook is not advisable to discuss sensitive crime issues, we cannot check everyone who joins the group and the group may well have been infiltrated by undesirables.

For more information about SRA and to join up go to our website [www.southbroom.org](http://www.southbroom.org) or email [southbroom.rpa@gmail.com](mailto:southbroom.rpa@gmail.com)

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

### **Water Outage**

There has been a water outage for the Southbroom residents who are on the Sea Slopes line. Ugu has had to repair a major break on the Sea Slopes line, firstly a temporary repair followed by a full repair. This has meant that half of Southbroom, Ramsgate and Margate have been without water off and on over the past few days. We understand that there are still problems with the main water supply to Sea Slopes and that Ugu is attending to this as a priority.

My thanks go to the ratepayer's water committee who are in constant contact with Ugu regarding the repairs and water supply .

### **Roads**

- HCM eventually appointed a contractor to fix potholes, and we were fortunate to have five teams working on Southbroom roads in April. The roads sub-committee assisted HCM in prioritising roads for repair and checking the quality of the repairs (which appears to be quite good).
- The tender for the rehabilitation of Link Road has been evaluated by the HCM bid evaluation committee and has been advertised. If there are no objections the contract will be awarded on 22 June 2015
- We prepared a request for the rehabilitation of College Road for the draft budget. HCM have agreed to include a budget for the design work to determine the appropriate pavement structure and costing in 2015/16, to enable a budget for construction in the 2016/2017 capital budget.
- We arranged our own painter to paint the stop signs on all main roads, which had become badly faded.

### **Beaches and Pools**

- We arranged for the Umkobi ablution block to be refurbished, and have requested that HCM repair the septic tank, which is in poor condition.
- We arranged for the wooden structures and ablutions at Granny's pool to be repaired.
- The Lifeguards tower at main beach is in poor condition, and we arranged the maintenance to be undertaken by HCM.

- The main beach tidal pool which was upgraded in 2014 is still very popular and well used. The plastic valve which was installed has been problematic and is still leaking. HCM have undertaken to replace it, as well as the valves in the other South Coast tidal pools.
- The septic tank at the main beach is leaking effluent into the lagoon, despite being repaired by HCM in early 2014. Water samples have been taken and sent to HCM and Clr. Henderson for action to be taken.

### **Town Planning**

The HCM Planning section has been very supportive of the planning issues that we discussed with them in January 2015:

- Lot 442 – In March 2015, after a lengthy legal process, the Town Planning Appeals Board rejected the owners request for approval of a seven metre retaining wall constructed on the property boundary in 2005. HCM planning laws provide for a maximum boundary wall height of two metres. The owner was instructed to demolish the wall.
- Berea Road – Encroachment by property owners have resulted in very dangerous road corner
- Exeter Road – The owner has been issued with a legal letter to demolish the illegal shack which encroaches onto the Bush Buck trail, and to cease other illegal construction.
- South Ridge Road – The owner has constructed an illegal third floor
- Outlook Road – The owner commenced construction on a second floor without approved plans. HCM threatened the builder with jail and fines, and all work has ceased pending the submission of plans for approval.

### **Crime**

There was an increase in house robbery in April, despite all the good work done by the CPF. In all cases there was a good response by the armed response companies and local police.

Most of the crime has been opportunistic, when owners have had visitors or left windows open or not set alarms. Ratepayers are requested to remain vigilant and report all incidents or suspicious persons to the local Police on 039-3166760.

*Brian Thompson*

*Southbroom Ratepayers Association : Chairman*

### **HOUSE ALARMS**

Many Southbroom properties are “holiday homes” and of course the owners set their alarms when they are not resident. For various reasons alarms can malfunction from time to time which can result in alarms sounding continually often day and night. Whilst the alarm companies react initially, if the house is not occupied they are unable to enter the property to attend to the problem. If the key holder is a local agent and they are unavailable when the incident occurs the problem can be ignored for several days, not only causing a major nuisance to neighbours but making the home vulnerable to a break-in. Please ensure that you appoint a reliable key holder and inform your alarm company of their contact details.

### **CRIME WATCH!**

**WARNING** – Please be on the alert. We have had a report of an Indian gentleman with two African assistants driving around Southbroom in an unmarked car. He visited a house recently and told the servant he had come to fix the stove, fortunately she did not give him access. Please ensure your staff do not allow any unauthorised access to your property at any time.



## CONSERVATION MATTERS!!

### SNARE PATROL

Thanks to the due diligence of Joseph, our snare-patrol man, we have reduced snares from a 1 or 2 per day to just a few per week. We had a spate of terrible findings beginning of the year with repetitive familiar handiwork of regular poachers, as much as 7 snares found in a day in the Mendip/Devizes area. Together with CPF, Ratepayers cameras and Joseph's diligence it would appear these perpetrators have been chased off. Please be encouraged to report anything that looks or sounds out the ordinary on the Snare Patrol / Frogging Hotline: 0823752993 and we will do our utmost to attend to it timeously. Please let us know if new litter suddenly appears in your road as well as any signs of informal settlement and loiterers as well as very young "picanins" running around with long sticks. Please help to be our ears and eyes! We are in the process of raising extra funds so as to acquire our very own Conservancy camera – we would love to share some pictures with you of the wonderful animals that do frequent our bushy hi-ways and bi-ways!

### HIBERNATION FOR FROGS NOW

It is that time of year when our dear fellow frogs have moved into their various hidey-holes for Winter hibernation. This can be window cracks, curtain folds, under old cushions on the verandah, dark corners and any crevice they can find that they deem suitable and safe to sleep. Please be mindful when doing alterations or landscaping – please take care and if you come across any, gently remove them to a quiet sheltered spot in the garden. TIP: old ceramic plant pots, tipped over on its side with a few flat pebbles inside, in the middle of a quiet flower bed, makes a good Winter home for them.

### NATURAL CLEANSING

Recipe for cleaning grouting without using strong chemicals: 7 cups water; ½ cup baking soda; 1/3 cup lemon juice; ¼ cup cup white vinegar; Put all ingredients into a spray bottle, shake well until dissolved then spray grout - leave for 2 minutes then scrub clean. NB: we all are on septic tanks so the less harmful substances we wash down the drain the clearer our natural water will be. REMEMBER: ALWAYS USE BIODEGRADABLE – READ THE LABEL

### THANK YOU TO ALL MEMBERS

A big "thank-you" to all existing Members for faithfully supporting Southbroom Conservancy with their annual contributions and a warm welcome to New Conservancy Members. It is greatly appreciated and allows us to continue the work we started; so we can look forward to another successful year/s of keeping Southbroom's flora and fauna (and human habitation) under watchful eyes. You are assured of our best endeavours at all times and we strive to keep Southbroom "alien" free, snare free, pollution free plus a myriad of other little monthly tasks that happen to continually enhance this beautiful environment we find ourselves living in.

Thank you for your generosity, to date, without contributions we would not be able to do this.

If you are not a member of our lovely Conservancy and would like to join, please email Sharlene van der Slikke (Membership Secretary) on [churashamba@telkomsa.net](mailto:churashamba@telkomsa.net). The relevant form will find its way to you. For existing members please don't forget to let us have any new changes to details. A number of email addresses have changed leaving us stranded. Please also remember when paying monies into the account or sending payment confirmation via email to clearly state your name and Southbroom address. Some payments have come through and we would like to send letters of acknowledgement however we have no clue to whom these payments belong!



## **BREAKING NEWS!**

Ina de Koker, one of our resident photographers who lives in in Trafalgar, was poking around Impenjati Vlei at the beginning April looking for things to photograph and came across the little frog you see here. To cut a long story short, this particular little fellow is a Sharp Nosed Reed frog. Great jubulations by EWT in Hillcrest as this is a FIRST locale for this frog. Not been seen down the south coast as far as this!!! Our great frog fundi, Louis du Preez, was dancing around jubilantly and because of her excellent photo, has included it in his new book and app for frogs, due to be released some time soon! Can you believe it? Just goes to show what you can do with due diligence! I am so proud of Ina - I taught all I know on frogs and she has run with it! She will be representing Trafalgar for our upcoming South Coast Frogging Forum.



*Sharlene van der Slikke*

*Southbroom Conservancy: Vice Chair*

## **MOONDECKERS EVENING**

It has become a fun event to trot along to Ramsgate Conservancy's WDec to watch the moon rise in the most splendid spot! Sometimes there are very talented buskers who jam along to rolling waves and gentle breezes – Monday 4 May was no exception – who was there to keep us chilled with super grooves? – none other than Des Erasmus and his Musical Buddies. Most of the musicians live in Southbroom and boy, do they have talent!!! A really good time was had by all, especially a very large group of festive friends from Southbroom. So watch out for the next notification in our Southbroom Facebook News Update page! Take your own comfy camp chairs, cooler boxes with favourite tipple and support Ramsgate Conservancy by buying one of their delicious prego rolls – you wont be sorry!

## **SNAPCHAT**

Southbroom is a photographer's paradise and we are fortunate to have some wonderfully talented photographers who are happy to share their art with us all. Malcom Sutton goes the extra mile when it comes to birds and waiting for that perfect moment to catch the sunset and sunrise and it's a pity we cannot showcase more of his work here but see below a couple of recent shots of our local birdlife.

You can find more of his work in the "Southbroom News updates" Facebook group and a selection of photos by local photographers on the website.



*White-fronted Plover chick by Malcolm Sutton*



*Copyright: Malcolm Sutton*



*Immature Grey Sandbird by Malcolm Sutton*



*Black Oyster Catchers*

*Copyright: Malcolm Sutton*

Please check out the “Southbroom, Marina Beach, San Lameer, Trafalgar, Mpenjati ” Facebook tourism page and like and share to help give our area and local businesses better exposure. You may even find a few more of our local photographers work on the page.

I hear there is snow on the mountains but perhaps that is good news; keep your eyes open for the whales and dolphins and maybe, just maybe if the sea temperature cools down enough we could even get the long awaited Sardine Run.

Please feel free to contact a member of the volunteer groups listed on our website if you need any advice or assistance on Southbroom issues. Please also send any interesting news snippets or photographs to the address below.

Southbroom Ratepayers Association

[www.southbroom.org](http://www.southbroom.org)

southbroom.rpa@gmail.com