



Hello again,

I find it hard to believe that in only a few weeks the holiday season will again be upon us. The Matrics and students will be descending shortly, let us hope the new speed bumps slow them down a bit. A special request; parents whose teens are coming down on their own, please remind them that Southbroom is a Conservancy and one of the last remaining areas where wildlife and humans are still happily living together. Please keep to the speed limit and turn down the boom boxes in the cars, especially after dark.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of Southbroom Ratepayers Association will be held at the Southbroom Golf club at 09h00 on Saturday 14th December 2013. We look forward to seeing you at this meeting, this is your town, the various organisations which help to make Southbroom a safe and happy place need your input and support.

The Annual General meetings of the Southbroom Community Policing Forum and Southbroom Property Owners Association (Urban Improvement Precinct) follow immediately after the Southbroom Ratepayers Association's Annual General meeting. Please stay and support our SAPS Reservists and extensive crime prevention initiatives. Members will also be asked to approve the budget and 6% increase proposed for the 2014/2015 UIP levy.

Attached find the Agenda for the AGM together with application for membership forms for both Southbroom Ratepayers and Southbroom Conservancy for 2014.

Please take the time to complete your form and send your payment proof through to the Treasurer. Please note that there are two separate organisations with separate bank accounts; therefore please ensure you specify which organisation you are joining – preferably both. You can also pay at the AGM on 14th December. Please note that only paid up members of SRA may vote at the AGM.

During this last year the Southbroom Ratepayers team has been working tirelessly to maintain and improve standards in Southbroom. Here are some of the issues they have been dealing with.

SOUTHBROOM WATER PROJECT

The Southbroom Water Committee has fielded numerous calls from residents, and have helped to address their specific problems. Very special thanks must go to our “Water Boys” Jim Davey, Richard Derman, John Kinghorn, Cees van der Slikke and Grey Norton who have relentlessly committed their time and effort to solving complex water problems. They have done an absolutely outstanding job and as a result have made considerable progress in addressing water issues in Southbroom. However, UGU have had problems with leaks within Southbroom and with the supply of water to Southbroom, which has resulted in considerable inconvenience to residents. The Southbroom Water Committee has assisted UGU with the resolution of these problems and is starting to develop a working relationship with the UGU operating staff.

PLEASE NOTE: UGU will be undertaking scheduled maintenance to the water supply system, proposed for MONDAY 11TH NOVEMBER from 9am until 12 noon. Please be prepared for low pressure and disruptions in the service during this time – thank you.

BUILDING & PLANNING

The committee are presently dealing with the following building and planning issues to protect the interests of Southbroom Ratepayers:

- Objection to the building of a boundary wall exceeding 1.8 metres, which constitutes a hazard to a neighbouring stand.
- At our request the HCM building inspector issued a notice for an owner to demolish an illegal shack which encroached onto the Bushbuck trail.
- Requested HCM to initiate legal action against a resident who constructed a three storey building in contravention of the two storey building rule. The only way to remedy this contravention is for the owner to demolish the top floor.

Ratepayers are requested to ensure that all plans for buildings or extensions are approved by HCM prior to the commencement of construction, as the SRA is obliged to ensure compliance with all building and planning legislation.

Brian Thompson

MAKE YOUR SERVICE DELIVERY REQUESTS DIRECT TO THE MAYOR

If your road needs refurbishing, it needs to be listed in the Hibiscus Coast Municipality’s Integrated Development Plan and Budget. Be sure to participate in the Mayoral Izimbizo (IDP & Budget Road Show) which forms part of the Community Participation Programme that annually informs these strategic processes.

The next meeting will be held at:

MARGATE TOWN HALL – TUESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2013 – 17H00

Members of the Southbroom Ratepayers Committee will be present but it would be good to have other voices to help ensure that Southbroom receives its fair share of the R300 Million loan earmarked for the rehabilitation of roads.

See you there?

PROBLEM REPORTING

If you have specific issues to report please contact the relevant departments directly (e.g. UGU for Water and Sewerage or HCM for roads, cleansing etc.) Whilst we encourage you to inform our committee of any problems in the area we have been quite surprised to discover that many of the regular “complainants” are NOT paid up members of the Ratepayers Association. Southbroom is fortunate to have a wonderful team of volunteers on the Ratepayers, Conservancy, Library, CPF, Tourism and sporting Club’s committees, who give up their time at their own expense for the benefit of the community. It only costs R300 pa to join Ratepayers and R300 for Conservancy. Sadly the current membership of SRA is less than 40% and Conservancy only 20% of registered Ratepayers. If each household were to contribute R600 every year it would go a long way to assist in improving our services and environment. Thank you to those who support these organisations.

COLLECT YOUR FREE ISSUE OF BLACK REFUSE BAGS

Take your original Assessment Rates statement to the Municipal Depot on Imbezane Road (next to the Bowling Club) to collect your 2014 supply of black refuse bags. You should receive 5 packs of 20 bags. Bags will be available for collection from 1 December 2013 until 31 March 2014, the office is open Monday - Friday from 09h00 – 15h00.

REFUSE COLLECTION DAY

We would remind you that refuse bags must be placed outside your property on Mondays not later than 07h00. Please place all recyclables (clean cans, paper, plastic and glass) in a clear plastic bag (available from the local store). If you use a wheelie bin or metal cage (we would encourage you to invest in one of these to prevent monkeys and dogs spreading garbage all over the roads) you can place your recycle bags next to the bin or on top of the black bags in the case of a cage.

If you are unable to put your bags out on Monday you can now utilise the "Drop -Off Station" for Domestic refuse and Recycling located in front of the Transfer Station at the top of Outlook Road. This is open 24hrs a day.

Shutter bins will shortly be in place on the corner of Fairway Road /Captain Smith and Outlook Rd /Captain Smith, into which Recycling and Domestic waste can be placed by visitors when leaving after their holiday, for collection by the Municipal service provider on the normal Monday collection day. Please DO NOT put household refuse and recyclables in the green Litter Bins which are placed around the village as this encourages unsightly litter and marauding monkeys and dogs.

Many thanks for your cooperation.

COMMUNITY POLICING - UBUMBANO MEETING

For some time now the CPF have held regular Ubumbano meetings with local employees, which has proved well worth while in preventing crime and keeping track of potential incidents.

The next Ubumbano Meeting will be held on Friday 29 November, at the Southbroom Community Hall (next to the HCM offices) at 12h00

Please encourage all your staff to attend.



CONSERVANCY CORNER - Sharlene's Frog-Blog

Our first informal meeting and talk on frogs took place on 12 October 2013; inclement weather ordered we move our chairs/drinks etc. into the Tennis Clubhouse (thank you to the Club for allowing this). Notes were handed out during the talk after which a small excursion to some ponds further afield took place and

3 types of frogs were seen and identified. A good time was had by all. Keep watching this spot for upcoming events.



By now you will all have heard the wonderful symphony of our frog friends mostly at night. Mostly toads croaking or quacking; painted reed frogs and bush squeakers calling like birds and bronze cacos sounding like 100 glass marbles being clacked together. Our rain frogs' mournful whistle is quiet now as their breeding season is past and their eggs have been laid in their burrows awaiting hatching over the next few weeks so look out for them, they are not easy to spot but love leaf litter; they are generally quiet after mating. Our tree frogs

await more rain although their eggs would have been laid a while back as they waited for first rains. We have included pictures of the above and basic notes in this newsletter. We will include a few more as time goes by so as to gradually acquaint oneself with these nature buddies and the special world they occupy.



Plaintive Rain frog (*Breviceps verrucosus*) Max. 53mm / Horizontal pupil Also a burrowing frog, digging with hind limbs to reverse in, rotating all the while. Body stout like small potato with short legs, small eyes and downturned mouth. Tan with dark brown markings, dark facial band from eye to armpit, skin has pitted granules. Inhabits forest adjacent to grassland preferring sandy/loamy soils. Moving outside their usually inhabited burrows they run/walk not hop. When alarmed they inflate and produce milky secretions. Call: Moderately pitched, mournful, long whistle, mostly on misty, rainy days. They are good indicators of change in atmospheric pressure and rainfall.



Bronze Caco (*Cacosternum nanum*) Max. 23mm / Horizontal pupil. Small, with elongated bodies and small heads. Grey/brown with bronze tinge, pale vertebral line, dark line running from snout, through eye down to arm base. Thighs have dark bands across running down middle toe. Difficult to locate in hidden crevices and tufts of grass they need to be in quite high rainfall areas. Breeding takes place in mostly small ponds, dams, roadside pools, grassland. Some 400 eggs can be laid in clusters of 8-50, development can be complete in as little as 17 days. Call: Metallic che-che-che followed by a series of rapidly repeated clicks. Males call from the vegetation close to water, peaking at night and on overcast days following rain.



Painted Reed frog (*Hyperolius marmoratus*) ± 33mm Horizontal pupil
Very colourful frogs, spotted/striped, snout rounded and concave at sides. Colouring and patterns very variable. Breeding male often has grey throat patch with orange spots. Tadpoles complete after 6-8 weeks. *Call*: High-pitched Weet-weet whistles every few seconds, large groups chorusing together. Very common.



Natal Tree frog (*Leptopelis natalensis*) Max. 65mm / Horizontal pupil
Body is compact with long limbs, high hips, large heads, protruding eyes with slightly forward head. Colour varies from lime green to pale brown with emerald green blotches. Fingers unwebbed with large terminal discs, toes very webbed also with large discs. Inhabit coastal forest/bushveld or sand forest. Pairs mate in trees then descend to ground where they dig a shallow burrow in which to put ± 200 eggs. Males come out to trees/bushes to call. *Call*: Long eeeeeeeeeee-buzz followed by loud yak-yak. 2 Weeks after heavy rains, tadpoles move like turtles from burrow to water. Sometimes wait 7 weeks for rain before moving. They need wet ground to do so.

CONSERVATION NOTE: Try to use natural/biodegradable cleaning products in the home and washing machine (see “Septic Tanks” below). Frogs are a good indicator of how clean our environment and water actually is!

EWT (Endangered Wildlife Trust) produced some lovely colourful frog charts and bumper stickers, for sale. Anyone interested, please direct any inquiries to churashamba@telkomsa.net and please share news and photos of the frogs you may come across.

“To be educated is to celebrate life” anon

SOME USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS:

Bee Remover 072 265 2326

Anti-Poaching: both Marine and Land 082 559 2864 or 086 001 0111

Monkey Rescue: Sandy Burrell : 083 536 5960 or

Robyn Harty: 039 315 6032 or 082 882 5883

ALIEN PLANT REMOVAL

A vote of thanks must go to all Southbroom home owners for keeping track and removing alien vegetation from their gardens or stands. If you are unsure as to which plants should be eradicated we urge all home owners in Southbroom make use of the Alien Plant Garden Reference Centre in Eyles Park (next to the tennis courts).

Home owners can also make use of the Conservancy staff to clear their land of alien vegetation (a fee will be charged for this service).

Contact Peddy Bam on e-mail helped@mweb.co.za or Anne Skelton on anne.skelton@mweb.co.za

SEPTIC TANKS

Every year during the holiday season we continue to experience problems with septic tanks, generally due to ignorance, overloading when more people are occupying the house than the original system was designed for, and use of chemicals and cleaning materials. Please be aware that many cleaning products will sterilise your tank and it will no longer function correctly. Make use of septic tank friendly products and “feed” your system regularly with a suitable activator. The Southbroom Store stock a range of suitable products. Please ensure your visitors understand the importance of taking care of your system. It’s a good idea to put a small notice in each bathroom to encourage visitors to save water and dispose of waste correctly.

AN APPEAL TO DOG OWNERS

We understand why people own and love their animals and Southbroom is an ideal place for dog owners. BUT - please respect the no go areas for dogs (e.g. the Fredericka Trail and Preserve and certain demarcated beaches). If you walk the Bushbuck Trail, dogs **MUST BE ON A LEASH**.

There are long stretches of our beaches that are dog friendly, great places for both dogs and owners to socialise but please keep your dogs OFF the bathing beaches. Your big soft Lab may just love kids but a small child can be traumatised by a big dog bounding towards him if he’s not used to dogs.

The Southbroom Conservancy has done a wonderful job of protecting the game in our area, don’t let your dogs frighten or destroy these animals. The Golf Course is a haven for our game; please do not allow your dogs to wander onto the course. Respect everyone’s right to walk in public areas and not be harassed by dogs.

Conservancy requests everyone to please use the bins and bags provided at all the entrances to the beach to remove and dispose of dog waste, even if you don’t have a dog, please take a bag and use it to collect any litter you find on the beach.

Thank you
Peddy Bam.

GUIDED TRAILS : Anyone wishing to have a guided walk through the Frederika or Bushbuck trails should contact Mike Lyall on 0393168343 .

WEBSITE ADVERTISING

Please take a moment to check out our website www.southbroom.org We are currently in the process of updating the information, many of the listings are now out of date and some new business have coming into the village who are not yet listed.

The onus is on the businesses and accommodation establishments to send us their up-to-date information if they wish to have a free listing on the website; we like to keep the site fresh and would appreciate everyone’s input. If there is anything you think we could add to the site we would love to hear your suggestions.

Advertising is now up for renewal for Southbroom based businesses and current advertisers have already been invoiced. If you have a business you would like to advertise there are some spots available down the side of the home page, these ads run right through the site, and are available for R1200 pa. Please contact Jackie if you are interested at

jaxpratt@mweb.co.za

TOURISM

The Southbroom/Impenjati Tourism sub-committee are busy planning some exciting events for 2014. First up is the Birding Weekend which will take place over the weekend of 21st February. This is still in the planning stages but if you would like more information please contact Heiner Wolber (072 900 0877) or Richard Derman (082 800 3617). Helga Burns is organising this event and her number is 079 039 5555.

The second event on the horizon is a "Wellness Weekend". This will be a function centred around "healthy living" during the first week in June. We have so many "healthy" activities in the area such as our sporting activities, Yoga, Gym, nature and birding walks, Spas and beauty salons, the list is endless and we encourage all local businesses, accommodation establishments, restaurants etc., to come together to offer attractive packages for local and overseas visitors.

Please contact Bonny Richardson (Camelot Spa: 083 601 8407) for more information.

Thirdly a "British Car Club" week is planned for August 2014. Again we are looking to offer complete packages to attract overseas and local visitors to this exciting international event. Packages should include specials on accommodation (e.g. book one night get 50% off the second) and include specials at a day spa, free entry to local attractions, perhaps a round of Golf etc. So, Tourism vendors put your thinking caps on and get together and let us see what you can come up with to make this work. Contact your Tourism sub-committee for more details.

BINGO GIRLS: the ladies having fun at the last Bingo meeting held at the Golf club.



The next Rotary Satellite Fellowship Bingo, in aid of Child Welfare, will be on Friday 15th November at 10.00am at the Golf Club.

Tea, Muffin and first card R10.

Then 3 cards for R10. Lunch at a special price available to follow, Come & Join the fun ALL WELCOME

Contact Pam Brown
pcbrown@mweb.co.za

 Southbroom Conservancy 
presents

Carols by Candlelight



Sunday 22 December - 5 - 7pm
Eyles Park (next to tennis courts)



Come and join us for a fun-filled evening of carol-singing, fun and friendship for the whole family.

This community event is kindly sponsored by BROOMERS

Bring your own chairs, drinks and snacks.

We will provide candles, song sheets and music.



SOUTHBROOM BOWLING CLUB
Invites you to
Golfers-Bowlers Fun day



Prizes sponsored by



Date: 10th November 2013
Time: 11h30 for 12h00
Cost: R30.00 per person

After bowls there will be a braai. Players braai packs are sponsored by Warwick. Salads supplied by the lady Bowlers. Beginners welcome.

Contact : Hans Wijtman : 082 871 3097

We do hope those of you who are travelling for the holidays will have a safe and enjoyable trip and we look forward to seeing old friends and new visitors to our wonderful village.

Just in case we are unable to get another Newsletter out before Christmas we wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a happy and prosperous 2014.

Kindest regards

The Southbroom Ratepayers Committee