



Southbroom

Kwa Zulu Natal, South Africa

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2017

Hello everyone,

To those homeowners who do not live in Southbroom and are unable to visit in “spring”; you are actually pretty fortunate. October always seems to bring some very unpredictable weather on the south coast and a few weeks ago it certainly lived up to that reputation. The storms and winds we experienced this year did a tremendous amount of damage to many properties, especially those exposed to the strong SW winds. Trees were blown over, roads blocked and of course the existing potholes opened up to horrendous proportions after over 100mm of rain fell in 24 hours. RNM emergency services were totally inadequate and stretched way beyond their limit, with their priorities going to areas which were hit much harder than Southbroom. Our community is amazing however, the next morning residents were out and about getting on with the big clear up. Chain saws were heard buzzing all over town, people were using their own vehicles to carry away some of the debris and some residents even filled in their own potholes. Thank you to everyone who helped, we really have some amazing people in this village.



CHAIRMANS REPORT *by Brian Thompson*

BEACHES AND POOLS

The tidal pool was damaged by the heavy seas in the last few months, and a large section at the top of the walls was washed away. RNM were advised and agreed to obtain a report from a specialist engineer on the best way forward. We have arranged to remove the storm debris from the pool and drain and clean the pool.

RNM have approved a budget to refurbish the ablutions at the main beach, and we are monitoring progress to try and ensure completion before the December holidays.

We had a long saga trying to obtain emergency signs for Southbroom beaches from RNM. We eventually arranged for four signs ourselves, and hope that they will be erected before the December holidays.

We also purchased an emergency torpedo buoy and sign for the main beach from NSRI, which should be erected shortly.

ROADS

RNM have completed pothole repairs in Eyles, Devizes, Somerset and Mendip roads, and are scheduled to complete repairs to Bath, Palm, Richardson and Brown roads in the next few months. I was unsuccessful over more than four months in arranging a meeting with the RNM Municipal Manager to discuss the unacceptable condition of Southbroom roads. A meeting was eventually held with the HOD Technical and road managers on 27 September 2017 and I made a comprehensive presentation on Southbroom roads. The main problem appears to be that there is inadequate budget for road repairs, but this is decided by RNM councillors and not the managers. We did manage to convey the extent of our problem, and we managed to obtain agreement on the way forward:

- RNM will try and repair all roads rated Very Bad and Bad within the next 2 years
- RNM will expedite the capex requests for College and Beach roads.
- SRA will arrange regular meetings with the roads superintendent to agree schedules for pothole repairs, cleaning of drains and roads signs
- RNM will arrange a site visit by the new roads manager after his appointment
- RNM will provide a supply of cold mix tar and stamper at the Southbroom depot, so that the committee and residents can repair small potholes on their roads.

Libby Cochrane published an article on Southbroom roads in the South Coast Herald, which is based on our presentation, and this is included later in this newsletter.

WATER AND SEWERAGE

Ugu continues to have major problems with the bulk water supply. The Southbroom supply was not too badly impacted because we were monitoring water levels in the reservoir and liaising with Ugu. Ugu was using water from the hydrant in Francis Street to fill tankers to assist other areas, including the Murchison hospital. We advised Ugu that the Francis street filling site adversely impacted Southbroom residents, roads and traffic, and I am pleased to advise that Ugu have now arranged an alternative tanker fill up site near Riverbend.

TOWN PLANNING

We have noted an application for a development for a crèche at Lot 716, 2 Eyles road, which is zoned as residential. We are having problems in obtaining details of the application, which has been made by an RNM HOD. Affected residents should have received notices of this application, and objections are required by 31 October.

NEW YEAR PARTY

We have had approval from RNM to hold a party at the main beach lower parking area on New Year's Eve. We have again arranged for Wozani Africa to run this event, as they have been very competent and professional in previous years. We understand that this may inconvenience some residents near the main beach, but we believe that it is better to have one controlled party, rather than have numerous uncontrolled parties.

We have made an application to the authorities to make Imbezane road a one way road (from east to west) from 18 December to 3 January, in order to alleviate traffic congestion during this busy period.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It was agreed to have the AGM of the Southbroom Ratepayers, Community Policing Forum and Southbroom Property Owners Association at the Golf Club at 0900 on Saturday 23rd December 2017, with a view to enabling non-resident ratepayers to attend while they are on holiday. Official notice of the AGM together with the Agenda will be circulated with the next Newsletter in early December.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Invoices have now been emailed to those ratepayers who have registered on our database. Unfortunately we do not have a complete database of email addresses, the postal addresses on the RNM database are frequently incorrect and a postal drop is expensive and unreliable. In order for SRA to offer our ratepayers a better service and to augment the poor service delivery we are currently receiving from RNM we need 100% membership. Currently membership stands at approximately 40% of registered ratepayers, therefore we would ask you to encourage your friends and neighbours to register and join SRA by paying their subs of R400pa. You can join on line at www.southbroom.org or email admin@southbroom.org to obtain a membership form. Please note that only paid up members may vote at the AGM.

ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN A RECENT SOUTH COAST HERALD *by Libby Cochrane*

TARRED ROADS HAVE BEEN GRADED TO DIRT

"It is unacceptable that residents have to repair their own roads"
said Brian Thompson, Chairman of Southbroom Ratepayers' Association.



Verges piled high with refuse still uncollected following the storm



A potholed road in the centre of Southbroom
Photos by Meridy Haswell

FOR more than two decades Southbroom Ratepayers' Association has engaged with the local municipality for the benefit of property owners and residents.

With the continuing decline in services provided by Ray Nkonyeni Municipality, Southbroom Ratepayers' Association which has assisted in providing many services is finding its stewardship increasingly more challenging especially as the municipality is failing to meet its obligation to provide basic road maintenance services.

The town has 31.3kms of roads and because of the lack of adequate maintenance for more than 15 years, most are in a very poor condition. There are 4.1kms of gravel and as a direct result of no maintenance, several tarred roads have even been graded to dirt.

RNM did arrange extensive patching and pothole repairs from 2012 to 2016 but because of poor foundations, the repairs carried out were mainly ineffective.

- *RNM senior management have confirmed that 0,9km of roads are rated VERY BAD, 7,1 km are rated BAD and 6,5km are rated POOR. The problem appears to be that the RNM budget for road maintenance is totally unrealistic.*

Chairman of Southbroom Ratepayers' Association, Brian Thompson told the Herald that "despite a rates bill of more than R22-million per annum, it has become unacceptable that residents have to repair their own roads".

Only 35-40% of the 1,117 Southbroom property owners are paid up members of the ratepayers' association but everyone benefits from the services it provides.

Services provided by Southbroom Ratepayers' Association:

- *Library operation and maintenance*
- *Maintenance of public gardens*
- *Maintenance of road and direction signs*
- *Cleaning treatment of tidal pool*
- *Maintenance of beach ablutions and facilities – i.e. showers, paths, shelters, lights and braai's*
- *Installation of eight speed humps in the last three years*
- *Painting of kerbs and road markings*
- *On-going litter clean up*

Compare this with the services provided by the municipality:

- *Verge cutting (every two months) – satisfactory*
- *Lifesaving on main beach – limited service*
- *Refuse removal for which there is a service charge – satisfactory*
- *Garden refuse removal – normally satisfactory but totally unsatisfactory at present following the recent gale force winds and heavy falls of rain*
- *Street light electricity and maintenance – satisfactory*
- *Removal of skips at the refuse transfer station – irregular service*
- *Maintenance of roads – VERY UNSATISFACTORY*
- *Maintenance of culverts, kerbing and drains – NO SERVICE*

Ratepayers' are simply no longer getting a fair return on their investment. For years, this attractive, residential village has attracted long term investors. In fact there are properties in Southbroom that have been owned by the same families for well over 50 years.

Thanks to the municipality's poor service record, combined with Ugu's total mismanagement as it continues its 'chewing gum and string' method of maintenance, once clean, attractive, well run villages along the entire South Coast are no longer considered a sound investment as is clearly evident by the number of properties being offered for sale.



CONSERVANCY MATTERS

SOUTHBROOM CONSERVANCY WOULD LIKE YOUR SUPPORT

The Southbroom Conservancy would like to encourage all “ Swallows “, home renters and any other interested residents to become members of this valuable community organisation.

Your support and annual subscription of R300 ensures the effective conservation of our spectacular local fauna and flora.

The Constitution of Southbroom Conservancy is available from the Secretary and a membership application is attached to this Newsletter for your information and convenience.

Should you wish to become a member of the Conservancy, kindly complete the application form and email to deb.derma@gmail.com.

Thank you - Debbie Derman - Secretary

NURDLES

Many of you will already have read in the news and on social media about the nurdle spill which occurred in Durban harbour during the huge storm a few weeks ago. It has come to light that the nurdle disaster is not just on our beaches but all over the world including USA, UK and China. In recent months there has been a world-wide campaign, mostly on social media, to encourage the world to drastically reduce their use of plastic products; this latest catastrophe brings it close to home as these tiny pieces of plastic which are used in the production of plastic products, have now washed up on south coast beaches.

We encourage everyone to assist with the clean-up operation so that we can at least clean our own beach but to also become more aware of the use and disposal of plastic products such as bottles, drinking straws and packaging. See below some info about nurdles from www.seaworld.org.

Urgent!

Nurdle Spill Information

What is a Nurdle?
A nurdle is a very small pellet of plastic which serves as raw material in the manufacture of plastic products.

Marine Impact
Nurdles are harmful to animals which mistake them for food items. Not only are they toxic, but they cannot be digested, causing digestive blockages, starvation and death.

**What You Can Do...
Anyone can start a nurdle cleanup!**

Collect Nurdles

Equipment that works best:
1m green 40% shade cloth or
1m black 60% shade cloth or
pool net (3mm - 5mm mesh)
10L or 20L bucket with water
Colander or sieve
2 to 3 people

How to collect nurdles:

Method 1:
1. Scrape nurdles together on dry sand.
2. Place on sieve/ shade cloth and shake to remove sand.
3. Place mix in bucket of water and swirl. Nurdles will float to surface.
4. Scoop nurdles from surface.

Method 2:
1. Scrape nurdles together on sand and place on shade cloth.
2. Close shade cloth and carry sand to water's edge.
3. Allow waves to wash sand from shade cloth.
4. Remove nurdles from shade cloth.

The Problem
In the raw stage (pre-moulded and packaged) new nurdles are not toxic to touch. Once released into the marine environment they will, over time, attract harmful substances from land-based pesticides, herbicides and other organic pollutants that end up in the ocean. They never go away, but they break down into tiny pieces that then get eaten by even more animals and form part of people's food.

Safety Tips
As with any beach cleanup, the following precautions are suggested:
Wear sunblock and a hat.
Watch out for sharp objects.
Be aware of tides - don't be caught off guard.

Recommended Disposal
Nurdles should be placed in a sealed bag and taken to a Drop Off Point.

Drop Off Points:
List on SAAMBR Facebook page and SAAMBR website www.seaworld.org.za
Nurdles should not end up in landfills, so should not be disposed of in general waste.
Very few recyclers can process nurdles collected from the beach.

Stay updated...
The South African Association for Marine Biological Research

www.seaworld.org.za

WHO PUT THAT BAOBAB IN OUR VILLAGE

A few weeks ago a man was seen digging a rather large hole in the middle of the triangle at the Eagle street/Gilbert road split. A few days later there was much activity and a large baobab tree was planted in the hole. Many residents were very curious about the origin of this tree; here is a little of the background.

In the year 2000, Paul Reynolds bought a baobab tree at Skukuza Nursery and planted it at No 23 North Ridge Road (known as Swallows' Nest). He mentioned this to Dr. Diana Maine who has a holiday home in Southbroom and has written 3 books/papers on Baobab trees. Diana has since been measuring and monitoring the Baobab for a number of years. Diana contacted Skukuza Nursery and their records show that it was 7 years old when Paul bought it in 2000.



The Reynolds have now sold Swallows Nest to Lisa Blakeway (previously owner of YaYa's) and Lisa asked that the baobab be removed to improve her view. Paul was obviously not too happy about this but approached Libby Cochrane (who looks after much of the public gardens). Libby had no objection although she did not feel it needed "gardening" around it. Paul then contacted Conservancy and Anne Skelton (Chair) was keen to have the tree moved.

Paul got a quote of R7,500 from Mike Street, which after some persuasion he agreed to reduce to R6,000. Conservancy split half with Dr. Diana Maine and her husband and Lisa Blakeway paid the other half. Phil O'Mahony the adjoining neighbour also co-operated as vehicles had to access through his property.

On the day of the move all involved were present to observe the action which appears to have been very successful; so far the tree is still standing and withstood the storms. I wonder if the baobab will still be there and how much it will have grown when our grandchildren retire to Southbroom.

UMKOBI LAGOON

Bird watchers and lovers are aware that Umkobi lagoon has a wonderful variety of birds, there is always something interesting happening down there, but not many will have experienced what Jane Abbott, a Marina Beach resident, saw a few weeks ago. Jane reports as follows:

I had spent most of the day at the lagoon with Michelle Pearson (SCAR), just relaxing and enjoying the bird life while Michelle took photographs. While watching three white-faced whistling ducks happily crossing a large sand bank, a massive pale bird swooped in, took a duck and lifted it into the air - where it dropped the unfortunate creature. It then flew back up the lagoon and disappeared into the forest as quickly as it had arrived. We were stunned to say the least!

As our focus was on the huge bird, we did not see what the end result was with the duck.

Knowing there was a juvenile crowned eagle in the area, and many sightings thereof, we assumed it was the local juvenile. However, that evening Michelle called me to say that she thought it was a juvenile **Martial Eagle** after looking at her photographs. This was confirmed by various experts.

In addition to the eagle, we saw a large water mongoose on the Southbroom bank, as well as a palm nut vulture at the Riverbend croc farm the next day.

The South Coast never fails to impress.



Juv. Martial Eagle take a duck



Juv. Martial Eagle drop the duck



Palm Nut Vulture in a tussle with a



Palm Nut Vulture

Thank you to Michelle Pearson for these stunning photographs

THE LITTER CART GUY: Christopher – also known as “Lucky” has been walking the streets of Southbroom picking up litter for a number of years. Historically Conservancy and CPF have supervised him and set his route.

Lucky has now been drafted into Brad’s clean up team; mention was made of the bush clearing efforts in the September News. Lucky works with the team on the 2 days that they are employed and by himself on the other 3 days. His routes on his solo days are unchanged but he is allowed to leave the cart behind on the steep routes. On these days he leaves his bags for collection on the next team day. Team days are Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Please note that the litter bins on the sidewalks are for “litter only” and not for household refuse. Black refuse bags are frequently seen dumped in these bins which then get attacked by monkeys and dogs. Please only put your refuse bags out in a wheelie bin or cage on the designated collection days, i.e. Monday for private households with an extra collection for registered businesses on Fridays. Please keep our streets clean - thank you for your co-operation.

LIBRARY ANNUAL CHRISTMAS HAMPER

Hi Dear Friends,

As usual at this time of year we are making an appeal for a donation of luxury goods to be included in the Southbroom Library’s Christmas hamper.

Raffling this hamper is our library’s only annual fundraising effort and the funds go towards the purchase of new books for our library. If you do not want to go to the trouble of purchasing items for the hamper you are welcome to drop off a cash donation which will be used to buy some lovely items for the hamper.

As you are no doubt aware, the library is run by a group of volunteers and we rely on donations of second-hand books for the bulk of our stock, which we supplement from time to time with new books when funds permit us to enjoy this luxury.

We look forward to your kind support.

Dawne Murray and the Southbroom Library Committee



SOUTHBROOM BOWLING CLUB NEWS

Cell: 083 273 6940

Home: 039 316 6277

Email : southbroombowls@gmail.com

NEW FACES AT SOUTHBROOM BOWLING CLUB by Julie Walker - Secretary

At the annual general meeting held in September, which was attended by 39 members, the following officers were elected:

Hein Bester	President
Cleve Walker	Vice-president
Malcolm Milne	Treasurer
Heather Roberts	Competitions secretary
Julie Walker	Secretary

Committee members : Vernon Clements, Richard Derman, Di Dorn

The club enjoyed a successful year both on and off the green. Chris Faber and Elliot Nqoko represented the Kingfisher Bowling Association's B team, Ferro Van Greunen performed a unique double in winning the KBA Novices and Men's Singles in the same year, Marilyn Sheppard was runner-up in the KBA Champion of Champions, and Heather Roberts was invited to play in the KBA Masters.

Club membership has risen to 78, plus several country and social members. The club is in profit and has a modest reserve. The green, currently undergoing its spring treatment, is in top condition and members are already looking forward to its reopening at the end of this month.

Tab-in by 14.15pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, and by 15.15pm on Fridays for a quick 12 ends.

Experienced bowlers are always welcome. Non-bowling holidaymakers who fancy a game are requested to arrive before 13.30 (14.30 on Fridays), giving the club time to arrange equipment and space. A basic introduction to bowling can be arranged at other times through the secretary: Julie Walker – email southbroombowls@gmail.com

THE TRAFALGAR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - IMBEZANE MISSION CHURCH

Jean Humphrey, wife of Pastor David Thorburn has appealed to the community of Southbroom to consider dropping a gift for a child, between 1 and 15 years, into the box that will be in the SAVERITE store in the village. We are most grateful that Trevor has agreed for the box to be kept in the shop. We are collecting Christmas gifts for two underprivileged organisations where children may never receive a gift unless kind people donate them.

We are setting a ceiling of R50 a gift for boys or girls. If the donor wishes to wrap the gift that is great, but we ask that they label the gift BOY or GIRL with an approximate age group on the label.

Services are held every Sunday at 9am, contact David or Jean regarding any special events which may be happening for Christmas.

Blessings : David and Jean Thorburn - Humphrey.
Cell: 082 859 8133 – David - Cell: 076 835 8314 - Jean.

SOUTHBROOM TENNIS CLUB



Coach Frank with Southbroom Tennis club members and some young guys keen to improve their game and get fit with cardio tennis.

If you would like to take a lesson Contact Frank
Cell: 083 274 5888

To keep up to date check us on Facebook:
[Southbroom Tennis Club](#)

Email: southbroomtennis@gmail.com

From Jackie Pratt and the Ratepayers team.

Please contact us if you have any questions or wish to make a contribution to this Newsletter :
admin@southbroom.org or check specific committee members on our website www.southbroom.org



SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Details	
Name of Member	
Postal Address	
Lot Number	
Street Name	
Number	
Email Address	
Tel No./Cell	

Please mark type of membership with an X:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Family Membership	R300
<input type="checkbox"/> 5 Year Family Membership	R1 500
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership	R3 000
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Corporate	R500
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Corporate	R5 000
Donation	R
Total Paid	R

Bank Details:
 Account Name: Southbroom Conservancy
 Nedbank Port Shepstone
 Branch Code: 139828
 Account No. 1398104930

Please email details and proof of payment to: deb.derman@gmail.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!