



Hi Everyone,

What an absolutely amazing winter we have had, it just didn't happen. I have travelled to some of the colder parts of South Africa during the last few months but each time I return home I appreciate more and more how blessed we are to live in this little paradise.

This has been a wonderful time of year for wildlife and we have had some interesting sightings lately, see below under Conservancy for more on this, meantime please do let us know and send photos of anything unusual you spot around the village.

ROADS

In the last two months HCM have appointed a new contractor for our pothole repairs. We have built up a good relationship with their teams and they are following the correct procedures with regards to the repairs. There is a limited budget within HCM so we are trying to focus on the main thoroughfares.

There is a fundamental flaw with the construction of many of our roads as these were originally constructed with no designed sub base. This means that the pothole repairs are a "bandage" rather than a permanent solution. We have formally requested HCM to upgrade our main arterial (link) roads to the required specifications.

LOCAL EVENTS

We are often asked if we can advertise various events in this Newsletter but unless it is specifically a Southbroom Community event we feel we should not favour any particular organisation or function. However there are many events up and down the coast that Southbroom people might like to attend, quite often there is a clash of dates; therefore we have decided to draw up an "Events Calendar". If you are organising or know of any event that may be of interest, please let us know so that we can add it to the Calendar, which will be published on our Website and updated regularly. The first "draft" is attached.

The annual **Spring Wine Festival** is always a lot of fun and of great interest to many Southbroomers. It takes place at Riverbend Farm from 25th to 29th September. [click here for more info](#)

SOUTH AFRICAN WOMENS OPEN 2014 – SAN LAMEER

Many of you will remember the buzz as well as the dreadful weather during last year's SA Women's Open in Southbroom. As you are no doubt aware this year the event will take place in San Lameer from 13th -19th October but you can expect to see the girls around town as many of them will again be hosted by Southbroom families. Let us hope that the weather plays ball this year and the ladies have a wonderful week. San Lameer has undergone a major upgrade so why not pop down and check it out and give the players your support.

EYLES PARK CHILDRENS PLAYGROUND

We are excited to inform you that a small playground area will soon be laid out in Eyles Park. A group of local parents and grandparents came up with this idea, local architect Shane Cole drew up some plans, at no cost, and Southbroom Conservancy have now agreed to the installation. There were a few reservations but all the boxes have now been ticketed, the safety and security aspects covered and a local resident who has a playground equipment business has agreed to do the installation at cost. Funds will need to be raised to cover the cost of the installation as well as the appropriate signage therefore the playground committee are appealing to local businesses and interested parties to make donations. See attached letter for more details.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

The Southbroom community are wonderfully caring people as has been demonstrated recently when there has been illness or loss of a loved one in local families. We thank all those people who have been supportive to neighbours and sometimes just acquaintances.

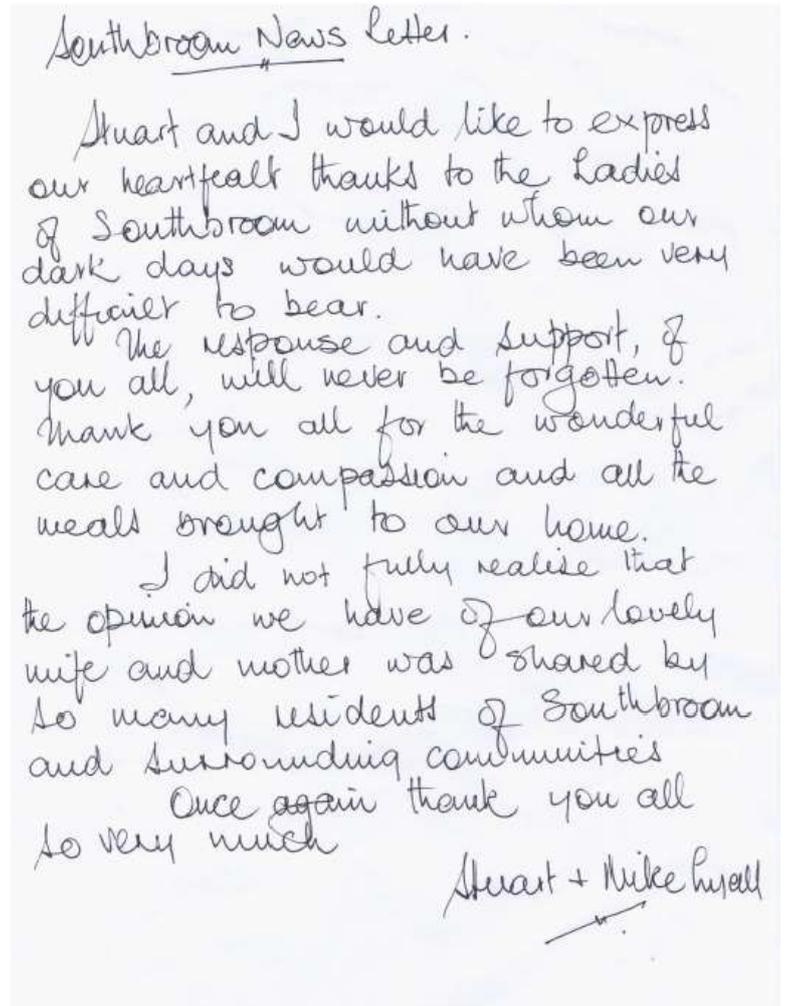
Mike and Stuart Lyall were overwhelmed with the support they received on the recent death of their beloved wife and mother Anita, see here their letter of appreciation.

DOGS

Unfortunately we have a few people who seem to think they can do what they like regardless of others and local by-laws. Yes, the ongoing problem of dogs wandering the streets unaccompanied or walking in "packs" off lead. Recently the remains of a duiker was found close to Federika preserve and although experts feel it is more likely it was killed by a serval or caracal there were definite signs that dogs had been around the area.

In another recent incident local residents were on the beach with their small dog, when a German Shepherd type, totally unprovoked came from some distance and attacked the dog. The owner picked up her dog and the German Shepherd had to be prised off by her father. The dog was with the owner and her other dog a Ridgeback type (the same dog that attacked another resident's dog a few weeks ago) but she was unable to control the dog. This is totally unacceptable and very upsetting for local beachgoers. The community would like to ask that dogs that are not socialised and cannot be controlled do not leave their premises unless they are on leashes and wearing muzzles

Please keep your dogs under control and away from the reserves and report all misdemeanours to the Police and services@hcm.gov.za.



Southbroom News Letter.

Stuart and I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the Ladies of Southbroom without whom our dark days would have been very difficult to bear.

The response and support, of you all, will never be forgotten. Thank you all for the wonderful care and compassion and all the meals brought to our home.

I did not fully realise that the opinion we have of our lovely wife and mother was shared by so many residents of Southbroom and surrounding communities.

Once again thank you all so very much

Stuart + Mike Lyall

SECURITY

Southbroom crime figures have been very low recently; however our aim is always for zero crime. Our CPF request that you ensure your gates and garage doors are closed at all times and also that you report to the local police if you are building or renovating or as soon as you notice any building activity on any other sites. Frequently there is a spike in criminal activity, including poaching and setting snares, around building sites but if the Police are better informed they can help prevent these crimes.

EXCESSIVE NOISE POLLUTION

If you are experiencing excessive noise or a disturbance in contravention of the Municipal by-laws, such as fireworks, loud music or noisy parties late at night, you can call for assistance at any time on the following numbers.

Southbroom Police: 039 316 6760

Superintendent for Margate to Mpenjati : 082 627 9208

Call Centre: Tel 039 682 5555

SOUTHBROOM CONSERVANCY

Remember Selso, the "Southbroom" seal. This is now rather old news but in case you didn't know Selso was released in good health and is now being tracked. See Article from SC Herald.

'Selso seal' hauls out on Marion Island



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Selso is back safely back home.

IN June 2013, a young Southern Elephant Seal (*Miroungaleonina*) washed up at Southbroom, exhausted and starving.

It was clear that he needed help and was taken to the uShaka Sea World rehabilitation centre where he was named Selso.

Southern Elephant Seals normally inhabit the Southern Ocean with the closest island colony site being Marion Island 2 200 kms south of South Africa and therefore it was unusual for the young seal to strand on the KZN coast.

When Selso arrived he weighed 73kg, less

than half of what he should have weighed, and needed to put on 110kg before he could be released.

This took seven months and on 9 January Selso boarded the MSC Sinfonia cruise liner and was released just before sunset on 11 January, 25 nautical miles due south of Port Elizabeth.

Prior to leaving the rehabilitation centre he was fitted with a satellite tracking tag which would record his movements for up to one year.

It took no more than two days once released for Selso to get his bearings and head in the right direction. His epic journey took him steadily southwards covering a distance of over 8 000 kms in less than six months. Selso, like all Southern Elephant Seals spend their lives at sea except when breeding and moulting. His southward journey included spending time in areas known to be good feeding grounds. By June he almost reached the Antarctic ice shelf, but did not remain there long before turning around and heading northwards.

He continued his northward journey and on 30 June hauled out on Marion Island. His satellite transmitter indicated his location on the south side of the island and research staff were sent to access his condition. He was found to be in excellent condition enjoying a well deserved rest among the boulders.

WILDLIFE CAMERAS DEPLOYED IN SOUTHBROOM

Southbroom are extremely fortunate to be privy to information from wildlife cameras belonging to University of KZN. These cameras are in the custody of a student of UKZN Yvette Ehlers-Smith who is doing her PhD on the abundance of small mammals in various habitats both protected and in the public domain from Scottburgh to Port Edward.

The cameras were deployed for 3 weeks at 11 stations around Southbroom. The results are currently being collated. Preliminary results are that there seems to be more red duiker and water mongoose in the area than previously thought. An otter was snapped in the admiralty in the south and a caracal further inland was also recorded. The latter might lend credence to the demise of the duiker mentioned above.

More on Dogs

The UKZN cameras may also help us track some of our local culprits. This chap wearing a collar, and its tan curly tailed buddy were photographed on 2 mornings. Does anyone recognise them?

A name to either; Peddy (0827713158), Dave (0823004283) or Anne (0828967814) would be great. We want to approach the owner and ask that they attend to their containment. At this stage it is not going to be the Heavy approach.



The Imbezane Trail

The trail which ran from the lower car park at Riptide to the fishing rock and then up along the Imbezane River has been closed for some time as it became overgrown and dangerous. Conservancy are currently working on it and plan to re-open it soon.

Sightings

Kate Clarence reported that she spotted 10 African Black Oystercatchers this week on her daily run between Shad Rock and The 4th. The most she has ever seen in one day before is three. Keep spotting folks; we are obviously doing something right.

Talking of doing something right, each and every one of us can make a difference by replacing some of the exotic and alien species in our gardens with indigenous. I recently replaced my dried up old pond with a new deeper one and planted indigenous around the area. Last year the frogs had almost disappeared, they are now back in full cry and breeding in the pond; I have also noticed an increase in the variety of birds in the garden. Please make sure you follow up once you have removed aliens, they have a nasty habit of reappearing when you are not looking.

REFUSE AND RECYLING

Just a reminder for our visitors who may be coming down next month, refuse is collected on Mondays; please put out both your black bags and clear recycling bags early on Monday, preferably in a cage or wheelie bin. If you cannot put your bags out on Monday, PLEASE DO NOT DEPOSIT REFUSE ON THE VERGE WHEN YOU LEAVE, take it to the Outlook Road depot where there is a cage for both recycling and normal refuse. Garden refuse should also be taken to the depot. Leaving garden refuse on the verge is in contravention of the by-laws and you will be charged to have it removed.

Best regards - SOUTHBROOM RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION