

# Southbroom

KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

## NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2015

Hi Everyone,

Did we have a winter this year? If we did I must have missed it. We hardly seem to have had a day when we couldn't walk on the beach or play our favourite outdoor sport.

We chose to go to Europe in June and July under the delusion that it would be summer. If any of you watched The Open at St. Andrews you can understand why there were times when I wondered what I was doing there. It was a truly amazing experience, in spite of the weather and it makes you appreciate how tough it is for the Pros, let alone the average club golfer, playing in those conditions.



THE OPEN - ST ANDREWS 2015  
Reminiscent of the SA Women's Open - Southbroom 2013

Many of you love to travel, to see different parts of the world and to experience different lifestyles but I know you will agree that is always great to come home to this very special little village, there is no other place like it anywhere in the world, it has it all, the climate, the sea, the bush, the wildlife and of course some amazing people. A very special place.

The past few winter months have been relatively quiet but with spring and holidays fast approaching we now have a few things we would like to share with you.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** - *By Brian Thompson*

#### **ROADS**

We are pleased that a contractor was appointed by HCM to rehabilitate Link Road, and work started on 11 August 2015. The duration of the contract is 3 months, but the contractor hopes to complete the work in about 2 months. Our civil engineers are monitoring the progress and quality of the work. We prepared a request for the rehabilitation of College and Lewin roads for the HCM 2015/16 draft budget. HCM have agreed to include a budget for the design work to determine the appropriate pavement structure and costing. We will then request a budget for the refurbishment of these roads in the 2016/2017 capital budget.

## **BEACHES AND POOLS**

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 was replaced with a flange. The flange was removed because it was not safe to empty the pool for cleaning. We have arranged a service provider to drain and clean the pool every two months.

We are pleased to advise that HCM have eventually agreed to replace the old septic tank at the main beach, which was leaking effluent into the lagoon. A site meeting has been held and the contract is expected to be awarded in September.

## **TOWN PLANNING**

The HCM Planning section has been very supportive of the planning issues that we discussed with them in January 2015, and the status is as follows:

South Ridge Road – We have been challenging the numerous building contraventions with the owner of this property for about five years. On 4 June 2015 HCM published a notice where the owner applied for special consent to regularise these contraventions. We were particularly concerned about the application to increase the number of storeys from two to four, as this may set a dangerous precedent for Southbroom properties. We consulted with the affected neighbours and lodged an objection to the application on 8 June 2015, and are expecting a decision on the application by mid-October.

Berea Road : HCM have investigated the encroachment by property owners which resulted in very a dangerous road corner. HCM have agreed to realign the road, and we are waiting for plans and budget to be approved.

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 further illegal construction. We have requested the demolition of other illegal buildings.

Outlook Road: The owner commenced construction on a second floor without approved plans. All work ceased for a while until the submission of plans, and work has now recommenced.

## **CRIME**

Southbroom Ratepayers committee members attended a CPF strategic planning workshop, and provided the CPF with funds for an additional two security cameras, which have been very effective. A CPF WhatsApp group has been started for crime awareness, and this has a link to the duty SAPS personnel. Ratepayers are requested to remain vigilant and report all incidents or suspicious persons to the local Police on 039-3166760. *(See report from CPF below)*

## **SERVICE DELIVERY REQUESTS**

Please send any service delivery requests or complaints to the municipalities at the call centres: Hibiscus Coast Municipality (HCM) for rates, roads, verges, beaches etc. : [services@hcm.gov.za](mailto:services@hcm.gov.za)  
UGU for water and sewerage: [info@ugu.gov.za](mailto:info@ugu.gov.za).

These requests are well monitored by municipal officials. Members of SRA can refer the complaints to the Ratepayers Association if you do not receive an adequate response within a reasonable period. If you are not a member of the Association you can join up on line at a cost of R300pa or email [southbroom.rpa@gmail.com](mailto:southbroom.rpa@gmail.com) to receive an application form.

## **COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM (CPF)**

### **IDENTIFICATION OF VALUABLE ITEMS**

Due to the fact that the SA Police Service are recovering a large number of electronic apparatus (e.g. television sets, decoders, mobile phones, radios, microwave ovens, etc.) when investigating burglaries and theft incidents, they have requested all Community Police Forums and members of ratepayers associations to request their respective communities to ensure all their valuable properties are marked or engraved with their names and other means of identification. It is also a very good idea to photograph all such valuables and to keep these pictures and, very important, also serial numbers in a safe place. This will help owners of stolen goods to identify such items and also to support insurance claims. It is also recommended that owners of holiday homes store valuables in a secure place as such properties are normally the main attraction for criminal elements.

#### **SECURE YOUR VALUABLES BY:**

- Identify valuable properties with permanent pen markings or by engraving your name or code on it
- Photograph your valuable equipment
- Record all serial numbers, brand names and significant markings
- Store valuable items such as television sets in holiday homes in a secure storage facility
- Keep a proper inventory of all valuable items
- Keep invoices of all valuable items for insurance and identifying purposes

Keep in touch with your neighbours, friends, local CPF and ratepayers association and spread this information to everybody.

### **WHATS APP GROUP**

The group was established on 07/08/2015 and we now have close to 90 members who have joined the group. The group has the added advantage of a direct link to our SAPS reservists in addition to a Group Administrator and we have added the security companies who will also be online.

The WhatsApp group was established to enhance community awareness of ongoing security matters in Southbroom and to report suspicious persons, activities, break-ins and attempted break-ins so that other members are aware of any areas of concern.

This is also a tool to alert police members who have access to the group. This however is NOT a tool to report issues to the police and members need to first report all matters to the local police station so they can log the matter and most importantly dispatch their reservists to actively follow up and then post on the WhatsApp. The reservists will then respond and follow up on the complaint or information they receive and keep the members in the picture.

Members need to clearly understand that this forum is for crime awareness only, and it must be made very clear that any people using this platform for general chit chat will be removed from the group.

Any complaints members may have can be forwarded directly to any of the committee members who are all online. Please do not post complaints on the WhatsApp platform, this is strictly for crime.

To join the group send a WhatsApp or SMS to the following number 076 152 4479 with your name and address so that we can verify you are a resident or homeowner with a property in Southbroom.

## MASER SECURITY

Those of you who utilise the services of Maser will be pleased to know that they are also in the WhatsApp group along with other local security companies.

Maser is pleased to welcome Lappies and Tian on board as operations managers. They will be ensuring the reaction officers are well trained and of the highest standard. They will also be available to react as a back-up vehicle in the event of a positive break-in and will work very closely with the community. Maser urges not only their clients but all residents who have alarm systems, to get your system checked at least once a year as monitoring equipment does need maintenance from time to time to ensure your systems are always in perfect working order.



## SOUTHBROOM CONSERVANCY

### PROJECTS

- The planting of indigenous trees in Southbroom Avenue will commence in September.
- The committee has selected a range of trees to replace the pines that have been removed.
- The committee has a plan to rehabilitate the old refuse dump in Eyles Road.
- The area will be levelled, and planted to grass. Indigenous trees and shrubs will be planted on the slopes surrounding the site.

**GENERAL** The game population in Southbroom has increased dramatically over the past few years. Impala have been sighted on several occasions.

This is mainly as a result of the good work Joseph, our game guard, has done by removing snares. Dumping of refuse and building material on vacant land is an on-going problem. Please report any persons seen dumping to the police or any conservancy committee member.

The conservancy is offering a reward to anyone supplying information leading to the arrest of the persons responsible for cutting the trees on the verge at Grannies Pool, opposite Lot 141.

### CROCODILE TALK

A talk on Crocodiles by Howard Kelly will be held at the Trattoria Restaurant in Southbroom on Thursday 1st October at 6pm

The cost of tickets is R180 per person which includes dinner - choice of beef fillet or Norwegian salmon as the main course.

A crocodile has been seen in Umkobi Lagoon; boat rides to "spot the croc" will be available. A bottle of wine goes to the first person to spot the croc.

Tickets are available from Southbroom Golf Club Pro Shop or Peddy Bam. Only sixty seats are available so make sure you get your tickets in plenty of time.

## CAUGHT ON CAMERA during August.

Our resident friends Daddy and Mommy Bushbuck looking pretty healthy



## THE FIRST KNOWN SIGHTING OF A WATER MONGOOSE IN SOUTHBROOM



The tracks of the Water Mongoose are often all you will see of this rather elusive species. They live on the coast and near inland waterways all around South Africa, and are occasionally seen near seasonal ponds for example in the Cape of Good Hope section of the national park or smaller nature reserves like Rondevlei. We have seen their tracks above the high-water mark on a few beaches around the Peninsula and there have been photographed sightings in Marina da Gama.

Extract from : <http://www.wildneighbours.co.za/local-wildlife/wildlife-on-the-peninsula/water-mongoose/>

## STILL NOT TOO LATE TO PLANT TREES

Arbour day has passed, but this is still a good time to plant trees. Peddy Bam (Conservancy chair) would like every resident to plant at least one indigenous tree during the next month.

Trees are available from Indigi Nursery, Munster, Tel: 039-3191627 at incredibly reasonable prices. For advice on what to plant phone Anne 0828967814 or Peddy 0827713158

## **TENNIS CLUB**

Southbroom Tennis Club has 39 full members. Many holiday makers and people from neighbouring towns, who are not members, use the courts on a “hire” basis. The club committee would like to thank these people for paying the hire fee of R30 per hour into the honesty box.

The club desperately needs to resurface courts One and Two. The condition of these courts has deteriorated significantly over the past year. The club has managed to accumulate R23000 for resurfacing, but requires another R50000 to resurface two courts.

The committee appeals to any business persons or visitors who would like to make a donation to the club towards this project. Any amount would be gratefully received.

Account : SOUTHBROOM TENNIS CLUB.

BANK : FNB.

BRANCH : 220128.

Account No : 62258685662

Contact Luise Mohr. 072 927 7530 or Peddy Bam. 082 771 3158

## **UGU SOUTH COAST TOURISM – AREA SUB-COMMITTEE**

Southbroom is represented at UGUSC Tourism by the Southbroom/Mpenjati area sub-committee which includes Marina Beach, San Lameer and Trafalgar. This committee serves to liaise with Tourism to promote the individuality of the area and to ensure funds are allocated to specific projects and events within the area.

Whilst it is only mandatory for tour operators and accommodation establishments to be members of tourism, all businesses in our area are directly or indirectly affected by tourism therefore it is in their interest to get involved in promoting the area.

Recent resignations have now given the sub-committee the opportunity to co-opt new members on to the committee and as Southbroom has the majority of businesses within the area we need a strong representation. If you own a business whether directly or indirectly involved in tourism and feel you can make a contribution we would love to hear from you.

If you are keen to get involved please email [southbroom.rpa@gmail.com](mailto:southbroom.rpa@gmail.com) and you will be notified when the next meeting will take place. Please note that only paid up members of Tourism may serve on this committee. To apply to join contact [info@tourismsouthcoast.co.za](mailto:info@tourismsouthcoast.co.za)

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Southbroom Ratepayers Association and Southbroom Conservancy are working to maintain and improve services and infrastructure in your town and to ensure our flora and fauna are preserved for future generations. Any organisation is only as strong as its membership and we urge all Ratepayers and residents to ensure their fees of R300pa to each organisation are paid up in time for the next Annual General Meetings. Ratepayers AGM is usually held in December and Conservancy in early January in order to give our non-resident home owners the opportunity to attend and have their say.

## **FIREWORKS**

We would like to remind you that Southbroom is a **"Firework Free"** area. Not only domestic pets but also our precious wildlife are severely traumatised by fireworks therefore the community have agreed to a total ban on fireworks. Any infringements should be reported immediately to our local police.

## **FACEBOOK**

Facebook is a great tool if used properly and the Southbroom group was started a couple of years ago to help people keep up to date with what is happening on a daily basis. It has proved to be very useful but is also open to abuse, therefore in order protect members and their security, Admin has now decided to restrict membership to Ratepayers, residents and their families, local business owners, and regular visitors. If you are not personally known to Admin please contact [southbroom.rpa@gmail.com](mailto:southbroom.rpa@gmail.com) with your details when you ask to join.

Please note there is also a tourism page for the Southbroom/Mpenjati area: "Southbroom-Marina Beach-San Lameer-Trafalgar-Mpenjati" where tourism vendors and local businesses may post advertising, promotions and other items of interest.

## **NEW DENTIST IN TOWN**

We welcome Dr Andre Griesel who will be opening his practice Hibiscus Dental Care, Southbroom early in October on the corner of Southbroom Avenue and Eagle Road (previously Dr Stewart's rooms).

*"Hibiscus Dental Care pairs a passion for excellent service with the latest technological advances. Dr. Andre Griesel provides services like Damon orthodontics, cosmetic work and full porcelain crowns, implant crown and dentures, and much more. Besides excellent service, Hibiscus Dental Care makes your experience at the dentist a pleasant one. "Our patients actually look forward to coming to the dentist. Here at Hibiscus Dental Care, your smile is all that matters!"*

Hours: Monday to Thursday 08.00 - 16.00

Friday 08.00 - 13.00

Late afternoon and Saturdays by prior arrangement

Tel 039 316 6145 Email: [info@hibiscusdental.co.za](mailto:info@hibiscusdental.co.za) Website: [www.hibiscusdental.co.za](http://www.hibiscusdental.co.za)

## **SOUTHBROOM SUPPORT GROUP**

Many of you may not be aware that Southbroom has a group of "angels" who are quietly providing support for local people in need of assistance in times of illness, accidents, post-operative care, bereavement etc. This wonderful group of retired nursing sisters and trained carers volunteer their time to help the community. They also offer a meal service when required and welcome donations of meals from the community. Names and numbers are available at both doctors' rooms and in the library

If you have any queries or suggestions regarding for Ratepayers or Conservancy please do not hesitate to contact a member of the committee. All contact details can be found on the website [www.southbroom.org](http://www.southbroom.org)

## **SOUTHBROOM RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION**

[Southbroom.rpa@gmail.com](mailto:Southbroom.rpa@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/26577302677934/>