



Hello Southbroom,

Welcome to the realities of a new year, and if you are resident in Southbroom to the heat and humidity of January and February. We were treated to some wonderful weather during the holidays, the beach was packed every day; in fact I think it was one of the busiest seasons I have seen in the 20 years I have been here. We hope everyone had a fantastic holiday but now that Cemair fly into Margate why not visit more often out of season when you can enjoy the beach, the quiet trails and everything Southbroom has to offer, all to yourself and never have to worry about booking golf or restaurants.

One reason why many people may have flocked to Southbroom during December and early January was that the majority of the UGU district was without water for several days at a time. Thanks to our dedicated “water team” who have worked closely with UGU over a number of years now, the majority of Southbroom had water when most other areas were without, until disaster struck in January when the generator driving the pump to the main supply broke down. Although our team were monitoring the situation closely and reporting on social media, unfortunately most of Southbroom were without water for quite a few days.

We cannot guarantee that this will not happen again, our team will continue to work closely with UGU but the main supply infrastructure is old and vulnerable. UGU are planning a total upgrade of the system, but this will probably take a very long time. We recommend that everyone, especially accommodation establishments, at least install a rainwater tank and if possible an emergency back-up tank.

## **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT: JANUARY 2017**

*By Brian Thompson*

### **AGM**

The 2016 AGM held at the Golf Club on 7 January was well attended, and there was a good discussion. Our new RNM councillor Dave Watson attended and provided advice on the issues raised. The outgoing committee was re-elected, and we welcome the addition of Eric Annegarn to the committee. It was agreed at the meeting to action the following items:

- Signs with emergency contact numbers to be erected on beaches.
- Consider one-way traffic on beach access roads to improve congestion during peak periods.
- Arrange repairs to Library roof and buildings.

## **PROPERTY VALUATIONS**

New property valuations will be published on the municipal website on 17 February 2017 and notices will be sent to all property owners. Property owners have the right to object to the new valuation of their properties by 28 April 2017. The valuation of residential properties is based on comparable sales that reflect the price that a willing and informed buyer and seller would agree.

## **BEACHES AND POOLS**

The main beach area was looking good for the festive season, as we had arranged for the lifesavers building to be painted and the tidal pool to be drained and cleaned and sand to be removed.

## **ROADS**

RNM appointed Margate Asphalt to repair roads, and completed Woodlands Drive, College and Beacon roads in December and Churchill road in January.

We appointed Margate Asphalt to repair the lower parking area at the main beach and Third Avenue in December in preparation for the holiday season.

We arranged for the RNM Roads Manager to meet us for a site inspection to review the condition of Southbroom roads on 20 January. An action plan was agreed which includes pothole repairs, and sealing and refurbishment of roads. The manager also agreed to install a raised pedestrian crossing on Southbroom drive outside the MedVet centre, which should improve pedestrian safety and slow down traffic in this busy area.

## **WATER AND SEWERAGE**

There were many broken water pipes in December and January, but we thank Ugu staff for the prompt response to repairs. Ugu plumbers worked through the nights on several occasions. Captain Smith and Fairway roads were badly damaged in places, but Ugu responded well to our requests, and arrange a contractor to repair the roads.

I am pleased to report that Southbroom sewerage plant in Quantock road, which was closed for about four months in 2016 was repaired and re-commissioned in mid-January, and I thank Ugu for their cooperation on this matter

## **SERVICE REQUESTS**

We encourage residents to report all service delivery problems directly to the municipal call centres. If possible, send photographs of specific problems:

RNM for beaches, roads, street lights and refuse issues - [services@rnm.gov.za](mailto:services@rnm.gov.za)

Ugu for water and sewerage issues - [info@ugu.gov.za](mailto:info@ugu.gov.za)

See also links below from Dave Watson, Cllr Ward 2 Ray Nkonyeni Municipality Cell: 082 374 4114

<http://bit.ly/uguresidentsrequest>

: for Service Delivery Requests from RNM

<http://bit.ly/uguwatersanitation>

: for Service Delivery from UGU

<http://bit.ly/RNMWard2Plan>

: to access our Ward Strategic Plan

<http://bit.ly/ward2planinput>

: to give input to our Ward Plan

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

: DA page for residents request form

## GOLF CARTS, SCOOTERS & THE SPEED LIMIT

Golf cart owners are urged to ensure that their carts are only on public roads when travelling to and from the golf club. Visiting the shops or beach and permitting under-aged drivers, drivers under the influence of alcohol and over-loading, threatens the special concession Southbroom enjoys. Please remember that Southbroom is not a golf estate and the Traffic Department can prosecute and put a complete stop to the privilege of driving golf carts on public roads.



- **GOLF CARTS MAY ONLY BE USED TO TRAVEL TO AND FROM THE GOLF CLUB**
- **GOLF CARTS MAY ONLY BE USED TO CARRY GOLFERS AND THEIR CLUBS**
- **ALL DRIVERS MUST BE IN POSSESSION OF A VALID DRIVERS LICENCE**

Southbroom's roads are narrow and the majority do not have footpaths. Please respect the speed limit, wildlife, walkers, runners, joggers and cyclists.

- **THE SPEED LIMIT IN SOUTHBROOM IS 40KPH**

If you are one of the crazies that ride your scooter/motor-bike without wearing a helmet, *STOP IT*. If not the law, please consider your family and brain damage.

- **HELMETS MUST BE WORN WHEN DRIVING A TWO WHEELER ON PUBLIC ROADS**

Simply put, we do not want anyone to do anything that attracts the Traffic Department into Southbroom.

## SOUTHBROOM LIBRARY

I am sure that most residents are aware of our own Library, but for those who aren't, and may like to make use of our services, here are a few details.

The Library is located between the Police Station and Le Plantation in the centre of the village. We are open from 9am – 1pm Tuesday and Thursday, and from 9am - 12 noon on Saturday.

Phone 039 3166 999

The library is run entirely by volunteers and is a non-profit service to the community. We have in the region of 400 regular members, many visitors during the holiday seasons, and have readers from as far as Oslo Beach to Port Edward. We issue between 7000 and 8000 books and greet around 3000 readers each year.

We are very proud of our range of reading material, and endeavour to stock genres that are of particular interest to the users of our library. These include popular authors as well as something a little 'different'. For the non-fiction lovers we have for example, memoirs, biographies, history both local and international and subjects, dealing with current issues of interest. Children's books and reference books are available, together with Audio books and magazines.

Suggestions are welcomed for authors and titles, new book purchases are made on a regular basis, about 3 times a year.

Southbroom Library is a free service. We rely for our funding on donations and are immensely grateful to the Southbroom Ratepayers Association for their generous support, and to the support of you our readers and members, including those who contribute and purchase tickets for our Christmas Hamper Raffle.

We also welcome donations of books in good condition. Due to space constraints, we offer for sale our duplicates at the ridiculously low cost of R10.00 per copy.

We look forward to welcoming anyone who would like to become a member.

## THE SOUTHBROOM SUPPORT GROUP

This volunteer support group continues to exist: The group is made up of several nursing sisters and women with first aid training. The objective of the group is to provide temporary support, advice, and some basic nursing care i.e. Dressings, post op follow-up, support for bedridden people and their carers. There are also several residents in the Village who can be mobilized to assist with transport to appointments, shopping etc. Meals for emergencies, and other desperate moments are obtainable from the deep-freeze located in the Doctors Rooms. There is also a considerable amount of medical equipment, commodes, walkers, etc., available from Dr Stewart's rooms which can be borrowed free of charge, on a temporary basis.

If you need assistance or are able to assist with meals, transport or expertise contact a member of the group. Telephone numbers of the group are available from Dr S Stewart's consulting rooms.

## SOUTHBROOM TENNIS CLUB

The Southbroom Tennis Club continues to be a popular draw-card and an important part of the social life of the village. Based on the number of people who paid into the honesty box, more than 200 people made use of the club's facilities this Festive Season, plus, judging from the number of the visitors who joined in the club's afternoon games, it had one of its best-attended seasons ever.

Its membership is also increasing steadily, and the club has reintroduced Sunday afternoon tennis, to which everyone is invited. Club afternoons are on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The visitor's fee is R30.

The club's championships are coming up, with the singles taking place in April and the doubles in May.

The club is also staging a series of round robins, a special Valentine's Day event for women on February 12 being the next. The charge is R25 per person. These events help to raise funds, which are always desperately needed. The club would very much like to have its other two courts resurfaced and the clubhouse refurbished, so it is also continually looking for kind-hearted donors to help out. It is also approaching the local municipality to see if it might be able to assist. The club would also like something to be done about the shockingly bad condition of the entrance road to Eyles Park.

Anyone with queries can phone the chairperson of the club, Louise Mohr, on 072 927 7530.





## CONSERVANCY MATTERS

WOW.... WOW... WOW...

Something special is happening in Southbroom...



Yes that's right, we have a

### **LOGGERHEAD TURTLE NESTING IN SOUTHBROOM.**

Local resident and member of our conservancy John Pole found these tracks on his early morning walk a couple of weeks ago.

John contacted Dr George Hughes, a well known expert on sea turtles, to verify the find, this is Dr Hugh's reply:

*Dear John, many thanks for the images. They are tracks of a loggerhead turtle, *Caretta caretta* and she had nested. Sightings such as this are not uncommon and have been recorded since the early 20th Century. We are hoping however with an ever increasing trend of nesting on the Zululand coast that there will be an increased number of nesting animals down your way. One thing is certain and that is new nesting concentrations of sea turtles re started by animals nesting in new areas. With the trend of global warming it is highly likely that there will be a more rapid spread of nesting turtles down our coast. A possible indication of this effect has been the recording over the last three years of green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) nesting on the Zululand coast. They had never been recorded nesting on our beaches before. It is very encouraging to see the increases in nesting turtles and I am most grateful to you both for recording this nesting and going to the trouble of letting me know.*

*Yours sincerely - George*



If you notice any similar tracks or disturbances on our beaches, please make a mental note of the spot, cover the tracks and report it to Conservancy. DO NOT disturb the nest or post it on social media, it is important not to reveal the location. How wonderful if these guys were able to hatch and come back next year.

## ***A few notes from the Conservancy Chair - Sharlene van der Slikke***

Another wonderful year is upon us and with it comes new opportunities to enhance our green life of the village as well as to keep perfecting the routine maintenance which occurs.

There was an excellent attendance at the AGM with some good suggestions, and much appreciated donations from members. This is always a great opportunity for our community to get together after the meeting over drinks and snacks and share ideas for preserving and improving Southbroom

We warmly welcome Anne Skelton who takes over from Peddy Bam as Vice Chair and thank Peddy for his long term commitment to Conservancy and continued invaluable guidance.

### **PROJECTS FOR 2017**

- Restoration to natural habitat of the old dump site – this is slow and on-going. Initial clearing of rubbish, weeds, burning, turning and levelling has taken place and now comes the good part of planting and encouraging wonderful natural growth. Full restoration will probably be another year.
- Completion of Wigley Garden at Eyles Park – alien plants indeed present a problem as we experienced with trying to display them, but they took over, so an educational sign is being made to facilitate this information; a formal opening is pending combined with a talk and BYO event.
- Bushbuck trail – a contractor has been secured to assist in completing this delicate task by mid-year.
- Black Bag Day – a cleaning up Southbroom initiative to create a major drive
- Southbroom Conservancy Booklet – be on the lookout for our brand new, re-designed booklet which will be supplied to new and older residents, visitors and both long and short-term tenants. A very comprehensive A-Z guide. Available at Estate Agents, the library, restaurants and businesses locally from April.
- We are pleased to announce the addition of an extra “eyes and ears to the ground” person who will be employed a couple of days assisting Joseph with snare patrol, beach/fishing patrol as well as largely keeping an eye on illegal dumping and littering in the bushes. The Conservancy will implement a long-term plan to help control this problem. Our very grateful thanks to those members who donated the bike and for monthly sponsorship
- Educational : an evening Bat Talk on Local Bats is being planned for around March/April – this will take place in Eyles Park early evening

### **LOOSE DOGS**

Following on from a recent incident involving unleashed dogs on the Golf Course killing a Blue Duiker, the Southbroom Conservancy has had to take a very firm stand. In short the following:

- Any dogs caught cornering, hunting, killing our wildlife; the owners will be charged immediately with negligence and illegal hunting. Additional staff has been employed to facilitate policing.
- Should the problem persist the authorities will be called in to remove the offending animals for impoundment. The SPCA have a zero tolerance policy towards this sort of thing and hefty fines will result before owners may take their animals home.

- Dogs found straying in the road or the bushes as a result of badly fenced properties will be impounded pending inspection of said property. The dogs will not be released until the property is suitably fenced to contain the dogs, any costs incurred will be for the owner's account. Not being able to catch offending dogs will result in them being eliminated by Protection Services. We can no longer entertain vicious dogs trailing golf buggies or uncontrolled loose dogs threatening our wildlife anywhere in Southbroom.
- We encourage all dog owners to purchase pepper spray to ward off these attackers or at least halt them in their tracks while calling for help and getting that all important picture of the offending dog.
- Local legislation calls for immediate elimination of dogs caught hunting and killing of wild animals. This is a final warning to all offenders.
- Any dogs seen hunting/killing/cornering our wildlife, running free in green zones and streets, harassing pedestrians and other dog walkers or in any way causing a nuisance must be PHOTOGRAPHED and/or VIDEOED immediately and sent to 0823752993 along with an accurate street address so we may follow up with the owners. The law is on our side but we cannot take it all the way if we do not have visual evidence and eye-witnesses. Please help the Conservancy to get this dreadful matter under control!

## NEW APPS

**“Frogs of Southern Africa”** by Vincent Carruthers & Louis du Preez : this is their frog bible condensed into a very handy mobile app. Set out in a similar format to Sasol Birds, it is exceptionally user friendly and a wonderful addition to any nature lovers “field app” collection. Available easily from iTunes and Android Apps. Priced at R249 it's a steal! Great fun to use while walking and identifying as well as a most useful learning tool. Children will love it, adults will get hooked and home-schoolers will wonder how they ever did without it! Enjoy a truly great initiative from Endangered Wildlife Trust – Amphibian Section. All proceeds go to further research and conservation in this field.

**“The Trees of SA”** by Thomas/Robinson/van den Berg/van Niekerk/van Gogh/Moraites/Steyn ..... is a super app to have; again very user friendly and so handy to have when walking. It is the most fervent hope of the creators of this app to create greater awareness of indigenous trees and their required habitats. We are so fortunate to be able to have this information at our fingertips and to a large extent will reveal that tree ID is not as mystifying as some people think! Available only in April – we will publish further details and pricing nearer the time.

NB: due diligence by some members of our community resulted in their photographs and research being used in the above apps; so a reminder to everyone who is passionate about nature, you can make a difference! Education and awareness is all we need.

## RECYCLING

It has come to the attention of the Conservancy that there is a great deal of confusion about recycling. Perhaps this is most problematic for visitors and hopefully the new booklet that is currently being developed by the Conservancy, and will be handed to each letting agent, will go some way to rectifying the situation. In the interim here are the guidelines:

- You may recycle: PAPER – PLASTIC – GLASS – CANS - **NO POLYSTYRENE**
- ALL ITEMS MUST BE CLEAN, RINSED AND DRY BEFORE RECYCLING
- ALL ITEMS FOR RECYCLING TO BE PLACED IN CLEAR PLASTIC BAGS
- RECYCLE & BLACK BAGS TO BE PLACED ON THE VERGE ON MONDAY ONLY

If possible use a cage or wheelie bin for your refuse. Should you be unable to put your bags out on Monday they MUST be taken to the MUNICIPAL FACILITY near Southbroom South entrance. PLEASE do not leave your bags on the curb on any other day as this becomes an unsightly smelly mess and an easy source of food for monkeys.

Each ratepayer is entitled to a free issue of clear and black bags. Take your rates account to the Municipal Office in Imbezane Drive, Southbroom to collect your allocation.

***Thank you for your co-operation!***

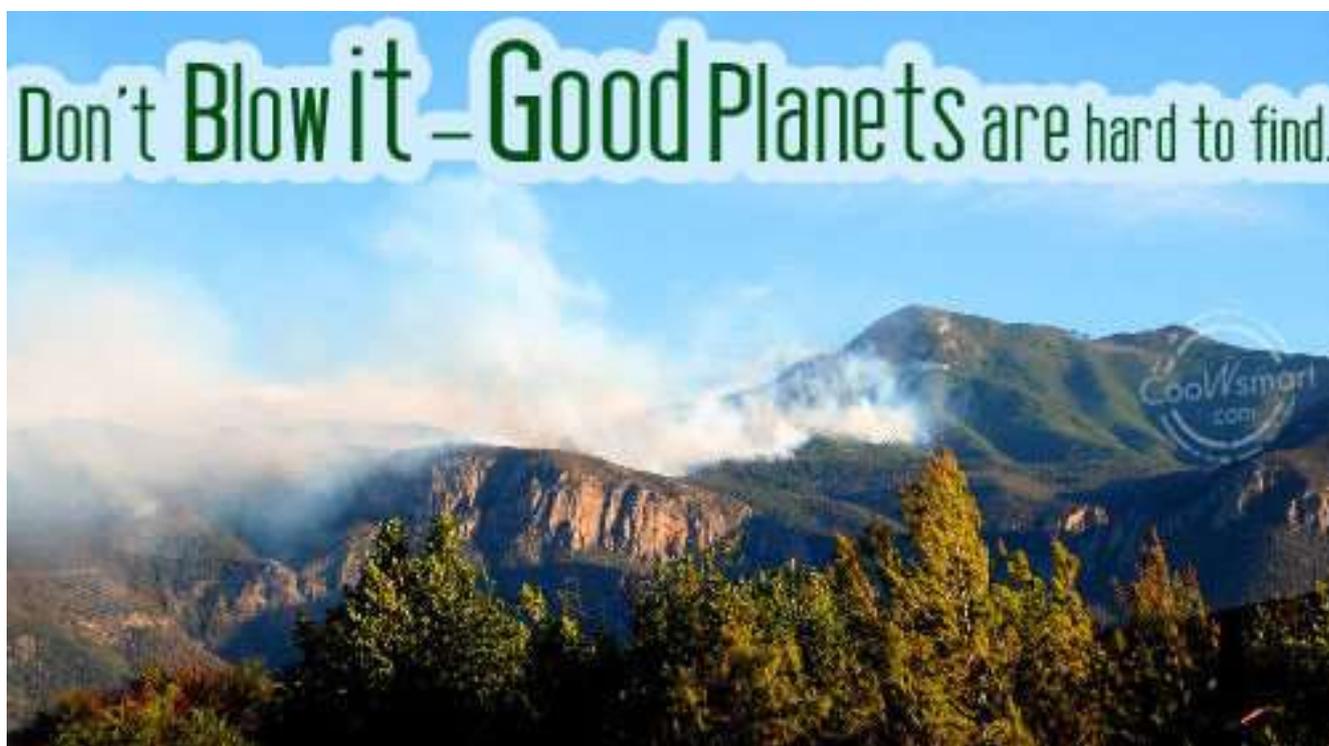
### **ALIEN INVASIVE PLANTS *by Peddy Bam***

I have noticed an increase in the amount of alien invasive plants on certain verges in Southbroom. The main culprits are Bugweed and Triffid weed.

Bad areas are Bath, Quantock, Clifton, Devizes and Taunton Roads.

Please check your own verge as well as the area opposite your property, and eradicate these dreadful fellows. We encourage everyone to endeavour to plant indigenous as much as possible, especially on your verges as this makes a huge difference in maintaining and encouraging our wildlife population. If you see any vacant stands which are overgrown with aliens please check the stand number and location and report it to Conservancy.

For help contact Peddy Bam 0827713158 or Anne Skelton 0828967814



## ***Why Southbroom is a special place to live***

Late on Sunday evening after walking Molly and Bertie (the Maltese poodles) and returning to where I had parked the car in front of the library, we were met by a constant, persistent chorus of meows from a very pretty ginger/cream young cat. She was hungry and as I am not accustomed to carrying cat food around in my car, I picked up the kids water bowl and headed to the Protection Services office to tell the officer there was a very hungry little cat and did they have some milk to spare. I don't know the name of the young female officer on duty but after only slightly hesitating, she headed to the back returning with a carton of milk and duly poured an inch or so into the bowl. After watching the young cat lick the bowl clean and give itself a jolly good clean, our job was done and I got into the car and off we went. Just made me think...would there be anywhere else in the world where a person would even think of going into a police/law enforcement office and asking for some milk for a hungry little cat..... Me thinks not

***Libby Cochran***

## **KEEPING SOUTHBROOM BEAUTIFUL**

We are very fortunate to have Libby regularly walking her dogs around our village as not only does she look out for the cats, she keeps a constant eye out for anything that is "not beautiful". You may have noticed the improvement to the area around the Municipal offices; Libby has taken this and many other "nasty bits" in Southbroom under her wing and with some assistance from the Municipality but mostly Libby and her trusty man; she has made a huge difference in cleaning up some previously dodgy public areas. Thank you Libby.

If you see any areas that need attention or can help in any way please contact

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

## **TOURISM**

Please diarise the date of Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February for the Annual General Meeting of the Southbroom/Mpenjati area members. Details are currently being finalised and all members will receive a final invitation shortly. If you have any sort of business within the area but have not yet joined UGSC Tourism we do encourage you to do so. Tourism affects us all, the sub-committee is appointed as the go between local businesses and the main tourism body for the purpose of bringing appropriate events and tourism to our area.

Please come along and have your say, the current sub-committee have lots of new ideas including a new dedicated tourism website which will give members an excellent platform to promote their business but we need members cooperation and would welcome new members with new ideas on to the committee.

Thank you to all those who do so much for Southbroom and for the contributions to this Newsletter; please keep them coming, this is your village and everyone is welcome to have their say.

Please check our website and make suggestions for improvement and if you own a business and it is not listed under the business section please contact me with your details.

***Jackie Pratt***

For Southbroom Ratepayers Association

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