



Hi Everyone,

Since our last Newsletter in November a very busy season has come and gone and we are now settling back into our routines and planning for 2014. Overall we had a great season, we welcomed lots of regular and new visitors, crime was very low and by the majority of reports the New Year Party was well controlled and enjoyed by all those who attended. We have received a few complaints about the party which are being addressed but it must be borne in mind that apart from the fact that this event is the major fundraiser for Southbroom Ratepayers Association, if we did not have a controlled event we could be back where we were in the late 1990's. Those of you who were around then will remember that Southbroom was the "go to" beach and attracted young people from all surrounding areas, it became totally out of hand and unacceptable, the beach and surrounding area the following day was a complete mess and we were left to pick up the tab for the clean-up.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM held in December, was well attended and we had some good input from members; these suggestions were taken back to our first committee meeting in January.

See Brian Thompsons report on the 2014 objectives below.

The 2013 Committee were unanimously reinstated. The names, portfolios and contact details of the current committee members of all the Southbroom volunteers groups can be found on our website www.southbroom.org

CHAIRMANS REPORT by Brian Thompson

We had our first committee meeting and it was agreed that the main objectives for 2014 are roads and the main beach.

We were fortunate to have HOD Simphiwe Nikelo from HMC attend our meeting, after a site inspection of the main beach and roads in Southbroom.

ROADS

We had a constructive meeting with HOD Nikelo and the HMC roads manager on 29 January 2014, where the following was agreed:

- Eagle road (which was badly damaged by a major water leak in December 2014) will be repaired in early February.
- The drainage and approaches to Lagoon road (which was damaged by heavy rains) will be repaired in February
- The dangerous fall away at the bottom of Outlook road will be barricaded and the drainage improved
- The ratepayers Association and HCM will enter into a cooperation agreement to investigate initiatives to improve Southbroom roads

MAIN BEACH

- HCM have repaired the drain and septic tank near the estuary, which has been leaking in peak season for several years
- HCM have agreed to investigate the cause of excess water flooding the Riptide area, and repair the retaining walls
- Tenders will be reissued for the repair of the tidal pool in February, with a view to completing the repairs in September.

We have been very pleased with the cooperation and involvement by HOD Nikelo and HCM officials.

MEMBERSHIP

One of the main objectives is to have every Ratepayer a member of the Southbroom Ratepayers Association. Currently we only have approximately 30% of Ratepayers paying R300 pa membership; if we could get this number closer to 100% we could use these funds to make a huge difference in not only roads but all areas of our village. Ratepayers Association and Conservancy work hand in hand but are separate organisations, and have different objectives. It has been suggested that we combine the two but logistically at present this is not possible. Please note when you pay your subs that there are two organisations with separate bank accounts. We suggest that residents join both organisations at the same time, and a combined form is attached to the Newsletter for your convenience.

Please contact the relevant service providers to solve issues pertaining to your own property but for general matters concerning the whole community, or if you have problems resolving issues with service providers, members of both committees are happy to assist. Please try to contact the appropriate person on the committee (see listing on website) and also ensure your subscription is up to date before requesting assistance. See below for some useful contacts

UGU: info@ugu.gov.za – 039 688 5830 – HOTLINE 076 903 8772

HCM ROADS: 086 166 1106

ESCOM: 086 003 7566

SOUTHBROOM WATER PROJECT *by Richard Derman*

The festive season and our up country residents and visitors have come and gone and - "Hurray" - we had minimal water problems in Southbroom over this busy period. We had the odd leak which could be isolated and fixed with minimum inconvenience to residents and holiday makers.

The previous year Southbroom experienced major disruptions to our water supply with large portions of Southbroom being without water whilst repairs were taking place. This led to Southbroom Ratepayers Association and Southbroom Conservancy forming the Southbroom Water Committee to address the problem with UGU. This has been a resounding success and the whole reticulation system has been remapped and checks and early warning systems have been introduced. Importantly we are able to isolate leaks to specific areas and therefore not compromise large portions of Southbroom as previously experienced.

UGU and our Water Committee have developed a good working relationship and work ethic. They meet monthly to discuss issues which affect the water supply and service delivery to our homes in Southbroom. This year the focus will continue to be on the bulk water supply and maintenance and upkeep of the reticulation system, including replacement of old pipes where possible.

So a job well done; many thanks to the Water Committee and UGU.

OVERCHARGING ON WATER AND ELECTICITY ACCOUNTS

UGU and Eskom read meters on a quarterly basis and bill “estimated consumption” leading up to the quarter end.

If you feel that you are being overcharged or would prefer to pay actual consumption monthly, you can read your own meters and provide UGU and Eskom with these readings before the 22nd of each month.

For UGU, you can call 0800 092 837 or e-mail enquiries@ugu.gov.za

For Eskom, you can call 08600 37566, e-mail eastern@eskom.co.za or sms 082 941 3707

If you receive an account with excessive readings, take your evidence to the service provider to request a refund or credit on your account. It is not recommended that you withhold payment as this could lead to discontinuation of service and a reconnection fee.

COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM *by Kingsley du Plessis*

The crime is still relatively under control and being managed by the CPF in conjunction with the SAP. The crime stats for December 2013 were down from previous years and we would like to see a continued decline in crime but this can only happen with the assistance of the local community.

Please keep your eyes and ears open for anything untoward and report incidents or suspicious persons/motor vehicles to the Police Charge Office in Southbroom.

We request that as soon as you have noticed any criminal activity taking place you immediately phone the charge office and do not wait for the following morning to report it.

Please note that the officers you see in SAP uniforms are police officers even though they are reservists and they fall under the control of the Station Commander at Margate.

The Charge Office’s telephone number is 039-3166760.

Finally the Southbroom CPF meetings are on the first Monday of each and every month at the Southbroom Community Centre @ 16h00.

DISTRIBUTION OF BIN LINERS

Ratepayers are reminded to collect their ANNUAL free issue bin liners.

The Municipal Depot is situated next to the Bowling Club on Imbezane Road, Southbroom. You should receive 3 x 20 black bags and a starter pack of clear bags for recycling.

STREET NUMBERS

Please display your STREET number on your property.

A few of the free issue signs – white oval with green lettering – are still available from El Koen at the Sector Policing Office.

If you do not know your street number, please e-mail southbroom@icon.co.za and Joy will forward the information.

If we do not have your number in stock, we can arrange for one to be printed on your behalf from Signland, Margate.

UGU SOUTH COAST TOURISM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR THE MPENJATI/SOUTHBROOM AREA

The AGM for the Mpenjati/Southbroom Area committee and members will be held on Thursday 6th February at 17H30 at Coffee on the Square.

All tourism vendors, business owners, sporting groups and anyone interested in becoming involved in Tourism are welcome to attend. UGU South Coast tourism offer members many benefits in the form of generic marketing both locally and internationally therefore if you have any type of tourism related business this is your opportunity to learn more about the benefits offered, interact with other business owners and register as a member.

RSVP: Nandipha: 039 316 6139 - Email: southbroom@tourismsouthcoast.co.za

PUBLIC GARDENS

Many of you may not be aware that the public gardens in Southbroom are actually maintained by two very dedicated volunteers with assistance from a couple of gardeners funded by the Ratepayers Association and Conservancy. Pam Quarmby has been tending the gardens around Riptide, The Admiralty, the Library and the Golf club for many years and Libby Cochrane takes care of both the entrance areas, the “island” by the Bowling Club and the Headland (between main beach and Admiralty). As well as these gardens they also keep an eye on overgrown verges and report back to Conservancy where alien vegetation is taking over and verges have been neglected. These two ladies are both passionate about Southbroom, conservation and gardening, without their dedication many areas would soon become tatty, overgrown and neglected.

Whilst both of these ladies are still full of so much energy and enthusiasm they would make some folk 20 years their junior feel exhausted, they can only do so much. Pam (a vigorous 80 something) desperately needs a couple of enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers to take over one or two of the areas she currently oversees. If you are a keen gardener and take pride in our village we need your help.

Please contact Pam on 039 316 6192 or Libby on 039 316 6337

REMEMBERING YESTERYEAR – WALK THE BOOK

Southbroom people are very privileged to live in this beautiful unique village with magnificent beaches, some of the finest homes in the country, a fantastic golf course and an abundance of wild life and natural pristine conservation areas.

Most of us appreciate how special Southbroom is but how many of us know where it all started and the people who over the years made enormous contributions in creating and preserving what we have today.

“Remembering Yesteryear” is a fascinating book which fills in these gaps. The book is written by Libby Cochrane, who was born in Australia, spent her younger years travelling the world until she settled in Southbroom in 1982. Libby then joined the South Coast Herald as a journalist, where she stayed until she retired last year. It was during her time on the paper that she discovered how little locals knew about the South Coast and its history, this spiked her curiosity and she became the papers unofficial “historian”. The book is written in a light hearted newspaper style with many old and new photographs and articles. You can get a copy from the Pro Shop or the Library, it is well worth a read.

For anyone who would like to know more and discover some of the places mentioned in the book, Libby is planning a series of walks entitled “Walk the Book”. The first will take place on Friday 7th February and will start at 9am at Coffee on the Square. It will be a slow amble to point out all the places of interest and will probably take about an hour and a half. If you are keen to join the tour there is no charge (please buy the book). Meet up at Coffee on the square at 9am and as they say in Australia “*slip* on a shirt, *slap* on a hat and *slop* on the sunscreen” and don’t forget to bring a bottle of water and a bit of cash for an after walk coffee.

MONKEY BUSINESS

Monkeys as we all know are part of our life on the South Coast. They can be delightful to watch and can often alert us to other wildlife we might not otherwise notice. Recently after a period of eerie quiet with no bird activity, suddenly David Halle’s garden erupted in a cacophony of sounds and an African Goshawk came careering through in hot pursuit of a

weaver and birds erupted everywhere A few days later in the same garden a troupe of monkeys started making a seriously noisy fuss, a Crowned Eagle was then seen patiently waiting for his moment to swoop. On another occasion at night Davie Halle heard a huge commotion coming from a group of monkeys, who as we know are diurnal and sleep in groups at night. An early walker passing David's house the next morning saw a Spotted Eagle Owl fall from a tree before flying up to sit on a nearby wall. No doubt it was the owl looking for supper that caused all the commotion.

Monkeys can also be a nuisance; serious opportunists who will nip inside you house and pinch anything they fancy lying around. They can also become quite aggressive if cornered, an incident was reported recently of a visitor to the area being attacked. However, if we follow a few simple guidelines it is possible for us all to live peacefully together. To help us get a better understanding of how to achieve this I obtained some information from Primate Africa which I have attached to the Newsletter. It's worth reading if you want to prevent attacks on yourself and your pets. Don't forget to keep any tempting food out of sight.



CONSERVANCY CORNER - Sharlene's Frog-Blog

A recent outing to the Umtamvuna Nature Reserve afforded us the opportunity of looking for the Endangered Pickersgill's Reed frogs but sadly the habitat was not correct so we were not able to proclaim this area for "Pickersgill's". We did however, much to the delight of all, come across juvenile Water-lily Reed frogs, gravid females (those with eggs) and of course our Greater Leaf-folding frog.

There were many other species of frogs around that we could hear and happily enough we heard many calls of the Natal Leaf-folding frog which is now classed as Vulnerable. So this is still a reasonably pristine site. In this blog I will include pictures of the Water-lily Reed frog and the Greater Leaf-folding frog, both are easily seen and easy to identify in our gardens. Those with largish ponds and well established water features should undoubtedly be able to hear and see them very late afternoon/evening.



Aren't they beautiful? Our female left is gravid (full of eggs) and right, this one of very many youngsters hopping about in the wet humid very dense foliage nearby; dense because very few predators have access. The call is an unmistakable high pitched loud click. The female, aptly named Water lily Reed frog, frequents ponds with indigenous reeds and water-lilies, under which she lays her eggs in a gelatinous mass that adheres to the underside of the lily-pad. Please note the horizontal pupil.



Above we have the Greater Leaf-folding frog, clearly the first two are adults and we were lucky enough to find a juvenile. Their call consists of a soft buzz followed by a series of loud, rapidly repeated “kaks”. Once the male has found his lady, glued together, they make their way up a broad leaf near the edge of the water with the male all the while fertilising her eggs as she lays them and at the same time he “sews” up the leaf blade behind with a sticky glue that lasts only long enough until the rain. Isn’t this just such a beautiful illustration of how perfect nature is? The glue lasts only long enough to house and protect the morphing tadpoles and almost simultaneously the tadpoles plop into the nearby water, also timeously predicted by the parents with the rain to ensure water to plop into, then the leaf pops open and good-to-go again! This frogs occur in a wide variety of densely vegetated habitats in coastal swamps, streams and dams; also in bushveld and grassland, 300m from sea level. Please note the vertical pupil.



If you would like to know more about frogs pop along to Eyles Park on 28th Feb, see poster below.

BATS

Also forming a very critical and integral part of our ecosystem here in Southbroom are bats. Some are fruit/berry eaters and the rest are insectivorous. This particular bat is insectivorous and it is from the family NYCTERIDAE (Slit-Faced bats). Their favourite diet consists of spiders, scorpions, moths, frogs, fish, even small birds and bats! They roost in tree hollows, caves, road culverts, buildings, dense foliage, aardvark burrows. Number of species in the world is 13 of which 5 occur in Southern Africa. Just think, if we didn’t have some added help to control numbers of insects etc. our whole system would become unbalanced so spare a thought again for pesticides and plant sprays used in the home and keeping our ponds and waterways with clean water.



If you would like to find out more about bats website of "The Bat Interest Group of KwaZulu Natal" is very interesting and informative. www.batskzn.co.za
Batline 082-445-0585 Wendy White

By: Sharlene vd Slikke

CHAMELEONS



The Flap Neck Chameleon is the most likely species to encounter in KZN.

“Remember when chameleons used to be regular visitors to our gardens? Nowadays we seldom see them and many of today’s children have never had the privilege of watching a wild chameleon change colour or catch a fly. Sad isn’t it? So often we realise the value of something once it is gone.

Having chameleons in the garden is very beneficial. They eat all the goggas and pests that gardeners don’t like. These

animals are found all over Africa and Madagascar with very few occurring in Europe or the Arabian Peninsula.

There are no true chameleons in America except, interestingly, a species of chameleon that was imported into Hawaii and has now established a flourishing population there. In South Africa we are fortunate to have 19 recognised species with several un-described species. The Flap Neck Chameleon (*Chamaeleo dilepsis*), being the most widely populated in South Africa, is not only found in Gauteng but also KZN extending in range up to Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Botswana. They are recognised by the distinctive flap of skin on the neck. The colour may be green, or brown, or any shade in between. They are egg layers and large females can lay up 60 eggs. A hole is dug into which these eggs are laid with an incubation period of about nine months (just short of a human baby gestation period).

In South Africa we have also at least 15 species of dwarf chameleons (Natal Midlands, Eastern Cape). These are small, often very colourful chameleons that give birth to live young. Each species lives in its own part of South Africa and no two species are found living in the same

area. It is for that reason that no chameleons should ever be removed from the wild. Should they be rescued for rehabilitation purposes, they MUST be returned to exactly the same spot in the wild; it is imperative to do this so the genes are not mixed up.

South Africans will begin to realise that our chameleons are a national asset, every bit unique and important as the Big Five. Although legislation is in place to protect some species of chameleons, the public need to become aware that chameleons should not be bought or sold and they should never be removed from the habitats where they belong.”

(www.sachameleons.blogspot.com)

“Although not considered endangered, chameleons are a highly threatened group, particularly the Flap Neck which inhabits populated and agricultural areas. They have many natural predators which include arboreal snakes, larger shrikes and certain raptors. Like most birds and reptiles, there is only about a 2% probability of survival to adult breeding age. The chances of successful breeding are even less. The greatest threat to their survival comes from human activities. Destruction of habitat for development and chemical control of insect (their food) species severely restricts their range. Tradition, cultural taboo results in unjustified persecution. Veld fires are probably the greatest killer from which they have no escape. Their natural instinct is to climb up from danger which in turn takes them into the hottest part of the flames. There is very likely 100% destruction of chameleons in a hot burn. Being slow movers and crossing roads also leaves their number dwindling.” (www.krugerpark.co.za)

By: S vd Slikke

These two delightful chaps were photographed recently in a Southbroom garden, heartening to know they are still around.



TENNIS NEWS

The Tennis club recently held their AGM and a new Committee was elected. See full list and contact details on our website. (www.southbroom.org)

The Club, situated in Eyles Park offers three courts as well as a recently refurbished clubhouse including braai area.

Social Club tennis on Wednesday, Saturdays and Sundays at 2pm is well supported; Round Robins take place four times a year and Club Championship is played once a year.

The new committee have started to organise inter-club competitions followed by a braai in order to meet other club members both on court and off court for some fun socialising.

Membership is steadily growing and we invite all tennis players young and old, whatever your standard, to come and join in with us or play in your own time. Courts can be hired at R30 an hour, please put your money in the honesty box at the Clubhouse door.

FROGS AND FIREFLIES



Date: 28th Feb

Time: 6pm

THE 28TH OF FEBRUARY IS THE NATIONAL LEAP DAY FOR FROGS

Join the Southbroom Conservancy for
an informative and fun evening of
FROGS and FIREFLIES in Eyles Park.

Bring your own chairs, drinks and
snacks and share an evening of music
and enlightenment as we learn more
about our little friends and their
important role in our environment.



For more information contact
Sharlene vd Slikke 082-3752993/039-3166930
churashamba@telkomsa.net


Endangered Wildlife Trust
www.ewt.org.za