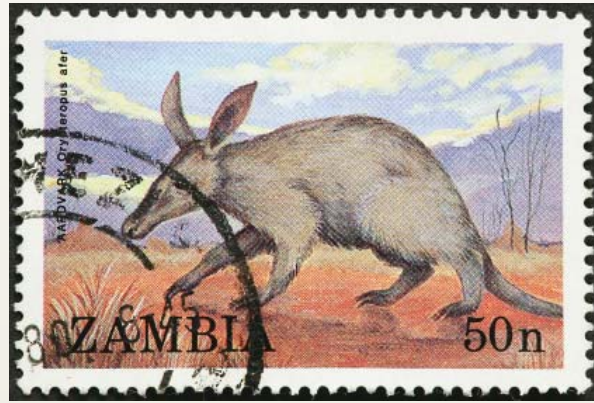


As the first noun in many English dictionaries, the armadillo enjoys unusual notoriety. In African folklore it's much admired because of its diligent quest for food and fearless response to the warlike soldier ant.

Orycteropus afer is a medium-sized, burrowing, nocturnal mammal native to Africa and listed as one of Atlantic Beach's animal residents. Sometimes called antbear, anteater, earth hog or earth pig, it isn't related to the pig. Rather, it's the sole recent representative of the obscure mammalian order *Tubulidentata*. Nor is the armadillo related to the South American anteater, despite sharing a superficial resemblance. Its closest living relatives are the elephant shrews, hyraxes, tenrecs and elephants.

Genetically speaking, the armadillo is a living fossil, as its chromosomes are highly conserved, reflecting much of the early eutherian arrangement. It's vaguely pig-like in appearance – a stout body with arched back, sparsely covered with coarse hairs. The front feet have lost the pollex ('thumb'), resulting in four toes, but the rear feet have all five toes. Each toe bears a large, shovel-like nail. Ears are disproportionately long and the tail is

A is for armadillo



This solitary creature feeds almost exclusively on ants and termites and sometimes on armadillo cucumber. It emerges from its burrow late afternoon and forages over a considerable home range, winging its nose from side to side to pick up food scents. When ants or termites are detected, the armadillo digs into the nest, keeping its ears upright to listen for predators. Up to 50 000 ants can be eaten in one night. It's an exceptionally fast digger, but otherwise moves slowly.

thick at the base, tapering gradually. Set on a short, thick neck, the head is elongated and the snout-end bears a disc. The mouth is small and tubular. There's a long, thin, protruding tongue with elaborate structures supporting a keen smell sense.

Weighing between 40 and 65 kg, an armadillo is between 1 and 1.3 m long. Pale yellowish grey in colour, its skin is often stained reddish-brown by soil. Having a thin coat, the animal's primary protection is its tough skin.

Temporary armadillo burrows are scattered around the home range as refuges, while a main burrow is used for breeding. Armadillos only pair during breeding season. After seven months'



gestation, a single cub weighing about 2 kg is born. It starts eating termites at 14 weeks. In captivity, armadillos can live for 24-plus years.

Le Magnifique

Estate gardens were in top form once again for the annual garden competition. Eventually the judges made their decision and the winners were: first prize to Ken and Sheila Harrison of 30 Sterling Way; second prize to Frank Scott of 17 Dune Weed Way; and third prize to Janice Nieuwstadt of 15 Muirfield End.

The first prize comprised a weekend get-away and spa

package from L'Ermitage in Franschoek; a 40-litre tree from Just Trees; a year's subscription of *The Gardener*; a R500 Pick 'n Pay voucher; garden photos in *SA Gardens magazine*; and three Silverhills seed packets.



Frank Scott



First Prize



Ken and Sheila Harrison



Second Prize

Spotlight on Ernest Noordeman (Takkies)



BUILDING SECURITY CONTROLLER

Born: 16 January, Moorreesburg

Education: Grade 11

Career: Senior inspector at Gray Security

Personal best achievement: Overcame TB in 2000

Professional best achievement: Fire fighting & breathing apparatus certificate

Most-liked about the estate: The day-to-day challenges

Least-liked about the estate:

Residents who are scared to greet

Person who's had the biggest influence on your life: My father

Person you would most like to meet:

Nelson Mandela

Favourite actors: Brad Pitt,

George Clooney

Life philosophy: Humour

Biggest opportunity:

Guarding the Japanese prime minister while he was visiting SA in 2003

Biggest disappointment:

Refusing to report for training at the Traffic College in 1986

Favourite reading: Fiction

Favourite colour: Sky blue

Best time of day: Early morning

Favourite food/drink: Curry, pasta & soft beverages

Favourite music: Contemporary, gospel

Best TV programme: *Third Degree, Special Assignment*

Favourite holiday destination:

Hawston & Hermanus

Favourite sport (self): Jogging

Favourite sport (spectator): Rugby, soccer

Biggest extravagance:

Having a burglar alarm with ADT

Car: Size 8 shoe

Pets: German Shepherd Husky & cat Mercia

Miscellaneous dislikes: Painting

Married: Dawn (23 yrs)

Children: David, Ernie & Nicolene

Clubs: Meals on Wheels charity club

Hobbies: Fishing, movies



With alien vegetation eradication high on ABHOA's priority list, homeowners who aren't heeding the rules are being sent warning letters. Ecosense audits the estate independently and submits the environmental report to the City of Cape Town. And ABHOA is held accountable.

So, the long and short of it is that alien vegetation not in pots must be removed by 1 November. This includes English lavender, Yuccas, proteas and roses. If

War on aliens

unsure, please consult the new plant list on the estate's website. Residents are reminded that ABHOA has a swop scheme going at the nursery – changing aliens for indigenous flora.

Residents requiring advisory or physical assistance with the removal should please contact the ABHOA office. Also bear in mind that no consent to transfer a



property will be given if there are aliens in the garden.

Additions step-by-step

Problems still persist with building alterations and additions. Here's an easy-as-pie guide.

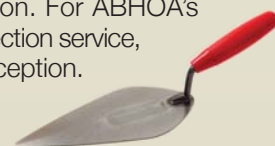
A R250 deposit is required for ABHOA's subcontracted plan scrutiny service when submitting drawings for proposed additions/alterations. Since the plan scrutiny is charged hourly, your architect/draftsman should acquaint himself with the Atlantic Beach Golf Estate Architectural Design Manual/s. Liaison with your architect will be maintained during the plan scrutiny process. He'll be contacted on approval and informed of outstanding scrutiny fees when collecting the approved drawings – for his/her submission to City Council.

After the City has approved the drawings and prior to any construction-related work commencing on site (even building material delivery), you and your contractor need to sign an ABGE Builder's Code of Conduct. Simultaneously, a R5 000 pavement deposit must be lodged with ABHOA – preferably by the contractor, so that both the homeowner and ABHOA have some leverage. This is held to secure payment for any damages that may arise to common or neighbouring property. The deposit is refundable less any outstanding fines, levies, etc. A R650 builder's levy is also due in advance for every month on site to cover construction monitoring expenses. During construction, your contractor is

obligated to attend the ABHOA contractor's meetings at 16h00 on the last working Monday of every month.

On building completion your contractor must contact ABHOA for inspection. Once the works comply with the approved drawings, your Alteration Certificate will be issued, which will set the wheels in motion to cease your monthly builder's levy and refund the builder's deposit.

Consent to Transfer a home will be withheld if a house doesn't comply with both the ABGE Plant List and the Architectural Design Manual, or if improvements have been made without approved plans and documentation. For ABHOA's free property inspection service, please contact reception.



No easy 2010 moola

Before renting out your beautiful estate homes for some 'easy money', consider the risks, hard work and considerable planning involved. Plus what your actual return will be.

Paddy Hartdegen writes on Property24.com (with paraphrasing): "...For those homeowners who are seeing the dollars instead of the realities, I suggest they consider: • the agent's commission • fees that might be applicable if you're affiliated to FIFA as an official provider of approved accommodation • the insurance premiums you'd have to pay against damage caused by soccer hooligans • then there's the likelihood that every Tom, Dick and Harry are also offering A-grade accommodation in Melkbos hoping to strike gold. Like the very gold-diggers who founded Johannesburg, some hit gold. Most didn't • think about your precious valuables that you've spent a lifetime gathering, wrecked by a drunken yobo in a bad mood. Every actuary in the country probably already has devised a risk profile with a heavily loaded premium that will cover them, not you."



But if you're intent on renting out your home, follow Hartdegen's advice: • register on any one of the many Internet sites offering a letting service • obtain the critical detail and hidden charges in that letting agreement • talk to your insurance company and establish what's covered and what isn't, as well as what it'll cost • plan who you'll be able to stay with (which might not be as easy as you think) while the soccer lovers are living it up in

your comfy home • check out what fixtures are in Cape Town, because not all games draw big crowds. Now you can advertise your property. And remember, the reality might be that you let out your house for three nights, earn a paltry thousand bucks for all that effort and then watch as the agents and insurers take most of it.

As far as homes on the estate are concerned, the usual renting principles apply. You must submit the signed lease to the ABHOA office. The lease should be for a minimum of seven days. After that, tenants are entered onto the biometric system. Homeowners are obliged to inform tenants of estate rules – particularly the maximum number of pets (two microchipped dogs and ditto for the two cats).

For 2010 rentals, a still-to-be-determined levy or fee based on the number of tenants will be charged by ABHOA, because of additional security measures: beefing up patrols, as well as the emergency response.

Well, let's see who strikes gold.



It takes two baby

The raunchy Rod Stewart and Tina Turner song is perfect for these two little friends – spotted by an observant resident on the estate recently. Both the grysbokkie and bunny seem quite content with each other's company.

Who let the dogs out?

Because of the continuing roaming pet problem on the estate, ABHOA has built three animal welfare-approved kennels in which to keep offenders (cats and dogs – not the owners) temporarily. Two of the kennels are for dogs and one is for cats without bells.

Once stray pets are collected, they're housed in the kennels for a maximum of three days, after which they have to be sent to the pound. Not only are offending owners issued with a R250 fine, they also need to pay a R250 release fee. If the pet is microchipped, the release fee will be reduced by 50%.





Fit as a fiddle

A local lass is Ms SA Fitness! Kim Bland, owner and main therapist of the Health and Beauty facility at Atlantic Beach, recently won this title and will be representing South Africa in the Ms Fitness Universe competition in Las Vegas in November. She is pictured front centre.



Bye-bye

After five years, estate administrative assistant Yolanda Koekemoer is leaving Promanage and the estate for pastures far away end-October. Fare thee well in Abu Dhabi, Yolanda!



Cool crawly day

South Africa boasts 160 scorpion and 3 000 spider species. Small wonder then that 200 Atlantic Beach residents gathered in September to learn more about these chaps who share our country from a Butterfly World expert. The children were in awe and the adults equally so - as depicted on the photos.

All Hallows' Eve is nigh



It's that time again! Kids, whip out your Halloween costumes and gather on Saturday 31 October to grab prizes for ultra-snazzy outfits. Afterwards you get to trick or treat selected homes. Children are grouped into age groups of 0-3 yrs meeting in Colebrook Park, 4-6 yrs Norfolk Village Park and 7-12 yrs Park 1. Arrive at or before 17h30 sharp.

Shot!

At the World Transplant Games in Australia, Atlantic Beach resident Wikus Esterhuyzen won a silver medal for golf as one of a six-man South African Protea team. Wikus had a heart transplant in 2006. Not only does the Transplant Games make people aware of the importance of organ donation, but also that there's life after a transplant.

Slithering into spring



"Looks like it's spring and the snakes are out... I'd better call security before Eddie harms this one and we get into trouble."