

Estate doll up

Landscaping the estate for the enjoyment of residents is an on-going affair. Currently our landscapers are restoring Atlantic Beach Drive by removing all dead, dying or diseased plant species and creating habitat for spring and summer blooms. All along the drive, Waterberry trees (*Syzigium cordatum*) are being planted while the Manatokas (*Myoporum tenuifolium subsp montanum*) are being removed gradually.

The removal is necessary not only because these trees are listed category 3 RSA invasive plants, but also because they're extremely diseased. As a result they've been transferring disease to surrounding trees and plants.

Landscape manager Ben Stone-Francisco said the transition from Manatokas to Waterberry trees or ABHOA-sanctioned plant species would take place slowly throughout the estate. "Being part of the BCA, we're mandated to comply with indigenous West Coast plant species. After planting sanctioned

trees, we'll let them grow until their size and foliage equals that of the Manatokas. Only then will the category 3 invasive trees be removed."

Category 3 plants are allowed to exist, but no further planting is permitted.

Beach Gate entrance, as well as doing winter pruning of all trees, shrubs and reeds. Also, the essential composting and mulching are being done to specified estate areas. Convincing residents to remove lavender throughout the estate is a continuing activity.



1. The diseased leaves of a Manatoka



2. Farewell to a beloved tree

To curtail their spread these plants must be controlled by the land owner. However, the executive office may recommend removal of category 3 plants.

Meanwhile the team is restoring the

Stone-Francisco concluded, "As to complaints by some members that we plant too densely: we plant for immediate impact and to stabilise the sand. As an area becomes fuller, the plants are relocated."



Photo: Le Fras Mouton

Common in gardens, the Cape skink is probably the best-known lizard in South Africa and has an extensive range throughout Southern Africa. It tames easily, and will eventually eat from one's hand. But such tame individuals may become very fat. Unfortunately, domestic cats have a considerable impact on the numbers of this lizard in urban areas.

Like most skinks, *Trachylepis capensis*

is ground-living and shelters in tunnels that it digs at the base of bushes or boulders. It also favours any kind of debris to hide underneath and is, for example, particularly common at municipal dumps. It's a live-bearing species and gives birth to 5-18

babies in late summer. There are reports of females in certain areas also laying clutches of eggs, but this still needs to be confirmed. In the wild, it's fairly secretive and will more often be heard rather than seen. The Cape skink is an active forager and hunts large insects.

This lizard is large and often obese with an adult snout-vent length ranging from 80 to 135 mm. Typical of terrestrial forms, the body is slightly elongated and tubular

Fat chaps

and the limbs relatively short. There's no well-defined neck. Colour is light brown to olive greyish brown, with three pale longitudinal stripes. Between the stripes and extending onto the flanks are a series of dark brown to black spots or short bars. The belly is uniformly yellowish-white to grey. Occasional specimens are uniform grey-brown above, sometimes with vague stripes.

Source: <http://academic.sun.ac.za>



Leisure Centre revisited

Just to recap on the revamped Leisure Centre which has been up and running for a while. The upgrade cost R500 000 and this money was taken out of the 2010 budget surplus of R1 538 261. From November 2009 – June 2010 the budget was R279 436, which equates to R34 929 a month. A proposed budget of R612 820 has been set for the 2010/11 financial year – in other words, R58-67 per member a month, or 4% per member's levy.

Winter operating hours at the centre are from 7h00-19h00 every day except Fridays, when closing time will be 20h00. Residents love the new gym and those who haven't been are welcome to try out the equipment. No bookings are required. Meanwhile, the tennis club is enjoying

much popularity for social ladies, gents and junior tennis.

The business centre also is quite a hive of activity. Kindly note that facilities are for home use only – in other words you can't run your business from here. Printing and photocopying are restricted to 10 pages each per person.

A reminder that the centre is available for private functions and conferencing, plus braai facilities are available. Teenage socials are offered on Friday evenings with MTV, popcorn, big-screen music videos and the latest PC games.

For all enquiries relating to above, please contact Claire Jones at the ABHOA offices.



Curbing speed



A private company has mounted trial speed cameras on Atlantic Beach Drive at no cost to homeowners. These cameras calculate a vehicle's average speed and fines will be issued to speeding drivers at Main Gate based on the vehicle's registration number.

Existing speed cameras remain in use throughout the estate and residents are reminded that home owners are liable for speeding visitors, delivery people and others visiting their homes. Needless to say, normal road regulations apply on the estate.

Please note that if issued with a fine, there is the option of an appeal process. A notice of appeal stating the grounds of appeal must be lodged with the ABHOA board within 14 days from the date on which the finding, ruling or fine has come to the appellant's attention. The board will hear the appeal and the officer and offender will be given the opportunity to present arguments with or without legal assistance. Thereafter, the board will have the power to confirm or set aside the finding or fine imposed by the officer or disciplinary committee, or make a fresh finding and impose a new fine.

Transfer issues

To transfer a property, it not only has to comply with the approved plans, but also the estate's architectural and landscaping manuals. Also, all debt to ABHOA needs to have a nil balance before consent to transfer will be given.

An appeal process may be lodged. Refer to the article *Curbing speed* on this page. The appeal is not done by management, but by the member-elected board. In the instance of compliance, the Building and Environmental Portfolio will hear the appeal, while the Finance Portfolio will give judgment on any appeal about unpaid levies.



Know your rights

If traumatised when reporting a crime at the Melkbosstrand police station, you're entitled to immediate trauma counselling. CIC is a 24-hour trauma counselling unit at Milnerton Medi-Clinic. As soon as they receive a call from the SAPD, they'll come to the police station, where counselling will be given in a special trauma room.

If the officer taking your statement doesn't offer this service and you feel you need it – ask! It's the police officer's duty to call CIC and they'll undertake to be there as soon as possible to counsel you and/or your family.

Children aren't excluded. Melkbosstrand has its own child-friendly trauma room

for under 14s outside the SAPD offices. When reporting a violent crime that has taken place against a young child, the police officer must offer that child trauma counselling and contact the trauma room/safety home in Melkbosstrand. If the police officer doesn't do so, the child has the right to request the service. Parents should inform their children about this.

Community development social worker Luna Pieterse said, "Crime can have a huge effect on psychological well-being. So, don't deny yourself

help. Know your rights and what services are available to you."

For more information on CIC phone 021 5532745 or visit http://www.blaauwberg.net/cic/articles/about_cic/what_is_cic.asp



Winter gardening tips



With little growth and few blooming flowers, winter is a trying time in the garden. But it's a good time to plan for a blooming beautiful spring and summer. Follow these guidelines from Ben Stone-Francisco.

- Limit lawn mowing to every two weeks or leave it altogether because grass is dormant in winter. Instead, do seasonal maintenance on your gardening tools.
- Let nature take its course and switch off irrigation systems.

● Prune all the past season's flowering shrubs such as salvias, plectranthus, leonotis, tecoma, plumbago, etc to a third of their size. Remember to make the cuts above the growing node.

● Transplant all plants, shrubs and trees. Divide mass plants such as agapanthus, dietes and thulbaghia to create additional individuals and make space for new growth.

● Last chance to plant spring-flowering bulbs.

● Mulch and compost

your garden with weed-free, organic compost or fallen leaves.

Please remember that the OEMP is available on the website.



Nabbed

Atlantic Beach's alert emergency response team again assisted in apprehending suspected abalone poachers. The police caught about 40 poachers at Holbaai with diving gear and 14 plastic bags of the precious delicacy. Some poachers were hiding in fynbos on the estate side. After the police left the area, the Beach Gate guard noticed a suspicious-looking person emerging from the fynbos close to the fence. The ERT was summoned and apprehended the culprit, who was still dripping with sea water. Again the police



were called and they then arrested the suspect. Total value of the abalone amounts to R150 000.

Levy increase

On 1 July 2010 the monthly levy will be up by 10% from R1 280 to R1 410. Back by popular demand is the advance payment discount: pay annual subs in advance by 31 August 2010 and get one month's free subscription or an 8% discount. The budget is available for review on the website, www.atlanticbeachgolfestate.co.za or on request from the estate office via email or hard copy.

Nursery low-down

There's much ado at the nursery this winter according to Ben Stone-Francisco. Among the activities are: composting and organic fertilisation of all plants; seed collection; winter cuttings for spring sales; and cyclical up-planting of all nursery species. And importantly, nursery staff members are doing strategic planning to increase plant diversity in the nursery for future seasons.

Stone-Francisco said that one of the more challenging projects on the go was experimentation with homemade eco-friendly plant repellents for the Springbok residents. "These guys regard all plants as a free-for-all," he said.



Vermiculture is going great guns. The happy worms have doubled their numbers since last winter, creating usable amounts of compost and liquid fertiliser for use on all nursery plants. "Therefore, we really appreciate the fruit and veg scrap donations from residents," he said.

Winter hours are Monday to Friday 8h00 – 16h00 and on the first and third Saturday of every month 9h00 – 12h30.



Correction

In the previous issue, the article *Spare yourself embarrassment* stated that for levy defaulters refuse collection would be suspended. In fact, garden refuse removal is suspended and not wet waste (household refuse).

Staying secure

With security always top of mind, the CCTV camera remains a priority to the ABHOA board. This isn't being funded from the estate's operational budget, but via a special security levy because the price tag is about R5 million.



The security committee has found alternative cameras and software used by the military and imported from Israel. But these cameras are first being tested at another estate. When satisfied that the system is functional, the proposal will be brought to members. ABHOA trustees are committed to security and spend an enormous amount of private time and expense in ensuring the best solution for the estate.

An additional unbudgeted R43 092 per month has been channelled to security for extra foot and canine patrols following the December/January intrusions.

Although work to the perimeter fence upgrade commenced in March this year, activity has been suspended because of a notice served by the City of Cape Town requiring approved plans as per a new policy. The Waratah section is complete and on approval from the City, work will recommence. Completion is expected by October 2010.

No Entry !



"I tried to stop him as his car wasn't roadworthy, but he came anyway because his brakes failed!"

(Unlicensed and/or unroadworthy vehicles aren't allowed on the estate.)