

Endemic to South Africa in Mediterranean-type shrubby vegetation, arable land and freshwater marshes, the Sand Toad (*Bufo angusticeps*) is threatened by habitat loss. Adult

are fringed with webbing, but two segments of the third toe are web-free. Light grey to light brown on the upper body, the skin is covered in variable dark patches. Generally the feet's upper



females may attain a body length of 58 mm but males are smaller.

This medium-sized toad has the typical square, thick-set body which characterises this genus. The skin is rough and dry with wart-like glandular elevations on the upper side and includes a pair of distinctive parotoid glands on the neck behind the eyes. As usual, the legs are longer than the body length. Toe edges

surfaces are yellow. The underside is white with a granular texture except for the smooth throat.

A nasal bray or croak uttered singly with moderate to long intervals between calls is the advertisement call. The Cape Sand Toad has a relatively soft call and calling males can be difficult to locate as the calls are widely spaced and the frogs become silent when approached.

## Fynbos princes

This Fynbos Biome endemic frog mainly occurs in the winter rainfall region of the Western Cape, but its habitat also extends eastwards into a winter/summer rainfall transition zone. It breeds in shallow temporary pools in seasonally flooded land and this also may include modified habitat such as cultivated lands. Breeding takes place once sufficient rain has fallen for temporary pools to form - generally in winter from May to September.

During rainy periods in suitable habitat many of these toads may be seen at night moving across roads to breeding sites. At the breeding sites, calling males tend to be sparsely distributed and their calls are soft and intermittent. They are known to call from exposed positions at the water's edge after dark. The eggs, 1-2 mm in diameter, are laid in long gelatinous strings of 5-7 mm in width. Clutch sizes may vary from 650-3 000 eggs and a female may lay a few egg clutches in the same pool over three or four consecutive nights. The eggs develop into free-swimming, small and dark benthic tadpoles which take about a month to metamorphose into tiny toadlets.

Sources: Scarce Home, Wikipedia

## Biometric ins and outs

New members need to complete registration forms with relevant address and contact details, as well as vehicle registration numbers. A copy of a member's ID, passport or driver's licence needs to be provided. When enrolling a tenant a copy of the lease agreement has to be presented in addition to a completed registration form with relevant documentation described above. The tenant will be enrolled for the period as per the lease agreement. Residents may enrol regular visitors and a maximum of two domestics/gardeners by completing the necessary registration form.

Members, tenants, domestics and regular visitors are enrolled in different groups, each allowing for different access levels, such as specified access points, times, etc. Security manager Jerome Davids explained that inactivity reports were drawn regularly to keep access totals to a minimum and ensure that domestics whose services had been terminated were removed from the system. Inactivity reports for regular visitors are drawn monthly to deactivate inactive regular



visitors from the system. Dependent on quota, inactive regular visitors will be deleted from the system after three months.

Davids continued, "During the enrolment process, we capture various fingerprints from a person to ensure a good quality print for the system. In cases such as worn prints or medical conditions, remotes are issued to residents." He stressed that the remotes were only for residents.

# A moving nightmare

Despite the excitement, moving is sheer hell, whichever way you look at it. But to ease the process, the golden rule is: be patient. Even if things go incredibly smoothly, it will still take at least three months from starting to look for a new house to moving in. And usually the process takes more than four months.

**“ In the real world, it's best to allow more and assume there will be extra, incidental expenses ”**

Be aware of the sheer expense involved. Never mind finding the extra money for a new, bigger home. There will be stamp duty, transfer costs, lawyer's fees, the estate agent's cut of your house sale and removal firm costs. In the real world, it's best to allow more and assume there will

be extra, incidental expenses - because you can bet your bottom dollar that will be the case.

Obtain at least three quotes from different local removal firms as prices vary widely. When obtaining these quotes, watch out for firms quoting a certain price and not mentioning that VAT will be added to the bill. Don't worry about buying storage boxes, every single moving firm will supply these in advance of the move, although they may ask for a deposit, which is fair enough.

If possible, avoid scheduling your move on a weekend (including Fridays sometimes) or at the end or beginning of a month. Most moving firms will charge extra for these days.

When moving into or out of the estate, please note that articulated trucks aren't allowed because of the damage they inflict on the estate roads. Please advise



the control room which removal company is expected and the time of their arrival/departure.

## Spotlight on Craig Munro



ASSISTANT SECURITY MANAGER

**Date & place of birth:** 26 November 1965, Wynberg, Cape Town

**Career to date:** 13 years in the SA Navy, reaching the rank of Chief Petty Officer; started in the security industry as an armed response controller in Camps Bay, worked my way up to control room manager and spent several more years at two other companies.

**Education:** Human Resource Management and Training Diploma

**Personal best achievement:** My family - good old-fashioned family values and togetherness

**Professional best achievement:** My current appointment

**Most-liked about Atlantic Beach:** The setting

**Least-liked about Atlantic Beach:** The attitude that the rules are good as long as they're there for other people and not me

**Aspirations for the estate:** Maintenance of a safe, peaceful and healthy living environment for all residents and staff to enjoy

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

**Person you would most like to meet:** Nelson Mandela, an inspiration to all in caring for our fellow human beings

**Favourite actors/actresses:** Steven Segal and Julia Roberts

**Philosophy of life:** Nothing can stop a family that stands together from achieving their goals

**Biggest ever opportunity:** Still to come

**Biggest ever disappointment:** Not taking the opportunities that life presented because it meant stepping out of my comfort zone

**Hope for the future:** Leaving a legacy for making life better

**Favourite reading:** A good western

**Favourite colour:** Blue

**Best TV programme:** *Survivor*

**Favourite food:** A good steak and chips

**Best time of day:** Sunset

**Favourite music:** Almost anything from the 70s and 80s

**Favourite sport (self):** Badminton

**Favourite sport (spectator):** Rugby

**Biggest extravagance:** My wife

**Car:** Ford Laser, but would love a Ford Ranger Double-cab 4x4

**Pets:** None

**Miscellaneous dislikes:** Incompetence

**Married:** Mandi (19 yrs of honeymoon)

**Children:** Lance (18) and Steven (15)

**Hobbies:** Movies, camping and family-orientated activities

**Favourite holiday destination:** A peaceful camping site



# Building ABC

Unlike visitors, building-related contractors aren't permitted on the estate with simply a phone call to the relevant homeowner. To gain access a contractor must either be on our contractors list for works exceeding two weeks' duration, or have written permission from the estate office for work requiring less than two weeks to complete. The onus is on the homeowner to obtain this written permission in advance.

For all construction work exceeding two weeks our Builder's Code of Conduct needs to be signed and a pavement deposit paid to the Association. A builder's

levy also is due in advance for every month (or portion thereof) on site. Estate manager Markus Savage explained, "The pavement deposit is held to secure payment for any damages that may arise, while the deposit is refundable minus any outstanding levies, fines and so forth. We apply the levy to cover expenses in monitoring the construction process in terms of security and access control, administration, estate sign-off and clearance inspection, etc."

During the week contractors may work from 7h30 and they should be out by 18h00. The same starting time applies



to Saturdays, but they should be out by 14h00. No construction-related work is permitted on Sundays or public holidays.



## The hard & soft of it

Parking on the estate is only permitted on paved areas, as per the Architectural Manuals. And that includes each private property. Estate manager Markus Savage requested residents to fill their garages and two mandatory parking bays prior to allowing guests to park on the road. "If parking has to spill out onto the road, please do so opposite the footpath – in other words, no parking on footpaths," he said.

"If you're having a function, please inform the Control Room so that we can assist

by recommending alternate parking locations and deal with possible complaints about vehicular obstruction without bothering you.

"Residents requiring additional parking bays should please submit a drawing detailing the exact extent of the proposed paving layout. Bear in mind that according to the Architectural Manuals, cumulatively paving shouldn't cover more than 25% of each erf's area, while a minimum of 25% of an erf should be soft landscaping."

## Hive of activity

The Leisure Centre has been humming with activity. Manager Claire Jones reported that the school holidays were hectic. Also, the Nia classes are proving a hit in the gym with bigger classes and the tennis club is pretty busy. The latter, run by Bertus van Zyl, is open to all residents free of charge and takes place on weekends from 14h00 until 16h00. After the matches, a good old braai adds to the social aspect.

New opening times for the centre are from 6h00 – 20h00 Mondays to Sundays. Residents are reminded that the pool will be relined and new pumps and solar heating installed – it's thus unavailable from the last week in August until the first week in October.

*Great fun with soap-making and make-up sessions during the school holidays*



# New faces

Those observant residents who noticed new faces in the new control room, yes a new security company is providing the estate with control room and emergency response team services. Xone (pronounced Zone) Integrated Security replaced Executive Decisions on 1 July 2010. There may be teething problems, so please be considerate.



Above is the new team. Back row: Joseph Wildebees, Mlondoloz Njikelana (Njiks), Freddie Visser, Mark Vorsatz, Lionel Walker and John Rossouw. Front: Nicola van Roodt, Ezel April and Adell Clarke.

# Stick to rules

Residents and tenants, please familiarise yourself with ABHOA's Articles of Association and Rules, Guidelines and Code of Conduct. Collect your copies from the ABHOA office or go to [www.atlanticbeachgolfestate.co.za](http://www.atlanticbeachgolfestate.co.za).

# Quick stats

July stats are: 802 homes completed, 20 homes under construction, 13 homes undergoing additions and alterations, 25 vacant stands with no plans, 10 vacant stands with approved plans and 7 property transfers.

# Green matters

When landscaper Tertius Pienaar and Geert Sprangers of the Environmental Resource Management's biodiversity management branch judged Atlantic Beach's annual landscaping competition, they concluded, "Atlantic Beach exceeds Kirstenbosch in its fynbos preservation." Quite an accolade! Winners of the competition were the Riemvasmaak team responsible for the main gate area. Well done to all the teams. So, ABHOA is renewed with enthusiasm to train all the teams in fynbos preservation.

Meanwhile, the landscaping team has removed the berm (sandbank) on the Waratah border for security purposes, plus the annoying kikuyu infestation. Now, there's an attractive, low-growing and water-wise ground cover.



From September the nursery will be open every Saturday from 8h30 until 12. A spring special will feature every week. The nursery also will be introducing additional permissible tree species to its collection.

On a sad note, we bade former nursery and landscape manager Ben Stone-Francisco goodbye and appointed Tony Beaton to this position. Ben will be pursuing his yoga interests.

Finally, thanks to all residents who responded to the call for removing lavender.



The winning Riemvasmaak team consists of the men holding the certificates

# It takes two, baby!



"Maximum two to a room and I'm sure that also means only two to a kennel."