

Prickly question

Yet another nocturnal resident at Atlantic Beach Golf Estate is the African Porcupine. The name 'porcupine' is a combination of the Latin and French for pig and spine, roughly translating as 'quill pig'. Weighing from 18 to 30 kg and about half a meter long, this prickly rodent has long spines covering its back. It has a brown-black coat and paler-coloured spines. *Hystrix africaeaustralis* is unquestionably the largest rodent in



Southern Africa and has a long life span – up to 15 years in the wild.

The difference between quills and spines is largely one of length and thickness, with spines up to 50 cm long and quills up to 30 cm long. When erecting the white and black crest of spines and quills, the animal looks enormous and threatening. Some spines on the tail are hollow and make a rattling sound when shaken. These sharp spines and quills come off when shaken or touched by a predator, but they grow back rapidly.

Porcupines are mostly vegetarian, using their strong digging claws to get roots, tubers and bulbs. They're also fond of fallen fruits and will sometimes gnaw on



Porcupine quills are sharp as needles with backwards facing barbs that catch on the skin.

bark. According to reports, they'll eat carrion in areas deficient in phosphorous.

Because of their dangerous anatomy, females initiate copulation by presenting to the males. Gestation lasts for three months and the young are born in litters of one to four in a grass-lined chamber in the parents' den anytime of the year. Young are born with their eyes open and teeth present. They have soft quills and spines at birth, which quickly harden.

Porcupines travel alone or in small family groups. With their acute hearing, they freeze when approached by predators and when cornered, can be aggressive. These prickly neighbours prefer rocky outcrops and often take shelter in antbear holes. They also build dens which can be up to 20 m long with a 2 m deep living chamber.

Many home owners on the estate are battling with weathered and faded roof sheets, which means these no longer comply with the ABHOA architectural guidelines. The approved roof sheet types are Iscor Chromadek Dolphin Grey and Huletts S-13 aluminium Charcoal Grey.

Mittal Steel SA is honouring the 10-year guarantee on its Chromadek roof sheet products, provided that the serial print number is visible on the under side of the roof sheet and the roof complaint claim procedure is followed.

The claim procedure for Mittal SA Chromadek and Chromadek Plus roof sheets are:

- Owner to provide purchase proof of Chromadek material (your builder can assist with this)
- Details of the roof (surface area, profile, pitch, physical address, contact person,

Fading away



contact telephone number)

- This information and additional enquires may be forwarded to Mittal Steel SA Ltd, Gerard Ehlers, Tel 016 8893194, email Gerard.ehlers@mittalsteel.com.

Already, roofs on the estate have been repainted by Mittal Steel SA under the guarantee claim, according to estate manager Chris van Wijk. "Therefore, I urge home owners with this problem to contact the company. It's important to attend to the matter as soon as possible, as replacing roof sheeting is extremely costly."

Van Wijk advised owners who were unsuccessful in their claim to contact a specialist roof painting contractor to evaluate the roof condition. "If your roof is peeling, the coating must be removed mechanically. It's vital to remove all

paint and then inspect the galvanised layer to ensure compliance with the paint supplier specifications. This is the only way to guarantee a reasonable life expectancy for a repainted roof."

Guaranteed success

Take a step back and think about what you're doing and where you're going in your job.

1. Recognise opportunities When faced with an opportunity that makes your stomach churn, try not to be deterred. After all, what's the worst that can happen?

2. Learn from mistakes You're judged not on the blunder itself, but on how you tackled it. When you've made a mistake, admit it, learn from it and then forget it.

3. Listen Listening is one of the most underestimated business skills. It's about digesting not only the speaker's words, but also the tone of voice, body language and what's not said. Being a good listener is essential to being a good communicator.

4. Sell yourself Selling is crucial – whether to your boss, employees or to influence colleagues. Draw attention to the value of your work. Being open about your achievements (without being

nauseating) will generate respect and motivate others.



5. Take credit When being complimented, don't undo your efforts with disparaging comments. Accept compliments assertively.

6. Be positive This doesn't mean being continually cheerful. Spot the potential in

a bad situation and turn it to your (and the company's) advantage.

7. Switch off The more you progress at work, the more critical it becomes to switch off. Learn about handling stress and practise these age-old feel-good techniques: exercise regularly, eat healthily, get enough sleep and find time to relax.

8. Master office politics Don't bypass office politics – they could be constructive. Politics could increase your visibility and establish good relationships at all levels. When politics turn nasty, conserve your energy for the job and don't waste it on the machinations of personalities and roles.

9. Be assertive The basic steps to assertiveness are first to identify the problem, then state what you feel and what you'd like to happen. Listen to the other person's response and try to reach agreement.

10. Respond to change Versatility is an asset. To cope with change, expect it and look for the positive side. Any transition, no matter how unwelcome, offers the chance to grow and develop. Change equals possibility.



Position: Landscaping supervisor
Date & place of birth: 15 November 1968, Swellendam
Career to date: Colin's Top Turf & Golf Data
Education: Grade 11
Personal best achievement: Married my dream wife
Professional best achievement: Being promoted to supervisor
Most liked about Atlantic Beach: The environment
Least liked about Atlantic Beach: The south easter
Aspirations for the estate: Making it one of the best estates
Person you would most like to meet: Fidel Castro
Favourite actors: Ice Cube & Eddie Murphy

Spotlight on Ellmer Hartnick

Life philosophy: Taking things as they come

Biggest ever opportunity: Working in Canada

Biggest ever disappointment: When my eldest son dropped out of school

Hope for the future: Living as one nation

Favourite reading: The bible

Favourite colour: Blue

Best TV programme:

Discovery

Favourite food/drink:

Pizza & coke

Best time of day: 16h30

Favourite music: Gospel

Favourite holiday destination:

Stilbaai

Favourite sport (self): Rugby & tennis

Favourite sport (spectator): Rugby

Car: Opel Monza

Pets: A Border Collie, Lady

Dislikes: False accusations

Married: Jane (11 yrs)

Children: Melissa

(14), Charlton (10),

Jaden (7)

Hobbies: Reading and watching rugby



"Jock keeps moaning about the levies going up, but I keep telling him to relax - our levies are much lower than his handicap."

In line with the CPI, the 10% Atlantic Beach levy increase on 1 July still remains one of the lowest levies for a golf estate.

Green light for landfill

SRK Consulting's review report of the Environmental Impact Assessment for a new regional landfill site to service the City of Cape Town found the EIA to be comprehensive and compliant with EIA regulation requirements. So, in a nutshell, the landfill goes ahead. But fear not, the fight isn't over.

With the study's zone of influence defined as 5 km in the social baseline study, Melkbosstrand was excluded from the analysis. The inclusion of Atlantis, Witsand, Kalbaskraal and Klipheuwel in the social baseline study, despite these communities falling outside of the project's defined zone of influence, was considered appropriate in an EIA context. The reviewers were satisfied that both Kalbaskraal and Atlantis were afforded equivalent consideration. But, it would have been beneficial to include the Melkbosstrand community in the study.



The long-term planning vision for the Atlantis area was considered compatible with current spatial plans although political sensitivities associated with the Atlantis site were significant.

It was found that the EIA process was compliant with legal requirements on land ownership and re-zoning. The reviewers recommended that planning authorisation be obtained at the appropriate time.

Implications for the Koeberg Nuclear facility and the West Coast Biosphere Reserve were addressed adequately, given Eskom's limited response and the lack of response from the National Nuclear Regulator.

SRK said nearly all issues raised by IAPs had been addressed in the EIA process.

"The only real criticism is the absence of a convincing assessment of the No-go alternative and the interpretation of what this entailed. Had this been included in the assessment, the general case for the landfill at one or other of the sites under investigation is likely to have been strengthened, since the socio-economic implications of a cessation of waste disposal for the City of Cape Town are significant."

At a public meeting on 9 June 2008, the City of Cape Town confirmed that the residents' objections would still be reviewed by provincial minister of environmental affairs and development Tasneem Essop. Also, the re-zoning process still needs to be undertaken. The ABHOA will continue objecting to the landfill site, actively supporting the West Coast Community Forum in this regard. Members will be kept informed of future community meetings and updates.

** Reference: Independent Review Report: Environmental Impact Assessment for a new Regional Landfill site to service the City of Cape Town by SRK Consulting.*

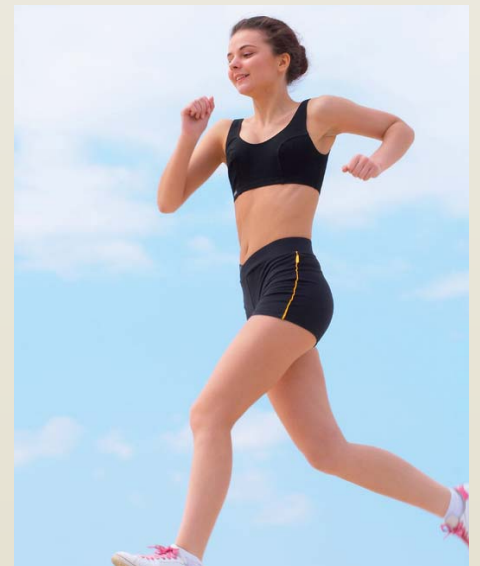
Super highway

Joggers and power walkers on the estate should soon be able to enjoy a well-constructed perimeter pathway – after having to contend with its state of disrepair for so long.

At a member-approved cost of R310 000, the pathway will now feature a solid edge with laterite surface, as opposed to the original sub-base proposal. However, as the amended proposal includes a solid kerb, the City of Cape Town Environmental Department and lease

holder, ABM, need to provide formal approval. No work will commence until such time as the relevant approvals are obtained.

The building and environmental portfolio has approved the new proposal, but called for two comparative quotes prior to submitting final recommendations to the board of trustees. Should the land owner and lease holder be in agreement, it's anticipated that the works will commence by end-July 2008.



Soon, residents will enjoy the convenience and added peace-of-mind of our state-of-the-art visitor announcement system (VAS). Any resident loaded on the system can send a sms to the gate about an expected visitor. Once the visitor arrives, security will allow him/her in and reply with a sms. Only residents whose cell phone numbers are loaded on this super-

secure system would be able to use VAS.

Another security measure is the ICE system which acts as a panic button. Residents can send a panic alarm by pressing a cell phone speed dial number while on the estate. This service is available at a cost of R7-50 a month per connected cell

Beefed up

phone number. For more information, please contact estate manager Chris Van Wijk on 021 5530590/1 or email admin@abhoe.co.za.

Picture perfect

The gardening competition in April proved that Atlantic Beach boasted some pretty outstanding gardens. Congratulations to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize winners: Frank Scott of erf 3759, Craig Pearson of erf 4413 and Ken Harrison of erf 4258. Judging criteria were design and layout; garden balance; plant use and choice; maintenance and condition; and originality.

Splendid prizes went to the winners. First prize: a floating trophy, a weekend for two at Bucaco Sud guest house in Betty's Bay, a complimentary visit to Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, a nursery voucher, 1-year subs to *SA Gardens* magazine and R500. Second prize: a day and lunch for two at Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, a nursery voucher and 1-year subs to *SA Gardens* magazine. Third prize: two gardening chairs with equipment from Promanage; a nursery voucher; and 1-year subs to *SA Gardens* magazine. In addition to the prizes mentioned, other sponsors were Stodels head office, Cape Garden Centre, Super Plants Bothasig, Bloemendal nursery, photographer Charl Cilliers and judges Andries and Lorraine from Super Plants in Parklands.



1. & 2. 1st Prize: Frank Scott; 3. & 4. 2nd Prize: Craig Pearson; 5. & 6. 3rd Prize: Ken Harrison

Slithery affair

As 350 people from Atlantic Beach Golf Estate packed Colebrook Park on a sunny April day for the *Snakes Alive* event, snake handler Shaun and his slithery companions held the audience captive. Not only did residents familiarise themselves with various snake species, they had the opportunity to hold and touch the forked-tongue chaps and the brave ones learnt to catch these reptiles.

A big thanks to sponsors Remax Team Broekhuizen, Steve Tripney and of course snake man, Shaun.



Keep eyes peeled

Don't miss out on future Atlantic Beach community events. Residents should keep a look-out for emails and posters at the gates that will announce future events.

Tricky crossing

At a successful meeting in May between City of Cape Town officials, residents and the ABHOA building and environmental portfolio, it was decided to do a traffic count at the notorious R27/Birkenhead intersection. This would determine if the intersection warrants the installation of traffic lights. Residents will be updated on the progress.

Mission Possible

Angelo Henry of Atlantic Beach is on a quest to become the first South African member of The Grand Slam Club by completing The North Pole Marathon in April 2009. To become a club member, a runner must complete a marathon on all seven continents, culminating in The North Pole Marathon. He'll also try to become the fifth male South African member of the Seven Continents Club by running the Antarctic Marathon (South Pole) in December 2008. All sponsor funds will go to Reach for a Dream & Rape Crisis Cape Town. You can help by visiting <http://www.angelo-northpole-marathon.com/>.