EDITOR’S CHIRP - Huck Endersby

Hope you took a last look at your beach below before it disappeared! As I write this, late June, the first Winter storms have already started scouring it away offshore. The surfers love it, for the relocated beach forms offshore sand banks which promote well shaped surfing waves. “Some o them thar Winter clouds got silver in em.”
Llandudno continues to grow on most of us and for many there is nowhere else we would like to be. I am not able to reminisce on Llandudno like some of the “real old timers” but I do go back a bit: I was a Green, Sea Point and Clifton beach bum and my earliest memories of Llandudno are of paddling (later swimming and surfing), playing beach cricket from the very late 40s and of being involved in a mass surf rescue exercise in 1960. Flipping Cape Argus screwed it and listed me as “rescued”, amazing how a 15 year old’s ego can plunge from hero to zero at the stroke of a pen! At 21, I inherited a hundred pounds and decided: “Property”. Hout Bay was affordable but Llandudno? Impossible! In the mid-70s, Annie and I drove down from Botswana for Easter, my old man set up a Llandudno agent and we found the plot of our dreams. The value of a Rand was somewhat different then...you will see what I mean: the plot cost R14 000, I had to take a mortgage for half of it and could not afford to build on it for another 28 years!

**LLANDUDNO TREES:** The philosophy behind the eradication of the Bluegums and other aliens at the post box and down the gully stream: I love trees and Bluegums are lovely fast growing trees, BUT, they suck up ground water at a phenomenal rate and secrete substances which cause “allelopathy”, a phenomenon which stunts the growth of any surrounding plants, shrubs, trees, and causes a virtual desert in the understory – as the Bluegum forest up by apostle battery eloquently attests. These trees have also been forbidden as street trees in Aussie where they are known as “widow-makers”, with all the water they suck up at the outset of the rainy season, their lower branches become heavy and can fall on passers-by. The NEMBA regulations recognise the effect these trees have on water-tables and prohibit Bluegums within 32 metres of a water course. Hence the gums in the vicinity of the post box and in the Gully Stream itself were verboten and, after some 14 years of campaigning, we were able to enlist City sympathy for the exercise. Unfortunately, in in my agonising experience, we are not going to get anywhere with other gums on City land unless a “water course, 32 metres” factor applies! We have had some really good outcomes with regard to the exercise. Their removal was funded by residents’ donations and, with the change, we
purchased a 2 500 litre JoJo water tank, fittings and a robust, bakkie top water bowser to meet our commitment to the City to ensure that the replacement indigenous trees, donated by the City to Llandudno for planting on City public open space, will be properly irrigated. Another generous resident has offered to supply the JoJo tank with non-potable water and we are set to plant. City Parks has taken responsibility for digging holes, fertilising and planting. I have high hopes that you will not only approve of but will be delighted with the initiative when you see the finished, planted article.

**DOCSCHITTE PLASTIC BAG DISPENSERS:** Ashley Weaver has installed the dispensers. And they are operational. We considered using biodegradable bags but they are exorbitantly expensive. Your job is to encourage dog walkers to use them...don’t be afraid to chirp them!

**LEOPARD SIGHTING IN LLANDUDNO!**: Carel de Ridder let slip the other night, that he had spotted and photo’d a leopard strolling along the Llandudno Coast Path about 3 years ago but the photos were stored on his laptop which had since been stolen. I and many others have seen caracal, lesser spotted genet, porcupine, any number of snakes, black (Verreaux) eagles which frequent Klein Leeukoppie, Cape clawless otters and many other interesting sightings, a leopard? That is special. He/she must have been passing through because I have not heard of any other sightings.

**ILLEGAL DUMPING IN LLANDUDNO:** The illegal dumping continues, some massive dumping has occurred and we are going to use our security cameras to identify the lame brainers who dump in public open space prosecution will follow! Perhaps question your gardener as to where he disposes of your garden waste and you might solve a problem for us all?

**CRAYFISH AND ABALONE (PERLEMOEN) POACHING:** This might sound a bit rich coming from an ex schoolboy poacher, turned game keeper, but we are looking to develop an anti-poaching unit comprising concerned residents who are able to monitor our coastline for and report any such
suspicious activity. The problem in the past has been to establish who, in “Officialdom”, is interested, dedicated, available and able to act 24/7 on any such reports, effectively and timeously. The unit will be totally non-confrontational and anonymous. Anyone interested (hope you are) in becoming active please contact me on: sra@llandudno.org.za

**DID I REALLY WRITE THIS-NEARLY 10 YEARS AGO?**

**Cape Times 14 Dec 2009** THE public toilet situation at Llandudno beach remains catastrophic. The block at the Lifesavers remains locked and the other at the Gully, if open, receives cursory attention; the bowls are often blocked and overflowing and seldom is toilet paper to hand.

On Saturday, the Gully block was open, relatively clean, toilet paper to hand but, due to a burst water pipe in the vicinity, the main for that area has been shut off. There is no flushing and the stuff is stacking up ... the full summer crowds are on the beach and sooner or later each person will be nudged by a call to nature ...no prizes for guessing, when the toilets become untenable, where they will seek relief.

You can access water, toilets and showers at Rocklands, Milton Pool, Clifton, Milnerton, Blaauberg, Fish Hoek, Muizenberg, Kommetjie-Longbeach, Melkbos, Noordhoek corner and every other public beach on the Peninsula.

So it is difficult to write this letter without sarcasm, knowing earlier complaints seemed to produce more indignant hot air from the council than results in Llandudno; this difficulty is coupled with the almost certainty that the city has been spending truckloads on providing “gold plated taps and diamonds on the bowls” for the FIFA brigade ...should Sepp Blatter rent or buy in Llandudno, I do not doubt the city wand will be waved here too.

It may be useful to remember that under ordinance No 20 of 1974, sections 3 and 4 suggest the municipality comprises the inhabitants of every municipal area and that the council will govern and represent the municipality.

HUCK ENDERSBY CHAIRMAN LLANDUDNO CIVIC ASSOCIATION
As a ‘newbie’ on the Board of the LSRA, I am struck by how much the members of the Board, as citizens of Llandudno, are just like everyone here (in as much as we can say we are the same). Their concerns are your concerns... they worry about the value of their properties; they worry about the safety of their families; they worry about the cost burden placed on us all and whether we receive value-for-money services; they love our beaches and wish to preserve the natural beauty with which we are so blessed. I am taken with their passion to do the right thing for Llandudno and its homeowners and the efforts they expend in terms of doing all of this.

The recent spate of matters Environmental reminds me that we all have to be vigilant to preserve the precious beauty we are entrusted with in Llandudno. Just last month the world celebrated World Environment Day and we are reminded to be ever mindful about our contribution to the scourge of plastic that is flooding our oceans. I wonder if you were as horrified as I was to see the recent posts by this environmental activist, calling on companies to take responsibility for what their companies are producing, as he showed us the impact of plastic waste on Durban beaches.

The Board has recently received a visit from the City officials at its Board meeting held in June. They were keen to impress on us all, the role and mandate of the SRAs – to improve the upkeep of public space in Llandudno. They have implemented further governance guidelines, especially those related to declarations of conflict of interests. We have updated our procedures in line with City Guidelines in this respect, and implemented these changes as part of our standard operating procedures.
PROPERTY VERGES - Margie Mac Kenzie

SPRINGTIME STREET VERGE GARDEN COMPETITION

With Spring not far off we encourage all residents to welcome the Spring season by creating and planting beautiful indigenous street verges as they create such a lovely impression when driving around our suburb. To spur you on, we will run a competition on Sunday 20 October when a panel of independent judges will drive around and award 1\textsuperscript{st}, 2\textsuperscript{nd} and 3\textsuperscript{rd} places for the most attractive verges with prizes to be given on the day. Gwen Gower, of Earthworks in Hout Bay, will be on the panel of judges and to guide you with what to plant, writes:

In life one has one chance to make a first impression. The same applies to selling your home. Your verge is the first impression anyone has who is looking to purchase your house. So it goes without saying that we should pay attention to the pavement outside our homes.

The simplest solution is to choose low maintenance & waterwise plants together with a combination of chip stone and river stone with the odd large rock can form the basis of an exciting landscaped verge. The following are a selection of suitable plants:

• All varieties of aloes. These not only create a structural and exciting statement, they add colour in winter & attract birds.
• All varieties of agaves. Some varieties assist in the security of your property as they have spiky leaves.
• Portulacaria affra. A variety of succulents can add colour & texture.
• Leucaspermums (Pincushions) come in a variety of colours & are hardy & waterwise.
• Leucadendrons (Fynbos & Protea family) come in a variety of foliage shades for all-year round colour.
• Restios like Elegia tectorum or Thamnochortus spicigerus (thatching reed)
• Eragrostis curvula & Aristidia junciformis. There are numerous ornamental grasses that are hardy & can handle the coastal air.

• SHRUBS- waterwise, coastal & indigenous:
  o Strelitzia regina (crane flower)
  o Searsia crenata, lucida & glauca
  o Coleonema (confetti bush).
  o Carissa macrocarpa (Num num)
  o Euryops virgineus & pectinatus
  o Tecomaria capensis (Cape honeysuckle)
  o Pelargonium capitatum, fruticosum & betulinum
  o Polygala myrtifolia
  o Buddleja salvifolia & saligna
  o Felicia echinatum & amelloidess
  o Salvia Africana-lutea & chamelaeagnea
  o Metalasia muricata
  o Phylica ericoides
  o Osteospermum fruticose, incanum & moniliferum
  o Eriocephalus africanus
Well done to everyone for making it through this exam term! We know that the students put in much hard work and are sure to get the results they aimed for. What a busy and fun-filled term we've had, from the Mad Hatter Carnival at the beginning of the term, the inter-schools' surf competition, to midterm exams and the incredibly successful Foundation Phase production. Thank you for a very successful second term. We wish all our families a very restful holiday.

Surf Team Waves LPS Flag High

The LPS Surf Team competed in the inter-schools' surf competition. With two teams in the water, we are currently, after 3 sessions, sitting in 1st and 7th position out of 15 teams.

The format of the competition challenges the surfers to both work as a team and to demonstrate individual skill on their boards. Each team of 5 have 40 minutes to ride 10 waves, which means each surfer must paddle out, catch and ride 2 waves, and race back in to tag the next team member in about 8 minutes. They are then also allocated points for their skill and style on the waves they catch. This makes for a very exciting 40 minutes as surfers are having to balance choosing and riding waves with
the pressure of getting back in time to get the next surfer in the water.

Team B proved how important this balance as, in the second session, they cracked off their 10 rides with 15 minutes to spare but, as a consequence, were marked down on their individual rides. Equally Team A has had some nail biting moments with surfers hanging in the water waiting for waves while the clock ticks and the team having to pull some fast moves to have everyone done and back before the siren blast.

SAVE THE DATE!

Please come support us at the annual Camps Bay and LPS Derby Day on Friday 19 July! Our U9 to U13 teams will be playing some exciting soccer and netball from 1:30 to 4:00pm.