

LLANDUDNO NEWS NEARLY SPRING 2020

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EDITOR'S CHIRP

I should know better than to argue with Management. As is my wont, I was muttering about the general late arrival of Spring in the Cape and that whilst it might land in Joburg on 1 September, with our continuing inclement weather here, it's more like 1 October (some say 1 December!), when it was pointed out to me that 22 September was the date, "Rubbish" and I hastily Googled. Oh my, would you believe there is a very shaky split decision. Some go for 1 September. Others for Spring Equinox 22nd. I now think, on reflexion, that Equinox trumps 1/9...yes Meddem.

On my now, old Spring Day, I received a rather curt email from the municipal valuation mafia, telling me that my "well-motivated objection" to their "iniquitous" valuation of my Llandudno property had come second and that if I wish to appeal, I should submit a "well-motivated appeal". The last time round, I did go the appeal route and was soundly trashed by a sniffy appeals "committee". I have an uneasy feeling that the above email was typed using the middle finger only and my track record seems set to continue at: City 2 me 0!

We have been wrestling with the dilemma of firebreaks over the months and have more or less resolved many problems. The exception being our northern border on the Camps Bay side of

Llandudno. I had a meeting with SANParks and their hot shot fire break expert recently and he maintains that the old, in situ, fire break on the old border of SANParks and then City land complies with the law and that the bush between it (now SANParks' turf) and Northern Llandudno residents is "our" problem. He did, however concede that, "If all the residents on that boundary agreed to a new border firebreak being cut", he would do it! This would entail massive hacking of indigenous fynbos. An alternate would be to address the dense bush in question, eliminate the highly flammable invasive aliens, and "prune" the indigenous bush up to shoulder height, thereby much reducing the fire risk. The question now arises: what do the northern border residents want? Please write me and I will pursue. In case you did not notice, this is most urgent! It might take some financial contribution to safeguard our precious properties and I am seeking a quote for the job!

As is the norm, some dysfunctional has trashed the beach car park chain guarding access to the Lifesavers and the waste water treatment plant. We urgently need help in replanting the one post, so if any self-starter out there can fire up, there is a challenge.

So now we come to a tragedy. A memorial bench, legally and sensitively sited on a pleasant and rugged stretch of the Llandudno coast path was recently "removed". There are many theories as to why, the most unconvincing is, "it was stolen". The most obvious is that someone objected to it and had it "removed"...probably dumped in the sea below. Llandudno LCA is considering replacing it in a less "offensive" location, in the hope that repercussions will not ensue!

With many council employees are still on lockdown, many services are thin on the ground and there has been a fuss over residential foliage overhanging roads and blocking off road signage. My enquiries elicited the following: "With respect to the overhanging branches a notice can be served on the owner in terms of section 8 of the BY-LAW RELATING TO STREETS, PUBLIC PLACES AND THE PREVENTION OF NOISE NUISANCES. Ideally By-Law enforcement should assist issuing the notices. If not then my office would need to compile the notice, serve on the owner which is a bit of tedious process. It is better for the owners to be made aware of their responsibilities and trim their vegetation of their own accord."

Goodness! Reading above, it seems to be all doom and gloom...however, what a magigorical short video on Whatsap on the resident caracal, crossing over the beach path so close to the dwindling sands. Folk around the world are marvelling. By way of comparatively poor comparison, my bathroom has one view over Logie's Rocks and Bay, the other up Klein Leeukoppie. This morning whilst brushing the fangs, I looked up to observe a Verreaux (Black) eagle hovering for his brekker. We have so many blessings!

Cheers

Your Llandudno team.