



# Hout and About

August 2014

The official publication of the Hout Bay Residents' & Ratepayers' Association

For back copies of Hout and About see our website [www.houtbay.org.za](http://www.houtbay.org.za)



**Photo taken by Don Jepson who explained: "we had strong NW winds – hence the 'fish shaped' cloud (i.e. curved cloud which is prevalent in strong wind conditions) above Karbonkelberg".**

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## Len's Lines

### **A message from the Chairman of the Hout Bay Residents' & Ratepayers' Association.**

In last month's Hout and About we said, **Can you identify where this photo was taken? Send in your answer to [hbrra@houtbay.org.za](mailto:hbrra@houtbay.org.za) - you may win a prize.** We received many replies (none correct) - this response from Alistair Yuill: "*Lovely picture. How about Theewaterskloof dam?*" So sorry, Alistair - maybe it's not fair - but the photo was taken at Loch Ness, in Scotland. Robbie and Jill Patterson can confirm.

We have been informed that the new DA Provincial Minister of Public Works, Donald Grant, has seen it fit to increase the road toll on the 7Km Chapman's Peak Drive, to R38,00 for a normal car - yes, R76,00 return. So you can start with this cost to your lunch in one of the fine Noordhoek restaurants or stay in Hout Bay. For those who have family and friends in the Far South, the trip around Chapman's Peak is now very expensive indeed. All our previous suggestions of how to cut costs fell on deaf ears. Our proposals went straight into

the waste paper basket. See hereunder what was proposed, instead of the multi-million Rand Control/Office Block - now completed.



**A simple Automatic Cash or Card machine with a wooden boom which was suggested as an alternative to the multimillion Control/Office Block was rejected**

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## **Letters received**

On Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> July at 10:52 pm, we received this letter from an aggrieved Margaret O'Connor regarding her experience on Chappies, enclosing a copy of an email she wrote to Mr. Meyer of Entilini – the Concessionaire.

*Dear Noordhoek & Hout Bay Residents' Association Leaders*

*I NEVER write consumer complaints letters, but I was so emotionally exhausted tonight and disappointed in the nasty attitude of the Chapman's Peak duty manager. Can you suggest other points of contact at Concor, Murray & Roberts, etc.? The email address for Mr Meyer at Concor did not work.*

*Regards,*

*Margaret O'Connor*

The enclosed email read:

*Dear Mr. Meyer*

*After years as an outspoken public advocate of the work done to improve Chapman's Peak Drive with local and international audiences, I was gravely disappointed by the lack of empathy and discretion demonstrated by Zimkhita, the young manager on duty at 9:15pm this evening, when I discovered that I had left my Noordhoek holiday home without my wallet and was unable to pay the toll for the journey home from Hout Bay. I offered to complete an Electric Funds Transfer from my Nedbank account on the spot (I had my smart phone in the car) OR write an IOU that I could pay in cash when I travelled from Noordhoek to Cape Town for a business meeting tomorrow morning.*

*"We can't trust you," Zimkhita said.*

*"You have my car registration, my phone number, and my good faith," I pleaded.*

*I'm a 50-year-old American woman, travelling alone, on a cold Sunday night, after organizing a birthday party for my 105-year-old grandmother-in-law. The prospect of driving back through Hout Bay, Constantia, and over Silvermine, doubling my travel time, daunted me after the emotional stress of the day.*

*"The toll collector will lose her job if she's short ZAR 36."*

*"I can make the bank transfer NOW, in front of you OR pay cash at 9am tomorrow."*

*"We can't trust you," Zimkhita reminded me.*

*Are concession employees treated as if they're not trusted? Or was Zimkhita enjoying a power trip? Neither are great for endearing Chapman's Peak Drive to its customers and neighbours.*

*Surely the Chapman's Peak Drive duty manager has some discretion as to credible risks on tolls and/or the ability to receive EFTs in the case of an emergency.*

*Thanks for your consideration of emergency protocols; reviewing the potential to process EFTs as an alternative to cash/card payments; and training staff to be customer-focused.*

*Regards,*

*Margaret O'Connor*

Note: on receipt of the above letter, we immediately sent Ms O'Connor the e-mail address of Robert Pomario, a Director of Entilini & Murray & Roberts, since the e-mail to Mr. Meyer

bounced. For your information, should you wish to contact Entilini/Murray & Roberts, Director Pomario's e-mail address is - [rob.pomario@murrob.com](mailto:rob.pomario@murrob.com)

### **Letters sent**

In a follow up to the work being done on the Hout Bay River, Len Swimmer emailed to the landowners fronting the river where the damage to its banks had been observed and reported on to the City authorities some 6 weeks previously:

*Hi ,  
I'd just like to know if the jobs on the river were completed before the onslaught of the recent rains????  
Kind Regards,  
Len*

We received the following reply:

*Hello Len,*

*No, the job started with a machine in the river some weeks ago, but its track broke and the machine was removed the next day after opening a portion of the river. Then, nothing occurred for two weeks.*

*Now two days ago a group of employed persons came with over 100 treated poles which are lying on the banks, and some driven into the silt above the water level. They also brought shade cloth, also on the bank. They drove some forty poles into the soft soil on the South bank. Many of the poles installed in the silt above the now medium height water level, and it seems they think they will string shade cloth along the poles to prevent flood waters and trees etc, from damaging the silt wall which houses the sewer.*

*When the river rises, water will pull on the shade cloth and pull the poles out, and, or, undercut them to freedom, down on the beach. Many people would love those poles. How this activity is linked to the necessary securing of the soil bank is vaguely recognizable, but I for one have no faith that this will prevent a strong flow from doing simply what it will do. I think they have disposed of their seven month formed plan, as the river is too high for them to do as they had begun to hope for such a long time, and will not beat the flood waters that are due shortly. They cannot any longer work in the river.*

*I have photos, but it is depressing to me to see the non functionality, or the level of outmanoeuvring their reality of multiple rules, versus demands, has on their very slow responses and what seems to us ignorant observers, to be a display of utter confusion.*

*Simply put, the task is what they wish to have as their job description, and they have the money for it, but it appears that so very much of the action is pathetically wasteful of the finance they manage. Piles of sand have been stockpiled on the road next to main road, which I am told would be taken to site, about four to five hundred meters away, and thus round trip of some eight to thousand meters, by pay-loader, load for load. But, no sand placed into this river will stay where it is placed. The water will cut it out clean as a whistle in a flash.*

*I was told that boulder was available and to be installed, but this not yet not brought. The Gabions seem to have dissolved over the past months. It may be that the sand is the planned final, and thus brought first, to finally cover all the boulder after boulder is installed, but you know they are months and more months too late. If boulder arrives next dry season, they could start then to rebuild the river path.*

*I try to remain away, as I play no part, and I am highly frustrated to be an observer. Who made this plan is desperate, and shade cloth in flood water seems a mismatch of mind and floodwaters' capabilities. If they can tell what they did, it might be an indication that they*

*did come down to the site, and did try something. If one does something it is best doing only what one is certain will work. With water, floods, rivers, weather etc, it can be said there are no certainties, so they are covered by that at least. Whatever will be.....*

*Simple answer is that some river bed correction was achieved more than two weeks ago. Nothing else of value has been achieved.*

*Best regards,  
C*

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**A Very Important Notification received from Mark Day - Node Coordinator**  
Western leopard Toad Conservation Committee [www.leopardtoad.co.za](http://www.leopardtoad.co.za)

### **WESTERN LEOPARD TOAD MIGRATION SET TO BEGIN: AUGUST 2014**

*Yikes, look out! In the road is a Western Leopard Toad. Be alert this August, as it is that time of year when our endangered residents, the leopard toads, are migrating to water bodies to forge the next generation of baby toadlets. These toads must unfortunately cross our busy roads to reach their destinations, but you can also contribute to their safety in a small way!*

*If you spot a toad on a road, do the following: Switch your hazard lights on and climb out of your car. If it is a residential road there shouldn't be a problem in blocking both lanes for this swift manoeuvre! Grab the toad or if you are squeamish cover your hands with a plastic bag or an item of clothing and swiftly carry it to the side of the road in the direction it was facing. Place it on the sidewalk and it will continue on with its journey to the breeding pond. Remember, these toads must often negotiate some challenging obstacles before reaching their sites, so every small contribution in keeping them alive counts to saving local populations from going extinct.*

*Many Thanks  
Mark Day  
0847381130*

Node Coordinator  
Western leopard Toad Conservation Committee  
[www.leopardtoad.co.za](http://www.leopardtoad.co.za)

Volunteer groups patrol roads surrounding breeding sites, saving toads and collecting data. If you are interested in assisting in such a role during August contact Mark Day on 0847381130 or email him at [leopardtoad@gmail.com](mailto:leopardtoad@gmail.com).

**In Hout Bay, there are a few roads to monitor for movement. These are Milner Avenue, Empire Road, Bethal Street and Well Way.**

**Any sightings are to be reported to Mark Day on 0847381130.**





**The very endangered Western Leopard Toad – please do your utmost to protect this vulnerable species. We are privileged to live amongst them in their home range.**

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**We have often been asked: What does the HBRRRA do?**

**A main objective of the Hout Bay Residents' & Ratepayers' Association is to promote and safeguard the interests of the ratepayers and/or residents of Hout Bay.**

**In pursuit of this objective your Exco is in regular communication with the City's departments; we are presently actively engaged in correspondence with Kelvin Barry, Administrative Officer 3, City of Cape Town, Customer Interface/Land Use Management, in an effort to establish the Public's Rights of Way related to "The Village" erf 8410 Hout Bay**

*Kelvin Barry informs us: "What I need to find is the City of Cape Town Spatial Development Plan approval which should show the pedestrian routes (and hopefully if rights of way were registered)".*

**We await Kelvin's next email with great interest.**

**What the HBRRA stands for, is that the Economy is a wholly owned subsidiary of Ecology – without the Environment, there can be no Economy!**

## **THE ENVIRONMENT IS, AND ALWAYS WILL BE - OUR PRIORITY**

**We firmly believe in the conceptual framework where the primacy of 'critical natural capital' drives the priority allocation process when there is *apparent* conflict in land-use priorities between manufactured capital (in the case of a proposed development) and natural capital (the conservation of a natural asset).**

Natural systems are not easily predictable but it is known that their state can reach a critical threshold and then collapse quickly, thereby also compromising the manufactured capital, indicating that development of natural capital and manufactured capital is, in fact, not mutually exclusive.

The corollary holds true as well, and can be explained in simpler terms by 'don't kill the goose that lays the golden eggs'.

That our economy is in fact based on our natural environment is well recognized but often decision-makers fail to put this knowledge into practice until it is too late, the critical threshold is reached, and both natural capital and manufactured capital are compromised into a downward spiral.

### **HBR&RA Collection tins**

Please take note: You will find new HBR&RA collection tins appearing at many till points around Hout Bay - "tins for small change to create big change" to support the cause – keep Hout Bay a place we would all like to live in. You'll find our tins at Penzance Vet, Casareccio, Dario's, La Cuccina, OK, CNA, SPAR, Earth Worx, Jack Hammers, Riding Centre, Dr.Orrey's rooms, Blue Bottle.

No matter how big (and we encourage and welcome Corporate membership at R1000,00) or how small the donation, all donations are welcome.

So again – here's our bank details- our Bank is:

**First National Bank,**

Branch: Hout Bay

Sort code: 204 009

Current account in the name of **Hout Bay Residents' Association**

A/c Number: **5345 1027 173**

Please put your name and initials as the reference if you make an electronic funds transfer or deposit monies to the credit of the Association's bank account.

**Cheques/Money Orders, payable to "Hout Bay Residents' Association" may be posted to HBRRA, P.O. Box 27031 Hout Bay, 7872**





**To know what's going on in Hout Bay, why not join the Hout Bay Residents' & Ratepayers' Association?**

**Join today – here's how:-**

Simply complete the Membership Form below, and email to [hbrra@houtbay.org.za](mailto:hbrra@houtbay.org.za), and a response will be sent to you promptly.

The annual subscription fee is a nominal amount and you may wish to make a donation – please do so!

# HOUT BAY RESIDENTS' & RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

(previously HOUT BAY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION)

\*\*\*\*\**The ENVIRONMENT is our priority*\*\*\*\*\*

PO Box 27031 Hout Bay 7876

Email: [hbrra@houtbay.org.za](mailto:hbrra@houtbay.org.za)

Chairman: Len Swimmer (021 790-0268)

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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

I/We would like to take out membership of the Hout Bay Residents & Ratepayers Association and understand that the subscription fee is R60 per person per year and R100 per couple. Life membership - R1000. Corporate Membership - R1000. Life Corporate membership R10 000

Please find payment of R ..... enclosed and note the following details in your records:

SURNAME ..... FIRST NAME/S ..... TITLE .....

POSTAL ADDRESS .....

RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS [if different] .....

PHONE (h) ..... FAX ..... CELL PHONE .....

EMAIL ADDRESS .....

SPECIAL CONCERNS

.....

I AM ABLE TO OFFER ADVICE OR ASSISTANCE TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE . DETAILS OF MY AVAILABILITY AND AREA/S OF EXPERTISE OR INTEREST: .....

.....

Banking details for a/c **Hout Bay Residents Association** BANK: FIRST NATIONAL BANK

BRANCH: HOUT BAY  
BRANCH CODE: 204 009  
ACCOUNT No: **5345 1027 173**