



# Hout and About

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The publication of the Residents' Association of Hout Bay  
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Pic courtesy of Anthony Allen, The Aerial Perspective [www.aerialphoto.co.za](http://www.aerialphoto.co.za)

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## Len's Lines

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

#### City wants to take the HOUT out of Hout Bay

If the City Planners have their way a 19,8 metre service road parallel to the HB Main Road, adjacent to Imizamo Yethu, will be built with taxi ranks and informal trading stalls - (this parallel road will be 10m wider than our present the Main Road and wider than Victoria Ave Drive over Suikerbossie) – this is absolute madness and City planning gone crazy! The almost 20 metre road will obliterate most of the trees in this area – hence the HOUT being removed from Hout Bay. The trees lining this route are the successors of those planted by the Dutch East India Company to provide wood for the fortification of the Castle in Cape Town as well as boats and thus have historical and heritage value. It was the Dutch who named this valley 'Hout' or Wood Bay – now the 'Hout' is being threatened.

After many failed attempts to settle with the City and Province, the Hout Bay and Llandudno Environment Group (the ECG) was compelled to go to the High Court to seek a Judicial Review. The Court hearing under Judge Dlodlo was 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> November but the site visit that was planned for the 22<sup>nd</sup> November did not take place due to the City's officials being unavailable to attend. However the Judge, City's Advocates, City Planners and Province all came to Hout Bay on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> of December. They were greeted by toy-toying IY residents carrying placards saying “LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE – NO ROAD HERE” and “DON'T CUT DOWN OUR TREES” The People have spoken – but nobody is listening. Clifford Nogwavu Chairman of SANCO informed those who would listen that “we want IY to be like the rest of Hout Bay and Hout Bay has many trees, we don't want another Apartheid location with no trees, IY must be integrated into Hout Bay”. He also went on to say that “old people can't climb up the mountain from a taxi rank at the bottom of IY to their homes – this taxi rank must be in the middle of IY in Mandela Road, not at the bottom by Main Road and the informal trading must also be on Mandela Road as well” See the pic of the tree lined Main Road on page 3 – this is a designated Scenic Route into Hout Bay which could soon change forever. The visual impact will be dramatically changed with the Main Road denuded of trees. The Judgement of the High Court is expected in early February next year and we'll know then whether we will be with or without the HOUT in Hout Bay.

**As we now draw close to festivities and the end of the year 2011, the ExCo of the Residents' Association and I, wish all the communities of Hout Bay a peaceful, safe and happy Xmas and many joyous moments over the festive season.**



**Len Swimmer**

Chairman, Residents Association of Hout Bay  
Tel: 021 790 0268; Email: [lens@telkomsa.net](mailto:lens@telkomsa.net)

**Xmas cheer – remember those  
in need – all creatures great  
and small**

**Pic courtesy of Anthony Allen, The Aerial Perspective** [www.aerialphoto.co.za](http://www.aerialphoto.co.za)



**Imizamo Yethu, the tree lined Main Road, clearly depicted – but all could change (no trees) if the City builds a 19m service road parallel to Main Rd**



**Imizamo Yethu Residents become Protesters, informing Judge Dlodlo who came on a Site Visit after the Court hearing: “We Don’t Want Road Here” and “don’t cut down our trees”, “Listen to the People” - see Len’s Lines Page 2**

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**Simon van Nimwegen and Alison Ball run the SuperSpar Chappies Challenge**

**RAHB's newest member and new boy on the block introduced to RAHB's ExCo on the 16<sup>th</sup> November, the intrepid, Trevor Ball produced the Sunday's inaugural Chappies Challenge - The 2012 SuperSpar Chappies Challenge, on Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> of November! Here's what Trevor reported:-**

Battle hardened Capetonians love a good breeze and the Cape Doctor dealt out some strong medicine for the inaugural SuperSpar Chappies Challenge on Sunday.

1000 runners arrived at dawn to take on the 70km gusts, horizontal sand storms and sea spray.

But it was far from bad news, as : "the return journey from Noordhoek, has us flying like kites" said Mens Vets winner Ian Little.

The World's most scenic drive is now the world's most awesome half marathon. Starting from Hout Bay beach, runners charge uphill, on the winding, twisting road to the top view site – the 5km mark.

Spoiled by magnificent views all the way – ocean vistas one side, mountain-scapes the other – there is no need to hurry the course.

10km runners do an about turn and gallop back to Hout Bay, whilst the 21km 'tough nuts' continue on around the cliffs that make this race so special. Carved out of the soft sandstone and laid on top of granite boulders, this road is an engineering masterpiece and deserving of its lofty status as a world icon.

The half marathon loops around the Noordhoek common and runners start back to enjoy the views from another angle.

At the finish, Kronendal School DJ John pumped out motivating disco beats to welcome runners home.

The kids beach dash was also a windy affair, with Moms and Dads jogging along to assist their off spring in the battle against the breeze – much fun was had by all.

The day ended at the SuperSpar, with madcap owner Simon van Nimwegen releasing the race winners on a 5 minute trolley dash in amongst the morning shoppers.

### **While on the subject of Chappies, it is no secret that RAHB is fighting the proposed inappropriate and massive Toll Plaza with its Office block for Entilini staff**

The latest news in this saga:- after the non-response by Province to our Attorney's letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2011 in this matter, our Attorneys Cullinan & Associates made the decision and wrote to Dr David Mabunda, the Chief Executive Officer of the SA National Parks on the 28 November 2011, as follows:

*"In our letter dated 23 September 2011, a copy of which is attached for ease of reference, we explain why construction of the toll plaza in the manner proposed would be unlawful. To date we have received no response to our request for an undertaking from the PGWC that construction will not be commenced and that the building plans will be revised so as to bring the proposed development into compliance with the law. We have likewise received no response from you to the request conveyed in paragraph 9 of that letter which called on you to furnish us with any approval granted in terms of section 50 of the National Environment Management: Protected Areas Act ("the NEMPAA") of the proposed construction within the TMNP.*

*The proposed construction in the TMNP will not contribute to the realisation of the objects of the NEMPAA nor will it advance the purposes of the TMNP. Constructing a toll plaza or part thereof within the TMNP would be in direct conflict with the TMNP management plan which designates the affected area as a "quiet zone" intended to serve as a buffer between the TMNP and the adjoining urban area. The key management objective for this area is "biodiversity restoration within the context of heritage resources and recreational use". The construction of a portion of the proposed toll plaza within the TMNP is wholly incompatible with the purposes for which the TMNP was declared as a national park and if SANParks as management authority were to allow this to occur it would be doing so in breach of its statutory obligations".*

Watch this space for more news, when we hear it we'll inform you if you are a member of RAHB and get our monthly Hout and About.

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### **Letters/e-mails from our Members & Associates**

#### **Letter from Pieter Botha Centre for Invasion Biology Stellenbosch University**

Dear Hout Bay Residents Association

I am a student at Stellenbosch University researching an invasive alien plant species, Montpellier/French broom (*Genista monspessulana*).

The species is currently only known from a few sites in South Africa (Tokai, Newlands Forest, Constantia), but it is a serious problem in other parts of the world such as California and could potentially become a widespread invader of fynbos and forests.

There are records of Montpellier broom in "lower Orange Kloof" in the 1980s and it is quite likely that the species is still present in the area. It is a shrub with yellow flowers - flowering from Aug. to November. An ID pamphlet with full details is attached. It is related to Spanish broom (*Spartium junceum*), which occurs on Suikerbossie and along roads in Llandudno, and has similar yellow flowers. The key difference is that Montpellier broom has more leaves, which it carries in groups of three, and does not have reed-like stems.

If you have seen this plant species in Orange Kloof or anywhere else, please let me know. If you encounter Montpellier broom, a photograph would help a lot to confirm the identification.

I would really appreciate it if you could pass this email on to anyone familiar with the Orange Kloof area.

Kind regards

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Stellenbosch University  
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Zoom Out (NumPad -)



## INVASIVE PLANT ALERT

Have you seen this plant?



### Montpellier broom

**Scientific name:** *Genista monspessulana* (L.) L.A.S. Johnson

**Synonym:** *Cytisus monspessulanus* (L.) Lam.

**Alternative common names:** French broom, Cape broom, Canary broom



Environmental Affairs  
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
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According to legislation, this is a Category 1 (CARA/ proposed 1a (NEMBA) invasive plant in the Western Cape. The following guidelines apply to this species:



- High priority emerging species requiring compulsory control.
- All breeding, growing, moving and selling of plants are banned.
- Remove and destroy plants.

#### Description

A 1-3 m high shrub with unarmed, slender, very leafy green and erect branches; young branchlets are ridged and hairy. Leaves are a dull greyish-green, hairy underneath, shortly stalked, trifoliate with rounded ends, up to 20 mm long. Flowers are pea-like, bright yellow, up to 13 mm long, in short racemes of 3-8 flowers, positioned at the tip of lateral branches; flowering time is from August to January. Pods are rusty brown, covered with silky hairs, 13-20 mm long, usually containing 5-8 seeds per pod.

Currently the plant is only known from a few localities in the Cape Peninsula, but it is a severe noxious weed in California, Australia and other parts of the world. Please notify us if you see this plant on your property or anywhere in the Cape Peninsula so that we can map the location and control the plant before it becomes a major problem in South Africa as well.

#### Contact us

Taryn Rossenrode: 021 712 1944 or 021 712 1434

(during office hours)







**The Endangered Arum Lilly Frog**

**If you see someone selling Arum Lillies, call City Law Enforcement  
on (021) 596 1400/1424**



**The following letter was received from:**

FRIENDS OF THE BAKKERSHOOGTE PUBLIC OPEN SPACE and FRIENDS OF ZEEKOEVLEI AND RONDEVLEI

It is the start of Arum Lily season. A tiny endangered Arum Lily Micro Frog breeds inside the water and dew held in the cup of these Lilies. We are desperate to curtail the gross destruction of Lilies. Please don't buy Lilies sold at traffic intersections.

Would you please do a tiny bit, and just FWD this by email to everyone you can?

**Please Don't kill Arum Lily Frogs**

Yours sincerely

FOBPOS and FOZR

FRIENDS OF THE BAKKERSHOOGTE PUBLIC OPEN SPACE and FRIENDS OF ZEEKOEVLEI AND RONDEVLEI

Address – Suite 222, Private Bag X34, Somerset West 7129

Fax number – 086 691 1942

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**To know what's going on in Hout Bay, why not join the Residents' Association? Join today – here's how:-** Contact us via email on [rahb@houtbay.org.za](mailto:rahb@houtbay.org.za) and membership form will be promptly sent to you.