

Hout and About

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The publication of the Hout Bay Residents & Ratepayers Association
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	PAGE
Photo of Hout Bay, Hangberg & Sentinel – As the sun sets	1
Len's Lines – some warnings & compliments – fire hazard, Child Safe campaign and storm water damage: praise to City Official	2-6

Child Safe – directions and pics to safeguard from fires by a burning candle. Unsolicited information kindly provided with Photos and letter from Mrs. Dorothy Schulman - Childsafe/CAPFSA Volunteer	3-4
Photograph - Fire in informal showing the high density and fire hazard – accident and death waiting to happen. Inaction of City to grasp the nettle and deal with a high density settlement.	4
Brendon Fortuin, City Official comes up trumps in dealing with major storm damage in Harbour area. Photo of the area - Skipper Street. Photo of Hout Bay harbour – a veritable gem	5-6
HBRRA raffle results – a winner is drawn out of the hat!	6-7
The International School of Hout Bay’s, plans approved, set to go	7-9
Correspondence	8-9
How to become a member of the Association	9

Len’s Lines

A message from the Chairman of the Hout Bay Residents & Ratepayers Association

Some warnings and some compliments

The fire last month in the illegal informal settlement of Dontse Yakhe, above Imizamo Yethu is reminiscent of the previous fires that have occurred in this area. When one shack is alight the fire soon spreads to many other shacks in the vicinity. When summoned, the Hout Bay, fire brigade could just stand and watch and hope that the wind would not fan the flames and cause greater destruction. In this area of Dontse Yakhe, the fire trucks cannot get access – the shack development is so dense – Hout and About has featured this density with photos on many occasions. Our Association again appeals to the City of Cape Town to grasp the nettle and do something before there is more loss of lives and more destruction.

Here’s the history of the informal settlement: in November 2002, when Peter Venter was the DA Councillor for Hout Bay, a formal resolution was passed by the Mayoral Committee (MAYCO), Nomaindia Mfeketo, presiding as Mayor. This resolution called for the urgent relocation of many people from the settlement in order to make it sustainable and allow the City of Cape Town to put in the required infrastructure to cope in the area. The following month trucks with low-bed trailers lined up in Hout bay Main Road to move settlers to a Temporary Relocation Area (TRA). At the 11th hour Mayor Nomaindia Mfeketo reneged on the Council’s Resolution and cancelled the removals. Administrations, come and go, officials remain but the politicians change – with the advent of the DA Administration, nothing has changed in this matter, despite the enormous growth, density and illegality of Dontse Yakhe. When Helen Zille was Mayor of Cape Town, she paid for a facilitation and consensus process with the leaders of the Settlement and Community leaders in Hout Bay. The Community Organisations thrashed out with the facilitation of the Institute of Justice & Reconciliation, the IJR Principles – these Principles spelled out very clearly the need to “decant” and relocate many people to make the area safe and viable for a proper township that all of Hout Bay could be proud of - a tree-lined suburb of Hout Bay.

The Cape Times recorded the recent fire last month and I received a phone call followed by an e-mail from Dorothy Schulman (see below). To Dorothy Schulman we say thank you for contacting me and our compliments go out to your Organisation www.childsafe.org.za

“Attention please: Chairman, Mr Swimmer, Hout Bay Residents and Ratepayers Association

Dear Mr Swimmer

Following our telephone conversation last night re Fires in the Informal Settlement at Hout Bay caused by fallen candles, please find information and leaflets attached from Childsafe/Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Southern Africa, based at Red Cross War Memorial Children’s Hospital.

Our Safer Candle Project was started six years ago following thousands of shacks fires in Jo Slovo, Cape Town. After positive trials in Khayelitsha when residents who used candles for lighting were asked to test and report, we have continued with regular demonstrations at Red Cross Children’s Hospital.

If you need more information please feel free to contact me again. Childsafe website also has a Safer Candle video, and reports in Newsletters, and the 2009-2011 Annual Report with photos: www.childsafe.org.za

Kind Regards
Dorothy Schulman”

Childsafe/CAPFSA Volunteer.

childsafe
KEEP KIDS FREE FROM HARM

A campaign by the Child Accident
Prevention Foundation
of Southern Africa (CAPFSA)
and Safekids Worldwide

KEEP YOUR CANDLE SAFE



1. Place dry sand and candle in a jar



2. Light candle with another candle



3. Candle flame should not burn higher than the jar



4. Place jar on a stable surface away from the edge

SAFE USE OF CANDLES IN A GLASS JAR

GENERAL CARE OF CANDLE IN A GLASS JAR

- Never leave a burning candle unattended
- Always supervise children near fire, flames or candles
- Place your candle jar on a sturdy, uncluttered surface away from the edge or any place where it could be knocked over, especially by children
- The DRY sand acts to smother the flame if the jar is knocked over
- Light the candle carefully, ensuring that you do not burn yourself - use the other half candle
- Extinguish all candles when you leave the house or go to sleep
- Never leave young children alone in a room with a candle or any flame
- Always keep candles away from anything that can burn like curtains, newspaper, clothing & hanging decorations
- Place lit candles away from windows or near doorways where drafts could bring combustibles in contact with the flame
- Reuse a glass jar without the lid – save the Earth's resources
- Always remove the wax from the sand / soil every time your candle is finished or burnt down
- Ensure that you refill the glass jar with DRY sand / soil with every change of candle to the level of at least 1/3 of the jar
- Should the glass start to get smoky, clean it when you remove the wax
- The glass jar makes the candlelight brighter
- Use only half a candle so the flame is lower than the top of the jar

BROKEN GLASS

- Do take care of the glass if the jar is cracked or broken
- Collect any pieces of broken glass & dispose of them safely by wrapping them in thick newspaper.
- Ensure that all the glass pieces are swept up to avoid cuts.

www.childsafe.org.za



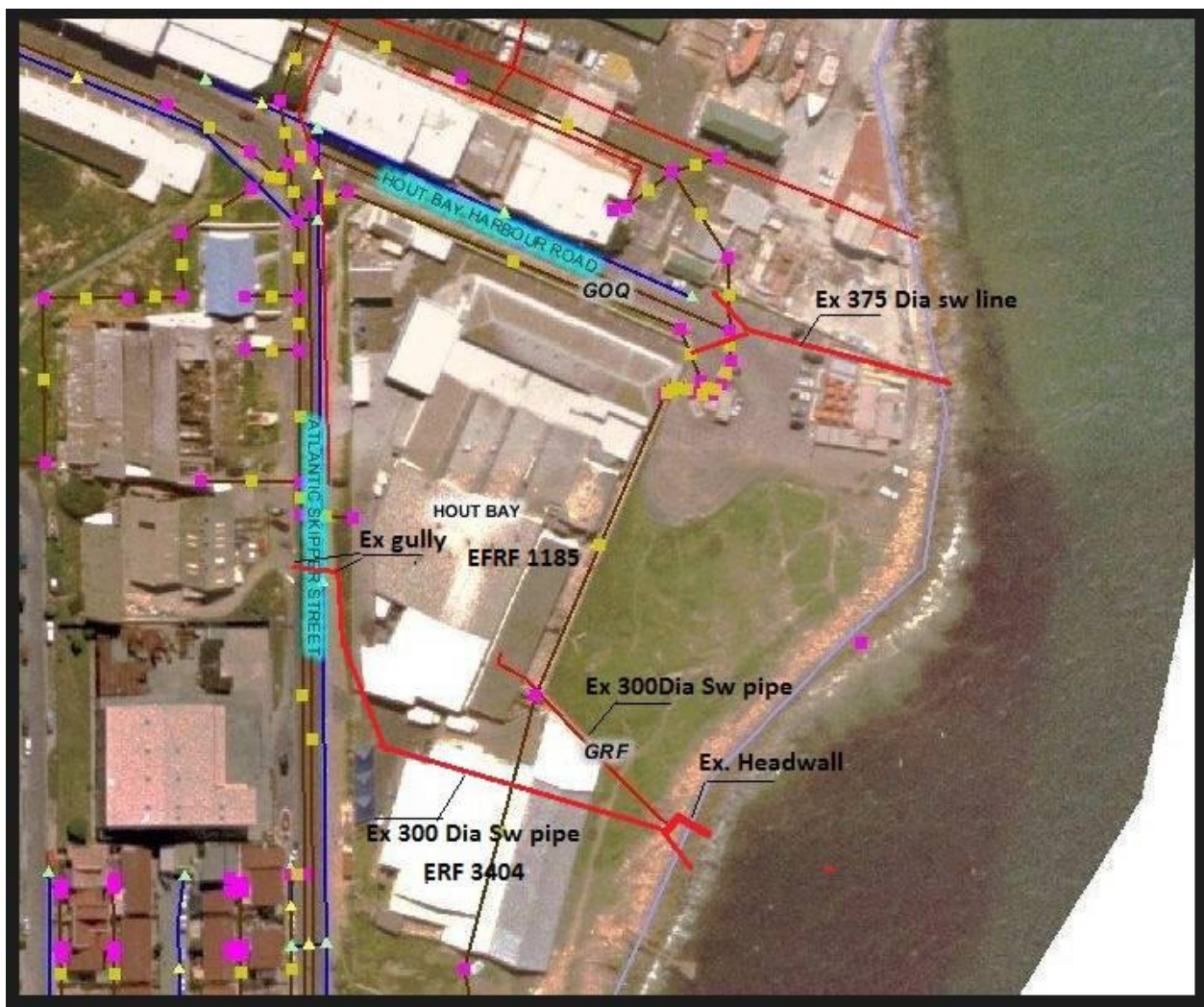
Prof. Saurtha & Chamidelle



A fire in Imizamo Yethu showing the high density leading to destruction, possible deaths by the burning shacks with some spaghetti wires tapping electricity exploding and burning.

The second compliment, goes out to Brendon Fortuin, District Manager, Plumstead, Roads & Storm Water, who acted swiftly and expeditiously to blocked storm water drains in the Harbour area, after major storm events due to the very heavy rains last month, causing extensive damage to property in Atlantic Skipper Road. Brendon provided a full comprehensive report to our Association with the causes for the blockages (see below). Thank you Brendon, it is very much appreciated.

The ExCo of this Association will create a portfolio for Storm Water and one for Roads at our next meeting this month, to liaise with our Communities and Cape Town officials. It is indeed unfortunate that our Harbour is managed by Central Government Administrations. If the Hout Bay Harbour were managed by our Local Government, perhaps we could together unlock the many potential jobs and tourism possibilities her and get a grip on the serious crime in our Harbour.



"The investigation by Roads and Stormwater has determined that the sewer and stormwater networks are not illegally connected in any way. The influx of sewerage into the stormwater network is as a result of surcharges on the sewer system. The Sanitation branch in conjunction with Department of Public Works is still investigating the cause of the problems experienced on the sewer network in this area.

Flooding in Atlantic Skipper Road and erf 1185 was caused by obstructions (kelp and rock) at the stormwater outlet to the sea. Work on clearing the outlet and the 2 x 300 diam. pipes leading to it will be completed today. The outlet will also be monitored before and after major storm events.

Regards/Groete/Ngemibuliso

Brendon Fortuin

District Manager : Plumstead
Roads & Stormwater
City of Cape Town
Email: brendon.fortuin@capetown.gov.za



Hout Bay Harbour – what a gem – with proper management, planning, infrastructure and crime prevention it could unlock so many, many jobs and huge tourist potential

Our Raffle to raise funds for our very depleted bank a/c

A big thank you from the ExCo and Chairman goes out to those who took the time and effort to participate in this fun raffle. We thank you for your donations, please try again when we next do a raffle like this one.

We now have pleasure in announcing the winner who answered correctly, that it is the **Postberg Nature Reserve** which is adjacent to Churchhaven.

Aaaaand, the WINNER is:- **Dave and Janice Cowley**, who now have the house, "Whalers Way" from the 17th – 19th August to enjoy the surroundings and the fynbos, the daisies and bounteous floral beauty which surrounds them, and above all, with the outlook to the turquoise sea. A big congratulations to them and we wish them a joyous week-end (hope the weather's good) and don't forget to supply us with photos for our next Hout and About.



Also, our grateful thanks go to David Untiedt, owner of "Perfect Hideaways", who made it possible for us to raffle "Whalers Way", this house in Churchhaven

perfecthideaways

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The Long awaited news concerning the building of the International School of Hout Bay – a potted history and the latest info

The International School of Hout Bay was established in 1999 by a group of local parents who saw the need for a world-class private school to serve the educational needs of this community. In 2004 the then board of governors entered into a partnership with International Educations Systems in order to secure the financial resources required to build a new campus. In 2005 the school purchased six hectares of land opposite the historic Kronendal farmhouse. The process to consolidate the erven and to secure the permission to

build has been, in the words of one of the consultants 'the longest and most complex in my experience'. This has required enormous patience on the part of the school, its owners and the parents.

The final planning permission was received in June 2012 and with the site handover complete and a ground-breaking ceremony planned for 1 August; this heralds a new chapter in the life of the school. In terms of the building plans, phase one will accommodate the High School and the Primary School will remain at Swan Cottage. It will move in phase two.

Being an International Baccalaureate World school brings the school into contact with a broader community of 4000 schools in 138 countries. As our school's reputation grows we are enjoying more contact and interaction with schools worldwide.

Principal Andy Wood said 'it is our vision to be the best of Hout Bay and the best of international. We want to retain all that is good in a South African education: our love of sport and the outdoors, the respect for one another and our manners. When it comes to the quality of teaching and learning, we want to ensure that our standards are international and that our students can take their place amongst the best in the world.'

Correspondence from cyberspace and from members to us

This one from New Zealand which was forwarded to our staunch supporter and dearest member Mrs. Rae Graham (Rae's response hereunder)

From: Peter Davies [<mailto:pdavies@actuary.co.nz>]
Sent: 20 June 2012 3:40 AM
To: hbrra@houtbay.org.za; lens@telkomsa.net
Subject: Mrs Rae Graham

Dear Hout Bay residents' association / Len

Obtained your contact details from the internet.

Do you have a contact address, phone number, or e-mail address for Mrs. Rae Graham please (widow of the late Cecil Graham)? She was a friend of my parents, Clifford and Margaret Davies, many years ago when she and Cecil were up in Sebasa, and my father was in Louis Trichardt and rector of the Soutpansberg parish. I would like to catch up on family news.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Peter

Peter Davies B.Bus.Sc., FIA, FNZSA

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New Zealand

From Rae Graham to us:

Dear Len,

Many thanks for this contact, his parents were our oldest friends made when we were first married, and living up north. I have written to him.

Bless you.

Rae.

To know what's going on in Hout Bay, why not join the Hout Bay Residents & Ratepayers Association? Join today – here's how:-
Contact us via email on hbrra@houtbay.org.za and a membership form will be promptly sent to you.
