



NEWSLETTER

September 2024

Dear Suiderstrand

Having seen through a couple of nasty winter months we are looking forward to a more pleasant summer period where we can renew our support for Suiderstrand and its inhabitants. Thank you for your ongoing support and interest! We continue to believe that Suiderstrand is a special and unique place – one of a few communities surrounded by a National Park. Certainly, a place where one can still appreciate the brightness of the stars and where animals, plants and the sea forms part of everyday life. Together with the Community the Association would like to conserve and build/strengthen this unique heritage.

Fire Prevention - Our Fire Prevention Officer, Schalk van der Merwe's unwavering efforts and mediation resulted in CAM introducing 9 new water hydrants and servicing and upgrading 18 existing fire hydrants. As a result, Suiderstrand now has 27 serviceable hydrants that can be used when needed to fight fires. The "brandwaentjie" is fully serviceable and is tested regularly.

Suiderstrand Logo and information signage - The logo was enthusiastically designed and selected with full participation from the community. Approval to use "Pietie se Huis" in the logo was obtained from SANPARK.

It is the association's intention to erect a new nameplate at the entrance to Seemans Road as well as new information boards at the parking area, walkway to the sea and other areas. The purpose of the signage will be to highlight and emphasize safety and to make visitors aware of the uniqueness of Suiderstrand as well as our obligation to maintain it as such. We've engaged CAM to get their approval and support, following which we will present our proposals to the community.

Conservation - The removal of invasive plants and beach cleaning remains key monthly initiatives, planned and supported by the association. We continue to share knowledge and information on indigenous plants suitable for Suiderstrand conditions. The association made numerous proposals to CAM to improve plot clearing practices; some of which were included in the recently amended plot clearing bylaw.

The association is considering the creation of an Environmental Protection Plan in conjunction with CAM officials.

Weather permitting and avoiding calendar clashes with other initiatives, the plan is to reserve the 2nd Saturday of every month for the removal of invasive plants and the 3rd Saturdays of every month for beach clearing. These activities are well focused 1.5-hour sessions.

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Community Market - This initiative is progressing well; weather permitting, being held the 1st Saturday of every month. There is growing interest from visitors and exhibitors. People visiting the market not only get to buy quality goods, but it also provides an opportunity to meet, support and interact with people from the community.

The Suiderstrander – Three articles of this publication have been released this year, covering Invasive plants (April'24), the uniqueness of the Blombos and indigenous gardening (May'24) and the Tobies of Suiderstrand (June'24). We must acknowledge and thank Anita Joubert-Bagshaw for the initiative to publish these very topical and interesting articles.

Speedbumps and Water weirs - CAM is in the process of building these.

Matters to which the committee is currently attending:

- Welcoming parcel for new residents. The intention is to include useful information about our environment and the conservation thereof and will be made available to all residents.
- Bat homes – we are considering different types and associated costs of “homes”. Anyone with information on this issue are welcome to share with us.
- Association Webpages. We are busy sanitizing and expanding information on the web pages.
- Facebook – We intend to create a Facebook page that should be available by the end of October 2024
- Parking area. We have engaged CAM to consider introducing barriers to prevent visitors from damaging the fynbos and adjacent dune areas. The lack of barriers also allows people to dump garbage amongst the fynbos and dunes. Stones (currently in place) do help, but we are looking at something more permanent.

Finance and Membership - The Association's financial year ends in August and annual membership fees will then be due. Membership fees for the next year will remain at R150. You are requested to pay membership fees directly into the association's current account – please see account details at the end of the Newsletter. The SCCFPA has assets of approximately R51 900 (R30 990 are fixed assets in the form of the “brandwaentjie” and its fixtures.)

Annual General Meeting

Meeting planned for 10h00 on Wednesday, 18 December.

We are encouraging you to please attend.

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You are welcome to contact any of our committee members for information or community proposals.

1. Danie Schutte – Chairman - 083 272 0113
2. Gawie du Toit – Vise Chairman – 076 124 4830
3. Derik Duvenhage – Secretary – 082 903 7047
4. Schalk Van der Merwe – Fire Prevention Officer – 0824607500
5. Matilda Bester – Marketing and Communication – 083 423 0829
6. Anita Bagshaw – Conservation and Community Market – 082 556 4514
7. Louis Lourens – Treasurer – 082 853 1758
8. Geoff Nichols – Conservation – 083 628 3945
9. Gerrit Posthumus – Information – 083 376 7674

Emergency numbers –

- Police: 028 514 7501 / 082 522 2568
- Ambulance: 101 77 / (028) 212 9111
- Struisbaai Clinic: 028 435 7548
- Doctors: 027 341 1434
- Provincial Hospital (Bredasdorp): 028 424 1167
- Sea Rescue / Sea animal rescue: 028 435 7777 / 087 094 9774
- ER24: 084 124
- Netcare 911: 082 911
- Fire Department (Bredasdorp): (028) 425 1690
- Life Line: 086 132 2322
- Snake/Scorpion/Spider Bite Hotline: 021 931 6129
- Mobile phone emergency number: 112
- South African Tourism helpline: 083 123 6789
- Arrive Alive Call Centre: 0861 400 80

MEMBERSHIP FEES & DONATIONS

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