



KHBA E-Newsletter - May 2022

The Bigger Picture

A pristine environment is necessary for the mental, physical, and economic health of any community. All members of the community need to assist in preserving the ambience of the environment.

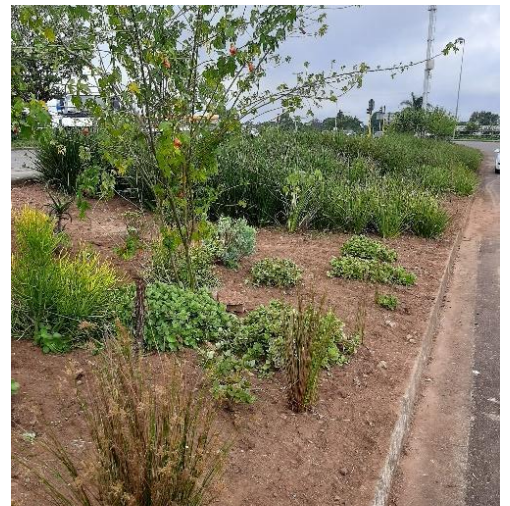
Management Matters

The “new members” of the management committee, elected at the beginning of 2022, have been of considerable assistance in helping to lighten the load of the “older members” and their contribution in this regard is appreciated. It would be desirable if the elected Ward Councillors for the area covered by KHBA’s operations were willing to become involved in the activities of the committee, however, attempts to achieve this have not been successful to date. In saying this, the DA Proportional Representative member dealing with environmental matters, Caelee Laing, has agreed to participate in committee meetings, which we are thankful for.

Beautification Matters

Jacqui Hicks has come on board here and is proving to be of considerable help to Marge Mitchell who previously handled the matter on her own. Jacqui has been very active in getting her “hands dirty” and is often to be seen working physically in planting shrubs and flowers. The picture below shows her working on the improvements to the verge of the flanking service road to ‘Old Main Road’. An area to which Jacqui has devoted considerable effort is the verge between the Old Main Road and the flanking service road on the western side of the Oxford Development.

A welcome development has been offered by Mathew, Kaz Wilson and Vusi Mhlangu of the Imfino Company to maintain the flanking road outside Hunyadi Motors (see the photo below).



Another welcome development during the past months has been the undertaking by the “Grasschopper” company to maintain the ambience of the M13 offramp into Hillcrest.

As a result of some ‘staff’ problems, KHBA has had, on occasion during the past few months, to employ the services of the “Grasschopper” company and “Landmark Landscapers” to provide staff members assistance with the maintenance of the gardens.

Illegal and unsightly advertising signs in the Hillcrest area were previously removed in terms of a contract KHBA had with the municipality covering the whole of the Outer West area. This contract has come to an end a few years back, nevertheless, the municipality occasionally requests KHBA to remove illegal signs in the Hillcrest area. This work is done *pro bono* by KHBA through the hard work of Marge Mitchell and during the period covered by this newsletter, Marge has personally removed a multitude of illegal signs.

Hillcrest Recycling Centre

Following the relaxation of the COVID-19 lockdown, the ‘drop-off’ of material for recycling has increased significantly since the start of the year. Nevertheless, the staff has maintained the area in a tidy state. Gayle Tatton has come on board to manage the centre in association with Marge Mitchell; her sterling work is appreciated by the committee. Unfortunately, a few unethical members of the Hillcrest area and surrounds still continue to illegally dump their gardening and building waste, and a host of other rubbish at the centre. They are captured on the security cameras at the centre, but unfortunately, it has not been possible to successfully prosecute them. In one particular incident, waste was dumped by a young lady driver of a white Landrover vehicle. On following up on the matter it was ascertained that the vehicle number plates did not match the description of the vehicle.

During April, six ‘environmental’ students from the Umfolozi ‘TVET College’ and at the request of the college spent the month working at the recycling centre gaining practical experience in environmental matters. Marge Mitchell was tasked as their mentor in gaining practical experience in matters such as:

- Identify a range of materials and resources and know their characteristics and properties
- Work with, use, transport and store materials safely
- Work with and use resources responsibly
- Identify, categorize, collect, handle, and dispose of different kinds of waste
- Materials recovery
- Waste reception
- Landfill operations

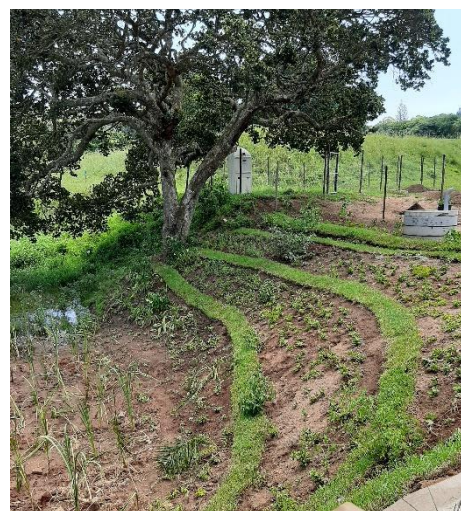


For some years the signposting at the centre had proliferated and it was felt by Saskia Wartnaby and Marge that some ‘rationalization’ of the signposting was needed to convey the necessary messages more clearly. This was done and the picture below illustrates one of the new signs.



Elizabeth Park

The development of Elizabeth Park, in conjunction with the Parks Department of the municipality, is one of KHBA's projects. The aim of the Parks Department is to allow the natural grass to grow to its full potential with “cut walkways” for the use of the public. During the April floods in the area, the ‘upstream’ cut slopes at the entrance of the Nqutu stream to the bridge crossing of Elizabeth road became severely eroded; they were in any case in a poor and unstable condition following the bridge widening. Following pressure from Tony Wint of the Camelot Conservancy and KHBA, the municipality appointed a landscape architect to design and implement repairs to the erosion. Marge Mitchell has during the past few months, both before and after the April floods, been working with the landscape architect and the contractor monitoring progress to ensure a successful outcome to the erosion repair measures. The photos below illustrate “before” and “after” the repairs.



Verge Competition

For many years, KHBA has been running a competition for the best verge in the Hillcrest area. The competition is managed by Maggie Fleming. There are in fact two separate competitions: for the best household verge, and for the best corporate property verge. The annual prize for the best corporate verge this year was won by Richdens, who had the work done by 'Landmark Landscapers'.



Social Media

Saskia Wartnaby has very kindly and pro bono offered to look after the social media, which includes the Keep Hillcrest Beautiful Association Facebook page and the webpage found at khba.org.za. Saskia has grown its following to over 1200 and through this medium, more people are able to find out more about the Association and its endeavours. Saskia is also responsible for the design and layout of the new signs at the recycling centre.

How You Can Help

KHBA is a not for profit association and relies on the public and commercial entities to pay an annual subscription. We ask for R100 P.A. from individuals, and 500 P.A. from corporates. Being an 18A Public Benefit association, KHBA can issue tax exemption certificates to donors and sponsors. KHBA has at present six sponsors, and it needs to pay tribute to them for their monthly sponsorship which is greatly appreciated. Needless to say, KHBA could not continue without the support of the subscribers, donors, and sponsors.

The Keep Hillcrest Beautiful Association Facebook page has a Zapper link which facilitates ease of payment.

KHBA thanks Richdens, Blackwood Nursery and Stretta Café which each sponsor a R100 voucher which is won each month by a fully paid-up subscriber.

Bank Details

Keep Hillcrest Beautiful Association

Standard Bank Hillcrest

Account 25 661 876 3

Leave your email address or cell number as reference to be in line to win a R100 voucher.