

SEPTEMBER 2017

Hermanus	028 313 8000	Fax	028 312 1894
Gansbaai	028 384 8300		028 384 0241
Kleinmond	028 271 8400		028 271 4100
Stanford	028 341 8500		028 341 0445

24-hour Emergency	028 313 8000/8111
Fire Brigade	028 312 2400

Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

OVERSTRAND HOLDS COMMUNITY UPLIFTMENT HIGH ON MANDELA DAY

On Tuesday, 18 July 2017, Overstrand Executive Mayor, Ald Rudolph Smith accompanied by mayoral committee members Cllrs Elnora Gillion and Arnie Africa, set the pace in Overstrand's contribution to the Mandela Day Campaign by paying a visit to the Health and Welfare Centre in Hawston.

The event afforded the opportunity for the facility's Chairperson, Wally Moosa, to take the Mayor and his party on a guided tour of the premises. This included a walk through the wards, kitchen, laundry and an inspection of its well-kept sustainable vegetable and herb garden. During the stay, the mayor engaged with several in-care patients and staff before lending a hand in dishing out 67 cups of soup and bread to a queue of children who stood patiently in line waiting their turn.

While there, Mayor Smith also took the time to handover a wheelchair that Centre Manager, George Kinnear said would do much to assist with the service offering they provide to the community.

Other activities comprised sprucing up the building that had kids of the Hawston Library School Holiday Programme washing windows, while a group of Overstrand firefighters took turns at cleaning and sweeping the hall ways.

Speaking at the Mandela Day commemoration, the mayor said, "The work carried out at facilities like this has a meaningful impact on our communities and showcases the spirit of social responsibility, that was espoused so well by the late Tata Madiba."

"This has been a very moving and emotional experience and I applaud the centre and its staff for the efforts and wonderful work that they do," stated the mayor.

While the Mayor commemorated Mandela Day in Hawston, other councillors around Overstrand also did their bit to honour the legacy of Madiba. Ward 5 councillor Valerie Pungupungu gathered young children in Zwelihle to clean up a play park in the area; she also used the moment to educate them on how to take care of their environment. Valerie further visited the Siyazama Old Care Center where she treated the elderly to a hearty lunch of soup.

At another event, members of the Hermanus Division of the Overstrand Fire and Rescue Services put in some hard work too; cleaning and preparing soup for children at Khanya Educare Center in Zwelihle.

Staying in Zwelihle, Cllr Connie Tafu-Nwonkwo helped by donating food and disposable napkins to children at Ikhyia Lezibusiso.

In Kleinmond, ward 10 Cllr Fanie Krige collaborated with the KBRC to paint a container and teach youngsters to propagate seed at the Mandela Circular Random Harvest gardening project at Mthimkhulu Village. Ward 9 Cllr Grant Cohen and a group of volunteers, in turn, assisted staff at the Kleinmond Animal Welfare Society and Child Welfare offices.



Mayor Rudolph Smith (centre) handing out cups of soup to children at a Mandela Day commemoration event held at the Hawston Health and Welfare Organisation on Tuesday, 18 July 2017. There to assist, was Mayoral Committee Member and Portfolio Head of Local Economic Development and Tourism, Cllr Elnora Gillion (second left).



Staff of the Hangklip-Kleinmond offices, along with Cllrs Fanie Krige and Grant Cohen, ran a blanket drive which concluded with Cllr Krige and the team doing a handover of the collection on Mandela Day to Esmien van Zyl of the Child Welfare Kleinmond office.



Cllr Connie Tafu-Nwonkwo (right) handing out food to elderly women and children at a Mandela Day commemoration on Tuesday, 18 July 2017. This was done with the help of other community members of Zwelihle.



Cllr Valerie Pungupungu with children from Zwelihle ward 5, seen carrying cleaning material before they went on to give their 67 minutes for Madiba day. Cllr Pungupungu used the day to teach young children in ward 5 to take care of their surroundings and to keep it clean at all times.



Lending a hand in the kitchen are Overstrand firefighters (from left to right) Ebrim Isaacs, Brendan Hunter, Kyle Alberts and Owen Stewart.



Date: 09 October 2017
Venue: Hawston Thusong Centre
Time: 09h00 - 15h00

Date: 10 October 2017
Venue: Kleinmond Youth Centre
Time: 09h00 - 15h00

Date: 07 November 2017
Venue: Gansbaai Communal Sportgrounds
Time: 09h00 - 15h00

Date: 08 November 2017
Venue: Mount Pleasant Moffat Hall
Time: 09h00 - 15h00

"BABOON CONTROL"

The Municipality has been aware of and concerned about the baboon problem in the Overstrand area for many years. As a result, in 2013, it obtained a Senior Counsel's opinion as to what powers it had to take action, and to assist its residents with baboon control.

The opinion categorically states that the Municipality has no powers to undertake baboon control. The Municipality is an organisation of statute/legislation. In other words, it can only act on and expend funds on functions which are assigned to it by the Constitution and legislation. This opinion was confirmed by Senior Counsel last year, after queries were raised about a judgment handed down in a matter brought by the City of Cape Town. The facts of the matter were different, and the case was wrongly

decided. A municipality does not have the duty or power to control baboons.

Baboon Control is a function assigned to the Provincial and National spheres of government by the Constitution. Following this, the Nature Conservation Ordinance 19 of 1974 confers this power on the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board ("CapeNature"). CapeNature, therefore, has the power and duty, as conferred on them by the Nature Conservation Ordinance, to identify those baboons known as causing damage, to be hunted.

The Municipality has appealed to CapeNature to take action, to protect its residents from the baboons who have caused damage to property and demanded that they fulfil their duties and control the baboons.

LEADING EXPERT SHARES HER INSIGHTS ON MARINE PLASTIC POLLUTION

Dr. Jenna Jambeck, an associate professor at the University of Georgia and expert in ocean plastic pollution, shared her insights with a packed audience at the Civic Auditorium in Hermanus on Monday evening, 17 July 2017, by delivering a talk titled "Impacts of Marine Waste".

In South Africa to speak at the African Marine Waste Network Conference, organised by the Sustainable Seas Trust (SST) that was held in Port Elizabeth last week, the presentation formed the second of a series done by Dr. Jambeck during her US State Department-sponsored visit to the country.

The address focused on the impact of the enormous amount of plastic waste entering the world's oceans on a daily basis. A key point included the fact that plastics being non biodegradable, break down into 'microplastics' that either float or sink to the seabed; the latter creating huge 'plastic patches' in the ocean.

Ingested by marine animals, microplastics are becoming an insidious part of the marine food-chain.

Whilst paying compliment to the Overstrand for its recycling bins and the cleanliness of the beaches she visited earlier in the day, Dr. Jambeck nevertheless cited local research that is finding microplastics in the stomachs of marine animals in the area.

The talk was opened by Dr. Tony Ribbink of the SST with a short presentation and introduction to the newly formed African Marine Waste Network. Dr. Ribbink also heads up South Africa's Hope Spots - of which the Cape Whale Coast, that stretches from Rooi Els to Quin Point, is one.

Also on the programme were Overstrand's Manager of Solid Waste, Johan van Taak and Senior Environmental Manager, Liezl Bezuidenhout, who



Dr Jenna Jambeck, an associate professor at the University of Georgia and expert in ocean plastic pollution, delivered a passionate address on the "Impacts of Marine Waste" to an attentive audience at Civic Auditorium in Hermanus on Monday evening, 17 July 2017.

afforded further insight on the dangers and negative impact of plastic bags on the environment and the ocean in the delivery of their respective presentations, named "Re-Think the Bag" and "Cape Whale Coast - The Hot Spot".

While emphasis was placed on the relative marine health the country's Hope Spots indicate, and the motivation that it has provided for the formation of the African Marine Waste Network, the overall message of the evening was clear: The alarming increase of plastic entering into our oceans is a global problem that needs a global solution.

On a local level, we can make a difference through our consumer choices and by putting pressure on businesses and retailers to dispense with single-use plastics (such as plastic shopping bags and straws).

With the view of getting involved on a global level, Dr Jambeck introduced attendees to the 'Marine Debris Tracker' App which she helped co-develop. Thus far the

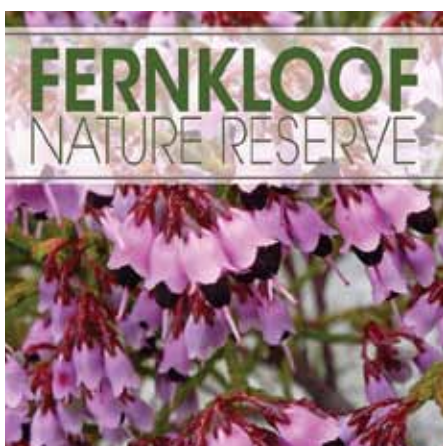


Shirley Mgoboza, a Whale Coast Conservation (WCC) Youth Environmental Programme Coordinator, seen manning a stand at the Marine Waste Pollution event on Monday evening, 17 July.

App has been used to document the location of over a million marine debris items throughout the world and forms part of developing an in-depth understanding of how trash travels to and around, the world's oceans. To learn about the App and how to contribute to the exercise, click on <https://play.google.com/store/apps> then type in 'Marine Debris Tracker'.



Whale Coast Conservation (WCC) displays a dish of plastic sushi to demonstrate how microplastics ingested by marine animals could find its way further up the food chain and eventually end up on our plates.



60th Anniversary of Fernkloof Nature Reserve to be celebrated in September

The Fernkloof Nature Reserve will celebrate its 60th anniversary during the Hermanus Flower Festival from 22 to 25 September 2017.

This will be a special event with a book being launched to showcase Fernkloof and what it has to offer. This handy A5 soft cover book in glossy colour offers lots of information and almost 400 photographs of the local fauna and flora. It also acts as an informative hiking trail guide to lead nature lovers along a 60 kilometre network of paths to waterfalls and breathtaking views high up on the Kleinrivier Mountains overlooking Hermanus, a popular tourist town in the Western Cape. The reserve is 1,800 hectares in area, ranging from sea level to 842 metres and harbours more than 1 250 species of indigenous fynbos species.

The Fernkloof Nature Reserve forms part of the Cape Floristic Region near the southern tip of South Africa. Although it is the smallest of the six recognised floral kingdoms of the world, it boasts the highest concentration of indigenous plants per square metre and extraordinarily high fynbos diversity.

The economical worth of the CFR, based on harvests of fynbos products (e.g. wildflowers) and eco-tourism, is estimated to be in the region of R77 million a year. Thus, the Cape Floristic Region has both economic and intrinsic biological value as a biodiversity hotspot, and as a major tourist attraction.

Visitors are welcome to attend the diverse programme during the celebrations: including Citizen Science Walks to explore and find rare endangered species of fauna in the area, like the Drewes' Moss Frog and Cape Dwarf Chameleon. Other creatures found, albeit in smaller numbers, are the Grey Rhebok, Cape Grysbok, Klipspringer, Baboon, Mongoose and Dassie. More than 100 bird species have also been recorded, namely the Black Eagle and Jackal Buzzard, Cape Sugar Bird, Sunbirds, Rock Thrush and Rock Jumper.

Family fun activities are being planned over the four days to entertain all ages. Enjoy the gorgeous floral displays, environmental exhibits and labelled specimens

of up to 400 fynbos species indigenous to the area. Enticing products will be for sale in the marquee, all with a botanical or nature theme, including books, cards and needlework. Other products such as gardening pots & stepping stones made by Wheel Chair entrepreneurs will also be available. Moreover, bunches of fresh blooms can be purchased and the nursery will have a wide variety of stunning indigenous plants on offer. Linger longer and enjoy something to eat and drink at the Fynbos Café in the gardens.

Other activities to explore:

Back by popular demand: 10 Mini Demonstration Gardens to give you ideas for your own garden; Land Art Workshops: Design your own Land Art Sculpture from what nature has on hand; Exhibits by Environmental organisations such as Cape Nature and Whale Coast Conservation; The Botanical Society's Stand in the Marquee will offer precious treasures and souvenirs; Slithering Snake Fynbos Demonstration - another popular feature; Special schools programmes for children from all communities; Citizen Science Exploration Walks - keep your eyes peeled; Bugz Train through the gardens - for children; Student Art Competition exhibition; Alpacas and their products; Design a Fairy Garden; Raffle with great prizes.

Mark the event off in your diaries to ensure you don't miss what promises to be an experience of note. The custodians of Fernkloof Nature Reserve are the Overstrand Municipality and the Fernkloof Advisory Board. The Hermanus Botanical Society has a mandate to protect the flora and fauna and is passionate about educating people on the need for conservation of the Reserve.

For more information:

Website: www.fernkloof.org.za, see 'Directions and Maps'.
Facebook: www.facebook.com/hermanusbotanicalsociety
E-mail: botsochermanus@telkomsa.net, or altapretrushermanus@gmail.com.

