

NOVEMBER 2019

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

Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

STALWARTS HONoured AT MAYORAL AWARD CEREMONY



Sean Privett (right) of the Walker Bay Fynbos Conservancy was the recipient of the Mayor's Floating Trophy for Environmental Conservation.

On Thursday evening, 3 October, Mayor Dudley Coetzee hosted Overstrand's annual Mayoral Awards Ceremony to honour those very special men and women of the community who, despite leading very busy lives, perform extraordinary deeds of kindness. Through their actions, they have done much to uplift and empower the residents of their respective communities.

In **Category 1: Achiever of Excellence**, the joint winners were Jorika Rabie of Purple Angels and Natasha Bruiners of the Catapult Foundation. The **Mayoral Trophy for Woman of the Year** went to Jami Kastner (Butterfly Centre), and the **Floating Trophy for Environmental Conservation** went to Sean Privett (Walker Bay Fynbos Conservancy). Di Rattle of Hermanus Breweries, Old Harbour Beer, was the winner in **Category 4: Entrepreneurial Achievements**, and Peter Kastner of Stanford Hills Estate in **Category 5: Tourism Development**. Izaan Newman of Gansbaai Academia is the **2019 Junior Achiever**, while Dr Anina Lee and Dr Robin Lee were the recipients of the **Achiever of Excellence: Lifetime Award**. Details of winners' achievements and contributions to their communities are available at <https://www.overstrand.gov.za/en/media-section/news/>. Other finalists in the running for the Mayoral Floating Trophy for Environmental Conservation were Celeste Loriston, Marhette van Huyssteen and Anette Kahts (Story Team); Michael Neville Auston (Botfriends & PEG); Suretha Cloete (Phoenix Project); Melissa Krige-Saayman (Platbos Forest); and Misha Teasdale (Greenprop).



Pictured here with Overstrand Executive Mayor Dudley Coetzee are the recipients of the 2019 Mayoral Awards: In the back row, from left to right, Jorika Rabie of Purple Angels (Achiever of Excellence Award), Izaan Newman of Gansbaai Academia (2019 Junior Achiever), Sean Privett of Walker Bay Fynbos Conservancy (Floating Trophy for Environmental Conservation), and Peter Kastner of Stanford Hills Estate (Tourism Development Award). In front row, from left to right, Di Rattle of Hermanus Breweries, Old Harbour Beer (Entrepreneurial Achievement Award), Dr Anina Lee (Achiever of Excellence: Lifetime Award), Natasha Bruiners of the Catapult Foundation (Achiever of Excellence Award), Dr Robin Lee (Achiever of Excellence: Lifetime Award) and Jami Kastner of the Butterfly Centre (Woman of the Year).

Low rainfall affects De Bos dam

From the winter of 2015, the Western Cape region has been in the midst of a significant drought and rainfall has been below average.

The winter rains of 2016 and 2017 have done little to offer relief. As of the beginning of November 2017, Overstrand Municipality had to implement level 1 water restrictions for the Greater Hermanus area.

As from 1 June 2018, level 2 water restrictions had to be implemented, including the first level of water-restriction tariffs for the administrative area of Hermanus only. Since then, the winters of 2018 as well as 2019 to date have also yielded below-average rainfall.

Rainfall and water demand

From 1 January 2019 to the end of September 2019, only 340 mm of rain was recorded in Hermanus, compared to the long-term average of 502 mm for the period January to September. The long-term average annual rainfall for Hermanus is 620 mm. Only 510.4 mm of rain has been recorded in 2015, 526.3 mm in 2016, 502.9 mm in 2017, and 520.2 mm in 2018.

Hermanus residents co-operated very well in saving water over the last 10 years, despite a rapidly growing population during this period. The town's total annual potable water demand for 2018/19 was 10.1% (409 000 kℓ) less than in 2015/16.

De Bos dam level

Obviously, the below-average rainfall had a significant impact on the level of the De Bos Dam. The dam is still a very important source of bulk water for Hermanus and is currently only filled to 44.2% of capacity, with the end of the winter season approaching rapidly. The catchment area of the De Bos Dam, at 31 km², is much smaller than, for instance, that of the similar sized Kraaibosch Dam (catchment area of 208 km²). Furthermore, given its capacity, the level of the De Bos Dam cannot be compared with, for instance, the Buffelsrivier and Pearly Beach dams, since the latter two dams have much smaller capacities, and rainfall in the other areas have not been as low as in the Hermanus area.

Groundwater abstraction

The ten boreholes that are also supplying water to Hermanus are being used optimally and contributed 2 456 million litres to the Hermanus bulk water supply since October 2016. This is more than 30% of total demand over the period, thereby contributing significantly to the preservation of the De Bos Dam level.

Two new boreholes have been drilled successfully during the past two months in the Gateway well field. These boreholes are currently being tested, after which equipment specifications and designs can be finalised and tenders called for their completion and commissioning as production boreholes. It is envisaged that the boreholes will come into production during the second quarter of 2020.

Feasibility studies are in an advanced stage for the implementation of seawater desalination in the Hermanus area in the medium term.

Water restrictions

Water restrictions are in place of necessity as a temporary measure to discourage excessive water use and to preserve the water level of the dam. This leads to lower consumption, and the accompanying water restriction tariffs do not, therefore, generate additional income for the municipality. In an on-going attempt to preserve our water resources, Overstrand Municipality appeals to all Hermanus residents to please not deviate from the Level 3 water restrictions that will come into effect on 1 November 2019. The use of irrigation systems and hose pipes are not allowed until further notice, only watering by hand with buckets and watering cans.

Note, too, that vehicles and boats may only be washed with a bucket and cloth and that the hosing down of hard surfaces or paved areas is prohibited. The filling of swimming pools is not allowed.

The tariff for domestic water use up to 6 kℓ per month has not increased but since June 2018, the tariffs for domestic use above 6 kℓ per month increased by 30%. The water tariff for all non-domestic use has also increased by 30%. These increased tariffs will remain effective with the implementation of Level 3 water restrictions.

Unfortunately, until such time as the De Bos Dam has reached an acceptable level of at least 70%, water restrictions and the concomitant restrictive tariffs will have to remain in force, and the implementation of stricter restrictions may have to be considered in the short term. *Do note, though, that the Greater Hangklip/Kleinmond and Greater Gansbaai areas are excluded from the water restrictions referred to above.*

Fernkloof Nature Reserve

Opening Times:

Summer 06h00 - 19h00

Winter 07h00 - 19h00

Fernkloof Nature Reserve now open from six o'clock in the morning

In celebration of summer, the Fernkloof Nature Reserve will open its gates an hour earlier, and the opening hours (06:00 - 19:00) will remain in effect up and until 20 March 2020.

Entry to the park is free.

Dog walkers are reminded to stick to the blue routes. Dogs must also be kept on a leash at all times and their droppings must be removed.

VISITED OVERSTRAND'S OFFICIAL WEBSITE LATELY?

We would like to encourage our citizens to access the official website of our municipality at www.overstrand.gov.za. This website is updated on a weekly and, at times, daily basis, depending on the nature of the information reported.

Overall, the intention with the website is to report on municipal activities and to keep the public informed and updated on events that might concern them.

Should you wish to comment on the content and/or usability of our official website, please contact Overstrand's Manager: Communication, Noluthando Zweni, on 028 313 8911 or send an e-mail to tzweni@overstrand.gov.za.

Hawston Cadets tackle Paddavlei litter problem head-on

Every year, on the third Saturday in September, volunteers the world over unite to help rid coastlines of unsightly and harmful waste, all of which is sorted and recycled where ever possible.

Close to this date, Overstrand's Environmental Management Services (EMS), the Paddavlei Eco-group (P.E.G.), Working for the Coast and a couple of other NGOs joined hands with the Hawston Cadets to help clear the Paddavlei wetlands in Hawston under supervision of the Department of Environmental Affairs' Youth Coordinator, Steven Njokwana.

The Cadets did the bulk of the work, though, resulting in no fewer than 40 bags filled with litter being cleared from the wetland and from underneath the surrounding vegetation.

Marco Cornelius (Overstrand EMS) and Michael Henn (Working for the Coast) said they were shocked to see the extent of the rubbish cleared in the process: anything from glass wine bottles to food packaging, plastic cool drink bottles and caps, plastic bags and cigarette butts, not to mention the polystyrene that has built up over many decades.

Nevertheless, Njokwana and his fellow coordinators had nothing but praise for the Cadets' willingness to get down and dirty and for P.E.G.'s initiative to set this clean-up operation in motion.



A highly deserving pat on the back for all those who helped to rid Paddavlei and surrounds of heaps and heaps of litter

Early detection hitherto best defence against shothole-borer threat

Recently, Overstrand's chief horticulturist, Lauren Rainbird, attended a workshop hosted by the Forestry and Agricultural Bio-technology Institute (FABI) to look at ways to counter the threat posed by the *polyphagous shothole borer (PSHB)* and to consider the progress made to date.

The shothole borer is a tiny invasive black beetle that is smaller than a sesame seed that digs tunnels into numerous tree species to lay eggs and deposit fungus that block the tree's internal transport system. The fungus in the tunnels disrupts the supply of water and nutrients to the tree, causing branch dieback and, ultimately, the demise of the tree. The most common symptoms of infected trees are gum or sap oozing on the bark and at the entry and exit holes (as little as 1 mm in width), sugary deposits, sawdust, staining on sapwood and bark, and dieback. Symptoms are unique to each tree species.

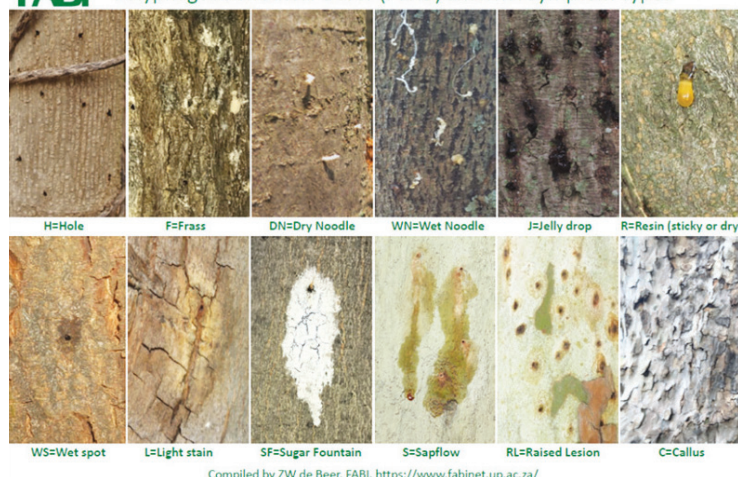
To date, no comprehensive solution has been found.

Chemical treatment in the form of existing pesticides and fungicides has hitherto proved ineffective since the beetles burrow deep into the wood. Burning as a means to curb the spread of the infestation is also ineffective, since the beetles simply flee from the heat.

Nevertheless, Overstrand Municipality is cooperating fully with FABI to help keep this infestation in check. To this end, though, we urgently appeal to all property owners and concerned neighbours to check the trees in their vicinity regularly for any signs of infestation by the shothole borer. (See visual reference for external symptoms.)

Should any of these symptoms be observed in trees that suggest infestation by PSHB, please report it immediately to Overstrand's chief horticulturist Lauren Rainbird (028 313 8972) or Environmental Management Services (028 316 3724) or send an email to enquiries@overstrand.gov.za. Keep in mind that your cooperation is crucial if we are to contain this risk to our trees.

FABI Polyphagous Shothole Borer (PSHB) External Symptom Types



Compiled by ZW de Beer, FABI. <https://www.fabimnet.up.ac.za/>



Johan du Toit, second in command of the municipality's law enforcement team, is perplexed by the spate of incidences of defacement and defilement that have occurred in the Overstrand area recently.

"Although not as serious as illegal dumping," Du Toit said, "incidences such as these are a serious concern for Overstrand Municipality since it not only creates a mess, but also poses a health hazard."

Recently, our team had to clear graffiti - some of which was very profane - from the cave walls at Gearing's Point, and I would rather not expand on the nature of the filth smeared on the walls of ablution facilities we had to wipe down."

Law enforcement officers are doing their best to eliminate the problem, but Overstrand Municipality calls on everyone to please report any such illegal activities / unsavoury behaviour to the 24-hour control room on **028 313 8000/8111** immediately.

Stating the exact location where the incident occurred and providing a description of the person/s involved will most definitely help to bring the transgressors to task.