

APRIL 2020

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

Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality



Overstrand Mayor Dudley Coetzee joined Rev Dr James Gray and Colonel Hayter (a representative of the King's Royal Rifle Corps UK) in commemorating the iconic legacy of the HMS Birkenhead.



Several MOTHs showed up in full regalia to pay respect to their fellow soldiers who selflessly sacrificed their lives when the HMS Birkenhead ran aground 168 years ago. Pictured here are, from left to right, Peter Goldie, Mark Robson, Peter Dickens and Llewellyn Tiltman.

“WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST”

The never-to-be-forgotten legacy of the Birkenhead fittingly commemorated

On 26 February 1852, the HMS Birkenhead – a steam frigate transporting troops to Algoa Bay – ran aground a mere five kilometres from what is nowadays known as Danger Point at around 2 am on a pitch-black night.

Of the 643 souls on board the ship, only around 193 survived. Many troops drowned in their sleeping quarters, while most of those brave enough to jump ship either fell prey to sharks or succumbed to the freezing conditions.

Given that there were not enough serviceable lifeboats to evacuate everyone, the soldiers famously stood firm on deck allowing the women and children to board the lifeboats first and to safely make their way to shore.

Ever since that fateful night, and even though it has never been incorporated into international maritime law, the Birkenhead drill “Women and children first” is practised internationally as standard evacuation procedure.

But that is not HMS Birkenhead's only legacy. To warn passing ships against the dangerous reefs along the Gansbaai coast that caused the vessel to come a cropper, a lighthouse was erected at Danger Point in 1895.

This lighthouse now serves as a working memorial for the victims and survivors of the Birkenhead disaster.

To commemorate this iconic event, members of the Memorable Order of the Tin Hats (MOTHs) gather annually to pay homage to the soldiers who so valiantly sacrificed their lives so that the women and children could be saved.

This year, Rev Dr James Gray led the remembrance service held at the Birkenhead Memorial which overlooks the rock where the ship met her sad fate.

On the day, boats crewed by Marine Dynamics, Dyer Island Cruises, White Shark Projects and Shark Lady Adventures laid wreaths at sea, while a poignant rendition of Amazing Grace by Deon Naudé on his trumpet evoked images of the agony, terror, confusion and utter despair passengers and crew alike had to face on that fateful night.

On land, wreaths were laid by Overstrand's Executive Mayor Dudley Coetzee, Colonel Hayter (King's Royal Rifle Corps UK), Lt Colonel Coetzee (Gansbaai SAPS), Julia Barlow (Gansbaai CPF), Glenda Kitley (Gansbaai Tourism), Legionnaire Peter Dickens (SA Legion), MOTH Leonard Marais (Battledress Shellhole), MOTH Flip Basson (Dawn-patrol Shellhole), MOTH Peter Goldie (Seagull Shellhole), MOTH Niel Bright (Motorcycle Association), MOTH Vanessa Chambers (Royal Navy Association) and MOTH Ketih Gelvin (HMS Gansges Association). Ricky de Wet, commander of the Battledress Shellhole, recited the MOTH prayer.

Artefacts recovered from the HMS Birkenhead can be viewed at the Great White House restaurant in Kleinbaai as well as at the Strandveld Museum in Franskraal.

BABOON-PROOFING AND GOOD WASTE-MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Baboons are attracted by food and enter properties with the sole purpose of finding food.

Since baboons can cause extensive damage to your home, effective management of your property is essential in an attempt to make it less attractive to baboons.

Keep rubbish secure in a baboon-proof dustbin and practise good waste management.

Each household is allowed to place one wheelie bin or four black bags with domestic refuse on the sidewalk for removal where baboons are not an issue. However, in all areas identified by the municipality as problem-animal areas, containers must be secured with baboon-proof locking devices. Note, too, that in these areas, no refuse bags may be left on pavements.

The declared problem-animal areas in Overstrand are Kleinmond, Betty's Bay, Rooi Els, Pringle Bay, Onrus, Voëlklip, Fernkloof (including the golf estate), Hermanus Heights, Eastcliff and Kwaiwater.

It is essential that home owners take heed of these arrangements and for landlords and agents to convey this information to tenants and holidaymakers as well.

Weekend visitors are urged to make use of the drop-off points that are available in their areas to get rid of their household refuse. For your convenience, the transfer stations are also open during weekdays and on Saturdays. In addition, the Overberg Karwyderskraal landfill site is open every day of the week, but closed on weekends.

Baboon-resistant 240-litre wheelie bins with locks can be purchased at the municipal offices and will be delivered to your home. Alternatively, baboon-proof locks can be fitted at an additional charge to your existing bin.

We need your continued cooperation to minimise the baboon problem.

The Integrated Solid Waste Management By-law also stipulates that refuse is only allowed to be put out on the pavement on the day of collection as it is not advisable to leave bags outside for days on end since stray animals rip open rubbish bags, resulting in litter being strewn everywhere.

BABOONS 	INSIDE
NOT SECURE 	LOCK
BABOON HOTLINE 071 588 6540 for reporting baboon issues in Voëlklip	
BABOON HOTLINE 079 431 5956 for reporting baboon issues in Pringle Bay	

MAKING EVERY DROP COUNT



It is almost NATIONAL WATER WEEK, and even though most residents are aware of the drought and are hopefully doing their part to save water, the Overstrand Municipality's Environmental Department give some WATER SAVING TIPS that can easily be implemented at home:

- Close the tap while brushing your teeth, don't keep the water running.
- Only do your laundry when you have enough clothes for a full load.
- Shower instead of taking a bath, if possible. One five-minute bath uses approximately 35 litres of water.
- Trap rainwater by installing Rain Water Harvesting systems in your house.
- Use that water for gardening or washing.
- Fix leaking taps and toilets, and install aerating faucets.
- Put a brick or bottle filled with water in your toilet cistern to prevent it from filling up all the way.

There are many ways to save water. Even though these efforts seem small, it makes a difference because every drop counts. Here's how you can save water in the kitchen:

- Use a bowl instead of a colander. Place your bowl underneath your colander to catch the water, or discard the colander and wash your vegetables in the bowl alone. That water you caught can be used for a few different tasks if it's not dirty. If you are worried about any cross-contamination, cooking will solve your issue.
- Do not let your tap run unnecessarily if you are not catching it into another container. Do not rinse hands – or fruit and vegetables – under running water.
- Wash fruits and vegetables in a container of water rather than letting the tap run water all over it – you can then use this water for your garden.
- Boil your food in as little water as possible to save water as well as cooking time. Foods such as pasta and potatoes, need just enough water to be cooked. The bonus is that if you use less water, you keep more flavour and nutrients in your vegetables.
- Do not waste cooking water – if you have used water to boil eggs or vegetables, set it aside to cool and use it in the garden.
- While your rice, potatoes or pasta is boiling, place your vegetables in a steamer and pop it on the top to cook at the same time. You'll save water, time and keep all your nutrients in your vegetables – and you will have fewer dishes to wash later.

SHOWCASING YOUNG TALENT

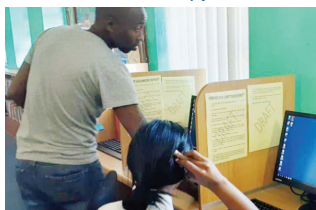


On Sunday afternoon, 17 May, Overstrand Arts / Kunst (OAK) will host two young artists studying at the Stellenbosch Conservatory. CAMERON WILLIAMS (clarinet), former overall winner of the National Youth Music Competition, completed his undergraduate studies at the end of 2019. JOSHUA FRANK (guitar) graduated in 2017 with a BMus and is currently doing his Master's in cognitive musicology. They will wow the audience with a collaborative concert programme featuring works by Kovacs, Granados, Villa-Lobos, De Falla, Ponce, Piazzolla and Paganini. Tickets are available from the Tourism Office (028 312 2629) and cost R150 (R60 for students). Direct enquiries to René du Plooy on 082 940 4238.



STATE-OF-THE-ART IT FACILITIES FOR MT PLEASANT LIBRARY USERS

Library assistant, Joslene Goliath, uses the scanning and printing facilities to make a copy for a visitor.



Phuthumani Pono shows a library user how to make use of the free access to the internet via the newly installed computers.



Installed in neat cubicles that afford users a bit of privacy, the library in Mount Pleasant now boasts brand-new computers and a whole array of ancillary gadgets that can help to make residents' life so much easier. Given that their first priority is to unlock information to the benefit of the general public and learners in particular, the library's personnel is especially pleased with the fact that library users will, in future, enjoy free access to the internet.

"Since some of our visitors may require a bit of assistance to brush up on their IT skills, we are also pleased to announce that we have secured the assistance of ICT technician Christopher Samboer," chief librarian Miralda Coert added.

Every Wednesday, Christopher will offer computer training on creating word processing documents, spreadsheets and presentation as well as on how to use database applications for example.

As an added benefit, black-and-white documents can now also be scanned and copied for as little as one rand per page at the library.

The Mount Pleasant Library is located in Heide Street and is open Mondays to Thursdays from 08:00 – 17:00 and Fridays from 08:00 – 16:30. The library can be contacted on 028 313 8015/8984.

LET'S TALK!

April's First Thursday networking event to be hosted in Betty's Bay

Recently, Overstrand Municipality launched an initiative to connect with its residents on a regular basis, namely on every First Thursday of the month.

The purpose of the First Thursday events is:

To provide Overstrand residents with a platform to be heard – irrespective of whether they want to pitch an idea or raise concerns about issues they are encountering; and

To afford the Mayor and his team an opportunity to meet residents face-to-face in the interest of creating a mutual understanding of public needs and aspirations.

First Thursday meetings are open to everyone and are kept brief in an attempt to accommodate as many people as possible. There is no fixed agenda, and no need to RSVP.

Simply show up and be prepared to join in the discussions in a constructive manner.

In April, the First Thursday meeting will be held at the Crassula Hall in Betty's Bay on Thursday, 2 April 2020 from 17:00 till 19:00.

This is the first time a meeting of this nature will be hosted outside the Greater Hermanus area. Residents from all over Overstrand are most welcome to join and can be assured that this initiative will soon be rolled out to other towns as well.

#LETSTALK 17:00 - 19:00 Crassula Hall, Betty's Bay First Thursday 2 April 2020.

All welcome - you are invited!

HAVE YOUR SAY

The public is reminded that they have until 28 April 2020 to comment on Overstrand Municipality's reviewed and amended draft Integrated Development Plan (IDP) for 2020/21, the draft fifth-generation version of the Integrated Waste Management Plan (IWMP) and the draft budget for 2020/21.

These draft documents were tabled in Council on 25 March 2020.

The documents are open for inspection at all municipal libraries and can also be viewed under "strategic documents" on the municipality's official website at www.overstrand.gov.za.

ILLEGAL DUMPING A SERIOUS CONCERN

Recently, law enforcement officers joined hands with Overstrand's waste-management team to clean up the mountain area opposite the Gateway Centre in Hermanus.

As is evident from the photographs they took, there is every reason to be concerned about illegal dumping in Overstrand since this practice not only poses a threat to our environment and oceans, but is also a serious threat to the health of our residents.

The battle against waste can, however, not solely be won by clean-up operations such as this one.

"People need to be made aware of what they are throwing away, and where and how they are going about doing that," Craig Mitchell, Manager: Solid Waste, cautioned.

"Surely, by now, ever one knows that randomly discarding plastic bottles, wrappers and cigarette butts is causing a major problem. Unfortunately, the world-wide plea to cut back on the use of plastic seems to be falling on deaf ears. Please think about the waste you dispose of every day and, please, do not litter."

Illegal dumping can be reported to Overstrand Law Enforcement on 028 313 8996. Likewise, should you be aware of spots where people are squatting/camping out illegally, call Law Enforcement or the municipality's 24-hour control room on 028 313 8000/8111 without delay.

