

December  
2011PO Box 20  
Hermanus 7200

|                   |                   |              |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|
|                   | Telephone         | Fax          |
| Hermanus          | 028 313 8000      | 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



## BLUE FLAG BEACHES REARING TO GO

Overstrand's three existing Blue Flag beaches – Grotto, Hawston and Kleinmond – once more featured amongst the 27 beaches countrywide who earned this sought-after distinction for the 2011/2012 season. Coinciding with the eleventh commemoration of the institution of the Blue Flag programme in South Africa, the awards ceremony paid special tribute to those municipalities who support this programme, a programme which has proven to be truly worthwhile since visitors are increasingly showing a preference for beaches that meet strict quality requirements in respect of water quality, safety, ablution facilities and environmental education. Overstrand has joined the programme right at the outset, and Grotto is the beach with the longest continuous Blue Flag record in the country. Meanwhile, the municipality has finalised and implemented its contingency plan to ensure the thousands of holiday makers expected to visit the area during December and January have a carefree and pleasant holiday. *Photo: Bernard Jordaan*

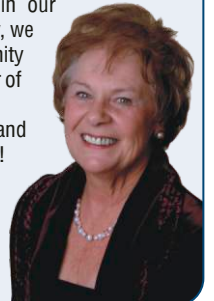
## Christmas Message from the Mayor

Yes, the upcoming Christmas season is a time of festivity, but it is also a time to show goodwill towards one another. Not only should we use this season to enjoy quality time with those near and dear to us, but we should regard it as the ideal opportunity to embody the message of the Messiah who brought light to a world filled with darkness. And the good news is, bestowing this gift of light on our fellow citizens will not cost a cent, neither will it involve a last-minute dash to a busy shopping mall!

To help rid the world of criminality, fear, injustice and self-serving pride, all we need to do is to adhere to the core moral values underpinning civilized society. It's as simple as being trustworthy and responsible in all we do, showing respect and being just in our dealings with one another. This way, we can become a truly caring community in which good citizenship is a matter of course, not a chore.

May we all enjoy a joyous and blessed Christmas time. Peace to all!

*Nicolette Botha-Guthrie*  
EXECUTIVE MAYOR



## DIRECTION FOR FUTURE PLANNING

Five focus areas were identified by the Executive Mayor, Cllr Nicolette Botha-Guthrie, for Overstrand Municipality's new Integrated Development Plan which will span the five-year cycle from 2012 to 2017.

These areas are:

- Basic service delivery which will, among others, cover effective development, management, operation and maintenance of the municipal infrastructure;
- Social upliftment and economic development, with emphasis on the development of sustainable human settlements, the creation of a conducive environment for local economic development and the development of strategies and projects for the upliftment of vulnerable groupings;
- Optimisation of financial resources through effective financial management;
- Good governance, which includes effective cooperative government within the constitutional mandate, effective communication and community involvement and sound municipal administration; and
- A safe and healthy environment where, among others, effective public safety and disaster management and effective environmental management will be promoted.

The Mayor called upon councillors to discuss these ideas at length with their communities with a view to a follow-up strategic session with full council end of November and the Overstrand Municipal Advisory Forum on 6 December 2011.

She announced that the Overstrand Municipal Advisory Forum will be restructured to provide for broader representation and more participation. Internally, the meetings

of the executive management team will also be restructured to bring about better coordination and integration within the organisational structure.

Since the acceptance of the procedure plan for the 2012 to 2017 integrated development planning process, she and other role players have been busy analysing information collected from the area administrations and departments, which gave her a good idea of the problems the people of Overstrand are facing and the root causes of these problems. These issues have been assessed and prioritised, while the municipality also looked at available resources to address them.

With regard to strategies, the mayoral committee and management discussed issues such as vision, mission, future directions, strategic outcomes and outputs as well as measures and targets for strategic outputs.

While the vision was kept unchanged, namely "to be a centre of excellence for the community", the mission was slightly altered to read as follows:

To create sustainable communities by delivering optimal services to support economic, social and environmental goals.

The strategic objectives are:

- the provision of democratic and accountable governance;
- the provision and maintenance of municipal services;
- the encouragement of structured community participation in the matters of the municipality;
- the creation and maintenance of a safe and healthy environment; and
- the promotion of tourism, economic and social development.

## REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING

Increasingly, people seem to be dumping their refuse illegally on commonages and open erven, this despite the fact that Overstrand Municipality has made transfer stations, drop-offs and a dumping site available where refuse can be dumped. Each area has facilities within easy reach, but some people seemingly prefer to simply dump their refuse on open erven and commonages.

Members of the public are kindly requested to report observations of illegal dumping immediately to the 24-hour control room (028 313 8111).

Home owners can dump their refuse free of charge 24 times per year at any of the facilities, but businesses must pay a fee for the dumping of business refuse since they are only charged for one bag of office refuse.

The following facilities exist within the four administrations:

- **Kleinmond Administration:**
  - Pringle Bay weekend drop-off for household refuse;
  - Rooi Els weekend drop-off for household refuse;
  - Betty's Bay weekend drop-off for household refuse;
  - Betty's Bay drop-off for general and garden refuse; and
  - Kleinmond transfer station for household, general and garden refuse and small quantities of building rubble (bakkie builders).
- **Hermanus Administration:**
  - Hawston drop-off for garden and general refuse;
  - Onrus weekend drop-off for household refuse;

- Sandbaai drop-off for household refuse;
- Hermanus transfer station for household, general and garden refuse and small quantities of building rubble (bakkie builders)
- Voëlklip weekend drop-off for household refuse; and
- Voëlklip drop-off for garden refuse.
- **Stanford Administration:**
  - Stanford transfer station for general and garden refuse and small quantities of building rubble.
- **Gansbaai Administration:**
  - Gansbaai dumping site for building rubble and general and garden refuse; and
  - Pearly Beach drop-off for general and garden refuse and small quantities of building rubble (bakkie builders).

Home owners who let their houses to holidaymakers must ensure that the tenants are aware of the times for refuse removal. Residents and business should take note, too, that the regulation determines that their refuse should only be placed outside on the pavement on the day of collection. If it is left on the sidewalk for days on end, it not only looks untidy but is often torn apart and could cause a health hazard.

Residents are allowed to include one bag of garden refuse with the household refuse they put out for collection. Should more than one bag of garden refuse be placed out, though, it will not be removed since this will then be deemed to be garden refuse the resident should personally take to the transfer station or drop-off.

## GROENEWALD APPOINTED AS NEXT MUNICIPAL MANAGER

Mr Coenie Groenewald (56) has been appointed as the next municipal manager of Overstrand Municipality. On 1 January 2012, he will take over from the current incumbent, Adv Werner Zybrands, who will be retiring at the end of the year.



since he knows he will have the support of a good and competent team of municipal officials. He paid homage to his predecessors who placed the municipality on a sound footing.

Groenewald grew up in Chrissiesmeer in Mpumalanga and matriculated in 1973 at Hoërskool Ermelo

This resolution was accepted unanimously by the municipal council at the end of October following on an extensive selection process involving an industrial psychologist. In total, 41 applications were received and six candidates were invited for interviews and subjected to psychometric testing. The selection panel comprised councillors from both the Democratic Alliance and the ANC.

Mr Groenewald said he regarded it as an absolute honour to work for Overstrand Municipality and that he is looking forward to accepting his new responsibilities

His career kicked off in the public service, but he has been working for local authorities since 1981. Studying part-time through the University of South Africa, he obtained several degrees in related fields as well as a professional qualification through the former Institute of Town Clerks of Southern Africa.

Groenewald has been with Overstrand Municipality in Hermanus since 2003 and currently holds the position of Director: Management Services. He is married to Rita and they have three children.

### DETAILS ON OFFICE CLOSURE OVER FESTIVE SEASON

The approved dates for the December recess of the Overstrand Council are from 7 December 2011 to 24 January 2012. During this time, the Executive Mayor, in consultation with the Municipal Manager, will attend to all urgent matters and emergencies, with the exception of those matters reserved for a resolution by the full Council.

Over Christmas, municipal offices will be closed from Friday 23 December 2011 at 13:00 for all services, except essential services, and will only reopen on Tuesday 27 December 2011. For the New Year's weekend, offices close on Friday 30 December 2011 at 13:00 and reopen on Tuesday 3 January 2012 at 07:45.

## BUILDING OUR YOUTH FOR THE FUTURE

Quoting Franklin D Roosevelt, Overstrand Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie said at the inauguration of the Junior Town Council for 2011/12 that we cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.

According to her, the best way to do that is to promote leadership development. That way, one can ensure that in times of crisis and change, the leaders of the moment will step forward, determine the direction we must take, get the co-operation of the rest and will motivate and encourage others to change and find solutions to problems.

For her, it is a privilege to be part of the inauguration of the eighth junior council of Overstrand, and she is proud of the large number of emerging leaders that have been produced in the area and equipped to deal with change in future.

She thanked the Enlighten Education Trust who provided the know-how and other resources for this programme, which is now the flagship and best-practice model for junior councils in the Western Cape, and the manager of the junior town council project, Mr Theo de Wet, who in 2004, at the request of the Overstrand Town Council and Municipality, established the Junior Town Council and has been managing it ever since.



The Mayor said Overstrand Municipality fully supports his vision that the main objective of the junior council is to educate and that the junior councillors must learn while they lead. The municipality will give them the necessary support to make the most of this opportunity. They will be taken on orientation tours of the municipal area and facilities, and officials of the municipality will be available to inform them about municipal matters at their meetings.

**Front from left:** Siseko Malongwana, Sive Bolani, Andisiwe Thunyswa, Tiyang Nzima, Michelle le Roux (Junior Deputy Mayor - Gansbaai and Stanford), Yandiswa Momoza (Deputy Junior Mayor - Hermanus and Keimond), Yandiswa Momoza (Deputy Junior Mayor - Hermanus and Keimond), Theo de Wet (Manager), Councillor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie (Executive Mayor), Corrie Keyser (Junior Mayor), Amber Robertson, Liske Hunter (Junior Speaker), Chrisam Witbooi, Megan de Bruyn and Siphesihle Liwani. **Second row:** Sinethemba Gxowa, Robyn Coetzee, Samkelo Motsilili, Motlalepula Leduma, Abigail Swarts, Anli Schreuder, Natasha Geweldt, Benita Wilken, Ashlyn Coxson, Gezellede Gotz, Robin Seconna, Feeza Abrahams, Diana Wyngaard, Kelly Hendriks and Zimkhitha Buyile. **Third row:** Marco Jacobs, Cleo Payne, Eddie Schmidt, Jayden Wentzel, Adriaan Wildschut, Bianca de Koning and Andiswa Wulana.



# UNDERSTANDING YOUR MUNICIPAL ACCOUNT

Since Overstrand Municipality's tariff structure underwent considerable renewals in the course of this year, many residents are having difficulties with the interpretation of their monthly accounts. With the aid of the accompanying analysis, the local authority aims to alleviate such difficulties. The impact of the various tariffs and concessions on your account will be apparent when you study the tables and draw a comparison with your own situation. 14% VAT added to examples below.

| PROPERTY RATES<br>1 JULY 2011<br>to<br>30 JUNE 2012             |   | DEVELOPED SINGLE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY WITH: |                                  |                                  |
|---|---|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|   |   | Land value of<br>R560 000                   | Land value of<br>R3 000          | Land value of<br>R7 000          |
|   |   | Improvements<br>value of R720 000           | Improvements<br>value of R17 000 | Improvements<br>value of R43 000 |
|   |   | Property value<br>R1 280 000                | Property value<br>R20 000        | Property value<br>R50 000        |
| Basic property tax/month =<br>property value x 0.00326 ÷ 12 (R) |   | 347.75                                      | 5.45                             | 13.60                            |
| Minus   | Residential rebate<br>15 000 x 0.00326 ÷ 12 | 4.05  | 4.05                             | 4.05                             |
|   | Improvement rebate<br>35 000 x 0.00326      | 9.50  | 1.40                             | 9.55                             |
|   | 20% Improvement rebate                      | 66.84                                       | -                                | -                                |
| Plus  | HPP levy<br>if applicable                   | 26.74                                       | -                                | -                                |
|   |   |   |                                  |                                  |
| TOTAL   |   | 294.10                                      | 0.00                             | 0.00                             |

| PROPERTY RATES<br>1 JULY 2011<br>to<br>30 JUNE 2012             |   | UNDEVELOPED SINGLE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY WITH: |                           |                          |
|---|---|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|   |   | Land value of<br>R560 000                     | Land value of<br>R60 000  | Land value of<br>R7 000  |
|   |   | No improvement<br>value                       | No improvement<br>value   | No improvement<br>value  |
|   |   | Property value<br>R560 000                    | Property value<br>R60 000 | Property value<br>R7 000 |
| Basic property tax/month =<br>property value x 0.00326 ÷ 12 (R) |   | 152.15  | 13.60                     | 1.95                     |
| Minus   | Residential rebate<br>15 000 x 0.00326 ÷ 12 | 4.05  | 4.05                      | 1.95                     |
|   | Improvement rebate<br>35 000 x 0.00326      | -   | -                         | -                        |
|   | 20% Improvement rebate                      | -   | -                         | -                        |
| Plus  | HPP levy<br>if applicable                   | 14.81   | 0.96                      | -                        |
|   |   |   |                           |                          |
| TOTAL   |   | 162.91  | 10.51                     | 0.00                     |

## REFUSE 1 JULY 2011 - 30 JUNE 2012

| DEVELOPED SINGLE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY WITH: |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| One collection per week                     | Two collections per week |
| R95.00                                      | R123.00                  |

## ELECTRICITY

| CATEGORY                                      | USAGE       | PRICE PER UNIT        | COST   | BASIC CHARGE | TOTAL   |
|---|-------------|-----------------------|--------|--------------|---------|
| Infrastructure                                |             | 6.90                  | 0.00   | 6.90         | 6.90    |
| Indigent                                      | 300kWh      | 0.8208 per unit       | 246.24 | 173.00       | 419.24  |
| Single phase up to 60 Amp:<br>Two-part tariff | 350kWh      | 0.8208 per unit       | 287.28 | 173.00       | 460.28  |
|   | 600kWh      | 350 @ 0.8208 per unit | 287.28 | 173.00       |         |
|   |             | 250 @ 1.1172 per unit | 279.30 | 0.00         | 739.58  |
|   | 1300kWh     | 350 @ 0.8208 per unit | 287.28 | 173.00       |         |
|   |             | 250 @ 1.1172 per unit | 279.30 |              |         |
|   |             | 700 @ 1.2996 per unit | 909.72 |              | 1649.30 |
| Life line tariff for pre-paid meters          | Only 350kWh | 0.8208 per unit       | 287.28 | 0.00         | 287.28  |

## WATER

| HOUSEHOLDS: TARIFF STRUCTURE |               | USE OF 8kl PER MONTH | USE OF 20kl PER MONTH | USE OF 50kl PER MONTH | USE OF 70kl PER MONTH |
|------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Infrastructure levy          |               | 24.28                | 24.28                 | 24.28                 | 24.28                 |
| Basic fee (RUE)              |               | 100.00               | 100.00                | 100.00                | 100.00                |
| Consumption:                 | 0-6kl 0.00    | 6kl = 0.00           | 6kl = 0.00            | 6kl = 0.00            | 6kl = 0.00            |
|                              | 7-30kl 8.00   | 2kl = 16.00          | 14kl = 112.00         | 24kl = 192.00         | 24kl = 192.00         |
|                              | 31-60kl 20.00 | -                    | -                     | 20kl = 400.00         | 30kl = 600.00         |
|                              | >60kl 27.00   | -                    | -                     | -                     | 10kl = 270.00         |
| TOTAL                        |               | 140.28               | 236.28                | 716.28                | 1186.28               |

## SEWAGE

| CHARGES                   | DEVELOPED SINGLE<br>RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY<br>WITH CONSUMPTION OF |        |        | DEVELOPED SINGLE<br>RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY<br>WITH<br>SEPTIC TANK | UNDEVELOPED SINGLE<br>RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY<br>THAT CAN CONNECT<br>TO SEWERAGE | UNDEVELOPED SINGLE<br>RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY<br>THAT CAN NOT CONNECT<br>TO SEWERAGE |
|---------------------------|---|--------|--------|---|---|---|
|                           | 50kl  | 25kl   | 15kl   |   |   |   |
| Basic                     | 86.20   | 86.20  | 86.20  | 58.30   | 183.60  | 58.30   |
| Infrastructure            | 16.19   | 16.19  | 16.19  | 16.19   | 16.19   | 16.19   |
| Water usage (70% x R8.55) | 323.95  | 161.88 | 97.13  | -   | -   | -   |
| Tanker service            | -   | -      | -      | R400 or R480 after 15:00 on weekdays                            | -   | -   |
| TOTAL                     | 426.34  | 264.27 | 199.52 | 74.49 (Tanker services excluded)                                | 199.79  | 74.49   |



J BLOGGS  
6 MAGNOLIA STREET  
HERMANUS  
HERMANUS

## STATEMENT

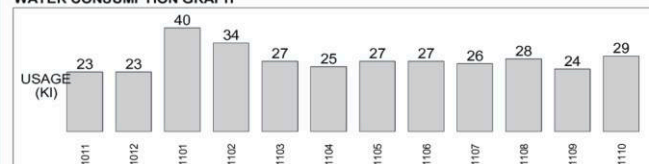
FOR ALL ACCOUNT QUERIES PLEASE CONTACT YOUR  
LOCAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE  
DEBTORS VAT REG. NO.

|             |              |         |      |
|-------------|--------------|---------|------|
| CLR:        | P APPELGREIN | ERF No: | 3456 |
| DEP: ELECT: | -318         | SUBURB: | KKM  |
| DEP: WATER: | -150         |         |      |
| DEP: OTHER: | -4050        |         |      |

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 201234567890

TAX INVOICE: 3312345

## WATER CONSUMPTION GRAPH



## METER READINGS

| SERVICE | METER No. | PERIOD     | PREVIOUS | CURRENT | USAGE | AVG. USAGE |
|---------|-----------|------------|----------|---------|-------|------------|
| E       | 060570    | 06/0908/10 | 34911    | 34911   | 0     | 0          |
| W       | 000914    | 06/0908/10 | 2432     | 2461    | 29    | 0.906      |

## TRANSACTION DETAIL

| DESCRIPTION  | CONSUM. | AMOUNT | VAT   | AMOUNT INC. VAT |
|--|---------|--------|-------|-----------------|
| BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD                              |         |        |       | 1309.87         |
| PAYMENTS - THANK YOU                                 |         |        |       | -1309.87        |
| BANK: ADPAY MONTHLY - 20/10/2011 REF/VERW:0000005697 |         |        |       | 106.00          |
| TRANSFERS  |         |        |       | 106.00          |
| SUBTOTAL   |         |        |       | 106.00          |
| RATES  | 1       | 237.92 | 0.00  | 237.92          |
| ELECT/ELEK   | 1       | 6.05   | 0.85  | 6.90            |
| ELECT/ELEK   | 1       | 455.56 | 63.74 | 519.00          |
| WATER  | 1       | 21.30  | 2.98  | 24.28           |
| WATER  | 1       | 87.72  | 12.28 | 100.00          |
| WATER  | 1       | 6.312  | 0.00  | 0.00            |
| WATER  | 1       | 159.26 | 22.30 | 181.56          |
| REFUSE/VULLIS  | 1       | 83.33  | 11.67 | 95.00           |
| SEWER/RIOOL  | 1       | 51.34  | 7.16  | 58.30           |
| SEWER/RIOOL  | 1       | 14.20  | 1.99  | 16.19           |
| SUBTOTAL   |         |        |       | 1239.15         |
| TOTAL  |         |        |       | 1345.15         |

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| CREDIT               | 90 DAY + | 90 DAYS | 60 DAYS | 30 DAYS | CURRENT    |
|----------------------|----------|---------|---------|---------|------------|
| 0.00                 | 0.00     | 0.00    | 0.00    | 0.00    | 1345.15    |
| TOTAL AMOUNT DUE     |          |         |         |         | 1345.20    |
| PAYABLE ON OR BEFORE |          |         |         |         | 20/11/2011 |

# AWARENESS

**Awareness:** A simple word but one with great importance for all South Africans.

We are, of course, referring to an awareness which might help you to avoid theft from your premises or something much more serious. It's probably not the first time that you've been advised to "increase your level of awareness" without any further explanation. That's not very helpful as it leaves you wondering what you should do. Let's therefore try to explain by using illustrations which, though hypothetical, can and do occur.

## THE UNEXPECTED VISITOR

Undoubtedly, all aggressors fall into this category: They do not make appointments! Problem is that some friends or service providers also fall into this category.

So, what can/should you do? There are a number of things.

Firstly, let all your friends and regular service providers know that you will NOT answer the doorbell unless you are expecting a visit. A visit without prior advice is, therefore, a waste of time, petrol and effort.

If you want to be a little more friendly than that, let your friends know that they are welcome to visit without prior arrangement, but they MUST give you a call BEFORE they arrive.

Service providers (e.g. the gas company coming to replace the cylinder; the plumber coming to attend to your call; etc.) MUST also advise that they are coming and not just pitch up as and when it suits them. There are many impostors who pretend to be what they are not. Place your meters at an accessible place outside your perimeter fence.

We need to put an end to unscheduled and unfettered access. The more we behave in this way, the sooner the entire community of Hermanus will adopt the mind set of avoiding unexpected visits. Make a difference – set the trend!!

## BEGGARS

You have undoubtedly had people ring your bell to ask for food or money. Please do NOT fall for this ruse by giving them what they ask for.

If you feel that you ought to help, there are many organisations that run feeding schemes or administer services to the less privileged in our community. Give to them.

If you don't know of any, ask your friends or your church group. It won't be difficult

to uncover a long list of organisations in need of help. You'll be surprised how easy it is to donate.

If you do give at the door, you can rest assured that you'll soon have a constant flow of visitors. Most will probably be sincere, but it only takes one to put you through a traumatic experience. Why chance it?

## THE ALARM SYSTEM

Most homes have a system, yet according to the security companies in at least 50% of incidents, the alarm had not been set. Why do some folk install alarm systems at a not inconsiderable expense and then fail to use it as they should?

In other cases, the alarm fails to function, and the records show that it has never been serviced. Do you buy a car and never change the oil? Remember to check the remotes too. Remotes work off batteries and these do not last indefinitely.

## MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS

It seems as if a pattern is developing whereby aggressors are pretending to be municipal workers sent to investigate or correct a fault, or whatever. An unsuspecting public allow the imposters access, and the rest is history. All municipal officials will soon be issued Overstrand Municipality identity cards. Once this is implemented, insist on seeing the card; till then, ask for the caller's name and phone the municipal department to verify the bona fides.

Do NOT invite them in till you've been through this checking procedure.

## WHO IS AT THE DOOR?

We said earlier that you might adopt a policy of NOT answering the doorbell unless you are expecting a visitor. However, some might find this policy a little extreme.

In this case, you need to carefully consider your front door.

Can you determine who has knocked or rung the bell, WITHOUT opening the door?

If you cannot, you have a weakness in your security awareness.

The only way to correct the matter is to install an intercom or a trelli-type gate.

## CONCLUSION

We hope that these notes will serve to help you increase your security awareness, but please do not rely on them alone. Consult the experts: Contact your security company for further customised advice.

## ENCHANTED FOREST TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY

On Saturday 17 December the Piet se Bos milkwood forest down at Grotto Beach in Hermanus will turn into an enchanted forest. Whale Coast Conservation will bid farewell in style to the International Year of Forests, and introduce a whole new project for the Overberg.

Funded by the National Lotteries Distribution Trust Fund to the tune of R4,1 million, the "Overberg awareness programme: Sustainable development and living" will promote exactly what the name says over a period of three years.

The project is all about informing people about the options they have in terms of lifestyle and technology to use resources more effectively and live within the means of the one planet we have to provide for all of us. The project will promote awareness of the principles of sustainable development and sustain-

able living. Opportunities in the Overberg to prosper economically, while at the same time conserving our valuable natural resources, will be highlighted.

And what about the fun part? All those who are young and young at heart and who still believe in fairies are invited to come and help spot the fairies in the ancient milkwood forest which will be lit by hundreds of candles. Come in fancy dress and bring a torch and be prepared to save the fairies by committing to "reduce, re-use and recycle".

Bring a picnic basket, table and chairs (braai fires provided) and watch the sun setting over magnificent Walker Bay. Join Whale Coast Conservation in its commitment to do the 'green thing'.

See you there: 17 December, 18:30 to 21:30 at the Arena picnic area near Grotto Beach. Entrance is free.

## LOAN FOR WATER PROJECT

The council improved in principle the taking up of a long-term loan of R12 million to serve as bridging finance for the upgrading of the Hermanus sewerage processing plant and the Preekstoel water purification works. The municipal manager has also been granted authorisation to negotiate terms with the Development Bank of Southern Africa and to enter into an agreement. In the accompanying report, it was emphasised that the shortfalls are temporary in nature since grants-in-aid stemming from the regional bulk services infrastructure programme have been earmarked for disbursement in the course of 2012/13 and 2013/14. However, the projects must be completed as soon as possible given the serious water shortages currently experienced in the Hermanus area.

Residents and visitors are called upon to use water sparingly. Although the use of sprinklers and hoses to water gardens has been forbidden, gardeners are allowed to use watering-cans to water their plants.

LIVE BY THE MORAL VALUE OF



TRUSTWORTHINESS



In the October 2011 edition of this bulletin, we indicated that good citizenship, as embodied in the moral character of a community and its people, is dependent upon specific underlying values such as fairness, caring, respect, responsibility and trustworthiness. In the November edition, we talked about fairness as a value.

This month, the spotlight will be on the moral value of trustworthiness.

Someone who lives up to this value will be experienced by others as someone one can rely on: "He/she is a real stalwart!" It is someone on whose word you can rely and whose promises and commitments are met, irrespective of the lengths he or she has to go to and without him or her ever having to fall back on lame excuses. When people trust you, they place a responsibility on your shoulders, but they also empower you. And since they trust you, they also build your confidence and self-image.

Trust must be earned by consistently living up to the value of trustworthiness. And this calls for personal integrity and valour.

When you allow inconsistency and unreliable conduct to betray the trust

that has been placed in you, it leaves a lingering scar which takes a long time to heal.

But the value of trustworthiness extends well beyond the personal level since it also has a definite bearing on organisations. Leaders in our business and community organisations who unashamedly strive to adhere to ethical practices are often confronted by questions such as the following:

- Do the people my organisation serves experience the service as consistently reliable?
- Does the product or service meet the standards and requirements agreed upon?
- Does mutual trust exist between the service provider and client and between the employees and management?

The measures we can use to gauge whether we are living up to this value are infinite. Having a discussion on this topic within our families and within the workplace and organisation may prove to be of great value.

*Enquiries on the Moral Standards Initiative can be directed to 082 412 4538 or by email to ernstes@vodamail.co.za.*