

DECEMBER 2013

Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality



Coenie Groenewald, Rhyn Potgieter, Don Kearney and Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie

THREE STARS FOR ONRUS CARAVAN PARK!

We can now proudly announce that from October 2013, Onrus Caravan Park can boast with a three-star grading awarded by the South African Tourism Board.

Park Manager, Rhyn Potgieter, and his team are really doing a sterling job to ensure this caravan park is shipshape at all times.

Rhyn says, "Over the past seven years, we spent a whopping R700 thousand on ablutions alone and also erected a huge fence all along the

perimeter. Lots of time and planning also went into ensuring campers' safety and security."

The caravan park has around 250 stands of which 70 are occupied on a semi-permanent basis.

Contact the office at 028 316 1704 / 1210 should you have any enquiries or wish to make a booking. Alternatively, send an e-mail to resortonrus@overstrand.gov.za or visit the website at www.overstrand.gov.za.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

As yet another year draws to a close, allow me a moment's reflection and the opportunity to wish you and yours all the best for the Festive Season.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas 2013, may we never lose focus of the true purpose of this joyous occasion - a time to give and to forgive.

The Festive Season is a time for spiritual reflection which all of us celebrate in our own unique way. My wish, though, is that every Overstrander will use this time to show family and friends just how much they are valued and to extend a hand of friendship to the destitute and those less fortunate than us - especially those people for whom this time of year is often one of extreme loneliness.

May faith, hope and love be with you always!

**Executive Mayor,
Nicolette
Botha-Guthrie**



JUNIOR TOWN COUNCIL CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

The newly elected 2013/2014 Overstrand Junior Town Council was inaugurated on 24 October - a momentous occasion which marked the 10th anniversary of this council's existence.



Front row from left: Esethu Nqanqase, Sheila Swart (Junior Deputy Mayor/Gansbaai Academia), Zuko Mrayise, Thembinkosi Mcinjana, Lochel Coetzee (Executive Member/Northcliff House), Nyasha Boko (Executive Member/Qhayiya Secondary), Sonwabale Calata (Junior Mayor/Qhayiya Secondary), Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie, Shani Arendse (Executive Member/Hawston Secondary), Nontuthuzelo Unity Mtomile (Junior Council Manager), Charnay Vorster (Junior Deputy Mayor/Curro Hermanus), Marlo Jacobs, Jövan Prince, Crystal Fiver, Chrisam Witbooi and Philani Matshoba. **Back row from left:** Johan van der Merwe, Stefan Joubert, Jack Swart, Emeul Sauls, Analo Yawa, Shamima Brett, Jenica Conradie, Malcom Malope, Athini Ngijana, Jacques Hanekom, Joshua Albert, Nicole Blignaut, Zoe Chowney, Marihé Erasmus, Elané Groenewald, Johan Truter, Athena Spanellis, Sinalo Tyhilana, Roger Philander, Reagan Fortuin and Elgemine Fourie.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This account has been rendered in terms of Council's relevant policies.

DUE DATE:

Accounts are payable when rendered. The due date on the account is only applicable on the current portion of the account and not the portion in arrears. Amounts which remain unpaid after the due date remain in arrears and services may be suspended without any further notice.

METHODS AND PLACES OF PAYMENT:

1. CHEQUES must be crossed and be made payable to Overstrand Municipality. Postdated cheques will not be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made. Receipts will not be mailed for payment made by cheque.
2. Payments will always be appropriated to the oldest outstanding amount (notwithstanding the kind of service), whereafter it will be appropriated in order of a predetermined priority.
3. Payments can be made
 - 3.1 at any of the MUNICIPAL OFFICES from Mondays to Fridays (public holidays excluded) during 08:00 - 13:00 and 14:00 - 15:30.
 - 3.2 at any branch of pay@, EasyPay or the Post Office. These payments take approximately 48 hours to process, thus payments should be made at least two days before the due date.
 - 3.3 by direct BANK PAYMENTS into ABSA Hermanus, Account number 4066578021. Your Municipal account number must be used as the reference number.
 - 3.4 by way of an automatic debit order. These forms are available at any of the Municipal Offices.
 - 3.5 via EFT (electronic funds transfer). Please contact our client services for more information in this regard.

INTEREST:

Interest will be levied on accounts in arrears in terms of Council's policy.

SUSPENSION OF SERVICES:

The supply of services may be disconnected without any notification if any amount is due after the expiry date. The deposit will be revised simultaneously and a surcharge, as determined by Council from time to time, will be added whether the supply had been physically disconnected or not. In the event of cheques or debit orders being returned "Refer to drawer", services will immediately be discontinued and future payments shall be made in cash. The account holder will be held liable for charges incurred.

ACCOUNTS:

Payment may not be deferred pending settlement of a dispute.

If no account has been received by the 10th of a month, a copy should be obtained from the Municipality. The account must be produced at all times when payments or enquiries are made.

If no official complaint is received in writing by the 15th of the month, it will be considered that you agree with the delivered account.

TERMINATION OF SERVICES:

When premises are vacated the consumer leaving such premises must give the Municipality 15 days' written notice prior to leaving. Failing to do so will result in this person being held liable for any levies until the date when a written notice is received.

PRE-PAID ELECTRICITY:

Where a pre-paid electricity meter is in use and any of the other services on the property are in arrears, units to the value of only 40% of the amount rendered, will be issued. The balance of 60% will be allocated to the account in arrears.

OVERSTRAND GEARED TO ENTERTAIN THOUSANDS

More visitors expected
than ever before



Overstrand is ready to live up to its name as one of South Africa's most popular holiday destinations as holidaymakers in their thousands flock to our coastal villages for a fun-filled festive season.

As a holiday destination, Overstrand has no equal when it comes to enjoying nature at its best with loads of outdoor activities to suit anyone's fancy. And as visitors have come to expect, we have yet again gone to a lot of trouble to ensure holidaymakers can look forward to a safe and clean environment when they visit our beaches and public amenities.

Cape Whale Coast Tourism, too, has planned a whole array of exciting activities to keep holidaymakers entertained from start to finish. For details on each individual town's holiday programme, call the respective tourism bureaux listed below:

Hangklip-Kleinmond Tourism	028 271 5657
Hermanus Tourism	028 312 2629
Stanford Tourism	028 341 0340
Gansbaai Tourism	028 384 1439

Alternatively, visit the Cape Whale Coast website at www.whalecoast.info from 1 December onwards to download the holiday programme in full.

LEST WE FORGET

Annually, on Remembrance Day - also known as Poppy Day - the ever-shrinking group of veterans in their black jackets sporting rows of medals and wearing red poppies, causes a lump in the throat when people all over the world pay tribute to those who fought so valiantly for their countries.

Almost without fail, the notes of a single bugle sounding the Last Post, the colours slowly being lowered to half mast, the two-minute silence maintained in homage and the solemn laying of numerous wreaths will bring a tear to the eye of many an onlooker participating in this sacred ritual.

Having laid a wreath on behalf of the Overstrand community, Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie said: "We salute our fallen soldiers, but simultaneously wish to honour those military veterans who can still join us in commemorating this day. We will continue to remember the sacrifice of veterans and civilians in World War I, World War II, and other wars (like the Bush War that is closer to home)."

As is customary, Regiment *Westelike Provinsie*, holder of the Freedom of the Overstrand, lent military colour to this occasion, organised by the local Seagull Shellhole of the MOTH's.



Bill van Niekerk, a survivor of the Battle of El Alamein and last active member of the MOTHs, paid tribute.



Overstrand Municipality supports 16 Days of activism for no violence against women and children.



GUSTAVO ROMERO

HOLIDAY CONCERT

GUSTAVO ROMERO, Professor of Piano at the University of North Texas, will be holidaying on our shores and will give a piano recital in the Civic Auditorium on Saturday, 28 December 2013, at 19:00. Overstrand music lovers will remember that Gustavo was the pianist who performed during the inauguration of the grand piano in August 2008 and that he returned in January 2011. We assure you of an outstanding performance as he plays works by Bach, Chopin, Rachmaninoff, Ravel and Schubert.

Tickets are R100 (R50 for students). Book at BELLINI Gallery in Village Square or ring them on 028 312 4988.

Contact René du Plooy on 082 940 4238 for further enquiries.



REDUCE, RECYCLE AND RE-USE

Johan van Taak, Manager: Solid Waste at Overstrand Municipality, says although South Africa is still donkey's years behind certain parts of the world when it comes to recycling, good progress is being made. A good thing, given all that solid waste management involves.

Solid waste in perspective

Solid waste management involves far more than the mere removal of black and clear refuse bags once or twice per week. Although municipalities are, by law, responsible for the removal and disposal of refuse, Van Taak says solid waste ought to be managed with only one goal in mind: to protect the environment!

He adds that the new solid waste act is extremely strict and the requirements that must be met, are becoming stricter by the day. All dumping sites must have a licence issued by the Department of Environmental Affairs with a whole array of conditions to be met, including furnishing the Department with reports on internal and external audits regularly.

Dumping sites are also not simply a vacant piece of land or a hole in the ground into which refuse is dumped. Before a new dumping site can be developed, an environmental impact study must be conducted to determine whether or not the terrain is suitable for this purpose.

Thereafter a cell is developed at the dumping site and lined with an impenetrable lining to prevent groundwater from being polluted. This cell looks like a dam in which the refuse is deposited and is provided with a drainage pipe to drain the lye (the water percolating through the refuse) to a lye dam and, eventually, into the sewerage system. Building such a cell in accordance with the Department of Environmental Affairs' requirements costs millions. In fact, Overstrand is currently building two such new cells at the Gansbaai landfill site at a cost of R8.4 million.

To extend the lifespan of such a cell, every-thing possible should be done to keep recyclable products from ending up in the cell. Therefore, think carefully before simply throwing items into the rubbish bin. Reduce refuse, re-use items and recycle: That's the key!

Come on, do your bit!

The success of recycling largely depends on the participation of householders and businesses. Recycling is also linked to the volumes being recycled. At the Hermanus transfer station, for example, the recycling plant is equipped with a conveyor belt. Workers stand next to the conveyor belt and remove all recyclable products before the refuse is transported to the landfill site. Gansbaai's dumping site also has a recycling plant, but the workers must do the sorting manually since the volumes are too low to justify the cost of a conveyor belt. The profit margin on recyclable products is very low; consequently, in the absence of large volumes, the recycling plant cannot be operated profitably. Another problem is that about half of the houses in the Overstrand are holiday homes, and that weekenders using these homes do not necessarily recycle.

This is how we recycle in Overstrand

Every household receives a clear plastic bag in which all **paper, cardboard, tin cans, glass bottles and plastic** can be placed. On the refuse removal day, the clear plastic bag will be removed and transported to the recycling plant where it will be sorted and baled. For every clear plastic bag placed out by a household, a new one will be supplied as replacement. Walker Bay Recycling (local recycler in Hermanus) and Enviroserv (recycler in Gansbaai) also collects all recyclable products from businesses.

Each household is allowed to place either one Wheelie bin or four black bags with domestic refuse on the sidewalk for removal, with the proviso that only one bag may contain garden rubble. In contrast, any number of clear plastic bags containing recyclable items may be placed out. Remember, though, that refuse may only be placed on the sidewalk on the day of collection.

If you are unsure about how to do your bit, or don't know where to get your clear plastic bags, feel free to contact Hermanus 028 313 8090, Kleinmond 028 271 8404, Gansbaai 028 384 8351 and Stanford 028 341 8500 or send an email to jvantaak@overstrand.gov.za.



FIREWORKS

In accordance with Overstrand's Fire Ordinance, fireworks may not be discharged without the explicit consent of the Fire Chief. Owners of premises from where fireworks are discharged, will be held accountable.

On New Year's Eve, the discharge of fireworks will explicitly be restricted to the following places, and then only between the hours of 22:00 and 01:00: Grotto Beach, east of the Blue-Flag area, Hawston's harbour and beach; the Uilenskraalmond beach; the Stanford Bay beach and Kleinmond's main beach.

Any transgression of this ordinance could result in heavy fines, including jail-time, being incurred. In the interest of everyone's safety and peace of mind, please adhere to these arrangements.

CLOSING OF OFFICES DURING HOLIDAYS

Municipal offices, including libraries, will be closed from 13:00 on Tuesday, 24 December, but from 07:45 on Friday, 27 December, it will be business as usual. The offices will again close at 13:00 on Tuesday, 31 December, and will only re-open on Friday, 3 January, since the 2nd of January is also a public holiday in the Western Cape.

However, during these times, the delivery of essential services will continue as normal.

Remember, municipal accounts can be settled through the Easy Pay@ system at several chain stores and at the Post Office.

In the case of any emergency, contact our 24-hour Control Room at 028 313 8111.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Office-hour numbers:

Mon - Fri: 07:45 - 16:30

Hermanus switchboard	028 313 8000
Gansbaai switchboard	028 384 8300
Kleinmond switchboard	028 271 8400
Stanford switchboard	028 341 8500

After-hour emergency numbers:

24-hour Emergency Control Room	028 313 8111
Fire Department	028 312 2400
Traffic Department	028 313 8111
Overstrand Law Enforcement	028 313 8111
Ambulance	10177
NSRI	028 312 3180
Marine & Coastal Management	028 313 2703
Hermanus Provincial Hospital	028 313 5200
Hermanus Private Hospital	028 313 0168
Hermanus Child Welfare	028 313 0831
Hermanus Animal Welfare	028 312 1281
Hermanus Police	028 313 5300
Gansbaai Police	028 384 0201
Stanford Police	028 341 0601
Hermanus Fire Brigade	028 313 8980
Gansbaai & Stanford Fire Brigade	028 384 8374
Kleinmond Fire Brigade	028 271 8449



Drop-off Facilities



Recycling



Waste Collection



Waste Disposal

LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION

to find a permanent home at Hangklip Library in Betty's Bay

Do you have any articles of historic interest - past or present - on Rooiels, Pringle Bay or Betty's Bay? These could be newspaper clippings, letters, photographs, sketches or anything of historical value.

If indeed you do, kindly consider donating these informative articles to the Local History Collection for safekeeping in the Betty's Bay public library. The librarian and the group who refer to themselves as Friends of the Library

have agreed to collect, screen and preserve all material thus received.

Your assistance and expert knowledge will be most appreciated. Dates for periodic meetings to work on the collection will be displayed at the library.

Any enquiries can be directed to Rosaline Matthews at the Betty's Bay Library (028 272 9263) or to Pip Prinsloo (028 272 9949).

TIDY UP YOUR PLOT IN THE INTEREST OF EVERYONE'S SAFETY AND SECURITY

In light of the safety requirements set out in Section 34(2) of the Community Fire Safety By-law, it is imperative for all property owners to take cognisance of their responsibility to prevent an accumulation of combustible material, including vegetative matter, on their premises.

Requirements in this regard state:

- Grass and groundcover vegetation must not be higher than 500 mm.
- Invasive alien vegetation, such as Port Jacksons, must be removed and controlled by regular cutting or with the aid of herbicides.
- Fynbos must be kept below 50% density, and all deadwood at ground level must be removed.
- Desired shrubs and trees must be cleared from ground level up to a minimum of 1,2 m if higher than 3 m and a minimum of 500 mm for shrubs and trees up to 3 m in height.
- The clearing of undergrowth and deadwood below all desired and protected (including Milkwood) thickets and dense brush in residential areas is imperative as this increases the danger of fires and could result in these spots being easily ignited by flying embers from nearby fires. This is also a measure to ensure that places where stolen goods and criminals can hide, are kept to a minimum.
- Properties up to 1 hectare in size must be adequately cleared, and larger ones must be provided with a firebreak of at least 5 m in width along all boundaries.
- All other combustible material causing a fire hazard must be removed or stored safely.
- **All garden refuse resulting from clearing actions as well as other combustible materials must be removed to the local depot. Where owners neglect to comply with this requirement, Council will be forced to remove such materials at the owner's cost.**

The Municipality conducts a minimum of two inspections per year throughout the jurisdiction and will issue compliance notices to all non-compliant property owners who must then remove the hazard or rectify

the matter within 28 working days. Failure to do so will result in the owner having to carry the cost of remedial actions taken by the Municipality on their behalf with an administrative levy of no less than R1 000 being added to the relative municipal account. The Municipality will, within reason, also react proactively to any complaints received from residents regarding overgrown properties, in which case the same process will be followed.



In view of the traditional annual Cape fire season, which runs from December through to April the following year, all owners are called upon to have their premises cleared by the last day of November each year. Land-owners wishing to clear their properties accordingly can obtain information on clearing contractors from Fire Services or the respective administration offices.



PARKING FEES: GROTTO & KLEINMOND BEACHES

Bus drop-off (more than 14 seats)	R110.00
Parked buses: municipal parking area per day	R170.00
Per vehicle per day or part of a day (Western Cape December school holidays)	R10.00
Resident permits per year (only two per owners of erven)	R40.00
Season ticket per motor vehicle (Western Cape December school holidays)	R120.00

The above-mentioned fees will be charged from 4 December 2013 until 14 January 2014 (school holidays) from 08:00 until 16:00.

The contact persons for season tickets and resident permits (available from 1 November 2013) are as follows:

- Hermanus Administration: Heather Appel 028 313 8135
- Kleinmond Administration: Carla Swartz 028 271 8411

PEARLY BEACH NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

A neighbourhood watch is no longer a luxury, but a necessity.

Even though security companies are well established and are doing a splendid job, they only show up when an unwelcome intruder has triggered an alarm.

As a neighbourhood watch, we are here to come to the aid of our fellow residents 24/7, no matter the circumstances. In fact, we are the ears and eyes of the police and have as our objective to prevent any type of crime from happening so that all of us can rest assured that we are living in a safe village.

But a neighbourhood watch can only be successful if all residents and owners commit themselves to the cause. For this very reason, Pearly Beach is asking for your co-operation. Please do not allow you or your property to become yet another part of South Africa's crime statistics.

Should you be interested in joining the Neighbourhood Watch, please contact us: The greater the involvement, the greater the ability to protect our village. We owe this to ourselves and our neighbours.

A monthly donation of a mere R10 per permanent resident and R36 for owners of holiday homes - homes at greater risk since they are mostly unoccupied - will sincerely be appreciated. Your contribution will enable us to curb crime more effectively.

The Neighbourhood Watch's next general meeting will be held on Saturday, 14 December 2013, at 10:00 in the D.R. Church Hall, Pearly Beach.

Call Ghandy Kruger (SAPS) on 079 894 1626 or Marie Klaassen on 072 956 4451 should you require more details or wish to be furnished with our banking details with a view to contributing towards our efforts to safeguard not only your property but your life.

As we celebrate Christmas in the Overstrand - we extend our heartfelt prayers to the people of the Philippines who lost so much.



How to register for the Municipality's SMS service
SMS your account number with the letters SMS to 082 338 1631 or contact a Client Services Officer at your closest Rates Hall.

