

DECEMBER 2022

## Telephone

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

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

## Bulletin

#overstrand4all

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

#C4ourself



## HIGH FIVE, OVERSTRAND! KEEPING THE BLUE FLAG FLYING



**KEEPING THE BLUE FLAG FLYING HIGH** Overstrand Municipality's Mayoral Committee Member for Community Services, Cllr Ronald Nutt, is congratulated by WESSA CEO Helena Atkinson. There to share the moment were David Swart, the Executive Mayor of the Bitou Municipality, and Jonga Kuhlane, representing the National Department of Tourism.

**Overstrand is proud to announce that five of its beaches – Grotto, Hawston, Onrus, Kleinmond and Castle – have retained their Blue Flag status for the 2022/23 season.**

Of the 51 South African beaches accredited this year, 33 are in the Western Cape, nine in KwaZulu-Natal and nine in the Eastern Cape.

Overstrand Municipality's MMC for Community Services, Cllr Ronald Nutt, and Roderick Williams, Director of Community Services, attended this year's national launch in Plettenberg Bay early in November to receive the Blue Flags on behalf of the municipality.

"We are super proud that we have retained our Blue Flag status as it is international confirmation that our beaches are not just beautiful and safe but also environmentally friendly. We do our best to keep our facilities in good condition so that we can welcome tourists from far and wide to our towns during the summer season," Cllr Nutt said.

In South Africa, the Blue Flag programme is managed by WESSA (the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa). At the launch, WESSA's CEO, Helena Atkinson, said there are now over 5,000 Blue Flag beaches, marinas and tourism boats around the world and that South Africa (one of 48 countries implementing this internationally recognised eco-label) can be proud of its performance overall.

Nevertheless, she pointed out that one of the key challenges over the past season included sewerage-related issues, which often result in water quality sample failures. "Water quality is an important factor in retaining a beach's Blue Flag status, because only excellent bathing water quality is accepted," she cautioned.

Unfortunately, the devastating floods in KwaZulu-Natal resulted in some beaches being non-compliant in terms of water quality but, as Atkinson pointed out, WESSA is committed to working closely with the affected municipalities so that the root cause can be addressed and to get those sites back on track as soon as possible.

Grotto's Blue Flag status will be effective from 1 December until 31 March 2023. In the case of the Hawston, Onrus, Kleinmond and Castle beaches, this status will also come into effect on 1 December, but their Blue Flags will only fly until 22 January 2023. It should be noted that no pets will be allowed on Blue Flag beaches for the duration, and that the consumption and/or possession of any alcoholic beverages are strictly prohibited in all public areas including beaches.

Lifesaving and security services will be fully operational for the duration of the holiday season on the aforementioned beaches.

## KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE IN THE INTEREST OF GREENER CITIES

### Arbour City adjudicators & Overstrand compare notes

As reported in the October edition of *Bulletin*, Overstrand Municipality walked off with the prestigious National Arbour City Award this year.

In the interest of inspiring more cities and towns to green their environments, the adjudicators are obligated to conduct a debriefing session with each year's winners.

Given that the panel was particularly impressed by the tree mapping project Overstrand recently deployed to ensure that trees in the area are managed and maintained effectively, this two-day think tank mostly focused on how this innovative project can be deployed to make sure that tree survival in newly established settlement areas receive the necessary attention.

To conclude the visit, the attendees had an opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors by paying a visit to the Harold Porter Botanical Gardens.



Councillor Clinton Lerm, Theo Steenberg (Deputy Director: Community Services) and Lauren Rainbird (horticulturist) acted as hosts for the duration of the adjudicators' visit to Overstrand. Here they enjoy a moment's respite in the company of Lynn January (IERM/City of Cape Town), Lihle Mdladla (National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment [DFFE]), Angustina Mabuya (TotalEnergies South Africa), Nosipho Ndzimbomvu (Assistant Director: Regulation [DFFE]), Tebogo Mathaba (SANBI), Jacques Cedras (IERM/City of Cape Town) and Mike Modise (Deputy Director: Small-scale Forestry [DFFE]).



### CATEGORY B & C INDIGENT HOUSEHOLDS MUST REREGISTER URGENTLY

Since Category B & C indigent households (i.e. households with a property value of up to R220 000) are being phased out, all affected recipients of indigent subsidies are urged to submit new applications for indigent status without delay.

Visit your nearest municipal office during office hours for assistance, or call one of the following numbers to update your status:

#### HERMANUS ADMINISTRATION:

028 313 8027 | 028 313 8933 | 028 313 5060 | 028 313 8042

GANSBAAI | STANFORD ADMINISTRATION: 028 384 8300 | 028 341 8500

KLEINMOND-HANGKLIP ADMINISTRATION: 028 271 8400



# SOLAR INSTALLATIONS **MUST** BE REGISTERED

For most South African residents, managing regular staged blackouts due to load shedding has become a way of life. To avoid being left in the dark, many people have invested in some form of backup power solution. Residents must keep in mind that registration of all small-scale embedded generation (SSEG) installations is mandatory, even if you are not feeding into the grid.



## Why must I register?

- Overstrand is legally required to ensure that the electricity distributed to all its customers complies with set quality standards. To enable us to do this, we need to know where generation systems have been connected to the grid to ensure that the system is safe and legal.
- All permanent grid-tied electricity generators in the Overstrand's electricity supply area must be authorised in writing. According to the Overstrand's Electricity Supply Bylaw, unauthorised generators that are grid-tied can be considered as a form of tampering. Please note that off-grid systems must also be registered so that they are not mistaken for grid-tied systems.
- Many systems that claim to be off-grid are not electrically separated from the home's wiring and are thus not technically off-grid. To qualify as an off-grid system, a solar PV system must be completely separated from the property's wiring.
- Unauthorised PV systems could interfere with Overstrand's electricity supply, electricity demand management and future network planning.
- Connecting an unauthorised SSEG system to the grid can pose a safety risk to electricity maintenance staff and can also pose a fire risk to your household if done incorrectly.
- Furthermore, your future insurance claims may be jeopardised if unauthorised systems are operated.
- NERSA requires all installations with a generation capacity smaller than 1 megavolt-ampere (MVA) to be registered with the relevant distribution authority. This encompasses most off-grid solar solutions for residential homes and some small offices.

## SSEG guidelines

The municipality has provided a set of guidelines to assist customers with registering their systems.

Overstrand's small-scale embedded generation programme gives all consumers with SSEG installations the opportunity to apply for a grid-tied or off-grid connection.

The SSEG programme allows consumers to apply for municipal approval, install a bidirectional meter and then be compensated for each unit fed back into the municipal grid at an annually approved municipal tariff.

Customers wishing to install an SSEG system, regardless of its generation capacity, need to complete an application form and request written approval from the municipality prior to the commencement of system procurement and installation. The approval process for an SSEG installation will vary, depending on the size of the system and consumer category.

## The following systems must be registered:

- ✓ Grid-tied with feed in (including hybrid) – where excess electricity is fed back onto the grid;
- ✓ Grid-tied with reverse power flow blocking – when the output is connected to the household wiring and is connected to the municipal grid via the meter;
- ✓ Grid-tied inverters which can operate in "islanded mode" – used during general power outages; and
- ✓ Off-grid SSEGs – not electrically connected to the electricity grid in any way.

## Possible amnesty

A proposal to grant an amnesty period to allow residents time to register current solar installations without being penalised will serve before Council in the near future. Once the matter has been resolved, the outcome will be made public as soon as possible.

## Relevant documentation

The complete guidelines, forms and the relevant bylaw are available on Overstrand's official website [www.overstrand.gov.za](http://www.overstrand.gov.za)

- For **electricity documents**, click on the Documents tab and then Electricity.
- For the **Electricity Supply Bylaw**, click on the Documents tab and then Bylaws.

**Who to contact:** Enquiries in this regard can be directed to the municipality's Electricity Department. Call 028 313 8000 | 028 384 8358 | 028 316 2630 or send an e-mail to [enquiries@overstrand.gov.za](mailto:enquiries@overstrand.gov.za).



## Electricity



## UPDATING PRE-PAID ELECTRICITY METERS

On the 1st of November, the process to update the software on municipal customers' pre-paid electricity meters commenced.

This process is commonly referred to as the TID roll-over. TID stands for token identifier and is the code that is generated when you buy electricity. Up to now, those codes have been calculated from a 1994 base date, but that range will run out in November 2024.

To avoid a situation where you will be unable to buy electricity from November 2024 onwards, your pre-paid meter must be reprogrammed. The new range of codes will last until 2045.

The pre-paid electricity meters of consumers who buy their electricity from Overstrand Municipality will be updated per area, and we wish to emphasise that this is not a meter replacement, nor will any fees be payable to have your meter updated.

## How the change will be done

Once it is your area's turn to update, you will receive two extra 20-digit codes with your first electricity purchase for the month. In other words, there will be three codes in total on the token: The two extra codes plus the usual one. The same applies if you make use of a banking app to purchase your prepaid electricity.

All three codes need to be entered in sequence.

## Follow these steps:

1. Enter the first 20-digit key change code and wait till it has been accepted.
2. Enter the second 20-digit key change code and wait till it has been accepted.
3. Enter the usual 20-digit electricity token to recharge units as normal.

❖ **Note that you will receive the two extra codes only once.**

## BE SURE TO CAPTURE ALL PREVIOUSLY BOUGHT TOKENS BEFORE UPDATING!

Any tokens in your possession that have not been captured on your meter yet must be punched in before any change is made. If you do not enter your credit tokens first, you will not be able to use them after you have entered the key change tokens.

❖ **Note that any units that are on your meter will still be available after the reset.**

## How to check the status of your meter

When you buy electricity, the following information is printed below your name and address on the token issued to you: your SGC (Supply Group Code), the TI (Token Identifier), KRN (Key Revision Note) and, at the very bottom, the Tariff.

The KRN is the indicator of the status of your meter in terms of the TID roll-over. If it is KRN 1, your meter still needs to be reprogrammed. If the KRN is 2, your meter has already been reprogrammed.

## Where to get help

Should you have difficulty updating your pre-paid meter, please contact Overstrand Municipality during office hours (Mon - Fri from 07:45 - 13:00 and from 13:45 - 16:30) on one of the following numbers:

- ♦ Hermanus Administration: 028 313 8000 (Finance Department) or 028 316 2630 (Electricity Department)
- ♦ Kleinmond Administration: 028 271 8400
- ♦ Gansbaai and Stanford Administrations: 028 384 8358 or 028 384 8376

## Eskom customers

Overstrand residents who buy their electricity directly from Eskom should note that they, too, will be affected by the TID roll-over. However, since Eskom will follow its own update process, these residents are advised to contact Eskom directly with queries regarding the upgrade, or wait till Eskom contacts them.

## NO FIREWORKS ALLOWED!





## BREAST CANCER: Early detection crucial



Ceejay Swarts, Deidré April, Sister Marie du Plessis and Zintle Ngwendu



Councillor Elnora Gillion with Christene Pretorius (left) and Auntie Ann Claassen

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, an annual campaign to raise awareness about the impact of breast cancer and why early detection is so important.

As part of this campaign, the libraries in Hermanus and Mount Pleasant treated the residents of the SOFCA Frail Care Centre and the Lombardi Care Centre to tea and cake in the municipal banqueting hall with piano man David Fritz providing light entertainment in the background.

Pastor Gregory Meyer opened the event by offering some words of encouragement, followed by Sister Marie du Plessis who talked about understanding cancer and the importance of early detection and a proper diagnosis.

Although she emphasised the need for annual medical check-ups and regular cancer screening, she also pointed out that there are some early warning signs everyone (whether male or female) should be wary of.

The most common sign of breast cancer is a new lump or mass. A painless lump that is hard and has uneven edges is more likely to be cancer. However, some cancers can be tender, soft and rounded. "Best to have anything unusual checked by a doctor as soon as possible," she stressed.

### Other possible signs of breast cancer can include:

- swelling of all or part of the breast,
- skin irritation or dimpling,
- breast pain,
- redness, scaliness or thickening of the nipple or breast skin,
- a nipple discharge other than breast milk, and
- a lump in the underarm area.

To wrap up the event, Lara Kirsten read an excerpt from the book *Kanker Schmanker* by Madelein Rust, a breast cancer survivor whose brutally honest recounting of how the disease affected her and how she overcame its aftermath serves as an inspiration for cancer patients the world over.

## HERMANUS SPACE WEATHER CENTRE FULLY OPERATIONAL



Hermanus now hosts the only Space Weather Regional Warning Centre in Africa. The South African National Space Agency (SANSA) devoted three years to developing the infrastructure, deploying state-of-the-art instrumentation and acquiring the requisite skills to operate this centre which was officially opened on Thursday, 3 November 2022.

According to Dr Blade Nzimande, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, the total investment to develop the centre amounted to R107.5 million, which included a ring-fenced establishment grant of R70.89 million from the Department of Science and Innovation and R 36.6 million invested directly by SANSA.



## DONATED WHEELCHAIRS CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION



Rodney Munnik and JH Stoffels, members of OAPD, received brand-new wheelchairs from EasyPay. There to share this joyous occasion were Overstrand Executive Mayor, Dr Annelie Rabie (far right); EasyPay's provincial head for the Western Cape, Lebogang Nyokong; Overberg District Municipality Councillor, Archibald Klaas and Overstrand Deputy Mayor, Lindile Ntsabo as well as Overstrand Thusong Centre coordinator, Ronell Salies (in yellow) and OAPD social worker, Shifra Stuurman (far left). Seated on the right are Waldemar Gibson (white cap) and Jonathon Stoffels from the OAPD.

EasyPay changed the lives of many Overstrand families with the donation of eight brand-new wheelchairs to members of the Overstrand Association for Persons with Disabilities (OAPD) in Hawston, Zwelihle and Kleinmond.

An additional four wheelchairs were handed over to the Hermanus Community Day Centre (CDC) where they will be utilised by the elderly and the disabled who visit the clinic regularly.

Sister Heather Kinnear, operational manager of the Hermanus CDC, said the clinic always needs wheelchairs to transport people in and around the building. "Our patients and porters will be very happy to have four new ones to use," she added.

At the handover, Overberg District Municipality Councillor and programme director, Archie Klaas, said most people in need of wheelchairs do not have access to them because they are scarce and rather pricy. "We are most thankful for this donation and appreciate the effort Ronell Salies – coordinator of Overstrand's Thusong Centre – made to facilitate this handover", he added.

Also present on this occasion was Overstrand's Executive Mayor, Dr Annelie Rabie, who said "it's fantastic that people will now have a chance to get out of their homes or beds without having to rely so heavily on someone else. Now they can go out and experience the world in all its facets because they will no longer be held captive by their lack of mobility."

In addition to thanking EasyPay for their generous donation, she also extended her heartfelt gratitude towards the OAPD for the tremendous effort they are making to ensure that the needs of Overstrand's less mobile residents are taken care of.

The Hermanus Space Weather Centre will provide an important service to Southern Africa by monitoring the sun and its activity to provide information, early warnings and forecasts on space weather conditions. These space weather products and services are required primarily for the communication and navigation systems operated by the defence, aeronautics, navigation and communication sectors.

Amongst the dignitaries attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony were Overstrand's Executive Mayor, Dr Annelie Rabie; Deputy Mayor, Lindile Ntsabo; the Executive Mayor of the Overberg District Municipality, Sakkie Franken; SANSA Chair, Patrick Ndlovu; SANSA CEO, Andiswa Mlisa; SANSA MD for Space Science, Dr Lee-Anne McKinnell and various officials from the Ministry and the Department of Science and Innovation.

Mayor Rabie expressed her appreciation towards all parties who were instrumental in developing this centre that will not only be a major asset for Hermanus but for the country and the continent as a whole.

"Apart from the fact that the projects undertaken by SANSA create jobs and help to develop human talent at the highest level, we should not forget that the big data platforms and satellite-based augmentation systems you develop aid our agricultural economy which is, in essence, lies at the heart of food security. For that alone we owe you a great deal of gratitude," she said.



# MANAGING HOUSEHOLD WASTE OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

Even if your area's collection day falls on a public holiday, Overstrand Municipality will still collect your household waste as per the usual schedule indicated below.

**MOST IMPORTANTLY:** Waste should only be placed out for collection **early on the morning of the scheduled collection day**. Do not leave household waste on the pavement overnight or place it out for collection on any other day.

Failure to adhere to this request could cost you dearly because heavy fines will be imposed on all transgressors.

## THE COLLECTION SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:



### FOR GANSBAAI:

MONDAY: Pearly Beach

TUESDAY: De Kelders, Masakhane, Beverly Hills

WEDNESDAY: Franskraal, part of Gansbaai Industrial and Masakhane

THURSDAY: Kleinbaai, Baardskeerdersbos and part of Gansbaai Business Area

FRIDAY: Gansbaai, Perlemoen Bay, Blompark, Masakhane, Beverly Hills

### FOR STANFORD:

TUESDAY: North of De Bruyn Street

THURSDAY: South of De Bruyn Street

### FOR HERMANUS:

MONDAY: Vermont, Fisherhaven, Voëlklip

TUESDAY: Onrus, Chanteclair, Berghof, Sandbaai, Hemel-en-Aarde

WEDNESDAY: Zwelihle, Mount Pleasant

THURSDAY: Westcliff, Northcliff, residential houses in the Business and Industrial Area

FRIDAY: Hawston, Eastcliff, Hermanus Heights, Kwaaiwater, Fernkloof

### FOR HANGKLIP-KLEINMOND:

MONDAY: Rooi Els, Kleinmond sea avenues, Kleinmond mountain avenues, Klein Berlyn, Heuningkloof

TUESDAY: Proteadorp, Overhills, Mountain View, Extension 6,

Palmiet, Sunny Seas, Jock's Bay

WEDNESDAY: Betty's Bay, Mooiuitsig

THURSDAY: Pringle Bay • FRIDAY: Businesses

**People residing in declared animal-areas should please take heed of the article on baboons below.**

Should you generate excess household waste over this festive season, please take the additional waste to one of the following facilities for safe disposal: Pearly Beach drop-off, Gansbaai landfill site, Stanford drop-off, Voëlklip drop-off, Voëlklip mini-drop-off, Hermanus drop-off, Hawston drop-off, Kleinmond transfer station, Betty's Bay mini-drop-off, Betty's Bay garden-waste drop-off and Pringle Bay mini-drop-off.

Note that the mini-drop-off sites are mostly there for the convenience of weekenders / holidaymakers who have to leave the area before the scheduled collection day and need a place where they can safely drop off their household waste after hours so as not to leave it out on the pavement. For that reason, these sites can only accept small volumes (i.e. a couple of bags) at a time.

Nevertheless, larger drop-offs and transfer stations will accept loads of up to one ton without levying a charge, but a fee will be payable for any load between one and three tons. Note that loads larger than three tons must be disposed of directly at one of two landfill sites, i.e. Gansbaai or Karwyderskraal.

## RECOVER, RECYCLE, RE-USE

We would like to remind all residents and visitors that recycling in Overstrand is back on track. Please be sure to place your recyclables out in a clear plastic bag on collection day. We will pick it up, replace the clear plastic bag with a new one, and transport your recyclables to the nearest materials recovery facility where it will be sorted and processed according to the appropriate recyclable stream.

Excessive garden and green waste can be disposed of at one of the following facilities for chipping/composting: • Pearly Beach drop-off • Gansbaai landfill site • Stanford drop-off • Voëlklip drop-off • Hermanus transfer station • Kleinmond transfer station • Betty's Bay garden waste drop-off site.

On behalf of the Directorate: Infrastructure and Investment, we wish all residents, visitors and holidaymakers well over the festive season and would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation to help keep our towns and villages pristine so that everyone can enjoy a pleasant stay.

## BE WILDFIRE COMPLIANT:

### CLEAR OVERGROWN ERVEN AND READY YOUR PROPERTY NOW!

Given that the annual fire season officially runs from early November till the end of May, the time has come to ensure that vacant plots are cleared of alien vegetation and debris that could fuel fires.

Owners of undeveloped, overgrown erven are hereby requested to ensure that their properties are fire compliant to reduce the risk of ignition and the spread of fires to adjacent residences and veld. For its part, Overstrand's Municipal Manager, Dean O'Neill, gave the assurance that an internal task team will ensure that public open spaces and areas under municipal control are also fire compliant and that firebreaks are in place. "If everyone cooperates, we can ensure that we limit runaway fires to the minimum during this season," he said.

In preparation for the fire season, residents are urged to rid their properties of combustible materials by taking the following fire safety precautions without delay:

- ❖ Cut back vegetation and remove debris around your home.
- ❖ Make sure your roof and gutters are clean.
- ❖ Move firewood away from your house.
- ❖ Be sure not to store flammable materials such as gas cylinders below decks or verandas.
- ❖ Ensure that your driveway has been cleared of overhanging vegetation and is wide enough to accommodate a fire engine.
- ❖ Keep your garden hose connected at all times.

Open fires are a common cause of uncontrolled fires in the Western Cape. For that reason, it's not a good idea to start a fire when it's hot, dry and especially not when it's windy. Also burning candles, braai fires or other open flames should never be left unattended.

To report a fire or to request emergency assistance, call 028 312 2400 without delay. This 24/7-line has been dedicated to attend to fire-related distress calls exclusively.

## SAVE OUR BABOONS: DON'T FEED THEM

Baboons are resourceful and have learnt to associate humans with food. They know that human-derived food means that they do not have to spend hours foraging the mountains to find their own.

The sad truth is that human-derived food poses a serious threat to baboons and can cause serious, irreversible damage to their health, notably diabetes and dental decay.

Living in the Kogelberg Biosphere and along the Klein River mountain range requires that residents and visitors take heed of the wildlife that share their space and adapt their lifestyles accordingly.

### Don't create a problem animal: Obey the law

All too often, problem animals are the result of human behaviour. As a consequence, Kleinmond, Betty's Bay, Rooi Els, Pringle Bay, Voëlklip, Fernkloof (including the Golf Estate), Hermanus Heights, Eastcliff and Kwaaiwater had to be declared problem-animal areas.

In these areas, all households must make use of animal-proof bins to dispose of their waste and strictly adhere to the provisions set out in Overstrand Municipality's By-law on Integrated Solid Waste Management.

Failure to do so will result in hefty fines.

### Dispose of household waste in an environmentally friendly and baboon-proof fashion:

- No household waste may be left out on the pavement prior to the day of collection
- All waste containers must be secured with baboon-proof locking devices.
- In all instances, excess refuse should be taken to the nearest transfer station and not dumped next to municipal bins.
- In the case of weekenders and holidaymakers, arrangements should be made with a nearby neighbour to dispose of household waste on the scheduled day.

### Take precautions to protect your home against marauding baboons

A marauding baboon troop can cause serious havoc and even pose a threat to young children and pets. Keeping in mind that baboons can wiggle through even the smallest gap and have no problem opening doors, please be sure to secure all doors and windows and to set the alarm before you leave your home.

It is also advisable to not leave ripe fruit and vegetables in plain sight, and to keep dog bowls and bird feeders well without reach.

### React appropriately when confronted with a marauding baboon:

- Make sure that young children and pets are safely secured in an enclosed room.
- Then, rather than confronting the animal, give it some space to exit unhindered.
- Also remember that it would be unwise to confront a cornered animal in an attempt to recover any food/items it has "stolen".
- In the aftermath, be sure to disinfect the affected areas and to use gloves when removing baboon poop.

