

NOVEMBER 2015

24 Hour Emergency	028 313 8000/8111
Fire Brigade	028 312 2400

Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

Overstrand hosts 2015 National Blue Flag Launch

Rather aptly, the celebration of National Marine Week (12 to 18 October) was preceded on Tuesday 6 October by an event hosted on Grotto Beach, Hermanus, to announce 2015's national Blue Flag recipients.

A Blue Flag is an international award given to beaches, boats and marinas that meet strict criteria in the areas of safety, amenities, cleanliness and environmental standards as defined by the international coordinators of the campaign, the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE).

In South Africa, the programme is managed by the Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa (WESSA), along with participating local authorities.

What made the event even more touching was that in celebration of achieving Blue Flag status for 15 consecutive years, the host venue (Grotto) was awarded a gold certificate whilst Overstrand's two remaining Blue Flag beaches (Kleinmond and Hawston) were awarded silver certificates for achieving this coveted status for 10 consecutive years.

Tourism is one of the world's fastest growing industries. More particularly, it is the highest revenue generator in Overstrand. For this reason, great efforts are made to take care of the region's beaches which are pivotal to the success of its tourism endeavours.

The National Blue Flag Programme has provided the platform from which the municipality can leverage attempts to reverse any environmental degradation or loss of biodiversity that might have occurred in the area. To this end, the waste water treatment plants, recycling initiatives and environmental education drives are just some of the remedial resolves that have been established in response.

The programme also allows for new and innovative ways to involve

local communities, workers, destinations, associated businesses and interested parties in environmental protection. This cooperative model, underpinned by a common conscience, has successfully led to significant tourism development in the region.



Pictured at the 2015 National Blue Flag Launch ceremony (from left to right) Dr Thommie Burger (CEO of WESSA); the honourable Derek Hanekom (Minister of Tourism); Alderman Nicolette Botha-Guthrie (Executive Mayor Overstrand Municipality); Roderick Williams (Director of Community Services Overstrand Municipality) and Coenie Groenewald (Municipal Manager Overstrand Municipality)

National Minister of Tourism, the honourable Derek Hanekom, meted out high praise by stating, "I often use the Overstrand as an example of how the collective efforts of communities, the municipality, government, stakeholders and business partners is a perfect recipe for ensuring healthy development and preservation of an environment. There is so much pride here and a sense that everyone is striving towards a common goal and purpose. That kind of passion is to be applauded."

In her keynote address, Executive Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie echoed these sentiments and said, "I must extend my sincere appreciation to our people - the community, officials, government and business support partners. Your hard work and dedication

has helped us to consistently achieve the coveted Blue Flag status at a number of our beaches. This synergy is essential for protecting our coastline so that inevitably we can leave a legacy for future generations of a sustainable environment that is rich in biodiversity."

After the blue flag was raised on Grotto Beach, the event concluded on a high note with a beautiful rendition of the national anthem delivered by Overstrand Law Enforcement Officer, Nelson Knanunu. Guests were then treated to a scrumptious finger lunch at the nearby Ducheess Restaurant from where a few majestic whales could be seen frolicking in the distant surf. In all it could safely be said that a good time was had by all.

Children's Books by the Hundred

"There is no child who cannot be hooked on books provided the right book is produced at the right moment." - Jay Heale

The Enlighten Education Trust, in association with the Hermanus Times, recently launched their exciting Right-to-Read campaign.

The trust's vision is to involve the entire Overstrand community in a drive to place mini-libraries comprising at least 100 beautiful, age-appropriate storybooks in each Grade R class in this region. From book and sports clubs to retirement villages and youth groups, community members are invited to challenge each other to buy books

to be distributed to schools from Betty's Bay to Gansbaai. For the first time, in many cases, thousands of children will be able to enjoy their own books in their own classrooms and homes. As they develop a love of reading, worlds of words, imagination, knowledge and possibility will be opened up to them that will change their lives forever.

Buy books or donate money for books - the choice is yours - but do get involved in this community-building project. For more details, check the Hermanus Times, contact Elmine or Elaine at Enlighten on 028 3130974 or send an e-mail to library@enlighten.org.za.

Overstrand heeds call to reduce waste

Having celebrated National Recycling Week from 14 to 19 September during which time the recycling industry called upon South Africans of all ages and backgrounds to take part in various clean-up and recycling activities, it was only fitting that Overstrand used this opportunity to showcase its recycle swap shops.

On Wednesday 16 September 2015, Overstrand Municipality hosted a 'Recycle Swap Shop Awareness Day' at the Stanford community hall. The event was well attended by municipal and government officials, industry role players, volunteers and interested members of the community. A number of recycle swap shops operate in previously disadvantaged areas within the Overstrand region and are of great value to the respective communities. These recycle swap shops have a multi-functional capacity:

- As an educational tool, they inform children that waste has a monetary value and that with a bit of effort, recycling can improve their economic circumstances.
- They teach our youth important business principles and the art of bartering.
- They help the municipality to keep the streets and environment clean.
- They play a significant role in diverting waste from landfills, given that costs to construct new cells at landfills are rapidly on the rise.

The swap shops work on a points basis whereby children are encouraged to collect recyclable material such as bottles, cans, paper, et cetera. On delivery of the material to the swap shops, they receive points that can be used to purchase items of their choice. Items to



Pictured at the Recycle Swap Shop Awareness Day in Stanford are (left to right) Johan van Taak (Solid Waste Manager: Overstrand), Councillor Riana de Coning (Ward 2), Councillor Dudley Coetzee (Ward 11), Charmaine Beukes (Marketing Manager: White Shark Projects), Executive Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie, Francois Myburgh (Area Manager: Gansbaai) and Petronella Ferreira (Area Manager: Stanford)

choose from range from household cleaning goods to non-perishable foods, toiletries, stationery and even toys.

In her address on the day, Executive Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie paid a special tribute to the volunteers who man the recycling swap shops. "Your hard work in running and keeping these outlets operating smoothly is greatly appreciated. The municipality recognises the contribution and significant role you play through these efforts in providing sustainable services to your community. We also appreciate that these recycling activities will greatly support our quest to once again claim the coveted status of being the country's 'Greenest Municipality'," she said.

She also posed a further challenge

to attendees, and the public at large, by declaring that she will be spearheading a mission to make Overstrand a plastic bag-free environment. "Just yesterday, I proudly showed my staff the beautiful bags made from recycled material I recently purchased and would be using for my shopping from now on. I urged them to follow my example and only half-jokingly warned that anyone seen walking around with plastic shopping bags will be fined on the spot," stated the Mayor.

The media was also lauded for the role they play in bring programmes and projects of this nature to the public's attention. To this end, Botha-Guthrie declared, "The more we can educate our communities on the subject, the greater the chance of developing responsible and mindful citizens who all play a part in reducing our waste levels through recycling. In this way, we can ultimately ensure a sustainable and pollution-free environment for generations to come."

PARKING FEES ADJUSTED DOWNWARDS

DETAILS	ADJUSTMENT 2015/2016		APPROVED 2015/2016		2014/2015	
	Exclude VAT	Include VAT	Exclude VAT	Include VAT	Exclude VAT	Include VAT
PARKING FEE						
Metered parking (excluding public holidays)						
Monthly permit per vehicle	263.16	300.00	424.56	484.00	385.97	440.00
Per quarter hour or part thereof	0.88	1.00	1.75	2.00	0.88	1.00
- Monday to Friday 08:30 - 16:00						
Per half hour or part thereof	1.75	2.00	2.63	3.00	2.63	3.00
- Monday to Friday 08:30 - 16:00						
Per hour - Monday to Friday 08:30 - 16:00	3.51	4.00	5.26	6.00	4.39	5.00
Per hour - Saturdays 08:30 - 13:00	3.51	4.00	5.26	6.00	4.39	5.00



DAZZLING DUO SET TO ENTHRAL

The Lavrova-Primakov piano duo's Virtuosity Extravaganza - four hands on one piano - is set to dazzle the Overstrand audience. In this extravaganza, the duo will play Symphonic Etudes, Op. 13 by Schumann; Grand Sonata for Piano Four Hands in F Minor, Op. 178 by Carl Czerny and Corelli's Variations on a Theme, Op. 42 as well as Six Morceaux by Sergei Rachmaninoff. Music lovers will not want to miss the performance by these two highly accomplished Russian pianists.

The concert will commence at 19:00 on Sunday afternoon 8 November in the Civic Auditorium. Tickets are R120 (R60 for students) and will also be available at the door. Bookings may be made at BELLINI GALLERY on 028 312 4988. Contact Secretary René du Plooy on 082 940 4238 for enquiries.

