

SANDBAAI ROADS: what to expect for the next nine months

Sandbaai businesses and residents should brace themselves for traffic tie-ups and the impact of closure of some streets in the neighbourhood.

Work has already started and construction is expected to be complete at the end of October. Work will proceed in stages (see schedule below).

Roads affected will be Bergsig Street between Aloe Street and Argon Street, Schulphoek Boulevard between the R43 and Adam Street, Adam Street and finally the entrance next to the R43.

According to Dennis Hendriks, Senior Manager: Engineering Services, "the next and final phase of reconstruction for 2017 of Sandbaai roads related to the Sandbaai shopping centre, has commenced.

It should please be noted that the schedule is only provisional, as weather conditions and other factors may affect the dates and it is therefore merely a guide".

Residents adjacent to the affected roads (Bergsig Street and Oos-end Street) will also be contacted and informed accordingly to confirm any relevant closures and alternative arrangements. Ward 7 Councillor, David Botha, added "changes will be communicated as soon as possible to those residents and users of the streets concerned".

Cllr Botha further confirmed that no thoroughfare from Sandbaai Main Road to Schulphoek Road will be possible for about nine months, as the street will be built in phases and can therefore only be accessed as indicated.

It is requested that where possible, only residents and their visitors, as well as those with a specific business in the area, should use said roads. Pedestrians will, however, be accommodated at all times along the streets that have been closed but are encouraged to stick to the defined paths and obey the duly appointed flagmen who will be on duty in the given period. Similarly, cyclists will also have access to the aforesaid pathways, but cognisance should be taken that the pedestrians will enjoy the right of way at all times.

• Should there be any enquiries concerning the above, please feel free to contact the developer's representative, Leon Louw on 083 324 5928 or the Municipality's Project Manager, Dennis Hendriks on 082 416 8676.

The preliminary schedule as agreed upon by the Municipality and the developer is as follows:

STREET SECTION	DATES OF CLOSURE	SCHEDULED DATES FOR RE-OPENING
Oos-end Street from Jimmy Smith Street to End Street	Thursday 16 March	Tuesday 18 April
Access from Myrtle Street		
Jimmy Smith Street from Schneider Street to Oos-end Street	Thursday 16 March	Thursday 20 April
NO ENTRY - there are no houses along this section		
Bergsig Street from Schulphoek Road to the west up to Argon Street	Wednesday 1 March	Friday 30 April
Access from Schulphoek Road and Adam Street and Argon Street up to Aloe Street		
Bergsig Street from Aloe Street to the west up to Bergzicht en Monte Maré gates	Wednesday 1 March	Friday 30 April
Access to Aloe Street from Schulphoek Road along Adam Street and Argon Street and Bergsig Street		

Talent, youth development and community building biggest winners at Overstrand Sport Festival 2017



Pictured with the winning cricket team from Hawston are (far left at the back) Ayanda Stali, Manager: Sport and Recreation; (standing from left to right) Municipal Manager, Coenie Groenewald; Mayoral Committee members Cllr Riana de Coning, Cllr Andrew Komani and Cllr Arnie Africa, and Deputy Executive Mayor Ald Dudley Coetzee, as well as (on the left in the front) Cllr Elnora Gillion.

The Overstrand Sport Festival has become one of the highlights on the calendar of sporting enthusiasts in the area, and this year's event did not disappoint. On Saturday, 11 March 2017, Overstrand municipal councillors, accompanied by the Executive Mayor Ald Rudolph Smith, officials, participants and supporters gathered at the Gansbaai Spaces for Sport Facility to enjoy a day of friendly competition in the codes of netball, rugby, soccer and cricket hosted by the Overstrand Municipality.

Once again, the increasingly popular tournament drew a capacity crowd that was treated to a full programme of activities and a spectacular display of the Overstrand's most prolific sporting talents.

The festival was opened in an exciting, energetic fashion with a march-pass involving the competing teams, led by the Blompark Minstrels who entertained spectacularly with their spirited dance moves and lively carnival tunes. Overstrand's Cllr Riana de Coning then got proceedings under way with a warm welcome, followed by the official opening address by Deputy Executive Mayor Ald Dudley Coetzee who said, "Occasions like this give our communities opportunities to discover and develop their sporting talents. Sport is a great way to bring people together and promote social cohesion."

As insightful a statement as that was, it was Coetzee's boisterous blast on a Vuvuzela to herald in the start of the games that drew a rapturous response of applause from the appreciative audience.

The sensational round of playoffs in the day's final round of competition was underscored by equal measures of grit, determination and amazing capabilities that were clearly evident amongst all the teams involved.

There were no surprises when, for the fifth consecutive year, an ecstatic Hawston side once again emerged as the undisputed 'Kings of Cricket' after keeping Kleinmond Cricket Club at bay to a riveting 7-wicket win. However, Kleinmond more than made up in the much-anticipated rugby clash where they beat Atlantics of Mount Pleasant, Hermanus with a final score of 20 - 3.

Kleinmond also narrowly missed claiming the crown in the hotly contested Soccer Legends category. Hermanus' Zwelihle Legends had spectators spellbound with a winning score of 8-7 after a penalty shootout.

Hermanus Netball Club then kept the flag flying high by claiming the netball trophy with a triumphant and convincing win of 40 - 24; this, despite Mount Pleasant's best efforts.

However, it was Stanford's Young Tigers in the soccer grand finale who astoundingly put paid to any further brassware haul by Hermanus with an impressive 3 - 1 win over Gansbaai's Peace Makers. A result that unfortunately left Zwelihle Sweepers having to settle for third place.

With proceedings coming to an end just before the prize-giving ceremony, Overstrand's Portfolio Head of Community Services, Cllr Andrew Komani, made a profound comment in his closing address, saying, "What we witnessed here today is testimony to the tremendous effort and focus the Overstrand places on the development of our communities, and the youth in particular. It's only appropriate therefore that we celebrate and honour these amazing talents with fitting awards."

Against that backdrop, it was especially encouraging to see recognition being afforded for outstanding achievement to players like Erika Hansen of Hermanus Netball Club, Marchello Joemat of Kleinmond Rugby Club, Phillip Oliphant of Hawston Cricket Club and 16-year-old prodigy Bongani Mngeni of Stanford's Young Tigers who received the Best Player gong in their respective codes of netball, rugby, cricket and soccer.

OVERSTRAND HOSTS POST-SEASON EVALUATION OF OVERBERG DISTRICT SAFETY PLAN PILOT

"I must commend all those who participated in the pilot District Safety Plan (DSP) that was launched in the Overberg on 1 October 2016 and was carried through to 16 January this year. Your collective effort over the period has ensured a significant decline in road fatalities in the area, specifically the target top priority categories of pedestrians and children."

This statement was given by Mr Kenny Africa, Western Cape Traffic Chief and Programme Director at the post-season evaluation of the DSP that was hosted by the Overstrand Municipality at their premises in Hermanus on Friday, 27 January 2017.

Present at the event were representatives of the key role players, i.e. the Overberg municipalities of Cape Agulhas, Theewaterskloof, and Overstrand; as well as the SAPS Overberg Cluster.

The DSP was designed by encompassing all socio-economic factors, government resources, as well as the road environment itself. Relevant law enforcement agencies, including the SAPS, Provincial Traffic Services, and the three Municipal Traffic Services were then integrated. Moreover, education efforts with mass marketing were strongly driven to ensure the greatest impact on public awareness and perception. To that end, Danny Cat, the provincial road safety mascot, has been prominent in this initial success.

The results for Quarter 3: 2016/17, as compared to the targets set, and Quarter 3: 2015/16 were as follows:

District Safety Plan Quarter 3 2016/17 (1 Oct - 31 Dec 2016)	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Actual	2019/20 Target
All Fatalities	21	14	11	10
Pedestrians	5	3	2	0
Children 0 - 14	4	0	0	0

Despite the successes listed, Africa pointed out that considerably more work needs to be done to guarantee the continued effectiveness of the DSP in the way forward. "We need to really enforce the message that booze and roads, in particular, don't mix. Our efforts, if applied correctly, will lead to a change in attitudes and behaviour amongst road users and ultimately result in the end goal of less carnage on our motorways," said Africa.

Alternatives to plastic in the home

As we become increasingly aware of how bad it is to have so much plastic in our home, we should start considering the alternatives that are now available.

If you've been reading our environmental inserts in the Bulletin over the past year, you may already have started reducing the amount of single-use plastic you utilise; for example, plastic straws, plastic bottles and plastic shopping bags. Maybe you're thinking about the next steps for a life less plastic and wondering where to start?

If we just look at the equipment in our kitchens today, particularly the cooking utensils and storage containers, it is a good place to begin.

People don't always realise that many forms of plastic release harmful chemicals into the food or beverage they come in contact with, especially at high temperatures such as those found in a microwave, dishwasher or when left in a hot car. At these temperatures, a far higher percentage of chemicals are able to transfer from the plastic container or bottle, which is why you should never reheat take-away food in a polystyrene container in a microwave. These chemicals may include Bisphenol A (BPA) and phthalates, which are known hormone disruptors that may cause nerve damage, while others are thought to be carcinogenic. Sadly, those at risk are often more likely to use items such as plastic cups and bowls; for example young children and pregnant women.

It is, therefore, a good idea to steadily start replacing the plastic in your kitchen. For food storage containers you can use glass, ceramic or stainless steel. Make use of old glass coffee or peanut butter jars. There's no need to spend a lot of money. Increasingly more alternatives to plastic are becoming available such as bamboo, stainless steel or wooden cooking utensils, ceramic-lined frying pans instead of Teflon, as well as stainless steel or bamboo tumblers for kids instead of plastic. Use steel or silicone ice trays, bamboo or wooden chopping boards and glass bottles instead of plastic. Wrap your sandwiches in waxed paper or cloth and use metal tiffin or Bento boxes for children's lunches. Take-away containers made of sugar cane waste instead of polystyrene and take-away utensils made of bamboo are also a great alternative.

You don't need to do it all at once, but for your own health and the health of our precious planet, you should consider gradually using less plastic in your home.



Overstrand leads the way in plastic bag eradication



Overstrand's Manager: Solid Waste, Johan van Taak, recently handed over reusable bags to Overstrand Executive Mayor: Rudolph Smith, Deputy Executive Mayor Dudley Coetzee and Municipal Manager Coenie Groenewald.

Tuesday, 7 March 2017: The Overstrand Municipality remains committed to its efforts to eradicate waste responsibly and to promote a plastic-free environment. Subsequently, Overstrand's Manager of Solid Waste, Johan van Taak, and Environmental Officer Penelope Aplon recently did a presentation to the Executive Management Team (EMT) on the dangers and negative impact of plastic bags on the environment and the ocean. In due course, the intention is to also do a roll-out drive amongst all Overstrand employees with the view of creating greater awareness and ensuring that they, in turn, become the primary ambassadors for the campaign.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Van Taak and Aplon handed out reusable bags (made from durable parachute material) to Overstrand Executive Mayor Rudolph Smith, his fellow Mayoral Committee (Mayco) members, and the EMT.

Against this backdrop, Van Taak stated, "We wish to encourage the Overstrand community to buy reusable bags instead of ordinary plastic shopping bags. In this way, the public will assist us greatly in our environmental conservation and waste management efforts."

"It is of particular concern that worldwide an estimated 4 billion plastic bags are reportedly ending up as litter each year. Tied end-to-end, it means that these bags could circle the earth 63 times!"

'WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST' Commemorating the 165th anniversary of the sinking of the Birkenhead

A memorial service to commemorate the survivors and the people who lost their lives in the Birkenhead disaster is held annually on 25 and 26 February in various towns around the world.

In Gansbaai, the two-day event also included a wreath-laying ceremony on Birkenhead Rock, followed by a small remembrance ceremony at sea.

Overstrand Municipality's Deputy Mayor, Dudley Coetzee, delivered the keynote address and laid a wreath in memory of those who perished.

In his speech the Deputy Mayor said, "On this day, 26 February 1852, 165 years ago at 2 am, the troopship HMS Birkenhead was wrecked less than 5 km from these shores when it struck a rocky outcrop barely jutting out of the sea. As the ship separated from the rock with a gaping hole in its side, water filled the forward section and more than 100 troops drowned in their sleeping quarters. "About 10 minutes later, the Birkenhead smashed against the rock a second time and its bottom section tore open. There were 643 people on board the ship and at least 450 lives were lost in this tragic disaster."

"But even this very dark cloud had a silver lining that left an indelible mark on our social conscience. The Birkenhead Drill was born. This disaster gave rise to the principle of "Women and Children First".

"Today we are here to remember Captain Robert Salmond, Lt Col Alexander Seton and the men who courageously stood firm on a sinking ship while women and children were given the first opportunity to leave on the limited number of life rafts."

"Even the nine cavalry horses on board were freed and driven into the sea in the hope that they might be able to swim ashore before those men left their positions to try and save themselves. According to one witness, almost everybody kept quiet, nothing was heard, except for the kicking of the horses and the orders of Salmond and Seton, all given in a clear, steady voice, without flinching. The soldiers didn't move, even as the ship broke up, barely 20 minutes after striking the rock. Some of the soldiers managed to swim to the shore, often hanging on to pieces of the wreck to stay afloat, but most either drowned or died of exposure."

"Today, as a result of this heart-breaking event, the Birkenhead Drill has instilled in us the principle of women and children first. Although never part of the international maritime law, this is now seen as a standard evacuation procedure in maritime disasters. "There is a line in Rudyard Kipling's famous poem "Soldier an' Sailor Too", which captures the courage of the men on the Birkenhead in the face of hopeless circumstances. It goes like this: But to stand an' be still to the Birkenhead drill is a damn tough bullet to chew."

• The Danger Point Lighthouse was erected 43 years after this tragedy in 1895 to warn ships of the dangerous reef. It is a working memorial to the victims and survivors of the Birkenhead disaster.



MOZART QUARTET



OVERSTRAND ARTS/KUNSTE (OAK) will host the MOZART QUARTET ENSEMBLE in concert at 15:30 Sunday, 23 April 2017 in the Civic Auditorium in Hermanus. Well-known Cape Town musicians Liesl Stoltz (flute), Farida Bacharova (violin), Emile de Roubaix (viola) and Kristiyan Chernev (cello) will play works by Mozart, Hofmeyr, Reger, Jacob and Lobos.

Contact BELLINI at 028 312 4988 to book your seat. Tickets cost R130 and R60 for students. Contact René du Plooy at 082 940 4238 for enquiries.

