

CLEAN AUDIT CERTIFICATE



Seen here with the award from left to right: Municipal Manager Coenie Groenewald, Sharonne Adams of the Western Cape Auditor-General's office, Overstrand's Director of Management Services Desiree Arrison and Director of Finance Santie Reyneke-Naudé, Executive Mayor Rudolph Smith and Western Cape MEC for Local Government, Minister Anton Bredell.

Overstrand Municipality received a 2015/16 Clean Audit Certificate and award at the annual Audit Excellence Awards held in Cape Town on 10 April 2017.

This is the fourth consecutive year in the municipality's history that a clean audit has been achieved for good governance and financial management, which indicates that effective management systems and proper internal controls are in place.

Councillors on Overstrand tour

Overstrand's Councillors embarked on an orientation tour that takes place every five years to introduce newly elected Councillors to municipal infrastructure and facilities.

This induction initiative is in line with the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and aims to familiarise Councillors with the respective Overstrand areas and the challenges that may lie ahead. On day one they toured from Hermanus to Kleinmond, and on the second day they visited Stanford and Gansbaai.

Key projects throughout the Overstrand were visited and included the Preekstoel Water Treatment Plant, Ability House in Hawston, Fisherhaven slipway, various housing development projects and landfill sites, the Pringle Bay Fire Station and the Rooi Els Reservoir.

The tour of the Hangklip-Kleinmond area ended off with a visit to the Whale Station and Penguin Colony, and a drive via Main Beach, where they took note of dune movements.

The group also embarked to Gansbaai via Stanford past De Kelders Water Treatment Works to the roads dust control treatment at Klipgat, Gansbaai harbour, Spaces for Sport and the Kleinbaai boat launching site. It was an eye-opener for some of the Councillors who visited certain areas for the first time.

COUNCIL RESHUFFLE



Cllr
Archie
Klaas

Councillor Klaas resigned as a Councillor of the Overstrand Municipality. He was the Democratic Alliance's proportional Councillor for the Overstrand Municipality as well as the Deputy Mayor of Overberg District Municipality, and will remain in the latter position until the end of his term. He is replaced by Christine Ann May who assumed duties on 20 April 2017.



Cllr
Christine
May

PLEASE DON'T FEED THE STORM WATER DRAIN!

Overstrand Municipality once again appeals to residents not to dispose of materials such as used cooking oil, motor oil, yard and pet waste, paint, concrete slurry and construction materials or any other household hazardous chemicals into the storm water infrastructure.

The municipality's storm water network is pivotal to prevent the flooding of roads and houses, as it relies on storm water drains to deal with the excess water.

Unlike the water that goes down the sink or toilet in your home, storm water is untreated and ends up in a river or lagoon and eventually the ocean, negatively affecting the environment and hampering our efforts to maintain the quality of potable water. This is one of the main reasons not to dispose of cooking oils and grease (or similar) down the drain.

"Given our budget and manpower, the municipality is doing all it can to manage the storm water system in such a way that our water quality is not compromised. However, we cannot do this on our own. We need our residents to work with us and to refrain from littering and dumping inappropriate objects into our storm water," says Roderick Williams, Director of Community Services.

It is also illegal to divert the storm water to the actual sewer line on the property and residents face a hefty fine when found guilty of this transgression.

What causes blockages?

Cooking fats, rags, tampons, hair, roots, sand, newspaper and disposable nappies - unbelievable but true, and one of the major causes of blockage. We have also found building materials, oil, stones, plastics, sharp objects, cutlery and even the bodies of foetuses and a lawnmower in the system!

- Fat is a major problem because it builds up inside the pipes. It acts like glue that attracts rags, hair, paper and plastics; in no time, a blockage is caused.
- Substances such as oil, paraffin and paint contaminate thousands of litres of sewage and cause serious problems at the treatment works.
- Discharging storm water (rain water) into the sewer can overload the sewer and fill it to the brim, which could result in sewage discharging from manholes into the streets.

Preventative measures

The following preventative measures should be taken to ensure that the sewage system does not get blocked:

- DO NOT feed the storm water drain by dumping used cooking oil and grease.
- Allow fat (from greasy food when cooking) to cool and congeal or solidify. Once it is solid, wrap it in a newspaper or put it in a bag before placing it in the refuse bin for weekly collection.
- Rags, paper, tampons and disposable nappies should be disposed of with the normal household waste in a black bag and/or dirtbin, or the sanitary bins provided by businesses.
- Keep yard clippings out of the street.
- Recycle used motor oil.
- Clear driveways by sweeping instead of hosing.
- Keep litter, pet waste, leaves, grass clippings and debris out of street gutters and storm drains. Outlets blocked by excessive debris, such as leaves and grass clippings, could lead to flooding of your street.
- Most building materials enter the sewer system when contractors or builders dump these materials into the sewer through manholes! This causes unnecessary stress on the system.

Where to dump?

There is no excuse for dumping waste illegally in our neighbourhoods or alongside the roads. The municipality provides a highly reliable refuse collection service and drop-off facilities across Overstrand.

Used motor oil can be taken to Walker Bay Recycling in Swartdam Road, Hermanus, where a special bin has been provided for this purpose.

Two shipping containers and an array of bins have been provided for household hazardous waste, including e-waste, at the following locations:

- **KLEINMOND:** Kleinmond Transfer Station, Main Road
- **HERMANUS:** Hermanus Transfer Station, Swartdam Road
- **STANFORD:** Stanford Drop-off, Rivier Street, Industrial Area
- **GANSBAAI:** Gansbaai Landfill, Voortrekker Street

Service requests may be directed to:

Kleinmond 028 271 8400

Hermanus 028 313 8000

Gansbaai 028 384 8300

Stanford 028 341 8500

Overstrand Junior Town Council gets orientated

Now in its 13th year, the Overstrand Junior Town Council (JTC) is managed by the Enlighten Education Trust in partnership with the Overstrand Municipality.

The JTC's motto is: We learn as we lead. It comprises of 35 senior school learners in grades 9 to 12 at six high schools in Overstrand. The members selected display promising leadership qualities and outstanding academic skills.

During their 12-month term of office, JTC members learn about leadership and how a municipality operates. They receive valuable exposure to different cultures and lifestyles. Community projects are vital in their role as junior town councillors and provide an ideal platform to contribute towards a better future aimed at benefiting their respective communities.

Overstrand's JTC was taken on the first leg of their annual orientation tour of municipal infrastructure and facilities on Wednesday, 26 April 2017.

The second leg on Tuesday, 16 May 2017 entailed a visit to Stanford and the Gansbaai area, where they gained further knowledge about municipal service delivery.



Overstrand Junior Town Council visited the solid waste transfer station and material recovery facility in Zwelihle, Hermanus. Pictured with the group are Enlighten Education Trust JTC Manager, Unity Mtomile, and Northcliff House College assistant teacher, Johan van der Merwe, as well as Johan van Taak, Overstrand's Manager: Solid Waste.

At the solid waste transfer station the group of junior councillors from Hermanus High, Qhayiya Secondary (Zwelihle), Hawston Secondary, Northcliff House College and Gansbaai Academia was met by Johan van Taak, manager of solid waste management at the municipality.

The transfer station consists of a public drop-off facility for builders' rubble, recyclables and electronic waste (such as old computers and printers), a household waste transfer station, a recycling/material recovery facility and a green waste (plants) chipping facility.

The most significant lesson learned was, "Recycling is something you just have to put your mind to and start doing it. It's not difficult - minimise the waste you generate and recycle all your plastic, glass and metals by putting them in clear bags provided by the municipality".

The tour closed off with an educational tour to the Stony Point Penguin Colony. Cape Nature's senior marine ranger, Cuan McGeorge, afforded the learners a glimpse into the everyday lives of these endearing flightless birds.

MINISTER VISITS TOURISM HOTSPOTS



Alan Winde, Western Cape Minister of Economic Opportunities and Agriculture, visited popular tourist attractions in the Overstrand area. Pictured from left to right: Councillors David Botha and Dudley Coetzee, MEC Alan Winde, Executive Mayor Rudolph Smith, and Councillors Elнора Gillion and Andrew Komani.

Alan Winde, Western Cape Minister of Economic Opportunities and Agriculture, visited the Cape Whale Coast on Friday, 21 April 2017 and engaged with Overstrand Executive Mayor Rudolph Smith and his mayoral committee, as well as members of the business community.

The aim of the minister's visit was to encourage tourism role-players to focus on the unique elements of their destination and to highlight these in all marketing efforts, as every destination needs to set itself apart from all the other places competing for tourists' attention. He added that data plays an important role in business management and decision making and further emphasised that it is critical for tourism businesses to understand who their markets are and what the special needs of these markets are. The minister emphasised that quality data is valuable and many institutions are willing to pay for access to reliable statistics. This is one aspect that tourism authorities should be paying more attention to.

Tourism is a business for all residents, and our petrol attendants, waiters and waitresses are as much a part of the tourism industry as a guest house owner. Therefore all those involved should be equipped with knowledge of the area and the products on offer so that they can answer questions and refer visitors to places of interest.

As an avid cyclist, Minister Winde spoke of the Western Cape Cross Cape cycling route that will be launched in May 2017. The Cape Whale Coast with all its cycling trails forms part of this initiative that aims to create job opportunities across different economic sectors. Tourism plays an important role in the economy of the Overstrand and we should always be aware of the opportunities offered by our region.

OVERSTRAND MUNICIPALITY REGISTRATION OF INDIVIDUALS/COMPANIES COLLECTING AND TRANSPORTING WASTE

As per a notification in the Provincial Gazette of 12 July 2013 notice is hereby given in terms of the provisions of section 43(1) of the Overstrand Integrated Waste Management By-law, 2013 that all individuals and companies providing commercial services for the collection and transportation of waste in the Overstrand Municipal area are required to register with the Municipality and obtain accreditation authorising to conduct such activities within the municipal area. This requirement is also in accordance with section 25(1) of the National Environmental Management Waste Act, 59 of 2008.

The required registration must take place before 1 August 2017. The prescribed registration form is available on the municipality's website www.overstrand.gov.za or from the municipal offices in Hermanus, Kleinmond, Gansbaai and Stanford. For enquiries please contact Mr Johan van Taak at jvantaak@overstrand.gov.za.

Overstrand Municipality rises to OAPD's Wheelchair Wednesday challenge

Overstrand Association for Persons with Disabilities (OAPD) recently launched a Wheelchair Wednesday initiative with the express aim of challenging organisations and decision-makers to ride in the tracks of a wheelchair user. It is a creative way in which to focus attention on the physical challenges facing wheelchair users in their everyday lives, particularly in the workplace.

The project serves three important purposes, i.e. to raise awareness, encourage community support and improve accessibility for those who are wheelchair-bound. It further aims to remind local structures, businesses and the public of simple matters such as the importance of reserving parking bays for mobility impaired people. The Overstrand Municipality remains committed to serving all its people responsibly and effectively and therefore had no hesitation in partnering with OAPD in identifying ways in which to establish greater inclusion for people with disabilities in the organisation. Overstrand Deputy Mayor, Dudley Coetzee and Cllr Grant Cohen, along with a few officials from the Hermanus and Kleinmond offices respectively, were the first to kickstart the project on Wednesday, 10 May 2017 in an attempt to better understand the real-life trials faced by the disabled.

Never one to shy away from a challenge, Councillor Coetzee, took up the gauntlet set to him by Desirée Gelderblom, a social worker at OAPD, to spend four hours in a wheelchair whilst going about his daily tasks.

Deputy Mayor Coetzee urged local businesses and individuals to get on board and go through the four-hour experience so that they too can have an understanding of the difficulties that those affected with disabilities face in their day-to-day existences. "We want the whole community to be involved in this campaign and to support this year's Wheelchair Wednesday during the month of May", he added.

The programme included visits to various municipal buildings, and other premises in the area, to determine how viable they are for wheelchair users. "This has been a real eye-opener for me. I am now more appreciative of some of the restrictions disabled people face. Just one example is negotiating ramps and entrances into buildings. It places a huge strain on the arms," said Cohen of the encounter.

According to Rosina McClean, an administrator at OAPD, another problem often conveyed to them by mobility impaired folk is the lack of access to public transport such as taxis. Keen to put this to the test, Cllr Cohen approached local taxi owner Hazel Thomas, who advised that even though she has not as yet transported any wheelchair users, her vehicles are adequately equipped to do so.

"While this exercise may have proved rather gruelling, it is good in that it has provided a platform for the municipality to engage in discussions around any identified shortcomings with the view to ensuring our premises become more wheelchair friendly," concluded Cohen.

IT IS ALL ABOUT RAISING AWARENESS

Elaborating on the challenges faced by the disabled, Deputy Mayor Dudley Coetzee added "When it is simple to step on and off of curbs and sidewalks, walk up and down steps and use public restrooms, then it is easy to forget that an increasing number of our residents have difficulty with activities that are a part of daily life for most of us."



Overstrand's Kleinmond-based Cllr Grant Cohen (wheelchair bound, front right) and Principal Derek Arendse (wheelchair bound, front left) are assured by taxi owner, Hazel Thomas (first right, standing) that she is able to transport them. Looking on are OAPD's Farren Gillion (second right, standing) and Rosina McClean (second left, standing), as too Overstrand's Resort Officer Gamat van Eden (first left, standing).