

MAY 2018

	Telephone	Fax
Hermanus	028 313 8000	028 312 1894
Gansbaai	028 384 8300	028 384 0241
Kleinmond	028 271 8400	028 271 4100
Stanford	028 341 8500	028 341 0445

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

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

PREVENTING FIRES IN THE OVERSTRAND

Given that hot, windy and dry weather conditions are to prevail for the foreseeable future, the risk of runaway veld fires is greater than ever this year.

The Overberg is one of the worst affected veld fire areas in the Western Cape where fires are a natural phenomenon during the long, hot summers and the work of Overstrand Municipality's Fire Service, in particular, is vital in our fight to conserve the biodiversity of the region.



Two brand new fire awareness signs have been erected at Grootbos Private Nature Reserve just before Gansbaai on the R43 and at the Pringle Bay turn-off.

These signs do not only act as an awareness tool to get the message across

that fires can be prevented, but also supply motorists with the Overstrand Fire

Brigade number to call should they notice a fire or any sign of an impending fire in the area.

The bokkie signs have been kindly donated by the Greater Overberg Fire Protection Association (GoFPA), and the Overberg Working for Fire Team helped with the installation thereof.

According to Assistant Chief: Overstrand Fire and Disaster Management Marlu Rust, it is vital to educate communities about fires and fire prevention. "We must continuously talk to our families and friends about the dangers of fire and what to do when it breaks out," he said.

"Homeowners, community leaders, planners, and developers must work together and become more fire wise. We are all living in a fire prone environment, hence the importance of implementing fire wise principles to protect people and property.

"We must find a sustainable balance between the protection of life/livelihoods and conservation of the biodiversity of the region - this can only be done through integrated fire management. Fire is, after all, everybody's fight," he concluded.

An appeal is made to the public to report fires immediately so that help can be dispatched as soon as possible. In case of an emergency **please contact Overstrand Fire, Rescue and Disaster Management on 028 312 2400**. Be sure to save the number on your cell phone and to teach it to your children.

ROTARIANS CELEBRATE 70TH ANNIVERSARY



'High Five' to Rotarians dedicating their time and energy to worthwhile community causes! Pictured here are president elect Ann Wright (left), president Ian Wallace, district governor Lynette Stassen and Executive Mayor Ald Dudley Coetzee.

The Rotary Club of Hermanus celebrated its 70th anniversary with a charter dinner at the Classroom Restaurant in Hermanus on Saturday, 25 March.

In attendance were past presidents, past district governors and Rotarians from the Newlands, Bellville and Paarl Rotary Club who chartered the Rotary Club of Hermanus on 25 March 1948, as well as, other local organisations and supporters.

Overstrand's Executive Mayor Ald Dudley Coetzee commended the club for its work in the area and congratulated them on reaching such a mile-stone.

For further information, email Ann Wright (annwright@telkomsa.net) or Ian Wallace (ianwallace@iafrica.com).



Pictured here are Galie Badenhorst, Premier Helen Zille, Fire Chief Lester Smith, Marchel Akkers and Alpheus Motlapi. Western Cape honouring the Hero's Walk at the 2018 Cape Town Carnival with Premier Helen Zille

OVERSTRAND'S HEROES DESERVING OF A HUG...

The Mother City came alive on Saturday night (17 March) during the Cape Town Carnival when thousands of spectators lined the Fan Walk in Green Point to be part of the annual street festival parade.

As tradition would have it, the City of Cape Town paid tribute to fire fighters for their dedication and the many long hours of hard work they put in while combatting fires.

Not all Overstrand fire fighters could be there as many were on standby, but those who did manage to honour the Hero's Walk thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

SECOND PUBLIC MEETING ON KLEINMOND'S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS HELD

Overstrand Municipality, with the assistance of a professional team, has commissioned an investigation into developable land in and around the town of Kleinmond with the objective to plan for the town's immediate and future development needs.

As part of the public participation process, which also involves representation of ward representatives on a project steering committee, the community of Kleinmond was invited to attend a second public meeting held on Thursday, 19 April in the Proteadorp community hall.

The objective of this meeting was to present those in the community who could not attend the first meeting held on 15 March 2018 with a status-quo report and to explain the process that will be followed during the investigation. At the same time, the general public of Kleinmond had the opportunity to give their inputs and to ask questions.

At the time of going to press, Overstrand's designated officials and the professional team were in the process of collating both public meetings' inputs, and *Bulletin* undertakes to report in greater detail on the outcome in the next edition.

THANK YOU, PEOPLE

During the Council meeting held on 28 March 2018, Executive Mayor Dudley Coetzee extended his sympathy towards all those who suffered the brunt of the unrest in Zwelihle and simultaneously extended his heartfelt thanks to everyone who did their utmost to help alleviate the situation and to render assistance to those in need.

"It is unfortunate that the situation got out of hand and placed the residents of Zwelihle in such an awkward position. I have every confidence, though, that following on talks with the community's leadership, we can resolve the issue peacefully and amicably," he said.

In response to the Mayor's address, the chief whip of the ANC, Cllr Simphiwe Tebele, thanked the Mayor and Overstrand Municipality's leadership for their decisive action at the time of the Zwelihle unrest. He also thanked all the councillors and officials for their involvement in trying to assist residents of Zwelihle, as well as the refugees who were accommodated at various place in the Overstrand and who were affected by the unrest. Both governing and opposition parties had nothing but praise for the dedication and compassion displayed by Overstrand's community at large and, in particular, the assistance rendered by law enforcement, traffic, the SAPS and the Community Policing Forum.

EXPERTS SHARE INSIGHT ON WATER

With the theme "WATER IS LIFE", Overstrand celebrated National Water Week from 17 - 23 March.



Overstrand's mayoral couple, Ald Dudley Coetzee and his wife Shirley, seen with Coenie Groenewald (Municipal Manager, Overstrand Municipality), Rashid Toefy (Deputy Director-General of Economic Development and Tourism, Western Cape Government), Nora Hudson (Plant-based Health), Wayne Siepmann (General Manager of Arabella Hotel & Spa), Heidi van der Watt (Better Tourism), Joep Schoof (Chairman of FEDHASA WC Hotel Group), Deputy Mayor Elnora Gillion and her husband Craig at a meeting of the Hermanus Business Chamber held at the Arabella Hotel & Spa.

Various programmes with a water conservation theme were presented in communities and at schools to teach and inform the public about the importance of water and how this resource can be saved wisely.

Fittingly, the Hermanus Business Chamber invited its members to discuss the greater scale of the Cape Town water crisis and how it affects tourism in the Overberg region during its meeting on 14 March.

Held at the Arabella Hotel & Spa, speakers from the Western Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism as well as Fedhasa (Federated Hospitality Association of Southern Africa) formed part of the discussion under the topic "Crucial issue of Water Management". Also present was Overstrand Executive Mayor Ald Dudley Coetzee and Municipal Manager Coenie Groenewald.

In his presentation on the water situation in Overstrand, Executive Mayor Dudley Coetzee emphasised that water is a scarce resource which has to be carefully managed going forward.

"At the moment, Hermanus uses ± 10 million litres of water per week and the De Bos dam level stood at 46% by the end of February 2018, compared to 50.7% by end-January 2018 and 74.8% by end-February 2017.

The Buffels River Dam, which supplies water to Rooi-El, Pringle Bay and Betty's Bay, is still at 85% of its capacity. The Kraaibosch Dam at Gansbaai is also at 85%, and the Pearly Beach Dam is at 100%," the Mayor reported.

The boreholes supplying Hermanus, Stanford, Baardskeedersbos and Buffeljagsbaai have not been adversely affected by the drought at this stage, he added.

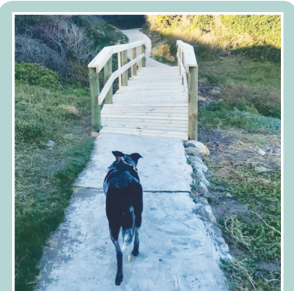
He continued by saying the first steps to increase water reserves will be the sinking of additional boreholes over the next two years. In addition to the boreholes, recycled water is the cheapest and easiest way to add to Overstrand's water reserves. Longer term plans are to build a desalination plant in Hermanus.

"We have to consider ways to further augment our water supplies and will have to start re-treating our waste water. Not necessarily to drinking water standards, but at least to a standard where we can use it to replace potable water that is not used for drinking. We can no longer afford to flush drinking water down the toilet or use it to mix concrete or water sports fields and gardens.

At present we use 1,5 million litres of treated effluent per month for the watering of sports fields in the Hermanus area and there is a similar project in Gansbaai."

He added that people should be trained to invest in the use of grey water in their homes and that water efficiency should be built into planning approval. The use of taps that aerate water for the washing of hands and vegetables should be encouraged.

"We also need to channel our rain water run-off so that it recharges our aquifers and does not simply run into the sea," the Executive Mayor said.



The coastal path between Onrus and Vermont has recently been upgraded with a brand new wooden foot bridge for all to enjoy.

ROAD SAFETY TIPS every child should know

Overstrand Traffic and the Department of Transport and Public Works (DTPW) held a road safety awareness event at the Hooplant Academy in Stanford on 14 March.

The grade 5 learners learned basic road safety tips such as how to cross a road safely and what traffic signals mean.

Traffic officer Samantha van Vuuren said children should always be encouraged to do the following:

- always walk on the pavement or footpath or, where there is no pavement, walk facing oncoming traffic;
- look right, look left and right again before crossing the street;
- remove headphones when crossing the street; and
- cross the street at traffic lights and pedestrian crossings if possible.



Pictured here are Hooplant Academy learners with some of their teachers as well as traffic officer Samantha van Vuuren and DTPW road safety officer Chris Abrahams.



Wheelchair friendly path gives more people access to incredible views

The Cliff Path is an important asset and one of Hermanus' most unique attractions. The walk along the ± 12 km cliff path is spectacular and stretches from the New Harbour along the coastline to Grotto beach.

Wheelchair friendly sections have been created wherever possible for the benefit of the disabled, elderly and infants in strollers and prams.

Notably, over 9 km in total are accessible to wheelchairs.

The areas are:

- the entire Westcliff and village seafront sections from the New Harbour to Protea Road
- Mollergren to Kwaiwater
- Voëlklip to Grotto
- Hoy's Koppie contour paths

Download map from www.hermanuscliffpath.co.za website



MICHAELIS TRIO

On Sunday afternoon, 27 May, Overstrand Arts/Kunste will host the MICHAELIS TRIO from Cape Town who will play works by Beethoven, Frank Bridge and Clara Schumann. The concert will commence at 15:30 in the Civic Auditorium in Hermanus. Tickets are R140 (R60 for students) and available from the Tourism Office (028 312 2629) in Mitchell Street, Hermanus. Please contact secretary, René du Plooy, on 082 940 4238 for enquiries.

