

Bulletin

#overstrand4all

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

#C4ourself

GREAT SOUTHERN BIOBLITZ 2022 DILIGENT OBSERVERS SECURE TOP SPOT FOR OVERSTRAND!



AN INCREDIBLE FEAT FOR OVERSTRAND'S BIOBLITZERS

Pictured here are Cllr Clinton Lerm, Jenny Parsons (Pringle Bay Rewilding & CREW), Cllr Ronald Nutt, Deputy Mayor Lindile Ntsho, Adele Scheepers, Sandy Immelman, Mayor Annelie Rabie, Di Marais (Hermanus Botanical Society, Fernkloof Indigenous Nursery & CREW), Municipal Manager Dean O'Neill and Cllr Elnora Gillion.

The 'Great Southern BioBlitz', or 'GSB' for short, is a collaborative effort between both scientists and members of local communities to find and identify as many species as possible over a short period of time.

The intention with these intense biological surveys (commonly referred to as BioBlitzing) is to create a snapshot of the biodiversity that occurs within a specific geographical area – be it rural, urban or suburban.

In the long run, BioBlitzes serve to bring incredibly diverse biospheres the likes of Overstrand to the attention of people the world over in an attempt to elicit support for conservation efforts and to promote eco-tourism.

#GSB22 was held from Friday, 28 October and ended on Monday, 31 October – a mere four days during which our diligent team (174 observers in all) managed to make a whopping 19,838 observations.

That means that even though this was only the second time Overstrand Municipality partook in this event, our observers succeeded in outperforming participants from elsewhere in the entire southern hemisphere.

In the process, 2,623 different species were identified.

Of these, no fewer than 429 were identified by Adele Scheepers (a Betty's Bay resident) who also recorded an incredible 1,265 observations in the course of the four-day BioBlitz.

Nevertheless, as Sandy Immelman (one of the local organisers) pointed out, "the cherry on the cake is the fun everyone – young and old – had in discovering all things wild and wonderful that share this beautiful part of the world with us anew".

Great Southern Bioblitz 2022 – Overstrand	19,838
Gran biobuisqueda del sur Huila 2022 – Colombia	18,867
Great Southern Bioblitz 2022 – Cape Town	15,065
Great Southern Bioblitz 2022 – Garden Route	11,792
Great Southern Bioblitz 2022 – Overberg	10,301
Great Southern Bioblitz 2022 – Coffs Harbour Region	6,917
Nangak Tamboree Wildlife Sanctuary – Great Southern Bioblitz 2022	6,577

IT'S RAINING FROGS – AGAIN!



Following on a cool summer's night with a light drizzle early in January, residents in Onrus and Vermont woke to find that it has seemingly rained frogs overnight!

Yes, the great migration of the African clawed frog (commonly known as the Platanna) from the saltpan in Vermont to the Onrus estuary is underway yet again.

Since their breeding ground (the saltpan) is not sufficiently oxygenated to support a large number of froglets, these tiny creatures have no option but to make their way to the estuary as soon as possible in a desperate attempt to survive.

A precarious journey indeed!

Since they are amphibious, they need to get back to water before the sun breaks through the clouds, or else they are bound to perish.

To help rescue froglets that might have ended up in your garden, please follow these guidelines:

- ✓ Deposit the Platannas in a big bucket filled with water.
- ✓ Most importantly, please make sure that the sides of the bucket are high enough to prevent the frogs from crawling out.
- ✓ Next, call Overstrand's Environmental Management Section on 028 316 3724 / 028 313 5619 for assistance.
- ✓ Our team of volunteers will then collect the frogs and make sure they are safely deposited in the Vermont estuary.
- ✓ Under no circumstances should froglets be returned to the Vermont saltpan since they would simply perish.

You are also welcome to request assistance from the same team should you wish to have an astounding number of frogs removed from your pool.

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW RIGHT-TURN LANE AT WHALE COAST MALL ON TRUNK ROAD 28 (R43):

Overstrand Municipality has been informed by the consultant, Integrate Structural and Civil Engineering, that approval has been given by

Provincial Dept. of Transport and Public Works for the construction of a new right-turn lane at Whale Coast Mall on Trunk Road 28 (R43). Work on this project has commenced on Monday, 16 January 2023 and is anticipated to conclude by Friday, 17 March 2023.

The work is planned to take place on weekdays and Saturdays. Lane closure will be in effect from 09:00 – 15:30 during this period. We ask that the community please cooperate with the contractor on site while the project is ongoing.

Sections of the road that will be affected by this project include:

- The R43 median
- the traffic island at the existing left-turn lane into Whale Coast Mall



DON'T LET POWER OUTAGES CATCH YOU UNAWARES!



An elderly Onrus resident who recently got stuck in a lift at her house during an extended power outage had nothing but praise for Gallie Badenhorst and his team who kept her calm during the ordeal and got her out in good time.

By now, we are all too aware that Eskom can change the severity of load shedding within the blink of an eye.

To avoid being caught in a precarious situation due to erratic load-shedding schedules, Gallie Badenhorst – commander of the fire and rescue team stationed in Hermanus – offers the following advice:

- Even though Overstrand Municipality is doing its best to keep everyone informed of changes to the load-shedding schedule via social media, we strongly advise the installation of a load-shedding app for accurate updates. These apps can be downloaded free of charge and will alert you to any change to Eskom's schedule immediately and warn you against imminent power outages timeously.
- Be sure to keep your cell phone on hand at all times.
- Do not get into a lift or onto an escalator shortly before or after a power outage. You may get stuck and, since restoring the power supply could be precarious, may remain trapped for quite some time.
- Add Fire & Rescue to your list of contacts: 028 312 2400. This is Overstrand's emergency number, and you can call it any time of day or night to summon help in case you do get stuck or experience any other emergency.

ESKOM'S LOAD-SHEDDING TIPS

- ✓ **COMMUNICATION:** To enable communication with friends, family and colleagues during load-shedding ensure that your cell phone, laptop, tablet and radio are always fully charged when power is available.
- ✓ **TRANSPORT:** Make sure that your vehicle always has fuel in the tank as some filling stations are unable to pump fuel during power outages.
- ✓ **CASH:** Keep some cash on you as some ATMs cannot operate without electricity.
- ✓ **SECURITY AND SAFETY:** Backup batteries for electric gates, garage doors and security systems should be kept in good working order. Store temporary lighting (battery-powered torches, gas lamps and candles) in places where they will be easy to find in the dark.
- ✓ **FOOD AND BEVERAGES:** If you do not have a gas stove, prepare meals before the power is scheduled to be switched off. Boil water in your kettle and keep it in Thermos flasks. Use an insulating cover on teapots, pots and pans to keep drinks and meals warm..
- ✓ **MEDICATION:** Most medication requiring refrigeration can be kept in a closed fridge for several hours without spoiling, but you should check with your doctor or pharmacist if in doubt.
- ✓ **TRAFFIC LIGHTS:** Intersections with traffic lights that are not working because of load-shedding should be treated as four-way stops. Please stay calm and follow defensive driving techniques.

BE ENERGY-WISE

- Switch off those appliances that you don't need.
- Turn down geyser temperature to 60° C.
- Delay switching on lights and appliances until after the peak periods (between 17:00 and 21:00) whenever possible.
- Adjust air conditioners to 23° C if you need to use them.

Visit www.SavingElectricity.org.za for more tips.

LAND POCKETS OUT ON TENDER CONTINUE TO ATTRACT MANY POTENTIAL INVESTORS

During the Investment Conference held in June 2022, twelve land pockets identified for development were brought to potential investors' attention.

Subsequently, bids for four of these have closed while a further three have been advertised. The details are as follows:

Tender no.	Proposal	Status
SC2305/2022	Sale of Erf 1886, Franskraalstrand for development of town housing	Closed; bids currently being evaluated
SC2308/2022	Lease and development of a portion of Erf 4831 Hermanus and a portion of Erf 5327 Hermanus for the development of a public resort	Closed; bids currently being evaluated
SC2331/2022	Sale of unregistered Erf 12308 Hermanus for the development of medical facilities and related community facilities	Closed; bids currently being evaluated
SC2332/2022	Lease, management and maintenance of Erf 9199 Hermanus (situated in Zwelihle) for community purposes	Closed; bids currently being evaluated
SC2344/2022	Sale of a portion of remainder Erf 4771 Hermanus for a residential development	Advertised with 27 January 2023 as closing date
SC2345/2022	Sale of a portion of Erf 4833 Hermanus for a residential development	Advertised with 27 January 2023 as closing date
SC2355/2022	Sale of Erf 1070 De Kelders for nature reserve, conservation use, tourist accommodation, tourist facilities and/or environmental facilities	Advertised with 17 March 2023 as closing date

Cllr Clinton Lerm, MAYCO member for Infrastructure and Investment, indicated that tender notices for the remaining five properties will be advertised shortly.

To download bid documents, visit the municipal website www.overstrand.gov.za: Click on Documents → Supply Chain Management → Tenders: Current.



NO MORE BUTTS!

An ingenious solution to help stomp out a serious environmental threat

For some reason or another, many smokers still regard the beach as one huge ashtray.

Surely by now they should know that the cigarette butts they so carelessly bury in the sand will, inevitably, end up in the ocean where it could be mistaken by marine life for food, with dire consequences.

To her horror, Lauren Rainbird (Overstrand's Blue Flag Coordinator) found that cigarette butts were still prolific among the items collected during beach clean-ups.

Having given the matter some thought, she came up with a rather ingenious idea: Why not hand smokers a bit of the beach they can call their very own for the day – in a paper mâché cone?

To give effect to this idea, she found a willing partner in LoveAbility House in Hawston – a group of people with disabilities who specialise in creating functional arts and crafts who were all too keen to get involved in this worthy project.

Nowadays, smokers visiting any of Overstrand's five Blue Flag beaches can help themselves to a "personal ashtray" filled with sand that can safely be disposed of on their way home.

"If the battle against waste is to be won, responsibility for preserving the integrity of the beaches we love to visit year after year cannot rest on the shoulders of a handful of volunteers who clean up after us alone.

"We should be mindful of everything we leave behind and make sure that we leave the beach in the same state we found it: pristine," Rainbird cautioned.