

January
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Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

SA'S BEST SCIENCE USED FOR HOUSES

The best scientific expertise available in South Africa was applied to the Kleinmond Housing Project to help people to get modern homes that can transform their lives, the Minister of Science and Technology, Ms Naledi Pandor, said on Monday, 12 December 2011 at the project's closing ceremony in the Proterdorp Community Hall.

According to her the project attracted interest from near and far, because these houses were built according to a new model with durable materials and they are energy efficient. She said amongst all the exhibits she had visited at the UN climate change conference (COP17) in Durban she had not come across anything as simple and as useful as the sustainable houses built in the Kleinmond project.

"This is the beauty of social innovation" said the Minister. "Social innovation focuses on what the majority of our people need: houses, schools, clinics. This joint project - national and local, CSIR and the people of Kleinmond - has proved that technologies developed through the best science and social innovation can change lives."

Llewellyn van Wyk, built-environment researcher from the CSIR, said the project had demonstrated that significant savings can be achieved on a national scale by using better materials that cost less and are sustainable.

He referred to several distinctive features of the construction. Foundation slabs had been used which will prevent houses from cracking at a later stage, the superstructure was built with modular blocks that fit exactly and need no cutting, the top layer was ring-beamed for future upward expansion, plumbing costs were reduced with 25 per cent by concentrating the wet services, solar power units provide off-grid electricity and harvested rainwater can be used for washing and gardening.

Executive Mayor of the Overstrand Municipality, Ms Nicolette Botha-Guthrie said the Kleinmond housing project is a very important milestone in the municipality's housing history. The involvement of



the CSIR and the Department of Science and Technology assisted in introducing technologies that make this project the model for sustainable human settlements in a low cost area.

This was confirmed by the residents of several houses visited by the Minister in the development. Nadia de Bruyn (33) said she is using less electricity than before. Neo Nkothu, ward committee member, said all the beneficiaries are extremely proud of their new homes. Kobus Bronn expressed his happiness by means of a magnificent mural on the outside wall of his house.



Main picture: Minister of Science and Technology, Ms Naledi Pandor, Overstrand Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie and other roleplayers involved, walked through the recently completed housing project in Kleinmond to witness for themselves the impact science and technology has made on the quality of life in a poor community. **Insert:** Kobus Bronn was so inspired with his new house that he painted a mural on the outside that impressed both the Overstrand Mayor, Cllr Nicolette Botha-Guthrie, and Minister of Science and Technology, Ms Naledi Pandor.

COUNTRY'S GREENEST MUNICIPALITY

At an awards ceremony held in Pretoria on Friday, 18 November 2011, Overstrand Municipality was proclaimed the first national winner in the local municipality category of the Greenest Municipality Competition. The announcement was made by the Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Ms Rejoice Mabudafhasi.

With this honour came a monetary award of R3.5 million. This prize money, which can be accessed only with an approved business plan, must be used to address issues of greening and also advancing the objectives of Expanded Public Works Program (EPWP) projects, which emphasise creation of temporary jobs and promoting skills development.

Projects to be included in the business plan should cover aspects of waste

management, the management of open space systems or any other facet of environmental management.

The Greenest Municipality Competition evaluates waste management; energy efficiency and conservation; water and air quality management; landscaping, tree planting and beautification; and leadership, institutional arrangements and public participation.

Overstrand Municipality is a leader in the field of waste management and recycling and also performed very well in the Green and Blue Drop evaluation of water management. The municipality is also promoting water wise gardening and demonstrated the success of such an approach with the beautification of the new Relief Road in Hermanus.

BE INFORMED ABOUT WATER QUALITY

The Department of Water Affairs (DWA) recommends that municipalities from time to time publish information on the quality of drinking water supplied to consumers as well as waste water effluent quality results.

Water quality is measured against code 0241 set by the South African National Standards (SANS) for drinking water. SANS Class I standards can be regarded as the ideal quality for drinking water, while SANS Class II water can still be regarded as fit for human consumption but with the proviso that it should be attended to in the long term.

On the accompanying table the average scores attained by its eight water schemes over the past three months can be seen. Water samples are collected monthly from 55 points and sent to accredited laboratories for analysis.

Overstrand Municipality's water quality is of an outstanding quality, with 90% of the average results complying with Class I standards, a further 9% with Class II and only a 1% aesthetic parameter falling outside the Class II standard. Upgrades currently being planned or already in process include the Preekstoel water purification works in Hermanus, a new water purification plant at De Kelders and the commissioning of new boreholes at Stanford.

Effluent quality is measured against standards set by DWA, which are classified as either General Standards, or Special Standards. At each of the 5 municipal waste water treatment plants, the General Standards are applied.

The table alongside illustrates Overstrand Municipality's average effluent quality parameter measurements at the 5 treatment plants over the past 3 months, compared with the General Standards of DWA.

Overstrand Municipality's final waste water effluent quality complies with the General Standard in the case of 88.2% of the average measurements. Improvement projects are currently in progress at 4 of the waste water treatment plants.

Drinking Water Quality: September 2011 - November 2011

Description of test	Unit	Standard per SANS 0241 Class 1	Standard per SANS 0241 Class 2	Average test results for potable water test samples at:							
				BR, RE PB, BB	KMD	HERM	STANF	GANSB	PEARLY BEACH	BBOS	BUFF
pH	(pH)	5.0-9.5	4.0-10.0	8.8	8.1	9.1	7.5	7.7	7.6	5.6	7.6
Electrical conductivity	(mS/m)	<150	150-370	36.5	20.8	45.6	72.8	105.1	45.0	28.8	158.7
Turbidity	(NTU)	<1	1-5	0.4	0.4	1.9	0.3	0.2	0.2	1.1	0.8
Colour	(mg/l as Pt)	<20	20-50	5.7	4.3	4.7	3.7	1.0	20.3	406.3	2.7
Calcium	(mg/l as CaCO ₃)	<150	150-300	3.1	5.9	18.5	63.0	17.5	17.2	7.6	76.8
Chloride	(mg/l as Cl)	<200	200-600	46.0	36.7	101.2	111.7	204.7	115.0	87.3	367.3
Fluoride	(mg/l as F)	<1.0	1.0-1.5	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2
Total dissolved solids	(mg/l)	<1000	1000-2000	327.0	253.3	440.0	586.7	800.0	396.7	256.7	1183.3
Iron	(µg/l as Fe)	<200	200-2000	33.0	23.3	186.7	20.0	40.0	13.3	506.7	106.7
Manganese	(µg/l as Mn)	<100	100-1000	<40	<40	73.3	<40	<40	<40	80.0	<40
Aluminium	(µg/l as Al)	<300	300-500	60.0	206.7	266.7	31.3	100.0	53.3	386.7	73.3
E.coli	(count/100ml)	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Quality of final effluent from waste-water treatment works: Sept - November 2011

Description of test	Unit	DWA General Authorisation Standards	Average test results for final effluent test samples at:				
			Gansbaai	Hawston	Hermanus	Kleinmond	Stanford
pH	(pH)	5.5-9.5	6.8	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.0
Settleable solids	(ml/l)	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Electrical conductivity	(mS/m)	150	149.7	144.0	181.7	93.3	132.0
Faecal coliform bacteria	(count/100ml)	1000	0.0	0.0	133.3	750.0	0.0
Chemical oxygen demand	(mg/l)	75 Max	27.0	56.9	56.8	93.5	46.7
Ammonia nitrogen	(mg/l as N)	6 Max	0.3	11.8	5.3	23.4	0.4
Nitrate nitrogen	(mg/l as N)	15 Max	13.7	2.0	3.1	8.0	15.9
Nitrite nitrogen	(mg/l as N)	15 Max	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.1
Total suspended solids	(mg/l)	25 Max	4.3	4.0	4.3	9.0	4.0
Ortho-phosphate	(mg/l as P)	10 Max	3.2	3.2	3.3	7.2	6.4
Dissolved oxygen	(mg/l)	-	-	2.8	-	-	-

LIVE BY THE MORAL VALUE OF



CARING

This moral value is reflected in a community when people truly care for one another, truly care for the general wellbeing of their community and truly care for their natural environment. Caring is the "glue" that prevents societies from falling apart. It is the value that underlies tolerance towards others and reaching out across boundaries and divisions.

Essential to true caring are the moral standards and virtues of *Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility and Fairness and good citizenship*.

The key is the caring individual. Truly caring for someone or something is reflected in extending a helping hand, in looking after and protecting, in nurturing personal and spiritual growth in others.

Is **CARING** part of the moral character of the Overstrand community?

Here are some questions that may reflect this:

- Are we willing to really get to know and understand one another across boundaries?

ther across boundaries?

- Are we truly compassionate in reaching out to one another, also across racial, cultural, social and language barriers?
- Do we act civilly, considerably and friendly towards others in our daily contact, irrespective of our differences?
- Are we truly generous and charitable in sharing with those in need, not only things but also in compassion and empathy. C. S. Lewis says: "Charity is an essential part of (Christian) morality" and "the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare".
- Do we share a deep concern for conserving our natural environment and to keep it neat and clean?

What other issues and questions relating to the moral value of CARING can you add? Discuss this with your family and friends.

Moral Standards Initiative: ernst@vodamail.co.za

WATER METERS INSTALLED

Replacement of water meters is one of the projects being tackled by the Overstrand Municipality to combat the loss of water. Following a tender process a contractor has been appointed to replace 2 500 meters over the next six months. He reports that some people are concerned that

they will have to pay for this. This is, of course, not the case.

When meters are replaced they are also relocated to outside the earth in order to facilitate access for the meter readers. The stopcock will, however, remain on the owner's side for his or her use.

STEFAN BACK ON HOME STAGE

Hermanus' own young Stefan du Toit (22), a pianist who received his Bachelor's degree with distinction from the Zürich University of the Arts in Switzerland in June 2010 and is currently studying at the *Hochschule für Musik und Theater 'Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy'* in Leipzig, Germany, will be the first artist to perform in OAK's 2012 programme. Ten months ago Stefan was chosen, along with two other students from the Hochschule, to have master classes with world-renowned pianist Emanuel Ax (Juilliard School, New York). In November Stefan was allowed to take part in master classes with French pianist and professor, Jacques Rouvier of the Paris Conservatoire. For his performance in Hermanus Stefan will be playing works by Bach, Schubert, Liszt, Beethoven and Prokofiev. The recital will be held at 15h30 on Sunday, 22 January, in the Auditorium. Book at BELLINI on 028 312 4988. Tickets are R120 (R60 for students). Enquiries may be directed to René du Plooy on 082 940 4238.

