

September
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Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

ACHIEVERS ACKNOWLEDGED

Marianné Beyleveldt, widow of the late Theo Beyleveldt, former mayor of Overstrand Municipality, received Overstrand Municipality's Woman of the Year Award for 2011 at the annual Night of Achievers function in Hermanus on Thursday 28 July 2011.

Grootbos Foundation was awarded the Mayor's Environment Trophy, and the Friends of the Hermanus Library received recognition for their fundraising efforts to buy books and other materials for this important cultural resource of society.

Ten other persons and institutions received awards. Birdlife Africa, South African Shark Conservancy, Gansbaai Recycle Swop Shop and Dr Vic Hamilton-Attwell were all finalists for the Mayor's Environment Trophy; Lois Kleyn, former manager of the Enlighten Education Trust, received an Award for Excellence, and Susan Swanepoel, Maureen Smith, Gerda Wessels, Adele Levitan and Annerie Nel were nominated for Woman of the Year.

Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie said an evening of this nature was not only about recognition but also about being inspired to do more for your community and the environment.

Grootbos Foundation, for example, showed her how to translate words into action and found real and sustainable economic value in protecting nature. In the process, jobs were created on the one hand, while local and international interest in the area was also stimulated. Their work is rippling out to the rest of the community like a pebble thrown into a pond.

Lois Kleyn and the Enlighten Education Trust realised that the key to the future lay in education and addressed the decline in numeracy and literacy on local level. The Friends of the Library sold tea and cake to raise substantial funds to buy books and other materials for our Hermanus Library to ensure that it remained relevant as a cultural resource in our community.

But, the Mayor said, there was nothing like motherly love to make a community gel and this could be seen in the work of all the nominees for the Overstrand Woman of the Year.

In closing, she said Marianné Beyleveldt, or 'MaThabo' as she was fondly known, was the woman behind the strong man who had been granted to the Overstrand for too short a time. Theo Beyleveldt's achievements came as a result of the support of a wonderful wife who not only gave him the space to 'perform his manoeuvres', but also provided the safe bulwark into which he could retreat at night. She had worked side by side with him and had without a doubt been his most important advisor and a life-partner without equal.

"That is why we love you and why you will always have a place of honour in our hearts," Mrs Botha-Guthrie said.



ABOVE: Standing from the left are Desiree Arrison, Gerda Wessels (Gansbaai), Maureen Smith (Kleinmond), Susan Swanepoel (Kleinmond), Marianné Beyleveldt, Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie and Adele Levitan (Hermanus). **RIGHT:** Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie with Overstrand Woman of the Year 2011, Marianné Beyleveldt. **FAR RIGHT:** Michael Lutzeyer received the Mayor's Environment Trophy on behalf of the Grootbos Foundation. With him is Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie.



SUSTAINABILITY REFLECTED

The wellbeing of our Cape Whale Coast community and the economic value of the associated Whale Coast Route rely completely upon preserving the Overstrand's environment for posterity, and this is underlined by the annual competition for the Mayor's Environmental Trophy.

Dr Anina Lee, chairperson of Whale Coast Conservation and organiser of the competition, said at the Overstrand Municipality's Night of Excellence in Hermanus on Thursday 28 July 2011 that this award acknowledges the tireless work done by many individuals and organisations, big and small, to conserve natural assets.

This year's winner, Grootbos Foundation, had implemented key conservation and development projects which promote biodiversity conservation and social upliftment in the Walker Bay region, she said.

The Foundation runs most of its projects as self-sustaining entities that generate their own income through the sale of home-grown products. These include the Green Futures Horticulture and Life Skills

College, Growing the Future Food Production and Life Skills Training and Future Trees. The Foundation is also closely affiliated with the Football Foundation of South Africa which promotes sports development in Gansbaai and environmental awareness.

Grootbos Foundation's social responsibility projects are run according to best-practice business principles, making them effective and sustainable. Conservation is combined with research and the generation of sustainable, nature-based livelihoods for programme participants. Each of the projects has a self-funding component that promotes sustainability and empowers men, women and children in the Gansbaai/Stanford area.

The projects not only provide practical skills but also life skills, a combination which has huge social impact in an area where these skills are largely lacking, according to Dr Lee.

The other finalists were Birdlife Overberg, Dr Vic Hamilton-Attwell, the South African Shark Conservancy (SACS) and the Gansbaai Recycle Swop-Shop.

FESTIVAL TIME IN HERMANUS

The TWO OCEANS Hermanus Whale Festival, celebrating its 20th year as the only enviro-arts festival in South Africa "puts the creatures of the deep on stage and under the spotlight alongside top performers and musicians from 30 September to 4 October".

Hermanus, known as the best land-based whale watching destination in the world, plays host to thousands of visitors (in 2010, we welcomed 130 000 visitors) who flock to the seaside resort to exhilarate in the unique natural environment, watch the whales and revel in music and African rhythms during the festival.

The Whales are always the star performers at the festival and will be joined on land by great food, quality crafters, sporting events, kids' entertainment and thousands of people celebrating Spring in the

most beautiful place on earth – Hermanus.

"The 2010 Festival has spread its wings to include ten venues around Hermanus, and we plan to extend this further in 2011 to include Mount Pleasant and the Gateway Shopping Centre, amongst others. We are pleased to introduce the Checkers Living Table to the 2011 festival which will provide a 65m marquee offering visitors the opportunity to meet the celebrities who will be doing cooking demonstrations, while enjoying some snacks and a glass of wine. Seating will be provided for 150 people and the demonstrations will take place every 20 minutes."

The full programme of events is available at the festival office. For more information, call 028 313 0928, email festival@hermanus.co.za or visit www.whalefestival.co.za

NEW PLAN FOR DESTINATION MARKETING

A new system for the marketing of Overstrand as tourism destination has been announced by Executive Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie. This system will facilitate direct control by the Overstrand Municipality over the distribution and use of public funds as required by the Municipal Finance Management Act, while at the same time a greater degree of cohesion and synergy within the tourism industry is envisaged.

This dispensation will replace the current destination marketing organisation, Cape Whale Coast, which was established in 2007 based on the provincial model as provided for in the Western Cape Tourism Act of 2004. At the same time, the municipality imposed a differentiated rating policy in terms of which all businesses were rated at a slightly higher rate than residential properties. Funding from this source of income was channelled via the DMO to, amongst others, the geographically located tourism bureaux in Overstrand and also the various approved festivals.

Although the primary objectives have been achieved, provisions of the Municipal Finance Management Act are of such a nature that a greater degree of direct control by the municipality over the distribution and use of the funds allocated is required.

The need for a dedicated tourism officer has also

been identified, and the municipality envisages creating such an appointment within the Directorate of Economic Development. It will be the task of this person to coordinate the activities of the various tourism bureaux, and to establish and promote a single tourism marketing strategy for the whole of the Overstrand.

The establishment of an advisory committee from the community is also envisaged. Such a committee, although not yet finalised, could consist of representatives from the various tourism bureaux, plus members from tourist-related businesses. It is believed that through such a process, the voices of all role players and stakeholders will be best heard and effect given to the advice received.

The implementation date has provisionally been set for 1 September 2011 as the DMO as a separate legal entity still has to be wound up.

The Mayor expressed her sincere appreciation to members of the DMO who provided leadership and sacrificed a lot of their personal time. It was through their efforts that Hermanus had been voted Town of the Year, the Cape Whale Coast brand had been established, as well as a marketing programme, providing widespread publicity of the Overstrand as a tourism destination.

DON'T TAMPER WITH RIVER MOUTHS

Failed attempts recently to open the mouths of the Klein River Estuary and the Kleinmond lagoon are causing concern because both were illegal activities in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA).

According to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations promulgated under NEMA in 2010, artificial breaching of estuaries may not take place without authorisation from the provincial environmental authority – the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP). A Basic Assessment is required by DEA&DP for such authorisation, unless approval has been obtained to implement an agreed management plan.

Mouth management plans for both estuaries have been approved by DEA & DP, and any action in conflict with it would, therefore, be a contravention of NEMA. If convicted, NEMA transgressors are liable to a fine of up to R5 million or 10 years imprisonment, or both. The approved management plans include criteria and best practice guidelines for artificial breaching de-

veloped at workshops involving scientific specialists and local stakeholders.

The Klein River Estuary has been ranked the fifth most important in South Africa in the National Biodiversity Assessment 2010, and it provides an economically significant 'ecosystem service' as a nursery area for fish, providing the estuary opens every few years. The Bot estuary accounts for 12% of the total estuarine fish nursery area from False Bay to Port Alfred, and this ecosystem service - valued at R50 million - must be preserved.

The Mouth Management Plans can be downloaded from the website www.overstrandestuaries.co.za (click on 'Klein' and then the link at the bottom of the page). Attempts to breach these estuaries artificially can be reported to Overstrand Municipality's Control Room at 028 313 8111 or to the Estuary Management Coordinator, Sue Matthews, at 083 381 5432.

Sue is contracted to the Overstrand Municipality in a position funded by The Table Mountain Fund, an associated trust of WWF-SA.



**HEAD TO FERNKLOOF FOR
FLOWER AND ECO FAIR**

If it's spring, it must be time for the Hermanus Flower and Eco Fair. So grab your hats - and your brolly too, just in case - and head off to the Fernkloof Nature Reserve, the best kept secret of the Cape Whale Coast and for botanists one of the 'hottest' of the Cape Floral Kingdom's 'hotspots'. The event runs from Thursday 22 September to Sunday 25 September, daily from 09:00.

Since 2011 is International Year of Forests, the theme for this year's floral display is appropriately a mini-Afromontane forest, complete with a waterfall and surrounded by magnificent floral fynbos - designed by landscape artist Riaan Maritz of The Garden Company here in Hermanus.

Come and enjoy the flowers and the delicious teas and lunches, visit the indigenous nursery, take a chance on winning a super prize in the raffle or just come and picnic in the magnificent gardens. An innovation this year is that trees and other bagged plants in the display may be purchased for collection when the show ends on Sunday. For the more energetic, the 60 km of easy hiking trails in the reserve provide ample scope to explore the fynbos-clad mountains overlooking Hermanus.

The eco-friendly folk from Whale Coast Conservation will be on hand to inform you about their vision for conserving the Cape Whale Coast - and ensuring the wonders of our natural heritage never cease.

Adults R30, children free;

Thursday Senior Special R20. For info, visit www.fernkloof.com (tel 028 313 0819) or www.whalecoastconservation.org.za (tel 028 313 2025)



DRAKENSBURG CHOIR IN TOWN

OAK has presented the Overstrand with a musical feast during the past two months. This included the talented duo Ben Schoeman (piano) and Dawid Venter (flute) - what a magical evening - a reed quintet from the Netherlands and also the talented young South African, Jan Hugo, winner of the 2011 UNISA piano competition! On Sunday afternoon, 25 September at 15:30 the DRAKENSBERG BOY'S CHOIR will be giving a concert in the NG CHURCH. Make sure you book well in advance! Tickets are R80 for adults and R40 for students. Book at BELLINI on 028 312 4988. Any further enquiries can be directed to René du Plooy on 082 940 4238.