

Phambili!

Vorentoe/Forward



Issue 4

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SPREADING THE 'GREEN BLANKET'

Overstranders made the most of Arbour Month to help protect and beautify our environment

National Arbour Month is annually celebrated in the course of September. It is a national campaign aimed at creating awareness around indigenous trees and the important role they fulfil in our environment, be it rural or urban.

Every year, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) selects two indigenous trees - one common and one rare - to spearhead their tree-planting campaign. This year's selection is the Shepherd's tree (*Boscia albitrunca*) and the Real Yellowwood known as the Breede River yellowwood (*Podocarpus elongatus*).



Kleinmond

Some 120 saplings were kindly donated by DAFF in support of this year's theme "Forests and Sustainable Cities", and it is clear from the photographic evidence below that everyone was more than willing to roll up their sleeves to ensure that the "green blanket" is spread from Baardskeedersbos to Kleinmond and beyond. We will continue planting trees through-out the year.

On 3 September, Arbour Week kicked off with a bang when 54 trees were planted in **Mountain View, Kleinmond**. Local resident Cornette Hull (second left in the green T-shirt) watched in awe as James Johannes (middle front with bag in hand) and his EPWP team from the Parks Division expertly went about planting her very own indigenous tree. Lauren Rainbird, Overstrand's horticulturist (first left), was also there to offer a word of advice.

Despite the fact that soil conditions in and around the **Gansbaai** area, may not be quite suited to this year's frontrunners in the indigenous tree stakes, this administration did a little research of its own and came up with a couple of plausible alternatives.



Gansbaai

In **Baardskeedersbos**, Gansbaai's Area Manager Francois Myburgh (third left) and his fellow tree planters set about replacing and supplementing the hardy indigenous Water pears (*Syzygium guineense*) along the town's main road in earnest. With him are colleagues from the Parks Department Charles Stevens, Delano Booysen, Kenneth Marthinus, Riaan le Roux, a BBHOS representative, ODM Councillor Stephen Fourie, Jacobus

Engel and park head Paul de Villiers.

Elsewhere in the vicinity, environmental officer Benjamin Kondokter - with the support of the DEEP BLUE ambassadors from Masakhane Primary - planted Wild olives (*Olea europaea subsp. africana*) and Cape ashes (*Ekebergia capensis*) on the grounds of the Gansbaai Academia. Their pride and joy, however, is the Yellowwood planted at the **Pearly Beach** conservancy and herbarium.

"Let's make sure it will live forever." Benjamin Kondokter sets about creating the ideal planting conditions for yet another sapling.

In **Hermanus**, the Parks Department opted to do their utmost to curb the rampant growth of alien invasive plants in the low-lying section of the Hermanus Biodiversity Walk as well as to reforest the river bank in the **Hemel-and-Aarde Valley**. They also planted trees at the cemetery.



Benjamin Kondokter



Hermanus

Louise Visagie (front left), Daniel Bala, Litha Mqini and Kevin van Wyk from the Hermanus Parks Department also pitched in to help plant milkwoods (*Sideroxylon inerme*), Taaibos (*Searsia crenata*) and Coastal silver oaks (*Brachylaena discolor*).



Hermanus

And clearly evident from the huge smiles of Thandikhaya Bango and David Situlo - they also did not mind an inch to help "fetch and carry" trees.

MAKE A NOTE OF THE WELLNESS DAYS IN OCTOBER

Early in October, Overstrand employees will yet again be afforded the opportunity to have their general wellness assessed, free of charge.

This includes having your blood pressure, blood cholesterol and blood glucose levels tested as well as having your weight and waist circumference measured. CANSA indicated that they will also be present to test for breast cancer.

The dates, venues and times are as follows:

Wednesday, 10 October: Kleinmond Town Hall: 09:00 - 13:00
Thursday, 11 October: Gansbaai Information Centre: 09:00 - 13:00
Friday, 12 October: Hermanus, Banqueting Hall: 09:00 - 14:00

Please be sure to clear attendance with your manager.



A CHAMP IN THE MAKING

Eight-year-old Tayden Hoffman, son of Tyrol Mackenzie who works for the fire brigade, most definitely knows his moves. He has been selected to participate in the South African Junior Chess Championships u.10 which will be held from 16-24 December 2018 in Boksburg on the East Rand. We are sure that this grade 2 learner from Kleinmond Laer would just love to add yet another medal to his already sizeable collection.

AND OFF SHE GOES TO COMPETE IN THE NATIONAL SPELLING BEE!

Kelsey Montagu is the Overberg region's latest prime export product. This 12-year-old daughter of Shereen Montagu, who works for community services in Stanford, won the Spelling Bee in the Overberg Region, thereby qualifying for the provincial finals held on Saturday 1 September in Cape Town.

There Kelsey competed against students from 30 schools in and around the Western Cape. She achieved an overall third position, thus qualifying for the national team. Kelsey will be one of three girls representing the Western Cape from 4-7 October 2018 in Pretoria against the top three spellers from the other eight provinces.

What makes her achievement even more remarkable is the fact that she is the first English student from the Overberg Region to ever qualify for the nationals.

Way to go, girl! We're all holding thumbs and are sure that you will do us proud.

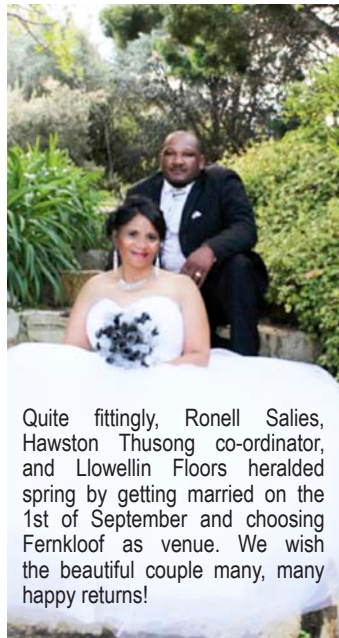


On a hairy note...

Thank you, Anthea Etalla, for suggesting that Phambili ought to create a little corner where staff members can "honour" their furry friends.

Anthea works as a senior clerk in the Hermanus Administration's collections division. She shared this delightful photo of their beloved boy called Bruce; named after Batman's Bruce Wayne we kid you not.

Send pictures of your animals to rsteenekamp@overstrand.gov.za and we promise to accommodate as many as we can.



Quite fittingly, Ronell Salies, Hawston Thusong co-ordinator, and Llowellin Floors heralded spring by getting married on the 1st of September and choosing Fernkloof as venue. We wish the beautiful couple many, many happy returns!

PRIM & PROPER! Hearty congratulations to Carlouw Engelbrecht (Communication and Information Technology) whose youngest Mika has been elected as primaria of her Stellenbosch res, Serruria.



Welcome to the newcomers and colleagues who have been appointed permanently. Standing in the back are Jan Nortjé (General Assistant - Parks: Gansbaai), Wessel Swartz (General Assistant - Sewerage, Kleinmond), Zalisamadinga Kondlo (General Assistant - Parks: Kleinmond). In the middle are Ruben Abrams (ICT Cadet / Support Officer), Kim Brikkels (Principal Clerk - Fire: Hermanus), Zimasa Mayekiso (Administrator - SCM: Hermanus) and Ingrid Hanekom (Senior Clerk - Fleet Management: Hermanus). Seated in front is Aiden Johannes (Assistant Slipway Control Officer: Kleinmond).

Overstrand Runner-up

At the annual convention of the Institute of Environmental and Recreation Management (IERM) hosted during September by the eThekweni Municipality in Durban, our horticulturist Lauren Rainbird accepted a certificate of recognition on behalf of Overstrand Municipality for its participation in the 2018 Arbour Awards.

The Steve Tshwete Municipality (represented here by Daleen Lambrechts on the left) walked off with the coveted first prize in the category "local authorities" for the Arbour Awards. Overstrand came second and received prize money of R250 000 in the process.

Lauren says she found the IERM convention most enlightening and especially appreciated the opportunity to share thoughts and insights with fellow environmentalists on subjects such as how open spaces can be integrated to aid child/youth development in rural areas and how a "greening" culture can be instilled amongst beneficiaries of low-cost housing opportunities.



PETRONELLA BIDS FAREWELL AFTER 20 YEARS

Having served for almost 20 years, Petronella Ferreira has decided to retire and now looks forward to spending more time at home and with her grandchildren. "Who knows," she jokes, "I might even get round to tidying up the odd cupboard!"

To celebrate her birthday, Petronella's colleagues treated her to lunch and held a convivial farewell-braai on her last day of service, 31 July. Stanford's tourism office also hosted a special function where residents and friends could say their goodbyes.

Colleague Johan van Taak describes Petronella as a friend in a million and a people-person who is more than willing to help.

"I joined the Stanford Municipality in December 1998," Petronella relates. "At that time, Hermie Lategan was the Mayor and Jacques Carstens the Town Clerk. I played secretary to the town clerk, the town secretary and the head of community services, whilst simultaneously functioning as receptionist and switchboard operator. We had our work cut out, but it was great. What's more, we always found time for a little fun."

"Oh, another thing, I also happened to be the archivist! I devised a new filing

system for Stanford Municipality, had it approved and implemented. Lo and behold, shortly thereafter the municipalities merged and guess who was asked to devise the filing system for the newly constituted local authority?"

"I thoroughly enjoyed accompanying our town secretary on trips to the 'new' municipalities to consult about best practices for the new dispensation's filing systems."

"Some time later, my bosses were transferred to 'head office' and little old me was left holding the fort at the Stanford office with the promise: 'Don't worry, help is only a telephone call away!'"

"Now, sixteen years later, I have many a wrinkle and grey hair to attest to the fact that this was not an easy road, but I am also so much the wiser."

"I will miss my Overstrand family terribly. Time and time again, I had to ask my colleagues to please, please help and never once did they rebuke me or said 'no'."

"Believe you me, the stories I can tell..."

"But the time has to come to inject new blood, renewed vigour and fresh ideas."

We wish Petronella all the best and do hope that she can make a little time between tidying up her cupboards to at least come and say hi now and then - ed.

EVERYDAY HEROES, INDEED!

Everyone from Lara Croft to Spiderman, a firefighter to a GP, a soccer star to a bandit rocked up in full regalia to celebrate Casual Day on 7 September.

Thank you so much for your support and good spirit! Having sold around 510 Casual Day-stickers, Overstrand yet again managed to donate just over R5 000 to the Camphill School. The funds will go towards supporting adults with intellectual disabilities, including adults with Down Syndrome.

Clearly, Overstrand's employees took this year's theme, namely to be an everyday hero for people with disabilities, to heart and came up with some rather ingenious ensembles.



Dedré Pedro (left) and Adenel Bayley, working at Preekstoel, rocked up in full motor sport regalia.



We will leave it up to your imagination who the revenue team's heroes are representing: In the back are (from left to right) Carmen Nel, Byron May and Sonja Africa with Clinton van der Byl and Romeo Stevens in front.



No-one can dispute that our disaster-response team is everyone's hero. Dressed in full regalia, the Withuis team fully enjoyed adding a little fun to the event.



Interspersed by a couple of real-life and not-so-real-life superheroes, the Gansbaai Administration thoroughly enjoyed dressing up as well.



And then there were the brave ladies from Property Administration who made no bones about who their everyday heroes are. Pictured here are Madelein Erasmus (left), Nicolene Liebenberg and Willmary Murtz.



Charlene Pieters from Town-planning in Hermanus believes the embodiment of true heroes is the professionals who are always on call to respond to our medical emergencies.



With a knowing wink, Gansbaai librarians Ronette Dreyer (left), Busisiwe Mtatase and Edna van der Linde acknowledged that they, too, are heroes in the everyday lives of people making use of the library.

John Simson says farewell



Gerrit Coetzee, John Simson and Sherwin Rossouw share a joke for old times' sake. John Simson, Manager: Building Services, is retiring after 29 years and 11 months. He will be sorely missed.

Reflecting on his history with Overstrand, John recalls how "drab" the municipal offices were when he went to apply for his first job as technical assistant some 30 years ago. "Just about everything from floor to ceiling was brown and very cramped. Quite the opposite from what we can enjoy today."

Back then, he was called upon to do just about everything typically associated with infrastructure development: • survey the municipal yard using a theodolite • construct a storm-water pipeline from Mount Pleasant to the sea across the airfield • design and construct a new motor vehicle testing centre and • draw up plans for around 20 capital projects per year.

All of that had to be accomplished in the morning since in the afternoon, he turned building inspector and in the evenings served on the Heritage Committee. In his "spare time", he raised two children and acted as fund raiser for the Montessori School.

"Sleep was not an option in those days," John jokingly admits.

His days became even more demanding when he was appointed assistant town engineer to Thys van Rooyen who was also the Deputy Town Clerk. Thys was studying to become Town Clerk and John was finishing off his B.Com, so the two of them became "study buddies". They arranged to meet at the municipal offices a couple of evenings per week so that they can use the "quiet time" between 8 pm. and 10 pm. to study.

"And it worked," John says. "Thys became Town Clerk and I got my B.Com, which is a good thing because, ever since we became Greater Hermanus, I have been involved in drawing up budgets for capital projects involving storm water, roads and sewerage."

With the formation of Overstrand, John became Manager: Building Services.

"Through the years, I have gone through seven councils - including the transitional ones - and lived through some very interesting times indeed. Nevertheless, I have thoroughly enjoyed the challenges that come with a rapidly growing municipality and have nothing but praise for the support from my immediate colleagues and Overstrand staff in general.

"We had a great journey and it has really been an honour and a pleasure to serve with such diligent people. Given the fantastic spirit of cooperation, I am sure Overstrand will continue to be the leading light for many years to come."

Thanks to a Madiba Day initiative by Mayor Dudley Coetzee and his personal assistant Doret Taljaart, law enforcement officers Rodwin Telling (left), Nelson Kanunu and Tony Blankenberg recently had the pleasure of savouring many a peck on the cheek and a warm hug when they distributed blankets, scarves and beanies kindly knitted by Overstrand's caring residents in honour of Madiba. The Mayor also thanked the ladies from the administration for their donations.



Meet a couple of the new additions to Overstrand's extended family



Karli, born on 21 May 2018, weighed 3.7 kg and measured 52 cm at birth. She is the second daughter of Marissa Radyn, who works for the electricity department in Gansbaai.

What Karli doesn't know, is that she has a "twin brother". Also on the 21st of May, Janet, wife of Town Planner Petrus Roux, gave birth to their son Elijah.



Benjamin Kondokter who works for Environmental Services in Gansbaai, became the proud father of a baby boy called Eden on 2 August 2018. Eden weighed 4.5 kg at birth and also happens to be the grandson of Ben Kondokter. Although retired now, Ben worked for the Solid Waste Division for many years.

On 17 July 2018, Aiden and Sharelene Johannes welcomed Zahra-Leigh to the world. She weighed in at 3.4 kg. Aiden helps to oversee the slipway in Kleinmond.



It is our understanding that the stork has been rather busy the past couple of months. To all the new moms and dads, congratulations! And do remember to send us a couple of pictures so we can share in your joy - ed.



Long serving staff were honoured with certificates for their dedication and effort at a Council meeting held on Wednesday 26 September.

Four colleagues have provided 25 years' distinguished service to the municipality and one 30 years. Here is the Hermanus Administration (l-r): Municipal Manager Coenie Groenewald, Ntombi Mtholo (10 yrs), Theminkosi Dodana (25 yrs), Carlton Joorst (10 yrs), Mayor Dudley Coetzee, Sonja Immelman ((10 yrs), Elsabé Stadler (10 yrs), Cllr Andrew Komani, Hanré Blignaut (10 yrs), Nadine Lubeni (20 yrs), Edward Fisher (10 yrs), and Zingani Tshetu (10 yrs). In front is Lukas Kaptein (25 yrs), Martin Platjies (25 yrs), Francina Philander (25 yrs), and Zillian Davids (10 yrs), with their certificates.

Pictured below is Housing Officer Aron Gcotylwa of the Gansbaai Administration, a man with 15 years' service under his belt.

