

# Phambili!

Munisipaliteit • U-Masipala • Municipality

## OVERSTRAND

Vorentoe/Forward

Issue 3

JULY | AUGUST 2018

### Message from the Municipal Manager

Dear colleagues,

Clearly, the new five-year cycle did not kick off quite as expected.

Given that Overstrand already ranks amongst South Africa's top local authorities, we entered the new fiscal year with high hopes that we could, at a minimum, retain our current position perhaps even improve.

But then, misfortune stepped in.

Having barely survived a protracted drought that resulted in many rural employers downsizing on their workforce, criminals and vandals chose to exploit legitimate land disputes for their own gain - resulting in even more of our people being left destitute.

What amazes me, though, is that despite around

50% percent of our workforce being prevented from showing up for work, you still managed to soldier on - and exceptionally well at that.

Looking back on the events of the past couple of months, I am astounded by the degree of resilience and tenacity displayed by our team of highly committed officials.

Yes, you are the very embodiment of a centre of excellence and I must thank you for always, always being willing to serve and to care, no matter the circumstances.

On the upside, the Auditor-General has awarded Overstrand a clean audit status for the fifth year running. This in itself is an indication of a sound administration in which each and everyone of you played

a critical role - please carry on with your good work. Of course, a lot of rebuilding will have to take place and we have already commenced with plans to rebuild the reputation of Overstrand - a plan in which each and everyone of you will have to do your part. But, having witnessed the mettle of Overstrand's officials firsthand, I have every reason to believe that we can only go from strength to strength.

Thank you so much for your willingness to demonstrate Overstrand's commitment to serve its citizenry, even in the face of danger. It most definitely did not go unnoticed and is appreciated more than words can tell.

*Regards, Coenie Groenewald*



During a Council meeting held on Wednesday 27 May 2018 in Hermanus' banqueting hall to honour personnel for their long service, Overstrand Municipality bestowed special recognition upon James Paul White for being its longest serving employee.

"Oom Jumbo", as he is affectionately called, joined the roads department of the then Kleinmond Municipality at the age of 24. Reflecting on his distinguished career, he remarks that he takes pride in being part of a centre of

## "OOM JUMBO" HONoured FOR 40 YEARS UNINTERRUPTED SERVICE

excellence today and especially in the difference he has made in his own community, Kleinmond.

Born in 1953 in the Kleinmond harbour, James completed Standard 6 (Grade 8) before he began working as a handyman on building sites.

When he joined the municipality, his first divisional head was the late Mr Eddie Deyssel ("a lovely person"), but he admits that "Oubaas Piet Swanepoel, as we called him back then, was the one who really inspired me: He was strict, but fair."

"Working conditions have changed rather drastically over the years," James remarked. "During the cold winter months, I had to work barefoot in storm-water ditches and we did not have the safety gear everyone wears today."

Nevertheless, despite the hardships they may endure, Oom Jumbo's message to the youth out there is that they must be prepared to start at the bottom and work

their way up: "Remember, work is scarce, so appreciate and cherish what you have. Also, be sure to make the best of every empowerment opportunity that comes your way. I would not have been able to reflect on the difference I helped to make in my community had it not been for the opportunities Overstrand afforded me through the years, and for that I am deeply thankful."

Outside work, James practises as a pastor and commissioner of oaths and have officiated at many a wedding and funeral throughout the years.

Proud, yet humble: James Paul White acknowledges the standing ovation on receipt of his certificate in recognition of forty years' service with Overstrand Municipality.

• With an impressive 35 years of service, cashier Florence Ngwanya (Hermanus Administration) was another star of the long services awards in April.

## Come on, buddy, play nicely now...

... and off it goes, ready for safe release all thanks to one man



**GRAIG NIEMAND** fulfils many a role in the Stanford Administration: Mostly, he is a plumber, sometimes a volunteer fire fighter, but what truly sets him apart is his ability to catch snakes with as little fuss as possible and without causing undue harm to the poor reptile who simply happened to be caught "trespassing" on human territory.

His knack at catching snakes did not go unnoticed, and by way of appreciation, the Stanford community recently made it possible for Graig to attend a specialised course in how Africa's venomous snakes and their bites ought to be handled and treated.

Thus, next time you think a slithery creature might be hiding under your bed, best call Graig!

By the way, the prime specimen was caught on the coldest day recorded to date in Stanford and probably had to flee its hibernation spot as a result of flooding caused by the downpour.



# KOM BLAAS DOPPIES HAS EVERYONE SMILING

When Rowena Karelse, Justin Solomons and Sophie August launched the *Kom Blaas Doppies* project towards the end of last year, they had no idea that they would literally be smothered in load upon load of plastic bottle caps and bread tags.

"In our wildest dreams, we did not expect this level of support," a delighted Rowena remarked.



For every 8 000 bottle caps collected, R5 000 is donated towards corrective medical procedures that may be needed by children born with a hare lip or cleft palate. Given that the cost of these operations is exceptionally high, the donations secured by way of this project are a huge help for parents of kids with this unfortunate condition.

On learning how well caring residents supported this initiative, the team manning the rates office in Gansbaai decided to join in ... and so did the libraries.

"By simply adopting the habit of keeping your bottle caps and bread tags separately so that they can be dropped off when next you visit the rates office or library,

*Betty's Bay librarian Rosaline Matthew (right) and Joyce Sandy with but a fraction of the bottle caps they have collected to date*



*Proudly displaying their bags full of potential sunshine are, from left to right, Hantie Vermeulen, Annelie Lourens, Dinah Harper, Zelna Botma, Jurita Booker and Joana Swanepoel of the Gansbaai Administration.*

you are not only making a difference in a child's life but are also helping to keep our landfills plastic free," says Rowena. "So spread the word, guys, and keep them coming!"

## LENDING A WILLING HAND IN A TIME OF NEED



Heartfelt thanks to all those fantastic women who stepped in to help ensure that members of the SAPS and law enforcement agencies were fed and looked after during the recent unrests in Zwelihle. Enjoying a moment's respite here are (from left to right) Datin Burgess, Shandre Oncker, Whynite Fourie, Kim Brikkels, Carren Dreyer and Suzaan Stanley.



Thanks to Nic Kennedy of the Vanderbolt Coffee Company and Shofar Church in Hermanus, personnel from the directorate protection services could at least grab a cup of coffee before stepping in to help with the recent upheavals in Zwelihle. Your support and caring attitude during these trying times did not go unnoticed. **Thank you so much!**

## RARE HONOUR BEFALLS HAWSTON LIBRARIAN: Belinda May to present her research findings at international conference in Japan

As part of the requirements to earn an honours degree in Library and Information Science, local librarian Belinda May had to undertake a research project: She chose knowledge sharing in municipalities as her topic.

"There is a distinct difference between *knowledge management and knowledge sharing*," says Belinda, "and given that my study on the latter is the only one of its kind conducted hitherto in the Western Cape, I was invited to present my findings at the International Conference on Information and Social Science which will be held mid-August at the Sapporo Convention Centre in Japan.

"Naturally, having my findings published as scholarly articles and being invited to present a paper to such an illustrious audience is a huge honour. In my case, though, and to quote Churchill, it also underscores my belief that one should never, never, never give up.

"On matriculating, I had no option but to go out and find work so that I could help support my mother: Furthering my studies was out of the question.

"In 1987, I found work as a library assistant with the Hawston library, and have worked there ever since. But I still had this nagging ambition to better myself. Eventually, I attained a National Diploma in Library and Information Science through UNISA in 2005.

"Given that I got married in the interim, my priorities shifted slightly and

I devoted the next couple of years to raising three lovely children.

"Nevertheless, with the support of my family, friends and colleagues, I managed to complete my studies towards an honours degree in February 2018 - and that at the age of fifty!"

The goal of the conference where Belinda is to present her paper is to provide a place for scholars, experts and professionals with interdisciplinary backgrounds related to information and social sciences to exchange new ideas and latest researches face to face, to establish business or research networks and to look for global partners for future collaboration.

As much as she appreciates the financial support offered by Overstrand Municipality during her studies, Belinda wishes to especially extend her heartfelt thanks towards colleagues in Gansbaai, Stanford and Kleinmond who, at the time of conducting her research, were prepared to set time aside to conduct one-on-one interviews and to complete and return questionnaires.

"I believe that, thanks to your input, I will be able to present Overstrand's case succinctly and, hopefully, forge new relationships in the international community that will help us to resolve some of our community's testing issues in the long run."

• On behalf of Phambili, we wish Belinda and hubby Phillipus a splendid and enlightening trip to the Land of the Rising Sun. Way to go, girl, you are an inspiration to us all!



# STAFF RECOGNISED FOR LONG SERVICE TO THE MUNICIPALITY

APRIL 2018



## KLEINMOND AND GANSBAAI ADMINISTRATIONS

Bonginkosi Gerald Ntozakhe (Kleinmond - 15 yrs), Municipal Manager Coenie Groenewald, Omoria Samuels (Kleinmond - 25 yrs), Mbuyiselo Ngwenya (Gansbaai - 20 yrs), Hendry Gudu (Kleinmond - 20 yrs), Mayor Dudley Coetzee, Solomon Booysen (Gansbaai - 25 yrs), Asian Ngwenya (Gansbaai - 10 yrs), Debrane Dahl (Gansbaai - 25 yrs), James Felix (Gansbaai - 25 yrs), Paul de Villiers (Gansbaai - 20 yrs) and Mayoral Committee Member Management Services Cllr Andrew Komani.



## HERMANUS ADMINISTRATION

**Front** (l-r) Fundiswa Mdlangazi (15 yrs), Wilhelm Plaatjies (10 yrs), Heathley Plaatjies (10 yrs), Mayor Dudley Coetzee, Siphiso Magwaza (10 yrs), Romeo Stevens (10 yrs) and Cllr Andrew Komani. **2nd row** (l-r) Municipal Manager Coenie Groenewald, Edgar Hendricks (10 yrs), Josef Slabbert (10 yrs), Zimisele Vetyu (15 yrs). **3rd row** (l-r) Ludidi Mbizo (15 yrs), Llewellyn Lukas (10 yrs), Mhlanganiseli Mtshizana (30 yrs), Penelope Aplon (10 yrs), Elia Cekiso (15 yrs). **4th row** (l-r) Xolisani Ntsoto (10 yrs), Solomon Khoni (15 yrs), Elzene Charles (15 yrs) Back (l-r) Gerhard Smit (10 yrs), Gerhard Coetzee (25 yrs), Schalk van der Merwe (10 yrs), Elmarie Hooneberg (15 yrs).

MAY 2018



## HERMANUS ADMINISTRATION

Hermanus Librarian, Alette Kotzé, was awarded a Long Service Award for 30 years of service. Seen with her is Municipal Manager Coenie Groenewald (left), Mayoral Committee Member Cllr Andrew Komani and Executive Mayor Dudley Coetzee (far right).



## KLEINMOND ADMINISTRATION

Seen receiving their long-services certificates are Municipal Manager Coenie Groenewald, Sizakele Sidwell Mahashe (10 years), Mayoral Committee Member Cllr Andrew Komani, Bonakele Carlos Phiri (10 years), James Paul White (40 years), Executive Mayor Dudley Coetzee and Henley Merrick Johnson (10 years).



## GANSBAAI ADMINISTRATION

Seen receiving their long-services certificates from Municipal Manager Coenie Groenewald (left), Mayoral Committee Member Cllr Andrew Komani and Executive Mayor Dudley Coetzee (far right) are Louis van der Linde (15 years) and Samuel Willemsse (15 years).

JUNE 2018



## GANSBAAI ADMINISTRATION

20 years long service certificates were handed over to operational team members Henry Kees (centre) and Andile Nyatama (second from right) as well as Gansbaai Administration's area manager, Francois Myburgh (far right). Seen with them are Municipal Manager Coenie Groenewald (left), Mayoral Committee Member Management Services Cllr Andrew Komani and Executive Mayor Dudley Coetzee.



## HERMANUS ADMINISTRATION

Mandla Makheke (far right) was awarded a Long Service Award certificate for 10 years of service. Seen with him is Municipal Manager Coenie Groenewald (left), Mayoral Committee Member Cllr Andrew Komani and Executive Mayor Dudley Coetzee.



## A PICTURE CAN PAINT A THOUSAND WORDS



**Well done** for the Kleinmond Library staff who went full out to commemorate their heritage and culture so fittingly on Africa Day - an event celebrated on the 25th of May.

*Dressed to the nines are, from left to right, Yoliswa Konzapi, Sethu Mto, Venda de Jager, Wilna Hooneberg and Gloria Mahashe.*

**Always game,**  
our valiant director of  
economic development  
and tourism,  
**Soli Madikane (right),** donned  
this colourful attire  
to show his support...



## TAKING GIRLS' QUEST TO HEART

Initiated by Cllr Michelle Sapepa with the support of Sylvia Block of the Hermanus Administration, Girl Power is a non-profit initiative that aims to provide sanitary towels and feminine hygiene products to school girls from disadvantaged communities in the Overstrand area.

Even though the Girl Power project was originally intended to coincide with this year's Madiba Day celebrations, an appeal is made to all residents throughout Overstrand to make a difference in a girl's life by continuing to support this worthy cause.

Also note that due to recent unrests in Hermanus, the Girl Power team had to postpone their distribution of donated products to a later date.

In Kleinmond, Cllr Grant Cohen took this #MadibaDayChallenge project under his wing with the intention to distribute as many as possible feminine hygiene products at schools on Madiba Day. And to everyone's surprise and delight, a whole load of sanitary towels were delivered anonymously to the Kleinmond Administration's offices.

*To this anonymous Kleinmonder, our heartfelt thanks!*

Menstruation is a natural process every girl will have to deal with at one point or another. Given that a pack of 10 sanitary towels costs around R25, this is an expense many girls from impoverished communities simply cannot afford. As a result, many end up making use of rags or cloths, old clothes, cotton wool, toilet paper, newspapers and even tree leaves to stop them from bleeding out.

Most disturbingly, though, studies show that up to 30% of girls simply do not attend school while menstruating for fear that their lack of access to adequate sanitary products might cause embarrassment. Given that menstruation is a regular occurrence which, normally, lasts five days per month, affected girls could potentially miss as many as 60 school days a year.

In an attempt to meet this ongoing need of less privileged girls in our community, please do not stop donating. Sanitary towels and feminine hygiene products can be dropped off at any of the libraries or at the offices of the respective Municipal Area Managers.

**Alternatively, contact Sylvia Block on 028 313 8108 to learn more about this project.**



*Pictured here with some of the sanitary towels subsequently distributed on Madiba Day are (from left to right) Charmaine Kotzé, Gamat van Eeden, Carla Swartz, Merle Solomons, Cllr Grant Cohen and Thembeke Vara.*



*GIVING BACK IS AS GOOD FOR YOU AS IT IS FOR THOSE YOU ARE HELPING - Thank you Sylvia Block, Adri van der Merwe, Farandean Erasmus and Doret Taljaard (and everyone else who is contributing to this worthy project).*

## KLEINMOND ADMIN'S JUKSKEI TEAM WINS THE DAY

**T**eam Kleinmond has every reason to jump for joy.

Despite tough competition, the team Kleinmond's administration entered to partake in the annual Jukskei Day hosted by the local jukskei club came out tops in their section.

Joining in the celebrations are team members Merle Solomons, Cllr Grant Cohen, Gamat van Eeden, Carla Swartz and, of course, the secret weapon Bibi Schmidt (left) who also happens to play for the South Africa women's team.

