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Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality



SANSA'S NEW SPACE WEATHER CENTRE BEGINS TO TAKE SHAPE

The Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Dr Blade Nzimande, and Overstrand Executive Mayor, Dudley Coetzee, in the company of SANSA CEO, Dr Val Munsami, SANSA MD, Dr Lee-Anne McKinnell and SANSA Board Chair, Xoliswa Kakana at the sod-turning ceremony of the new Space Weather Centre.

On Tuesday, 9 March 2021, the Minister for Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Dr Blade Nzimande, along with Overstrand Executive Mayor, Dudley Coetzee, launched the multimillion-rand new Space Weather Centre with a sod-turning ceremony.

The event was marked by much elation on the side of SANSA board members, staff, contractors and stakeholders.

The new Space Weather Centre comprises a 788 m² building on the premises of the SANSA Hermanus Campus in Westcliff near the provincial and private hospitals which is preserved as a magnetically clean environment. The unique aspects of a magnetically clean environment together with diligent application of the principles that govern the operation of a magnetic observatory will allow SANSA to pursue near-Earth space environment research and to offer specialised products and services.

It is expected that the Space Weather Centre will be fully operational as a 24/7 full-service centre from 1 October 2022.

Dr Lee-Ann McKinnell, Managing Director at SANSA, explained the importance of the Space Weather Centre as a benchmark for excellence on the African continent.

"The new Space Weather Centre will be a state-of-the-art building that we can all be proud of and the SANSA Hermanus campus will become something akin to a 'space park' - the importance will not only be in what the building symbolises, it will be in the value position of the nation and the continent that we have created by developing a national capability in critical skills, a service that accrues domain specific and public good benefits, positioning South Africa amongst global experts offering solutions to this global challenge of space

weather, and a motivational driver for young South Africans that are our future space scientists," she said.

Dr Val Munsami, SANSA CEO, agreed and emphasised that South Africa needs to take up a leadership role in Africa in the space sector. "This is the first of many steps towards our aspirational plans to expand the South African Space Programme for the benefit of humanity."

On addressing those present, Mayor Coetzee stated that it is an honour for him to be part of this ground-breaking ceremony as the Space Weather Centre has been designed to house world-class expertise and will attract leading scientists from around the world to Hermanus and be a centre of excellence in space weather. "This fits perfectly into Hermanus and Overstrand Municipality's motto where we also strive to be a centre of excellence to our community on a daily basis".

He commended SANSA for progress made in the delivery of a training centre where young people will gain their knowledge of space weather in Hermanus from where they will go into the world to apply their knowledge. "This makes me proud to be your Mayor," he said.

Over the past decade, SANSA has delivered an impressive array of products and services to various sectors such as aviation, space and the maritime industry. In 2021, SANSA celebrates 80 years of magnetic observatory recordings in Hermanus, and it is therefore fitting that this new Weather Space Centre should be built here in Hermanus. "I wish you much success and all the best for your future endeavours," he concluded.

In his keynote address, Minister Nzimande applauded SANSA for its innovative approach to the global challenges of space weather.

EIGHTH CONSECUTIVE CLEAN AUDIT ACHIEVED

For the eighth year running, the Auditor-General has expressed its satisfaction with the way in which Overstrand Municipality conducted its business in the course of the 2019/2020 financial year and confirmed that the municipality, yet again, adhered to best practice in as far as financial governance is concerned.

Furthermore, this opinion expressed by the Auditor-General confirms that there were no material findings regarding predetermined objectives and that there are no evidence of non-compliance with key legislation, all of which are indicative that effective management systems and proper internal controls are in place.

On learning the news that Overstrand Municipality has again received a clean audit, Executive Mayor Dudley Coetzee extended his appreciation towards Santie Reyneke-Naudé, director of finance, and her team for their diligence and extended a special word of thanks towards recently retired municipal manager, Coenie Groenewald.

The incumbent municipal manager, Dean O'Neill, was equally impressed with the results the team achieved but cautioned that it will become increasingly difficult to maintain a clean audit status and will require a collective effort from the entire Overstrand team.

"Of course, management as a whole and every member in their teams are deserving of our thanks for ensuring that Overstrand's financial integrity has been maintained. Going forward, though, we as a team will have to commit ourselves more than ever to help ensure that Overstrand's status is retained despite the regulatory challenges that lie ahead," O'Neill said.

CLASS OF 2020 LAUDED

At a virtual Council meeting held on Wednesday, 24 February 2021, Overstrand Executive Mayor Dudley Coetzee congratulated Overstrand's 2020 matrics on their achievements – trying circumstances despite.

He also made a point of applauding the Grade 12 teachers who had to make a lot of sacrifices in the course of 2020 to ensure their learners' success in these important exams and thanked them for their hard work and perseverance.

Coetzee also took the time to salute two Grade 12 learners for their exceptional performance in the 2020 matric exams.

His excellent results for Mathematics earned Danie Gouws of Hermanus High first place in the country overall: "We are proud of you, and thank you for keeping your school and Overstrand's name high. I salute you," the Mayor said.

Jean Weight from Curro Hermanus also has every reason to be proud of his outstanding matric results: Not only did Jean achieve an amazing 100% for Mathematics, he also obtained eight As and ranked among the top 1% of Independent Examinations Board learners in the country for Mathematics and IT as well as the Advanced Programme for Mathematics.

"On behalf of Council and every Overstrander, I wish all our matriculants nothing but continued success as they move forward to the next chapter of their lives," Coetzee concluded.



The LED administrator for enterprise development, Vuyolwethu Gwantshu (light blue jersey) and the helpers.



LED project coordinator, Luvo Bomvana (yellow shirt) and willing helpers.

Members of the Mount Pleasant Community Garden teamed up with Overstrand's LED Department on Saturday, 20 February 2021, to distribute bunches of spinach from their garden to residents of Mt Pleasant. The Nicolette Theunissen Centre, Just Care aftercare centre and the Mount Pleasant Community Outreach Programme each received ten bunches of fresh spinach from the garden project.

POPULAR HAROLD PORTER TRAILS CLOSED FOR REHABILITATION CATCH A BREATHER ALONG ROD'S TRAIL INSTEAD

Both the zigzag trail and the Disakloof boardwalk in the Harold Porter National Botanical Garden will remain closed till the Easter Weekend in the interest of conducting some essential maintenance and rehabilitation work.

In the interim, hikers are encouraged to explore Rod's Trail on the municipal common in Betty's Bay.

This relatively easy trail wanders through the fynbos-rich lower-mountain slopes and offers magnificent vistas of Betty's Bay.

Access is free and can be gained just left of the locked gate to Harold Porter in Kloof Street.

Courtesy of local resident, Dolf Scheepers, hikers can even take a break to admire the view from a bench placed at the Pipe Road-end of the trail.

Take a breather: Rod's Trail now has a bench from where hikers can take a breather and enjoy the vista.

Rod's Trail walkways repaired since devastating fire.



Deon Naudé who played *The Last Post* and Chaplain Mark Robson who led the attendees in prayer.

"But to stand an' be still to the Birken'ead drill
is a damn tough bullet to chew,
An' they done it, the Jollies --
'Er Majesty's Jollies -- soldier an' sailor too!
Their work was done when it 'adn't begun;
they was younger nor me an' you;
Their choice it was plain between drownin' in
'eaps an' bein' mopped by the screw,
So they stood an' was still to the Birken'ead drill,
soldier an' sailor too!"

Extract from *Soldier an' Sailor Too*, Rudyard Kipling

The troopship, HMS Birkenhead, sank in the early hours of 26 February 1852. In honour of those who so valiantly sacrificed their lives so that the women and children onboard the stricken vessel could be saved, remembrance services are held all over the world around this time.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, this year's remembrance ceremony at the Danger Point Lighthouse could not be held and the wreath-laying ceremony had to be postponed due to inclement weather.

Nevertheless, true to tradition, a couple of vessels – kindly sponsored by Marine Dynamics, Dyer Island Cruises and White Shark Projects – were launched from the harbour in Gansbaai with a small number of people on board who united in prayer and paid their tributes by casting wreaths into the sea near the rock where HMS Birkenhead met her sad fate.

Some forty-three years after this tragedy, a lighthouse – Danger Point – was finally erected to warn ships of this dangerous reef.

Although never officially incorporated into international maritime law, the Birkenhead Drill – women and children first – is still the standard evacuation procedure whenever a vessel finds itself in peril.

170th anniversary. According to Glenda Kitley of Gansbaai Tourism, several descendants of those onboard the HMS Birkenhead indicated that they want to attend the 170th commemoration in 2022. More details in this regard will be communicated as soon as plans have been finalised.

REVIEW OF TENDER 2132/2020: SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL

Tender SC2132/2020: Supply and Delivery of Construction Material for a contract period ending 30 June 2023 was awarded by the Accounting Officer on 18 December 2020 after a recommendation by the Bid Adjudication Committee at a meeting held on Monday, 14 December 2020.

All bidders including the successful and unsuccessful bidders were informed of the final award of the tender on 21 December 2020 but was subject to a Paragraph 49 objection period of 14 days in terms of the Municipal Supply Chain Management Regulations and a Section 62 appeal period of 21 days in terms of the Municipal Systems Act. The objection and appeal periods lapsed on 04 January 2021 and 11 January 2021 respectively. No objections and/or appeals were received after the tender was awarded.

Subsequent to the award having been made and the objection and appeal period having lapsed, it came to the attention of the Supply Chain Management Department that some materials, through inadvertent and bona fide errors with

regard to some items, had been incorrectly awarded.

The municipality sought legal advice with regard to these inadvertent and bona fide errors in the tender and has been advised that it is not necessary to set aside the entire tender.

All items correctly awarded and thus not affected by the errors have been validly awarded and remain in place. No review is required for those items correctly awarded, and the municipality will procure contracts with the successful bidders as and when the services are required.

In respect of those items incorrectly awarded, the municipality is legally compelled to approach the High Court to have the decision to award the tender set aside and will seek an interim order interdicting itself and the successful bidders from implementing the award until the review has been determined finally.

The review application will be issued shortly.