

OCTOBER 2022

Bulletin

#overstrand4all

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

#C4ourself



There to receive the award on behalf of the Executive Mayor were Deputy Mayor Cllr Lindile Ntsabo and Cllr Ronald Nutt (far right).

OVERSTRAND SCOOPS PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL ARBOUR CITY AWARD

To coincide with National Arbour Month, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment in collaboration with the Institute of Environment and Recreation Management and TOTAL South Africa hosts an annual award ceremony to recognise those municipalities who are doing their best to green their surroundings and to encourage others to do the same.

This year, Overstrand walked off with the laurels.

Participating local authorities are judged based on a portfolio of evidence that attests to the municipality's greening policy and strategy; the development and conservation of greenbelts and natural assets; the greening of especially low-cost housing townships; the eradication of undesirable alien invasive species; the prevention of disastrous occurrences such as brush fires; and the resources allocated to greening and related functions with inclusion of tree administration, management and maintenance.

What probably caught the judges' eye was the tree mapping project Overstrand recently deployed to ensure that trees in our area are managed and maintained effectively.

In short, Overstrand now has an extensive dataset that can be used to draw comparisons between similarly-sized suburbs in order to study the effect parks and recreational facilities have on canopy percentage.

Based on results thus derived, Overstrand is now in a position to focus its tree-planting exercises on less-leafy areas and to make sure that tree survival in those areas receives the necessary attention.

To expand canopy coverage, the municipality's Parks Department and Environmental Management Section planted over one thousand trees in the past three years alone.

On receiving the reward, MAYCO member for community services, Cllr Ronald Nutt, said that the dedicated staff of the Directorate Environmental Services is most deserving of this award. "After many years of dedicating yourselves to greening our towns, your hard work has finally paid off. Well done!"

HERMANUS TO WELCOME FIRST CRUISE LINER

Overstrand Municipality is delighted to announce that, following on a number of successful negotiations with stakeholders in the industry, the first cruise liner will drop anchor in Walker Bay in December 2022.

Passengers will come ashore for day excursions to explore our beautiful villages and to indulge in activities such as wine tasting, going on biking trails and experiencing shark-cage diving.

This is a first for Overstrand, but several cruise operators have already indicated that they will consider including a stop-over in Hermanus in their itineraries in future.

Executive Mayor Dr Annelie Rabie is most pleased with the economic boost this initiative might bring to our shores and said she intends to ensure that businesses and the likes are geared to receive the passengers and to welcome them ashore.

"We need to explore and grab every opportunity to increase the number of tourists to our towns since this will not only grow our local economy but also provide much needed jobs. Let us show that we are ready and open for business and welcome our visitors with enthusiasm," Mayor Rabie added.

MEC FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PAYS VISIT TO OVERSTRAND



Hermanus Station Commander, Col Luthando Nosilela (far right), took Minister Reagen Allen (second from right) on a tour of his station, including the 24/7 trauma room where anyone in need of protection and assistance can turn to. Also there to discuss matters pertinent to safety and security were the acting commander of the Hermanus Visible Policing Unit, Capt. CJ du Toit, and the MAYCO member for protection services, Deputy Mayor Lindile Ntsabo.

The recently appointed Western Cape Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety, Reagen Allen, paid a visit to police stations in the Overstrand early in September to familiarise himself with matters relating to his portfolio.

There to welcome him to our area was Deputy Mayor Lindile Ntsabo, who also chairs the portfolio Protection Services. "I am pleased that the Minister wants to familiarise himself first-hand with the realities of the challenges our police stations are facing, and his willingness to help find the best possible solutions to overcoming these is much appreciated," Ntsabo said.

The Deputy Mayor also used this opportunity to reassure the community that Council's first priority is to ensure that Overstrand is a safe space to raise children and a place where residents can live in peace. "To this end, we can pride ourselves in the sound relationships we as municipality maintains not only with the SAPS and various neighbourhood watches, security companies and law enforcement agencies but also with those who focus on our communities' social wellbeing," he said.



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PUBLIC SPACES IN HANGKLIP-KLEINMOND GRADUALLY FITTED WITH BABOON- PROOF BINS



Residents in declared problem-animal areas within the Overstrand such as Kleinmond, Betty's Bay, Rooiels, Pringle Bay and Voëlklip have been pleading with the municipality to distribute more baboon-proof bins in public open spaces, picnic areas and at beaches along the coast.

Waste is a huge attractant for baboons who forage in these areas for food, and we must all work together towards effective baboon management by ensuring refuse is managed optimally.

Implementing efficient baboon management protocols before baboon raids and invasions become the norm is the answer to managing the baboon/human interface effectively in these areas. Dealing responsibly with waste is one simple way in which we can contribute to the health and well-being of wildlife and our own families.

To this end, Overstrand Municipality appointed a service provider to convert municipal public bins into animal-proof bins in the Hangklip-Kleinmond area, and 45 bins have been ordered for the area to the west. This project aims to ultimately replace all current unprotected blue swing-bins in public areas across Hangklip-Kleinmond with these bins.

In a collaborative campaign called "feed the bin, not baboons", Overstrand Municipality, the respective Baboon Action Groups, the Hangklip-Kleinmond community and a local newspaper also set out to upgrade and convert bins in public spaces.

The first baboon-proof public bin was installed towards the end of October 2022 along the beach path close to Aasbankies in Silver Sands.

A further three bins have been constructed in Maasbaai in the Hangklip area with the assistance of the Pringle Bay community.

The municipality donated the materials (bricks, sand, stone and cement) and the Pringle Bay community held a fund-raising exercise to pay for the labour, brackets and locks. The community also arranged and managed the construction.

Two of these bins have been placed at the corner of 4th Street and 15th Avenue in Kleinmond, replacing the old blue swing-bins, while the third will be installed at the top end of 6th Street once its concrete footing has been re-casted.

This project testifies to the fact that through collaboration and pooling resources, much more can be achieved to create the maximum effect. Well done to all stakeholders who participated in this project.



SALGA RECOGNISES MAYOR RABIE'S EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP



Councillor Theresa Els (far right) presents the award for outstanding leadership to Mayor Rabie. Standing with them is Municipal Manager, Dean O'Neill.

Towards the end of August, the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) hosted an award ceremony in recognition of Women's Excellence in Municipal Leadership in Johannesburg.

These awards pay tribute to those female mayors who have accomplished the remarkable in terms of financial governance.

Overstrand Municipality is one of 13 female-led municipalities awarded a clean audit in terms of the Municipal Finance Management Act. Special mention was also made of the top three performing municipalities in the country who consistently achieved clean audits for more than five consecutive years.

All three of these municipalities are in the Western Cape, and Overstrand Municipality is one of them.

As the representative Women Commissioner for Overstrand Municipality and the Overberg District Municipality, Ward 10 Councillor Therese Els received the certificate on behalf of the Mayor.

Reflecting on this event, Cllr Els said it was insightful to meet with women councillors from other provinces and to discuss affairs pertinent to women empowerment and gender equality.

NEW POLICY ON TINY HOUSES APPROVED

The Overstrand Municipal Council approved the Policy for Tiny Houses as an additional option to assist with meeting the housing needs of a growing community.

MAYCO member for investment and infrastructure, Cllr. Clinton Lerm, said Overstrand is one of the first municipalities in South Africa to re-think how housing challenges can be addressed. "By adopting this policy, we lead the way forward with finding innovative solutions to housing challenges," he said.

A tiny house complies with the definition of a residential dwelling but on a smaller than usual scale – a footprint of less than 27 m² to be precise.

Based on their intended use, tiny houses can be grouped into three categories:

- **Permanent:** Attached to an approved foundation, prioritising occupant safety and energy efficiency;
- **Temporary:** Built on a chassis or frame that could have wheels, prioritising mobility; or
- **Transitional:** Living facilities for persons who lack shelter; prioritising flexibility to meet local needs.

The zoning codes determine where owners can site their tiny houses. For example, in areas zoned as single residential 1, permanent tiny houses must be attached to approved foundations and immediate neighbours' consent is required.

Permanent tiny houses must meet the requirements of the National Building Regulations, except in terms of its dimensions.

The policy can be downloaded via the municipal website www.overstrand.gov.za. (Click on Documents and then navigate to Policies.)

GANSBAAI TRAFFIC OPEN



First customers to visit Gansbaai Traffic were clearly pleased with the convenience this office offers.

The Gansbaai motor vehicle and registration department is now fully operational from its new offices inside the municipal building in Gansbaai.

Business hours are Mondays to Fridays from 08:00 – 15:15, with a lunch break from 13:00 – 13:45.

The traffic offices in Hermanus will be open Mondays to Fridays from 08:00 – 15:15 and on two Saturdays per month from 08:30 – 12:00.

The traffic offices in Kleinmond will be open Mondays to Fridays from 08:00 – 15:15, with a lunch break from 13:00 – 13:45