

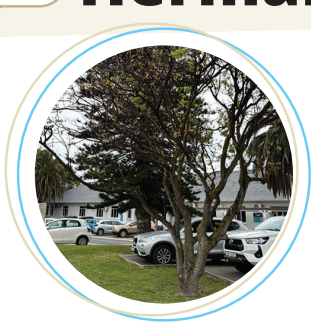
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Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

ROOTED IN REMEMBRANCE:

Hermanus's Delville Wood Oak



This year marks the 110th anniversary of the Battle of Delville Wood during the First World War. The battle took place from 15 to 19 July 1916, and almost 2 500 young South Africans died in those terrible days in what was a defining moment in South African military history. As part of his official visit to the French Republic, President Cyril Ramaphosa laid a wreath at the South African National Memorial in Longueval, France, honouring the courage and sacrifice of the South African soldiers who fought during the First World War.

While the national commemoration took place in France, it held special significance for Hermanus, whose own wartime heritage remains an important part of the history of the town.

The Cenotaph War Memorial at the Old Harbour, erected in 1929, commemorates the 11 volunteers from Hermanus who never returned from the First World War. It also serves as the focal point for the town's annual Remembrance Sunday service, where war veterans, serving personnel, families and members of the community gather to honour those who gave their lives in the service of their country.

Few people realise that Hermanus had the highest number of volunteers per head of population anywhere in the British Empire during the First World War. This remarkable contribution remains a source of pride for the town and a lasting reminder of the sacrifice made by its residents.

Hermanus also shares a unique living connection with Delville Wood. In 1976, to mark the 60th anniversary of the battle, an acorn from one of the South African oak trees growing at the Delville Wood Memorial in France was brought back to Hermanus and planted at the Overstrand Municipality. The tree remains a living symbol of remembrance, linking Hermanus to the battlefields of France.

Interestingly, some of those oaks in Delville Wood were themselves grown from acorns collected from a specific tree on the La Cotte farm near Franschoek in 1920 to help replant the devastated forest after the war, creating a remarkable circle of remembrance between South Africa and France. A noteworthy addition to the story is that the Franschoek oak tree from which the acorns were collected was incredibly significant itself – it had germinated from one of six acorns originally brought to South Africa by French Huguenot settler Jean Gardiol in 1688.

The military heritage of the town of Hermanus extends beyond the First World War. It includes Victoria Cross recipient Lance Corporal William Henry Hewitt, whose ashes were scattered at Gearing's Point, and Group Captain Roger Bushell, whose parents and grandparents lived in Hermanus. Bushell led the legendary great escape from the German prisoner-of-war camp Stalag Luft III during the Second World War, later immortalised in the film *The Great Escape*. His legacy lives on locally through the Roger Bushell Trophy, awarded annually to the top academic achiever at Hermanus High School. Hermanus also shares an important connection with General Jan Smuts, whose sister, Bebas Smuts, served as Mayor of Hermanus from 1941 to 1946 during the Second World War.

The Cenotaph War Memorial and the Delville Wood oak tree at the Overstrand Municipality stand as enduring symbols of courage, sacrifice and remembrance, ensuring that the legacy of those who served will never be forgotten.



NEW ONLINE SYSTEM FOR EVENT APPLICATIONS IN OVERSTRAND

Planning a public event in the Overstrand municipal area has become easier with the introduction of a new online event application process. From July 2026, organisers of sporting events, festivals, markets, parades, fundraisers, community gatherings and other public events are required to submit their permit applications online through the centralised Collaborator Portal of the Western Cape government. The online system allows applicants to submit applications electronically and upload all required annexures and supporting documentation.

All public events held within the Overstrand municipal area must be approved in terms of the Events By-law of the Overstrand Municipality, read with the Events Policy. This process ensures that events are properly coordinated and that relevant municipal departments, emergency services and other stakeholders can assess safety, traffic, environmental and operational requirements where applicable.

To ensure sufficient time for assessment and approvals, applications must be submitted well in advance of the proposed event date. The required lead time depends on the anticipated attendance:

- 50 to 500 attendees: at least one month before the event
- 501 to 2 000 attendees: at least two months before the event
- 2 001 to 5 000 attendees: at least three months before the event
- More than 5 000 attendees: at least six months before the event



Only fully completed applications, together with all required supporting documentation, will be accepted for evaluation.



To assist organisers, a checklist is available on the municipal website. Depending on the type and scale of the event, organisers may be required to submit supporting documents such as:

Proof of public liability insurance; Safety and emergency plans; SAPS risk classification; Temporary structure approvals; Population certificates; Noise exemption applications; A certificate of acceptability issued by the Health Department of the Overberg District Municipality

Where alcohol will be sold or consumed, organisers must also obtain the necessary liquor-related approvals through the prescribed process with the South African Police Service and the Western Cape Liquor Authority.

For more information and a step-by-step guide to the application process, visit www.overstrand.gov.za/events, where you can access the link to the Collaborator Portal.



R43 UPGRADE BETWEEN VERMONT AND SANDBAAI TO START LATER THIS YEAR



THERE TO MEET MINISTER SIMMERS TO FIND OUT WHAT PROJECTS ARE IN STORE FOR THE OVERBERG: Wessel Rabbets (municipal manager of Cape Agulhas), Overberg District Municipality (ODM) Steven Fourie, Eben Phillips (acting municipal manager of ODM), Walter Hendricks (municipal manager of Theewaterskloof), Francois du Rand (Mayor of Swellendam), Overstrand executive mayor, Ald. Archie Klaas; Minister Tertuis Simmers, the provincial minister of the Department of Infrastructure; Cape Agulhas mayor, Raymond Ross; Anneleen Vorster (municipal manager of Swellendam); Overstrand Municipality director of Infrastructure Stephen Müller; ODM speaker, Ald. Lindile Ntsabo

The Western Cape Department of Infrastructure has confirmed that construction of the R43 upgrade between Lynx Avenue in Vermont and the Sandbaai traffic lights is scheduled to commence later this year.

The project will involve upgrading the existing single-lane section to a dual carriageway, together with associated road safety and infrastructure improvements.

The Overstrand executive mayor, Alderman Archie Klaas, said residents have consistently raised concerns about congestion along this section of the route, particularly during peak holiday periods and weekends.

"The upgrade will not only improve traffic flow, but will also enhance safety for all road users. The wider road shoulders will better accommodate cyclists and pedestrians, while the additional capacity will assist in easing congestion along this busy stretch of road," said Klaas.

The mayoral committee member for Infrastructure, Cllr Clinton Lerm, welcomed the confirmation by Minister Tertuis Simmers that the long-awaited project will proceed.

Lerm said the project includes the dualling of the existing road over the Onrus River through the construction of a new bridge alongside the current Onrus Bridge. The widening of the road will be undertaken on the northern side of the existing R43 and will also include stormwater improvements, upgrades to various culverts and the relocation and provision of new access roads to Amanal Paradise Park, Berghof Estate and Kidbrooke Place.

The construction phase is expected to take approximately 24 months to complete.

RECYCLING IN OVERSTRAND MUNICIPALITY

Overstrand Municipality encourages residents to make recycling part of their daily routine. Small actions, such as separating recyclable material from household waste, can make a significant difference to the environment. Plastic lids should ideally be removed from plastic bottles before recycling, as they are often made from different materials and are processed separately.



Libraries also collect recycling items

Did you know that Overstrand Libraries also serve as collection points for certain recyclable items?

Residents can drop off bread tags and plastic bottle tops at participating libraries, helping to keep these items out of landfills and saving a trip to the nearest transfer station.



Recycle right

- Paper and cardboard must be clean, dry and free of food residue.
- Food and beverage containers should be rinsed before recycling.
- Containers must be emptied before being placed in recycling bags.
- Medical waste, such as needles and syringes, should never be placed in recycling bags.
- Plastic lids should be separated from plastic bottles.
- Food waste and general household refuse belong in your black refuse bag.



What can be recycled?

You don't need to separate recyclables into different bags. Simply place the following items together in your clear recycling bag:

- Paper and cardboard
- Tin and metal cans
- Glass bottles and jars
- Plastic containers and bottles



What cannot be recycled?

- Food waste
- Polystyrene food containers
- Polystyrene foam cups
- General household refuse



The refuse removal schedule for the respective towns as well as the operating hours of the transfer stations and waste drop-off are available on the municipal website, www.overstrand.gov.za, under the 'How To Guide' tab.



OWN A BUSINESS IN THE OVERSTRAND? Check if you need a business licence

Over the past year, the Overstrand Municipality has streamlined its business licence application process making it easier for businesses to apply online. Applicants can submit applications electronically, upload supporting documents, track progress and receive feedback through a single digital platform. The online system simplifies the application process, reduces paperwork and improves communication between applicants and the Municipality.

TYPES OF BUSINESS LICENCE APPLICATIONS

1 Formal business licence

In terms of the Businesses Act, 1991 (Act 71 of 1991), a business licence is required for:

- Food businesses that prepare, sell or supply food and beverages for human consumption.
- Health and entertainment businesses, including massage, nail and hair salons, saunas, gaming venues, billiard halls, nightclubs, cinemas, theatres and certain adult entertainment premises.

Depending on the type of business, you may need to comply with the following requirements:

- Zoning
- Building
- Health
- Safety (particularly fire)
- Police clearance

2 Informal traders and hawkers

If you:

- Trade from a cart, stall or vehicle, etc.
- Operate from a public place or designated informal trading area.
- Move between different selling locations.

Locations from where such trade may take place are subject to the provisions of the By-law Relating to Streets, Public Places and the Prevention of Public Nuisances of the Overstrand Municipality. Food traders must also obtain a certificate of acceptability (COA) from the Overberg District Municipality.

3 Spaza shops

Spaza shops may be subject to additional zoning and land use requirements. Applicants are advised to contact the Town Planning Department before commencing operations.

BEFORE YOU APPLY: The first step is to create a user account and partner account. These accounts serve as your profile on the system and can be used for future submissions and municipal applications processed through the portal.

A series of five short step-by-step video guides is available on the Municipal website to assist applicants with:

- Creating a user and partner account
- Starting a business licence application
- Completing the application form
- Uploading supporting documents
- Uploading proof of payment and submitting the application

Visit www.overstrand.gov.za
> Business Licence Application
to access the Collaborator Portal.

