

NOVEMBER 2026

Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

REMEMBRANCE DAY

“Wreath laying ceremony in Hermanus.”

15 November

Overstrand Municipality recently welcomed delegates from coastal municipalities, environmental organisations and tourism partners from across South Africa for the national Blue Flag and Green Coast Awards and the launch of the 2026/27 season in Hermanus.

The event marked two significant milestones, namely the centenary of WESSA (the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa) and 25 years of the Blue Flag programme in South Africa.

A total of 50 Blue Flag beaches, 20 Blue Flag pilot sites, seven tourism boats and five marinas received recognition for the 2026/27 season, alongside 19 Green Coast sites from around the country.

Hosting the event in Hermanus was particularly fitting, as Grotto Beach has maintained its Blue Flag status for 25 consecutive years and has been part of the programme since its introduction in South Africa.

Overstrand once again reinforced its position as one of the leading coastal destinations in South Africa, with Grotto, Kleinmond, Castle Beach in Pearly Beach, Hawston and Onrus beaches all achieving full Blue Flag status for the 2026/27 season. The accolade reflects the long-standing commitment of the Municipality to protecting its coastline and maintaining world-class beaches for residents and visitors alike.

The Blue Flag season traditionally commences at the beginning of December and runs throughout the peak summer holiday period.

For residents and holidaymakers alike, the Blue Flag provides assurance that a beach is clean, safe, well maintained and managed according to internationally recognised standards.

Walker Bay/Die Plaat, managed by CapeNature, was also again recognised as a Green Coast site, while local operators Marine Dynamics Shark and Whale Tours and White Shark Diving Company were among the tourism boats awarded Blue Flag status.

Snake Season:**Keep Meters Clear and Accessible**

As temperatures rise, snake activity is expected to increase across the Overstrand. Residents are encouraged to keep the area around water and electricity meters clear of long grass, overgrown vegetation and stored items that may provide shelter for snakes.

Safe access helps municipal staff carry out meter readings efficiently and reduces the risk of encounters with snakes. If a meter reader considers an area unsafe, the meter may not be read during that billing cycle.

OVERSTRAND HOSTS NATIONAL BLUE FLAG AND GREEN COAST MILESTONE EVENT

Another highlight of the week was the unveiling of the Living Coast Prototype Signage in Hermanus. Learners from the Pioneer School for the Visually Impaired in Worcester participated in the launch, demonstrating how users can engage with the boards through Braille, tactile features and digital technology.

Residents and visitors are encouraged to scan the QR codes on the boards to access audio guides, environmental information and multilingual content that bring the Overstrand coastline to life in a new and interactive way.

Located near Piet-se-Bos at Grotto East, the prototype is the first of its kind in the Overstrand. Subject to the availability of funding, similar interpretive boards may be introduced at other coastal sites across the municipality in future, expanding access to environmental education and information.



WESSA CEO *Cindy-Lee Cloete* and Overstrand executive mayor *Alderman Archie Klaas* observe while a learner from the Pioneer School for the Visually Impaired engages with the new Living Coast Prototype Signage.

COUNCIL BACKS PROPOSED HERMANUS CONFERENCE FACILITY

Overstrand Council has approved in principle the development of a conference facility on approximately 5 483 m² of municipal land at the Municipal Head Office in Hermanus and authorised a competitive tender process for the project.

The proposed venue would accommodate approximately 600 delegates and include parking, addressing the need for a large conference facility in the Overstrand while supporting business tourism, local economic development and community events.

The successful bidder will be responsible for funding, developing, managing and operating the facility under a proposed 30-year lease. No objections were received during the recent public participation process on the Municipality's intention to lease the property, while the Hermanus Business Chamber submitted a letter of support for the proposed development.

The competitive tender process will provide an opportunity for interested developers to submit proposals. Tender details and timelines will be announced in due course.

PARENTS URGED TO TAKE NOTE OF SUDDEN BEHAVIOURAL CHANGES IN CHILDREN



Parents and guardians are encouraged to pay close attention to sudden changes in their children's behaviour and emotional well-being, as these may be signs that additional support, intervention or professional assistance are needed.

While behavioural changes form part of normal childhood and adolescent development, sudden or extreme shifts should not be ignored. A child who was previously outgoing may become withdrawn, anxious or unusually fearful. Other warning signs can include sudden aggression, changes in sleeping or eating habits, unexplained physical complaints, a decline in school performance, secrecy, dishonesty or a noticeable change in attitude.

Children experiencing emotional distress often struggle to express what they are going through. As a result, changes in behaviour may be one of the few ways they communicate that something is wrong.

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to create a safe environment where children feel comfortable talking about their concerns. Gentle conversations, active listening and emotional support can make a significant difference. Where concerns persist, professional assistance should be sought as early as possible. Any indication of self-harm, severe emotional distress or suicidal thoughts requires immediate intervention.

Protecting children is a shared responsibility. By remaining alert to significant changes in behaviour and responding with care and support, parents and guardians can help ensure that children receive the assistance they need.

Need help?

Residents can contact the following services for support and assistance:



- Childline South Africa (24-hour helpline): 0800 055 555
- Department of Social Development Toll-Free Line: 0800 220 250
- Gender-Based Violence Command Centre (24 hours): 0800 428 428
- Hermanus SAPS Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences (FCS) Unit: 028 313 7019 / 082 522 1014
- Hermanus Hospital (24-hour service): 028 312 1166

Remember: behavioural changes do not automatically mean that a child has been abused or harmed. However, sudden or significant changes should always be taken seriously and investigated with care and support.

SAFETY REMINDER FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS

The Overstrand Municipality, together with its safety partners, including the South African Police Service (SAPS), Hermanus Public Protection (HPP), Special Rating Areas (SRAs) and local neighbourhood watches, urge residents and visitors to remain vigilant when enjoying public spaces across the Overstrand.

This reminder follows an attempted rape reported on the Hermanus Cliff Path, on the Westcliff side, earlier this week.

Residents and visitors are encouraged to follow a few basic safety precautions:



- Walk in groups where possible and avoid isolated areas.
- Keep valuables out of sight.
- Stay aware of your surroundings and avoid distractions.
- Use walking trails and public spaces during daylight hours.
- If you feel unsafe, move to a busy area and seek assistance.

While the incident occurred on the Hermanus Cliff Path, these safety tips apply across all towns in the Overstrand.

Please note that HPP patrols the Hermanus Cliff Path daily from 06:30 to 18:30 during the off-season. Patrol hours will be extended during the festive season. Any suspicious activity or criminal incidents should be reported to the SAPS immediately. Save the HPP emergency number: 087 550 5295. When calling, provide your nearest landmark to assist responders.

Local businesses: register as a municipal supplier

Businesses interested in supplying goods or services to the Overstrand Municipality must be registered on both the Central Supplier Database (CSD) and the Overstrand Municipality Supplier Database.

Registration is a requirement for businesses wishing to respond to municipal tenders and requests for quotations (RFQs). All prospective suppliers must meet the supplier registration and verification requirements of the Municipality in accordance with its Supply Chain Management Policy.

STEP 1: Register on the Central Supplier Database (CSD)

All businesses wishing to do business with the Overstrand Municipality must first register on the Central Supplier Database (CSD).

You will need:

- A South African bar-coded ID number
- A valid SARS tax-compliance status PIN
- A valid bank account
- Proof of professional registration or the relevant registration number, where professional registration is required
- Proof of B-BBEE compliance, where applicable
- Proof of locality points claimed, where applicable

Start your CSD registration: secure.csd.gov.za/Account/Register

Follow the step-by-step instructions to complete your registration.

STEP 2: Register on the Overstrand Municipality Supplier Database

Once your CSD registration is complete, download and complete the Overstrand Municipality Supplier Database Registration Form from the municipal website.

Complete the form and submit it to the Supply Chain Management Unit.

Once your registration has been confirmed, your business will be listed under the appropriate supplier categories.

WHAT DOES INDIGENT SUPPORT COVER?



Qualifying low-income households may receive assistance with payment for basic municipal services, including electricity, water, sewerage and refuse removal.

The support includes the first 70 kWh of electricity and 10 kℓ of water free each month, as well as subsidies on basic service charges and assistance towards the infrastructure levy, subject to the qualifying criteria of the programme.

Residents are encouraged to check whether they qualify and ensure that their applications include all the required supporting documents.

70kWh electricity FREE per month



10kℓ of water FREE per month

HOW THE 70/30 SPLIT WORKS



For indigent customers whose municipal accounts are in arrears:

- 70% of a prepaid electricity purchase is available for electricity consumption.
- 30% is used to recover outstanding municipal debt.

Previously, 90% was deducted towards debt recovery, leaving only 10% for electricity. The new split gives indigent households more money available for electricity while still contributing towards the repayment of outstanding debt.

The Customer Care, Credit Control and Debt Collection Policy is available on the municipal website.

PENSIONERS OVER 60: INDIGENT SUPPORT



Pensioners older than 60 who qualify for indigent support do not need to re-apply every year. The Municipality reviews their indigent status every three years to confirm that they still meet the requirements. Pensioners may also qualify for a deduction of medical aid contributions when their household income is assessed.

Residents can visit any municipal office in Gansbaai, Stanford, Hermanus or Kleinmond for assistance with applications and enquiries.

