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24 Hour Emergency Fire Brigade 028 313 8000/8111
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Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

Camphill Orchestra warms Mayor's heart



Conductor and trained music therapist, Christof Reppel, leads the Camphill Farm School Orchestra in one of several ensembles rendered during a special Christmas performance.

On a blistering hot Tuesday 24 November, the only thing to outshine the sun in the glorious Hemel-and-Aarde Valley was the riveting performance rendered by the Camphill Farm School Orchestra under the baton of conductor and accomplished music therapist, Christof Reppel.

Lively versions of "Frere Jacques" - commonly known as "Vader Jakob" - together with a poignant rendition of Kumbaya and an array of Reppel's own magical compositions had, the audience who attended the organisation's Xmas event in awe - especially the guest of honour, Executive Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie.

Composed of percussionists, base players and a drummer, all from the environs of Camphill, this orchestra meets every Monday evening to strut their stuff to the accompaniment of Reppel on the flute and his wife, Elizabeth, on the piano.

Originally from the UK, the Reppels have been devoting their time to this orchestra for the past eight years, and if the Xmas performance is anything to go by, there is no telling how many world stages await this dedicated group of budding musicians.

In her own right, Elizabeth Reppel is also an accomplished puppeteer who has been instructing the youth, and interested parties, from the Zwelihle area in this craft over the past two years.

Under Elizabeth's astute guidance, young trainee puppeteers have conducted several shows in isiXhosa, Afrikaans and English at several events over Overstrand, while steadily working on increasing their profile and expanding their audience base.

On thanking the Mayor for taking the time to attend the community's Xmas function, Sam Hodson, Executive Manager of the Camphill Farm Community said, "Madam Mayor, you are very dear to us and the members and I are especially pleased to have you amongst us here today to celebrate in the joy of Xmas and to share in the spirit of goodwill that is so rampant in our little community".

For more information on Camphill Community Farm, contact Michelle van Zyl on 028 312 4949 or 082 565 3627 or send an email to michelle@camphill-hermanus.org.za. Christof and Elizabeth Reppel can be contacted by calling 071 482 1975 or sending an email to fairytalepuppets@gmail.com.

RatesClearance.com plant trees in 38 municipalities

Paperless process funds the greening initiative

Korbitec's RatesClearance.com planted 111 trees across South Africa during November through Food & Trees for Africa. The trees had been "earned" by 38 municipalities that have participated in RatesClearance.com's "Grow Your Tree" Campaign.

"By issuing rates clearance certificates electronically and recycling existing paper, we give our planet time to renew itself. But by also planting trees, we can help it get there faster. This is why RatesClearance.com has launched the "Grow Your Tree" Campaign," says Cher Chapple, National Sales Manager for Korbitec Municipal Solutions.

RatesClearance.com is an innovative online solution that assists municipalities to process and issue rates clearance figures and certificates. The RatesClearance.com platform also streamlines communication between the municipality and attorney to help speed up the transfer process.

As part of the "Grow Your Tree Campaign", RatesClearance.com has partnered with Food & Trees for Africa (FTFA), South Africa's first national social and environmental enterprise. Food & Trees for Africa works towards a healthier, more sustainable and low carbon future through developing, managing and promoting greening, climate change action, sustainable natural resource management, organic farming and food security programmes.

The 38 participating municipalities signed up for RatesClearance.com, where they can see a small virtual tree on their dashboard. Every time the municipality issues a rates clearance certificate online, the tree grows. When the virtual tree is fully grown, RatesClearance.com will plant a real tree, in collaboration with FTFA, on behalf of the municipality in a location of their choice. Chapple explains, "With the help of municipalities, RatesClearance.com can save one tree for every 600 electronic applications processed, plus help restore the environment by planting new trees. Together we can save over 40 trees per month."

At the end of each year, each municipality will be awarded a certificate showing how many trees were planted on their behalf, and acknowledging their contribution towards a more environmentally sustainable future.

Chris Wild, Executive Director of Food & Trees for Africa, says, "This innovation is a great step towards more environmentally friendly municipal management. We work with disadvantaged communities that are desperate for trees, and this project bolsters our efforts. I'm particularly excited that it is an ongoing, sustainable initiative that can only grow."

To date, FTFA has distributed over 4.2 million trees and has developed thousands of natural food gardens, bamboo projects and organic farms in historically disadvantaged communities. It has also launched the first South African carbon calculator, the Carbon Protocol of South Africa, and the Climate Hero Awards Africa.

Korbitec is an established leader in the development of innovative technology solutions for the South African property industry. Its safe and secure products, solutions and electronic links are developed for the benefit of all stakeholders involved in the transfer process and are used by consumers, estate agents, conveyancing attorneys, the deeds office, local municipalities, leading financial institutions and government departments.



Overstrand Rates Department "earned" 3 trees so far, which were planted on Thursday 19 November 2015 next to the Municipal additional court building.

SKIP THE STRAW

Plastic straws are one of the top 10 items found in beach clean-ups around the world. They may seem small and insignificant, but when one considers that 500 million straws a day are used in the US alone, that's a lot of plastic. According to estimates, 80-90% of all marine debris is plastic, and it takes hundreds of years for plastic to photo-degrade into small pieces which can cause havoc amongst marine wildlife and, even more sinisterly, enter the food chain.

The simple act of stating "no straw" when ordering a drink in a restaurant or bar, coupled with businesses only offering a straw when specifically asked for, would make a huge difference. Not only would it reduce the amount of plastic in our waste stream, but it would benefit businesses financially and reduce the workload of Overstrand's waste management team.

Although straws can be very useful for people with disabilities and those who find it difficult to eat, such as the elderly and infirm; here, too, reusable straws may be a better option as they can be washed and used multiple times.

Many people use straws every day, not realising that four to five sips later, that straw has ended its usefulness. Given their small size and light weight, they easily "escape" overflowing rubbish bins or float to the surface at landfills. Most commonly, they end up in storm-water drains, rivers and, eventually, the ocean.

The best alternative to plastic straws is no straw at all. But if you do



have to use one, choose a reusable straw made from bamboo, metal, glass or thick plastic. For restaurants, the best alternatives would be paper straws or straws made from a compostable "plastic-like" substance known as polylactide (PLA) which is derived from renewable sources such as corn or sugar cane.

Overstrand is actively campaigning to ban single-use plastics in all forms. Although it may be difficult at first to say "no straw please" when ordering a drink or for businesses to alter their mindset, just imagine how grateful marine life will be when this becomes a habit.

Save water for a sustainable future

Residents and visitors are requested to use water sparingly, especially during the holidays due to an increase in demand and high temperatures. These conditions are expected to persist till April which could result in a change in rainfall patterns, meaning that rain could only fall as late as September.

Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie also cautioned residents to use water sparingly, even though restrictions have not been instituted yet. "Together we can ensure effective maintenance and water savings," is her message.

Water consumers are also reminded that in terms of Section 46(1) of Overstrand Municipality's Water Services By-law, the irrigation of gardens and lawns between 09:00 and 17:00 is prohibited. Watering gardens and lawns during the hottest part of the day can result in a water loss of up to 60% due to evaporation.

Tips for saving water

Protect the environment and save it in the process: It's as simple as that

Anyone can save water: Some surprisingly simple tricks can often help you to protect our environment and reduce energy consumption. Sometimes it's a question of technical innovations, other times however all that's needed is to replace a seal. Last, but not least, we can make small changes to our everyday habits. It's more important than ever to save water because, from a technical point of view, providing drinking water and treating waste water are becoming increasingly expensive. All around us we see urbanisation and industrialisation competing for that scarce resource: drinking water.

When washing your hands, cleaning your teeth or shaving, don't leave the water running.



Depending on the mixer, some 5 to 20 litres of water are lost in this way - every minute! Turn off the water when you don't actually need it or use a tooth brush beaker. A wet shave requires only a small amount of water, which you can run into the bowl before shaving.

Constant dripping wastes thousands of litres every year.

At first glance, a dripping mixer may well have little effect on the individual water bill. But the sheer number of households means that the extra consumption for the community adds up to an unnecessary extra for water treatment. Think of the environment and get the mixer sealed as soon as possible.

For a full bath, you need at least 140 litres of water.



Showering, however, consumes far less water. For a three-minute shower, water consumption is only 18 litres - without sacrificing any of the pleasure.

A large portion of drinking water is the water used for flushing the toilet.

Installing a flush/stop button or a dual flush

system is particularly worthwhile, since small flushes usually don't require more than 3 litres of water. This can save up to 8,000 litres of drinking water per person per year.

Use water twice: That would really save water.

The targeted reuse of only slightly dirty domestic water from the shower and bath tub (or so-called grey water) is really smart. This saves valuable drinking water. Planned in good time, this technology can be easily integrated in new constructions.

Water-consuming appliances: Pay attention to energy efficiency and capacity.



When buying a new washing machine or dishwasher, pay attention to their energy efficiency class, and choose a class A or, even better, A+ or A++ model.

Use water efficiently: Don't run washing machines and dishwashers half empty. Only set the machine in operation when it is optimally loaded. More often than not, the pre-rinse or

prewash programme is not necessary.

Consider the environment when washing the car.

Choose a car wash that uses the wash water multiple times by cleaning it in a recycling system to remove oil residues. An environmentally friendly car wash such as this not only provides you with a clean car, but is also easier on the environment.

