

AUGUST 2017

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# Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

## MINISTER ENGAGES WITH YOUTH ON TOURISM ISSUES

The National Department of Tourism in conjunction with the Overstrand Municipality, hosted a Youth Tourism Imbizo in Zwelihle on Friday, 23 June 2017. As part of her Youth Month activities, the Minister of Tourism, Tokozile Xasa, used the occasion to engage and interact with the community, as well as tourism students, aspiring young entrepreneurs, women and stakeholders in the industry who were in attendance. The aim of the event was also to stimulate township tourism and inculcate a culture of domestic tourism in ordinary people. The Minister was welcomed by the Mayoral committee member and portfolio chairperson for Local Economic Development (LED) and Tourism Cllr Elnora Gillion. In her opening remarks she said, "We are honoured to have you in our midst today and appreciate your being here." The councillor further welcomed the stakeholders, tourism students of Qhayiya, Blue Flag Stewards, Fernkloof Rangers and Zwelihle Primary principal, Ntombizanele Booysen. She also highlighted that communities must look at tourism as another vehicle to create economic opportunities for themselves. Tourism manifests itself in opportunities for economic exchange, where locals can empower themselves and be sustainable. In her keynote address, the Minister stated that: "Tourists are attracted to destinations by experiences and real, authentic offerings. Overstrand has a diverse product range: natural beauty, heritage, culture, etc. which can be packaged for various markets," Minister Xasa explained. She added that "tourism is not complete without people, infrastructure and nature. We are informed that



**#WeDoTourism.** Pictured at the Youth Tourism Imbizo are (from left to right) Cllrs Simphiwe Tebele and Vuyani Macota, Zwelihle Primary school principal Ntombizanele Booysen, Cllr Elnora Gillion, Minister of Tourism Tokozile Xasa, Cllr Andrew Komani, ODM Deputy Mayor Archie Klaas and Cllr Lindile Ntsabo.

tourism contributes greatly to the GDP of this area and therefore it needs to be encouraged and looked after." Moreover she stated, "We need a solid base of young, well-qualified people, who are equipped with the necessary skills to advance into management positions, and to be better prepared to be business owners and entrepreneurs of the future.

I urge you to engage with the municipality and my department, to see how your talent can be harnessed and help you yield much more desirable outcomes for yourselves and your families," commented Minister Xasa.

The Zwelihle community appealed to the Minister and ward councillors present to provide guidance on the accessibility of information and resources to grow their small businesses. The Minister encouraged the youth to recognise their value and power and invest in their own education. "Take pride in what you have. People want to experience your lifestyle; they want to see your house. There is a market. There is an opportunity to make money. Tourists want to buy something to take home." "I urge you to take advantage of opportunities provided by the government to build your skills, access training opportunities and seek internship and employment opportunities, when they arise. As today's youth, you have the power of choice. You can choose the direction of your lives for today, but also for tomorrow. Let it be a wise choice - one that will see you improve your own life and advance the wellbeing of your family and community," the Minister said. In conclusion, the

Minister encouraged the Overstrand Municipality to identify tourism prospects in the area and then work with national government to develop them to the benefit of all.

Speaking on behalf of Cape Whale Coast, Tourism Manager Frieda Lloyd, encouraged the community to ensure that they develop products that can attract tourists. "If there is a reason for tourists to stop in Zwelihle, they will do so. You just need to enhance what you already have on offer," she said.

As a coastal region, the Overstrand takes special care to focus on the opportunities of the ocean's economy. Besides its reputation as the whale watching capital, the region has many business links that entrepreneurs can explore as career options. The youth should consider developing products that could fill the gaps and look at untapped areas.

### Local Economic Development offices

Contact your nearest LED office during normal office hours for regular updates, training workshops, as well as other opportunities and programmes.

#### Hermanus:

Myrtle Street, Chantel on 028 313 8192

#### Gansbaai:

Municipal Offices, Yonela on 028 313 8333

#### Kleinmond:

Housing Department, Likhona on 078 578 4839

#### Hawston:

Thusong Centre, Eli on 072 899 9289



Minister of Tourism, Tokozile Xasa (middle), flanked by WESSA Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa Blue Flag beach stewards and Cape Whale Coast Tourism Manager Frieda Lloyd (far right).

## OVERSTRAND RECEIVES SPORT FACILITY FUNDING FROM MINISTER

Western Cape Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport, Anroux Marais, has officially handed over a ceremonial cheque to the amount of R1, 171 million to Overstrand Executive Mayor, Ald Rudolph Smith on the 4 July 2017 at a ceremony held at Cape Town.

The Overstrand Municipality entered into a partnership agreement with the Hermanus High School, the Overberg Sport Council and the WP Hockey Federation to develop a Hockey Academy to be used by all interested parties in the area. The allocated funding is earmarked for the completion of the change rooms and clubhouse facilities of the synthetic

hockey field development that is already underway.

The Mayors of the Breede Valley and Mossel Bay municipalities have also received cheques from Minister Marais. Breede Valley was afforded R100 000 to fund a feasibility study for the planning of a swimming pool facility in Zweekethemba, whilst Mossel Bay was apportioned R200 000 for a new netball facility. The allocated funding will assist the respective municipalities in ensuring sport development and access to quality sport facilities in all communities in the Western Cape.



Pictured at the handover ceremony are Western Cape Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport, Anroux Marais (centre) with Overstrand Mayor Rudolph Smith and Mayoral Committee Member for Community Services, Cllr Andrew Komani (right).

# NO EASY ANSWERS TO SOLVING DRUG PROBLEMS

## DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAMME HELD IN HAWSTON - Our Youth is at Risk

The United Nation's annual International Drug Awareness Day on 26 June, is a call to action for all countries to raise awareness about the global drug problem. The theme for this year's campaign is Listen First. Listening to children and youth is the first step to helping them grow healthy and safe - thus avoiding risky behaviours.

Cllr Annie Africa, Overstrand Municipality's Mayoral Committee Member for Protection Services, collaborated with Ann Wright, the Sustainable Futures Trust Manager (SFT), to host a Substance Abuse Awareness morning for the residents of Hawston on Monday, 27 June. Numerous speakers highlighted the link between drugs and crime, health issues and dysfunctional families.

Focusing on the youth, the presenters all stressed that peer pressure, escaping pain, trauma, poverty and boredom, led children as young as nine years of age to drug and substance abuse.

Prevention and treatment are the keys to producing positive results, and it is up to each family and the community to be more aware of what their children do and say.

Dagga is widely used in Hermanus and is a gateway drug which has many short-term effects as well as long-term dangers, such as learning difficulties, paranoia, hallucinations, liver damage and abnormal weight changes.

Tik (Methamphetamine) is dangerous and addictive and causes irreversible harm to the body.

Although glue sniffing has previously been associated with younger children, it is now mostly being used by teenagers and young adults. Inhalant usage can result in brain damage within six months.

Alcohol abuse takes its toll on the working of the brain and the many organs in the

body. Alcoholism is now the Overstrand's third major health hazard.

Marlinda Wright and Xavier Clarke from the Clive Prins Youth Treatment Programme, gave parents advice on what to be aware of and what families can do to form strong relationships with their children.

Cllr Elnora Gillion, Edmund Arendse of People Against Substance Abuse in Kleinmond and Marilyn van Rensburg of Hawston Health & Welfare, spoke on the importance of family care and faith to a child struggling with addiction issues. Captain Fadila September (SAPS) spoke about her experiences in the communities and reminded the audience that the police are there to help. André Olivier, legal advisor of the Overstrand Municipality, discussed the new laws on personal dagga use for adults.

Ann Wright expressed her gratitude to Cllr Africa and the Municipality, who agreed to partner with the SFT in the campaign to champion the wellbeing of the children of Hermanus who deserve a safe, happy environment in which to flourish and become productive citizens.



*Pictured at the drug awareness talk are Marlinda Wright (back left), Xavier Clarke, Nonophya Gama (front left) and Ann Wright.*

## SNIFFING OF INHALANTS

There has been an increase in the abuse of inhalants by young children in Hermanus. Parents and teachers have to be vigilant as this is becoming an alarming trend. "Inhalant abuse is really bad amongst primary kids and we're noticing it entering high schools as well," said Ann Wright, manager of the Sustainable Futures Trust. "Parents are living in ignorance. **BE ALERT.** Inhalant abuse is happening at all schools. "Familiarise yourself with the tell-tale signs that your child is engaging in narcotics. Listen to your instincts; better safe than sorry," she added.

### Warning signs:

- Plastic or paper bags emitting strong smells;
- The disappearance of household products;
- Stains on sleeves, handkerchiefs or ties;
- A strong smell on the person's breath;
- Cold symptoms that do not disappear (runny nose, watery eyes).

There are well over a thousand items that can be targets of inhalant abuse. In most cases, people who abuse inhalants find the substances in the garage or underneath the kitchen sink. They're cheap and easy to find, so there are few impediments to experimentation.

Inhalants include chemicals found in products such as aerosol sprays, cleaning fluids, glue, paint, paint thinner, nail polish remover, amyl nitrite<sup>1</sup> and lighter fuel. They are sniffed or "huffed" to feel intoxicated or 'high'. They can be sprayed into a plastic bag, poured into a bottle or soaked onto a cloth or sleeve before being inhaled. These volatile substances have psychoactive (mind-altering) properties when inhaled. They are especially abused by young children and adolescents, and are the only class of substance abused more by younger than older teens. New users aged 9 - 14 most commonly abuse glue, shoe polish, spray paints, petrol and lighter fluid. New users aged 15 - 17 most commonly abuse a class of inhalants known as nitrites - as amyl nitrites, methamphetamine (TIK) or "poppers".

There is no safe level of any drug use. Effects can vary depending on the batch or mixture and because these inhalants are not seen as drugs, abuse is often already at a later stage when the problem is identified. This type of drug is easily available and inexpensive, but the effects are just as dangerous and even more lethal than other drugs.

## BEN SCHOEMAN TO PERFORM IN THE OVERSTRAND



On Sunday afternoon, 20 August, South Africa's well-loved and internationally renowned pianist, **BEN SCHOEMAN**, will be the guest artist of OVERSTRAND ARTS/KUNSTE (OAK).

He was awarded the Huberte Rupert Prize from the SA Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2016, for his contribution to music in his native country. Schoeman will perform works of Bach, Schumann, Kodály, Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff.

*The concert will take place in the Civic Auditorium in Hermanus and will*

*commence at 15:30. To book your seats, contact the TOURISM OFFICE on 028 312 2629. Tickets are R140 each and R60 for students. For further details, contact René du Plooy on 082 940 4238 or 028 312 1895.*



## PLASTIC FREE JULY AND MORE.....

By the time you read this, Plastic Free July will be almost over, but that's not reason enough to quit your challenge for this year. Perhaps you didn't realise that Plastic Free July was a worldwide programme, to encourage people to have a serious look at how they could cut down on the amount of single-use plastic in their lives?

If indeed you challenged yourself to give up one of the big 4 - plastic bottles, plastic shopping bags, plastic straws or plastic coffee cups - good for you. However, as the month draws to an end, why not add to your victory and make the choice to refrain from buying another single-use product? Did you know that 50% of all the plastic manufactured worldwide is single-use plastic? It's used once for a few minutes and then ends up in the landfill or ocean for hundreds of years. How ridiculous is that? Our recycling recovery rates vary between 7% and 14%, so cutting out these single-use items from your life, is seriously the best way to go.

If you have already cut these big 4 items from your life, there are certainly many other ways that you could incorporate to further reduce the use of objects like these. What about kitchen storage containers? Avoid buying any plastic ones, as harmful chemicals leak into and could contaminate the food inside. Slowly but steadily replace these with glass or stainless steel containers in your kitchen. If for instance, you have a choice of peanut butter in a glass or plastic jar in the supermarket, always choose the glass option. Glass is inert and can be recycled endlessly, whereas plastic can't.

Another idea would be to use bars of soap instead of liquid soap in plastic containers. You could even save money by buying liquid soap in bulk and refilling small glass containers to reduce the amount of plastic used. Check your bathroom cupboard for products that are not essential or could be replaced with a more environmentally friendly alternative. Choose items that are made from bamboo, glass, cotton and hemp over plastic or synthetic fibres. **For more information please contact Fiona Matthes on the Facebook link @rethinkthebaghermanus or via e-mail, Fiona.econatural@gmail.com.**

