

# Congratulations TO THE CLASS OF 2016!

Mayor Rudolph Smith wishes to congratulate the matric students and educators of Hermanus High, Curro Hermanus, Qhayiya Secondary, Gansbaai Academia, Hawston Secondary and Northcliff House College on their excellent achievements and outstanding results in the 2016 National Senior Certificate examination.

The Overberg District achieved the highest pass rate (92,7%) in the country. "We are fortunate to have such good schools and committed teachers in the Overstrand. I would like to congratulate all learners who have successfully completed the 2016 matric examinations. I would also like to thank all our 2016 matriculants for promoting our towns and putting us on the map - you have truly done us proud - we are honoured to be associated with such hard-working individuals," Mayor Smith said.

"I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Conrad Strydom from Hermanus High for being the top achiever in the country with an average of 98%.

"This is a momentous achievement and I would like to give recognition to the committed educators who prepare our children to attain these great heights.

"May this also serve as a motivation for our 2017 matriculants and inspire them to work towards maintaining this high standard of achievement."

Mayor Smith encouraged those who did not do well to not lose hope. "You are by no means a failure because of one examination - remember that it is not about how many times you fall, but rather how many times you are able to stand up after every fall."

"Overstrand needs skills, and education is the key to unlock both personal and economic growth. Passing matric and registering for further education and/or training are necessary to provide our economy with critical skills," he added.



From left to right: Wendy Colyn (Circuit 3 Head); Bertram Loriston (Director of the Overberg Education District); Ald Rudolph Smith (Executive Mayor: Overstrand Municipality and Chairman of the Hermanus High School Governing Body); Greg Hassenkamp (Principal Hermanus High); Elsa Strydom (Conrad's mother) and Conrad Strydom (2016 Top Matriculant in the country).

## RESULTS

**Hermanus High School** achieved a 100% pass rate and produced the top learner in South Africa. The learners excelled with 27 A-passes, 31 B-passes and 56 C-passes.

**Curro Hermanus** also boasts a 100% pass rate and has been crowned as the top performing school in IEB within the Curro Group.

**Northcliff House College** are also proud of their 100% pass rate. **Qhayiya Secondary School** in Zwelihle had plenty to celebrate as well, as their matric pass rate improved from 80,6% to 88,5%.

**Gansbaai Academia** achieved a 95, 18% pass rate. Their top student, Analó Yawa who was the Junior Deputy Mayor in 2014, received six distinctions and was the first learner in the school's history to achieve an average of 80% and above.

**Hawston Secondary** achieved a pass rate of 73,5%.

# ILLEGAL DUMPING CAUSES SERIOUS CONCERN



Overstrand is one of the areas in the Western Cape that is affected by veldfires, a natural phenomenon more virulent during summer.

When the weather is hot, dry and windy, a small fire can become a threat to life and property in the blink of an eye. Certain everyday products that are relatively harmless in normal use can change into lethal materials when exposed to the extreme heat of a fire.

"Generally, for a fire to occur, three elements are needed: fuel, oxygen and an ignition source. It is almost impossible to avoid contact between oxygen and fuel, but by performing regular waste clean-up operations in our neighbourhoods we can certainly prevent fires," newly appointed Assistant Law Enforcement Chief, Johan du Toit, explained.

Littering and the illegal dumping of waste continue to be and performance monitoring of considerable concern because of indiscriminate illegal activity, environmental harm and huge

clean-up costs.

"As long as people think they can get away with it, they will continue to dump," Du Toit said.

Joint clean-up initiatives by law enforcement officers and the municipality's waste management team focus on illegal dumping incidents by issuing fines and handing out clean-up notices.

**We encourage residents to report any incidents of illegal dumping to the Overstrand control room on 028 313 8000/8111. For day-to-day law enforcement complaints, phone 028 313 8980.**

Alternatively, send an e-mail to [enquiries@overstrand.gov.za](mailto:enquiries@overstrand.gov.za) with the location or address and any other information that will assist in identifying the person who dumped the waste.

Remember: Illegal dumping is a criminal offense. Guilty parties will be fined.

Together we can stop illegal dumping and keep our communities clean.

## OVERSTRAND MUNICIPALITY ACHIEVES CLEAN AUDIT FOR 2015/16

On tabling the 2015/16 Annual Report at the Special Council meeting held on Monday, 23 January 2017, Executive Mayor Rudolph Smith announced that Overstrand's financial statements and performance management received a clean audit for the fourth consecutive time, thanks in large part to the dedication of the staff of Overstrand Municipality.

The Mayor urged that sound principles of governance be maintained in order for Overstrand Municipality to continue obtaining clean audit results and opinions that are satisfactory to the community.

On behalf of Council, the Executive Mayor, Executive Deputy Mayor and Speaker received and welcomed the audit report and confirmed that they will continue to inculcate a culture of unity, cohesion and tolerance in cooperating with municipal management to sustain, maintain and obtain further clean audit reports.

## Hermanus welcomed Trans Enduro participants

Every year, the South African National Defence Force's (SANDF) junior officers studying at the Military Academy in Saldanha Bay undertake an eleven-day journey on land and sea from Port Elizabeth to Saldanha to raise funds for charity and to do community work along the way. This iconic endurance race, known as *Exercise Trans Enduro*, is aimed at developing the junior corps' leadership skills and enhancing their knowledge of the practical issues related to community service.

Hermanus was the second-last stop on their journey, and on Friday, 2 December 2016 Overstrand's Executive Mayor, Ald Rudolph Smith, had the honour of welcoming the participants before setting them off on their last leg to Hout Bay.

In his welcoming address, the Mayor encouraged the students to show endurance in all they do. This sentiment was echoed by Brigadier General LK Mbatha, who added that the junior officers should always strive to emulate Madiba, an iconic national figure whom many will remember with fond nostalgia.

The 200 participants who partook in the 2016 race were divided into two teams with different focus areas: Those who cycled or ran from town to town (the land team), and those who travelled by rubber duck along the coastline (the sea team).

Along the way, the land team cleaned streets and neighbourhoods, painted school buildings and visited retirement homes. In Gansbaai, the sea team paid a visit to crèches in Masakhane where they played soccer and had a party with the local children.

All funds raised by *Exercise Trans Enduro* will be donated to Stellenbosch University's community development projects run by Matie Community Service and MASIZA, the Military Academy's own community service organisation.



*As is tradition, the mayor of each town writes a short letter of goodwill to the mayor of the next town. Here, Executive Mayor Rudolph Smith hands his letter of goodwill to Exercise Commander Captain Gangashe who will deliver it upon arrival to a Hout Bay representative. Also in the background (on the right) are Brigadier General LK Mbatha and Chaplain Nkuzo.*



*And off they go! The cycling team sets off from the new harbour in Hermanus on the last leg of their endurance race: Destination Hout Bay...*

### INVITATION FOR COMMENTS WITH REGARD TO REVISION OF THE OVERSTRAND MUNICIPALITY BY-LAW ON MUNICIPAL LAND USE PLANNING, 2016, THE OVERSTRAND MUNICIPALITY ZONING SCHEME, 2013 AND THE INCORPORATION OF THE OVERLAY ZONE.

Full details with regard to the proposed revisions are available for inspection during week days between 08:00 and 16:30 at the Department: Town Planning, 16 Paterson Street, Hermanus, at the offices of the Area Managers in Gansbaai, Stanford, Hermanus and Kleinmond; all public libraries in the Overstrand; the Municipality's corporate head office in Hermanus, as well as on the official website at: [www.overstrand.gov.za](http://www.overstrand.gov.za).

Please note that the commenting period is extended from the original closing date of 5 February 2017 to 1 March 2017.



On Sunday, 12 February, Overstrand Arts/Kunste (OAK) will present a concert of lieder and opera with Mezzo Soprano, Jolene McClelland, and South African Viennese acclaimed pianist, Ilse Schumann. Both artists are based in Vienna. Schubert, Van Wyk, Obradors, Sieczynski, Bernstein, Webber, Le Roux Marais, Stoltz and Rossini are but some of the composers of songs that will be sung.

The concert will be held in the Civic Auditorium and commence at 15:30. Tickets (R130 and R60 for students) are available from BELLINI on 028 312 4988 or at the door. Contact René du Plooy on 082 940 4238 for further information.



Jolene McClelland



Ilse Schumann

## Curbing climate change is everyone's business - yours too



Those fortunate enough to call Overstrand home, as well as those who regularly visit our shores to enjoy nature's bounty, are duty bound to help conserve this bit of paradise that brings us so much joy.

Yes, there are many "official" programmes afoot to curb the impact of climate change and to protect the natural environment against degradation and abuse. However, as the real "beneficiaries" of the beauty that surrounds us, we can't simply sit back and leave it up to officialdom and a couple of volunteers to preserve this jewel for posterity.

### All of us need to do our bit.

As daunting as getting involved in environmental conservation may sound, it is actually rather straightforward: By simply adopting a couple of environmentally friendly habits, you can make a meaningful contribution too:

- Never use plastic straws: They are a total waste and a common cause of pollution.
- Always have a reusable shopping bag on hand: Keep one in your purse and leave a couple in your vehicle.
- Avoid personal care products that contain plastic micro-beads.
- Avoid over-packaged products: If you really have no option but to buy such a product, make sure that you recycle as much of the packaging material as possible to avoid unnecessary strain on landfills.
- Don't waste water: Use waste water to water your garden.
- Say "no" to bottled water: It's perfectly safe to drink Overstrand's tap water, as our Blue-drop status attests.
- Don't throw your cigarette butts on the ground: They often end up in the sea where they are mistaken for food by birds and other creatures of the deep, much to their detriment.

Of course, you can also volunteer to assist with clean-ups in your area - visit [Whale Coast Conservation at http://whalecoastconservation.org.za](http://whalecoastconservation.org.za) for details on projects currently being undertaken.

**Everyone is in agreement: Time is running out for nature. So the sooner we all start doing our bit, the better.**

## Additional court continues to succeed

Despite the fact that the Additional Court for Municipal Matters was not in session daily over the festive season, it was always available to hear matters to accommodate the public and to prosecute people who misbehaved in public.

There were 322 cases on the roll for December 2016, of which 257 were traffic offences and 65 cases related to the violation of by-laws. Certain members of the public had to have outstanding cases against them settled before they could renew their driver's licences or register their vehicles.

A high success rate was achieved with individuals who were prosecuted for non-compliance of by-laws. For example, houses under construction that had come to a halt for a long period of time and which created a safety risk, are now in the process of completion.

A large number of summonses were served on people who ignored notifications from the Fire Department to clear their plots as they posed a fire hazard. The majority of these properties were cleared. The court was very lenient and the offenders were not fined, but if the offenders do not comply in future, heavy penalties will be imposed.

Several people who used alcohol on the streets were summoned to appear in court and, if found guilty, a fine was imposed on them. Law Enforcement officials thereby ensured that our town provided a safe and pleasant environment for our residents, as well as the holiday-makers.

During December 2016, the Additional Court for Municipal Matters, in conjunction with all the members of Law Enforcement and the Traffic Department, managed to serve the community by ensuring that law and order was maintained. The ultimate aim of this court is not to prosecute, but rather to educate the community and thereby create a law-abiding society.



### How to register for the Municipality's SMS service

SMS your account number with the letters **SMS** to **082 338 1631** or contact a Client Services Officer at your closest rates hall.

