

Public warned to be vigilant of opportunistic criminals during holiday season

With the summer holiday season about to unfold, the Overstrand Municipality would like to warn residents and holidaymakers to be extra careful and aware of their safety over the period.

Criminals are known to be more opportunistic during the high-season and visitors are therefore urged to be vigilant at all times to prevent being targeted during the holiday season.

Items such as cell phones, wallets, and other valuables should not be left unattended or in plain sight. Similarly, motorists should refrain from keeping anything of value on car seats where it is easily visible. Rather, it is advised that items to that effect be stowed in the boot of your vehicle.

Also, should you decide to go for a walk along the beach or cliff path, tell somebody where you're going and when to expect you back.

Rand Water and Water Research Commission visits Overstrand



Pictured are Hanré Blignaut (Deputy Director: Engineering Planning), Godfrey Madzivire (Council for Geoscience), Paul Lee (Umvoto), Shafick Adams (Water Research Commission), Danny Kuya (Rand Water) and Patrick Robertson (Manager: Water Infrastructure and Quality).

On 29 November 2017, a delegation from Rand Water in Johannesburg and the Water Research Commission paid a visit to Overstrand Municipality to learn more about adaptive water management and the successful implementation of groundwater.

As Preekstoel Water Treatment Works (WTW) is a first of its kind in South Africa, the Overstrand is setting the bar for other municipalities regarding harvest potential of groundwater (aquifer systems).

Hanré Blignaut, Deputy Director Engineering Planning spoke about challenges associated with water resource prioritisation and sustainability issues and also highlighted the issue of governance and institutional alignment.

Paul Lee of Umvoto, the contracted hydrogeological consultants to support the municipality in the development of its well-fields, shared information on challenges in managing the aquifer and well-fields with specific reference to an automated, high tech approach incorporating live data and fast response time.

The delegation was taken on a tour of the Preekstoel Water Treatment Works, and shown one of the municipality's key groundwater projects, i.e. the Gateway well field in Hermanus, by Patrick Robinson, Manager Water Infrastructure and Quality.

What makes the Preekstoel Plant so special?

The specific purpose of the Preekstoel plant is to remove the very high iron and manganese content from the borehole water before it is blended with the treated surface water from the De Bos Dam. Preekstoel has a unique bio-filtration system used to remove manganese and iron content found in ground water. This entails creating ideal conditions for specific iron and manganese consuming bacteria to grow in the filter media. The pH and dissolved oxygen content of the water are controlled to create the right conditions for the bacteria.

R44 (Clarence Drive) roadworks put on hold for festive season

The Department of Transport and Public Works (DTPW) has started periodic maintenance on the R44 between Rooi- Els and Gordon's Bay. It's anticipated that this R59 million project will be completed in mid-2018.

The road was last refurbished in 1985. However, because of severe road surface cracks and other surfacing failures, it now needs to be resurfaced. Ancillary elements such as stone walls, structures and side drains also require repairs. The project will include crack sealing, patching, asphalt overlay, as well as repairs to culverts and gabions.

Half-width construction (involving the closure of one lane) will take place in sections with stop/go controls to manage the flow of traffic, and motorists can expect a 15-minute waiting period at these points.

DTPW is aware that delays are frustrating, but some inconvenience during construction is inevitable. However, rest assured, road users will soon be able to enjoy a safer and more pleasant travelling experience on this road.

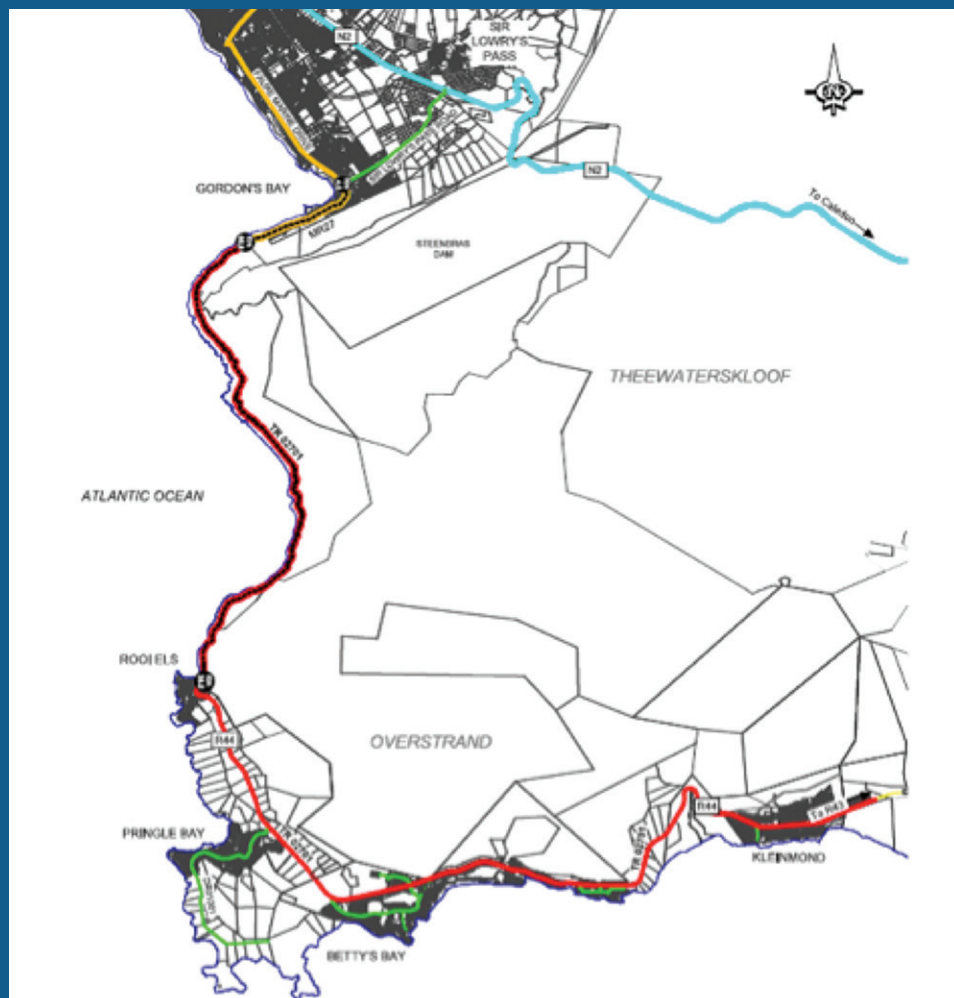
Holidaymakers will not be affected by roadworks on the R44 though, as the stop/go controls will be temporarily removed to accommodate the festive season traffic.

The road will be open to two-way traffic from 15 December 2017 to 14 January 2018.

The stop/go system will be reinstated on 15 January 2018.

Overstrand Traffic Chief, Rudi Fraser, has asked the public to remain vigilant when it comes to road safety and to maintain the speed limit, as traffic is expected to peak between 16 December 2017 and 2 January 2018.

• The high-quality road infrastructure that DTPW provides is an important component of a safe and effective transport system, and an enabler of economic and social development in the Western Cape.



The affected road is indicated in red

Plastic pellets nurdle *alert*



Overstrand Municipality has asked members of the public to be on the lookout for any nurdles that may be found along our coastline, and to report sightings to help track the movements of these potentially lethal little beads.

The tiny pellets of plastic - known as nurdles - were first reported on the Gansbaai shoreline on 26 October, barely a week after vast quantities initially washed up on Durban's shores. This, after two shipping containers housing 49 tons of nurdles pitched off a Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) vessel, that broke its moorings and collided with another ship in Durban Harbour. The containers and packaging ruptured, effectively ejecting hundreds of millions of nurdles into the sea.

According to Overstrand's Environmental Department, nurdles were spotted on Grotto and Voëlkop Beaches as well. "Thus far we have only had a few reports of them washing up on our coast. However, the shoreline is currently being monitored by not just South African Shark Conservancy (SASC), but also other Cape Whale Coast Hope Spot members that include Dyer Island Conservation Trust and the Municipality,"

confirmed Environmental Officer Tarron Dry.

"SASC does a weekly sampling check and is furthermore in communication with the Abalone farms in the area, asking them to check their filtration systems for any nurdles," he added.

The Problem

The pesky little critters never go away. Nurdles are harmful to animals which often mistake them for food. Not only are they toxic, but they cannot be digested - with a dire end-result of digestive blockages, starvation and eventual death.

Moreover, the worn-down micro-fragments block filter feeders and clog respiratory gills. They look just like fish eggs, which impacts birds as well as marine animals.

Recommended Disposal

Should you encounter these nurdles, please contact SASC on 028 312 3029 or Dyer Island Conservation Trust on 082 907 5607, and remember to mention exactly where they were found.

Awards to celebrate greening



Pictured are the Overstrand delegation who received the Greenest Municipality trophies and certificates on behalf of the municipality (left to right): Mike Bartman (Deputy Director: Community Services), Johan van Taak (Manager: Solid Waste), Lauren Rainbird (Horticulturist and Blue Flag coordinator) and Hanré Blignaut (Deputy Director: Engineering Planning).

Another feather in the cap for Overstrand Municipality, as it takes second place in the Western Cape 2017 Greenest Municipality Competition! The competition was won by Swartland Municipality (Malmesbury), while Hessequa Municipality (Riversdale) came third. Overstrand took top honours in the categories for Waste Management, Water Conservation & Water Management, as well as Biodiversity Management. Overstrand won the Waste Management category seven times in the last nine years and won the Water Management category four times in the last five years.

The Municipality was also recognised for innovative projects/practices in water (for the long-term operation and maintenance contract of the bulk water services to improve efficiencies) and waste, ('Rethink the Bag Plastic shopping bags') in the same competition. The Greenest Municipality Competition Awards were handed over by Western Cape Premier Helen Zille and Anton Bredell, Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, at a function at the Lord Charles Hotel in Somerset West on 27 November.

In his keynote address, MEC Bredell said: "The Greenest Municipality Competition Awards celebrate the constant hard work which makes our towns function, the passion of officials who carry out work against challenging odds, and the spirit of cooperation and efforts to use our resources wisely for the benefit of all our citizens."

Elements that were evaluated for the Greenest Municipality Competition include waste management, energy efficiency and conservation, biodiversity management, water management and conservation, air quality management, leadership, institutional arrangements and public participation. Along with scoring second place in the overall competition, Overstrand also secured prize money of R70 000. The competition is arranged by the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, and will henceforth be held every 2 years, with the next round set for 2019.



Showing their delight at having received the Certificate of Outstanding Achievement as the First Runner up Overall are (left to right) Overstrand's Municipal Manager Coenie Groenewald, Director of Infrastructure and Planning Stephen Müller and Executive Deputy Mayor Dudley Coetzee.

LEVEL 1 WATER RESTRICTIONS CONTINUES

With water restrictions implemented only in the Greater Hermanus area as from 1 November 2017, Overstrand is happy to report that residents are adhering to the call and we appreciate the efforts. Please continue to follow the restrictions below during the festive season:

- No watering of gardens, flower beds, sports fields, parks, lawns and other open spaces is allowed with municipal drinking water, except for:
 - One hour per day, before 09:00 or after 17:00, two days per week.
 - Even numbered street addresses ONLY on Wednesdays and Sundays.
 - Uneven numbered street addresses ONLY on Tuesdays and Saturdays.
- Washing of vehicles and watercraft with hosepipes is only allowed if fitted with automatic self-closing devices.
- No washing or hosing down of hard-surfaced or paved areas with municipal drinking water is allowed.

Automatic exemptions

- Watering of plants in nurseries, etc. for commercial purposes, is exempted from the water restrictions.
- If alternative water sources are utilised, consumers must ensure that they display the appropriate signage to this effect; clearly visible from a public thoroughfare.

Queries may be directed to Ms A Bayley on tel. 028 313 8972 or via e-mail to depdircomsec@overstrand.gov.za

BLUE FLAG FLYING

It's official - three Overstrand beaches have been awarded the right to wave the prestigious Blue Flag for the summer. Ceremonial events to herald in the Blue Flag season were held at Grotto, Hawston and Kleinmond beaches on Thursday, 30 November 2017. The hoisted flags will also serve as an indicator to both locals and visitors that the facilities concerned have met the relevant criteria that render them clean, safe and environmentally friendly.

In addition, the Blue Flag Programme is designed to raise environmental awareness and to educate the community about the need to care for our coastline. The programme furthermore stipulates that water samples are taken at regular intervals and that an independent laboratory should be responsible for testing all sea water samples. Further recognition was also given to Castle Beach in Pearly Beach which received Pilot Status.

Speaking at the flag ceremony in Grotto, Mayoral Committee Member for Community Services, and the Portfolio Chairman under which blue flags in Overstrand falls under, Cllr Andrew Komani, commended the stakeholders, partners and all contributors for ensuring Overstrand was able to attain the Blue Flag status another year running.

"We place a very high value on the Blue Flag from an economic and tourism marketing point. Tourists are undoubtedly drawn to our beaches because of what the Blue Flag represents," Komani added. We, therefore, urge all residents and visitors to use these beaches and its facilities responsibly. Stay mindful of the conservation of our marine and coastal environments and keep the impact of your presence to a minimum," he concluded.

Grotto's Blue Flag-status kicked in on 1 December and will remain effective till 31 March 2018. In the case of Hawston and Kleinmond, this status will come into effect on 15 December and remain in place until 15 January 2018. In South Africa, the programme is run by WESSA (the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa) in conjunction with participating municipal authorities. This year, 44 South African beaches were awarded Blue Flags, of which 28 received the title in the Western Cape. An additional 22 beaches across the three provinces have been given pilot status.

Blue Flag standards are only enforced at the participating beach's stated season, which varies from just one month of a year to the full 12 months.

Grotto beach has been part of this coveted award for 17 consecutive years, whilst Hawston and Kleinmond beaches have both enjoyed Blue Flag status for 12 years.

