

BLUE FLAG SEASON OPENS

A special blue flag hoisting ceremony was held on Friday, 30 November 2018 at Kleinmond's Main Beach, Hawston and Grotto Beach in Hermanus to mark the beginning of the Blue Flag season in the Overstrand.

Grotto's Blue Flag status kicked in on 1 December and remains effective till 31 March 2019. In the case of Hawston and Kleinmond, this status will come into effect on 14 December until 13 January 2019.

Castle Beach in Pearly Beach has been granted a Blue Flag pilot status for a second year which, if it prevails, may see Overstrand having four fully-fledged Blue Flag beaches by 2019. The pilot period for Castle Beach will be from 14 December 2018 to 13 January 2019.

The Blue Flag status is a well-respected international award, ensuring that each Blue Flag beach is not only beautiful and safe but also environmentally friendly, socially responsible and have accessible facilities for the disabled.

The accreditation is awarded for one season at a time and if conditions at the beach deteriorate, it can be withdrawn.

Obtaining blue flag status requires hard work and Cllr Grant Cohen applauded all stakeholders for the different roles they played in ensuring the retention of the status. "Moreover, it also provides the necessary assurance to our residents and visitors who will henceforth enjoy all the associated benefits," he added. "We see the importance of local tourism and we try to keep our facilities in good condition to welcome tourists to our shores during the summer seasons".

Cohen thanked Blue Flag beach co-ordinator, Lauren Rainbird, for hearing their pleas and for providing Kleinmond with their own beach friendly wheelchair which will ensure that everyone gets to experience the wonderful beach and sea, with the assistance of lifeguards.

In her opening address at Grotto Beach, Deputy Mayor Elnora Gillion, states that Blue Flag beaches are of great importance from an economic and tourism marketing point of view as tourists are drawn by Blue Flag beaches because of the quality and environmental standards that they represent.

"With tourism being one of the world's fastest growing industries and, more particularly, the highest revenue generator for the Overstrand we understand-

ably take extra pride and care of our coastal resources," Deputy Mayor Gillion said.

"We urge our communities to use beaches and its facilities responsibly and to understand the importance of promoting sustainable practice and conservation of our marine and coastal environments for the advantage of present and future generations," she added.

In South Africa, the Blue Flag programme is managed by WESSA (the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa) since 2001 and the programme offers many benefits: Improved tourism facilities, enhanced management of coastal ecosystems, educational awareness programmes and excellent water-quality standards and facilities.

Grotto has one of the most accessible beaches in the country for people living with disabilities where they can make use of the beach wheelchairs.

In addition, Grotto Beach holds the record of being awarded Blue Flag status for the most consecutive years in the country.

Special recognition was given to Richard Scholtz (Superintendent: Parks, Sportsfields and Beaches), who is retiring early next year. Richard has been involved with the Blue Flag programme since 2001.

Also note, dog owners making use of Overstrand's beaches that earned Blue-flag status must respect the Blue-flag requirements for this period.

Pet owners are also requested not to bury dog poop in the sand or throw it out to sea, but to pick it up and dispose thereof in an appropriate and hygienic manner.



BLUE FLAG IS UP Overstrand Municipality's Snr Superintendent: Law Enforcement Anthony Blankenberg at the flag hoisting ceremony at Grotto Beach Hermanus that was recently held to mark the official launch of the 2018 Blue Flag Season.

Boating rules and regulations on the Klein River - Safety First

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Safety is always important, and especially so with the festive season that is upon us. It is therefore time for the annual river rules reminder to promote a safe and enjoyable leisure

experience for all Klein River users.

The Klein River Association of Boating (KRAB), in collaboration with Overstrand Municipality, is tasked with the management of the Du Toit Street slipway, the issuing of annual and day permits, and the control of behaviour on the river within the municipal boundary and beyond, as far as the proclaimed bird sanctuary between the river and the lagoon.

Speed restrictions "DEAD SLOW - NO WAKE" will once again be in place from Stanford Village as far as the sharp left-hand bend under the power line at Walshacres and also around the sharp corner at Mid-delburg Farm as indicated on the map on the back of the permits and by signage on the water. This will be strictly enforced - as usual - and transgressions will result in the withdrawal of permits from transgressors.

Day permits, restricted to two per day over 15hp and

two per day under 15hp will once again be available from Stanford Info from 09:30 daily, and day permit boats must be removed from the river by 17:30.

A valid skipper's ticket and a boat Certificate of Fitness must be produced for all boats over 15hp in order to be issued with a day permit.

Inboard engine powered boats are not permitted due to the disruptive size of the wake generated by these craft. Additionally, Jet Skis are banned, as is the case on all inland waters in the Western Cape.

ALL watercraft, regardless of motive power, MUST keep to the right-hand side of the river at all times. This is nationally legislated, is vital to river users' safety and will be strictly enforced this season.

KRAB will be assisted in this regard by Overstrand's Law Enforcement patrol craft.

Please note that no power boats are permitted in the bird sanctuary between the river and the lagoon, no boats may access the lagoon via this area, and boats may also not access the river from the lagoon.

This year, due to the high water levels, ESKOM have issued a notice prohibiting the use of any

watercraft (yachts) with masts on the Klein River. This is due to the risk of contact with overhead power lines.

All power boats will have clearly visible orange, numbered 2019 stickers on both sides for easy identification in the event of complaints, which can be lodged with Clive Pearce on 079 766 4900, Adriaan Swart on 079 117 9174, or via the Incident Book held at Stanford Info. The KRAB Committee, as usual, welcomes input from river users, whether in the form of queries, comments or legitimate complaints, and we wish all our permits holders and river users a peaceful and pleasure-filled holiday season on the river.

For details on the precautions and rules applicable to river usage during the forthcoming season, please visit the Overstrand website www.overstrand.gov.za, click on Documents, Bylaws and Estuaries.

Note, too, that boating activities at Maanschynbaai and Prawn Flats will also be monitored, and that strict rules and safety regulations will be enforced there too.

DRINKING WATER QUALITY RESULTS

APRIL 2018 - SEPTEMBER 2018 DESCRIPTION OF TEST	UNIT	STANDARD AS PER SANS 0241	AVERAGE TEST RESULTS FOR POTABLE WATER TEST SAMPLES AT:								
			Buffelsrivier (Rooi Els, Pringlebaai & Betty's Bay)	Kleinmond	Hermanus	Stanford	Gansbaai	De Kelders	Pearly Beach	Baards- keerders- bos	Buffels- jagsbaai
pH	(pH) units	≥ 5 to ≤ 9,7	7,2	7,3	7,2	7,5	7,0	8,0	7,4	8,7	7,7
Electrical conductivity	mS/m	≤ 170	31,7	30,5	53,7	76,3	91,9	48,2	51,4	61,0	169,5
Turbidity	NTU	≤ 1	0,2	0,4	0,9	0,2	0,7	0,2	0,4	0,4	0,3
Colour	mg/l as Pt-Co	≤ 15	4,2	5,2	4,0	4,3	4,4	4,4	6,3	4,2	4,0
Iron	µg/l as Fe	≤ 300	24,2	24,7	136,7	-	70,5	-	46,9	80,7	24,0
Manganese	µg/l as Mn	≤ 100	-	-	33,9	-	-	-	-	31,4	-
Aluminium	µg/l as Al	≤ 300	72,7	122,7	74,5	-	170,7	-	22,9	-	-
E.coli	Count/100ml	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

WASTE WATER EFFLUENT QUALITY AT MUNICIPAL SCHEMES

The Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS) recommends that municipalities periodically publish information on the quality of drinking water supplied to consumers as well as final waste water effluent quality results.

Waste water effluent quality is measured against standards as set by DWS, which are classified as either General Standards, or Special Standards.

The table for waste water effluent quality available on the municipal website illustrates Overstrand Municipality's average effluent quality parameter measurements at the 5 treatment plants over the past six months. Samples are taken for analysis on a monthly basis by accredited laboratories.

Overstrand Municipality's final waste water effluent quality complies 91% overall.

When the final effluent quality does not comply with the General Standards, corrections are made at the treatment works. The final effluent quality is then re-tested against the General Standards for compliance.

WATER QUALITY AT MUNICIPAL WATER SCHEMES

The Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS) recommends that municipalities periodically publish information on the quality of drinking water supplied to consumers.

Water quality is measured against Code 0241 as set by the South African National Standards (SANS) for drinking water.

On the accompanying drinking water quality table the average scores attained by Overstrand Municipality's nine water treatment plants from April 2018 to September 2018 can be seen. Water samples are collected monthly by an accredited laboratory where different bacteriological, chemical and physical parameters are measured.

Overstrand Municipality's water quality is of an outstanding quality, with 100% of the average results complying with Code 0241 as set by the South African National Standards (SANS) for drinking water.

When the drinking water quality does not comply with SANS 0241, corrections are made at the water purification works and in the reticulation network if applicable. The drinking water quality is then retested against the SANS 0241 limits for compliance.

Kleinrivier FMU members taught to be fire safe



Members and workers of the Kleinrivier Fire Management Unit (FMU) underwent a Fireline safety refresher training course offered by Overstrand Fire and Disaster Management and Working on Fire (WOF) yesterday, 20 November 2018.

Angelo Aplon, Assistant Fire Chief: Operations and Training, says it is important to involve the community in different ways as part of their fire season awareness campaign. "We see our community as a whole becoming better prepared", he explained. "By creating and maintaining fire breaks and equipment, building capacity to be more pro-active, establish buffer zones (burned out blocks) and having a clear emergency management process that will help us with the critical first response in case of a veld fire," he concluded.



PROTECTION SERVICES BLESSED BEFORE SUMMER HOLIDAY BEGINS

Pictured here are (front left) Snr Fire Fighter Isaacs, Pastor Van Niekerk, Fire Fighters Stanley and Langetye. At the back are Fire Fighter Viviers, Assistant Chiefs Aplon and Rust.

Overstrand's uniformed officials gathered for a service celebration at Living Water Family Church in Hermanus on Sunday morning, 25 November 2018.

The specially held service was marked by the presence of Deputy Mayor Elnora Gillion, along with fellow Overstrand councillors. Also in attendance were firefighters, traffic and law enforcement officers, police officers, emergency medical workers, volunteers and all who assist us in times of need.

DEFINING THE ROLE OF THE POLICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT IN THE COMMUNITY

Overstrand Municipality recently hosted a very successful Ward Committee Summit with a 76% attendance rate of ward committee members.

The aim of the summit was to improve and strengthen relationships between the Municipality and members of ward committees.

Various discussions were held including possible changes to the legislative framework for the ward committees and public participation, housing and public safety aspects as well as social cohesion.

Deirdré Olivier from Fairbridges Wertheim Becker Attorneys gave a presentation on the different mandates of the South African Police Services (SAPS) and Municipal Law Enforcement.

She said the general public can be confused as they do not always know whose mandate it is to, for example, protect property or maintain law and order during protests.

This was evident after the recent protests and land invasions in Hermanus when high court action was instituted to force the Municipality to intervene by removing or preventing people from invading private land.

SAPS is under a legal obligation to take steps to assist the landowners to prevent and deal with land occupations in a lawful and constitutionally appropriate manner. They are also obliged to act if there is a threat to the safety of persons or there is criminal activity or a threat to law and order.

Where the Constitution assigns specific functions to a particular entity, as in this case SAPS, the powers and duties of other organs of state must be interpreted in such a manner as to respect the exclusivity of that assignment of functions.

"It is fundamental to the Constitutional order that the spheres of government may exercise no power or perform any function beyond that which is conferred upon them by law. Municipal Law Enforcement cannot get involved in land invasion issues. The control of private land or managing unlawful occupation of such land, protection of residents, prevention of criminal activity and maintaining law and order, for example during riots, are not functions that fall within the ambit of any of the local government matters," she stated.

It is not the municipality's role to prevent, combat and investigate crime, to maintain public order, protect and secure the inhabitants of the country and their property, and to uphold and enforce the law - that is the objects of the police service.

SAPS (and not the Municipality), is obliged and empowered to

- protect private property rights,
- maintain law and order during protests or land invasions or
- enforce court orders that the courts have mandated the Sherriff to carry out (assisted if necessary by SAPS).

So what are the powers of the municipality's law enforcement? The Municipality's law enforcement primary function is to uphold municipal by-laws and deal with contraventions thereof.

The objects of local government include:

- ensuring the provision of services in a sustainable manner
- Promoting social and economic development and
- promoting a safe and healthy environment.

The municipality's mandate does not include:

- the power to police private property
- policing in order to protect citizens' safety
- prevent or deal with criminal behaviour, or
- maintain law and order in the policing sense.