

JANUARY 2020

24-hour Emergency Fire Brigade 028 313 8000/8111
028 312 2400

Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

OVERSTRAND'S BLUE FLAGS FLYING PROUDLY!



BLUE FLAG HOISTED FOR THE 1ST TIME AT CASTLE BEACH: The Blue Flag was officially raised at Castle Beach on Friday 29 November 2019, giving this beach the nod to join an elite group of beaches. At the flag hoisting ceremony, Overstrand Executive Mayor Dudley Coetzee thanked all stakeholders for the different roles they played in securing another Blue Flag for Overstrand. Pictured here with the Mayor and Councillors Riana de Coning and Andrew Komani are Gansbaai Area Manager Kat Myburgh, Blue Flag coordinator Lauren Rainbird, Gansbaai Tourism Manager Glenda Kitley, law enforcement officer senior superintendent Tony Blankenberg, members of the Working for the Coast team, Gansbaai operational staff, members of the ward committee and various other interested parties.

The municipality is working closely with WESSA (Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa) to improve its beachfronts and coastline. Blue Flag status is an international accreditation and municipalities must apply annually to renew the status of their beaches. Blue Flag beaches must adhere to strict criteria, spanning over four areas of coastal management. The four areas are water quality, environmental education, environmental management and safety. This is the 19th time that Grotto Beach has received Blue Flag status, whilst Hawston and Kleinmond hoisted their flags for the 14th time.

The 1st of December 2019 marked the beginning of Blue Flag season in Overstrand with Grotto, Hawston, Kleinmond and Castle Beach being declared open for the summer.

As is to be expected, the flag-hoisting ceremony was attended by various stakeholders and officials who are all super proud that the municipality has retained this status as it is international confirmation that Overstrand is a quality holiday destination. Residents and holidaymakers alike can revel in the waves with the sure knowledge that they are safe and will have the best amenities at their disposal.

Blue Flag status will last till 15 January 2020 for Hawston and Kleinmond. In the case of Castle Beach in Pearly Beach who has received Blue Flag beach status for the first time ever, the Blue Flag will fly until 11 January 2020. Grotto's Blue Flag status will remain in effect until 31 March 2020.

Onrus Beach has been granted pilot Blue Flag status for the first time, and water sampling will be done between 1 December 2019 and 15 January 2020. In line with the above, life saving and security services will be fully operational between 09:00 and 18:00 on the above beaches.



At the hoisting of the Blue Flag in Kleinmond were (back l-r) lifesaver Rodrigo Majiet, law enforcement officer Reginald Smith, Kleinmond Area Manager Desmond Lakey, Ward 10 and Ward 9 Councillors Fanie Krige and Grant Cohen, Kleinmond Blue Flag supervisor Dencil Arendse and Councillor Charmaine Resandt. In front are lifesavers Niezaamoedien Trollip, Mlondi Jula, Nhlanhla Maphumulo, Raziel Henkeman and Riyaad Isaacs.

People living with disabilities can make use of beach wheelchairs at Grotto and Kleinmond.

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.

BANK ACCOUNT NUMBERS

Please make sure you use the correct one.

Legislation compels a municipality to renew its tender for banking services every five years. Nedbank was awarded this tender as it met all tender requirements, including banking fees. Depending on the type of payment made to the municipality, the following account numbers now apply:

Municipal accounts (rates and taxes)

→ Nedbank account number: 1190136899

This account is solely for the payment of monthly municipal accounts. The payment must include the 12-digit numerical account number as the reference. Overstrand Municipality appeals to all ratepayers to make sure they switch their payment details from the old Absa account to the new Nedbank account. Ratepayers who pay accounts via the internet are urged to update their beneficiary details and to use the new, correct bank account details when paying their monthly municipal account:

Nedbank account number: 1190136899

Type of account: Current account

Universal branch code: 198765

Branch: Inland Garden Route

SWIFT code: NEDSZAJJ

Overstrand traffic fines

→ Nedbank account number: 1190137186

This account is solely for the payment of Overstrand Municipality traffic fines and the payment must include the 10- to 16-digit alpha-numerical reference number indicated on the fine. Please note that the "I" must not be included in the reference number.

Licence renewals/ building plans / new connections, etc.

→ Nedbank account number: 1190136678

This is Overstrand Municipality's primary account and is for the payment of fees such as licence renewals, building plans, new water and electricity connections, boat launching, town planning, etc. Clients are requested to obtain a reference number from the municipality before depositing money in these instances.

Onrus Caravan Park

→ Nedbank account number: 1190137674

This account is solely for the payment of camping fees for the Onrus Caravan Park, and the payment reference must include the booking number.



NEDBANK

DOGS AND BEACHES

At the request of Executive Mayor Dudley Coetzee, the Overstrand Municipality, facilitated by Nature's Valley Trust, will be conducting a six-month pilot study in 2020 where beaches will be zoned in order to provide residents, companion animals and wildlife space to enjoy our sandy coastline responsibly.

DOG ZONES COMING SOON

DOG WALKING ON OVERSTRAND BEACHES



The trial will be conducted on beaches in Hermanus, Gansbaai and Kleinmond, and each of these beaches will have a **GREEN** (off-leash), **ORANGE** (on-leash) and **RED** (no dogs) zone. Note, though, that dogs must be under the control of their owner at all times irrespective of the zone, and poop must be removed from the beach.

The first round of discussions with relevant stakeholders relating to the proposed trial has already commenced, and a public workshop will be held during the second half of January 2020 to introduce the concept. Thereafter, the final proposal will be open for public comment before being tabled in Council for consideration. Keep an eye on the local press for more information in this regard.

Changes to beach regulations for the trial period will be communicated on various platforms, and new signage and maps will be provided to make the transition smooth and stress-free.

For the time being, though, dogs must still be kept on leashes on all beaches. Note, too, that no dogs are allowed on Grotto, Hawston, Castle and Kleinmond Beach whilst the Blue Flag is flying.

Pet owners are also requested not to bury dog poop in the sand or throw it out to sea: Clean up after your dog and make use of poop bags which are to be disposed of in the correct bin.

DOGS AND SHOREBIRDS

Shorebirds are severely impacted by the presence of dogs on beaches: In some areas, breeding success is as low as 10%. This is not because birds may be attacked or injured by dogs but rather because summer temperatures can heat up eggs to a point where egg death occurs within five minutes.

During summer, shorebirds incubate to keep their eggs cool. Thus, if incubating parents sitting on eggs are frequently disturbed, it can be fatal in mere minutes.

DOG WALKING IN FERNKLOOF

Recently, it was reported that dogs were spotted walking off-lead at the Fernkloof Nature Reserve visitor centre.

Note that although dogs are allowed on the Blue Route, as well as in the botanical garden, they must be kept on leads at all times.

Please make sure to keep dogs on designated trails, respect the rules, and be considerate of other dog owners and nature reserve users by keeping dogs on-leash and under control at all times. Dogs are also welcome on the Cliff Path if leashed. Cliff Path brochures are available from the visitors' centre in the reserve.

RECYCLING IN OVERSTRAND

Where we stand and an update on the way forward

The municipality has received numerous questions from residents regarding the closure of Walker Bay Recycling and the lack of recycling facilities.

These are the facts:

Overstrand Municipality has been unable to offer any sort of assistance to Walker Bay Recycling due to the fact that they are a private company operating from private property and do not have any contract or agreement with the municipality for the recycling of waste. Walker Bay Recycling was informed at our very first meeting with them that we are unable to offer any sort of support due to legislative constraints. They would have to wait until the new municipal Material Recovery Facility (MRF) has been constructed, at which time they can then tender - along with everyone else - for the operation of the facility, should they wish to enter into a recycling contract with the Overstrand Municipality. We are fully aware that the drop in the rate per ton paid for recyclables now has a major effect on the financial viability of waste recyclers in South Africa in general. Especially the paper industry is in a very bad place at the moment, as the market value of K4 (cardboard) illustrates:

Beginning of the year	± R1 500/ton
Beginning November 2019	± R400/ton
Mid-November 2019	± R200/ton
Currently	± R100/ton

At the Western Cape Recycling Action Group meeting held in November 2019 in Kraaifontein, attendees were informed that 35 small recycling contractors were on the brink of closing down due to unfavourable market conditions. In addition, Mpact Recycling announced that they would stop recycling polyethylene terephthalate (PET) at their Wadeville plant.

Progress with new Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), public drop-off and garden waste chipping area

The MRF and drop-off facilities will be situated in Schulphoek Road, next to the Hermanus sewerage treatment works, and the chipping facility will be situated next to law enforcement's premises in Hemel-en-Aarde along the Camphill Road.

Overstrand joins UNESCO Creative Cities Network

Hermanus and its neighbouring villages were overjoyed to be included as the first South African destination to join the UNESCO Creative Cities Network as a City of Gastronomy. The announcement made on 30 October 2019 in Paris means Overstrand is only the third South African destination, after Cape Town and Durban, to join this network. This fantastic achievement turns South Africa's scenic ocean drive from Rooi Els to Kleinmond and onward to Hermanus, Stanford and Gansbaai into a culinary coastline with many small producers, farmers, wineries, breweries, farm stalls and eateries that hold the promise of lots of flavours to be savoured along the journey.

On learning the good news, Overstrand Municipality's Executive Mayor Dudley Coetzee said, "we are overjoyed with the achievement that rewards the work of so many individuals and businesses in mapping the culinary experience offered by the Overstrand, or Cape Whale Coast as we are known".

Discussions regarding the UNESCO submission commenced during the 2019 Indaba, followed by some serious conversations in Hermanus afterwards. Darryl David, celebrated author and lecturer, spearheaded the submission. This is a win for the fishmongers, pancake bakers, winemakers, beer brewers, distillers, gourmards, farmers, coffee roasters, farm-stall keepers, fruit pickers and stirrers of the pots.

It also showcases collaboration between the government and the private sector, since political buy-in as well as a demonstration of how well local businesses are delivering on the culinary experience was needed.

"Our restaurants' approach to sourcing products via sustainable food programmes such as WWF's Abalobi initiative has played a part in making this happen," said Frieda Lloyd, Cape Whale Coast Tourism Manager. According to her, this type of accolade attests to how regions and towns can reposition themselves by keeping abreast of global trends. "We commend the Cape Whale Coast team for extending the offering of the Cape Overberg to lure and entice a broader audience from our local and international markets," said Tim Harris, CEO of Wesgro. "Being recognised by UNESCO is a fantastic achievement and will further assist in showcasing the lesser-known nuggets of this region."

This international recognition acknowledges the flavour spectrum on offer and provides an opportunity to develop the offerings of the enterprising hospitality, farming and fishing community of the Cape Whale Coast further.



On Sunday 19 January, world-renowned pianist GUSTAVO ROMERO from the USA will perform an all-Beethoven concert at 15:30 in the Civic Auditorium in Hermanus. Tickets are R150 and available from the Tourism Office on 028 312 2629. For enquiries, call René du Plooy on 082 940 4238.



Tender preparation for the construction of the facilities is almost complete, and the tender will be advertised in January 2020. It is envisaged that construction should be completed by December 2020, if no unforeseen delays occur. Only once the MRF facility is operational will the municipality be in a position to resume the supply and collection of clear bags and delivery of such to the new MRF operator.

Comments on meetings and interactions with Walker Bay Recycling (WBR)

During the course of the year, numerous meetings have been held with WBR at which the following issues were discussed:

- The construction of the new municipal MRF and the proposed tender that will follow for an operator of this facility;
- The reasons why a short-term tender could not be invited for the collection and recycling of the clear bags;
- Access to municipal clear bags (residential recycling waste) and why the municipality cannot collect and deliver recyclables to WBR as well as why they cannot collect from the curb side in terms of the waste bylaw;
- The fact that the municipality cannot offer WBR any financial assistance or incentive for recycling the waste as Overstrand has no contract with them to provide the service on behalf of the municipality.

The representatives of WBR appeared to have a good understanding of the municipality's point of view during all deliberations between the parties.

Reduce your carbon footprint

Regardless of all the negative comments and complaints, residents can rest assured that Overstrand Municipality remains committed to the recycling process which is an effective way to save natural resources and to lower waste products sent to landfill sites. We appeal to residents to think carefully before simply throwing items into the rubbish bin. Please reduce and re-use household waste and try to leave as small a carbon footprint as possible, even though all waste collected is being dropped off at the Karwyderskraal landfill site.

Where baboons are not an issue, each household is allowed to place one wheeled bin or four black bags with domestic refuse on the sidewalk for removal. Containers must be secured with baboon-proof locking devices in all areas identified by the municipality as problem-animal areas. No refuse bags may be left on pavements in baboon-problem areas.