

NOVEMBER 2023

Bulletin

#overstrand4all

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

#C4ourself

STORM DAMAGE UPDATE: WATER SITUATION IN GREATER HERMANUS LIKELY TO REMAIN PRECARIOUS TILL MID-DECEMBER

The Level 9 storm that hit the Overstrand on the weekend of 23 September 2023 resulted in the most severe flooding in living history, with devastating consequences.

The water reticulation system in Hermanus, where 120 mm rain fell within the space of 24 hours, was especially hard hit.

Overstrand's Executive Mayor Dr Annelie Rabie gave her assurances that this matter is being addressed as a matter of urgency but urged all residents to remain mindful of their water consumption: "The less you use, the more we will be able to keep everyone supplied."

"Water restrictions in Greater Hermanus will remain effective," she said, "but no punitive water consumption tariffs will be implemented for the time being".

She also pointed out that even though water purification works remain under stress, tap water still meets the national quality standards for drinking water.



THE SITUATION IN HERMANUS AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS

BULK WATER SUPPLY & WATER TREATMENT WORKS

- All reservoirs have been filled and the current daily demand is being met.
- Despite the De Bos Dam still overflowing, work to permanently fix the De Bos Dam pipeline is underway.
- Due to the extremely high turbidity of raw water, the Preekstoel Water Treatment Works remains volatile.

If all goes according to plan, work to repair pipelines and to get purification processes back to normal ought to be completed by mid-December, in time for the peak season.

ROADS AND ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

- Repairs to the flood-damaged N2 at Bot River are underway and, even though a stop-go situation is likely to apply, it ought to be reopened to traffic by mid-December.
- Locally, the focus is on restoring the R320 (Hemel-en-Aarde) since it impacts the livelihoods of the farming community.
- Likewise, the R43 at the Kleinmond turnoff are being repaired as a matter of urgency since, in the interim, this road will serve as the main route to deliver food and medical supplies to Greater Hermanus.

OVERBERG LEARNERS STATE THEIR CASE IN FAVOUR OF MUSEUMS

This year, the honour to host the English speech contest for Grade 10 and 11 learners with the topic "Museums and the important role they play in our communities" in the Overberg region befell the Whale Museum in Hermanus.

This contest, organised by the Western Cape Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport, is first decided on a regional level where after the winners from each region compete in a province-wide gala event.

Overall, Cllr Ronald Nutt, who facilitated the event, found the deliveries by the learners representing schools from Bredasdorp, Swellendam, Caledon, Genadendal and Hermanus to be "animated and well-researched".

The host Brendell Adams (Whale Museum) and the facilitator (Cllr. Ronald Nutt) were highly impressed with the deliveries of the Grade 10 and 11 learners from the Overberg region who partook in the Annual Museums Speech Contest.



Zelnita Samuels (representing Swartberg Secondary in Caledon) came out tops, with Alexa Collins (Curro Hermanus) and Matthys Lourens (Swellendam High) in second and third place respectively.



BABOONS + UNSECURED REFUSE = PROBLEM



Overstrand's area managers and eco-rangers/baboon monitors need your assistance to help keep them informed of baboon troops' whereabouts and what they are up to.

Two manned hotlines have been instituted for this purpose: **072 028 0008** for the Eastern Region (Hermanus/Voëlklip); and **069 1515 962** for the Western Region (Kleinmond, Betty's Bay and Pringle Bay).

You can also call these hotlines to request urgent assistance if your property or person is being threatened by a baboon.

In essence, we'd like you to keep us posted on where the baboon troops are in your area. Also, please let us know the minute they move into town, are busy raiding a house and/or are posing a threat to the occupants.

We would also appreciate it if you could inform us of any injured baboon you have spotted as well as when you witness baboons being fed and/or being harmed.

The hotline operators will direct your call to the relevant area manager as well the eco-rangers/baboon monitors in your area without delay.

CALL THE BABOON HOTLINE TO AID OUR EARLY-WARNING SYSTEM

ESSENTIAL DETAILS REQUIRED:

When you call the baboon hotline, you will need to:

- State your name and address;
- Provide the specific address where you saw the baboon/s last;
- Tell us what they were up to (e.g. foraging on the side of the road / raiding a bin / entering a garden / home); and
- In instances where they entered a residence, tell us whether there are people at home and how the baboons managed to gain access.

ADDITIONAL USEFUL INFORMATION:

It would also be most useful if you could tell us:

- In the case of a troop, their approximate number;
- In the case of an individual, the sex of the animal; and
- Whether you noted any collar or ear tag on a baboon.

REPORTING INJURIES TO AND/OR FEEDING/HARMING OF BABOONS:

When reporting an injury:

Try to assess whether the baboon is an adult or a juvenile, what body part has been injured and whether the baboon's behaviour appears to be normal.

When reporting a feeding/harming incident:

Please be sure to report when and where (time/date/place) the incident occurred. Since matters such as these will be referred to CapeNature for further investigation, it would be most helpful if you could provide "supporting evidence" in the form of videos/pictures of the incident and the people involved as well as details of the vehicle/s present at the time.

BEWARE! WASHED-UP SHELLFISH NOT FIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION!



Recent upwelling resulted in baby abalone washing ashore all along the coast

The "upwelling" recently experienced along Overstrand's coastline resulted in the likes of baby abalone and alikreukel washing ashore in huge numbers.

As enticing as harvesting washed-up shellfish may be, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) issued a serious warning that consuming any of these could pose a serious health risk.

An "upwelling" is a natural phenomenon that occurs when strong winds push warm surface water away from the shore, allowing cold, nutrient-rich water from the bottom of the ocean to rise up.

The resultant dislodging of plankton and other marine organisms (i.e. small prey) will, inevitably, attract larger predators.

Of concern here is that no-one can say for sure whether the dislodged "small prey" had been exposed to harmful toxins/diseases, or not.

Consequently, when during a storm surge, larger predators the likes of abalone and alikreukel that feed on marine organisms wash ashore, they should be regarded as not fit for human consumption until extensive testing proves otherwise.

In general, the DFFE recommends that consumers should only buy seafood from reputable sources that abide by the law and adhere to sustainable fishing practices.

To verify that the product you intend to buy meet these criteria, check whether it has been certified as "sustainable" and "environmentally friendly".

**Help prevent illegal harvesting of seafood:
Call 0800 205 005 to report any sightings.**

PARACYCLE TOUR HERALDS THE START OF GRUELLING SEA-BATTICAL JOURNEY



Overstrand Deputy Mayor, Lindile Ntsabo, the Hermanus Whale Crier and Cape Whale Coast Tourism Manager Frieda Lloyd, as well as Suzanne Clark of Pat's Place, Eloise Henkel and Craig Dawtrey of Engel & Völkers were at Gearing's Point to welcome team Sea-Battical's Vusi Marenene, Neels Terblance and Pieter Marais.

Hand cyclist Vusi Marenene and his able-bodied co-cyclists, Neels Terblance and Pieter Marais, were delighted at the hearty welcome that awaited them at Gearing's Point when their 327 km-long paracycle tour from Mossel Bay to Hermanus drew to an end.

"Of course I am relieved that the aches and pains endured during the past five days are a thing of the past, but mostly the huge sense of satisfaction overrides all else," Vusi said.

Vusi, a professional cyclist, was hit by a bakkie in February 2022 and the accident left him wheelchair-bound.

The tour was intended to create awareness of paracycling and to raise funds so that hand cycling can be promoted on an international level.

"As a spin-off," Vusi added, "it is most rewarding when, at the sight of a para-athlete racing, able-bodied people decide to get off the couch and start exercising because they realise they have no real excuse not to get out there and get healthy".

The tour set off from Mossel Bay for a very good reason: Neels, a former Hermanus resident now residing in Oudtshoorn, plans on becoming the first person to circumnavigate the African continent (a distance of some 28 000 km) in a specially designed human-powered pedal boat.

The final leg of the Sea-Battical Journey will set off from Mossel Bay late-December 2024 and will take about two years to complete.

Other than aiming to be recognised in the Guinness Book of Records, the intention is to raise funds for the millions of malnourished children the world over and for the protection of the critically endangered Vaquita porpoise.

In preparation for this arduous journey, Neels (on a mountain bike) and Vusi (on a hand cycle) are undertaking a rigorous cycling regimen covering 20 000 kilometres on the road.

"Vusi's indomitable spirit, his physical limitations despite, is so inspiring and will help to keep me motivated and focused," Neels said.

"I am driven by an innate sense of curiosity and a desire to live life to the fullest. One should approach life as an adventure and constantly seek new experiences and opportunities to grow and evolve: We have only one chance to live life, and it should be lived to its fullest potential."

Anyone who wishes to pledge funds or would like to keep track of the journey can visit <https://sea-battical.co.za>.