

OCTOBER 2012

Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

ANGELA WOMAN OF THE YEAR; WILFRED WINS ENVIRONMENT TROPHY ACHIEVERS RECEIVE RECOGNITION

Angela Heslop, the energetic ex-nurse who for many years has worked hard

Award at the Night of Excellence that was held in Hermanus on Wednesday 22 August.

Wilfred Chivell was awarded the Mayor's Trophy for Environmental Conservation.

Altogether 25 individuals and institutions received awards. (Also see the other reports in this issue.)

This was the fourth consecutive year that the Night of Excellence was held. Lustre was added to the proceedings with performances by the Pro Musica Choir, Cassia Mildner on the piano, and a classical trio consisting of Maike Skein (cello), Hein Attwood (violin) and Annemarie Rautenbach (piano).

Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie said that a night like this is not only about recognition but also about trying to determine the values that form our community and what we should strive for. According to her it is easy to say that our environment

and natural beauty are the greatest assets of our area, but few do anything to protect it and preserve it for our descendants. The winner of the Mayor's Trophy for Environmental Conservation, Wilfred Chivell, has shown how words can be transformed into deeds and that sustainable economic value can be obtained from the environment.

Caring for others was a strong theme of the evening. We are particularly inclined to forget about older people. We must remember that we are also growing older and will appreciate it when someone brightens our day with a friendly word and a flower.

We should also remember that we can influence the future by investing in our children. Therefore it is worth ensuring that the foundations in our nursery schools and our crèches are well-laid. When our children grow older we must make sure that there are enough other distractions so that they do not seek escape in liquor and drugs.

The Mayor said that she would leave the event with new hope because she



Angela Heslop and Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie

had once again seen that with the required passion and love, mountains can be moved. Even if you do not save a whole nation you can, with sustained effort, make a difference in someone else's life.



Wilfred Chivell and Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie

in many fields to make a better place of Hermanus, received Overstrand Municipality's Woman of the Year

award.

WOMEN OF THE YEAR

"People who make things happen - those who make a difference by sprinkling hope and encouragement which in turn make the wheels of life turn - are usually unsung heroes: the ones who do not mind operating backstage, out of the spotlight, quietly, without making a fuss or having a fuss made of them. Nevertheless, the reward of recognition and acknowledgement is one normally welcomed by all living beings and hopefully make the recipients smile!"

With these words Cllr Lisel Krige introduced the finalists for the Women of the Year 2012 Award, after which Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie presented each with a certificate of appreciation.

The overall winner was **Angela Heslop**, who received this accolade for using her talents and training to make an unpaid career of working for the community at a very high level for many years. Among



Sister JM Beukes, Angela Heslop, Jenny Sauls, Sebina Jantjies, Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie, Ilze Smith, Debbie Hull and Sister Loryna Wentzel.

others, she's worked with Hermanus Red Cross, the Hermanus Provincial Health Facility Board, Friends of the Hermanus Hospital, the Enlighten Education Trust, Hermanus History Society and the Camphill Farm community.

The other nominees were:

Debbie Hull, nominated for her passion and efforts as community worker, facilitator, administrator, and nutritionist at Mthimkhulu Village

in Kleinmond, in helping to build a community free of drug and alcohol abuse;

Ilze Smith, who was nominated for her work at the Hermanus Animal Welfare Society where she progressed in just two years from volunteer worker to leading the organisation - all aside from her full-time involvement in preschool tuition;

Jenny Sauls, who established her own non-profit organisation to ensure

continued service at the Lombardi Centre for the Aged when financial constraints threatened it with closure;

Maatjie Wændrag, who is using her knowledge and skills with regard to nursery school management to promote early childhood care facilities in previously disadvantaged communities;

Sebina Jantjies, who, as a volunteer caretaker, plays a major role in the Hawston community;

Sister J.M. Beukes, who took charge of a retirement centre right from the start and turned it into a centre that is not only looking after its own patients but also provides training to staff members of similar facilities in the Overberg; and

Sister Loryna Wentzel, an award-winning and highly esteemed nursing practitioner, who has applied her knowledge, skills, compassion and empathy to serve the frail at Onrus Manor as nursing manager.

OVERSTRAND HAS SOME OF THE BEST TALENT IN THE COUNTRY

"The Overstrand Municipality is in the enviable position of having some of the country's most talented persons either residing here or having close ties with the area," said Alderman Pieter Scholtz, Deputy Mayor, when announcing the category nominations. He added that because of their relationship with the area they not only promote the image of the Overstrand but many of them voluntarily invest of their time, money and energy in the community.

The recipients of Certificates of Excellence were:

Anna Spaarwater and **Corrie Botha** for their many years of involvement with the Hermanus Times Kalfiefee; Anna, for her handling of the actors and singers and her conscientious management of the office, and Corrie who sees to the festival's finances.

Prof Derrick Dickens, who was honoured not only for the important role he plays in the tourism industry but also for working relentlessly to make his community and the Greater

Hermanus a better place for all, serving on a ward committee and on the Overstrand Municipal Advisory Forum, Neighbourhood Watch, the Community Police Forum and the District Police Forum. He chairs the Hermanus Provincial Hospital Facility Board and serves on the Kalfiefee committee, where he ensures that one of the great loves of his life, art, is given its fair share.

The management and staff of the Gerimed Clinic for the frail elderly in Kleinmond, who were honoured for their efficient execution of the centre's emergency evacuation plan when a fatal fire broke out in a wing of the clinic in June. More than 30 occupants were taken to safety, some in their beds. The victims, most of whom lost everything, were afterwards assisted in finding alternative accommodation and resuming their normal life's routines.

Lindile Ntsabo, for his outstanding community development work in Zwelihle, where he is involved in the Zwelihle recycle workshop, Overstrand



Angela Heslop (Friends of the Hermanus Hospital), Russell Witthuhn, Lindile Ntsabo, Louis van Heerden, Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie, Prof Derrick Dickens, Carel Pieterse (Gerimed Clinic) and Willie Loedolf.

Township gospel events, youth business development and the Friends of Qhayiya secondary school. By doing so he inspires young and old and builds bridges between government and non-government institutions and the general public.

Louis van Heerden, for his contribution as councillor to promote the performing arts in the Overstrand. He motivated the purchase of a grand piano for the auditorium, established the community-based Overstrand Arts/Kunste and organised more than 50 music and drama performances. The proceeds are used, inter alia, to develop young, local talent and to provide exposure to classical music.

The Pro Musica Choir, under the baton of Annemarie Rautenbach, which was formed 30 years ago and has grown from an informal vocal group into a choir that is recognised internationally. Not only did they win the trophy for the best adult choir at the recent Stellenbosch Eisteddfod but over the years they have donated more than R500 000 of their earnings

to charity.

Russell Witthuhn from Kleinmond, an electronics and software engineer and inventor, for his innovations in the gathering of data on weather conditions for the benefit of pilots, reduction of noise and vibration levels in wind turbines, and promotion of green technology in general.

Willie Loedolf, for his contribution to developing a systematic modus operandi for the Hermanus Hacking Group, design of purpose-made equipment, providing training for workers and, last but not least, photographically documenting the activities of the group.

The Friends of the Hermanus Hospital, a non-profit organisation that has been in action since June 2000, which was honoured for assisting the provincial hospital to cope with the needs of the fast-growing population of the Overstrand. Over the past 10 years, the Friends have contributed funds and volunteer work valued at an estimated one million rand.

GREEN CHAMPIONS GIVEN THEIR DUES

"The fact that the Mayor offers a special annual award for excellence in the broad field of the environment is confirmation of how central the natural environment is to the economy of this region." These were the words of Dr Anina Lee, communications manager of Whale Coast Conservation, under whose banner the competition was run and adjudicated.

She added that the Mayor's Environment Trophy acknowledges the enormous economic value of the natural environment - the scenic beauty, the creatures of the sea, the creatures of the land and the fynbos paradise around us - as well as the tireless work done by many individuals and organisations, big and small, to conserve these assets.

Seven nominations were received for this year's competition. They were:

Cuan McGeorge, for his dedicated involvement with the penguin colony at Stony Point in Betty's Bay. His project involves removing alien vegetation; installing artificial nests; treating ill and injured birds; gaining expertise through SANCCOB courses; and most importantly, impeccable public relations and information sessions with nearby property owners.

Tygerberg Bird Club, for a long term project to monitor water bird numbers on the Bot River vlei and Kleinmond



Cuan McGeorge, Roydon Phibus (Wetlands Committee of Fernkloof Estate and Golf Course), Bill Harling (Walker Bay Nursery), Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie, Mariana Delpoit (Tygerberg Bird Club), Tamzyn Zweig (SA Shark Conservancy), Karen Laubsher (Camphill Farm Community) and Wilfred Chivell.

estuary. Data collected, together with other scientific information, has been used in compiling management plans for both areas. With the exception of a few counters from Kleinmond, club members have to travel from Cape Town to perform these counts.

Walker Bay Nursery, for their contribution to greening projects, food gardens and conservation projects by means of advice, donations of trees, plants and vegetable seedlings, as well as their educational role.

Camphill Farm Community, whose invasive alien vegetation eradication and control programme was vital to the rehabilitation of the catchment and

riverbank areas, springs and pastures, and resulted in Porcupine Spruit and the spring in Spring Forest flowing again.

The South African Shark Conservancy, whose Marine Ecology Research Programme is dedicated to promoting scientific understanding, conservation and management of Walker Bay's marine resources. Key projects include monitoring of whales, seabirds, and apex predators, as well as rocky shores and reef ecology.

The Wetlands Committee of the Fernkloof Estate and Golf Course, for excellence in the execution of the environmental conditions attached

to the government approval of the Fernkloof development. This includes: restoration of extensive fynbos wetlands on Hermanus Golf Course; establishment and expansion of ecological corridors within the urban area; and ecologically-sensitive management of the golf course to maximise biodiversity. The project is a model of sustainable development.

The winner was **Wilfred Chivell** who, through his companies **Marine Dynamics Shark Tours (MD)**, **Dyer Island Cruises (DIC)**, and **Dyer Island Conservation Trust (DICT)**, has taken commercial tourism to a new level of responsibility. MD and DIC are leaders in conservation, using the time spent at sea to benefit the understanding of the marine environment.

The companies initiated two conferences on penguins, and were instrumental in subsequent lobbying for re-evaluation of the status of penguins from "vulnerable species" to "endangered".

Chivell is also involved in all aspects of animal rescue in the area. He is changing the way the shark cage diving industry is viewed, and his business model not only stimulates ethical tourism and creates employment, but protects our marine heritage.