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2009

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Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

A WORLD FIRST FOR GANSBAAI

NEW TECHNOLOGY SAVES SPACE AND MONEY

The technology being employed at the recently upgraded sewerage purification plant in Gansbaai is attracting a lot of attention, both on international and academic front.

The Executive Mayor, Mr Theo Beyleveldt, commissioned the plant on 14 April 2009 during an event which, amongst others, was attended by the consul-general for the Netherlands in Cape Town, Ms Catharina Verkerk.

This is the first time the new "Nereda" technology, which has been developed in the Netherlands, will be utilised fully. Two post-graduate students, one from Stellenbosch and one from the Delft University of Technology, will continue to study the implementation of the system.

The Nereda system offers great cost benefits for both the development of the infrastructure for and the operation of the plant. The decomposition process of the sewerage is ten times faster than that of conventional systems and since the sludge that is left behind is thicker, a smaller area is required to treat it.

Since there is some risk involved in utilising technology that has not yet been tested and utilised to its fullest capacity outside of Europe, Overstrand Municipality opted to harness a combination of

the old and the new, said Mr Stephen Muller, the municipality's Infrastructure Director.

The plant, therefore, consists of a conventional reactor that can treat 2MI of sewerage per day and a Nereda system that can dispose of 4,5MI per day. With this increased capacity, it is envisaged that the plant will be sufficient to satisfy Gansbaai's needs till well after 2020.

The purified water will be used to irrigate the adjacent sports complex and a pipeline is soon to be constructed to service Gansbaai's golf course as well as the sports grounds in the Blompark residential area.

The Nereda system is highly automated, and a programmable logic controller is connected via a modem to the parent company DHV in the Netherlands to ensure effective monitoring.

The project has been executed under the guidance of Pieter Jordaan of SSI, the South African subsidiary of DHV, and he was assisted by local engineers, amongst others. Work commenced in September last year and amounted to a total of R26,6 million. This included the costs to sink fourteen boreholes to monitor the groundwater.



BEAUTIES AND THE BEACH

Grotto Beach was the centre of attraction, or shall we say attractiveness, on Friday 8 May 2009 when several of this year's Miss Earth finalists gathered there for a Beach Clean-up, arranged by local aspirant, Maxzell Lerm. They were well supported by learners from high and primary schools in Hermanus. Mayor Theo Beyleveldt sent them off on their mission after a short inspirational talk in which he emphasised the importance of Blue Flag beaches. Maxzell is one of the favourites to win the beauty contest as she worked hard on her campaign to make locals aware of the competition and urged them to become involved in pro-Earth causes, such as recycling and the planting of trees. She is a writer and illustrator of children's books and involved with the brightening up of the cancer ward at the Tygerberg Children's Hospital. The Miss Earth South Africa contest is totally focused on the environment. The winner will be announced on Saturday 6 June, the day after World Environmental Day.

CHANGES IN MAYORAL COMMITTEE

The recently held national and provincial elections had an effect on the Overstrand Municipality in that one of its full-time councillors and member of the Mayoral Committee was elected to the Western Cape Legislature.

Councillor Mike Walters officially became a member of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament on 29 April.

During the last council meeting attended by Councillor Walters on Wednesday 29 March, the Mayor thanked him for the sustained excellent service which he provided in a calm and reasoned way as chairman of the portfolio committee for Infrastructure,



Pieter Scholtz



Ben Solomon

Economic Development and Planning of the Municipality.

Since then two changes have been made to the Mayoral Committee.

Councillor Pieter Scholtz who up to now has managed the portfolio Finance and Management Services will in future be responsible for Infrastructure, Economic Development and Planning. Councillor Ben Solomon, who has had a long career in banking, has been appointed full-time councillor and he will take charge of Finance and Management Services.

The vacancy in Ward 3 caused by the departure of Councillor Walters will be filled after a by-election to be held on 24 June 2009. The Independent Electoral Commission will shortly announce the time framework for the by-election.

IF YOU CAN'T PAY, MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TIMEOUSLY

Overstrand is part of the country's weal and woe. Many of our residents also struggle in these times of economic recession.

If you experience problems to meet your financial obligations towards the municipality, you must come and see us without delay to make the necessary arrangements. Failure to pay your account will lead to the handing over of your account to Debtback, Overstrand Municipality's debt collector.

The result will be the suspension of services and incurring additional costs which could have been avoided.

OLEDA'S FIRST PROJECT ON THE ROAD

The Overstrand Local Economic Development Agency has recently launched its first pilot project, called the Hermanus Peditaxi Bicycle Taxi Project. The aim of this project is to empower unemployed persons to become independent drivers/operators. The independent driver/operator will provide an environmentally-friendly taxi service to locals and tourists.

The drivers/operators were instructed in the history of Hermanus and important places to visit. The area of operation is mainly in town and to the new harbour precinct. The peditaxi-cabs can also be used as rolling billboards for local advertisers. So, next time when you visit the CBD area, contact Arthur (071 936 8644) our first



independent peditaxi driver/operator.

For further information, feel free to contact our office at 087 808 1540.

SIDEWALKS ARE FOR WALKERS

Although municipal regulations make allowances for trees, shrubs and plants to adorn sidewalks, these adornments should not encumber pedestrian access.

Instances where such irregular practices prevail will be regarded as an unlawful development. Should the adjoining home owner refrain from making the necessary adjustments to ensure that such a development complies with legal requirements, the municipality will have no recourse other than to take action.

MORAL STANDARDS INITIATIVE: N° 3 RESPONSIBILITY

Contribution compiled by Prof Pierre Cilliers

What a joy it would be to live in a society where all people choose to be responsible in all they do, and refrain from doing!

The only person responsible for your actions is you! As a responsible person, I am accountable for the way I live. I choose to refrain from anything that may harm others. Responsible people can be trusted to keep their commitments and fulfil their obligations. When they have done wrong, they are quick to admit it and say "I am sorry", and willing to do what is required to set things right or have justice prevail. They do not blame others but do what they can to make things better.

A responsible person is willing share in the responsibility of making this a better society and world to live in by getting involved and by being trustworthy, caring, respectful and just and by showing good citizenship.

Responsibility is often regarded as a burden, but when we make the choice to be responsible, we discover that it is actually a great source of personal power. It is the key to taking charge of our lives. Many remarkable examples are known of people who grew up in poverty but transformed their lives by taking complete responsibility for shaping their own futures.

Responsible men do not rape women, or father children whom they do not plan to care for. Responsible spouses do not desert their partners but keep their commitments to each other.

Responsible children do not use their circumstances as an excuse for destroying their lives through substance abuse.

Responsible leaders do not make promises they do not intend to honour. They set clear objectives and do sound planning to achieve these. They are disciplined in carrying out those plans.

Responsible citizens do not take what is not theirs or spread damaging rumours. They pay what they owe because it is the right thing to do. They do not drink and drive or put their own lives and those of others at risk by driving too fast.

Responsible friends meet you at the time they agreed to meet you, or let you know when something happened that prevented them from keeping their commitment.

It is always reassuring to know that those on whom you depend are responsible people who care to do the right thing, even if it takes some effort. Wouldn't you like to choose to assume responsibility and to act responsibly in all you do and to make your world a better place for yourself and others?

For further information, contact Ernst Kretschmer at 082 412 4538 or Ronél Mostert at 082 470 3975. Financial contributions are welcome and can be paid into the account of Hermanus Transformation Association at Nedbank's Hermanus branch. The account number is 1345027931.



THE LONG WAIT IS OVER

The long wait for their own homes is almost over for 88 families in Stanford. Overstrand Mayor Theo Beyersveldt turned the sod for the town's next low-cost housing project on Tuesday 14 April.

"It is wonderful to help people who have waited so long," he said. Originally, an application was launched for a housing project of 400 houses and conditionally approved by the Province in February 2006, but negotiations to find land for the project became bogged down. In November 2006, an additional application for 88 houses on sites within the current town limits was launched and final project approval was received from the Western Cape Provincial Government in March 2007.

The allocation of the tender for the project, however, became controversial and landed in High Court. Judgement was given earlier this year, but leave was granted to take it on appeal. However, an agreement was reached that the developer, M5, could continue with this project and another two. The Stanford project will be finished by end August 2009. A list of 109 possible beneficiaries was compiled according to the municipality's new objective and tamper-free rating system and submitted to the Province for approval. At the sod-turning ceremony of the Stanford Low-cost Housing Project were from left Chris Meyer and Rieger van Rooyen, partners in M5, Petronella Ferreira, area manager, Cllr Theo Beyersveldt, Overstrand Mayor, Awie Diedericks, chairperson of the Stanford Housing Social Compact, Bobby von Düring, Overstrand Housing Manager, Cllr Mike Walters, then ward councillor, and Roderick Williams, Overstrand's Director of Community Services.

WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDAR: N° 3

WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

Every year on 17 June, the World Day to Combat Desertification is used to promote public awareness of the international cooperation in the combat of desertification and the effects of drought.

The day focuses on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those countries/continents experiencing serious drought and/or desertification. South Africa is a signatory of the convention which was ratified in September 2007. This year's theme is "Conserving land and water – securing our common future".

Drought reduces the ability of land to support life and thus affect wild species, domestic animals, agricultural crops and people. Almost 40% of the Earth's total land surface is dry land, defined as plains, grasslands, savannas or steppes. These semi-arid areas receive less than 600 millimetres of rain a year. They are not as dry as deserts, although they often border deserts.

If poor land management practices prevail, dry land can be turned into deserts. When these practices coincide

with drought (a regular phenomenon in countries with erratic rainfall, such as South Africa) the rate of desertification increases dramatically. Due to the phenomenon of climate change, South Africa is also losing about 300 to 400 million tons of topsoil every year!

Although the Overstrand region doesn't fall within the dry land ecosystems, our actions here can make a difference. Even our precious fynbos biome is susceptible to drought and the impact of climate change.

Scientists agree that the Western Cape is going to experience hotter, drier climatic conditions in the future. Together with a predicted increase in temperature, the reduction in winter rainfall is likely to result in more severe drought periods than are currently experienced. The northern arm of the fynbos biome may disappear altogether, and we will lose many of the more drought-sensitive fynbos plants. Because the biome has a very high proportion of endemic species, any loss of range will result in extinctions.

VERKIES U DIÉ NUUSBRIEF IN 'N ANDER AMPTELIKE TAAL?

SMS u rekeningnommer met A vir Afrikaans na
082 338 1631 of kontak u naaste kliëntediensbeampte

UNGATHANDA LENCWADI YESAZISO-NDABA IBHALWE NGOLUNYE ULWIMI?

Thumela i-SMS enenombolo ye-akhawunti yakho kunye no X omele isi Xhosa
kule nombolo 082 338 1631

NATIONAL FRAUD HOTLINE
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