

June
2012

	Telephone	Fax
Hermanus	028 313 8000	028 312 1894
Gansbaai	028 384 8300	028 384 0241
Kleinmond	028 271 8400	028 271 4100
Stanford	028 341 8500	028 341 0445
24 Hour Emergency	028 313 8000/8111	
Fire Brigade	028 312 2400	

Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

FRANSKRAAL MOST IMPRESSIVE SMALLER PLANT NATIONALLY

BLUE DROP IMPROVEMENT

Five of the 98 Blue Drop awards to South African water service authorities for performance in terms of managing the quality of potable water during 2011 came to Overstrand Municipality.

The National Blue Drop Water Quality Assessment Report was released on Monday, 7 May 2012, by the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Edna Molewa, at the annual conference of the Water Institute of Southern Africa in Cape Town.

The Franskraal Water Purification Works near Gansbaai received the national award for the most impressive smaller plant.

Overstrand Municipality as a whole received 96,82 per cent in the assessment and was placed twelfth on the national list and fifth in the Western Cape. It is a remarkable improvement on last year's 90,56 per cent and 24th position nationally.

The plants that received Blue Drop awards this year were Hermanus (Preekstoel), Gansbaai (Franskraal), Buffelsrivier (Hangklip), Kleinmond and Pearly Beach. Silver awards went to Franskraal and Buffelsrivier for receiving the Blue Drop for a second consecutive year.

Three plants – Stanford Eye, Buffeljagsbaai and Baardskeerdersbos – did not qualify for Blue Drop awards but scored well above 90 per cent.

The Blue Drop score is not only an indication of water quality but is a weighted total evaluation of the following five criteria: water safety planning, drinking water quality process management and control, drinking water quality compliance, management accountability and local regulation, and asset ma-



From left: Thoko Sigwaza, chief director of institutional oversight at DWA, Stephen Muller, director: infrastructure and planning at OM, Maxwell Sirenya, director general of Water Affairs, Hanré Blignaut, OM's deputy director: water, Ald Pieter Scholtz, Deputy Mayor, Rejoice Mabudafhasi, Deputy Minister of Water Affairs, Patrick Robinson and De Wet Nel, municipal officials involved with water services.

nagement.

According to the Blue Drop Report, Overstrand Municipality's performance was remarkable, and all officials involved can rightfully take pride in their commitment. The improvement in chemical compliance was also described as a remarkable feat. Concern was expressed about water-loss figures, and especially the Buffels River system needs attention as its consumption figures are excessive compared to other supply systems. The department requested an acceptable plan to improve efficient water use.

The assessment of waste water quality management for Green Drop awards will only commence in August this year as it was decided to alternate the

assessments for Blue Drop and Green Drop awards on an annual basis.

BLUE DROP SCORES			
PLANT	2012	2011	2010
Greater Hermanus	97.93	87.23	75.31
Greater Gansbaai	97.12	95.10	63.81
Kleinmond	95.27	93.09	60.06
Pearly Beach	95.22	94.31	Not assessed
Buffels River	95.00	95.07	63.83
Buffeljagsbaai	93.81	75.37	Not assessed
Stanford Oog	92.73	95.15	Not assessed
Baardskeerdersbos	91.57	93.68	Not assessed

BEACH WHEELCHAIR CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION

Francois Retief, a disabled young man from Pretoria, was on holiday in Hermanus at the end of March in the company of his mother, Sonja, and his grandparents.

Last time they visited here – a couple of years ago – a lifesaver, Billy, had to physically carry Francois down to the water and back again because his wheelchair couldn't cope with the loose sand. This was a rather touching experience for him and his mom because, afterwards, the youngsters formed a circle around them and said a prayer.

What a great surprise it was when they arrived at the lifesavers' hut this year and found that Billy had made way for a 'wheelchair' 100% capable of satisfying any wheelchair user's

needs for mobility on the beach and, what's more, in the water.

For the first time in 15 years, Sonja and Francois could move for kilometres down the beach, collect shells and play in the water like any mother and son would. Francois could feel the waves breaking through the canvas on the wheelchair's seat and laughed boisterously when the ice cold water washed over him. He could sit comfortably without being chafed by the sand and being mauled by the waves, as happened last time.

Sonja said it was probably the first time many of the holidaymakers saw the 'wheelchair' in action and many came over for a chat. She has great appreciation for everyone who made it

possible for a disabled person to enjoy a wonderful day on the beach in the company of his caregivers without the drudgery, bruising, stumbling, falling down and aching muscles going into a spasm ... to simply enjoy a God-given bright, sunny day on the beach like any other normal person would.

*At age 12, Francois Retief was a promising young cricketer, but his life changed irrevocably in 1996 when a drunken driver hit him on a sidewalk. Serious brain damage left him in a coma for eight months and turned him into the quadriplegic he is today. With dedicated care by family and friends, Francois has recovered to such an

extent that he was able to attend a special school up to the age of 21 and could join in with a centre for the disabled. He requires 24-hour care and is entirely dependent upon his mother in whose company he must be at all times.



PLEASE NOTE

DOUBLE RATE FOR
TANKER SERVICE
AFTER THREE

If a client should request same-day tanker services after 15:00, this service will be charged at double the rate. The reason for this being that the municipality's rates must recover actual costs and this service will, in all likelihood, only be rendered after hours.

CHEQUES AT
THIRD PARTIES

Please note that cheques can no longer be tendered at third-party institutions (for example, the Post Office, Pick 'n Pay, Checkers, etc.) for the payment of municipal accounts. Increasingly, problems are being experienced with banks dishonouring cheques of this nature.

READY FOR BUSINESS

Fifteen emerging contractors from the Overstrand area who last year participated in the Qingqa Skills Development Programme presented by the Department of Transport and Public Works, in collaboration with Overstrand Municipality, received certificates on Wednesday, 2 May 2012.

Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie handed over the certificates at the ceremony held in the Overstrand Civic Centre. In her congratulatory message, she emphasised the importance of economic development and the construction industry in the Overstrand.

The aim of the skills development programme was to assist emerging contractors to become more competitive in the construction industry. They were taught how to compete effectively for tenders by gaining an understanding of the processes, rules, regulations and guidelines governing this industry.

At the same occasion, the Siyenyuka Foundation-phase Programme for



From left: Shaun Moses, Manager: Local Economic Development, Thozamile Ngcozela (DTPW), Phillip Kapa, Pheko Rasaborang, Jay-Cee Arendse, Ruben Matinka, Overstrand Mayor, Nicolette Botha-Guthrie, Henry Spandiel, Veronique Isaacs (DTPW), Dansile Mdoysi, Paul van der Merwe, Willem Thompson, Mangezi Mbodeni, Ruth Lusiba and Elsa Europa

2012/2013 was launched. This programme will focus mainly on obtaining first- and second-level grading from the Construction Industry Development Board. The assessment of participants was to take place on Tuesday, 22 May 2012.

For more information on the emerging contractors and the Siyenyuka Foundation-phase Programme, please contact Chantelle Hill in Overstrand's Directorate Local Economic Development on 028 313 5012 or e-mail chill@overstrand.gov.za.



From left: Katy Sarah Oktober, Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie and Ms Leslie Downie

AUDIO CONTRACTS HANDED OVER

During May, the first group of thirty new home owners in the low-cost housing project in Kleinmond received their title deeds together with CDs on which the details of their housing contracts are explained verbally.

Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie praised the municipality's legal consultant, Leslie Downie, for the major role she played in this initiative.

According to the Mayor, Downie had realised that there is a problem with literacy and she arranged audio recordings of the low-cost housing sale agreement as a BLISS (Business Law Informal Sector Solutions™) project. BLISS is a trademark being used to promote the business rights of disadvantaged people.

The audio CDs were recorded by Tape Aids for the Blind and Print Handicapped. Funding for the CDs for the Kleinmond development was donated by supporters of the BLISS platform as a charitable endeavour to assist local government in its service delivery to the poor who are low literate.

These audio agreements will empower the beneficiaries to understand their private ownership rights and to act within the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act. The act regulates the provision of services to the low-literate and aims to promote the social and economic welfare of disadvantaged consumers.

Audio contracts are an insightful step to provide local communities where literacy is low with proper knowledge about their contractual relations, and it comes as no surprise that the provincial human settlements office has also shown interest in these contracts.

The Mayor also said that all 410 low-cost housing units were handed over to the beneficiaries concerned by 15 December 2011. In the run-up to this event, 465 applications were processed, of which 27 were unsuccessful and a further 28 withdrew from the process. Of the 27 unsuccessful applications, several did not comply with the national criteria, but local scrutiny also revealed several instances where false information had been provided under oath in subsidy applications.

Of the beneficiaries, 214 resided in the informal settlement Overhills, and their temporary structures were demolished and removed from the area when they took up residence in their new homes.

MORAL STANDARDS INITIATIVE

MORALITY CRISIS?

In our country and society, as is the case elsewhere in the world, there are signs that we are experiencing a serious morality crisis. We see the faces of this crisis and its destructive consequences every day in the media and in our personal experiences.

Koopman and Vosloo* describe the faces of this crisis, amongst others, as follows:

- "An increase in violence, criminality and vandalism is without doubt one of the most visible faces of our morality crisis... it contributes to a culture of fear in which our relationships are characterised by mistrust and bitterness rather than by caring and hospitality.
- These issues cannot be separated from poverty and unemployment. The moral implications of the latter on families and communities are tremendous.
- Corruption and a general culture of dishonesty prohibit the creation of a more just society.
- At a personal level, people are confronted by difficult moral choices at work and in their relationships...and further experience that the pressure exerted by society is simply too big to maintain a life of integrity.
- There is (also) a growing social apathy to become involved in the need of others and in matters of public interest."

To this we should certainly add the prevalence of drugs and alcohol abuse, especially amongst the youth, to mention but a few.

These faces are evident to a greater or lesser degree in every community, also in ours. In the long run, the crisis can only be addressed where

values have been entrenched in the first place.

We know that moral values are largely entrenched from an early age in our **parental homes, our churches and religion and the school**. Our personal experiences and the example and **influence of role models and leaders** further contribute to the entrenchment of values in our moral character. These values are personal principles we fully subscribe to, which guide our decisions and impact on our behaviour and relationships. How we embody these values determines the quality and character of our citizenship in the communities of which we are a part.

Few people will disagree that Responsibility, Respect, Justice and Caring are the values that underpin Good Citizenship and that it is good and just for people to embody these values in a Christian moral society. As has been indicated in an earlier article, a community simply can't function if people do not share and strive for certain values. This creates a positive environment characterised by empathy, harmony, tolerance and clean living.

If we do indeed experience and acknowledge that the faces of the morality crisis are also visible in our community, the challenge posed for parents within their families and for our church, community and business leaders is huge.

Or we can simply resign ourselves to a crisis beyond our control and lay the blame at someone else's door.

E Kretschmer, MSI project, email ernstes@vodamail.co.za or cell 082 412 4538

(*Koopman N & Vosloo R, 2002, Die ligtheid van die lig: Morele oriëntasie in 'n postmoderne tyd.)