

### WHAT IS LIFE?

Life is a sojourn here on earth, which begins the day God gives us birth.

We enter this world from the Great Unknown and God gives each spirit a form of its own.

And endows this form with a heart and a soul to spur man on to his ultimate goal -

And through the senses of feeling and seeing, God makes man into a human being So he may experience a mortal life

And through this period of smiles and strife prepare himself for return as he came.

For birth and death are in essence the same for both are fashioned by God's mighty hand.

And, while we cannot understand, we know we are born to die and arise.

For beyond this world in beauty lies the purpose of living and the ultimate goal God gives at birth to each seeking soul -

So enjoy your sojourn on earth and be glad That God gives you a choice between good things and bad.

And only be sure that you heed God's voice. Whenever life asks you to make a choice.



Belinda & Marina Spanellis

### My life partner

Belinda Spanellis, Senior Clerk: Collections, got married on 16 November 2013 at the St. Luke's Greek Orthodox Chapel to Marina Spanellis, daughter of Strattie and Eugenia Spanellis of Hermanus.

It was such a lovely moment seeing all the people we love sharing our precious moment with us; apart from the joy and love we have with each other; knowing that I have finally met my life partner. My advice to other couples, is that, through all the trials and tribulations of life if you can meet that person that you can see yourself getting old with go for it, don't think twice. Knowing that you have someone to share your life plans, interest, ideas, emotions and just silliness is one hell of a blessing in today's life.

Finally I would like to thank every colleagues contribution towards our wedding prezzie, love you guys a lot.

## LATEST APPOINTEES

Mr JV Aplon  
Ms AM Bayley  
Mr LL de Wet  
Mr TL Martin  
Ms ME Raynard

Cashier/Clerk: Revenue  
Typist/Clerk: Operations  
Accountant: Supply Chain Management  
General Assistant: Solid Waste  
Senior Clerk: Fire Department

## BANZI AND KESWA RETIRES



Ntinzi Banzi

Ntinzi Banzi and John Keswa both employees at the electrical department, are going to retire at the end of 2013.

Banzi has 4 children - 1 girl and 3 boys. He started working for the municipality on the 28 January 1992 as a general worker at the electrical department and has never worked in any other department or been promoted. John is married to Nosection Keswa and they have 1 girl and 1 boy. He started working at the municipality on the 6 July 1975 also as a general worker in the electrical department he also has never worked in other department.



John Keswa

Both Keswa and Banzi took this decision to retire because they feel the need to go and relax at home. The fact that they were never promoted within the municipality never discouraged them from being loyal employees and carrying out their duties in a professional and honest manner.

Ntinzi and John feel that you cannot have money if you don't work for it and one has to have money to go on retirement. They believe nothing is free these days which is why they kept their jobs until they both decided to retire. For both working for the municipality was the most valuable and precious thing ever working as servants of the communities. They both enjoyed working for the municipality hence that they stayed this long.

These colleagues believe challenges are part of life. However they never had real challenges because when they were dissatisfied with something, both would immediately have it attended to by the Superintendent in control.

As labourers their work was very hard. However, because of the fulfillment and enjoyment they had, they enjoyed every moment but "now it is time for us to go and relax, meditate and take as much time needed to look after our livestock at the farms in the Eastern Cape", they said.

Banzi and John both said they had a very good relationship with their colleagues and it was because they had a purpose every morning to wake up and serve the community and do the best they could.

## Handy Checklist on Settling of Municipal Bills

### METHODS AND PLACES OF PAYMENT:

- CHEQUES must be crossed and be made payable to Overstrand Municipality. Post-dated cheques will not be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made. Receipts will not be mailed for payment made by cheque.
- Payments will always be appropriated to the oldest outstanding amount (notwithstanding the kind of service), where after it will be appropriated according to a predetermined priority.
- Payments can be made:
  - at any of the MUNICIPAL OFFICES from Mondays to Fridays (public holidays excluded) during 08:00 - 13:00 and 14:00 - 15:30.
  - at any branch of pay@, EasyPay or the Post Office. These payments take approximately 48 hours to process; thus payments should be made at least two days before the due date.
  - by direct BANK PAYMENTS into ABSA Hermanus, account number 4066578021. Your municipal account number must be used as the reference number.
  - by way of an automatic debit order. Forms to arrange for such payments are available at any of the municipal offices.
  - via EFT (electronic funds transfer). More information in this regard can be obtained from client services.

### INTEREST:

Interest will be levied on accounts in arrears in terms of Council's policy.

### SUSPENSION OF SERVICES:

The supply of services may be disconnected without any notification if any amount is due after the expiry date. The deposit will be revised simultaneously and a surcharge, as determined by Council from time to time, will be added whether the supply had been physically disconnected or not.

In the event of cheques or debit orders being returned "Refer to drawer", services will be discontinued immediately and future payments shall be made in cash. The account holder will be held liable for charges incurred.

### ACCOUNTS:

Payment may not be deferred pending settlement of a dispute.

If no account has been received by the 10th of a month, a copy should be obtained from the municipality. The account must be produced at all times when payments or enquiries are made.

If no official complaint is received in writing by the 15th of the month, it will be considered that the account holder agrees with the account as delivered.



### EDITOR'S NOTE

#### GOODBYE 2013! HALLO 2014!

Time sure flies! It feels like only yesterday when we put together the first edition of Phambili in happy anticipation of a challenging yet promising 2013 ahead of us. And here we are: Once again at that juncture where we find ourselves reflecting on the year that was, how well we achieved what we set out to accomplish and, sadly, why some of our best intentions got derailed. But rather than being disheartened, perhaps we should do a quick reality check - count our blessings, so to speak - before committing ourselves to tackling 2014 with renewed resolve.

Kyk 'n bietjie rondom jou: Omdat jy 'n werk het, is jy verseker van 'n inkomste en kan waarskynlik daarop reken dat jy vanaand érens veilig en beskut met 'n vol maag kool toe kan gaan. Dit mag na 'n kleinigheid klink, maar nie alle mense kan hulself so gelukkig ag nie. Die meeste van ons bevind ons ook in goeie gesondheid, terwyl ander daaglik met lewensbedreigende siektes worstel of hulpeeloos moet toekyk hoe 'n geliefde daardeur uitgemergel word. Moenie vergeet om die Hemelse Vader vir hierdie seëninge te dank nie.

If you are in a position to be surrounded by those near and dear to you on an almost daily basis, consider yourself lucky: Think for a moment about those families who will forever have an empty place at their table due to the passing - either foreseen or unforeseen - of a loved one. Our beloved Madiba's family would be a good example... And as you thank the Lord for having blessed you with a loving family and loyal friends, be sure to show them just how much they are loved and appreciated - every day, but especially now when you can spend some quality time together.

En dan moet jy mooi gaan nadink oor elke ding (klein of groot) wat jy in die afgelope jaar vermag het, die verskil wat jy in mense se lewens kan maak, die inset wat jy gelewer het om ander van 'n beter lewensgehalte te verseker. Natuurlik moet jy dankie sê vir die talente wat jy ontvang het om dit wel te kan doen, maar dis heeltemal gereverdig om jousef 'n kloppie op die skouer te gee en te sê: Welgedaan, hou so aan!

Talking about the power of positive thinking, also remember the old adage: "The best time to right a wrong is now." Begin by making peace with yourself: Celebrate all you have achieved thus far before setting realistic, attainable goals to realise every dream you cherish. Next, be sure to make peace with those you have crossed swords with - or who have crossed swords with you. It's amazing how far a little forgiveness will go, even the one-sided kind.

Ter afsluiting en so van tyd gepraat: Amptenare soos ons wat 'n vakansiebestemming so gewild soos Overstrand beman, het maar altyd 'n tekort hieraan oor die feestyd. Hopelik kon jy darem teen hierdie tyd jou Kers-inkope afhandel en sal die langnaweek van twee wat voorlé jou genoeg tyd gun om oor die feesdae ook handjie by te sit in die kombuis of langs die braai.

The one time you should really take it easy, though, is when you take to the road over one of these long weekends to visit distant family or friends: Be sure to drive carefully and to get home safely. We look forward to welcoming you all back next year, looking well-rested, radiantly healthy and as gorgeous as always.

Namens Phambili se redaksie, 'n Geseënde Kersfees en 'n Voorspoedige Nuwe Jaar!

Noluthando Zweni  
Redakteur/Editor



## MESSAGES FROM THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR AND MUNICIPAL MANAGER



Nicolette Botha-Guthrie

With yet another year drawing to a close, allow me a moment's reflection and the opportunity to wish you and your families all the best for the Festive Season.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas 2013, may we never lose focus of the true purpose of this joyous occasion - a time to give and to forgive.

The Festive Season is a time for spiritual reflection which all of us celebrate in our own unique way. My wish, though, is that every employee will use this time to show family and friends just how much they are valued.

Allow me to thank all of you for your diligence and determination to turn Overstrand into a true reflection of a "centre of excellence". Without your enthusiasm, we wouldn't have ranked amongst the top local authorities in the country. Let's all continue to do both our residents and Council proud in the year to come.

With best wishes for a happy and joyous Christmas and a prosperous 2014.

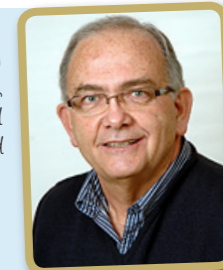
*Nicolette Botha-Guthrie*

Dear Colleagues,

I wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous 2014! Thank you for being such wonderful colleagues and for your support during 2013. I look forward to working with you in 2014

Warm regards

*Coenie Groenewald*



## OVERSTRAND ADDS YET ANOTHER GREEN FEATHER TO ITS CAP



Municipal Manager, Coenie Groenewald, Executive Mayor, Nicolette Botha-Guthrie and Manager, Solid Waste Planning

With seventeen of the 24 Western Cape municipalities in the running, Overstrand can rightfully pride itself in being ranked amongst the greenest towns in the country. At the annual awards ceremony recently hosted by the Department of Environmental Affairs, the municipality was not only adjudged joint second runner-up but also walked off with top honours in both the categories for solid waste management and water management and conservation - the latter for the second year running, *no gal!* To boot, the new biological water treatment plant at Preekstoel, the first of its kind in the country, was awarded a Certificate of Achievement for an Innovative Project.

All told, this implies that the dedicated Overstrand team came home with not just one but four green feathers to add to our cap. Well done, guys!

For the team, though, walking off with the laurels is but a side-issue. Rather, they regard the competition as a unique opportunity to learn from their counterparts and to share in a joint knowledge pool - all in the interest of creating a healthy environment and delivering services of the highest quality.

Participating municipalities also competed in categories for sustainable energy, biodiversity and coastal management, air pollution control and air quality management, public participation, and leadership and compliance.

The winner overall was Mossel Bay with Drakenstein as first runner up, while Overstrand shared its position as second runner-up with Swartland.

## EXECUTIVE MAYOR, NICOLETTE BOTHA-GUTHRIE, SALUTES A GREAT MAN: NELSON ROLIHLEHLA MANDELA

During the memorial service conducted on 12 December 2013 in Hermanus, the Mayor acknowledged Madiba as probably the greatest ever South African in a nation of great men and women. Here is her tribute:

- Nelson Rolihlahla, a son of the Madiba clan in Mvezo,
- the young activist who defied the orders of his king,
- and absconded to the Witwatersrand to mobilise resistance,
- the initiator of an armed struggle against the government of the day,
- the inspirational political prisoner of Robben Island,
- the skilful negotiator of a peaceful transition to majority rule,
- the wise first president of a democratic South Africa,
- the soul of the Rainbow Nation.

His vision was already immortalised in the early days of his leadership when facing the death penalty in the Rivonia Trial when he said the following in his speech from the dock on 20 April 1964:

"I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

Nelson Mandela never wavered in his devotion to democracy, equality and learning. Despite terrible provocation, he did not answer racism with racism once he got into power. His life has been an inspiration to all who are oppressed and deprived and to all who are opposed to oppression and deprivation.

Despite tremendous physical and psychological hardships during his internment, Mandela did not abuse his power when he reached the top.

One of his first acts of reconciliation was to create a unified anthem for the country from "Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika," "Die Stem" and "The Call". The forging together of the rival tunes' discordant notes was a powerfully symbolic message of national harmony.

This move defined Mr Mandela's leadership: reconciling generosity with pragmatism, finding common ground between humanity's higher values and the politician's aspiration to power. It became clear that his main task during his presidency would be to cement the foundations of the hard-won new democracy.

There was a major threat to peace and stability coming from the white right-wing, but he used his acquired ability of negotiation and people skills to disarm the extremists by convincing the white population as a whole that they belonged fully in the new South Africa.

Mandela's wisdom in reaching out to the old enemy, repressing any bitterness he might have accumulated during his twenty-seven years in prison, is the principal reason why South Africa has consolidated its transition from suppression to democracy, and done so not through repression, but by persuasion.

It was behind bars that Mr Mandela learnt his most valuable lessons in leadership. As he himself has acknowledged, prison shaped him. He went in angry, convinced that the only way of achieving his people's freedom was by force of arms. What the experience of prison did was to elevate Mandela to a higher political plain.

He learnt, through studying his jailers closely, that black and white people had far more in common than they had points of difference.

He learnt that forgiveness and generosity and, above all, respect were weapons of political persuasion as powerful as any gun.

When his time came, he deployed these lessons to great political effect through countless small gestures.

How did he convince his enemies to succumb to his will? First, by treating them individually with respect, and by making it clear that he had a core set of values from which he would never be persuaded to depart.

The human foundations having been laid, his sincerity having been established, he set about rationally persuading them that the only hope for all parties lay in negotiation.

Many opposing leaders who had encounters with Mandela told afterwards that once you leave his company, you feel a better, more virtuous person. The bigger point of Mandela's widely applauded saintliness was that he reached the conclusion that there could be no democracy without reconciliation, no justice without peace.

He acted wholeheartedly on this understanding, investing every last drop of his boundless charm and his farsightedness in achieving his life's goal by following the only strategy he knew could realistically work.

Mandela's legacy, the imperishable lesson he holds for the ages, and the reason why he stands head and shoulders above every leader of his generation is that he showed it is possible to be a great human being and a great politician at the same time; that showing respect to friends and enemies alike can get you a long, long way; and that nothing beats the combination and, in Mandela's case, the seamless merging of nobility and power.

In 'n onlangse uitgawe van Die Huisgenoot het die joernalis Richard Stengel die agt lesse van leierskap wat 'n mens by Nelson Mandela kon leer soos volg saamgevat:

- Dapperheid is om ander te inspireer om hul vrees te bowe te kom;
- Lei van voor, maar moenie jou basis agter laat nie;
- Lei van agter en laat ander glo hulle lei;
- Ken jou vyand en leer meer oor sy gunsteling sport;
- Hou jou vriende naby en jou vyande nog nader;
- Jou voorkoms maak saak - en onthou om te glimlag;
- Niks is swart of wit nie; en
- Om die aftog te blaas en uit te tree, is ook soos om te lei.

Dit klink so eenvoudige, maar om dit uit te voer, is 'n ander saak, soos menige leier al agtergekom het. Gelukkig was daar 'n Nelson Mandela om vir ons te wys hoe.

Thank you Madiba for the great example you have been to us. The Mayor concluded her tribute with the following famous words uttered by Nelson Mandela in 1993 when he announced the date of South Africa's first democratic election:

"We can build a society grounded on friendship and our common humanity - a society found on tolerance. That is the only road open to us. It is a road to a glorious future in this beautiful country of ours. Let us join hands and march into the future!"

**Mr Mandela's spirit will always be there to lead us on this road. Hamba Kakhule! Farewell! Vaarwel! Tata Madiba**



## OVERSTRANDERS SAY GOODBYE TO TATA MADIBA



Nomie Tshetu

On Sunday, 15 December 2013, people from all over the world watched with great sadness as Madiba was finally laid to rest in the peaceful hills of his beloved hometown, Qunu. For many months now, all those who held him so dear watched helplessly and with heavy hearts as this icon's health gradually deteri-

orated. The messages of love and support from all corners of the earth kept pouring in, but we knew that the day when we will have to say goodbye to this great man would dawn all too soon. And it did.

In an outpouring of love and sympathy for both Mandela and his family, people from Overstrand visited the various places of mourning in their droves to lay wreaths, light candles and write their own messages in books of condolences. The community also had the opportunity to pay their last respects to Madiba at four inter-faith memorial services held on the evening of Thursday, 12 December, in Gansbaai, Stanford, Hermanus and Kleinmond.



Members of the public with the Director: Roderick Williams, Speaker: Cllr Anton Coetsee, Executive Mayor: Nicolette Botha-Guthrie and Cllr Mzimeni Mshenxiswa

## LIEF & LEED · JOY & SORROW

### IT'S TIME TO CAP OFF THE YEAR WITH A WELL-EARNED CELEBRATION!

It's that time of year when everyone puts down the spade and laptop and enjoy a well-deserved end of the year company celebration. Whether it be a sophisticated formal dinner or a spit braai in the gardens with some fun and games - the ideal one is for you and your colleagues to end off the working year.

Most of the department really enjoyed themselves in different ways of ending off the year; below are some of the highlights of what was going on while people were enjoying themselves:



Human Resources Department



Human Resources Department



Local Economic Department



Directorate: Finance



Town Planning Department: Danie Maree



Building Department: John Simpson



Electrical Department: Koois "Duppie" du Plessis



Infrastructure & Planning: Dennis Hendricks



Directorate: Finance



Gansbaai Administration



Gansbaai Administration

### FIELD OR TRACK, TENNIS OR SQUASH: ENGELBRECHT GIRLS EXCELLED ALL-ROUND



Kaila & Mika Engelbrecht

Looking at both girls' impressive list of achievements, it's obvious that not only the Boland district but South Africa as a whole have two true sports stars in the making here. Well done, girls!

#### KAILA

- made Boland u/18 hockey team (vice-captain)
- captained school's first hockey team
- played tennis and squash for school's first teams
- crowned finest senior hockey and tennis player at 2013 Sports Gala

#### MIKA

- made Boland u/19 squash team
- captained school's first squash team
- played tennis and hockey for school's first teams
- set new u/17 girls' javelin record (Hermanus High and South Boland district)
- participated in 2013 Boland Athletics Championships

Gerhard and Carlouw Engelbrecht have every reason to walk tall: Last year, their eldest daughter, Kaila a Grade 12 learner at Hermanus High, was adjudged Senior Sportswoman of the year - a remarkable achievement indeed. So imagine how pleased the parents were when their youngest, Mika (a Grade 10 learner), was crowned 2013's Junior Sports-woman of the Year at the school's annual Sports Gala!