

FEBRUARY 2014

Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

**EVENTFUL, YES, BUT GENERALLY SPEAKING,
HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL:**

TAKING STOCK OF 2013/14 HOLIDAY SEASON



Photo: Overstrand Herald

Overstrand has once again lived up to its name as one of South Africa's most popular holiday destinations. According to Municipal Manager, Coenie Groenewald, "holiday-makers couldn't have asked for better weather over the peak holiday season".

Cape Whale Coast - Overstrand's official destination marketing agency - reported that visitors tended to stay for longer periods, with most tourism bureaux reporting record occupation figures for the season. Of note, too, is the large number of visitors from abroad, with many a visitor from France, the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, the USA and Sweden who wisely swapped the foul weather in the northern hemisphere for our sunny shores.

Sadly, five people lost their lives at sea over the period, whilst a shark attack near Grotto Beach - fortunately with no loss of life - was reported early in December.

On balance, though, excellent co-operation between law enforcement agencies, municipal staff, private security companies and the public in general kept transgressions to a minimum, which meant that everyone could enjoy their well-earned holiday in a safe and pristine environment.

Despite the heavy traffic being experienced along Overstrand's roads as a result of a record number of people visiting our area this year, Traffic

Chief Rudi Fraser and his team handled the heightened influx of vehicles with remarkable ease thanks to thorough preparation and a public willing to exercise a little more patience than usual. In addition to rendering assistance at nine events staged in and around Hermanus alone, the Traffic Department was also instrumental in removing no fewer than 517 unlicensed/unregistered vehicles from South African roads.

Several minor fires, presumably as a result of negligence, were brought under control in good time without major damage to fynbos or households. Yet again, excellent co-operation between Overstrand's Fire Brigade, the Fire Services of the Overberg District Municipality and teams from Cape Nature and Working for Fire was evident.

Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie thanked the community and the officials, especially those who worked 'behind the scenes', for their respective roles and contributions towards a good season.

Putting Overstrand on the map and earning points as a destination of note is not something that happens overnight. It is the result of an ongoing process where everyone is committed to outperforming past performances time and time again. And if the praise we have received thus far is anything to go by, we are definitely getting there! Well done, everybody!

BUSINESS AS USUAL DESPITE MAIN ROAD BEING RE-SURFACED

The re-surfacing of Hermanus' Main Road between Harbour Road and Marine Drive commenced mid-January, and both sections of that road will be closed for traffic until the expected completion of the project at the end of February, weather permitting. This means that while pedestrians can still use both sidewalks of Main Road, no general vehicle access to Main Road is possible for the duration. This includes vehicles of suppliers making deliveries to businesses along the affected section of Main Road.

Mike Bartman, Deputy Director: Operational Services of Overstrand Municipality, reiterated that suppliers who normally park and off-load in

Main Road must make use of the adjacent High Street or other nearby streets such as Long, Broad or College Streets for deliveries.

"Our traffic department has undertaken to be somewhat lenient over this re-surfacing period to accommodate delivery vehicles in such streets not regularly used for Main Road deliveries. Traffic officials regulating the traffic also appeal to Hermanus motorists to co-operate and to be mindful of other road users during this period," he added. "Some special arrangements are in place. Market Street, for instance, which leads to the parking and delivery area next to FNB, is accessible via Marine Drive. Because the street is

narrow, it cannot carry two-way traffic, and point duty is being provided to facilitate entrance to and exit from the parking area and Marine Drive," Bartman concluded.

Members of the public with enquiries can contact Mike Bartman on 028 313 8972, Jaco Smith of the contractors Zebra Surfacing & Isidima Civils JV on 076 147 8289 or Bertus van Wyk of V&V Consulting Engineers on 082 339 0521. Business owners in Main Road can direct their enquiries to Kees van de Coolwijk - a business representative serving on the Liaison Committee - at FotoFirst in Main Road, Tel. 082 658 5370.

KLEINMOND SPECTACULAR! "One Team, Seven Challenges"

On Saturday, 11 January 2014, multi-sport athlete Dan Hugo (pictured here) reclaimed gold at the 12th annual Totalsports Challenge presented by Liberty Medical Scheme and REHID-RAT® SPORT in Kleinmond with an impressive finishing time of 07hours 06minutes 53seconds. Heleen Rossouw was the athlete to beat in the individual women's category of this seven-disciplined event with a combined distance of 123.5 km of racing, crossing the finish line first in a time of 08hours 59minutes 09seconds.

Bradley Weiss and Bermudan triathlete, Flora Duffy, were crowned champions in the Totalsports Terra Firma Challenge for individual men and women. Duffy had this to say: "The event is fantastic, really well organised. The entire course is gorgeous, picturesque and fun, a unique combination."



Dan Hugo

Jefine Action photo

Make space for the ARGUS hopefuls: Safety tips for cyclists and motorists alike



With the annual Cape Argus Pick n Pay Cycle Tour little more than a month away, Overstrand motorists can expect to encounter heightened "cycle traffic" in the weeks ahead. Given the undulating nature of the roads in and around Overstrand, the area is considered prime training ground for both experienced contenders and those first-timers hopeful of at least reaching the finishing line in one piece.

Traffic Chief, Rudi Fraser, cautions all motorists to be aware of the fact that not all cyclists are regular riders; neither should we assume that they are familiar with our roads. "We want to urge motorists to make sure they pass cyclists with a minimum distance of at least 1.5 m. It's simple: If a vehicle is 1.5 m away from a cyclist, that vehicle cannot hit the cyclist," he said. Naturally, cyclists ought to do their bit to help prevent unfortunate encounters along the way too. The Pedal Power Association's website offers several tips on how cyclists can ensure their safety on the road:

- Practise at home how to fix a leaking tyre
- Always have a tire repair kit, a spare liner, tire lever and pump on hand
- Be as visible as possible, especially when cycling in the early morning or late afternoon
- Invest in lights for your bike (white in the front; red at the back)
- Wear reflectors around your ankles and be sure to choose bright colours when shopping for cycling gear
- Wear your helmet at all times
- Wearing gloves is also advisable, since they will protect your hands should you have a fall
- Obey the traffic rules
- Never skip a red light or cycle on a sidewalk
- Always stick to the left of the median
- Be on the lookout for loose sand, water, glass, oily patches or gravel on the road surface
- Always check your blind spot before changing direction
- Use the correct hand signals when stopping or turning
- Be sure to always have sufficient snacks and liquids on hand
- In case something should happen to you along the way, be sure to carry identification as well as your medical details and the contact details of a family member.

Visit www.pedalpower.org.za for additional tips on safety.

BIG BLUES

Put on your dancing shoes and come and enjoy two days of magnificent rhythm and blues in Kleinmond's harbour on Friday, 28 February and Saturday, 1 March. Piet Botha (photo) is but one of numerous artists who will be performing. For a detailed line-up and ticket sales, visit www.bigblues.co.za. **Photo - Jesse Bethany Pearse (Rolling Stone)**



GEARING UP TO OBTAIN YOUR DRIVER'S LICENCE

HERE'S A HANDY CHECKLIST TO HELP SMOOTH THE WAY
By law, all public drivers' permits and drivers' licences must be renewed every two or five years respectively. For most, this process often seems somewhat daunting, complicated and time consuming - even more so if you are a first-time applicant who need to first obtain a learner's licence.

Traffic Chief, Rudi Fraser, would like to offer everyone the assurance that his department is going out of its way to ensure that the process is as painless as possible. And, with a little co-operation from the public, it can be finalised in the shortest possible time too. He also has a word of advice for young adults: "Obtaining your driver's licence is a huge milestone in anyone's life, and as with all other major accomplishments in life, best to get it over and done with as soon as possible."

Before your next appointment with the Traffic Department, work through the handy checklist below to ascertain how the process works and to ensure you have all the necessary documentation and monies on hand.

APPLICATION FOR LEARNER'S LICENCE

1. Bring along:
 - a. Identity Document/Valid South African Passport/Traffic Register Certificate
 - b. 2 x ID photos
 - c. R68 payable on application
2. Complete sections A, B and D on blue form. (black pen)
3. Apply at Cashier 3 or 4.
4. Wait for eye test.
5. Report back to Cashier 3 or 4 to make appointment.

ISSUING OF LEARNER'S LICENCE (TEST PASSED)

1. Bring along:
 - a. Identity Document/Valid South African Passport/Traffic Register Certificate
 - b. R30
 - c. If duplicate learner's licence is required, additional R33 plus 2 x ID photos
2. Report to Cashier 3 or 4.

APPLICATION FOR NEW DRIVER'S LICENCE (1ST TIME)

1. Bring along:
 - a. Identity Document/Valid South African Passport/Traffic Register Certificate
 - b. 2 x ID photos
 - c. R200 for heavy motor vehicle
 - d. R135 for light motor vehicle
 - e. R135 for motorcycle
2. Complete sections A, B and D on green form. (black pen)
3. Apply at Cashier 3 or 4.
4. Wait for eye test, fingerprints, etc.
5. On completion of above, report back to Cashier 3 or 4 for appointment date
6. If test is successful, a further R140 will be payable to issue new driver's licence.

Visit www.overstrand.gov.za for a complete checklist to renew your driver's licence

GERMAN DUOS RETURN TO OVERSTRAND



On Sunday afternoon, 16 February, Peter Bruns (cello) and Annette Kuttner (piano) will give a recital in the Civic Auditorium in Hermanus. The concert will start at 15:30. They will play Adagio und Allegro, Op 70 by Schumann, Sonate pour Piano et Violoncello, Op 65 by Chopin and Sonata for Piano and Cello F-Major, Op 99 by Brahms.



Peter Bruns and Annette Kuttner

On Saturday night, 8 March, piano duo Genova and Dimitrov will entertain the audience with a performance on one piano in the Civic Auditorium. The concert starts at 19:00. Tickets may be booked at BELLINI GALLERY in the Village Square. Ring them on 028 312 4988. Tickets are R100 (R50 for students/scholars).

Ring Secretary René du Plooy on 082 940 4238 for further enquiries.



Genova and Dimitrov