

February  
2009

	Telephone	Fax
Hermanus	028 313 8000	028 313 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 Fire Brigade	028 313 8000/8111	028 312 2400

# Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

## SAFEST HOLIDAY PERIOD YET INCREASED LAW ENFORCEMENT REAPS BENEFITS

Firm yet friendly law enforcement has resulted in probably one of the safest holiday periods in the Overstrand to date.

Linked to the already well tried service delivery plan, law enforcement during this time contributed in providing thousands of holidaymakers a carefree period of relaxation. This positive outcome also once again underlined the image of Overstrand as a top holiday destination. Despite the prevailing tough economic conditions our beaches drew large numbers of visitors.

The newly created Directorate of Protection Service lead by director Mr Neville Michaels passed its initiation with flying colours.

According to Michaels the Municipality's full complement of traffic officials, law enforcement officials, fire brigade and support staff worked hand in hand with the SA Police Service, HPP and other security organisations, and the Provincial Traffic Service to ensure that everything went off well.

A policy of zero tolerance was applied and even minor complaints were attended to.

"All the beaches were well visited; particularly the Blue Flag ones and thanks to the prohibition of public drinking no drownings occurred and no serious incidents were reported," Michaels related.

Michaels went on to provide the

following information about the holiday season. Contingency plans were well prepared. A rescue helicopter was on standby at all times and it played an important role in rescuing two young alleged poachers when the engine of their vessel broke down at sea.

The Traffic Department was alert and the following offences were reported: four for drunken driving, 113 for driving without a licence and 774 for unlicensed vehicles. There were 18 accidents one of which was fatal. Nine people were arrested for road traffic offences and two unroadworthy vehicles were impounded.

Speed fines were issued to about 3 000 people. The highest measured speed was 163 km per hour in an 80 km zone at Gansbaai. In total the Traffic Department issued 5 640 tickets for traffic offences totalling R1 462 800.

Regarding infringements of municipal by-laws the following matters were dealt with: 136 complaints for urinating in public, 30 for illegal dumping, 341 for drinking in public and 32 for nudity on beaches. There were 269 complaints about dogs and 57 dogs were impounded. Twenty complaints regarding disturbing noise and 194 regarding unruly behaviour were investigated. In spite of designated areas for fire works, 37 firework-related complaints were investigated.

The fire brigade was called out for 20

veld fires and three fires at houses. In one instance eight structures at an informal settlement were destroyed. Fortunately there was no loss of life or serious injuries.

Municipal Manager Werner Zybrands commented that his figures proved that in order to ensure a pleasant holiday for our

visitors a lot of "behind the scenes" work has to be done by a great team of dedicated Protection Services staff.

The Executive Mayor, Councillor Theo Beyleveldt expressed his satisfaction with these figures and praised residents and visitors for their excellent cooperation.



### FIGHTING FIT FOR FIRES

Runaway fires pose a huge threat during the long, dry summers in the Western Cape and, following on the abundant winter rainfall earlier this year, the brush at present is remarkably dense. Unfortunately, not only the brush suffers: Strong winds can drive sparks right into the heart of residential areas where especially thatched-roof homes can go up in flames. During December, we took delivery of a brand-new major pumper (also called a fire engine for those not in the know) modified to suit local conditions. Combined with an overhauled major pumper, consisting of two rebuilt fire engines dating back to the eighties, Overstrand's Fire Brigade is now better equipped than ever to tackle its challenging and demanding task. To top it all, a fire-fighting helicopter has been chartered in conjunction with the Overberg District Municipality to help fight fires from the air. Overstrand has a number of fulltime fire fighters in Kleinmond, Hermanus and Gansbaai as well as a part-time force, by and large peopled by municipal workers and volunteers from the respective communities. The new fire engine came with a price tag of R1,8 million and is described as the safest and most agile in its class for both urban and rural environments. It is kitted with a 4000-litre water tank and a 400-litre foam tank to facilitate the first line of defence against a fire; this is in addition to the almost 600 m of fire hoses fire fighters can couple to fire hydrants. As an added option, the fire hoses can be extended to 900 m.

### GOOD RESPONSE TO DOG TAX

Good response has been received from pet owners with the registration and licensing of dogs in terms of our new By-law pertaining to Cats and Dogs. Since the distribution of registration forms with the municipal accounts beginning November, 1665 dogs have been licensed and a total amount of R66 600 collected in licence fees.

The cost of a dog licence is R40,00, but social pensioners and registered indigent clients can be exempted on application.

However, there are still many ratepayers who have not heeded the call, and an urgent plea is made to all to return the registration forms as soon as possible to

avoid unpleasant confrontation or even a fine for keeping an unlicensed dog.

The new by-law limits the number of dogs that may be kept to two and cats to three. Ratepayers who own more pets than permitted can apply for exemption in the interim, and special arrangements can be made for breeders, pet shop owners, animal hospitals, etc.

Overstrand Animal Control, with the full support of all local animal welfare societies, has been appointed as the service provider regarding the control of cats and dogs in Overstrand Municipality for the next three years and will follow up all complaints in terms of the by-law.

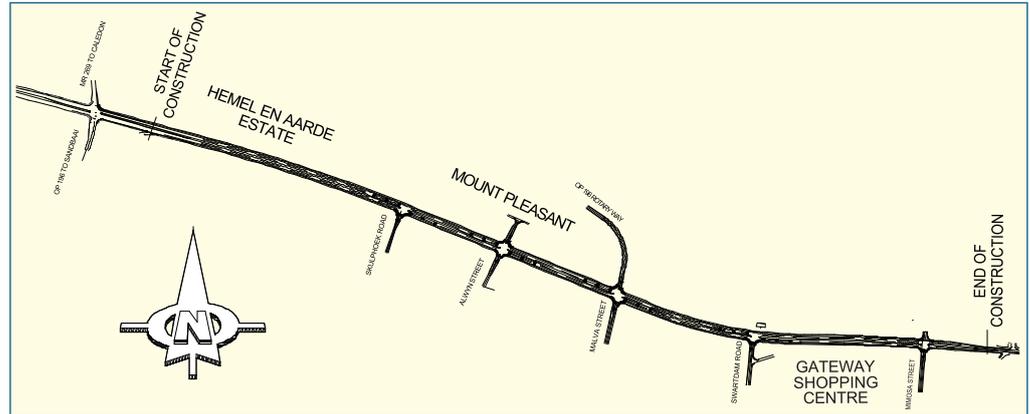
# HERMANUS ENTRANCE ROAD UPGRADE ASSESSED

A Basic Environmental Impact assessment is currently underway regarding the Western Cape Department of Transport and Public Works' intention to upgrade the R43 between the Sandbaai Road and Mimosa Street intersections in Hermanus, the main entrance road from Cape Town and the N2.

Increasing traffic jams at peak hours, during holiday seasons and on special event days on the R43 (TR28/1) into and out of Hermanus is stated as the reason for the project, but there are also concerns about pedestrian safety at Mount Pleasant and the incidence of accidents at some of the intersections. This proposed upgrade would improve capacity and safety along this section of the R43.

It is proposed to upgrade the existing single carriageway section of the R43 from approximately 200 metres east of the Sandbaai Main Road intersection through to Mimosa Street to a dual carriageway road, similar in standard to the already upgraded section past the Sandbaai Main Road intersection. From the Mimosa Street intersection it will taper off for another 150 metres to tie in with the existing undivided road. The total length of the works is approximately 2.4 km. Intersections along this section will also be upgraded.

The upgrade will not affect any buildings. Sidewalks will be provided and



street lighting upgraded. The existing Mount Pleasant pedestrian crossing with push-button traffic signals will be retained and phased with other traffic signals along the R43 to minimise its impact on traffic flow. This pedestrian crossing in the middle of the block could be replaced in future by pedestrian crossings at nearby signalised intersections to improve safety and mobility. Taxi/bus bays will be considered where needed.

The project will include a construction site camp containing two fuel tanks, storing a total of 20 m<sup>3</sup> of diesel. The roadwork will affect approximately seven hectares of land.

Most of the land is existing road reserve. Where necessary, the Provincial Government will negotiate with property owners to acquire land or servitude rights. Topsoil will be stockpiled and reused elsewhere on the contract and dust will be mitigated by the spraying of water. Motorists will be able to continue using the old road while the new road is being built.

If the green light is given, construction will depend on the availability of money, and this could be anytime from 2010 onwards. The project will employ a small number from the local community. No jobs can be applied for during the Public Participation Process.

The department has appointed Rosenthal Environmental to conduct the assessment process. A public open day was held in January and a draft report is available at the Hermanus Library for scrutiny and comment until 23 February 2009. Those who submit comments or register as affected or interested parties will be kept updated about the further progress of the assessment.

To register as an interested party, contact Philip Rosenthal at tel/fax 021 685 4500, cell 082 6768966, e-mail mail@PhilipRosenthal.com or by mail at Postnet 114, Private Bag X18, Rondebosch 7701.

## WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDAR: N° 1

### WETLANDS CONNECT US ALL

Following on the success of last year's series on invasive alien plants, we have decided to shift our focus this year to the World Environmental Calendar in an attempt to raise awareness of the various topics represented by each of the days on this calendar.

The first date on the calendar is 2 February, World Wetlands Day. This date marks the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands in 1971 which was signed on the shores of the Caspian Sea in the Iranian city of Ramsar. Now commonly known as the Ramsar Convention, this agreement strives to promote the conservation of wetlands and the wise use thereof through local, regional, national and international cooperation in an attempt to ensure sustainable development.

For the past twenty-odd years, government agencies, NGOs and groups of concerned citizens have been using World Wetlands Day to raise public awareness of the value and benefits of wetlands. According to the latest statistics on the Ramsar website, 158 parties are contracted to the Convention with 1822 wetland sites totalling 168 million hectares, included or designated for inclusion in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance.

The theme for World Wetlands Day 2009 is "Upstream – Downstream: Wet-

lands Connect Us All", and the focus is on river basins and their management. River basins are interconnected systems and, as the theme suggests, people living in or near these systems are impacted by the activities of those upstream while they, in turn, impact others living downstream. Thus, all people affect their river basins. It's not just about planners and managers or governments but about users. We are all users of water in river basins. Whether farmers, fishermen, factory owners or families, our activities have an impact on the basin in which we live.

Wetlands within river basins are interconnected. They are a critical part of the water cycle and since we are a water-dependent species, looking after wetlands is imperative. Loss of aquatic habitat, alterations of the natural flow regime in rivers, alien species and water pollution, to mention but a few, impact negatively on wetlands. The effect is not on a particular wetland alone but is often felt throughout the whole river basin. Thus, think carefully: What do you do in your daily work or in your personal capacity that can harm the river basins in the Overstrand region?

The next important date on the World Environmental Calendar is 22 March: World Water Day. In the next edition, we will be taking a closer look at water-related environmental issues.



Photo: Kerry van Rensburg, Hermanus Times

## BINS FOR HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD WASTE

Overstrand residents now have an official way of getting rid of hazardous household waste. Special bins for the disposal of household corrosives, flammables, toxic materials, oxidizers, dry-cell batteries and compact fluorescent lights are available at the Solid Waste Transfer Stations at Hermanus and Kleinmond. From here, such waste will be taken to the Vissershok Waste Management Facility near Cape Town which is equipped to handle hazardous waste. According to Mr Johan van Taak, Overstrand Municipality's Principal Technician: Solid Waste, there was a great need for these bins as most residents need to dispose of hazardous waste matter at some or other time, especially when they move house and are left with pesticides or other hazardous material that they do not want to take with. This service is not available for industrial and medical waste, for which private service providers must be contracted. Here Anthony Louw, Adolf Hansen and Johan are standing next to these user-friendly bins, clearly signed with information about what kind of hazardous waste can be placed in them. If you are unsure about the status of your waste, you are welcome to phone Mr Van Taak on 028 316 3724.



**Verkie u dié nuusbriëf in 'n ander amptelike taal? SMS u rekeningnommer met A vir Afrikaans na 082 338 1631**

**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**