



FROM THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR'S DESK



September is both Heritage- and Tourism Month. The national government has called on South Africans to support the culture of reading this Heritage Month. This initiative aligns with the Western Cape Provincial Libraries' initiative to make physical library shelves available online. You can read more about that in this newsletter.

Tourism Month provides a heightened, month-long focus on the importance of this sector to our economy. Especially considering the effects that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on this vital industry, we need to focus on sustainable ways to stimulate and maintain tourism in greater Knysna.

Speaking of COVID-19, I must once again plead with residents to register for and get vaccinated. It is natural to have questions regarding the available vaccines. However, I urge you to turn to reputable sources for information rather than succumbing to the irrational fear-mongering that litters social media. I am fully vaccinated – are you?

I have previously mentioned the importance of registering to vote in the upcoming local elections – and to then actually vote on the day. While we may be uncertain of exactly when our next municipal elections will be, it is your responsibility to create your local government. Please participate in creating an inclusive, innovative, inspired Knysna.

24 August marked ten years since the tragic accident that claimed the lives of 14 learners and their driver when the bus they were travelling in veered off the road and plunged into a river. I am at a constant loss as to how to comfort the affected families who are constantly reminded of what they lost and what could have been. May the memories you shared with your loved ones sustain and strengthen you.

*til next time

ELRICK VAN ASWEGEN, EXECUTIVE MAYOR #Vaccinate #Letsdothis

Winter Level 1 water restrictions apply, allowing:

Watering of gardens for one hour, three days a week from **17h00 to 18h00** Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays – residents with **even street numbers**; Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays – residents with **odd street numbers**;

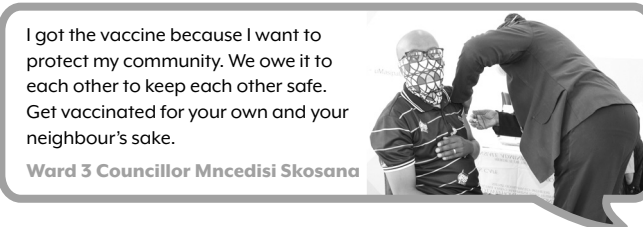
Report water leaks & abuse to 044 302 6331 (o/h) or 060 998 7000.

All Sections Office hrs: Tel: +27 (0)44 302 6300
Give us your feedback: tips@knysna.gov.za
Emergencies 24 hours: Tel: +27 (0)44 302 8911
Customer Services: SMS: 44453
 customercare@knysna.gov.za
 www.knysna.gov.za

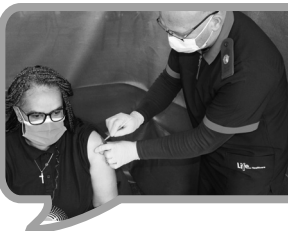
COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION GET 'THE JOB'



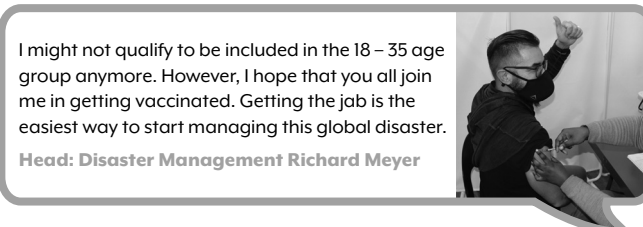
I believe that you lead by example. I can only hope that the people of Knysna follow my lead and get vaccinated. It is the only way in which we can #staysafe.
Executive Mayor Elrick van Aswegen



I got the vaccine because I want to protect my community. We owe it to each other to keep each other safe. Get vaccinated for your own and your neighbour's sake.
Ward 3 Councillor Mncedisi Skosana



We all need something positive at the moment. Knowing that you are more protected against coronavirus means that getting the vaccination, like me, is a very positive thing.
Councillor Georlene Wolmarans



I might not qualify to be included in the 18 – 35 age group anymore. However, I hope that you all join me in getting vaccinated. Getting the job is the easiest way to start managing this global disaster.
Head: Disaster Management Richard Meyer

EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME BUILDS ON PREVIOUS SUCCESS

"We are extremely proud of our Expanded Public Works Programme, or EPWP," said Acting Municipal Manager Dawid Adonis. "Not only does it assist us in our mandate of service delivery, but it also provides valuable employment opportunities."



R1.118 million has been budgeted for the 2021/2022 EPWP, based on the approved conditional grant allocation. The EPWP Internal Steering Committee met on 14 June to finalise project submissions and ensure that a process was in place for timeous recruitment. The EPWP Business Plan has also been submitted to the Department of Public Works.

"We exceeded our EPWP employment targets during the 2021/2022 financial cycle," said Adonis. "We will be sure to build on this past success, ushering more individuals into the workforce and enabling community members to earn a decent wage."

CAPITAL PROJECTS MAKING GOOD PROGRESS

The municipality received a Municipal Infrastructure Grant Annual Allocation of **R24 582 000** for the financial year of 2020/2021. This was at a deficit of more than **R300 000** after adjusting the Division of Revenue Second Amendment, Act 20 of 2020 reduced the original MIG allocation for the Western Cape.

"We managed to spend 100% of our grant allocation by the end of June this year," confirmed Acting Municipal Manager Dawid Adonis. "And, after the had lockdown of 2020 caused serious delays to many of our projects, we are back on track with our infrastructure capital projects."



Major internally funded projects include:

- the upgrading of gravel roads throughout various wards;
- the upgrades to Grey Street, 80% completion;
- phase one of the upgrade to the CBD sewer system, 80% completion;
- upgrade to CBD water reticulation system phase two, 80% completion;
- completion of upgrades to the north- and northeast bulk water services;
- completion of the inlet works at the Knysna wastewater treatment works;
- upgrade of Hornlee water reticulation system, 90% completion;
- completion of the upgrade to the Hornlee sewer reticulation system; and
- general works expression of interest at bid evaluation stages.



Critical MIG projects have either been completed or are nearing completion after lockdown regulations halted works:

- completion of the upgrade and refurbishment of the Charlesford and Eastford pump stations;
- the conversion of the Knysna wastewater treatment works sequencing batch reactor to a nutrient removal plant, 99% commissioning stage;
- completion of new sidewalks throughout various wards;
- upgrades to sporting facilities and fields throughout greater Knysna, at registration stages with MIG; and
- the surfacing of gravel roads, which has been registered and incorporated into the 2021/2022 capital plan.

"Hard lockdown, and the restrictions associated with subsequent alert levels, hampered progress on many projects. It curtailed our abilities to procure services and obtain parts, material and plant machinery, as well as those of appointed third parties," said Adonis. "We have, however, recovered from most of these setbacks. Our infrastructure projects allow all residents, businesses and visitors to make the most of living, working and playing in greater Knysna."

CELEBRATING OUR OWN – A LIGHTHOUSE & A DREAMER

August may have come to an end, but two of the ladies we featured were

Anita Strydom and **Marilyn Botha**.

Throughout the changes within the office, **Anita Strydom** remains the only constant as the personal assistant to the Municipal Manager. She has worked with seven Municipal Managers and several acting in that capacity.



Born in Knysna, Anita says that her 19 years at the municipality have taught her how to be a chameleon and adapt to different MMs and their work style. She is a fount of knowledge entrusted with a mammoth task, but she is always two steps ahead and never lets her guard down. She is determined and undeterred.

She says that instability and changes in the strategic direction are a challenge. "I grew up here, so this is more

than a job for me. It is about serving my community to the best of my ability."

One of the highlights in her almost 20 year-long career

is when the municipality appointed a female Municipal Manager, Lauren Waring.

Versatile but uncompromising, Anita has struck a balance between running the MM's office and being a wife and a

mother to three. Encouraging her colleagues, she said: "Titles and position are nothing; your character and integrity, that's everything! I challenge you to live by the truth and inspire others."

"Women tend to pay attention to detail, which is a thing of beauty. We are driven multitaskers, and it was refreshing to work with her. I hope we will have more females in strategic positions within the municipality in the future."

Also, Knysna-born, **Marilyn Botha** is the legal advisor for Knysna Municipality. Originally from Karatara, she matriculated from the Knysna Secondary School in 2005 before obtaining an LLB degree at the University of Stellenbosch.



Marilyn is a dreamer and her parent's ultimate dream come true. As an only child, her parents made many sacrifices to ensure that she had the best of everything. Now that their dream has come true, Marilyn herself admits to being a bit of a dreamer. She joined the municipality in 2013 as an intern with a four-month-old baby. She strives to provide for her daughter as her parents did, encouraging her every dream and applauding her every effort.

Marilyn is one of the few ladies who was not pressured to prove themselves in a male-dominated industry. "Having a female manager made my life so much easier," she says. "It has never been a matter of having to prove myself, but more of sisterhood, being part of a team and knowing my worth - which cancels the need to prove myself to anyone."

ART AND NATURAL BEAUTY: WIN-WIN

"Greater Knysna is known for its natural beauty," said Acting Municipal Manager Dawid Adonis. "Now a fantastic partnership is seeing our naturally stunning area being made even more special."

An ambitious and exciting collaboration between Visit Knysna, Knysna Municipality and the Knysna Art Society, #knysnaartproject has been in the planning stages for over a year. The results will undoubtedly stake Buffalo Bay – and the rest of the greater Knysna area - as an iconic destination.

For Buffs, the concept for the #knysnaartproject was inspired by the surfers who come here – a series of six artworks on surfboards, staged as a permanent

exhibition of sorts near the main swimming beach, the sprawling bay providing a picture-perfect backdrop for that been-there-done-that selfie. Murals on the public facilities, the eventual surfboard boardwalk, mosaics on structures like the public braais, and other outdoor artworks will soon astound visitors to the famous beach.



The **Buffalo Bay** beachfront is one of six iconic sites in greater Knysna identified for public art placements in phase one. A 2.2m statue of a Rastafari priest is about to take centre stage at **Judah Square** in Concordia. A giant nautilus sculpted from stainless steel and indigenous wood will grace the SANParks waterfront on **Thesen Island**. Contemporary steel and mosaic impressions of indigenous Knysna fynbos and the Brenton Blue butterfly will be mounted at viewpoints in **Belvidere** and **Brenton on Sea**, respectively. In **Sedgefield**, a full-size, fully-mosaiced classic VW beetle is parked alongside the estuary as the latest addition to the town's celebrated Mosaic Route. **Knysna's central business district** will be cheered with the 70+ Knysna in Bloom flowerpots being turned into creative canvases for contributing artists.

"We are proud to be associated with this initiative," Adonis concluded. "Thank you to all the organisers and participating artists. You are adding great value to our area."



BABOON HUNTER CAUSES A STIR

Baboon troops attracted to residential areas by the ready availability of food have been the cause of much irritation to residents of Hunter's Home / George Rex area over the recent months. Damage has been caused to property, and in some cases, some of the males have been quite aggressive.

Stephen Langlands from the Knysna Municipality said that they had meetings with residents and Cape Nature to find the best solution for the problem.

"Immediate interventions include the appointment of baboon monitors, and we are in the process of acquiring baboon-proof dustbins for residents in affected areas."

"We have also put out two RFQ's recently. One for a service provider, knowledgeable in managing similar situations, to assess the baboon affected areas by gathering information on the troop movement, size, etc. Once we have their report, a management plan can be drawn up and implemented."

"The second RFQ for a professional hunter has caused much concern. The municipality is not planning to cull any baboons. As some male baboons have been quite aggressive, this is a precautionary measure to ensure we can act should there be a life-threatening situation. This decision will be made with the guidance of the appointed service provider that researched the troops, as well as Cape Nature."

If there is a need to euthanize a baboon, the right steps will be followed and an application will be made with Cape Nature for the necessary permit. We sincerely hope the matter can be managed without having to take that decision."



E-BOOKS ARE NOW AVAILABLE TO ALL PUBLIC LIBRARY USERS

Patrons can now borrow e-books and audiobooks from public libraries throughout the Western Cape as the province launches its technologically enhanced services. Anyone with a registered library card can enjoy

complimentary access to the catalogue available through the Western Cape Library Service. New members must first join their local library and will be able to make use of the mobile service after five working days. The services allow patrons to enjoy their books on several mobile devices or desktop computers.

One of the most popular platforms is the Libby app available on Apple and Android operating systems. Download the app from your store and follow the easy instructions. Patrons may also access the Overdrive website to borrow books. Offering an extensive catalogue of e-books and audiobooks that can be accessed and enjoyed at any time, Overdrive is a global reading platform and distributor of digital content for libraries and schools. This website contains material across all genres. By clicking on a book title of your choice, a book's synopsis appears that patrons can read. A search function allows the browser to search for a specific title of a book or any other library material. E-books will be available in English, Afrikaans, and isiXhosa.

Contact the town library on 0443026544 for assistance with registering for this service. You can also access the Overdrive at westerncape.overdrive.com

GARDEN REFUSE SITE MANAGEMENT PLAN

"The garden refuse site was once again temporarily closed due to a fire at the end of August," said Executive Mayor Elrick van Aswegen. "We have various short- medium- and long-term plans in place to try avoiding similar situations in the future and to streamline the management of the site."

The platform will be divided into four blocks to separate wet, dry and green waste to allow for easier fire control. In the short term, we propose that the operating hours are amended to 9h00 – 15h00, Monday to Friday, to ensure that operational and other site issues are completed by the end of the workday. Law enforcement or security officers will control access to ensure that only permissible waste is allowed onto the site and that vehicles only enter the facility three times per day. Vehicle capacity will be limited to three tonnes.

"We will hire a TLB to clear the waste and provide access to the top of the site," said van Aswegen. "We'll also make use of a chipper to reduce the volumes on site. As garden services are the main users of the facility, we'll schedule a meeting with them to discuss certain issues and encourage them to chip on-site and so reduce the volume of waste that is brought to the site."

The medium-term plan will see the municipal front-end loader repaired. 50% of the targets for the diversion of green waste from landfill, based on the Norms and Standards for the Diversion from Landfill (DEA 2013) will be reached by 2023 and 100% by 2027.

"In the long-term, we will call for proposals for a private-public partnership," said van Aswegen. "The licence for the municipal garden refuse site in Old Place expires on 15 January 2029, but the decommissioning of the site must commence before 15 January 2025."

"We are not charging any tariffs at the facility," he concluded. "But we do incur the cost of staff, audits and closure plans based on permit conditions. This should be considered when preparing the budget for the next financial cycle. In the meantime, we remain committed to providing this service and managing the facility effectively and safely."

