

## Upgraded Waste Water Treatment Works



The Knysna Municipality officially opened its long-awaited upgraded Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) on 4 October 2013.

The R48,4-million upgrade is a major infrastructure milestone, which will address capacity for the immediate future.

Executive mayor Georlene Wolmarans said that Knysna, like other towns in the region, had grown substantially over the past decade but the infrastructure had failed to keep up.

*Western Cape Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, Mr Anton Bredell, and Knysna Executive Mayor Georlene Wolmarans officially opened the upgraded Knysna Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW). Photograph: Desmond Scholtz*

“For us, the issue came to a head in September 2011 when a large amount of sewerage washed into our lagoon, polluting important swimming and recreational areas. While we were already far into the process of obtaining funding and had initiated some upgrading projects, the spill highlighted the vulnerability of our lagoon.”

Extensions and upgrades to the WWTW were tackled project-per-project as funding became available since 2010, culminating in the facility opening on 4 October. **Read more on p3.**

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## Lighting the way

Nine brand new High Mast Area Lights for Knysna

Nine High Mast Area Lights have been installed in the Knysna Municipal Area over the past few months. The lights, which provide lighting of about 300-metres diameter each, were erected in Hlalani, Sanlam Mall, Dam se Bos North, Edameni, Happy Valley, Kanonkop, Khayaletu Valley, Smutsville (Sedgefield) and Hornlee.

Except in Hornlee, where ward allocation funding was used, the lights were financed by the Western Cape Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) programme.

The municipality hopes to install another eight lights in the near future.

Knysna Municipal Manager Lauren Waring said the lights not only provided increased lighting in streets for the purposes of road safety and traffic flow, but also made neighbourhoods safer. “These lights help deter crime and vandalism, and improves the general appearance of residential areas, which ultimately increase the general living standards of our communities.”





# Featuring Ward 7: Councillor Titi Gombo

**Speeding up the delivery of infrastructure, and providing for the maintenance thereof, is a major part of Ward 7 Councillor Titi Gombo's passionate drive for her community.**

But in a complex society with complex problems Councillor Gombo says she has a simple approach. "I care about each and everyone's living conditions and will not leave a stone unturned to speed up service delivery. I see it as my main



*Councillor Titi Gombo at the house of 17-year old Givuyile Nyangaza where a wheelchair ramp now enables him to access his home whenever he pleases. Before he had to be carried in and out.*

task to really hear what issues are at the heart of my people and to then act on it. Finding ways to let the people from my ward know that I've heard them and that I care enough to do something about it, is of utmost importance to me."

She says she was uprooted when she was five years old and then had to move again, to far worse conditions, when the N2 was built. "I know how it feels to be 'dumped' somewhere, but I have since then developed a new pride in my community and my home, and I want the people of my ward to share in this.

"With the past year's Ward allocation we tried to stretch the little we had as far as possible. The long-awaited Bongani Bridge is finally complete, connecting our communities properly again. Funding also went towards the building



*The long-awaited Bongani Bridge connects communities once again. Councillor Gombo is pictured here with Valenese Kangelana and her daughter Angelica, and Leonar Petious.*

of wheelchair ramps at two homes while a guard rail in Peter Street, Khayaletu, is soon to be completed and will safeguard lives and property.

"The annual allocation made it possible to act on immediate needs and the interaction between myself, project manager Andrew Finn and the community was a great accomplishment and a foundation to build on.

"We are now looking forward to the very important task of building roads in our community. This year we will start an intensive labour project and communities that are in dire need of access will see us paving the way. We will pave until the money runs out and with the next allocation continue where we stopped."

She says she wants to help build an integrated and viable community and will continue to help better the lives of the people in her Ward. "Frustration understandably sets in when it takes so long to complete or even start projects. It is very important to communicate where we stand and what the reasons are why some projects take so long to get off the ground."

**Contact Councillor Gombo at 072 958 2036 or [mgombo@knysna.gov.za](mailto:mgombo@knysna.gov.za)**

## Blue Flag Beaches for Knysna again this summer



*Knysna Executive Mayor Geortene Wolmarans at the official opening of Knysna's Blue Flag beaches last year (2012). Photograph: Desmond Scholtz*

The Knysna Municipality has secured Blue Flag status for Brenton-on-Sea and Buffalo Bay beaches for a second consecutive year.

Municipal Manager Lauren Waring said that while many parties had worked very hard towards this goal, they had an added concern this year when the Kiani Satu went aground in Goukamma Nature Reserve and Marine Protected Area in August. "The situation potentially threatened both beaches. We were in communication with WESSA at the time and they were very supportive. This Blue Flag status means so much more in this context – things could have been very different.

"The provisions for this status are very strict and we are proud that we could achieve it again, and we are immensely grateful towards everyone who assisted us towards attaining this goal.

"We also congratulate the Thesen Islands Homeowners Association for attaining status as a Blue Flag Marina. We are very proud of their achievement and example, and we believe it will contribute to the tourism value of our town," said Waring.

The applicable time frame will be December 2013 and January 2014. She emphasised that the municipality would again work with residents to ensure that people could walk their dogs at allocated times, outside designated swimming areas and on leashes at all times.

Blue Flag is an international coastal management programme that accredits beaches that meet standards of excellence in water quality, environmental management, environmental education and information as well as safety and services. In South Africa the programme is implemented by the Wildlife Environmental Society of South Africa (WESSA).

## Upgraded Waste Water Treatment Works From Page 1



The WWTW upgrades include bigger and better collection dams (from 6,5MI/day to 8,2MI/day), new mechanical and electrical equipment as well as state-of-the art sludge dewatering equipment. The new technology will ensure that the treatment works can better deal with the volume and improve the quality of effluent to the new special standards imposed by the Department of Water Affairs. In fact, the quality effluent produced now is of such high standard it can be used for several commercial applications, including fertilising of flowers.

The Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) programme has contributed R34-million towards this project, the remainder of which had been part of municipal capital expenditure over three years.

The municipality intends more upgrades as soon as possible. The converting of the Sequential Batch Reactor (SBR) Unit will increase the capacity with another 2MI/day to 10,2MI/day, which should then provide capacity until 2018-2020. If other aspects of sewer flows can be better managed, capacity may be extended for some more years.

Longer term plans include the relocation of the WWTW. Investigations regarding this will commence shortly.

## Mayoral Golf Day

The Knysna Municipality hosted the sixth annual Mayoral Golf Day on 10 October. The event raised R220 000 for the Knysna Mayoral Fund, which supports educational and community initiatives.

*The Winning team was VPM Surveys. Pictured from left: John Rimbault, Brent Ingel, Rohan Kohler, Marcel de Ridder (sponsor Canon), Knysna Executive Mayor Geortene Wolmarans, John Edwards and Peter Berman (sponsor Scratch Golf).*



*Andile Tebekana (right) shares his golfing tips with Executive Mayor Geortene Wolmarans while Iodien January looks on.*



## Local businesses bring warmth to the disabled

Spending long hours working in a cold and clammy workshop can be demotivating at the least. During her visits to Die Werkwinkel in Hornlee, Ward 9 Councillor Michelle Wasserman decided it was time to make a plan to heat the place up. Willem Klopper and John Metelerkamp were more than happy to donate towards this worthy cause. Kloppers donated a slow-combustion wood-burning fireplace and the Metelerkamp family donated the flues and provided free installation. If you can donate fire wood, please call Pastor Edwin Pedro on 078 631 5500.



## Help Knysna reinvent itself **iSDF**

Become part of the Integrated Strategic Development Framework (ISDF) community interactive process and register today. This is your chance to share your ideas on how to turn the Knysna municipal area into a thriving economy. More information on how to get involved at [www.knysna.gov.za](http://www.knysna.gov.za)

(on the homepage left below the news flash)

Register via the above website, by filling in a form at a library near you or by mailing: [isdf@knysna.gov.za](mailto:isdf@knysna.gov.za) or [info@knysnacreativeheads.co.za](mailto:info@knysnacreativeheads.co.za)

Knysna Manager Economic Development Ilse van Schalkwyk: 044 302 1646 or [ivanschalkwyk@knysna.gov.za](mailto:ivanschalkwyk@knysna.gov.za)

Knysna Creative Heads: 044 382 6732 or [info@knysnacreativeheads.co.za](mailto:info@knysnacreativeheads.co.za)

**IMPORTANT DATE: 4 November 2013 at Knysna Library**

**Woodmill Walk Centre – status quo feedback meeting**

## Youth Advisor Programme revived



*Alisha Hermanus*

*Busisiwe Mningiswa*

*Devoline Koopman*

*Edna Thomson*

**The Knysna Municipality has recently appointed four new youth advisors to assist local young people with skills development and job creation opportunities.**

Situated centrally at community centres in Rheenendal, Khayaletu, Smutsville and Hornlee, the four young women will act as a connection point between local government and its youth.

Knysna Municipal Manager Lauren Waring said a youth programme had existed within the municipality some years ago, but lost impetus due to lack of funding and support.

“Renewed provincial and national focus on social and youth issues have made funding and support more accessible and the municipality decided to revive the programme. Overseen by Head Disaster Management and Social Services, Richard Meyer, the municipality plans to expand its youth and social programmes significantly over the next few years. Our first step was to reopen our main youth centres as they are an important link to our young people, but we would like to see this function grow so that it can become a useful resource that will make an important positive impact on the lives and futures of our youth,” said Waring.

Open weekdays to youth between the ages of 16 and 35, initial services include assistance with compiling of CVs and applications to tertiary institutions, bursaries and jobs.

**Hornlee: Alisha Hermanus,**

Housing Office, Sunridge Street, 7.30am-4.30pm,  
Phone 044 302 6528, [hornleeydc@knysna.gov.za](mailto:hornleeydc@knysna.gov.za)

**Khayaletu: Busisiwe Mningiswa,**

Housing Office, Chungwa Street, 8am-5pm,  
Phone 044 302 6591, [khayaletuydc@knysna.gov.za](mailto:khayaletuydc@knysna.gov.za)

**Rheenendal: Devoline Koopman,**

Main Street, Rheenendal, 9am-6pm,  
Phone 044 044 302 6354  
[rheenendalydc@knysna.gov.za](mailto:rheenendalydc@knysna.gov.za)

**Smutsville/Sizamile: Edna Thomson,**

Community Centre, Rooikrans Lane, 10am-7pm,  
Phone 044 302 6330, [smutsvilleydc@knysna.gov.za](mailto:smutsvilleydc@knysna.gov.za)



## Wills Week!

The week of 7-11 October was National Wills Week. Aimed at raising awareness of the importance of making a will, the initiative was hosted in Knysna on 9 October at Sunridge Primary. Councillor Michelle Wasserman, an attorney herself, arranged for Zwaai Kruger of Kruger & Co. Attorneys to assist locals in drawing up their wills free of charge.



## Bridge over troubled sand dunes

Finally the foot bridge over the sand dunes at the top of Aloe Street has been replaced.

Connecting Groenvallei with the communities of Sizamile/Smutsville, the bridge not only provides safe passage to residents but also safeguards dunes from erosion.