

## Mayor dedicates Blue Flags to Kiani Satu 'heroes'



From left to right: Ted Knott from WESSA, Knysna Executive Mayor Georlene Wolmarans, Acting Municipal Manager Bevan Ellman and Thesen Islands Homeowners Association Chairman Richard Wilkinson.

Knysna Executive Mayor Georlene Wolmarans dedicated the greater Knysna's three Blue Flags to the hundreds of people involved in the logistics surrounding the Kiani Satu cargo ship drama earlier this year.

The municipality secured Blue Flags for Buffalo Bay and Brenton-on-Sea beaches for the second consecutive year while Thesen Islands became the region's first Blue Flag Marina.

Speaking at the handing

over of the flags on Thesen Islands on 5 November, Ms Wolmarans said the municipality's three blue flags were not being taken for granted, particularly in light of the fact that only three months before all three shores were under threat. **Read more on p3.**

### IN THIS ISSUE



- DANGEROUS ROAD CLOSED
- FEATURING WARD 3: COUNCILLOR MIGIEL LIZWANI
- ISDF UPDATE
- KNYSNA WEEDBUSTERS!
- RHODA KADALIE VISITS KNYSNA

## Coney Glen walkways temporarily closed

Walkways at Coney Glen have been closed temporarily in the interest of public safety.

Municipal Manager Lauren Waring said harsh weather conditions had taken its toll on the structures and were now too dangerous for passing. "It is inaccessible and dangerous at the moment and we urge the public to not venture across the cordoned-off area. We expect repairs to commence shortly and believe the walkways will be open before the peak holiday season starts. This will be done with the assistance of SANParks Working for Coast Programme.

"Coney Glen is a key recreational and tourism spot and we are looking forward to restored walkways that our locals and visitors can use to explore this stunning area properly. In the meantime, we ask the public to respect the cordoned-off area for their own safety, and thank them in advance for their patience and cooperation," said Waring.



# Featuring Ward 3: Councillor Migiel Lizwani



Some of the oldest communities in Knysna are situated in Ward 6 but, according to Councillor Migiel Lizwani, they are also among those communities who have been waiting the longest for houses and services.

"I understand the frustrations, especially when delivery dates are postponed all the time and funding from national government is not forthcoming. The dates and targets that we present to our people are not honoured. We want to



Newly arrived ID documents for residents is not the only thing that makes Councillor Lizwani smile. Here he is next to a picture of his three girls, Lisa (7), Yonda (9) and Amahle (12). He is married to Leatitia.

create an atmosphere of hope but time and time again we have to see disappointment on people's faces."

But there is good news in this ward too as, for the first time, there are two major projects underway – one for housing and another to provide bulk services and infrastructure. "But even this is not straight forward as ongoing education is required. People ask why we give them pipes if they want houses. They do not understand that if the infrastructure is not in place, the houses will never come."

He says the Ward's needs are diverse and range from better roads and access to running water to economic infrastructure and job creation opportunities. "As Councillor, a big part of my job is to explain that the



Songqayi Street was officially opened in February this year. From left Executive Mayor Georlene Wolmarans, local resident Oom Hendrik Britz and Councillor Migiel Lizwani.



Disappointed residents got an answer about a delayed project and say they support their councillor's efforts. In the councillor's office from left: Nompumelelo Soqinose, Deborah Thobela, Nemeliza Mathys, Lulek Agnes Maretse, Maliphathwe Maganda, Ntombizodwa Windvoel, Councillor Migiel Lizwani and Zamikhaya Zangana.

municipality is building for the future and has to use the little it gets from national government responsibly so that it can be a good investment for future generations. But this is a difficult concept for people to understand when they have been patient for so long.

"I believe that we should involve our communities more and help them to participate in their own development. If we involve our community, be it via jobs on projects in their own communities or by contributing in some other way, they will recognise that the infrastructure was co-built with the local government, and then they will look after it."

The ward allocation funding in the previous financial year went towards the paving of Songqayi Street in Dam-se-Bos, an important main road that leads to the community centre. "Roads remain a huge priority and I will not rest until all the roads are accessible and in good condition. Every person should know that they are important enough to feel proud of where they live."

**Ward 3 includes the areas of Dam-se-Bos, Nekkie and Brackenhill. Councillor Lizwani can be contacted on 083 770 2703 and mlizwani@knysna.gov.za**



Councillor Lizwani's dream to 'change the face' of his community will start with building infrastructure and fixing roads such as this one.

## Part of dangerous road closed



A section of Sunridge Road, Hornlee, has been closed for safety reasons after unapproved excavations on behalf of the National Department of Public Works at Knysna Secondary School have impacted on the road surface.

Acting Municipal Manager Bevan Ellman said the road surface was showing signs of a soil slip beneath the road which could ultimately lead to the road collapsing.

"While it is not the municipality doing the construction work there, it is taking precautionary measures in the interest of public safety. We are of the opinion that there are serious shortcomings in terms of safety and adherence to building regulations on the site, including the incorrect construction of a retaining wall on the school premises, and we are immensely concerned about the safety of our road users in this vicinity," said Ellman.

He explained that a legal loop hole allowed State Departments to build without obtaining approval for construction on State-owned premises, but that the municipality still required 'courtesy plans' to ensure that local building regulations and related safety precautions were adhered to. This was not done in this case.

Ellman said the situation was unacceptable and the municipality's legal department had already lodged its concerns to the National Department of Public Works and the Western Cape Department of Education. "The municipality will also insist that the State fit the bill for any damage incurred to municipal property as a result of incorrect and unsafe construction on this site.

"We also ask the public to take care in the vicinity of the construction site, and ask parents and teachers to warn children to stay away from the area in which construction is taking place," said Ellman.

A more detailed press release on this matter is available on [www.knysna.gov.za](http://www.knysna.gov.za)



## Mayor dedicates Blue Flags to Kiani Satu 'heroes' From Page 1

"The endless complications that we may have had to deal with if things turned out differently remain unthinkable. Without the efforts and support of the many organisations and individuals who worked day and night to rescue crew and get all that oil and rice safely off our coastline, this may have been a very different summer season indeed. To us they are all heroes."

She added that many of the people who did duty and volunteered in the cold and rain in August, would be working in the very same spots in the height of the summer season. "May we all look at those Blue Flags this season, remember the crisis we were fortunate enough to avoid, and celebrate our blessings," said Wolmarans.

The Blue Flag season on Buffalo Bay and Brenton-on-Sea applies from 1 December 2013 to 31 January 2014, and lifesavers will be stationed there throughout.

Dogs will not be allowed inside demarcated swimming areas at any time, and dog walking will only be allowed before 9am and after 5pm outside of demarcated areas. Animals are required to be on leashes at all time – not only for the safety of other people and dogs, but also to protect the endangered Black Oystercatchers that breed on these beaches at this time. Pet owners are requested to carry poo bags, clean after their dogs and dispose of dog litter in the provided bins or at home.

"The municipality thanks in advance the residents and visitors for adhering to the rules during the Blue Flag season. We realise that you are making sacrifices, and hope with you that the proven long-term benefits that others around the world have experienced – such as increased tourism and higher property values – will also become a reality for our Blue Flag beaches," said Acting Municipal Manager Bevan Ellman.



## ISDF UPDATE

### 16 Days of Activism

The Knysna Municipality supports 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, which runs from 25 November to 10 December.

If you are a child that is being abused, or if you know of such a child, please contact Childline on 0800 055 555.

Abused women can contact Lifeline on 0861 322 322 or the Stop Gender-Based Violence Helpline on 0800 150 150.

There are Victim Support Rooms in most police stations in the Knysna Municipal Area. However, should there not be someone there to assist when you arrive there, phone FAMSA on 044 382 5129 and they will make a plan to help you.



### Cuppa for CANCA

Executive Mayor Georlene Wolmarans (fourth from left) hosted a Cuppa for Cansa tea in the Knysna Municipal Council Chambers on Thursday 31 October. The event raised R4 500 towards the fight against breast cancer. Local cancer survivors shared their inspiring stories as part of the proceedings. Pictured from left are event organiser Veronique Klein, guest speakers Louise Yoko, David Klein, Jenny Olfson and Barbara Getliffe.



### Rhoda Kadalie visits Knysna

Well-known columnist, academic and Executive Director of Impumelelo Social Innovations Centre, Rhoda Kadalie, hosted a Best Practice Master Class for government and NGOs at the Knysna Municipality on 30 October. The day-long workshop was aimed at sharing and analysing best practices in Energy, Water and Waste Management, Pollution Control and Sanitation.

Pictured with Ms Kadalie (in blue) are specialist speakers (from left) John Parkin, David Wilson, Chris Fennemore, Teddy Gounden and Robert Abbu. Knysna Portfolio Committee Chairman for Planning and Development, Louise Hart, is second from right.

The Integrated Strategic Development Framework (ISDF) hosted a Status Quo Expo at the Knysna Library on 4 November. The expo featured research reports on different aspects of Knysna's current status, and will serve as a reference for future plans. The reports are available on the ISDF website at [www.isdf.co.za](http://www.isdf.co.za) or on the ISDF page of the municipality website at [www.knysna.gov.za](http://www.knysna.gov.za) (homepage left below news flash).

The Workshop and Road Show phases of the ISDF have also kicked off. If your organisation or association wants the ISDF to come to you, as long as you are in the Knysna municipal area, they can make a plan.

Phone 044 382 6732 or email [info@knysnacreativeheads.co.za](mailto:info@knysnacreativeheads.co.za) to make an appointment for such a visit.

It is not too late to register as an interested and affected party. Fill in a form at a library near you or click the 'register' link in the ISDF section on the homepage of the municipality website.

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### Weedbusters!

BioWise, Knysna Correctional Services, Knysna Municipality, Oakhill School, SANParks, Stepping Stones School and Working for Water joined forces during Weedbuster Week recently to tackle alien infestation in the catchment area above Pledge Nature Reserve.

Members of the public wanting to join such projects in future can contact Oakhill School, which runs regular environmental projects as part of their participation in the national Eco Schools project.

The black wattle and blackwood trees removed during clean-ups are delivered to the local Department of Correctional Services where inmates make an array of beautiful items including furniture and screens.