From the Mayor's Desk

Dear Reader,

In the month of May we recognise and celebrate the positive strides that have been made in South Africa since 1994.

This month further allows us a time of reflection on what more needs to be done collectively, towards the goal of building a prosperous society and improving the quality of life for all.

When I speak of my dream of building a prosperous society, I am not only looking for monetary hand-outs. None of us can ever run out of something worthwhile to give to our fellow community members.

In this newsletter I would like to ask you to consider giving of your expertise. I am hoping to form a myriad of forums within Greater Knysna. Forums in which residents can give of their time, and their expertise. Expertise that will help our local government rise above the difficulties that have unfortunately become part of so many people's daily lives.

After you have put this month's Council News down, I ask that you take some time to reflect and see how you can help those who are unable to help themselves.

Consider giving of yourself - I believe this is the true meaning of generosity.

Allow me to leave you with the words of Patti Dingh’s *Life is a Verb*: “Being generous often consists of simply extending a hand. That’s hard to do if you are grasping tightly to your righteousness, your belief system, your superiority, your assumptions and others, and your definition of normal.”

I appeal to each of you to show your generosity, letting go of everything that stands in the way of your, and my, generosity.

In closing, allow me to appeal to those who are able to make a valuable contribution towards Greater Knysna becoming a prosperous society, to contact my office manager, Christopher Bezuidenhoudt, at cbezuidenhoudt@knysna.gov.za with your suggestions.

Together we can take Greater Knysna forward, improving the quality of life for each and all.

Knysna Executive Mayor, *Eleanore Bouw-Spies*

---

Executive Mayor Eleanore Bouw-Spies surrounded by councillors, celebrities and participants, offering cheers of joy at the Youth Development Workshop held in the Knysna Secondary school on 3 April. See overleaf for whole story...
MAYOR’S BACK-TO-SCHOOL PROJECT RAISES R10 000

Following a call at the beginning of 2017, from Knysna Executive Mayor Eleanore Bouw-Spies, asking residents to consider donating backpacks, stationery and school clothing to help scholars who are either at the start or on the path of their school career, R10 000 was raised and other welcome items of school clothing and stationery received.

“A very big thank-you to Rotary Club Knysna, who donated the much-needed R10 000 towards this project. Despite the request going out in January, the month known for tight budgets after the holiday season, our residents dug deep and gladly donated stationery and school uniform items. The response from Greater Knysna gave me hope that this inaugural project will grow in the years to come,” said Bouw-Spies.

Thanks to the generous donation from Rotary Club Knysna, the Mayor was able to ask the 11 Knysna Ward Councillors to identify schools within their wards who should receive assistance from this project. The schools could then identify the most-needy children to benefit.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP A SUCCESS

In support of Youth Development, the Knysna Municipality Youth Desk, in partnership with Mind Movement Entertainment and Events, hosted a workshop/training session within Greater Knysna on 3 and 4 April. These workshops, hosted at the Knysna Secondary School, were aimed at the youth of Greater Knysna who were awarded Golden Tickets during Youth Talent auditions held in February and March 2017.

The participants and various celebrities, including Afrotainment record label owner DJ Tira, actor and film producer Dumisani Dlamini, music producer Ngane Sikobi, fashion mogul and celebrity stylist Pamela James and choreographer and dancer ‘Flexi’, were welcomed by Executive Mayor, Eleanore Bouw-Spies, and councillors Cathy Weideman and Mandla Matiwane.

The Golden Ticket winners will further be afforded an opportunity to perform in the June 16 Youth Day celebrations to be held at Loerie Park. The Youth Desk team has started with preparations and is already engaging with the youth to see how they can play a role during the planning and implementation phases. This includes utilising their photography, poster design, marketing and performing skills.

The workshop was ended with group discussions conducted per ward, where participants had the opportunity to deliberate on the way forward for the Youth Day event.

Greater Knysna youth should please keep an eye on the Knysna Municipal social media pages and local newspapers for information on Youth Day celebrations.
MUNICIPALITY TAKES WATER AWARENESS ON THE ROAD

Knysna Ward 5 Councillor and Executive Mayor, Eleanore Bouw-Spies launched the Water Educational theatre piece, My Silent Noise on Tuesday, 9 May at the Rheenendal Primary School.

During March 2017, the Knysna Municipality announced Level 3 water restrictions and immediately set their water campaign into action. Bouw-Spies suggested that the campaign includes a stage show that would help educate scholars in and around Greater Knysna with regard to the water restrictions as well as offering water saving tips.

Local thespian, Mandisa Litoyi from Re-Defined 101 created and produced this educational theatre show-piece, incorporating talented Greater Knysna's unemployed.

The show was launched at the Rheenendal Primary School where Knysna Executive Mayor, Eleanore Bouw-Spies said, “The initiative to create awareness around our water situation and this scarce resource is crucial, and starting with our youth is vital to get the message across. As a former educator I believe that it is important to include children in this campaign as they too have a significant role to play when it comes to conserving water and influencing the behaviour of their parents at home.

“What makes this particular educational play special is that an opportunity was given to our unemployed youth. Through this initiative, eight young actors have received an opportunity to not only showcase their talent, but receive short term employment as well.”

The play will now be performed at the 21 Greater Knysna schools. Each play is tailor-made to suit the school’s specifics, with regard to language, age and community.

In closing the Mayor added: “Using water sparingly is everybody’s responsibility, young and old. I am thoroughly impressed with the educational, yet fun content that the Re-Defined team has put together. I am so happy that this opportunity was given to our own local talented youth. With such initiatives we will not only create water awareness but build a town where our youth and nature prosper.”
ART DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR GREATER KNYSNA

The Knysna Municipal Library Services hosted their Arts Development Programme Workshop, The Artists as a Story Teller in February and April at the Rheenendal, Masifunde, Hornlee and White Location Libraries.

The workshop included basic 3D modelling and animation, creative arts and story book production training. The main aim of this initiative is to equip creative unemployed youth with the necessary skills that will assist them to become creative beyond the bounds of our physical works, also known as The Real World.

The training further aimed to empower the attendees to create an employment opportunity for themselves and others by empowering them to tell their own stories.

During the Basic 3D Modelling and Animation session, trainees were introduced to three facets of the 3D Software Suite. Firstly, the types of software and the software interface were covered. Secondly, workflow within the software was done. Lastly, the focus was on gender-specific character modelling and animation.

The Creative Arts and Story Book Production training focused on the production of two fully illustrated and coloured story books. All participants contributed to the production of the books, with each individual receiving set tasks to complete with a set deadline. Within one week, two stories were developed, written, illustrated, digitally coloured and completed.

The Art Development Programme continues for the next two months and will also take place in Hornlee, White Location and Smutsville.

For further information, contact, Sikhanyiso Magodla at smagodla@knysna.gov.za or 044 302 6599 and Carlyle Lodewyk at clodewyk@knysna.gov.za or 044 302 6266.

DAM-SE-BOS SPORT GROUND RE-OPENED

On Saturday, 13 May during the official opening ceremony the Dam-se-Bos Sport Ground. Knysna

Executive Mayor Eleanore Bouw-Spies cut the ceremonial ribbon to officially re-open the sports ground to the community.

She was joined by Mayoral Committee Member: Community Services, Cllr Cathy Weideman and Ward 3, Cllr Mncedisi Skosana.