Knysna Municipality celebrates the living heritage of its residents with new DVD

Knysna Municipality’s new documentary film, The Living Heritage of Knysna, will soon be available to view at the Knysna Museum in Queen Street. Knysna Municipal Manager Lauren Waring explained that the film will serve to give visitors to our town a different perspective on not only Knysna’s history, but also on the people who live here. “And, of course, we invite all our residents to view this insightful documentary once the viewing room is ready,” she said.

“The film features six senior citizens of Knysna, recollecting their stories and histories as it relates to the development of the town. It also pays special tribute to Mr. Percival Mdala, who played an integral role in the development of education within our black community.”

“Not only does this film capture these important stories, preserving this oral record of the early days of our town, it also acknowledges the hardships certain people had to endure in order to make a living for themselves and their families in a pre-1994 South Africa,” said Waring. “The film also showcases Knysna’s beautiful surroundings from the indigenous forest to the Cape fynbos and from the estuary to the ocean. It is one of the most exciting and positive projects undertaken by Knysna Municipality.”

Community Services Chairperson Councillor Irene Grootboom said that she was highly impressed with how the film handled its subject matter. “We have to remember our older generations and what they went through during the early development of our town.”

The Living Heritage of Knysna discusses various aspects of Knysna’s history, ranging from the woodworkers of old and how timber was processed in the forest before it made the arduous journey to town, to boatbuilding in the Thesen's boatyard on Thesen Island.

“It touches on the gold rush, the Italian settlement outside Gouna and the schools of old such as the Eastford Secondary School. It also pays tribute to the natural beauty of the greater Knysna municipal area and, as all of the locations featured in the film are open to the public and easily accessible, it also serves as an invaluable promotional tool for tourism in our area,” Waring continued. “And all of these important aspects of our town are related through the personal stories of the people telling them.”

Councillor Grootboom invited the local schools to contact the municipality to arrange viewings for their learners. “We must ensure that our children know where they come from, and understand their forbearers’ roles in the development of our town, as well as its society.”

The film was sent for adjudication for the Canadian Film Festival.
Celebrating Heritage month

September is Heritage Month with Heritage Day on the 24th. This year, the theme for Heritage Month is “Celebrating 20 Years of Democracy: Tell Your Story that Moves South Africa Forward”.

Knysna Executive Mayor Georlene Wolmarans believes the municipality’s new DVD The Living Heritage of Knysna is quite apt regarding this year’s theme. Remembering your heritage is about remembering where you come from. “The best way to remember where you come from,” said Wolmarans, “is to know where you are today and where you are going tomorrow. For me, the best way to realize this is by spending quality time with my family. Let us create platforms to tell our stories and reconnect the community with our collectively rich and diverse heritage”.

The Arbour Week team visited ten different venues in Khayalethu, Greenfields, Concordia, Hornlee and Brackenhill during the week. The focus was on planting in crèches and clinics in the community this year.

Where teams visited crèches, little ones were brought into the loop and helped to plant and name their trees. They also learned why trees are so important and how to care for them.

During National Arbour Week 2014 the Knysna Arbour Week team planted a record breaking 120 trees at various venues throughout Knysna!

The team wishes to thank the Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries for their donation of 100 trees as well as all of the venues for receiving and looking after their Arbour Week trees.

Historically, South Africa has not had a culture of tree planting and it was not until the 1970s that a real need to promote tree planting was recognised. The concept of a National Arbour Day ensued from 1973 Green Heritage Campaign. Following requests from various bodies, the then Department of Forestry obtained approval in 1982 to establish National Arbour Day, which has been in place countrywide since 1983.

Arbour Week:

- promotes a better knowledge of trees, particularly indigenous trees;
- stresses the necessity for everyone to plant trees and care for them;
- highlights the vital role of trees in our lives and;
- contributes to the achievement of a green, dignified and healthy environment in all parts of South Africa.

Have you saved water today?

Residents and businesses are reminded to consciously save water. Our resources are under severe strain due to a very dry winter. Law Enforcement Officers will be on patrol in all areas and those abusing water will be fined. Please report any abuse of water to 044 302 6331. Visit the municipality’s website http://www.knysna.gov.za/be-water-wise/ for tips on saving water.

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Knysna Municipality’s water is safe to drink

Following recent statements on social media and other platforms with regards to discoloration, Knysna Municipality wishes to assure its residents that the town’s potable water is completely safe to drink.

The municipality complies with government’s strict legal and environmental requirements in terms of water services. The Department of Water Affairs enforces water requirements and conduct regular inspections of the municipality’s drinking water plants. Along with Eden District Municipality, we also test our water and use an independent South African National Accreditation System accredited laboratory to analyse the samples.

Water results are reported to Council on a monthly basis in meetings that are open to the public. In addition, the Knysna Catchment Management Forum and the Estuary Pollution Control Committee, which is comprised of eminent and learned members of our community, as well as governmental and parastatal bodies, are extremely active in monitoring our water.

The management and maintenance of infrastructure are continuously carried out to ensure that residents receive clean, potable water. The municipality takes pride in its innovative approach to a range of water supply and environmental issues, and the fact that our water purification plant is of the highest standard.

Women in the Green Economy and Business Skills Workshop

Basic Entrepreneurial Skills Development (BESD) hosted “A Women in the Green Economy and Business Skills” workshop on 4 September 2014 at the Knysna Town Library. Developing business women of Knysna gained valuable knowledge on entrepreneurial opportunities in the green economy.

The overall goal of BESD is to increase the sustainability of micro enterprises; improve the prospects of income generation; and create new jobs.

Dates to Remember

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<tr>
<td>5 October</td>
<td>World Teachers Day</td>
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<td>15 October</td>
<td>Planning Development &amp; Infrastructure Committee Meeting</td>
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<td>6-10 October</td>
<td>National Marine Week</td>
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<td>16 October</td>
<td>World Food Day</td>
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<td>7 October</td>
<td>Governance &amp; Economic Development Committee Meeting</td>
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<td>21 October</td>
<td>Pennypinchers/Lions Karoo to Coast Mountain Bike Challenge</td>
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<td>10-11 October</td>
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<td>25 October</td>
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<td>14 October</td>
<td>Community Services Committee Meeting</td>
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<td>Beer Festival (Scarab Village)</td>
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The workshop not only provides people with disability with an income, it gives them a place in society, uplifts their self-esteem, provides a place where they can interact socially without prejudice and gives them a purpose in life,” Ms. Bouw-Spies said.

Die Werkswinkel manager Edwin Pedro says they only keep afloat with the donations that they receive and the income generated from sales of the products the project manufactures. “We are currently in need of sewing contracts for the ladies that work here. Members of the community who need clothing made, or who want alterations done, should come and support us”.

The centre employs up to 40 people. The work ranges from furniture making and restoration, to sewing and alterations, and basket-weaving products.

Ms. Bouw-Spies is also hoping to establish a similar group for disabled people in her ward and, particularly, in Rheenendal.

On Thursday 21 August 2014 Knysna Council Speaker Eleanore Bouw-Spies donated much need braille bibles to Die Werkswinkel in Hornlee. Ms Bouw-Spies said: “It is of great importance that such projects receive support as they play a vital role in improving our communities and the lives of people with disabilities. I encourage individuals, private companies and government institutions to support organisations such as Die Werkswinkel. Every small donation counts and makes a difference.”

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To make donations or purchases at Die Werkswinkel, please contact Edwin Pedro on 078 631 5500 or visit the centre in Fontein Street, Hornlee.