In support of Movember

Knysna Municipal Manager Lauren Waring says goodbye

Len Richardson, Knysna municipality Electro-technical engineer announces early retirement

Len Richardson, Electrotechnical Engineer at the Knysna Municipality, announced last month that he will go on early retirement at the end of November.

Richardson started to work at the municipality on the 1st of May 1983. “One of the biggest challenges during his 35 years was to keep Knysna’s electrical supply constant in the midst of Eskomload shedding. A particular bad period was when in winter one year, the town had only one transformer to rely on as the other had failed. It was nerve-racking - if anything happened to this transformer, a replacement would have taken two years!”

The Municipal Manager Lauren Waring said that it was a privilege to work with him. “Mr. Richardson has served the town with great commitment and dedication. It has been a pleasure to be able to work with him, and to learn from him. He has not only been a wonderful colleague, but a great friend as well. I know the town is going to miss him and his immense knowledge and wisdom.”

Richardson moved to Knysna in 1978 as a Knysna’s Public Prosecutor. Deciding to change careers he went back to study, and started at the municipality’s Electrical Department. “I started and am going to finish my career at the Municipality, and am thankful for the opportunities I’ve had. I am looking forward to relax a bit, but am busy booking my train that must be completed first. We plan to move to Agulhas in the next two years where we will settle.”

Ms. Waring’s last working day will be 28 November 2014. The Director of Financial Services Grant Easton has been appointed as acting municipal manager for a period of three months as of 1 December 2014.

Ms. Waring’s last working day will be 28 November 2014. The Director of Financial Services Grant Easton has been appointed as acting municipal manager for a period of three months as of 1 December 2014.

The Municipality has received three awards at the award ceremony for the Western Cape Greenest Municipality of the Year held on the 3rd of November in Stellenbosch.

Municipal Manager Lauren Waring said she was extremely proud of their achievements. “Not only did we receive the second runner up award as Greenest Municipality of the Year, we also received Certificates for Outstanding Achievement as the category winners for Waste Management and Water Conservation, and Most Innovative for our Green Rebate initiative.”

The Greenest Municipality Competition (IGAC) is arranged by the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning. It is judged according to strict criteria which include waste management, energy efficiency and conservation, biodiversity management and conservation, management, coastal management and conservation, waste management and water conservation, air quality and environmental compliance, institutional arrangements and public participation. Sixteen local municipalities participated and Mossel Bay Municipality won the competition for the second consecutive year with Hermanus Municipality the first runner up. The Greenest Municipality competition is not for Best District but for Best Provincial Municipality, which is very fitting that the Garden Route’s municipalities did well.

Ms. Waring said there were a variety of factors that played a role in achieving the awards which included strategic planning, waste minimisation, operation and management, monitoring and reporting, financial planning, efficient management, emergency planning, water balance and water conservation, public awareness and educational programmes. “We had outstanding results in all of these, and I want to congratulate and thank all the relevant Departments for their hard work. The Green Rebate initiative, launched by the Finance Department earned us the innovation award. This rebate gives you 30% discount on your rates if you sort out your star in five years, which apply to residential estates or registered Private Nature Reserves. Criteria include alien clearance programmes, membership of the Southern Cape Fire Protection Association, membership of Cape Nature, and a management plan for Green Initiatives, etc.”

The Municipality won a R50 000 cash prize as the second runner-up of the Greenest Municipality Competition and Waring said the guidelines are very specific as to what the money can be used for. “We are looking at a project that will promote one or more of the principles of the competition and all the relevant Departments will have to put their heads together to come up with a plan.”

She said that the Municipality is aiming for first place next year and are already working on some new initiatives with the focus on raising public awareness and increased education. “We want all our residential areas to come on board with, amongst other, water saving and waste minimisation projects and will run a variety of educational programmes concurrently to promote participation. This is about caring for our natural environment, which after all, is Knysna’s biggest asset.”

The aim of the competition, now in its 14th year, is to promote improved service delivery that restores community pride and commitment in caring for the living environment. It also focuses on improved integrated sustainable development strategies in municipalities.

LEN RICHARDSON, Electrotechnical Engineer at the Knysna Municipality, announced last month that he will go on early retirement at the end of November.

Len Richardson

The Municipality has received three awards at the award ceremony for the Western Cape Greenest Municipality of the Year held on the 3rd of November in Stellenbosch.

Municipal Manager Lauren Waring said she was extremely proud of their achievements. “Not only did we receive the second runner up award as Greenest Municipality of the Year, we also received Certificates for Outstanding Achievement as the category winners for Waste Management and Water Conservation, and Most Innovative for our Green Rebate initiative.”

The Greenest Municipality Competition (IGAC) is arranged by the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning. It is judged according to strict criteria which include waste management, energy efficiency and conservation, biodiversity management and conservation, water management and conservation, air quality and environmental compliance, institutional arrangements and public participation. Sixteen local municipalities participated and Mossel Bay Municipality won the competition for the second consecutive year with Hermanus Municipality the first runner up. The Greenest Municipality competition is not for Best District but for Best Provincial Municipality, which is very fitting that the Garden Route’s municipalities did well.

Ms. Waring said there were a variety of factors that played a role in achieving the awards which included strategic planning, waste minimisation, operation and management, monitoring and reporting, financial planning, efficient management, emergency planning, water balance and water conservation, public awareness and educational programmes. “We had outstanding results in all of these, and I want to congratulate and thank all the relevant Departments for their hard work. The Green Rebate initiative, launched by the Finance Department earned us the innovation award. This rebate gives you 30% discount on your rates if you sort out your star in five years, which apply to residential estates or registered Private Nature Reserves. Criteria include alien clearance programmes, membership of the Southern Cape Fire Protection Association, membership of Cape Nature, and a management plan for Green Initiatives, etc.”

The Municipality won a R50 000 cash prize as the second runner-up of the Greenest Municipality Competition and Waring said the guidelines are very specific as to what the money can be used for. “We are looking at a project that will promote one or more of the principles of the competition and all the relevant Departments will have to put their heads together to come up with a plan.”

She said that the Municipality is aiming for first place next year and are already working on some new initiatives with the focus on raising public awareness and increased education. “We want all our residential areas to come on board with, amongst other, water saving and waste minimisation projects and will run a variety of educational programmes concurrently to promote participation. This is about caring for our natural environment, which after all, is Knysna’s biggest asset.”

The aim of the competition, now in its 14th year, is to promote improved service delivery that restores community pride and commitment in caring for the living environment. It also focuses on improved integrated sustainable development strategies in municipalities.