It is still low rainfall period for the area and, with the influx of visitors, our water demand is still in place. We urge our residents to conserve and ensure that we have enough water for our planned developments and projects.

The Municipality is fortunate to have accomplished employees who are excellent at their jobs, and it is great when this is acknowledged from outside the organization. On behalf of management, I want to congratulate Oom Ben and thank him for his commitment and passion for his work. We are proud to have him as part of the team, and hope that it motivates others to follow in his footsteps.

The municipality also received Blue Drop Status Awards for Karatara in 2010 and 2012.

**WASTE REMOVAL DAYS - SEDGEFIELD**

- **Monday**: Groenvlei area
- **Tuesday**: Sedgefield Central, Bibbyshook, Rheensendal
- **Wednesday**: Beaufort, Beaufort Grond, Smithville area
- **Thursday**: Karatara
- **Friday**: Zesgezicht, Extensions 3 and 4, Cira and Myoli Beach

**WASTE REMOVAL DAYS - KNYSNA**

- **Monday**: Costa Sarra, Fisher Haven, Hunters Home, Rookwood, Onder-dorp, Sparrobschuit, Peucia, Thesen Islands
- **Tuesday**: Industrial area, Leisure Island, The Heads, Knysna Lagoon
- **Wednesday**: Old Place, Bevindens, Westford

**DATES TO REMEMBER - MUNICIPAL MEETINGS**

- **28 Jan**: Council Meeting
- **16 Feb**: Governance & Economic Development Committee
- **17 Feb**: Finance Committee

**DATES TO REMEMBER - COMMEMORATIVE DAYS & EVENTS**

- **16 Dec**: Day of Reconciliation
- **20 Dec**: Garden Route Trail Series 1
- **24 Dec**: Day of Goodwill
- **25 Dec**: Christmas Day

**EVENTS**

- **26 Dec**: Nite Race
- **19-23 Dec**: The Gift of Knysna
- **19-27 Dec**: Garden Route Trail Series
- **28 Jan**: Misfit Colour Run
- **20-27 Dec**: Garden Route Trail Series

**Ward Focus: Ward 7, Cllr. Mertle Gombo**

Enhancing and fast-tracking service delivery and creating infrastructure demands are a significant part of Ward 7 Councillor Gombo’s drive for her community. When I took my mantle as Councillor in 2011, my key objective was to ensure that I improve the living conditions of everyone in my community,” said Gombo.

She said she is born and raised in Knysna. “I am passionate about development in my community, I care about each and everyone’s livelihoods and strive towards creating a town where people and nature prosper.”

“My main task is to listen and hear what issues are at the heart of the people in my community. I have always encouraged them to let their voice be heard by participating in the Integrated Development Plan process. We have tried to stretch the Ward allocation budget to deliver on some of the projects the community identified during the IDP process,” said Cllr Gombo.

Projects accomplished utilizing the 2014/15 budget:

- R48 000 has been spent on refurbishing the Khayalethu Playpark.

We changed the layout of the playground and added two small timber bridges, benches and a local area to the existing playground equipment.

- R200 000 was spent on paving the sidewalks at Chungua Street.

Projects for 2016/16 financial year:

- We are in the process of upgrading the gravel roads to paved surfaces in RHV Road Rlohlolose and Gwag Street Knysna.” Both projects should be completed by December 2015.

- In 2016 more roads will be paved in Edamani and Knysna Lagoon Valley.

Cllr Gombo said that she is looking forward to other projects in the pipeline. “Our rates have been increased and we are working on the request. Tuniqua Consulting Engineers have completed surveys identifying where guardrails are required, however installation areas will only be finalized early in 2016. A tender has been advertised for the supply and delivery of guardrail material and is closing on the 20th of January 2016.”

“Sport has always been at the heart of my community, not only promoting a healthy lifestyle, but also keeping our kids off the street. As a parent, I understand that we need to do all we can to keep our children away from negative activities and I am especially excited about the upgrade of Bongani Sport Field that is scheduled for 2016.

The municipality is still engaging with the Ward Committee and Sports Forum with regards to this project, but we envisage that work will commence early in 2016,” said Cllr Gombo.

**Municipal Employee rakes in accolades**

Benjamin Van Jaarsveld, also affectionately known as Oom Ben by those who know him, walked away with three awards from the Department of Water and Sanitation at a prestigious event held in Worcester on Thursday, 26 November.

Currently the foremost recognizable for basic services in Karatara, he has been working for the Departments of Technical Services and previously Community Services for the last 13 years.

The awards event, hosted by the Western Cape Provincial Operations Water and Sanitation Department, aims to acknowledge Process Controllers and their Municipalities for the commendable and selfless work done providing communities with safe drinking water and ensuring the protection of our precious water resources.

Oom Ben walked away with the awards for Best Process Controller, Best Process Controller Wastewater and Best Water Treatment Works. Strict criteria were set for these categories, which, amongst other include knowledge of the processes and different components of the plant, record keeping, operation and control maintenance and innovation and resourcefulness.

The 62 year old, who was born in Karatara, was delighted with the recognition of his work. “I am overwhelmed and thrilled. It is an honor to be recognized for the work that you do. What I do is not just a job; I see it as a purpose in life.”

Knysna Municipal Manager Grant Eaton said they were pleased with the accolades that Oom Ben has brought home. “Knysna Municipality is fortunate to have accomplished employees who are excellent at their jobs, and it is great when this is acknowledged from outside the organization. On behalf of management, I want to congratulate Oom Ben and thank him for his commitment and passion for his work. We are proud to have him as part of the team, and hope that it motivates others to follow in his footsteps.”

The municipality also received Blue Drop Status Awards for Karatara in 2010 and 2012.

**Water Restrictions still in place**

It is still low rainfall period for the area and, with the influx of visitors, our water demand is still over our planned levels. We urge our residents to continue to apply the restrictions in place. The use of hoses for gardening and other purposes is permitted from 18h00 to 19h00 until May. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for residents with even street numbers. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays for residents with odd street numbers.

**EMERGENCY NUMBERS**

- **COUNCIL OFFICE HOTLINE**: 044 302 8911
- **PROVINCIAL AMBULANCE**: 10177
- **EMERGENCY NUMBERS**: 044 302 8911 / 044 302 8912
- **WASTE REMOVAL DAYS  - SEDGEFIELD**: Monday Groenvlei area Tuesday Sedgefield Central, Bibbyshook, Rheensendal Wednesday Beaufort, Beaufort Grond, Smithville area Thursday Karatara Friday Zesgezicht, Extensions 3 and 4, Cira and Myoli Beach

**WASTE REMOVAL DAYS - KNYSNA**

- **Monday**: Costa Sarra, Fisher Haven, Hunters Home, Rookwood, Onder-dorp, Sparrobschuit, Peucia, Thesen Islands
- **Tuesday**: Industrial area, Leisure Island, The Heads, Knysna Lagoon
- **Wednesday**: Old Place, Bevindens, Westford

**DATES TO REMEMBER - COMMENORATIVE DAYS & EVENTS**

- **16 Dec**: Day of Reconciliation
- **20 Dec**: Garden Route Trail Series 1
- **24 Dec**: Day of Goodwill
- **25 Dec**: Christmas Day
- **26 Dec**: Nite Race
- **19-23 Dec**: The Gift of Knysna
- **26 Dec**: Misfit Colour Run
- **1 Jan**: New Year’s Day

**DATES TO REMEMBER - MUNICIPAL MEETINGS**

- **29 Jan**: Council Meeting
- **16 Feb**: Governance & Economic Development Committee
- **17 Feb**: Finance Committee