November 2015

MESSAGE FROM THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER

Knyrna is excited to stand at the beginning of yet another summer holiday season. We have been working hard over the last few weeks to make sure the town is ready to welcome our guests over the holiday period.

As one can imagine the Municipality’s resources are stretched to the limit over this period. Once again we have employed temporary staff to make sure that we will be able to handle the increase in feet and traffic, safety & security policing and also lifesaving duties on beaches in the area.

You have chosen a pristine natural habitat to enjoy your holiday, please show it the necessary respect and make sure that you leave it in the same way it was when you arrived, making sure that its legacy will last for future generations.

Enjoy your time with us and stay safe on the roads and beaches. Please do not drink and drive, rather make use of one of our excellent local taxi operators that will make sure you get home safely.

I want to thank my team for their work to date, they are operating like a well-oiled machine and I know that, as always, our town and traffic will be running smoothly over the Festive period.

Happy Holidays and a New Happy Year, we hope you have a fantastic time in Knysna over the next few weeks.

Grant Easton
Municipal Manager
Knysna Municipality

CLOSURE OF MUNICIPAL OFFICES:
24 DECEMBER 2015 TO 3 JANUARY 2016

Please note that the offices of the Knysna Municipality will close at 12:00 on Thursday 24 December 2015 and reopen on 07:30 on Monday 4 January 2016.

The Customer Pay Centre in Main Street, Knysna, will be open from the 28th to the 31st of December between 08h00 to 12h00.

All essential and emergency services will be rendered.

For enquiries or emergencies, please contact the Knysna Fire Department at 044 302 8911.

WATER RESTRICTIONS

It is still low rainfall period for the area and with the influx of visitors our water demand soon over this period.

Please use water sparingly and adhere to the water 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 customers with even street numbers and Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays for residents with odd street numbers.

MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE RAKING IN ACCOLADES

Benjamin van Jaarsveld, 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 foreman responsible for basic services in Karatara, he has been working for the Directorates 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, 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 Water, Best Process Controller Wastewater and Best Water Treatment Works. Strict criteria were set for these categories, which, amongst other, include knowledge of the process 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 overjoyed and thrilled – it is something I have chosen to do. I do it for the love of it and I do it for the community. I am sure it will make a difference.”

Oom Ben has brought a lot of happiness and joy to Karatara, and I know that, as always, our town and traffic will be running smoothly over the Festive period.

Waste management is an essential part of our day to day lives, and as a municipality we need to do everything in our power to ensure that we keep our streets clean and our environment safe.

We are currently implementing a new waste removal system which will see the increase of removal days, but this will also mean that we will have less waste to dispose of.

The new system will be as follows:

- Monday: Green, red and blue bins
- Tuesday: White bins
- Wednesday: Yellow bins
- Thursday: Brown bins
- Saturday: Smuggler’s Valley, Sedgefield, Knysna and Plettenberg Bay

Dates to remember

Commemorative Days & Events:
16 December: Day of Reconciliation
16 December: Nite Race
19-23 December: The Gift of Knyrna shopping experience
20-27 December: Garden Route Trail Series
25 December: Christmas day
26 December: Day of Goodwill
26 December: Mistfit Colour Run
01 January 2016: New year’s Day

Knysna Municipal Manager Grant Easton said they are pleased with the accolades that Oom Ben has brought home. “Knysna Municipality is fortunate to have accomplished employees who are excellent at their job, 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.”

Oom Ben van Jaarsveld (right) with Municipal Manager Grant Easton.

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