FROM THE MAYOR’S DESK – HAPPY HOLIDAYS

What an eventful year it has been for Knysna. This year will certainly be remembered for the worst fire in recent history – which changed the lives of countless of our residents. Nature is our biggest inspiration. Have you noticed the green sprouting everywhere, from blackened trees to barren hillsides? And so it has been with us – the town stood up and arose “out of the ashes”. Numerous Festivals and events have been hosted successfully since the fire, new buildings are going up everywhere, and here we are, at the beginning of one of our busiest times, the summer holidays.

We are ready. Blue flag beaches have been launched, seasonal staff have been appointed and trained, and all relevant departments have made sure everyone is ready to cope with the influx of visitors. Thank you in advance to these staff members who will work long hours on days where most others are on holiday – we appreciate what you do.

Cape Town is a constant reminder of the consequences of water shortages. Please use water sparingly. Put up the necessary signs to make everyone in your house or business aware of the issue, and, where possible, install water management systems. Look after our natural resources – after all, these are what make Knysna special, and we want to keep it that way!

Lastly, it seems that life may have dealt us lemon this year - and some of us are still trying to find the fizz to make lemonade, whilst others have to get rid of a year of worries and business. Please remember that patience and kindness are never overrated, let them be your guide this holiday season in Knysna.

Have a wonderful holiday and compliments of the Season.

The Municipality won the awards for the

MOST IMPROVED: COASTAL MANAGEMENT and
MOST IMPROVED: LEADERSHIP, COMPLIANCE, INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION categories.

The GMC is arranged by the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Developmental Planning.

WATER AWARENESS ACTIVATION CAMPING

On the 4th of December Knysna Executive Mayor, Eleanore Bouw-Spies, her Mayoral Committee and Municipal and Western Cape Government officials hosted a water awareness activation road block. The activation, which took place on the N2 in Knysna, is part of the Western Cape Government’s ongoing water conservation campaign.

LEVEL 3 WATER RESTRICTIONS CURRENTLY APPLY

- Municipal potable water for human consumption only
- Absolutely NO watering of gardens (not even with a bucket) or washing of vehicles and/or boats
- Heavy fines will be issued to transgressors
- All residents and businesses to limit their consumption to 200L/month
- Punitive tariff (75% additional) will be added for usage above 200L/month
- Water recycling systems to be implemented
- Artificial water features must use recycled water only
- All residents are requested to use water-efficient devices

For water saving tips please visit: www.H20hero.co.za

Report water abuse via WhatsApp 060 998 7000

START YOUR OWN AIRD GARDEN

The Knysna Municipal Environmental Management Department has installed an aird garden outside the Planning and Development office building.

The garden was established as part of Arbor Week activities with the hope that it will encourage local residents to follow suit. It also shows how you can ‘green’ your environment and use less water.

Given the massive habitat loss of bees due to the recent fires, the garden includes plants that are a food source for, and attract, butterflies and bees.

“WeEDS with an emphasis on WE” – we need your help! Please visit our Facebook page for more info on controlling invasive plants in the post-fire environment. Numerous projects are underway to ensure the weed re-growth is under control to allow indigenous vegetation to restore itself. For more information you can also call Pam Booth on 044 302 6317 email pbooth@knysna.gov.za.

NEEDNACK PLANTS TREES IN SUPPORT OF GREEN FRIDAYS

In support of the Mayor’s “Green Fridays”, Nedbank has launched a tree-planting campaign. Kathleen Mills, Business Manager from Nedbank Business Banking Knysna, said that this is an effort to rehabilitate and re-green Greater Knysna after the recent devastating fires.

On Friday 1 December the team, joined by Knysna Executive Mayor, Eleanore Bouw-Spies, visited Knysna Senior Secondary School and Concordia High School to plant the first trees.

The Mayor extended a big thank you to Nedbank for paying it forward!

THE BUTT STOPS HERE

The Knysna Municipality, BioWise and Ocean Odyssey have launched the Knysna Kicks Butt Campaign with the aim to rid Greater Knysna of its cigarette butt problem.

Sue Swain of BioWise says that cigarette butts are the most commonly discarded piece of waste worldwide. Butts contain hazardous chemicals such as cadmium, arsenic and lead. When discarded in our streets, they end up in our storm-water system which ultimately drains into our estuaries. There these toxic chemicals leach into the aquatic ecosystem, threatening the quality of the water and marine life.

“Considering the biological and socio-economic importance of the Knysna estuary, we must prevent discarded butts from ending up in our lagoon. Specially designed bins have been placed around Knysna and Sedgefield, as well as at the recently declared Blue Flag Beaches. Please look out for them and encourage everyone to use them!”

She said that as they contain toxic substances the butts cannot be discarded where these chemicals could leach and pollute ground water. “BioWise will research how these butts can be ‘treated’ to remove or break down the toxic chemicals, and then will explore how the remaining non-toxic absorbent material can be put to good use!”

Should you wish to purchase a bin, these can be ordered from BioWise via sue@biowise.org.za. The first 20 orders for bins are offered at a special 50% discounted rate of R275 each, thanks to funding from the National Lotteries Commission.

CLOSED OFFICE HOURS 22 DEC 2017 TO 2 JAN 2018

Please note that the offices of the Knysna Municipality will close at 12h00 on Friday 22 December 2017 and reopen on 07h30 on Wednesday 3 January 2018.

Our Executive Mayor, Eleanore Bouw-Spies, together with us, are the Speaks Municipal council members and staff started the spirit of the festive Season by handing out Christmas gifts to the Santa Shoebox co-ordinator for the Garden Route, Pippa Ryan. The Mayor thanked the staff for spreading their hearts and wallets to give to those who are less fortunate.

Our Executive Mayor, Eleanore Bouw-Spies, together with us, are the Speaks Municipal council members and staff started the spirit of the festive Season by handing out Christmas gifts to the Santa Shoebox co-ordinator for the Garden Route, Pippa Ryan. The Mayor thanked the staff for spreading their hearts and wallets to give to those who are less fortunate.

Knyrna Municipality GETS GREEN THUMBS UP

Knysna Municipality received two awards during the recent Greenest Municipality Competition (GMC) at a ceremony held in Somerset West...

Our Executive Mayor, Eleanore Bouw-Spies, together with us, are the Speaks Municipal council members and staff started the spirit of the festive Season by handing out Christmas gifts to the Santa Shoebox co-ordinator for the Garden Route, Pippa Ryan. The Mayor thanked the staff for spreading their hearts and wallets to give to those who are less fortunate.

Our Executive Mayor, Eleanore Bouw-Spies, together with us, are the Speaks Municipal council members and staff started the spirit of the festive Season by handing out Christmas gifts to the Santa Shoebox co-ordinator for the Garden Route, Pippa Ryan. The Mayor thanked the staff for spreading their hearts and wallets to give to those who are less fortunate.

KNYSNA MUNICIPALITY GETS GREEN THUMBS UP

Knysna Municipality received two awards during the recent Greenest Municipality Competition (GMC) at a ceremony held in Somerset West...