

Press Release

Date: 17 February 2015

Embargo: Immediate

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Reshuffle amongst the Knysna Tourism Board of directors

The Knysna Tourism CEO, Greg Vogt accepted the resignation of the board's chairperson, Jo Melville on Monday, February 16. "Our chairperson cited a 'conflict of interests' as one of her reasons for her resignation," said Vogt. "Notwithstanding Greg's comment with regard to my resignation, my reasons are purely of a personal nature," said Melville. "In addition a recent accident I have suffered has impaired my ability to devote the time needed to Chair the Tourism Board as presently structured," Melville explained. She added that any other comments about her resignation "are unfounded".

According to Vogt Melville's resignation will now form part of the Knysna Tourism Board's reshuffle. "Following the resignation of our deputy-chair, Philip Hendrikse and the Knysna Municipal Councilor reshuffle, which saw Louise Hart replaced by Eleanore Bouw-Spies, has necessitated a process in which our own board will be reshuffled."

Municipal Councilor and Speaker, Eleanore Bouw-Spies explained: "Reshuffling of duties occurs during the ordinary course of business in Council, and thus this appointment [hers] was not out of the ordinary." Knysna Municipal Councilor, Louise Hart expressed her "sadness" at her resignation and said: "Although I am sad to have resigned from the Knysna Tourism Board, my resignation from the Tourism Board will allow me more time to focus on my portfolio as Chairperson of Planning, Development & Infrastructure. "With her extensive knowledge of the tourism industry and local economic development, I believe that Cllr Bouw-Spies will be a great asset to the Knysna Tourism Board."

Vogt expressed his admiration for Hart: "Louise is a quiet hands' on person who reaches deep into the communities, making a difference with projects that count. Louise is an extremely effective person with her ear to the ground and the ability to deliver where it counts. It has been a pleasure working with Louise."

Bouw-Spies expressed her pleasure at being back on the board: "I am pleased to once again be serving on the Knysna Tourism Board. I have served previously and look forward to using my experience and knowledge of Brand Knysna, so as to contribute positively to the Organisation," she concluded. Vogt added: "We look forward to having Eleanore on the board. She is well acquainted with Knysna Tourism and we have already been engaging with one another on certain aspects of tourism."

He assures the public that "it is business as usual" and explained that at the upcoming board meeting a new chairperson and other board positions will be appointed by the prescribed manner. "The process "will include the co-opting of skilled people to fill the vacancies as per the Memorandum of Incorporation."

Vogt added that the Knysna Tourism team continues to make progress in key areas. “Many of its projects are gaining traction in the short time we have had to implement them. “The team interacts with a variety of role-players and stakeholders at many different levels and we are encouraged by the positive feedback we are getting.

“More importantly, statistics we are gathering from the market confirms our efforts are being rewarded with positive results and desired outcomes. We continue to forge ahead to make a difference to the Greater Knysna economy,” concluded Vogt.

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