

COUNCIL NEWS

AUGUST 2026 NEWS FROM YOUR COUNCIL

IN AUGUST, WE FOCUS
ON WOMEN



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AKKERKLOOF DAM HITS 50%

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HOMEOWNERSHIP DREAMS BECOME REALITY FOR 43 KNYSNA FAMILIES

43 Knysna households were presented with the title deeds to their homes during a ceremony at the Chris Hani Community Hall on 31 July. May these title deeds provide lasting peace of mind and serve as the foundation for stronger families and thriving communities for many years to come.





FROM THE **EXECUTIVE** **MAYOR'S DESK**

August holds a special place on our national calendar as we celebrate Women's Month and honour the remarkable women who continue to shape our country, our communities and our future. It is an opportunity to recognise not only the pioneers who paved the way for equality and justice, but also the women who quietly make a difference every single day.

We are fortunate to be surrounded by women whose dedication strengthens every corner of our greater Knysna municipal area. They are our technicians, accountants, planners, firefighters, administrators, environmental practitioners, librarians, law enforcement officers and frontline staff. They are also mothers, daughters, caregivers, mentors, volunteers and community leaders who continue to give of themselves long after the working day has ended. Their contribution to service delivery extends far beyond the walls of our municipal buildings and reaches into homes, schools, neighbourhoods and places of worship across our towns.

This past month also reminded us of what can be achieved when passionate people work together. The success of the OMODA | JAECOO Knysna Oyster Festival showcased our town at its very best. I extend my sincere appreciation to the organising team, led by dedicated women whose leadership, professionalism and

commitment helped deliver another outstanding festival. My congratulations also go to every sponsor, volunteer, exhibitor, sporting code, artist, business owner and community organisation that contributed to its success. Events of this scale do far more than entertain - they support local businesses, create employment opportunities and bring welcome investment into our local economy.

As we continue strengthening our administration, we extend a warm welcome to our Acting Chief Financial Officer, Busisiwe Lubelwana. She brings valuable experience in municipal financial management and joins us at an important time as we continue improving governance, financial sustainability and service delivery. I wish her every success in her new role and look forward to working together in the best interests of our residents.



An initiative particularly close to my heart is our Mayoral Service Delivery Fridays.

These weekly outreach programmes continue to bring municipal and government services directly to our communities, making it easier for residents to access the assistance they need closer to home.

The success of this initiative would not be possible without our partners, and I extend my heartfelt thanks to SASSA, SARS, SAPS, IEC, the Department of Social Development, Department of Employment & Labour, our Community Development Workers, participating local banks and every stakeholder who continues to give their time and expertise. By working together, we are breaking down barriers to access and ensuring that government is visible, responsive and people centred.

Women's Month reminds us that progress is built through partnership, compassion and service. As we celebrate the women who strengthen

our municipality every day, let us also recommit ourselves to building a Greater Knysna where opportunity, dignity and respect are available to all.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to build a municipality that serves every resident with pride.

'til next time

Thando Matika – EXECUTIVE MAYOR



FROM THE

MM'S DESK

As the saying goes, time waits for no one. The three months since I joined the municipality as Acting Municipal Manager have been both demanding and rewarding, providing me with the opportunity to better understand our municipality, our people and the communities we serve.

When I arrived, I invited residents, businesses and community organisations to share their concerns, ideas and aspirations for Greater Knysna. Thank you for taking the time to engage with us. One thing has become abundantly clear - Knysna is blessed with talented, passionate and resourceful people who care deeply about the future of this municipality. I have encountered individuals and organisations who are making a meaningful difference, often quietly and without expectation of recognition. These partnerships are one of our greatest strengths.

While I have been encouraged by the commitment shown by many municipal employees, I am not yet satisfied with our overall organisational performance. Our residents deserve a municipality that delivers consistently, plans effectively and follows through on its commitments. To that end, I have set clear deliverables and accountability measures for every directorate. Good intentions alone are not enough, performance must be measurable and results must be visible.

An area that requires immediate improvement is the implementation of our capital programme. Every Rand allocated to infrastructure represents an opportunity to improve roads, water services, public facilities and other essential infrastructure. If we fail to spend those funds responsibly and on time, we fail the communities who depend on those investments. Better planning leads to better spending, and better spending leads to better service delivery. This is an area that will receive my continued attention.

I recently had the pleasure of visiting all three markets in Sedgefield, each with its own unique character, local produce and talented entrepreneurs. It reminded me how much our region has to offer. Whether you are enjoying a meal at a neighbourhood restaurant, grabbing a bite at your favourite shisanyama, meeting friends at a local tavern, visiting an art gallery, shopping at a small business or spending a day exploring one of our many attractions, every Rand spent locally helps sustain livelihoods, create jobs and keep our local economy growing. So, get out, bring the

family, discover something new and continue supporting the businesses that make Greater Knysna such a vibrant place to live, work and visit.

Looking ahead, I remain committed to building a municipality that listens, responds and delivers. By supporting one another and working towards the same goals, we can continue building a Greater Knysna we can all be proud of.

Kind regards
Boy Ngubo
ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER



NEW ADDITIONS TO FLEET BOOST WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES

The arrival of two new refuse compactor trucks and a hooklift marks another positive step towards strengthening waste management services across our municipal area.

These vehicles will significantly increase waste collection capacity, improve operational efficiency and reduce pressure on the existing fleet. Most importantly, they will help provide a more reliable refuse collection service to communities throughout Greater Knysna.

Investing in modern equipment is an investment in cleaner neighbourhoods, a healthier environment and better service delivery. Thank you to residents for your patience and understanding while improvements have been implemented.



A MILESTONE FOR OUR WATER AS AKKERKLOOF DAM HITS 50%

Thanks to our continued efforts, along with the Department of Water and Sanitation and local stakeholders, the Akkerkloof Dam storage level has climbed above the 50% mark (at the time of going to print). The dam was at just 34.8% at the beginning of July.

This is a significant achievement, particularly considering the limited rainfall we received during July. This progress has been made possible through extensive work behind the scenes. The refurbishment of the Charlesford Pump Station has enabled some of the highest pumping volumes recorded this year, while the emergency repairs recently completed at Glebe have allowed the system to operate almost daily, helping to replenish our water reserves.

December 2025, when the Akkerkloof Dam came dangerously close to running dry, remains a stark reminder of how quickly our water reserves can come under pressure. With just 19 weeks until the next December holiday period, it is essential that we continue building our reserves now so that we enter the busy summer season with our dams as full as possible.

While it is encouraging to see our water supply improving, demand remains a challenge. Weekly water consumption remains above the year-to-date average across most of our supply systems. With very little rain expected, we ask every household and business to continue using water responsibly.

The progress we have made shows what can be achieved through careful planning, technical improvements and responsible water management. By continuing to use water wisely, we can build on these gains and help secure a more reliable water supply for the months ahead.

Thank you for doing your part. Every litre saved today helps protect our water security tomorrow.

Be Knysna, and stay water-wise.



43 Knysna households were presented with the title deeds to their homes during a ceremony at the Chris Hani Community Hall on 31 July. Among those receiving their title deeds was an 84-year-old resident. A title deed is not simply a legal document. It represents security, dignity and the certainty that a home can be passed on to future generations.

The handover forms part of the municipality's ongoing partnership with the Free Market



Foundation and KhayaLam to eliminate historical title deed backlogs and restore ownership rights to qualifying residents. 220 title deeds have been handed over to Knysna families since the start of this partnership, making the municipality one of the strongest performers in the Western Cape in addressing this long-standing challenge.

The occasion also highlighted the importance of protecting this valuable asset for future generations. New homeowners were

HOMEOWNERSHIP DREAMS BECOME REALITY FOR 43 KNYSNA FAMILIES

encouraged to consider drafting a valid will to ensure that their homes are transferred according to their wishes, helping to avoid unnecessary disputes and preserving the wealth and security that homeownership creates.

We extend sincere congratulations to all 43 recipients. May these title deeds provide lasting peace of mind and serve as the foundation for stronger families and thriving communities for many years to come.

KNYSNA OYSTER FESTIVAL DELIVER REAL BENEFITS



The 2026 OMODA | JAECOO Knysna Oyster Festival once again proved why it remains one of South Africa’s premier winter events. Over ten vibrant days, thousands of visitors descended on Greater Knysna to enjoy world-class sporting events, exceptional food, family entertainment and the unique hospitality for which our town is renowned.

Beyond the excitement and celebration, the festival delivered real benefits for our local economy. Businesses across the municipal area reported positive trading conditions, with many recording stronger sales than during last year’s festival. The influx of visitors provided a welcome boost for restaurants, accommodation establishments, retailers, markets and tourism operators at a time when the local economy continues to face challenges.

Sport remained the heartbeat of the festival. More than 6 300 athletes participated in the iconic Knysna Forest Marathon and Half Marathon, while the Knysna Cycle Tour again attracted strong entries. These events, together with numerous other sporting codes, family activities and community experiences, created an atmosphere that extended well beyond the town centre.

The festival also continued to create opportunities for local entrepreneurs and small businesses. The Standard Bank Neighbourhood Makers Hub experienced significant growth, providing a platform for local artisans, food vendors and SEDFA-supported businesses to showcase their products. The ever-popular Dessert War Fair also expanded, attracting larger crowds and contributing to the festival’s growing appeal.

Increased media coverage helped to strengthen the town’s reputation as a leading tourism and events destination. Every positive story shared across the country helps showcase the beauty of our region and encourages future visitors to experience everything Greater Knysna has to offer.

The success of the festival was made possible through the collective efforts of sponsors, sporting bodies, volunteers, municipal

officials, community organisations, local businesses and hundreds of individuals who worked tirelessly behind the scenes. Their shared commitment ensured another memorable event that celebrated not only our natural beauty but also the resilience, creativity and hospitality of our people.

Planning for the 2027 Knysna Oyster Festival is already underway. Building on the lessons and successes of this year’s event, the organising team and its partners remain committed to growing the festival even further and ensuring that it continues to create lasting economic opportunities for our communities.

To everyone who participated, volunteered, visited or supported the festival in any way—**thank you for helping make the 2026 Knysna Oyster Festival another outstanding success.**



ON THE STAFF FRONT

PEACE OFFICER CLASS OF 2026 READY TO SERVE

A safe and well-managed community depends on dedicated public servants who are equipped with the skills, knowledge and professionalism to serve with confidence. We celebrated an important milestone on 3 August as 16 municipal officials graduated from an intensive six-week Peace Officer Training Programme during a pass-out parade held at Loerie Park.

The graduates form the Peace Officer Class of 2026 and represent a range of municipal departments, including Law Enforcement, Fire Services, Traffic Services, Building Control, Environmental Management and Town Planning. Their successful completion of the programme is part of our ongoing investment

in upskilling and reskilling the workforce to better serve the people of Greater Knysna.

Peace officers accept the responsibility of upholding the law fairly, protecting public assets and serving every resident with integrity, professionalism and respect. Every interaction with the public is an opportunity to build trust and demonstrate the values that underpin good local government.

This training also strengthens our ability to safeguard critical infrastructure and support the delivery of essential municipal services. By working closely with residents and other law enforcement agencies, these newly qualified peace officers will help create

safer neighbourhoods and more resilient communities.

The occasion provided an opportunity to recognise the instructors, mentors, municipal officials and families whose encouragement and support helped make this achievement possible.

Congratulations to the Peace Officer Class of 2026. Your commitment to public service reflects our determination to build a safer, stronger and more caring Greater Knysna. We wish you every success as you begin this important chapter of service to our communities.



NEW APPOINTMENTS

We are filling various vacant positions within our organisation as part of our ongoing commitment to improve on service delivery. By appointing qualified, knowledgeable and experienced candidates, we aim to ensure efficient and effective services for our residents. We are pleased to introduce the following individual who has recently joined our team:

Mr Siyasanga Vandala | Manager: Public Safety

DID YOU KNOW?

Buying prepaid electricity and water is quick and convenient. Tokens can be purchased at municipal offices, most major supermarkets, 24-hour fuel stations, participating spaza shops and informal retailers, as well as through a range of online platforms and banking apps.

Residents can also purchase prepaid tokens using the Ontec Home app or through the banking apps of ABSA, Capitec, Discovery Bank, FNB, Investec, Nedbank and Standard Bank.

Need assistance?

Prepaid enquiries: 044 302 6415
Electricity meter faults: 044 302 6399
Water meter faults: 044 302 6331
After-hours emergencies: 044 302 8911



1. WhatsApp Channel

You can now follow the Knysna Municipality WhatsApp channel for important news, updates and other information. Find us at <https://www.whatsapp.com/channel/0029VaddGzkKwqSX9z7fPm2V>.

2. Download the Collab App for easy, effective communication. Remember to download the Collaborator Citizen Application (Collab App) and to subscribe to the Knysna Municipality channel.

3. Submit your meter readings easily with the **My Municipal Meter App** and **WhatsApp**. We encourage all residents to ensure accurate billing by submitting their own electricity and water meter readings using the MY MUNICIPAL METER app. For enquiries, please contact Enrico Oosthuizen at eoosthuizen@knysna.gov.za or 044 302 6408.

4. Receive your monthly bill via e-mail To receive your monthly account electronically, send an email to accounts@knysna.gov.za.