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## Mayor welcomes new acting MM

**George Executive Mayor Alderman Leon van Wyk welcomed the municipality's Acting Municipal Manager Dr Michele Gratz and Acting Director Community Services Allan Pause with elbow bumps on their first day of work in January this year.**

Dr Gratz has extensive experience as municipal manager and previously worked at George Municipality for 12 years.

"I am committed to this municipality rendering the highest quality of service despite the financial and operational challenges we continue to face during the Covid-19 pandemic.

There is a serious skills shortage in certain directorates which must be addressed in order to ensure that the bulk infrastructure projects remain on track which will aid the promotion of development, contribute to the economy as well as job creation.

Covid-19 has forced all of us to rethink our work methods and we continue to simplify processes so that our citizens can access services whilst ensuring the safety of our officials and members of the public. There are many challenges facing George and I will endeavour to make a difference to the residents of George."



*The new year started with the appointment of Acting Municipal Manager Dr Michele Gratz (right) and Acting Community Services Director Allen Pause (left). They were welcomed by Executive Mayor Leon van Wyk on the first workday, 4 January.*

## 24 new flush toilets for Kleinkrantz Informal Settlement



*At the freshly painted flush toilet are from left, Cllr Marlene Barnardt, Executive Mayor Leon van Wyk, Jonathan Miggels, the beneficiary of the flush toilet and Cllr Raybin Figland, Portfolio Councillor for Human Settlements.*

**The Executive Mayor of George, Ald Leon van Wyk officially handed over 24 new flush toilets to residents of the Kleinkrantz Informal Settlement in March.**

Ald van Wyk noted that this was an important project where the municipality installed concrete slabs for the toilets, and the flush toilets were connected to the existing water pipeline providing a positive change for residents who have used chemical toilets for many years.

Jonathan Miggels was so excited with his new 'throne' that he almost immediately painted it. "I am proud of the new facility and will keep it clean and maintain it. I've been a resident for 26 years in the settlement and this new toilet is definitely more convenient than the chemical toilets they used previously."

Cllr Raybin Figland, Portfolio Councillor of Housing Settlements, says he is proud of the upgrade to a better facility

and that this was a step in the right direction, to restoring the dignity of residents. Cllr Marlene Barnardt, Ward Councillor for Kleinkrantz, says she and the residents have many plans to make the toilet facilities even more attractive.

Edwin Herandien, Deputy Director: Human Settlements confirmed plastic doors have been used for the facilities to deter vandals from breaking the doors. There are 66 families residing in the settlement. During the roll-out of the Informal Settlements' masterplan, a total of 24 chemical toilets and 8 taps were provided to the inhabitants residing in this settlement. The toilets were provided from grant funding on a ratio of 1 sanitation facility for every 5 structures and 1 tap for every 25 structures as per the norm prescribed by the National Department of Human Settlements. The area where the

settlement is situated is not level and the Municipality had to move toilets closer to structures where the elderly or disabled people live.

The George Municipality made funding available on the budget for the upgrading of informal settlements and this settlement was chosen due to the fact that water-borne toilets could easily be connected to the sewer system at a minimal cost.

Existing toilet structures, harvested from another project, were upgraded (new toilet pots and cisterns installed) and utilised for this project which further reduced the cost. An additional 12 taps were also provided to the settlement.

Herandien said the service of 24 chemical toilets cost the Municipality an astronomical amount of around R18 000 per month. The project commenced at the end of January 2021 and the completion date of the project was February 2021.

## George - One of first to offer wheeling and electricity trading

**George Municipality is on its way to becoming one of the first B-municipality's in the country to explore the offer of wheeling and electricity trading through the municipal grid after Council gave the go-ahead for the first steps in this direction in January 2021.**

This followed on the George Electro-technical department investigating several opportunities to adapt and mitigate the risk of a changing electricity sector in South Africa.

This pilot project will be used by the George Municipality to develop and explore the technical aspects and address the currently unknown regulatory process of wheeling and electricity trading within a municipal environment.

In essence, the municipality is looking to develop a more sustainable business model, which will allow the delivery of electricity generated by a private operator at one location to a buyer or off-taker in another location via the municipal network. This forms



part of a larger process where the municipality is aiming to migrate to a more sustainable financial model in the future.

Executive Mayor Leon van Wyk said the process will start with a customer applying for the required

trading licenses from the national energy regulator (Nersa). Municipal by-laws and policies also have to be amended. Once these are in place, traders registered with NERSA will, for example, be allowed to wheel electricity through the municipal

grid from privately generated power through an alternative source to, say, a factory that wants to buy electricity from that trader. The importance of the municipal electrical network as a link between private enterprises is echoed through this initiative. The

tariff charged by the municipality provides a revenue stream without any additional layout. The municipality plays a facilitating role," said Van Wyk.

Although this pilot project will have no immediate effect on the electricity reliability or load shedding within George, it will assist the municipality to mitigate the challenges introduced by the changing energy sector. This strategy will encourage investment in George and does assist in load reduction as well as addition of capacity to the South African network, so the benefit stretches wider."

During the pilot project, the George Municipality will investigate the technical challenges of wheeling electricity through the grid as well as the policy, legal and regulatory reform required.

This initial trading capacity will thus be limited until clear guidelines and capacity limitations have been determined.





The Thembaletu Zone 9 Stormwater project is one of four currently underway.

# Stormwater projects underway

**Major stormwater upgrades are well underway, which will significantly reduce flooding in problem areas in George during normal rainfall events.** Four projects to the value of R23-million will in some cases, include upgrading of sections of gravel road to paved streets to allow the effective operation of the stormwater system in these areas. The current Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG)-funded projects in Thembaletu Zone 1, Thembaletu Zone 9, Pacaltsdorp (Andersonville) and New Dawn Park are the first to be targeted in what the municipality hopes to be an on-going government-supported programme to upgrade stormwater infrastructure across the

municipal area. George Municipality counter-funded the MIG allocation with approximately R5-million. George Municipality Deputy Director Streets and Stormwater, Lionel Daniels said these four areas were prioritised by using the George Municipality Stormwater Area Master Plan, a tool that analysed the condition of existing stormwater infrastructure and determined what kinds of work were required to resolve existing problems

and/or to accommodate the needs of increased development. “The master plans are developed per area and the most critical upgrades per area are then prioritised for funding. “While the master plan may identify critical projects per area, other areas where existing stormwater problems persist will take priority, especially those where houses have been flooded in the past and urgent remedial work must be undertaken,” said Mr Daniels.

“We are pleased by the progress on the first four sites, especially since they had been approved a year ago in February 2020 but were halted in their tracks by the Covid-19 lockdown. Project roll-out was revised and construction finally restarted in December 2020. Completion is expected by 30 June 2021.” Large diameter pipes, up to 1m diameter, are being installed in places and residents are advised to avoid the construction areas where possible. As construction is taking place in the road reserves, this will impact on vehicular and pedestrian traffic. George Municipality apologises for any inconvenience and appeals to

road users and residents to be patient, exercise caution near roadworks and adhere to traffic and construction signage. The municipality continues to develop plans per area and setting out of projects. Implementation is subject to the availability of capital funding on the annual budget. The municipality continues to pursue alternative funding and applies for MIG-funding where applicable. “We are confident that more of these upgrades will follow in the next few financial years, which will ultimately mean better overall stormwater systems of the entire municipal area,” said Mr Daniels.

“The master plans are developed per area and the most critical upgrades per area are then prioritised for funding.”

## UISP - Four-year housing project nearly complete

**Building is underway for the last 37 houses of a 700-unit housing project that commenced in Thembaletu in February 2017.** George Municipality Director Human Settlements Charles Lubbe said Phase One of the Upgrading of Informal Settlements Programme (UISP) was coming to a close with the second-last batch of 50 units completed and transferred to owners at the end of last year. “This project has been life-changing for 700 new homeowners and the municipality is proud of its role in administering the process.” The last section of the project is situated on land where beneficiaries had been temporarily relocated while their houses were being built. As beneficiaries moved into their new houses,

construction of top structures on the already laid foundations could start and the first five units are already at roof-height. Weather and circumstances permitting, the anticipated completion date for the entire project is end of May 2021. The UISP is funded by the Western Cape Department Human Settlements with the George Municipality acting as implementation agent via the Enhanced People’s Housing Process (EHPH). Beneficiaries could be involved in the planning including selection of a house with or without a patio. A retention phase of three months applies in which defects can be reported and addressed. Thereafter homes are the responsibility of the owner, including maintenance and alterations.



Thembaletu UISP



The Golden Valley housing project houses are nearly finished and will soon be handed over to beneficiaries.

## Golden Valley Housing Project is making headway

**The Golden Valley Housing Project in Blanco is making headway after it recommenced on 7 October 2020 and this project currently comprises of the building of 136 top structures (actual houses) to qualifying beneficiaries.** According to Charles Lubbe, Director: Human Settlements, all of the beneficiaries have been identified and the subsidies have been approved by the Provincial Department of Human

Settlements. The contractor, Marnol, has been appointed by the Provincial Department of Human Settlements to complete the project. It is envisaged that the projected completion date of the project will be 15 November 2021. The current progress includes 70 foundations which have been cast, with 36 houses that are at roof height. The contractor has indicated that the first batch of houses could be handed over by the end of March.



# GEORGE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY COUNCILLORS

							
Ald Leon Van Wyk Executive Mayor (DA)	Cllr Charlotte Clarke Executive Deputy Mayor (DA)	Cllr Gerrit Pretorius Speaker Ward 22 (DA)	Cllr Marlene Barnardt Chief Whip Ward 4 (DA)	Portfolio Cllr Raybin Figland Human Settlements PR (DA)	Portfolio Cllr Nosicelo Mbete Electro-Technical Services PR (DA)	Portfolio Cllr Cecil Noble Protection Services Ward 16 (DA)	Portfolio Cllr Sean Snyman Community Services Ward 19 (DA)
							
Portfolio Cllr Johan Stander Planning Ward 23 (DA)	Portfolio Cllr Isaya Stemela Corporate Services PR (DA)	Portfolio Cllr Jacquique von Brandis Civil Engineering Services Ward 26 (DA)	Portfolio Cllr Dirk Wessels Finance & Strategic Services PR (DA)	Cllr Jean Safers Ward 1 (DA)	Cllr Daniel Cronje Ward 2 (DA)	Cllr Erica Luise Brown Ward 3 (DA)	Cllr Peter Louw Ward 5 (DA)
							
Cllr Hendrik Ingo Ward 6 (DA)	Cllr Shaheed Rooiland Ward 7 (ANC)	Ald Bazil Petrus Ward 8 (DA)	Cllr Sivuyile Dlikilili Ward 9 (ANC)	Cllr Buyiswa Henge Ward 10 (ANC)	Cllr Cokiswa Lesele Ward 11 (ANC)	Cllr Bulelwa Plata Ward 12 (ANC)	Cllr Langa Langa Ward 13 (ANC)
							
Cllr Melvin Roelfse Ward 14 (DA)	Cllr Faith Mdaka Ward 15 (ANC)	Cllr Brendon Adams Ward 17 (DA)	Cllr Donovan Gultig Ward 18 (DA)	Cllr Regina Windwaai Ward 20 (DA)	Cllr Ntombi James Ward 21 (ANC)	Cllr Michael Daniels Ward 24 (ANC)	Cllr Jarques Esau Ward 25 (ANC)
							
Cllr Richard Hector Ward 27 (GOOD)	Cllr John-Patrick Buys PR (PBI)	Cllr Johan Du Toit PR (ACDP)	Cllr Dennis Farrell PR (DA)	Cllr Theresa Fortuin PR (ICOSA)	Cllr Justin Fry PR (DA)	Ald Virgil Gericke PR (PBI)	Cllr Nomawethu Jantjies-Gushman PR (ANC)
							
Cllr Brown Johnson PR (DA)	Cllr Vuyolwethu Kama PR (EFF)	Ald Iona Kritzinger PR (DA)	Cllr Helen Loff PR (ANC)	Cllr Khumbulelo Mkondo PR (AIC)	Cllr Julia Ncamazana PR (ANC)	Cllr Phumela Nosana PR (ANC)	Cllr Elizabeth Stroebel PR (DA)
							
Cllr Tobeka Teyisi PR (ANC)	Ald Pieter van der Hoven PR (ANC)	Cllr Gert van Niekerk PR (VFP)	Ald Charlie Williams PR (ANC)	GEORGE THE CITY FOR ALL REASONS			



# Netball fields to be upgraded

**George Municipality's Sport Development section is pleased to announce that through the efforts of K1 Quarry, a business partner in George, that helps with social upliftment projects, funds were approved for the upgrading of the Pacaltsdorp and Rosemoor Sport grounds and in particular the Netball courts.**

According to Granville Campher, Manager: Sport Development at George Municipality, the funds will be used to fence the netball courts. New gates and new fencing will be erected at Pacaltsdorp as well. Campher said this good news comes in time for the Netball World Cup that was awarded to South Africa for 2023.

The facilities at the Sport Grounds serve most schools in the vicinity. He said the individual fencing of the different netball courts make a huge difference, since more games can be played at once without players moving into some of the other courts.

Campher said an application for funding for the upgrade of Pacaltsdorp and Rosemoor

Sport Grounds netball facilities was submitted via JK Consulting for consideration by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy as part of Lezmin (2021)t/a K1 Quarry's statutory responsibility project that forms part of the conditions of their mining license.

In line with the Integrated Development Plan of the George Municipality on sporting development, discussions were held in September 2020 with the various stakeholders, including the Portfolio Councillor for

Community Services, Cllr Sean Snyman, Eden Netball federation and Ward Councillors of the different Wards directly impacted by this project. Campher said at this meeting it was

decided that Pacaltsdorp and Rosemoor Sports Grounds needed upgrading. The project will commence in early 2021.

Cllr Snyman said it is fantastic to see how the private sector and the Municipality are taking hands to create sustainable projects. "I am looking forward to more projects of this kind," Snyman remarked.

**I am looking forward to more projects of this kind.**



Cllr Sean Snyman (Portfolio Councillor for Community Services) second from left and Desmond Jaftha from K1 Quarry with the memorandum of understanding regarding the upgrading of the Rosemoor and Pacaltsdorp netball fields. On the far left is Granville Campher, Manager: Sport Development and Leveinia Botha, Sports Development Officer.



## Library Week 2021

**Nkosinathi Meziwa, launched his poetry book, *Lolani izikrwege*, at the Thembaletu Library recently as part of Library Week.**

Here he is seen with some of the attendees at the event with his poetry book, *Lolani izikrwege*. He took part in a book discussion with the attendees at the library.

The eclectic poetry book which has a bit of everything is written in English and isiXhosa. Rachel

Williams, Manager: George Libraries, who also attended the event, says it was a success. She said although not a lot of people could attend the event due to Covid-19 restrictions, the people who did attend, were very interactive and asked the poet a lot of interesting questions.

Please listen to the reading of Meziwa on the George Municipality YouTube channel. – <https://youtu.be/dYtHcNXh0DQ>

## Ward 18:Kat River Bridge Project

***Saving the Kat River Bridge Project is an initiative and partnership between the Ward 18 Committee, of which Cllr Donovan Gultig is the Ward Councillor and other organisations to restore the bridge that is in a dilapidated state and includes the cycling trail that extends from there to the Garden Route Dam.***

The Kat River Bridge is the shortest way from the Eden area to reach the Garden Route Dam area. The other stakeholders are HillBillies Mountain Bike Club, residents of the suburbs of Eden and towing companies of George, Eden Steel and Transistor Electronics store.

The first phase of the repair work included welding sections of the bridge that were loose, and adding in reinforcement. Gultig said further phases will include attaching and adding more



support to the bridge and to paint the bridge with anti-rust paint.

If any person would like to help with the Save the Kat River Bridge Project, feel free to contact Cllr Gultig on [dgultig@george.gov.za](mailto:dgultig@george.gov.za)



Cllr Donovan Gultig with Ward Committee Member, Adri Joubert, on the bridge



## Ward 1: Blanco Clean up

George Municipality Cleansing section and the Ward Councillor of Blanco, Cllr Jean Säfers, as well as volunteers from Thando Consultants and the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) held a clean-up operation in Golden Valley, Blanco. It took the group of volunteers about three hours to clean Crystal Avenue and they filled up approximately 80 black bags of refuse.



# Revived food gardens project going well

**The George Municipality's Food Garden Project, which was revived at the end of last year, is off to a good start with 265 gardens identified since the project's revitalisation in November 2020.**

George Municipality Acting Deputy Director Strategic Services Joan Shaw said coordinators prioritised connection with previous participants of the programme. "News of the revived project started spreading and we expect to have at least 265 gardens established in this planting season. We are confident that numbers will grow as the project gathers momentum."

The project is championed by the George Municipality Economic Development unit and is run by a team of coordinators who identify possible gardeners and oversee the establishment of small vegetable gardens in their backyards. The coordinators guide the process from soil preparation to harvest and visit regularly to mentor and check on their needs and progress. The aim is that the gardens will become sustainable throughout the year according to the seasons and that gardeners will ultimately not only put food on the table for their own families but also have extra to share, sell or barter with.

George Municipality helped kick off the planting season for winter crops by distributing seeds to participating gardeners in Blanco, Touwsrante, Rosemoor, Thembaletu, Rosedale, Conville, Borchards, Geelhoutboom,

Waboomskraal, Haarlem, Uniondale and Pacaltsdorp. Each garden is expected to yield a crop to feed 5 to 10 people, depending on a range of factors including garden size and growing conditions.

The municipality continues relationships with the Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency (BGCMA) which had been key in the past to help provide rainwater tanks to food garden participants and the Western Cape Department

of Agriculture who has been facilitating training and mentoring, and assisting with funding, extensions and advisory services.

Long-term plans include the establishment of food

markets in participating communities when the projects are established enough to consistently provide surplus crops.

"Persons in vulnerable communities interested in starting a food garden are welcome to contact the project coordinators on the numbers below or visit the Workers Collection Point in Industria Road (opposite the Tekkie Town factory shop).

"The municipality welcomes involvement and support from business, NGOs and individuals who can assist in the long-term sustainability of the project. Ongoing needs include seeds, compost, gardening tools and rainwater tanks.

"We believe the Food Gardens Project can become a life-changing beacon of hope," said Ms Shaw.

**Enquiries: Amy Kearns [akearns@george.gov.za](mailto:akearns@george.gov.za) or 044 801 9173 during office hours.**

News of the revived project started spreading and we expect to have at least 265 gardens established in this planting season.



Josey Witbooi, Haarlem (near Uniondale)



Willem Lottering, Borchards (George)



Isaac Pretorius, Blanco (George)



Gérard Saayman, Die Rus (George)



Julian du Preez, Haarlem (near Uniondale)

## Municipal Court in session

**Although the Covid-19 pandemic hit all services hard, especially during the stringent lockdown period in 2020, the George Municipal Court has dealt with 45122 municipal traffic cases since opening in 2017, excluding cases from the Provincial Traffic Department.**

Adv Johann Van Schalkwyk, Head: Legal and Compliance Services, George Municipality said the court is served by a magistrate Amanda Joubert, stenographer Michael Krige, prosecutor Sikolele Magxwalisa, an interpreter Adrian Kraai, clerk of the court Angelique Felix and an administrative clerk Andiswa Dakada.

The main purpose of the Court is to prosecute and adjudicate traffic related offences received from both the Provincial and Municipal Traffic Departments, which were committed within the jurisdiction of the Municipality and to ensure

compliance with the National Building Regulations and Municipal By-Laws.

The Municipal Court is achieving its objective of providing a better service to the community and ensuring compliance with legislation and by-laws. Van Schalkwyk said the court is functioning well and fulfils its role to deliver a service to the residents of George.

The public is reminded that the municipal court located at George Civic Centre, currently operates under strict Covid-19 protocols. The entrance to the building is at the front of the George Civic Centre (facing York Street).

**Members of the public can make appointments to see the Prosecutor of the court, Sikolele Magxwalisa. The public can send the prosecutor an email on [smagxwalisa@george.gov.za](mailto:smagxwalisa@george.gov.za) or phone the clerk of the court on 044 801 9400.**





# CONVILLE

# Gemeenskapsaal dak word herstel

**George Munisipaliteit het onlangs begin met noodsaaklike vervanging van die dak van die Conville gemeenskapsaal nadat die dak begin lek het en nie meer herstel kon word nie. Volgens Alwyn Joseph, Bestuurder: Hulpdienste in die Direktooraat van Korporatiewe Dienste, is die dak reeds 40 jaar oud.**

Die Conville gemeenskapsaal is in 1980 ingehuldig. Die dak het intussen baie verweer en dit is noodsaaklik om die hele dak te vervang. Die vervangingswerk word ook nou gedurende 'n ideale tyd van die Covid-19 pandemie gedoen, omdat die Munisipale gemeenskapsale tans vir die publiek gesluit is.

Die totale koste vir die projek beloop R1,080

miljoen en die werk sal omtrent twee maande duur. Die werk sal geen impak hê op die omliggende geboue, parkeergebiede en aktiwiteite nie. Intussen is die gebou ook omhein en veiligheidshokke (window cages) by vensters aangebring om vandalisme af te weer.

**Vandalisme is 'n misdaad en kos belastingbetalers baie geld. Rapporteer mense wat met munisipale eiendom peuter, verf, breek of steel by die polisie en George-munisipaliteit (044 801 6350 of 044 801 6300 na-ure) sodra u dit sien gebeur. As u foto's van die skuldiges in die daad kan neem sonder om uself in gevaar te stel, sal dit baie help. By voorbaat dankie dat u ons help om ons infrastruktuur te beskerm.**



Voor die Conville gemeenskapsaal wat 'n nuwe dak kry, staan Alwyn Joseph Bestuurder: Hulpdienste by Korporatiewe Dienste; Xolani Henge, Waarnemende Superintendent: Hulpdienste; Quinton Christiaans van Master Builders Alicia (MBA) Construction wat die konstruksiewerk doen en Rdsl Isaya Stemela, portefeuljeraadslid van Korporatiewe Dienste.

## Weevils released as part of multi-faceted Kariba Weed management plan

**George Municipality is seeing excellent results following the release of 1500 weevils as part of a multi-faceted plan to sustainably manage Kariba Weed infestation in the Garden Route Dam.**

"The municipality is fully aware of the presence of Kariba Weed in the dam, as well as the causes for it, and is working alongside experts in the field to manage the problem holistically," said George Municipality Superintendent Parks and Recreation Priscilla Burgoyne.

Weevils of the species *Cyrtobagous salviniae* were released mid-February 2021 at the Kat River inlet into the dam and near the dam wall where most of the Kariba Weed grows. Upon follow-up investigation, studies confirmed a 91% infection uptake and a significant reduction in the amount of dead plant material is expected once the weevils have established.

The weevils reproduce constantly and are expected to stay and reproduce as long as there is Kariba Weed to feed on. The larvae do the most damage as they bore into the stem of the plant and disrupt the vascular system, hollowing it out. The adults eat away at the growing tip which stops growth.

"We are grateful to be working with specialists in the Aquatic Weeds Programme at the Rhodes University Centre for Biological Control, which is currently undertaking studies in the Garden Route Dam. During a visit to the infection sites, the unit indicated that the infestation was not currently a concern as the surface coverage was proportionally small compared to overall size of the dam and could be effectively addressed with a few interventions.

"The Parks and Recreation section is developing a management plan with the assistance of aquatic specialist Dr Jackie Dabrowski and will comprise biological control, manual removal and spraying when necessary. We hope to combine funding with other relevant municipal departments to implement practical sustainable solutions that will address the issue as long as it is necessary.

"The municipality assures the public that this matter is well in hand, is being addressed by learned experts in their fields, and that there is no current threat of oxygen depletion or eutrophication as has been suggested by non-expert members of the public citing 'Wikipedia' as their source of reference," said Ms Burgoyne.



Roleplayers pay a follow-up visit to the site in the Kat River where weevils were successfully released as a biological control measure for Kariba Weed. From left are Hershon Amill of service provider A-Turf, Matthew Paper of the Centre for Biological Control at Rhodes University, aquatic specialist Dr Jackie Dabrowski of Confluent Environmental and George Municipality superintendent Parks and Recreation Priscilla Burgoyne.



Cllr Sean Snyman (left) and Willbedine Jordaan from Community Services with other officials and members of the community who received food parcels.

## Celebrating Khomanani Day in Herold

**The George Municipality annually celebrates Khomanani Day, a national mobilisation campaign focusing on HIV/Aids and its effects.** More than a 100 people affected and infected with HIV/Aids, with the theme Afrika day, turned up to the event in Herold.

SHE (Social Health and Empowerment), a non-profit organisation, Bethesda Medical and Relief Services and the department of Health were also part of the day and delivered services to the community.

The municipality ran a wellness programme which included motivational speeches by a political leader, health care professionals and other persons of interest.

Portfolio Councillor for Community Development, Cllr Sean Snyman, gave a motivational speech in which he encouraged people to rise above their circumstances and to

support each other. He said people living with HIV/Aids do not need sympathy because that does not help them, but they need support and love to carry them through the tough times. Snyman inspired the crowd to use their talents and turn them into jobs and start food gardens. He also thanked the health staff and the Municipality officials for their support.

Hester September, a member from the local community also shared a motivational speech about her struggles with regards to health issues she encountered and how she coped through it.

Willbedine Jordaan, Acting HIV/Aids Coordinator, handed 100 food parcels to all the attendees as a symbol of love and support from the municipality. As part of the day's activities, HIV testing and counselling was also done and each person that tested, received a small gift.



Officials from George Municipality, department of Environmental Affairs and EPWP workers getting ready to clean an illegal dumping site next to the Fire Department in Thembaletu in Nelson Mandela Boulevard.



Learners from Pacaltsdorp Primary School after the cleanup.

## Clean up for Coastal Cleanup Day

**George Municipality in conjunction with other stakeholders used the International Coastal Cleanup theme day last year to clean in then Covid-19 hotspots, Thembaletu and Pacaltsdorp.** The Municipality environmental team, in conjunction with the department of Environmental Affairs teamed up with EPWP workers and

Pacaltsdorp Primary School to clean up their areas. Grace Notshokovu from the George Municipal Environmental section said instead of doing cleaning at beaches, it was decided that the focus would rather shift to cleaning the two communities most affected by illegal dumping and high numbers of infections for Covid-19.



# Phase One of composting plant

George Municipality is thinking ahead, keeping George clean and green and has completed Phase 1 of a composting plant to be established at the George Landfill site on the R102 (airport road). The main reason for the establishment of the composting facility is the decommissioning and closing of the George Landfill site within the next 18 months. The facility will also assist the municipality to reduce and re-use waste, in particular green and organic waste.

Phase 1 was the building of the first platform of the composting plant which has been completed during the previous financial year. This platform will be used to do composting with green materials and organic waste received from businesses and residents.

Phase 2 of the project entails the building of the second platform for composting with both platforms required for the service provider to continue.

The next step is to appoint a service provider to establish and operate the composting facility and

this will be addressed via municipal supply chain management criteria. The public will be allowed at the composting site under strict regulations to deliver green and organic waste only with the operations of the day to day work handled by the appointed company. The highly technical process will have to be run by a specialised service provider.

Council will still need to take a decision on what will be done with the final product, but it can be sold and provide revenue.

George remains committed to waste reduction, not only because the region is running out of landfill space but also because it is the environmentally right thing to do. Waste management is increasingly expensive, and with local landfill sites closing and transport to regional landfill and waste disposal facilities adding to the bill, if we can reduce the amount of waste transported out of the city, everyone benefits in the long-term – financially and environmentally.



The cleared surface shown in the picture is the area from where the composting plant will be operated from at the Landfill site on the R102 (airport road).

## Global Handwashing Day celebrated at Klouter Kabouter

The George Municipality Community Development section celebrated Global Handwashing Day late last year at Klouter Kabouter creche in New Dawn Park, Pacaltsdorp. Willbedine Jordaan from the section held an information session with the children followed by a demonstration on the correct way of washing your hands.

Each child of the 75 children, was given the opportunity to wash their hands the correct way and had their own bucket and hand towel. All the

children are from two to six years old.

Each child also received a colouring-in picture depicting a boy washing his hands as well as a surprise packet to enjoy at home. Jordaan said they promoted handwashing with soap as an effective and affordable way to prevent diseases and save lives.

Dinah Maart, the principal at the crèche, were very happy with the initiative of the Municipality and thanked the team for choosing Klouter Kabouter for this significant day.



Willbedine Jordaan from Community Development demonstrates to the children at Klouter Kabouter how to wash their hands.



Western Cape Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport Anroux Marais (right) paid a courtesy visit to Uniondale Library on Thursday. Library assistant Sandra van Vught showed her around.

## George Libraries – how to access services

George libraries reopened to the public in February this year with Covid-19 measures in place. Safety of staff and patrons remains of utmost importance and all Covid-19 protocols are in place at all libraries. Opening hours remain reduced and admittance to the George Main Library remains by appointment only while the community libraries will be access-restricted based on the amount of people inside the library according to the size of the facility.

George Libraries Manager Rachel Williams welcomed back all library users and thanked them for their ongoing patience and consideration during challenging times. “Library users who have material on loan from before libraries closed need not worry about any fines as materials were automatically renewed during the most recent closure.

“We are also launching a service in which patrons can select books via the online library portal (see details below) and email a list of materials they want to loan. Librarians will make up piles of available materials and arrange a time for collection. You can also phone your librarian to inquire about a book-by-phone service,” said Ms Williams.

Library services remain limited as follows:

- Issue and return of books.
- Ten books per library member for lending period of a month at a time.
- Admittance to adults and children older than 12.
- Children’s section is closed to children, but adults can take out books on behalf of children.
- Research and reference services arranged by phone and/or email.
- Internet services - preference given to pre-booked patrons, maximum two people at any given time.
- Study area limited in compliance with regulations.
- Wearing of masks and sanitising of hands are compulsory.
- Your temperature will be taken before entering the library area, no admittance if it is 37.5C and higher.

Library materials handed in will be quarantined for 72 hours as per national and Western Cape safety standards and plastic covered materials wiped with sanitiser before being made available for loan.

- Avontuur Library:** 044 752 3351  
avonturbiblioteek@gmail.com - Monday 12pm-3pm, Tuesday 11am-2pm, Wednesday and Thursday 10am-1pm.
- Blanco Library:** 044 870 7047 gmblancobib@gmail.com - Monday to Friday 9am-4pm
- Conville Library:** 044 801 9320 Jrhode1@george.gov.za - Monday 9am-4pm
- George Library:** 044 801 9288 rwilliams@george.gov.za - Monday to Friday 9am-4pm, Saturday 9am-12pm
- Haarlem Library:** 044 763 1023 shonisemichels@yahoo.com - Monday, Thursday and Friday 2pm-5pm, Tuesday and Wednesday 2pm-5pm
- Noll Library:** 044 745 1014 dieprivierprim@gmail.com - Monday and Wednesday 12pm-3pm, Saturday 9am-12pm
- Pacaltsdorp Library:** 044 803 9340 pacsbib@george.org.za - Monday to Friday 9am-4.30pm

- Thembaletu Library:** 044 803 9260  
xakortman@george.gov.za - Monday to Friday 9am-4.30pm
- Touwsranten Library:** 044 803 9285  
touwsbib@george.org.za - Monday to Friday 9am-4pm
- Uniondale Library:** 044 752 1024  
fortuineltont@yahoo.com - Monday to Friday 10am-4.30pm
- Waboomskraal Library:** angiefigeland@gmail.com - Monday to Friday 10am-2pm

George Municipality library portal link:  
wc.slims.gov.za/desktop/desktopwcgeplge

You can search online according to author, title, subjects, keyword, publisher or ISBN number.

Type in your library number on your card to check your library materials status including due date and opportunity to renew your books yourself.



# Book-Sharing for Families Workshop

George Libraries held a book-sharing for families workshop in March last year at the Conville Civic Centre. The workshop was a collaborative effort between the George Municipal Library Service, The Seven Passes Initiative and the Mikhulu Child Development Trust. The Mikhulu Child Development Trust focuses on the promotion of evidence-based early childhood development in South Africa. They achieve this by making use of innovative programmes. One of

the programmes that they use is Dialogic Book-Sharing. According to Rachel Williams, Manager: George Libraries, the dialogic book-sharing brings about a special kind of interaction between an adult and a young child by means of wordless or text-light picture books. This technique addresses the socio-emotional development of the infant. During the workshop, the staff used videos, discussions, presentations and practical applications with the children of Conville Primary School and other special techniques at this structured support workshop. Williams said this programme is of huge importance as it develops the numeracy and cognitive skills of the child, strengthens the bond between parent and child and builds the confidence and vocabulary of the child. It further paves the way for improved focus and attention of the child.



George Library Staff as well as staff of the Seven Passes Initiative and the Mikhulu Child Development Trust at a Book-Sharing Workshop.

# George Libraries celebrate World Read-Aloud Day

George Library joined the rest of the world by being part of World Read-aloud day in February this year, in order to develop and foster a love for reading and books.

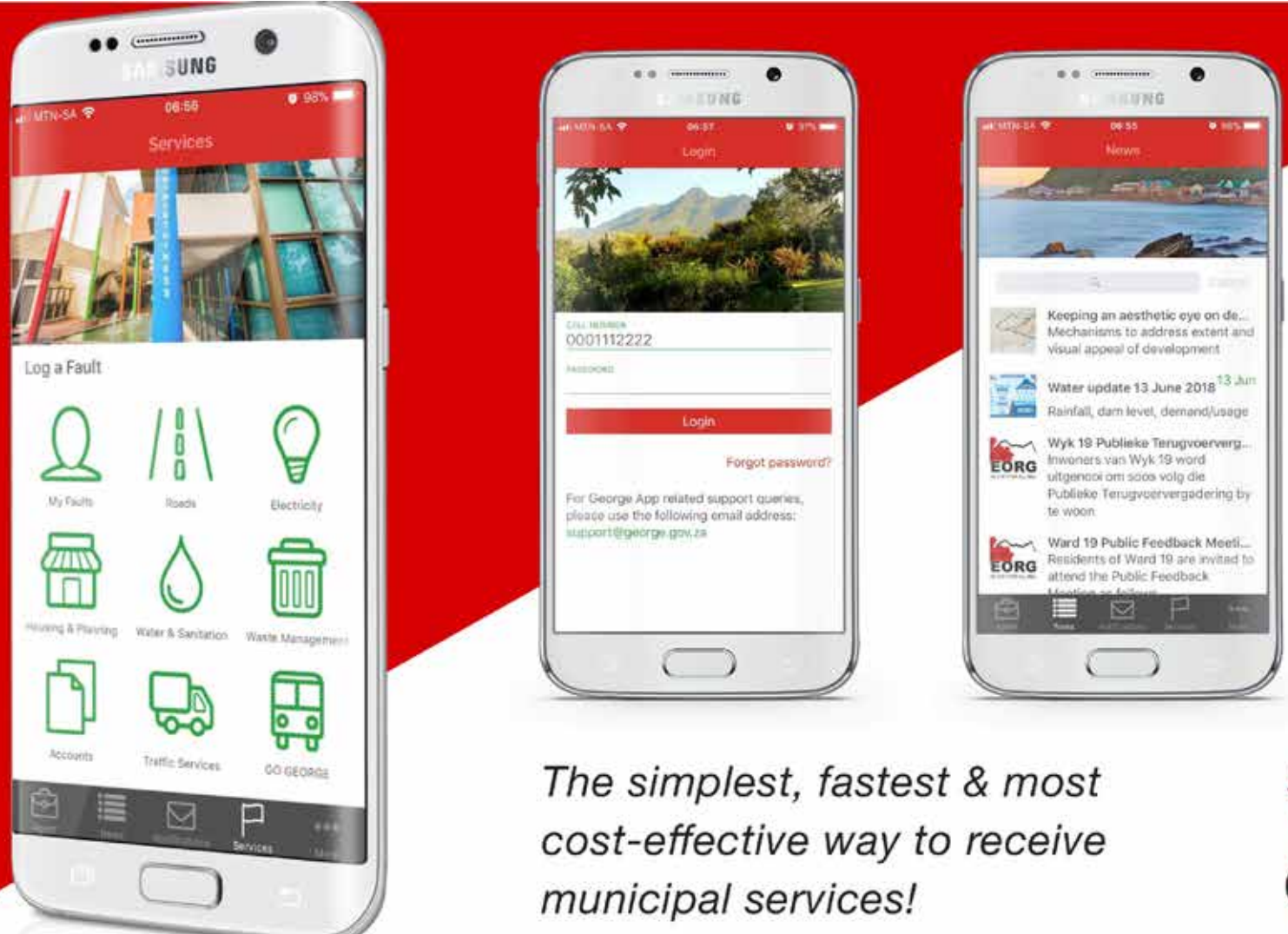
Rachel Williams, Manager: George Libraries said they linked up with Nali’Bali (which means “here’s the story”) to escape into a world of fun and laughter by means of a story written by Sihle Nontshokweni and illustrated by Magriet Brink and Leo Daly: Fly, everyone, fly! Janine Pierre Carolus, librarian at George Library, was the library story-reader this year. Librarians Garelene Muller from George library, Angelina Figeland from Waboomskraal library and Jeanetta Rhode from Conville Library also read stories aloud to indicate the importance of literature and reading.

According to Mrs Williams, this campaign advocates for access to literacy and diverse stories as the aim, is celebrated on the first Wednesday of February each year. She said World Read-Aloud Day is an inspiring programme that unlocks the potential of young ones through literacy. George Library Service took part in this event by means of a virtual programme as well as radioslots on Eden FM and Heartbeat FM. Malibongwe Luyenge and library assistant at Blanco Library, Gene Carolus , spoke about the campaign on radio and read stories aloud for the radio listeners. Williams says the value of World




Audrenay Meiring from Pacaltsdorp Primary School reads aloud on World Read Aloud Day.

Read Aloud Day is the exposure of children to different cultures and languages as the story by Nali’Bali is written in all official languages. The emphasis of the day is put on the importance of books, literature and reading.



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## HOW TO GET AND USE GEORGE MUNICIPALITY MOBILE APPLICATION (APP) / HOE OM GEORGE MUNISIPALITEIT MOBIELE TOEPASSING (APP) AF TE LAAI EN TE GEBRUIK

You can log complaints and get municipal news updates on the George Municipality Mobile Application. Tap on this link, which will take you to the place where you can download the George Municipality Application (App) on your phone or computer (as long as it can connect to the internet). U kan klagtes aanmeld en munisipale nuusopdaterings kry oor die George-munisipaliteit mobiele toepassing aansoek. Tik op hierdie skakel wat u sal neem na die plek waar u die George Munisipaliteit Mobiele Toepassing (App) op u foon of rekenaar kan aflaai (solank dit met die internet kan verbind).  
[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=za.co.comunity.george&hl=en\\_ZA](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=za.co.comunity.george&hl=en_ZA)



# JCC Council visits Herold's Bay to clean up

While most youth go to the beach over weekends to laze around, members of the George Junior City Council went geared up to clean at Herold's Bay beach and filled several black bags with rubbish dumped on the beach and sidewalks. The members visited the beach in October last year.

According to Áine Ferreira, member of the George Junior City Council and learner at Outeniqua High School, they went there, not thinking they would find much trash "but little did we know that what visually didn't look like much, filled up black bags." "We were especially amazed by the amount of cigarette butts filling the beach and side walks. It was shocking to see," Áine said.

She says she did some research and found that 65% of all cigarette butts end up being littered. "The majority of these get washed away into streams and end in the ocean, spreading harmful chemicals and poisoning sea creatures. Not only does cigarette filters contain a plastic called cellulose acetate which can last for 25 years in the environment without breaking down but there are also about 4000 chemicals in a single cigarette filter, including arsenic, formaldehyde, ammonia and lead. The plastic body of the filter can get lodged in the intestines and airways of animals, leading to suffocation or starvation," she said.

Áine said that like most of our beaches in George and surrounds, Herold's Bay has been equipped with trash bins, conveniently located every few meters apart to make



Precious Xego from Eden Technical High School (left), Davinicia-Lee London from George High School and Lindy Prinsloo from Glenwood House School pick up rubbish at Herold's Bay beach.

doing the right thing ,easy. There is even a cigarette butt holder. "We as the Junior City Council of George would like to urge you, the citizens and visitors to think of the consequences of everything you drop to the ground. Next time you leave the beach, remember to bin your trash. It will only make your next visit a more enjoyable one. Even the tiny things you might consider to be insignificant can have a huge negative impact," she said.



Áine Ferreira (Outeniqua High School), Haydn Wentzel (York High School), Maya van Zyl (York High School), Talita van Eeden (Outeniqua High School), Lindy Prinsloo (Glenwood House School), Caitlin Potgieter (Outeniqua High School), Precious Xego (Eden Technical High School), Davinicia-Lee London (George High School) on the beach after their clean-up.



## How road repairs are prioritised in George

**The George Municipality's Pavement Management System (PMS) is a planning tool for the maintenance and repair of the entire George municipal road network to optimise road conditions, and is used to prioritise roads for upgrading, repairs and rehabilitation in the George municipal area.**

As part of the compilation of the PMS, each road is investigated by specialised pavement engineers and its condition classified from very poor (high priority) to very good (low priority). Factors

considered during the classification process is the structural, aesthetic, surface and formation condition as well as traffic volumes and functional class of the road.

Integrated Development Plan (IDP) requests and the number of complaints per road may play a role.

From the investigation, treatment options are specified for each road which could vary from a diluted emulsion, minor patching and crack seal to asphalt, rehabilitation, reconstruction,

replacement with brick paving and more.

Further to the above, although a road may be regarded as high priority, it may be postponed depending on the municipality's ability to afford the proposed remedial work. Alternatively, a road that was regarded as 'good' may deteriorate very quickly to poor, for instance after flooding and/or sudden increase in heavy vehicular traffic. Constant monitoring and evaluation are therefore required and may result in the reprioritisation of roads.

Given the current financial climate and insufficient funds, George Municipality focuses on roads that are regarded as poor to very poor but continues to explore funding opportunities to address more.

While no major repairs are foreseen for any roads in good or fair condition in the near future, routine maintenance continues as and when required.

**Requests for repairs to a specific road can be reported to 044 801 9262/66.**

## Thembaletu Bridge upgrade

**The upgrade of the Thembaletu Bridge in George, is a collaborative venture between SANRAL and the George Local Municipality, with the National Department of Transport having provided R82,127 million towards the funding of the project.**

SANRAL is the Implementing Agent working closely

with the George Municipality.

The total construction period is between 24 and 30 months, and the scope of works involves the widening of the Thembaletu Bridge across the N2 from a single carriageway to accommodate two lanes in each direction, with additional turning lanes as well as extra space for pedestrians and

cyclists. "A new bridge will be constructed on the Western side. Once completed, the existing bridge will be raised and stitched to the new bridge, to ensure that the upgraded structure complies with the minimum bridge clearance of 5.2 metres," explained Petronella Theron, SANRAL Project Manager.

Detailed design works is currently being finalised and the tender for a contractor will be out by June 2021. Taking the procurement processes into account, the contractor should be appointed by November 2021.

**Issued on behalf of SANRAL and George Municipality.**





# Garden Route Dam: Wins national award

**George Municipality congratulated Zutari Engineering Consultants, formerly known as Aurecon, for winning the Technical Excellence category at the South African Institute of Civil Engineering (SAICE) Awards for its work on the raising of the spillway and dam wall of the Garden Route Dam outside George.**

The Garden Route Dam is the main source of potable water for the city and its capacity had become a concern as the municipal area continued to grow exponentially. Aurecon devised a novel duckbill-shaped spillway that allowed for the dam's existing storage capacity to be increased by 25% while increasing the dam's discharge capacity and thus improving the dam's safety.

George Municipality Portfolio Councillor Civil Engineering Services Jacquiquie von Brandis said the project proved that practical and cost-effective solutions to infrastructure

development were possible without compromising on quality and effectivity. "Congratulations to Zutari (Aurecon) – For George, this is much more than an award-winner, it is an extension of one of the city's most important resources: water," said Ms Von Brandis.

The Garden Route Dam spillway and wall project was completed in January 2020 and increased the dam storage capacity by 25% from 10 million cubic metres to an estimated new capacity of 12,5 million cubic metres. Good rainfall over the past few months have filled the dam to its old capacity in early October (2020). The process of calibrating the dam's new capacity is underway.

It is unknown how quickly the additional dam capacity will fill up, especially taking into consideration that the 'new' top edge of the dam is wider and the incline flatter than before.

**Criteria for the Technical Excellence category of the SAICE Awards:**

- Portray the art and science of civil engineering to the general public
- Indicate how the profession finds answers to challenging demands
- Display unique or unusual features
- Demonstrate functional efficiency, economic contribution and service of mankind
- Demonstrate some notable advance in the solution of engineering problems
- Show particular aesthetic appeal
- Display engineering ingenuity in analysis or design and/or in construction technique
- Had successful handling of impacts on the environment
- Be well managed, finishing on time and within budget

**Project details:**

The previous Garden Route spillway was 25m wide,

which was extended to 80m by curving the spillway in the upstream direction. The new spillway consists of a reinforced concrete cantilever structure, which is unusual for hydraulic structures of this type, as these are normally self-stable by their mass. To enhance the stability, the structure is provided with rockfill on the upstream side of the wall footing, in addition to rock anchors.

Although the full supply level (FSL) of the dam was raised by 2.5 m, due to the local terrain the tallest portion of the new spillway wall is 4.9 m tall. A total of 1,780 m<sup>3</sup> of concrete was used (750 m<sup>3</sup> mass concrete, 300 m<sup>3</sup> for the walls, 390 m<sup>3</sup> for the wall footing, and 340 m<sup>3</sup> for the channel).

The main dam wall was also raised by 1.76m to prevent overtopping by placing earth fill on top of the existing embankment.

Selected material was placed as follows: general fill (12,500 m<sup>3</sup>), rip-rap (2,500 m<sup>3</sup>), filter sand (750 m<sup>3</sup>), and topsoil (2,050 m<sup>3</sup>).



Deputy Executive Mayor of George, Cllr Charlotte Clarke (middle right) and Cllr Liz Stroebel (middle left) at the election of the new George Junior City Council executive. From left are, Lindy Prinsloo (Glenwood House School - Deputy Speaker 2021), Abigail Minnies (Glenwood House School- Deputy Speaker 2020), Michaya Kroon (York High School – Speaker 2021), Jalaser Bosman (York High School– Speaker 2020), Inilé du Toit (Glenwood House School – Mayor 2020), Cllr Stroebel, Cllr Clarke, Ludolph Pedro (York High School– Mayor 2021), Caitlin Potgieter (Outeniqua High School– Deputy Mayor 2020), Aine Ferreira (Outeniqua High School – Deputy Mayor 2021), Haydn Wentzel, (York High School – Municipal Manager 2020) and Brenco de Kock (George High School– Municipal Manager 2021).

# JUNIOR CITY COUNCIL 2021

**The George Junior City Council held their election of the new executive committee for 2021 at the Outeniqua Bowling Club in November last year. Executive Deputy Mayor Charlotte Clarke was the guest speaker at the event. She thanked the JCC members for their time and commitment and the exemplary manner in which they conducted themselves during the year.**

Cllr Liz Stroebel, the Mayoral Representative who oversees the Junior City Council on behalf of the

Mayor of George, introduced the new executive committee amidst great excitement.

Cllr Stroebel wished them well for 2021 and said she has been very impressed with the leadership quality of the executive committee since 2017. She said the voting process have always been a true reflection of a healthy democracy. She has no voting right and only has an oversight role.

She also congratulated each and every Junior City Councillor on their appointment for two

years (first year as juniors and second year as seniors) and thanked them for their hard work and diligence.

She said the JCC are true ambassadors as youth leaders of the City of George.

Despite Covid-19, the JCC undertook the following projects (out of their own pockets), making of masks for the George Provincial Hospital, Kretzenshoop Primary School in Blanco and for Phambili Refuge in Rosemoor for battered

women and their children.

They conducted a beach clean-up and the Junior Mayor attended a Women Awareness event at the Garden Route District Municipality (GRDM). They were involved with events at Môreson children's home, making of Echo bricks, at Odin Animal Shelter, meals on Wheels and the Junior Mayor, Inile du Toit delivered a speech during Women's Month at the GRDM which was televised.



# EPWP training sessions 2020-2021

**The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) at George Municipality and the Youth Peer Educator programme is a joint cooperation programme between the EPWP and the Municipality's Youth Office to render more effective youth related services in the different areas of George, especially the rural and outlying areas.**

The purpose of the programme is also to strengthen the relationship between Local Government and the community.

These 32 Peer Educators were placed at the different area offices within the George Municipal Area since 1 September 2020, at the Youth Office and stationed in the rural and outlying areas of the George Municipality. Their current daily activities include the searching and compiling of information on opportunities for the youth. They also assist walk-in clients and telephone queries.

The Peer Educators assist clients with indigent applications, housing related complaints, account enquiries, CV typing and form completions. They further assist the office personnel with the capturing of meeting minutes, data-capturing, filing and setting up of a youth WhatsApp database and they disseminate information.

The Area Office Coordinators and fulltime staff at the Youth Office act as mentors for these Peer Educators, by guiding them to function optimally within the Municipality, whilst also serving the public.

Besides their day to day mentoring and coaching sessions, they have undergone several training and development sessions. On 1 September 2020 they've attended an induction session around the EPWP protocols as well as conduct within the workplace. The Peer Educators attended a Youth development induction session in the second week of September 2020 that explained the functioning of the Youth Development Section within the Municipality as well as its services to their clients. They've also attended a life skills and introduction to leadership session at the Youth Development office during this time.

The Peer Educators attended a comprehensive session, with Client Services at the end of September 2020 that explained how the three tiers of government work, explaining the functioning of Local Government therein, as well as how the Client Services Department provide a service to the public.

They have attended an accredited Project Management Training (NQF 4) over a five day period in January 2021. The training aimed to equip the youth with the necessary skills to design, implement and monitor projects in their respective communities. The group also attended an accredited mobile literacy training, facilitated by the George Youth Café in February 2021. The training assists the youth with literacy by using mobile technology, such as mobile phones.

Another 60 EPWP workers received non-accredited food garden training from the Department of Agriculture in November 2020. The topics included food safety, agriculture marketing, soil preparation and plant nutrition. The training took place at the George Municipality Worker's Collection Point(Industrial Road, next to Coca Cola and Tekkie Town)and Rosemoor and Thembaletu Civic Centres. The training also included Covid-19 protocol in the workplace as well as basic computer training.



Some of the youth that is part of the EPWP and George Municipality Youth Peer Educator programme during their mobile literacy training at the George Youth Café.



EPWP workers at the theoretical training with their mentors at the Rosemoor Civic Centre.



EPWP workers attend the practical agriculture training at the George Municipality Worker's Collection Point.



Mayor Leon van Wyk (middle) hands over a green and blue bag to Charmaine Stols from Back Street, Pacaltsdorp in celebrating the rollout of the service again after several frustrating months. With him are members from the new Service provider, LGE Waste. From left are Wendy Gelderblom, Simone Baardman, Muneer Mapoli, Stols and the Mayor, Lorenze Gelderblom (Director: LGE Waste), Faried Follentine and Cllr Sean Snyman, Portfolio Councillor for Community Services.

## Mayor hands over green and blue bags in celebration

**Executive Mayor Leon van Wyk and Portfolio Cllr for Community Services, Sean Snyman met up with the new recycling contractor, LGE Waste, in Pacaltsdorp in March while they were busy with clearing of backlog and handing out new bags to the public.** The mayor gave a local resident, Charmaine Stols, a blue and green bag to start with recycling and green waste disposal in the correct manner. Van Wyk said he came out with the contractor to see how they follow the route in Pacaltsdorp and how the service is being rolled out

Cllr Snyman said that George is definitely moving in the right direction with the appointment of the new service provider. He said the Municipality had struggled for half a year to resolve the service issues and that it should be much better from now onwards. Stols said she is very happy and thankful for the service because she wants to live in cleanliness.

The contractor confirmed that they have been handing out bags already to a lot of areas in George and will continue issuing blue and green bags as they work away the backlog.

George Acting Director Community Services, Allen Pause previously said the municipality was relieved to make an appointment after the previous service provider Interwaste had closed its regional offices in George and ended its contract with the municipality in July of last year.

LGE Waste takes up the service as per the previous schedule and will be collecting green and blue bags from all areas that have a recent history of recycling. These include most suburbs of George – incorporating more recent participating areas Ballotsview, Borchersds, Conville, New Dawn Park, Delville Park, Pacaltsdorp, Parkdene, Protea Park, Rosemore and Sea View – as well as the outer areas

of Wilderness, Kleinkrantz, Hoekwil, Victoria Bay and Herolds Bay.

Implementation in Haarlem and Uniondale is currently being investigated to ensure the most effective service, details of which will be announced to the affected communities as soon as arrangements have been finalised.

Service to Lawaaiikamp and Thembaletu will, for now, be handled on request via the ward councillor or office numbers as listed below. The municipality and service provider hope to commence awareness campaigns in these areas as soon as Covid-19 restrictions allow, with the intent to roll out a more extensive service as more households participate.

Residents can put out four green bags and unlimited number of blue bags together with up to seven black bags on their scheduled removal day. Blue and green bags will be collected on the same day as black bags, but by different vehicles.

Households or businesses that are actively recycling and require additional green or blue bags, can collect from George Municipality Environmental Services or LGE Waste (details below).

**ENQUIRIES:**  
Green and blue bags: LGE Waste  
Physical address: 10 Extension Road, Pacaltsdorp Industrial Area.  
Phone: 044 878 0688  
Email: lgewaste@gmail.com

Black bags: George Municipality Environmental Services  
Physical address: 82 Meade Street, George.  
Phone 044 802 2900

### RECYCLE RIGHT



BLACK bags are for 'wet' waste, things that cannot be recycled.



BLUE bags are for non-soiled recyclable materials, including plastic, paper, card board, glass etc.



GREEN bags are for green waste, including organic kitchen waste such as fruit and vegetable peels, as well as garden waste, including grass cuttings, leaves etc. No soil is allowed in green bags.

**RECYCLE RIGHT**  
If you are not sure if you are recycling correctly, below is a guide to the basics. Please put your recyclables in a blue bag and put out with your black bags.

**PAPER that CAN be recycled:** office paper, newspaper and magazines, cardboard (boxes flattened), brown paper bags, take away containers (food removed and rinsed), milk and juice cartons (rinsed and flattened) and books (hard covers removed).

**PAPER that CANNOT be recycled:** napkins, tissue paper, paper towels, wax paper, laminated or waxy paper, punch confetti, carbon paper and stickers.

**METAL that CAN be recycled:** cooldrink and beer cans, food tins (rinsed clean), metal lids of glass, jars, aluminium cans, rusty cans can be recycled and recycled batteries (taken to correct depot).

**METAL that CANNOT be recycled:** batteries, motor oil cans, paint and aerosol cans, and tinfoil.

**GLASS that CAN be recycled:** all colours of glass bottles and jars, beer and wine bottles (rinsed).

**GLASS that CANNOT be recycled:** mirrors and windows, ceramic, crystal, drinking glasses and light bulbs.

**PLASTIC that CAN be recycled:** all plastics numbers 1-7 (rinsed), grocery and retail plastic bags (clean) and milk sachets.

**PLASTIC that CANNOT be recycled:** cling wrap, and polystyrene (is recyclable but no facility on Garden Route for now).

George Municipal Communications | 71 York Street | PO Box 19 | 044 801 9111 | gmun@george.gov.za | www.george.gov.za





# Fire Management for George

**Massive wildfires in the Garden Route in recent years have highlighted the varied needs of an area with some of the most diverse biomes in the country.**

There are few municipalities that deal with the combination of fire and rescue challenges faced in the George municipal area.

From hot and dry conditions in Uniondale and Haarlem north of the Outeniqua Mountains to windy seaside environments in the south, the George Fire and Rescue Services address fire management for semi-desert, mountainous terrain on both sides and over the mountain, as well as large tracts of agricultural land, pine plantations, alien vegetation, coastal fynbos, indigenous forest and winding inaccessible roads connecting towns and villages over long distances.

In addition, two major national roads and several provincial roads go through the area, which requires fire department response at vehicle accidents and transport related hazardous material incidents. The city's industrial node has also significantly grown over the past decade, which increased factory and hazardous materials fires.

Chief Fire Officer Neels Barnard said the devastating wildfires in the neighbouring town of Knysna in June 2017, which took place outside the Western Cape's traditional summer fire season, was a huge wake-up call for municipalities everywhere.

"We wanted to be smart and use resources wisely, so we did the research, consulted with colleagues and role players and came up with practical, sustainable solutions for a variety of fire-fighting situations," said Mr Barnard.

**Denneoord fire base**  
The establishment of the Garden Route's first dedicated emergency firefighting airstrip on municipal property above Denneoord in December 2017 proved a gamechanger during the month-long wildfires around George less than a year later.

The project between George Municipality, Southern Cape Fire Protection Association, Working on Fire and Garden Route District Municipality meant firefighting planes could respond much faster than they would have been

able if they were stationed at a commercial airport.

Five aeroplanes and a chopper are stationed during the fire season, and usually at least one plane and a chopper out of season. Municipalities in the Garden Route district use the facility on a call-out basis as services are required. The airbase consists of a runway, helipad, firebase, hangars, taxiways and a water refilling point.

**First-of-its-kind fire tanker and portable dam**  
The municipality's capacity to deal with fires in remote and dry areas received a significant boost with the delivery of a large capacity water tanker and portable dam in September 2019. The tanker is the first of its kind to be used for firefighting in South Africa.

The 35 000-litre stainless steel water tanker is a movable water source that can be driven to a suitable site from where all kinds of fire vehicles can refill. The tanker is fitted with a pump that can extract water from sources such as farm dams and can deliver 2200 litres per minute at 10 Bar. On the road the 18-metre (13-metre tanker pulled by a five-metre truck), 22-wheeler vehicle it is an impressive site and requires an advanced EC-driver's licence for articulated vehicles, which most of the city's firefighters have.

The 14 000-litre portable dam is one of only three in the country and the first for a local municipality (the others are at West Coast District Municipality and City of Cape Town). The dam is intended as an artificial water source from which a helicopter bucket can scoop water or fire vehicles can be filled. The dam in turn can be filled by the new water tanker or by other fire trucks, depending on where the portable dam is set up.

"The tanker and dam now become part of a streamlined system in which water can be brought much closer to a fire, and therefore significantly reduce the turnaround time. Instead of having to drive several kilometres to refill one truck, or wasting valuable fuel and water refilling time for choppers, the tanker and portable dam is a sustainable combination solution that will make a significant difference in the first hour of a fire. In firefighting, the first hour is crucial to bring a runaway fire under control, which ultimately increases the chance to

save people and property," said Mr Barnard.

**Eyes in the sky**  
Drone technology is being used for multiple applications, most notably for reconnaissance during fires and rescues in areas that are difficult to access in dense vegetation, mountains, sand dunes and seaside cliffs.

The municipality's high-tech drone also enables extensive fire risk assessment across the municipal area including footage of naturally inaccessible areas, much of which is on private agricultural and residential land. The department can then take steps to address issues highlighted by assessments such as the issuing of notices to landowners reminding them of their legal responsibility regarding alien vegetation and fire management.

**Bush-clearing tractor**  
A big part of ongoing fire management is the maintenance of permanent firebreaks, which in the 2018 George fires proved very effective in safeguarding residences at the foot of the mountain. George now has a specialised multi-use 4x4 tractor for the clearing of firebreaks, designed to access rugged terrain. It is fitted with a specialised blade in front to scrape roads and a brush cutter (bossiekapper) at the back for cutting grass and fine brush.

**Dealing with hazardous materials**  
A mobile decontamination unit and two hazardous materials suits were introduced in mid-2020 to support the department's handling of hazardous materials at vehicle accidents and factory fires. The new equipment has the added benefit of protecting firefighters in the unknown possible contaminate situations that the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic may be associated with.

George Fire Department is often the first responder to vehicle accidents in which trucks had spilt dangerous contents. "The hazmat suit is fire retardant and has its own air supply to protect the firefighter from dangerous fumes and chemicals, which is also very necessary at chemical fires at factories and businesses.

"The decontamination unit is mobile and can be set up at the site to decontaminate personnel attending to the situation, which increases the



safety of everyone at the site and reduces the chances of transference."

**Mobile command centre**  
The municipality is expecting the delivery of a mobile command unit that will be used to manage administration and support on the scene of a crisis, disaster or rescue situation.

The custom-built minibus will be set up with two computerised works stations, radio frequency transceivers and internet access, an electric generator and solar panels, and a fixed camera with live footage capability to allow remote monitoring.

Mr Barnard said the fire department was very grateful to its council for recognising the diverse challenges of firefighting in the George municipal area and for supporting an ongoing plan to address as many aspects as possible in a practical and cost-effective manner. "We continue to see the significant difference it makes in the field every day, which ultimately means the more effective protection of people and property."

## Construction of satellite fire station in Wilderness

**Construction of the satellite fire station in Wilderness, 14km outside George, is going well. George Chief Fire Officer Neels Barnard said construction was currently ahead of schedule and should be roof height by the end of the month (March 2021).**

The satellite station in Wilderness had been a long-term goal of the department to cover incidents east of the Kaaimans River Bridge more efficiently. "The station's location near the Caltex The Waves circle on the N2 will allow for easy access to the major fire and rescue risks of the area – vehicle accidents including hazardous materials spills, Wilderness beach and lakes for water incidents, fuel stations, hotels, dense

vegetation and agricultural land."

The Wilderness station will also be one of the first in the Southern Cape to be a double-storey facility with a fireman's pole.

The 440sqm station will comprise 348sqm bottom-floor space for vehicles and equipment and 92sqm above for a control room and staff quarters. It will have three spaces for specialised vehicles including a major fire appliance, 4x4 off-road firefighting vehicle and a jetski and quadbike. The facility will be manned around the clock by four firefighters.

Wilderness will be the municipality's third satellite station in addition to Thembaletu and Uniondale.



From left: Protection Services portfolio councillor Cecil Noble, Executive Mayor Alderman Leon van Wyk, Chief Fire Officer Neels Barnard, contractor Andrew Burger of Golden Awards and Wilderness ward councillor Marlene Barnardt celebrated the start of the construction of the Wilderness satellite fire station with a small soil turning ceremony at the site.