

Cold & wet weather conditions delay project completion of Madiba Road

24 June 2022 Update: GRDM is finalising the final phase of repairs to Madiba Road, otherwise known as the Saasveld road, leading to Nelson Mandela University in George. A sinkhole appeared after a heavy downpour flooded the area. This required a 1.8 m diameter pipe to be installed on 13 April 2022.

Unfortunately, because of persistent high moisture content in the base layer, priming and sealing is not an option at this stage. The location of Madiba Road is in a shaded area surrounded by hundreds of trees, resulting in little direct sun during the autumn and winter months. This causes extensive project delays.

According to Al-Weide (2019), cold or wet weather forms part of the top 10 causes of project delays. Plans are, however, in place to open the road to traffic before it will be tarred..

The following outcomes were agreed upon during a recent planning session:

- Due to the high moisture content in the base layer, priming and sealing is not an option at this stage. Madiba Road is in a shaded area surrounded by hundreds of trees, resulting in little direct sun during the autumn and winter months.
- To protect the base layer from rainwater and to promote the drying of the base layer, a dry layer of 100mm gravel wearing course will be placed onto the base layer.
- The base layer will be dried out once a sealed gravel layer is placed to drive rainwater away from the road surface.
- Weekly assessments of the base layer's moisture content will be done.
- As soon as the moisture reduces to satisfactory levels, we can compact the wearing course layer.
- Once conditions as per above become favourable the base and seal layers will need to be constructed in half widths, the road will not be closed again when this takes place.



TOP 10 CAUSES OF PROJECT DELAYS

Cause	Rank
Project contractor	1
Engineering design deficiencies	2
Procurement-related impact	3
Scope definition	4
Existing facility challenges	5
Assistance and support from departments	6
Project completion delays	7
External authorities	8
Unresolved disputes	9
Cold or wet (inclement) weather	10

Top 10 causes of project delays (Al-Weide, 2019)

Jongensfontein Road was completed with great success

On 5 May 2021, a storm caused a massive landslide in Jongensfontein near Stilbay in the Hessequa Municipal area. GRDM, who is responsible for the construction, upkeep and repairs of several provincial roads in the Garden Route through an agency agreement, stepped up to the task of restoring the road to its formal glory.

According to Ald. Petru Terblanche, Portfolio Chairperson for Roads Services at GRDM, "R7 million was invested in this project to prevent a similar incident from occurring again". On 16 March 2022 a site visit was done by GRDM and Hessequa delegates before the project was concluded.



Days after a massive landslide occurred at Jongensfontein.



Restored to its formal glory after months of roads construction.

POLITICAL REPRESENTATION

Democratic Alliance (DA)	17
African National Congress (ANC)	11
Freedom Front Plus (VF Plus)	2
Plaaslike Besorgde Inwoners (PBI)	2
GOOD	2
ICOSA	1

The current Garden Route District Municipality (GRDM) Council consists of 35 Councillors. The DA and VF Plus are in a multi-party coalition. This means that both parties have agreed to work together temporarily in a partnership to achieve a common goal. This is not to say that opposition parties disagree with decisions and proposals by the multi-party coalition.

Councillors have a democratic mandate, expertise and local insights to drive change communities for the better. At the end of the day, it is common practice at the Garden Route District Municipality (GRDM) to follow an inclusive governance approach that involves all political parties in the decision-making processes of the institution. Each local municipality has ward and proportionally elected Councillors.



The seven (7) local municipalities in the Garden Route district.

WHAT'S INSIDE?

Have a look at what we will feature inside this edition of our annual district newsletter.

3

Message from Executive Mayor, Ald. Memory Booysen and Municipal Manager, Monde Stratu

4

The GRDM Council for the 2021/22 - 2026/27 term.

5

Register on the GRDM Housing Demand Database

6

GRDM Air Quality Awareness Campaigns have reached more than 60 000 people so far.



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR

Alderman Memory Booysen

This is our annual External Newsletter which provides an overview of the Garden Route District Municipality’s activities, under the capable leadership of the Accounting Officer, Mr Monde Stratu, over the past municipal financial year. As a result of his commitment and achievements, he was re-appointed for a second term as the GRDM Municipal Manager. I would like to formally congratulate him on his re-appointment and welcome him back for next five years!

Dear Garden Routers

A new Council was inaugurated in November 2021, bringing a fresh approach to the institution’s programmes and projects. As this is my second term as the GRDM Executive Mayor, I would like to take this opportunity to again welcome all councillors to this term of Council (2021/22 – 2026/27). To familiarise yourself with the new political leadership please turn to page 3 of this newsletter. Councillors have already hit the ground running following a successful strategic session on 20 February 2022. The administration also started to implement resolutions taken at that session.

It is a privilege to work for an institution that collectively ensures that it achieved a Clean Audit outcome. We have subsequently committed to retaining it with the assistance of the political and administrative oversight structures, management, and staff.

Following two years and three months, since the first Covid-19 case was reported in South Africa on 5 March 2020, we finally have seen the restrictions on group gatherings, wearing of masks and travel restrictions, scrapped. It has indeed been a turbulent two years for everyone, no matter where in the world a person live and plays.

Widespread malnutrition has been one of the direct impacts Covid-19 had on communities. It is for this reason that the GRDM Council resolved on 30 September 2020, to contribute to the running costs of the Garden Route Food Pantry (GRFP) for three (3) years. Our institution’s support will

amount to R784 080.00 when our contract with the GRFP concludes. Those interested in accessing the food relief system have to be registered with the Food Pantry (www.echo.org.za). Dozens of communities running soup kitchens, Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centres and feeding centres, all utilise this nutrition-lifeline.

We have also launched our Garden Route Development Partnership Technical Steering Committee on 13 June 2022. This committee will implement the Garden Route Growth and Development Strategy through a government and private sector approach. Seven (7) working groups, focusing on 7 priority areas (listed below), will drive the process:

1. A water-secure future
2. A circular economy
3. A resilient agriculture
4. Sustainable tourism
5. Supporting well-being and resilience
6. A connected economy: transport and rural-urban integration and ICT
7. Sustainable local energy transition

If you’d like to read through this progressive strategy, visit our website, www.gardenroute.gov.za; then click on documents / strategies and here you will find the file names “Garden Route Growth and Development Strategy 2021-2041”.

My office, in collaboration with the South African Police Services (SAPS) and the Western Cape Provincial Department of Community Safety, have identified and held numerous fruitful engagements to formulate actionable outcomes for the following:

- Re-establishment of a Garden Route Youth Council.
- Establishment of safety forums in all municipal areas of the Garden Route. R720 000.00 has been spent on this project to date.
- Launch of a district-wide men’s sector and similar ones for Bitou, Mossel Bay, Oudtshoorn and Kannaland. Three (3) will be established during the next financial year.
- Three (3) workshops and one summit to address gender-based violence with clear, actionable

outcomes to address GBV-related issues.

- R200 000.00 was spent on Area-Based Team workshops, Community-Safety Forums (CPF), Neighbourhood Watch; and a one-day youth camp for Thembaletu community members.
- Safe School Indaba was held in collaboration with SAPS to improve the safety of children and teachers at schools of the entire region.
- Rural safety project was launched to improve the safety of farmers through the installation of CCTV cameras at farms in the Oudtshoorn area.

The Western Cape Tourism, Trade and Investment Promotion Agency (Wesgro) entered into a three-year partnership agreement with GRDM to accelerate the region’s economic growth, investment, trade and tourism. Clear targets and deliverables are set out in this agreement and part of these is the organising of a familiarization trip to the Garden Route & Klein Karoo (GR&KK) region in August 2022. This will include South African trade and media participants, originating from Gauteng and the Western Cape to boost domestic demand along the GR&KK. The focus of this specific Famtrip is on family and budget-friendly packages that are on offer in our region. The Famtrip will consist of a maximum total of 15 participants, made up of tour operators focused on family and budget-friendly packages, Media (printed and online) focused on family and budget-friendly experiences, Wesgro representatives and a GR&KK representatives. The Famtrip will be taking place across the entire region over 5 days from the end of August 2022, which is a great opportunity for GR&KK exposure right before Heritage & Tourism month, which starts on 1 September and the annual South Africa Tourism’s Shot left campaign in September 2022, which focuses on boosting domestic tourism.

These interventions are all in line with the initiatives identified in the GDS and Economy Recovery plan to boost the Garden Route economy, through tourism-specific projects.

We’ve obtained a Clean Audit



Garden Route District Municipality achieved a Clean Audit for the 2020/21 financial year. Our next audit outcome (2021/22) will be announced by November/December 2022.

A Clean Audit is an unqualified audit opinion with no findings, issued by the Auditor-General South Africa (AGSA) after their audit of a municipality’s financial statements, annual performance report and compliance to legislation have been scrutinised. GRDM remains committed to ensuring that it has all necessary controls in place and for good governance, as its organisational culture, strengthens year-on-year. The audit outcome is, therefore, a result of a concerted effort by Council and officials to ensure that good governance and sound financial management remain at the heart of what the GRDM does.

We installed 1368 smoke detectors in Qolweni and Bossiesgif, Plettenberg Bay

Garden Route District Municipality (GRDM), in conjunction with Bitou Municipality, and Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) employees, installed 1 368 smoke detectors in Qolweni and Bossiesgif informal settlements in March 2022. The intervention came after shack fires destroyed several informal structures and claimed the lives of three (3) Garden Routers in 2021. During the incidents, 13 informal structures were destroyed, leaving 50 people homeless. Many residents are temporarily displaced during structural fires or do not have the means to rebuild their lives.

Similar interventions will be rolled out to the rest of the region in all high-risk areas identified through a GRDM Disaster Risk Assessment. According to District’s risk assessment, Smutsville in Sedgefield, Kwanonqaba in Mossel Bay and Thembaletu in George, are in dire need of similar interventions. This will cost the GRDM Council R1 695 000 and include 4 500 smoke detection devices (including installation costs). The estimated cost per smoke detector is between R350 and R400 each and all installed devices in Qolweni and Bossiesgif were funded by the Western Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre.

Through this risk reduction initiative, the most vulnerable communities are notified by a loud and timely alarm, allowing everyone to escape safely.



A team of EPWP workers from the Bitou municipal area installed the smoke detectors in Qolweni and Bossiesgif dwellings.

Regional Waste Management Facility planned to open in 2023

GRDM appointed Zutari (Pty) Ltd to design and draft tender documentation and supervise the contract for the GRDM Regional Waste Management facility and associated infrastructure on Farm 419 in Mossel Bay. The design drawings and report have already been submitted on 6 May 2022 to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) for statutory approval.

COST OF THE NEW SITE

GRDM appointed Zutari (Pty) Ltd to design and draft tender documentation and contract supervision for the Garden Route Regional Waste Management facility and associated infrastructure on Farm 419 in Mossel Bay. The design drawings and report have already been submitted on 6 May 2022 to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) for statutory approval.

WHAT IS THE COST OF THE NEW SITE?

The final cost of the site can only be determined once the loan tender, construction tender and the operations & maintenance tender have been concluded. The loan tender will require funding institutions to provide 10-, 15- and 20-year loan funding options. The costs will include the construction of the landfill and associated infrastructure, the loan repayment and associated interest rates, operation costs including plant and equipment, rehabilitation costs etc.

WHAT WILL THE SITE INCLUDE?

The Regional Waste Management Facility will include a domestic waste cell (Class B) and a separate hazardous waste cell (Class A) to accommodate hazardous waste with low and medium hazard ratings. Other infrastructure includes roads, stormwater pipelines, leachate storage dams, a stormwater dam for contaminated liquids, offices, a laboratory, weighbridges, a workshop, and security infrastructure. Provision has also been made to accommodate a waste tyre recycling facility by means of a 3-hectare portion of land for long-term lease to the Waste Bureau. The domestic waste Cell 1, as well as the hazardous waste cell, will both have a lifespan of approximately 20 - 25 years.

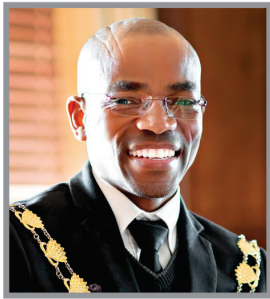
HOW FAR HAS THE PROJECT PROGRESSED?

An Environmental Impact Assessment was concluded in 2012 and GRDM received Environmental Authorisation. A Waste Management Licence was issued by DFFE in 2014. A section 78 investigation in terms of the Municipal Systems Act, concluded to provide the Regional Waste Management Services by means of a Public Private Partnership. A Private Partner was appointed to construct the facility and operate for period of ten years, however withdrew from the PPP at the final stages of the process on 29 September 2020.

GRDM then concluded to no longer pursue the PPP process and opted to rather make use of loan funding to construct the facility and to outsource the operations and maintenance to a reputable service provider.

The Geotechnical and Geohydrological Investigations required to finalise the designs of the facility have been concluded and the design drawings and design report have been finalised & submitted to DFFE on 06 May 2022 for approval which is required prior to commencement of construction.

The loan tender was advertised on 15 May 2022 and closed on 21 June 2022. The construction tender specifications are being finalised & scheduled to be advertised in July 2022. The operations & maintenance tender will also run concurrently to the construction tender process. Phase 1 of the construction of the facility is currently scheduled to be concluded by 30 June 2023, at which time waste disposal can commence.



Ald. Memory Booysen
Executive Mayor
(DA)



Ald. Gert van Niekerk
Deputy Executive Mayor
(VF Plus)



Ald. Georlene Wolmarans
Speaker
(DA)



Cllr Betsie van Noordwyk
Whip of Council
(DA)



Cllr Anco Barker
MAYCO
(DA)



Cllr Jobieth Hoogbaard
MAYCO
(DA)



Ald. Iona Kritzing
MAYCO
(DA)



Cllr Jerome Lambaatje
MAYCO
(DA)



Cllr Nompulelo Ndayi
MAYCO
(DA)



Ald. Rosina Ruiter
MAYCO
(DA)



Ald. Petru Terblanche
MAYCO
(DA)



Ald. Clodia Lichaba
MPAC Chairperson
(ANC)



Cllr Marulyn Kannemeyer
(DA)



Cllr Daniel Cronje
(DA)



Cllr Aubrey Tswenga
(ANC)



Cllr Cobus Meiring
(DA)



Cllr Mzwandile Mkonto
(ANC)



Cllr Alettha Steenkamp
(DA)



Cllr Joey Canary
(ANC)



Cllr Hilton Stroebel
(DA)



Cllr Daniel Acker
(VF Plus)



Ald. Virgill Gericke
(PBI)



Cllr Richard Hector
(GOOD)



Cllr Sharon van Rooyen
(ANC)



Cllr Thando Matika
(ANC)



Cllr Simphiwe Toto
(ANC)



Ald. Stephen de Vries
(ANC)



Cllr Christopher Taute
(ANC)



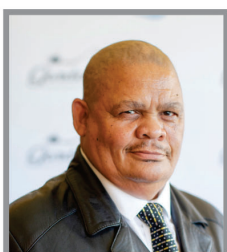
Cllr Jan Cornelius
(ICOSA)



Ald. Mercia Draghoender
(PBI)
Passed away on 11 June 2022



Cllr Clive Scheepers
(GOOD)



Cllr Koos Malooi
(DA)



Cllr Coenraad Swart
(DA)



Cllr Viniola Gungubele
(ANC)



Cllr Nokuthula Seti
(ANC)

Understanding the role of District Municipalities

Ever thought about what the differences between Garden Route District Municipality and local municipalities (Hessequa, Mossel Bay, George, Knysna, Bitou, Greater Oudtshoorn and Kannaland) are? Well, look no further. We’ve developed a table to outline exactly how the responsibilities in this region are structured and provide a brief explanation of why a district municipality is important.

Function	Garden Route DM	Local Municipality
Air Quality Management	✓	✓
Building control		✓
Bulk Supply of Electricity	✓	
Climate Change Adaptation	✓	
Community Development		✓
Disaster Management	✓	✓
Electrical		✓
Events Support		✓
Expanded Public Works Programme	✓	✓
Fire and Rescue Services (veld, chemical, mountain)	✓	
Fire and Rescue Services (structural, town)		✓
Fresh Produce Market	✓	
Halls and Venues		✓
Human Resources	✓	✓
Human Settlements (Social Rental)	✓	
Human Settlements (Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme)	✓	
Human Settlements (Reconstruction and Development Programme)		✓
Integrated Development Planning	✓	✓
Law Enforcement		✓
Libraries		✓
Local Economic Development	✓	✓
Municipal Health Services (Food Control)	✓	
Municipal Health Services (Water Quality Monitoring)	✓	
Municipal Health Services (Solid Waste Management)	✓	
Municipal Health Services (Health Surveillance)	✓	
Municipal Health Services (Supervision and Prevention of Communicable diseases)	✓	
Municipal Health Services (Vector Control)	✓	
Municipal Health Services (Environmental Pollution Control)	✓	
Municipal Health Services (Disposal of Human Remains)	✓	
Municipal Health Services (Safe handling of Chemical Substances)	✓	
Parks & Recreation		✓
Potable Water Supply Systems	✓	
Property Management	✓	✓
Roads Services (On behalf of WC Government)	✓	
Roads Services (in towns)		✓
Tourism Marketing (Local)		✓
Tourism Marketing (Regional)	✓	
Traffic and Licencing		✓
Skills Development (Skills Mecca)	✓	
Sport Development		✓
Streets and Storwater		✓
Supply Chain Management	✓	✓
Town Planning		✓
Water and sanitation		✓
Waste Management (George)		✓
Waste Management (Regional)	✓	

HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND CURRENT STATUS QUO

There are three types of municipalities in South Africa - metropolitan, district and local. District municipalities have shared legislative and administrative powers with local municipalities in their area of jurisdiction. For the Garden Route, this includes Hessequa, Mossel Bay, George, Knysna, Bitou, Greater Oudtshoorn and Kannaland.

The system of district and local municipalities came into being on 5 December 2000. The transition period for the old way of governing municipalities ended in July 2003. The overlapping local government structures are not unknown to the rest of the world, with multi-tier government systems existing in India, Germany, Spain, and the United States of America, to name a few.

For people moving from other parts of the country to the Garden Route, it can be confusing to understand the exact roles and responsibilities of our district. The reason for this is that not all district and local municipalities perform the exact same functions. In the year 2000, an assessment was done to gain an understanding of the position and infrastructure of each district as a whole. This resulted in some functions shifting to local municipalities. Some district municipalities didn’t have the capacity on a regional level to perform all functions as set out in Section 84 of the Municipal Structures Act.

At a metro-level, a local and district municipality are merged, while at a non-metro level, district and local municipalities co-exist and therefore, govern jointly. Thus, a local and district municipality cannot exist in a metropolitan area.

South Africa has 44 district municipalities and within these, there are 226 local municipalities. The country has only eight (8) metropolitan municipalities.

District municipalities are responsible for ensuring that broader matters are addressed, like integrated planning, infrastructure development, the bulk supply of water and electricity, public transport and marketing of a region to tourists. Local municipalities focus primarily on local services, like those listed in the table on the left.

Emile Conrad returns with another feather in his cap!

On 27 May 2022, the Council and Staff, including Firefighters at Garden Route District Municipality (GRDM) gave special recognition and a celebratory welcome to the World’s 10th best Firefighter, Emile Conrad, a Senior Firefighter from GRDM. Conrad participated in the World Firefighters Games (WFG) held in Lisbon, Portugal from 30 April to 7 May, and returned as the 10th best firefighter globally as well as the second-best globally in his age category (35 - 39 years).

Executive Mayor, Alderman Memory Booyen, and Speaker, Ald. Georlene Wolmarans, handed a special trophy and certificate of achievement over to this remarkable Senior Firefighter.

Once again, congratulations Emile Conrad!



Emile Conrad (middle, back) with his wife Bonita and children, David (left) and Matthew (right) with GRDM executive leaders - Deputy Executive Mayor, Ald. Gert van Niekerk (back, left), Executive Mayor, Ald Memory Booyen (second from the right, back) and Speaker, Ald. Georlene Wolmarans (right, back).



Emile Conrad excelled during the World Firefighters Games (WFG) held in Lisbon, Portugal from 30 April to 7 May.

Register on our housing demand database

Scan this QR code with your phone to access an article, with applicable forms, relating to the GRDM housing demand database.



Are you a resident of Bitou, Knysna, George, Mossel Bay, Hessequa, Oudtshoorn or Kannaland and looking for an opportunity to obtain affordable housing? Then look no further.

“The GRDM invites you to register on its housing demand database.”

The GRDM is preparing to offer affordable housing to residents and have the following two options. A Social Rental Housing option for households with a combined monthly income between **R1 851 and R22 000**, and a FLISP option, for households with a combined monthly income between **R3 501 and R22 000**.

In line with the above, we have prepared a standard application form that those interested in Affordable Housing must complete. Forms are available through the following platforms, namely:

- At all local Housing offices of the 7 B-municipalities in the district;
- All the GRDM sub-offices in the region; and
- For any related enquiries, please direct them to the GRDM Human Settlements office representatives, namely Ms Shehaam Sims or Mr Headman Mashotha at 044 803 1454.

You have three options to complete the application forms:

- Submit it to your Local Municipality’s Housing Section;
- Submit it at any of the GRDM offices in the region; and
- E-mail a scanned copy of the forms to info@gardenroute.gov.za.

Frequently Asked Questions

If I earn more than R22 000 per month, do I still qualify?

Unfortunately, not for FLISP or Social Housing. However for GAP Housing you may be called upon to reflect interest and be subjected to the applicable criteria. You will be required to make a home loan for the full purchase price. Even people who earn R22 000 per month only qualify for R28 000 in subsidy and naturally those above R22 000 will not qualify for a guarantee or subsidy as part of home loan applications to the concerned bank. In such circumstances, affected households would have to unfortunately apply for the full effect of the loan from the local banks. A sliding scale is applicable for FLISP individual ownership schemes. Someone earning R3 501 will receive some R122 000.

What about a person that works at a municipality who do not qualify for a subsidy?

We need to understand the reason for non-qualification. Perhaps we should reflect also that such a category of applicants can go to the external private market (i.e. the private developers or commercial banks) where related housing products for non-qualifiers are normally considered.

If you fail the affordability test at the bank, will you still be considered?

No, but could be taken through a credit rehabilitation – (However people or applicants must test the related affordability periodically as the circumstances of each household will vary or change from time to time depending on circumstances).

Is this project a rent to own for those who do not qualify for a subsidy ?

No, social rental only for rental and FLISP for individual ownership and respectively earning less than the combined household monthly income sitting between R3 501 – R22 000.

Is this project only for first time buyers, or may any person apply?

First time home owners only for ownership. You may apply for affordable social rental opportunities though directly from the concerned social housing company who have partnered with the GRDM for this type of housing whenever related projects are formally announced.

32 Small Businesses from the Garden Route benefit from GRDM’s Support and Development Programme



As small businesses are the backbone of the economy, Government has introduced various forms of relief to Small Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) to recover from the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. A good example of this is when the GRDM Council resolved, four years ago ‘to put their money where their mouths are’ by supporting and investing tangibly in SMME’s of the Garden Route. With a mentorship process funded by the GRDM, specific business needs were identified through one-on-one business assessments.

This resulted in the GRDM Economic Development and Tourism Departments SMME Support and Development Programme being introduced during the 2019/20 financial year (1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020). This Programme was initiated and is coordinated by the GRDM Economic Development and Tourism Department. Other stakeholders, such as the Department of Agriculture (DoA); Department of Economic Development and Tourism (DEDAT); Small Enterprises Development Agency (Seda), the Economic Development Partnership (EDP) and local municipalities in the district played a critical role in driving this.

In the past year, the GRDM Council allocated R682 000.00 from its budget to assist SMMEs in the district to grow their businesses. Small businesses were invited to submit proposals as part of the selection process. An advertisement was placed in the regional newspapers, social media and the municipal website.

Some of the 32 small businesses who benefited from the initiative.



Mattresses donated to a crèche in Avontuur



Portfolio Chairperson for Community Services, Cllr Nompumelelo Ndayi (left), hands over a mattress to the Principal of St. Elizabeth Crèche in Avontuur, Caroline Esau.

Crèches or day care facilities are required to provide safe sleep spaces for toddlers or little ones on a daily basis. To ensure that these spaces are comfortable enough to provide a healthy sleeping routine, a mattress is regarded as an essential item for a toddler.

Towards the end of May 2022, Environmental Health Practitioners (EHP) from GRDM and the Portfolio Chairperson for Community Services, Cllr Nompumelelo Ndayi, paid a

surprise visit to the St. Elizabeth Crèche in Avontuur. On arrival Cllr Ndayi, on behalf of GRDM, donated sixteen (16) mattresses to the crèche. A gratified Principal, Caroline Esau, accepted the items on behalf of the little ones and expressed her gratefulness towards GRDM for the donation, especially due to the timing of the donation. Avontuur experiences extremely cold weather during winter time, reaching low temperatures of 2°C during autumn and winter.

E-recruitment website to launch on 1 July 2022

The GRDM is pleased to announce that, as of 1 July 2022, it will introduce its own E-recruitment system. **The aim of the system is to make it convenient for applicants to apply for a vacant position at the municipality.**

This paperless online job application system will allow applicants to apply for a vacancy without having to complete an application form, make copies of their Curriculum Vitae (CV) and relevant qualifications every time they apply for a vacancy. GRDM's vision is to be a leading, enabling, and inclusive district. With this in mind, this system will provide a platform where job vacancies can be advertised, viewed, and applied for online, enhancing the recruitment and selection process by increasing responses.

When a candidate registers and creates a profile on the E-recruitment system, it is mandatory to upload their CV and qualifications, which is stored on the system and can be updated at any time. This makes the application process for a vacancy flow more efficiently.

HOW TO APPLY?



- Step 1:** Register on the official Garden Route District Municipality e-recruitment website by visiting jobs.gardenroute.gov.za
- Step 2:** Complete your profile and upload all the required documents to the website.
- Step 3:** View and apply for the job you qualify for before the closing date.

Important notes: Our e-recruitment website does not fully support mobile phone or tablet access. Please use your laptop or desktop computer instead to apply for a job. Our applications are best viewed using the latest versions of website browsers.

- 1. All **applications are reviewed and shortlisted** after the closing date.
- 2. **If you've been shortlisted you'll be invited to an interview.** If you do not hear from us within 90 days, you haven't been successful.
- 3. If you are informed of being shortlisted, you will **attend an interview with a panel** who will ask you questions and answer yours. You may, in some instances, be required to complete an assessment before being interviewed.
- 4. The **panel will confer and decide on the ideal candidate** for the position.
- 5. If you are the preferred candidate, you will be offered the position and will have 5 working days to respond and sign the acceptance letter.
- 6. If you're successful, you'll join the **Garden Route District Municipality.**

www.gardenroute.gov.za/vacancies

Air Quality Awareness Campaigns have reached more than 60 000 people so far

For the last seven (7) years, Garden Route District Municipality (GRDM) has incorporated air pollution education as part of its community outreach activities. The Air Quality awareness campaign was identified in response to the poor air quality status of informal settlements during winter seasons. Dr Johann Schoeman, District Air Quality Manager at GRDM, emphasised that the poor air quality status is amongst others sources, caused by fires used for cooking and heating purposes. In the pictures (below) are school representatives from various schools with their study packs.

The course material covers the following air pollution aspects:

- What air pollution is;
- The health effects thereof;
- What causes air pollution;
- How you can help to reduce air pollution;
- How to make a fire;
- How to make a "cleaner" fire for heating purposes; and
- How to construct a stove from waste material.

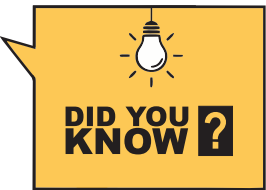


Teachers from Bergsig Primary (left), De Villiers Primary (right), Saturnus Primary (bottom-left) and Wesbank Primary Schools (bottom-right) displaying the air quality information packs.



We comply 100% with NAEIS

The GRDM is the Air Quality Management licensing authority for listed activities in the Garden Route and operates within the prescribed National: Environmental: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act 39 of 2004). According to Dr Johann Schoeman, GRDM Manager: Air Quality: "For the 2022 reporting cycle, GRDM had 37 facilities registered with the National Atmospheric Emission Inventory System (NAEIS). All of facilities submitted their reports on the system before 31 March 2022. This ensured that the GRDM received a 100% submission rate."



GRDM Dehoek Mountain Resort in transition to 90% green energy

As part of its strategic objectives, GRDM is keeping to its promise of being a leading District in pursuing green energy. In 2017 GRDM installed a 150kw/h solar system in its parking area at its Head Office in George. Now the GRDM has done it again, this time at one of its facilities, De Hoek Mountain Resort, 35 km outside Oudtshoorn around the corner from the world-renowned Congo Caves.

In total, three (3) tables of locally produced mounting structures were installed on concrete foundations, each holding 28, 28 and 26 PV modules respectively of 550Wp each. The Solar PV modules are also locally assembled, meeting the Department of Trade Industry and Competition's local content requirements.

The PV inverter and battery inverters are installed in the existing mini-substation and the installation will be fully NRS097 compliant and the SSEG application has been submitted to Oudtshoorn Municipality and is currently awaiting formal approval so that the system can be switched on. Once the system is on, Ald. Memory Booysen, Executive Mayor of GRDM will hold a media briefing with the relevant officials at the site.





To book by us, visit www.dehoekmountainresort.co.za or dial 044 272 8214. Find us on



Break-away resort tucked away in the Swartberg Mountains

De Hoek Mountain Resort is situated 35 km from Oudtshoorn and boasts spectacular views over the majestic Swartberg Mountains.

Large level grassed caravan and camping sites with clean ablution blocks, offer guests a comfortable and scenic setting from which to explore the area. Our very well-equipped, self-catering chalets have a rustic feel about them and are fully furnished to cater for up to six persons. Each chalet has its own braai facility, as well as secure parking space directly in front of it.

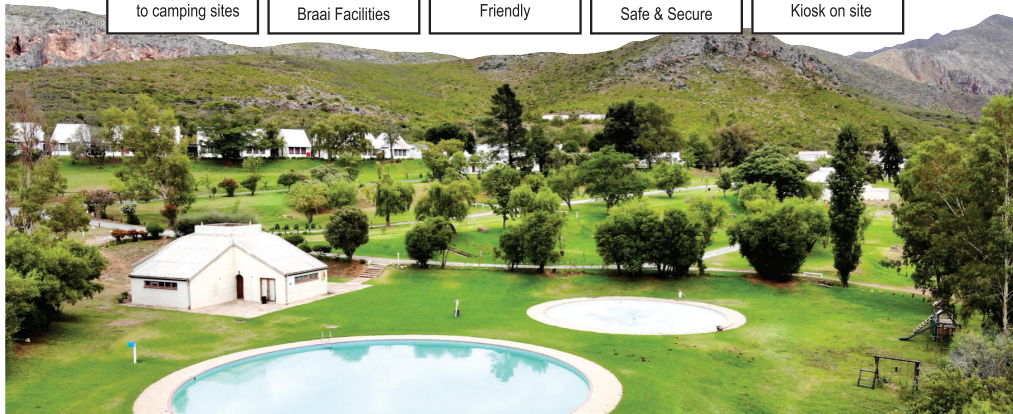
We also host bigger groups in our two dormitories, which sleep up to 72 guests each. Team-building exercises, religious groups, and weddings, are often hosted by us.

Disconnect from your hectic daily life and recharge in the tranquil setting our resort has to offer. Go hiking, or - for the more adventurous - do some rock climbing on our property. After this, you can cool off in our large swimming pool. Be sure to keep an eye open for Black Eagles, which have been spotted before by nature enthusiasts at our Resort.

The area around our Resort is well worth exploring. Enjoy day trips to the Cango Caves (5 km away) - a cultural and natural landmark of South Africa. You can also enjoy breakfast, lunch and dinner at a nearby restaurant that offers a range of activities for children.

Dial 044 272 8214 or visit www.dehoekmountainresort.co.za to book your stay by us!

ACCOMMODATION AND FACILITIES



CALITZDORP
Hot Springs

To book, visit www.calitzdorpspa.co.za or dial 044 213 3371. Find us on



Calitzdorp Spa now known as Calitzdorp Hot Springs

The GRDM Council has decided to approve the renaming of the Calitzdorp Spa and for its logo to be changed to fit in with its new identity: Calitzdorp Hot Springs. The decision was made after several tour operators and guests expressed concerns about the hot springs that do not offer spa-related facilities. During the World Travel Market Africa, the District Municipality's resorts and campsites were marketed and this is where similar questions arose about Calitzdorp Spa's name. "Rename the accommodation facility to its unique selling point – hot springs," is what tour operators said.

"The name Calitzdorp Spa is misleading in the sense that guests who have not yet visited the hot springs are of the opinion that it offers various spa-related facilities and services. It has been misleading, to say the least," says Garden Route District Municipality's Portfolio Chairperson for Properties and Asset Management, Cllr Jobieth Hoogbaard. "Calitzdorp Hot Springs gives an accurate indication of what guests can expect," says Hoogbaard.

The logo was adjusted by the communications department of GRDM and no additional costs were incurred by involving service providers during the process. The District will continue to manage the roll-out of the new identity cost-effectively.

Revitalise your mind & body

Our Calitzdorp Hot Springs is a popular destination for families and groups who need time to break away from the fast-paced city life.

The rejuvenating natural spring waters can reach temperatures of up to 50°C (122°F) and include minerals such as iron and manganese.

Those who've visited us frequently speak about the relief our healing waters offer them, with many saying it reduced symptoms relating to sprains, high blood pressure, bruises, and rheumatic pain.

ACTIVITIES AT OUR RESORT

Are you a wildlife or bird-watching enthusiast?

Look no further - bird watchers have observed 72-recorded species at our resort. Our resort also boasts dozens of

springbok, a countless number of mountain tortoises and tame peacocks fanning their shimmering feathers.

Keen to get some exercise?

Our extramural facilities include tennis, mountain biking, running/walking trails.

Kids keeping you busy?

We even cater for your kids - apart from the swimming pools - they can also enjoy playing in our jungle gym.

ACTIVITIES AROUND OUR RESORT

Only 25 km from Calitzdorp, our resort is surrounded by several farms that offer wine tasting, in particular, fortified wines, fruit-picking, and dried fruits are also must-do's while in the area.

ACCOMMODATION, FACILITIES & ACTIVITIES



BE SAFE - BE AWARE

FIRE DANGERS ARE HERE

Garden Route District Municipality (GRDM) has identified your property as one of many that are at high risk of being impacted by wildfires. This is because you are living on the urban wildlife interface. As a property owner you need to have preventative measures in place to protect your property from being destroyed by a wildfire or it starting and spreading from your property.

It is important to note that you may be held liable for the costs incurred, and claims against you if it can be proven that a wildfire started and spread from your property.

The most important steps you can take is to ensure that you have a defensible space between your home and the wildland area around you. This will create a sufficient buffer to slow or stop the spread of wildfire to a structure. It can protect structures from contact with direct flames or radiant heat.

A defensible space is integral for human, animal and infrastructure to stay safe during wildfires. It also protects firefighters during a blaze.



DEFENSIBLE ZONES

GUIDELINES FOR KEEPING SAFE

ZONE 1

- Remove all dead or dying vegetation.
- Trim tree canopies regularly to keep their branches a minimum of 3 meters from structures and other trees.
- Remove leaf litter (dry leaves/pine needles) from the garden, roof and rain gutters.
- Relocate woodpiles or other flammable materials into Zone Two.
- Remove flammable material and vegetation from around and under decks.
- Remove or trim vegetation near windows.
- Remove "ladder fuels" (low-level vegetation that allows the fire to spread from the ground to the tree canopy).
- Keep your property lean and green.
- Clearing and maintenance of new sprouts under the trees are very important.
- Remove alien plants and replace them with indigenous plants.

ZONE 2

- Remove "ladder fuels."
- Cut or mow the grass.
- Trim tree canopies regularly to keep their branches at least 3 meters from other trees.
- The spacing between grass, shrubs, and trees is crucial to reduce the spread of wildfire.

REMEMBER TO HAVE A PLAN!

- Create a family emergency plan that includes meeting locations and communication plans and practice it regularly.
- Have fire extinguishers on hand and train your family how to use them.
- Ensure that your family knows where your gas, electric and water main shut-off controls are and how to use them.
- Plan several different evacuation routes. Designate an emergency meeting location outside the fire hazard area.

- Assemble an emergency supply kit consisting of a battery-powered radio, spare batteries, emergency contact numbers, and ample drinking water.
- Maintain a list of emergency contact numbers posted near your phone and in your emergency supply kit.

IF A WILDFIRE APPROACHES - GET SET

- Stay calm, keep your family together.
- Fill sinks and tubs with cold water.
- Keep doors and windows closed but unlocked.
- Stay inside your house.
- Stay away from outside walls and windows.
- Leave your lights on so firefighters can see your house under smoky conditions.
- Stay tuned to your TV or local radio stations for updates.
- Remove lightweight curtains.
- Move flammable furniture to the centre of the room, away from windows and doors.
- Evacuate as soon as you are set and when it is safe!

IF A WILDFIRE APPROACHES - GO EARLY!

By leaving early, you give your family the best chance of surviving a wildfire. You also help firefighters by keeping roads clear of congestion, enabling them to move more freely and do their job.

WHEN TO GO?

Leave early enough to avoid being caught in fire, smoke or road congestion. Don't wait to be told by authorities to leave. In an intense wildfire, they may not have time to knock on every door. However, if you are advised to leave, don't hesitate!

WHERE TO GO?

Leave to a predetermined location (it should be a low-risk area) and have several travel routes in case one route is blocked by the fire or by emergency vehicles.

WHAT TO TAKE?

Take your emergency supply kit containing your family and pet's necessary items.



DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Garden Route District Municipality
Gerhard Otto 044 803 1435

Overberg District Municipality
028 425 1157

Central Karoo District Municipality
023 449 1000

West Coast District Municipality
022 433 2380

Cape Winelands District Municipality
021 887 4446

Western Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre
021 937 6301

GARDEN ROUTE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTRE

The centre, which forms part of the Garden Route District Municipality's Department Community Services, is equipped with joint operational command and tactical decision areas. In order to stay abreast with regional emergency-related activities, a 24/7 call centre has been established adjacent to the Disaster Management Centre (DMC). The 24/7 call centre is operated in conjunction with provincial Emergency and Medical Services (EMS) and renders an emergency call taking and dispatch platform servicing the district as a whole. In addition to the EMS call taking staff the Garden Route DM call centre is staffed with four permanently employed operators as well as two call centre reservists.

Dam levels in the Garden Route

Statistics as at 20 June 2022

	George	Bitou	Knysna	Mossel Bay	Riversdale
Dam name	Garden Route	Roodefontein	Akkerkloof	Wolwedans	Korentepoort
Current Storage	86,19%	93,19%	100,00%	83,11%	86,85%
Storage Last Week	88,48%	92,85%	98,20%	84,04%	87,69%

	Heidelberg	Ladismith	Calitzdorp	Oudtshoorn	Uniondale
Dam name	Duiwenhoks	JF Le Grange	Tierkloof	Koos Raubenheimer	Haarlem
Current Storage	100,00%	50,00%	96,73%	70,40%	65,52%
Storage Last Week	99,90%	60,00%	96,10%	71,07%	65,97%

90% and higher	50% to 89.9%	0% - 49.99%
----------------	--------------	-------------

Report Water leaks to your LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

HESSEQUA	028 713 8000 • After hours: 028 713 7917/8000
MOSSSEL BAY	044 606 5000
GEORGE	044 801 9262/66 • After hours: 044 801 6300
KNYSNA	044 302 6331/6334 • After hours: 044 302 8911 After hours: 060 998 6969
BITOU	044 501 3174/5 • 0800 212 797 (toll-free)
OUTDSHOORN	044 203 3090/3086 • After hours: 044 203 7800
KANNALAND	028 551 8000 • After hours: 061 602 1095



EVERY DROP COUNTS