



FISHERHAVEN NEWS

— Voice of the Village —

Drainage concerns surge in the wake of the flood

SIMONE GRAY

When a sudden, intense downpour from a Cut-Off Low (COL) system hit Fisherhaven in February, water rose quickly, flooding homes along School Road and leaving residents shaken.

Sandra Eaby, who lives near the Fisherhaven Academy, watched it unfold. “There was an immense amount of rain in a very short time,” she says. “The stormwater drain filled up and started to overflow. Before we knew it, water was coming in under the gate. It kept rising until our front and back gardens were completely underwater. It missed entering our home by just a few centimetres.”

Her family has owned the property since the 1980s and she moved in permanently last year. While no lasting damage was done, the experience has shifted how they prepare. A pump and additional piping are now in place, but as winter approaches, the uncertainty lingers.



Others along the road were not as fortunate. Some homes took on water and sustained damage not only to gardens but to the homes themselves, which, beyond the stress, comes at a financial cost. The municipality has indicated that residents without insurance may apply for financial assistance in the light of damage sustained, but it is inevitable that the deluge brought renewed attention to existing stormwater infrastructure. Residents speak of drains that are not regularly maintained and upgrades that appear to have stalled, and for many, the real concern is avoiding a repeat.

The scale of the rainfall on this occasion cannot be overlooked. Around 224 mm fell in just 38 hours, much of it in a short burst. It is the kind of volume that would test

even a well-functioning system.

Residents are preparing for seasonal storms but many feel that without consistent maintenance and continued upgrades to the stormwater system, their efforts won't be enough to avoid the inevitable. “If the municipality delivers on what's been promised, this can be resolved,” says Sandra. “But right now, it feels like very little is being done.”

The message from the community is clear. One must prepare for the rainy season while simultaneously joining voices to address the bigger issues. This is no longer about one storm, one resident or one home. It is a call to deliver on promised services that require urgent action to protect our community from imminent damage and disaster.

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FHA update: Stormwater management, AGM, and more

DINISH RAJPAUL

Fisherhaven Homeowners' Association Feedback

Fisherhaven has faced significant challenges in recent months. Following the November 2025 fires, our village was struck by an unprecedented storm in early February, with extreme rainfall causing damage to roads, infrastructure and properties. We are grateful for the strong community response and the support shown to affected residents.

The storm exposed key infrastructure concerns, particularly stormwater management. The Overstrand Municipality has begun addressing these, with work underway in Sprog Street, China Marais, Dabchick, Seaway and Miramar Road. Additional areas, including School, Keurboom, Recreation and Park Road, are planned to be attended to before winter. Road maintenance and dust control on School Road are expected to be completed by June 2026. Residents are encouraged to take precautionary measures ahead of the rainy season to limit and prevent flooding of their properties. Road resurfacing and slurry sealing have been completed along portions of Riverside Drive, China Marais, Flying Dutchman and Keurboom Road.

Fisherhaven Homeowners Association and AGM

With growing development interest in and around Fisherhaven, it is more important than ever for residents to be involved. The FHA represents the community on key matters, but its effectiveness depends on your support – membership of the Association gives you a voice by allowing you to participate, vote and possibly



influence decisions affecting your property and village. The FHA also represents Fisherhaven at Ward 8 level and contributes to municipal planning processes.

With the AGM on 30 April 2026, now is the time to join, renew and be involved.

Land Invasion Awareness

Residents are encouraged to remain vigilant regarding any unauthorised land occupation. Early signs may include clearing of land, marking of sites or delivery of materials. It is important that any concerns are reported immediately to Overstrand Law Enforcement or the municipality.

The municipality is required to act promptly in terms of applicable legislation, particularly in the early stages of unlawful occupation. Once structures are established and occupied, formal legal processes must be followed, which can delay intervention. Early reporting is therefore critical to ensure that the correct processes can be applied effectively. Residents are encouraged to contact 028 313 8998 for the Land Invasion Unit – you can request anonymity. This applies specifically to municipal or governmental land and properties. For private properties, residents or owners would have to contact a lawyer

and follow the necessary legal processes. It is important that you do not attempt to evict the occupiers on your own – no one may evict an unlawful occupier except by court order, and any self-help evictions are a criminal offence.

Updates and Reminders

The LPR camera project is progressing, with agreements finalised – we have been informed that the project is expected to be completed before the end of June 2026.

The municipality has entered into a direct short-term lease (15 months) with Point Caravan Resort for a portion of ERF 775 with effect from 1 April 2026. A Public Notice for Comment has been issued for the municipality's intention to make the property available by means of a competitive process for a long-term lease, development, management and maintenance of the property.

The municipality's Priority Human Settlement Housing Development Area (PHSHDA) concept is still under internal consideration and review – no decisions have been taken as yet. Residents are reminded to register or update their voter details ahead of the forthcoming elections.



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Fisherhaven transport inquiry:

Clarity, accountability – and the road ahead

ENVIRONMENT

LYNETTE HEWITT

The recently released report by the Western Cape Provincial Regulatory Entity (PRE) into learner transport operations to and from Fisherhaven Academy provides long-awaited clarity for residents. It confirms that while many community concerns are valid, the challenges are largely operational rather than systemic.

The inquiry followed complaints relating to road degradation, congestion, unsafe parking and infrastructure strain linked to daily scholar transport.

The PRE found that the transport system itself is mostly compliant. Buses are licensed, generally roadworthy, and operators are cooperative. No major safety violations were identified, and driver behaviour was not highlighted as a concern.

However, gaps in coordination and planning are placing significant pressure on the village.

Peak-time congestion around the school remains a key issue, with more buses arriving than available loading space allows. This results in queueing along Lagoon Road and, at times, parking in front of residential properties. Concerns around learner safety and disorder during afternoon collection were also confirmed.

Importantly, the PRE noted that Fisherhaven was never intended to function as a local school hub. With over 900 learners transported daily from surrounding areas, the scale of



Cnr China Marais & Lagoon road

operations required better upfront planning.

While infrastructure concerns were acknowledged, these fall under the responsibility of the Overstrand Municipality.

Encouragingly, the report outlines practical solutions, including restricting buses from remaining in the village during school hours, formalising a holding area in Hawston, improving route planning and exploring on-site loading facilities.

Ultimately, the message is clear: the school is established – but the system around it must improve.

For residents, the focus now shifts from uncertainty to accountability, with success dependent on coordinated action between authorities, the school and the community.

A Broader Question: Cost and Sustainability

Beyond the immediate operational concerns, the report has also prompted broader questions within the community around the long-term sustainability of the current transport model.

While not addressed in the PRE's mandate, residents have raised concerns about the significant cost of transporting learners over long distances to Fisherhaven on a daily basis. Estimates circulating within the community suggest that the annual cost per learner may be substantial, placing a notable burden on public resources – particularly in the context of rising fuel prices and broader fiscal constraints.

This raises an important question: whether the current model represents the most efficient and sustainable use of taxpayer funding over the long term.

In addition, some residents have questioned how well the current academic offering aligns with pathways to further education and employment opportunities. While this falls outside the scope of the PRE report, it highlights a wider conversation about ensuring that both access and outcomes are meaningfully addressed within the education system.

These issues do not detract from the immediate need to resolve transport and infrastructure pressures in Fisherhaven. However, they do point to a bigger picture, one that may require engagement at provincial and national level.

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Proud of our local water and sanitation team being honoured



BELINDA HAGGARD

The **Green Drop Technical Award**, presented by the Department of Water and Sanitation, recognises leading wastewater treatment facilities that comply with strict regulatory standards. Rated according to various criteria, including operational performance, quality management systems, and environmental impact, Hawston Sewerage Works received first place in the country for Best Municipal Technical Site Assessment 2025. It means that the Overstrand Municipality (OSM) is now recognised as one of the top four municipalities for wastewater treatment in South Africa. According to the OSM, Hawston Sewerage Works has made an indelible mark on the landscape of responsible wastewater management.

Veolia, a leading global company in environmental services, has played a key role in this journey. It partners with the municipality under the Operation and Maintenance Contract, bringing cutting-edge technology and superior management practices to Hawston's wastewater treatment facilities. Together, they have ensured that sanitation processes not only meet regulatory requirements but also elevate levels of safety and efficiency. In 2025 alone, the Veolia group provided 110 million global inhabitants with drinking water and 97 million with sanitation.

Since 2024, the small Hawston Sewerage Works team has been under the highly effective supervision of **Marthinus Barends**, who, as Senior Process Controller, is also

responsible for staff training. He is assisted by three other Process Controllers: Mlungisi Gumede, Lubabalo MnQameni, and Nkosiyo Magwanya. Marthinus mentioned that every stage of the process requires attention to detail, even down to the care of their equipment. Most indicative of this is the almost complete absence of smell and flies in the area. It is a 24-hour-a-day responsibility, and they work in shifts. Storms and sudden torrential downpours increase the list of daily challenges.

Marthinus has recently retired, but is assisting with the transition phase for the next three months until a new Senior Process Controller is settled in. Barrington Prinsloo, the Superintendent of Wastewater Management in Hermanus, says that the meticulous method and hands-on approach of Marthinus are largely responsible for the award. But for Marthinus, it is not just a job. He cares deeply about the environment, and in retirement, he would like to indulge his other passion, the removal of alien vegetation. It is an area in which he has a great deal of experience, having been trained in all aspects of plant removal by Working for Water in Plettenberg Bay.

At the end of the interview, I no longer wondered why this humble, hardworking man took on this job. From everything that he said, it became clear that the work is a natural extension of his own life purpose. He simply wishes to care for and safeguard the environment in which we live, for the health of both communities and the land. The Green Drop Technical Award is not only the high point of his career, but is also a testament to his passion and dedication. Congratulations to him and his team. As a guardian of the future, your community salutes you and wishes you well.



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From one extreme to another

WEATHERWISE

WAYNE LAAKS

There was something about the weather during August 2025 that caught my eye! Our bread-and-butter low-pressure weather systems, which we rely on for our annual rainfall, did not generate enough rainfall, resulting in way-below the August average (last seven weather fronts = 7.5 mm rainfall).

The trend of below monthly average rainfall would continue into September and through the spring season.

On the 10th of October, authorities pulled the plug on the Bot River Estuary, with an artificial breach due to the low salinity level. Uniquely, the mouth closed within a month, and November rainfall was rather low. The dominant south-easterly wind would make matters more unpleasant, as raging wildfires flared up over large parts of a wider Western Cape region. This was a big concern, as a fire came dangerously close to our village, and thankfully with minor damage.

Fisherhaven endured an uneventful period during the latter part of 2025. Low rainfall trend, wildfires with smoke-filled skies at times, dry and burnt landscape, estuary at a low level with an ever-present south-easterly wind and warm to hot conditions. It could be said that our village was in a pocket of despair because that's how it felt!

Nothing changed much during January 2026, and I mentioned to someone that I had this feeling of something big, rainfall-wise!

I monitored a low-pressure weather system (cut-off low weather system was displaced and forming from the mainstream) south-west of the country, with little precipitation in the forecast. By Saturday the 7th of February, the forecast suggested rainfall of 30–40 mm, with landfall on Sunday evening. (I thought the fringe of this system, maybe!)

By Sunday morning, I became more alert, although the forecast did not change. It was a windless, eerie day with high-level dark-grey clouds and typically a Highveld-looking storm brewing.

The stage was set as a dramatic, intense and overwhelming surge of loud, crashing sounds ever-increasing as torrential downpours would engulf our village for a solid three hours! (149 mm rainfall in a short space of time, a new long-term record). There were sporadic instances of flooding of homes, and the surrounding terrain was drenched.

Over 38 hours, a total of 224 mm of rainfall was recorded, a new record high for a COL weather system over 25 years. February's total rainfall was 244 mm, a new record.

Based on recorded rainfall figures from surrounding areas, Botrivier, Fisherhaven and Hawston were the epicentre of this cut-off low weather system.

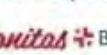
The change from a dry, brown period to greenery in the middle of summer is quite unique!



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Local legend Clive's life in music

CREATIVES CORNER

SUE CONRADIE

All Clive Lesley wanted for his 80th birthday was to gather with his friends and play music for a few hours, and that's exactly what happened on a balmy Saturday afternoon in January this year. Friends from all over, laden with instruments, equipment and cooler boxes, gathered for a memorable garden party at their home in Fisherhaven, where he and Annie have lived since 1999. Some friends even flew in from the UK to celebrate with him.

As a boy in Bertrams, Johannesburg, Clive took a couple of piano lessons but money was tight and the family couldn't afford a piano to practise on, so his dad bought him a guitar instead. He and two of his friends, who had also recently acquired guitars, practised frantically and then entered a competition. They won and eight-year-old Clive was hooked! When he turned 18, Clive's dad offered him a choice: a car or a guitar. He chose the guitar. Today, 62 years later, he is still playing that Fender Stratocaster. "My guitar has taken me all over the place," says Clive.

Clive met his good friend and band member Dave Moffat in 1998. Dave, a Liverpoolian, enticed him back to the UK with him to play venues in Liverpool. One night, while hanging out at The Cavern,



the legendary Beatles venue, Dave said to Clive "I'd give anything to play on this stage". Clive immediately jumped into action and headed towards the club organiser, with Dave (who had received firm instructions not to open his mouth) close behind. Perhaps it was Clive's passion or his exotic South African accent, but Clive succeeded and they performed on the Cavern stage that very night!

There are too many memories to recount here, but one memorable period for Clive was when

he and Dave, as the band Reflex, played the Pistol Saloon in Ramsgate every year from the beginning of December to the end of January. They had two paying gigs a day and plenty of time in between to get up to mischief. They eventually also toured the country and played countless venues. "Too many to recall," he says.

Music has enriched his life in so many ways and he shares it with people at every opportunity. Clive was also known as the karaoke guy, setting up the equipment in clubs and restaurants and affording people the opportunity to sing their hearts out and experience their own fifteen minutes of fame.

All genres of music appeal to Clive, but he really learnt by copying his favourite musicians, Hank Marvin and The Shadows. He studied all their songs by heart, effectively teaching himself everything he needed to know about the instrument. "There is nowhere on the guitar that I don't know," says Clive.

I asked him whether he has advice for anyone learning to play guitar, and true to his generous nature, Clive said: "Come show me what you can do and we'll go from there". He and other locals jam at The Shack at Serveus every now and then, come listen or better still, come jam.

A new chapter in Fisherhaven: Nurturing the future

PROFILE

LYNETTE HEWITT

Despite what she modestly calls her "advanced age", a new Fisherhaven resident is proving that purpose doesn't retire. After a spontaneous visit to the village last year, Juana Horn chose a plot of land and began building not just a home, but a new chapter centred on meaningful contribution.

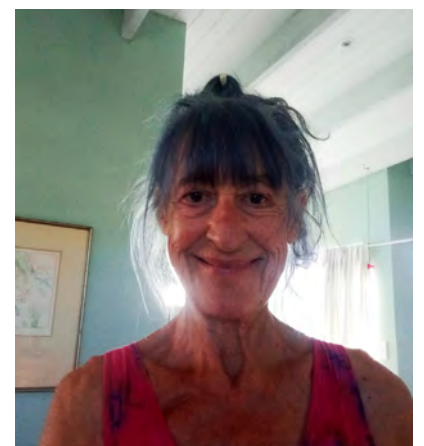
Originally from Johannesburg and trained as a clinical psychologist at Wits University, she brings decades of experience working with children and families. While her career later expanded into the demanding field of forensic psychology, her enduring passion has always been child development and the profound influence of early life experiences.

Now settled in Fisherhaven, she is redirecting that lifetime of knowledge into initiatives that support both children and those who guide them.

Her plans include offering "Growing Children" workshops aimed at equipping parents with practical tools to create healthy, adaptive environments where children can thrive. She also intends to mentor and supervise psychologists and practitioners, sharing expertise in child development, attachment and child-parent relationships.

In addition, she hopes to provide trauma debriefing services and training for individuals and groups, particularly within her new community. Her goal is to make complex psychological insight accessible and useful – helping others better understand, support and nurture young lives.

For her, this stage is not about stepping away, but about giving back in a more reflective, community-focused way. Alongside her professional contributions, she is embracing the quieter rhythms of village life –



connecting with neighbours, sharing knowledge and becoming part of the Fisherhaven fabric.

In this peaceful setting, her next chapter is clear: supporting the next generation, one family at a time.

Fisherhaven Yacht Club (Erf 775) – update

DR DEAN O'NEILL

Overstrand Municipal Manager

At the Overstrand Municipal Council meeting on 25 March 2026, the Council approved a temporary 15-month lease of municipal land in Fisherhaven to Point Caravan Resort (Pty) Ltd to continue operating and maintaining the site as a holiday resort, ensuring the property remains active and accessible to the public.

At the same time, Overstrand Municipality will begin a public participation process to gather community input on a newly proposed 25-year lease. This lease will be offered through a competitive bidding process open to all interested parties.

How We Got Here (Background)

The proposed long-term lease follows a multi-year process to redevelop the former Lake Marina site into a sustainable and publicly accessible holiday destination.

- The previous lease with the Lake Marina Yacht and Boat Club expired on 30 June 2024, after several temporary extensions.
- An initial competitive bidding process in 2020 was cancelled after all submissions were found to be non-compliant.
- A second tender process in 2023 resulted in Point Caravan Resort (Pty) Ltd being identified as the successful bidder.
- In 2024, Council approved a 25-year lease; however, the agreement remained subject to strict conditions, including planning approvals and public participation processes.
- The award was subsequently challenged in the High Court by the previous tenant, which delayed implementation.
- Due to these delays, key conditions and timelines in the lease agreement were not met, resulting in the lease lapsing.



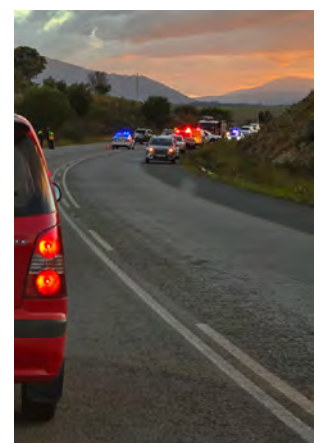
The R43 carnage: How many more must die?

A devastating scene from a recent collision on the R43 – a sight becoming tragically common for Overstrand residents. In just twelve months, this stretch of road leading to Fisherhaven has claimed multiple lives near Benguela Cove and Afdaksvier, seen a heartbreaking motorcycle fatality at Vermont, and left multiple injured at the Kleinmond and Hawston intersections.

Despite repeated calls for traffic circles, better lighting, and reduced speed limits to protect our commuters, motorcyclists, pedestrians (and horses), the silence from authorities is deafening.

We ask the Western Cape Department of Infrastructure: How many more lives must be lost before the R43 is made safe?

Note: The Western Cape Department of Infrastructure (DOI), and not the Overstrand Municipality, is responsible for the maintenance, upgrades, and associated road safety, including signage, on the R43 near Fisherhaven.



IEC urges residents to register or update voter details ahead of elections – every vote counts!

DINISH RAJPAUL

With national and local elections approaching, the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) is reminding all South African citizens that voter registration can only be completed through official IEC channels, not political parties.

According to the Electoral Act, every eligible citizen must register in the voting district where they ordinarily reside. South Africans aged 16 and older may apply, but only those 18 and above can vote. A valid green bar-coded ID book, smartcard ID or Temporary Identity Certificate is required.

How to Register

The quickest way is online via the official IEC Voter Portal at registertovote.elections.org.za. Users simply enter their ID details and follow the prompts. In-person registration is available by appointment at local IEC

offices or during designated registration weekends at voting stations. Residents should take along their original ID document.

Political parties may assist residents with information, transport or guidance, but they cannot register voters themselves. All registrations must go through the IEC to be valid.

Check Your Status Easily

Voters can verify their registration status, voting station, ward, and district instantly by:

- Visiting www.elections.org.za/pw/voter/voter-information and entering their ID number.
- Sending their ID number via SMS to 32810 (R1 per SMS).
- Using WhatsApp on 0600 88 0000 – simply send “Hi” and follow the prompts.

The IEC advises residents to check their details now, especially if they have moved, as voting must take place in the correct district. For local assistance in the Hermanus area, contact the Western Cape IEC office or call the national toll-free helpline on 0800 11 8000.

Note: Local office contact numbers may not be operational. Residents are advised to contact the national call centre for assistance.

Voters are also reminded to check their status and profiles again after the **Voter Registration Weekend of 20-21 June 2026**.

Always use official IEC websites and channels to avoid scams. Registering or updating your details ensures your voice counts.



SUDOKU

RAY HAGGARD

GAMES

Solution - Spring Issue

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Body Stress Release: Supporting the body's natural ability to heal

MARIAN MONCEK

Body Stress Release Practitioner, Fisherhaven

I live and practice in Fisherhaven, and like many people here, I value a simple, grounded way of living. My journey into Body Stress Release (BSR) started seven years ago when I was experiencing the debilitating effects of 'Stress Overload' on my own body and mind.

Many people don't realise how much stress the body carries. Physical strain, emotional pressure and even past injuries can become 'stored' in the body. Over time, this can show up as stiffness, pain, fatigue, headaches, or a general sense of discomfort and illness.

Body Stress Release is a gentle, non-invasive technique that helps the body release this stored tension. It does not involve forceful manipulation. Instead, specific light impulses are applied to encourage the body to unlock areas of tension (stored stress).

What I find most rewarding is seeing how the body responds when given the opportunity to reset. People often come in with back or neck pain, limited movement or ongoing tension – and leave feeling lighter, more mobile and more at ease.

BSR is suitable for all ages, from babies to older adults. It can support a wide range of concerns, including posture issues, sports strain, headaches and stress-related tension.



My approach is simple: create a space where the body can do what it is designed to do – restore balance and self-heal. In a community like ours, where word of mouth matters, I believe awareness is key. Many people live with discomfort simply because they don't know there are other options.

If you are curious about Body Stress Release, I invite you to explore it. Anything is possible.

Marian's contact details: 082 855 8090



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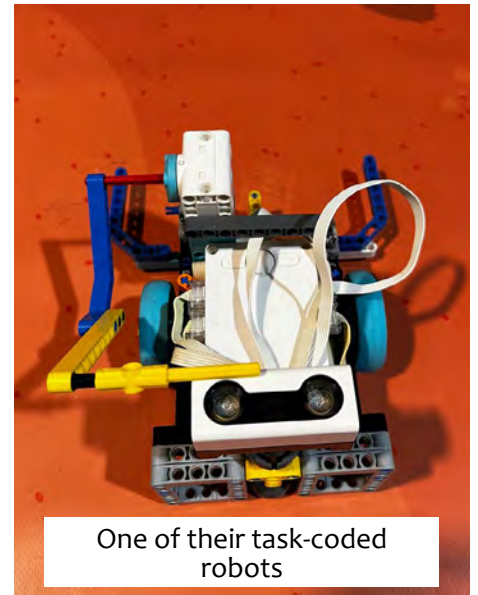
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Fisherhaven learners shine in National Robotics Competition



Fisherhaven learners and the Hermanus Primary team



One of their task-coded robots

SIMONE GRAY

Before dawn had even broken over our quiet coastal village, a group of young learners were already on their way to the airport, heading to Pretoria and a national stage few ever get to reach.

Among them were Elizabeth du Toit, Taylor Walton and Riley Barnard, all part of the robotics programme at Hermanus Primary. They earned their place at the SA World Robot Olympiad National Finals after competing at the Western Cape regional event in Cape Town, where the competition was tough and the standard high.

At the Nationals, it was all go right from the start, with teams needing to stay focused and work together. Each of the Fisherhaven learners rose to the occasion in their own way. Riley, competing as part of the Blue Tech Queens with teammate Kleo, achieved a gold medal performance in the Explorer Lite category. Taylor, part of The Robo Pros, earned a silver medal on the day, while Elizabeth, better known as Lulu in the village, secured a bronze medal as part of the King Cobras.

For these learners, it was a chance to measure themselves against the best and walk away knowing they belonged there.

Sue's hearty cauliflower and bean soup

RECIPE



SUE CONRADIE

Brimful of protein, fibre and healthy fats – a deliciously creamy soup for those forthcoming cooler nights and tighter belts.

Fry the onions in the butter for 5-6 minutes. Add the ginger and garlic and cook for a further 2 minutes on low, then add the pieces of cauliflower. Cook for a few minutes, then add the spices, stirring everything carefully and making sure there is enough liquid in the pot

so the spices don't burn (add a few tablespoons of water if necessary.)

Then add the beans and stock, checking for taste before you add salt. Increase the heat till it starts to boil, then turn down the heat and let simmer for about 10 mins until the cauliflower is almost soft. Add the cream of your choice and leave to simmer for 5 mins. With a potato masher, mash the soup very gently – just enough to break up the pieces. Then remove half of it and blend until smooth. Return the blended soup to the pot, add a squeeze of lemon and it's ready to serve or portion off for freezing. You can adjust the thickness of the soup to your liking by adding up to 2 cups of water.

Best enjoyed hot with a sprinkling of black pepper and finely chopped coriander. And of course, a soup wouldn't be complete without a wedge of Jaynie's sourdough bread or Ulric's ciabatta. Serves 4-5.

INGREDIENTS:

1 cauliflower
2 cans of beans or 600 g cooked beans (cannellini, butter or brown)
1 onion, chopped
3 cloves grated garlic
½ thumb grated ginger or ¼ tsp ginger powder
½ tsp cumin powder
¼ tsp coriander powder
salt and pepper
1 litre veg stock
olive oil or butter
squeeze of lemon
1 can coconut cream (or 250 ml dairy cream or cashew nut cream*)

*For the cashew nut cream: soak 1 and a half cups of raw unsalted cashews in hot water for ten minutes, then blend until smooth.

OVERBERG-STORIES

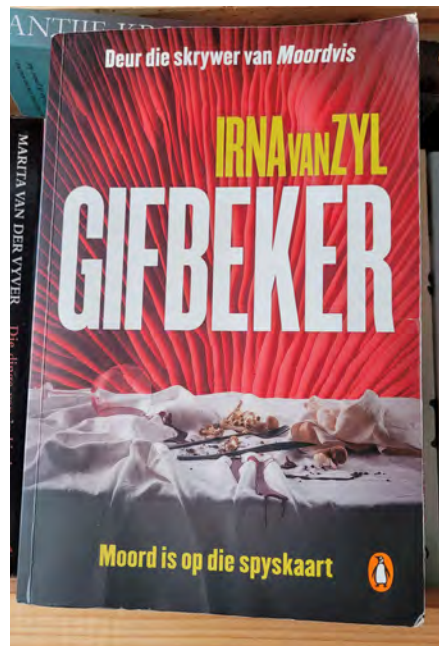
Gifbeker – Irna van Zyl

In 'n gewilde restaurant op Hermanus word 'n gehate kosblogger vergiftig met 'n sampioengereg waarin dodelike sampioene skuil. Op die toneel is speuradjudant Storm van der Merwe, wat soos in Irna se vorige boek, Moordvis, op die spoor van die moordenaar is. Sentraal tot die storie is sjef Zeb Tswalo en sy restaurant, Zebardines, en heelwat verdagtes duik rondom die restaurant op.

Storm het eers onlangs Hermanus toe getrek as gevolg van probleme wat haar oudkollega Andreas Moerdyk veroorsaak het in die Kaap. Met haar drie honde trek sy by 'n plek in die Hemel-en-Aarde-Vallei in, maar binnekort raak een hond weg en om dinge verder te kompliseer, daag Moerdyk by haar voordeur op. Storm ry 'n mooi ou ligblou Volla met daisies op die bonnet en hou van pizza.

Die storie maak draaie oral in Hermanus, veral in die Vallei, ook 'n kosmark in Mitchellstraat, en Kaapstad. 'n Mens leer dat baie restaurante deesdae kos plaaslik verkry, in dié geval mossels, vis, kruie en dan ook die sampioene.

BOEKDINGE



Hierdie is 'n egte Hermanus-storie en dit sal jou sommer lus maak om die Hemel-en-Aarde-vallei deur te toer op soek na lekker eetplekke.

Gepubliseer deur Penguin Books in 2018.

Letter to the editor

11/04/2026

Moving To Fisherhaven

“Hello! My name is **Zepphyre Strachan**. I'm writing this because I want to share my experience in Fisherhaven! I moved here when I was 4. And about a week or so after moving here, I had my 5th birthday! I had only 2 friends but we still had a fun party. Shortly after, I started school at Northcliff House College. Although school was tough I made some friends and I went to that school for 5 years. I love this village because it has had more kids since we moved here and I love making friends!

The Fire! To end this off, I'm going to talk about the fire. Recently, in November 2025, we had a local inferno that shook us. Thankfully no houses got burnt or cars exploded, but it was scary!

Enjoy your life in Fisherhaven and I'll enjoy mine. Thanks so much.”

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We welcome any contributions to the newspaper including photos old and new.

Send your comments & news to:
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Wetland at risk – Part 1: Fighting alien vegetation



ADELLE STERRENBURG

We live in a remarkable place – rich with birdlife, wild horses and stunning wine farms – but this beauty is under pressure. In this series, we unpack the risks and ask: What can I do to help protect our wetland?

The recent fires in the Overstrand were unprecedented, with almost 40,000 hectares burnt (and over 130,000 hectares across the Western Cape). Sadly, there is every indication that this trend will continue. When we look at the drivers behind the increase in fire frequency since 2009 – global warming, reduced rainfall and the spread of highly flammable alien vegetation – it can feel as though the problem is entirely beyond the control of the average resident.

But is there really nothing we can do?

While we cannot control global climate forces, we are not powerless and we do carry responsibility.

The extent of alien vegetation in Ward 8, specifically Port Jacksons, is deeply concerning. It significantly increases fire risk and contributes to environmental degradation across both private and public land, with some of the most extensive

infestations found on larger, unmanaged tracts.

Legally, property owners are required to clear invasive species. Under NEMBA legislation, failure to do so can result in severe penalties, including fines of up to R10 million or imprisonment – it's a criminal offence. Although clearance notices are issued, many properties remain overrun.

At the very least, this is a civic responsibility: to our neighbours, our safety and our wetland. The stakes are simply too high to ignore.

Fire risk is a shared responsibility. Every unmanaged plot adds fuel to the fire. What we do about unchecked alien growth will determine the safety of our wetland and our homes.



Port Jacksons

What to consider when eradicating aliens on your property:

- 1. Will stumps be treated immediately?** Cutting alone is not enough. Stumps must be treated with a registered herbicide (e.g. Kaput 100 Gel) to prevent regrowth. The coloured dye often seen is simply a marker to show the stump has been treated.
- 2. What is the follow-up plan?** Invasive species require ongoing monitoring. One clearing is rarely sufficient.
- 3. Are you following best practice?** Cutting triggers seed release. Without immediate removal of the cuttings and proper management, rapid regrowth will follow.
- 4. How will you handle plant material?** Seeds can continue maturing on cut branches. Safe disposal, including controlled burning where appropriate, is essential.
- 5. Ongoing monitoring:** Effective clearing is a process, not a once-off event.

To report a plot with an alien infestation, use either:

- Collab Citizen App (available on Play Store)
- or call 028 313 8980.



Port Jacksons

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