

KOUGA

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GOOD GOVERNANCE THROUGH SERVICE EXCELLENCE

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FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

KOUGA EXECUTIVE MAYOR, HATTINGH BORNMAN

As we conclude the fourth quarter of the 2023/2024 financial year, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all employees and residents of Kouga Local Municipality.

Your dedication and unwavering support have been instrumental in making this year a resounding success. It is through our collective efforts that we have achieved numerous milestones, and it is my pleasure to reflect on some of the highlights from the past three months.

One of the significant achievements is the recommencement of the Ocean View 1 500 and Hankey 990 Housing Projects. After overcoming several delays, these projects, which are part of the ten significant Human Settlement Projects approved by the Department of Human Settlements in 2009, are now set to proceed with renewed vigor. This progress marks a critical step towards improving housing conditions for our residents.

Our Human Settlements Department has also made a remarkable transition from paper-based data collection to a digital system using Survey 123. This shift ensures the accuracy and security of the data collected by our fieldworkers. The new system aligns with the National Housing Needs Register (NHNR) and enhances inter-departmental planning by providing reliable data, further supporting our mission to serve our community efficiently.

In addition, the Eastern Cape Department of Roads and Transport (DoRT) has initiated a substantial project, valued at R218 million, to reseal and maintain the MR00391 road linking Humansdorp and Hankey. Spanning 26.5 km, this project commenced in August and is expected to be completed over 20 months. This development promises to enhance connectivity and improve the quality of our road infrastructure.

The nearly R18 million project to replace the aging water main in Mimosa Street, Jeffreys Bay, is also progressing after initial delays. Funded by the Water Services Infrastructure Grant, this 12-month project aims to upgrade critical infrastructure and reduce pipe bursts in the area, ensuring a reliable water supply for our residents.

Furthermore, residents can now enjoy more efficient access to municipal services with the installation of a new tablet in the foyer of the Main Building in Jeffreys Bay, located at 33

Da Gama Road. This innovative addition aims to streamline service delivery and provide residents with convenient, on-the-go access to essential municipal resources.

Lastly, I would like to pay tribute to some outstanding employees whose exceptional contributions have significantly impacted our municipality. Their dedication and hard work have been pivotal in driving our success, and they serve as an inspiration to us all.

In closing, I extend my deepest appreciation to every employee and resident of Kouga Local Municipality. Together, we have made significant strides towards a brighter future, and I look forward to continuing this journey of progress and prosperity with you.

Warm regards

Kouga Executive Mayor
Hattingh Bornman

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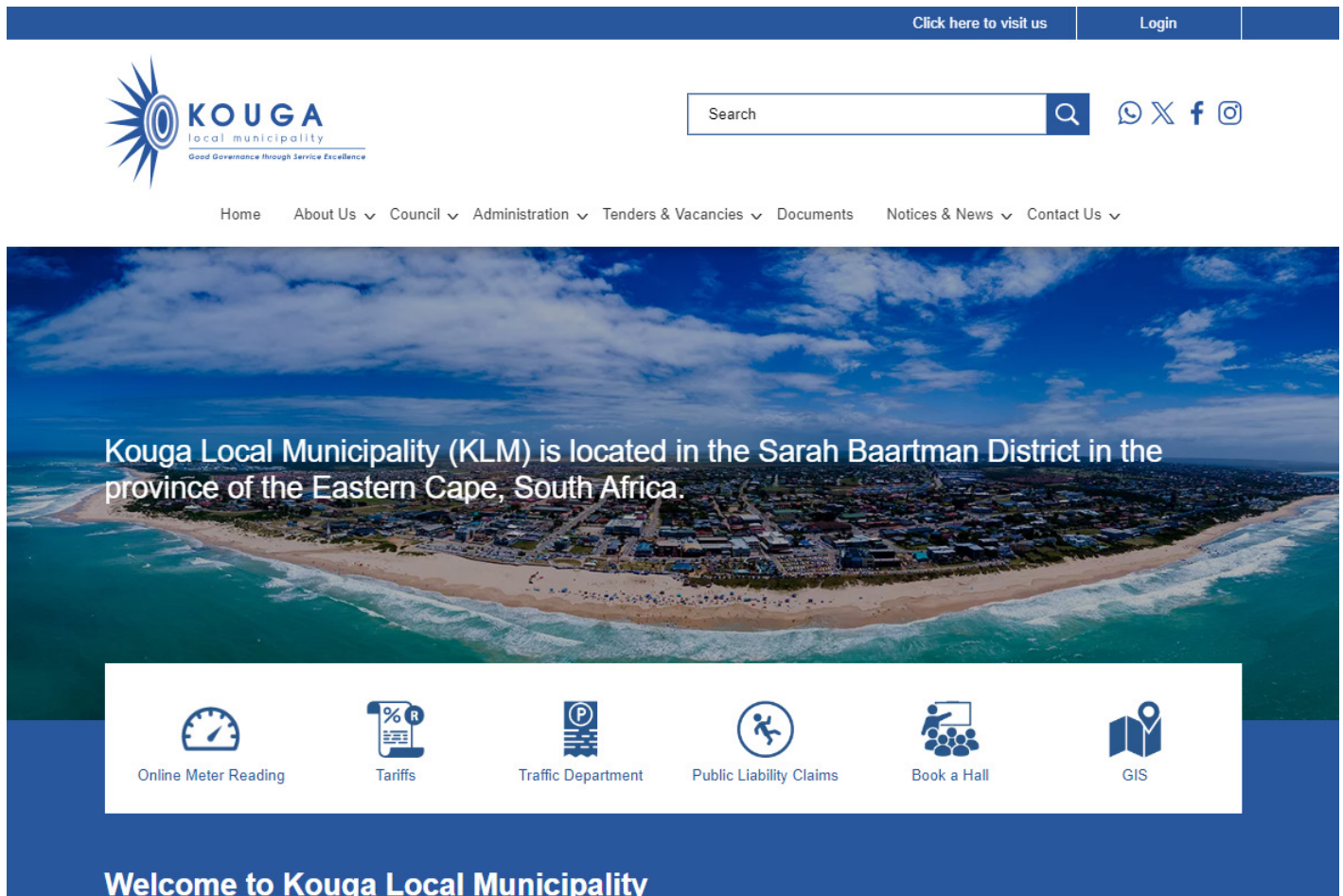
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Kouga Municipality launches upgraded, user-friendly website



Kouga Local Municipality is excited to announce the launch of its newly upgraded website, designed to provide residents with a more comprehensive and user-friendly online experience.

This upgrade reflects the municipality's ongoing commitment to transparency, accessibility, and efficient service delivery.

Enhanced features and accessibility

The revamped website boasts a modern design and an intuitive interface, making it easier for residents to find the information and services they need.

Key features of the new site include:

- **Improved navigation:** A streamlined menu and search function allow users to quickly locate municipal services, contact information, and important updates.
- **Comprehensive information:** The site now offers more detailed information on municipal departments, and services, ensuring residents have access to all the data they need.
- **Interactive features:** New interactive tools, such as online forms and service request portals, enable residents to engage with the municipality more efficiently.

Deputy Municipal Manager, Dawie de Jager, expressed his enthusiasm for the upgraded website, highlighting its benefits for the community. "We are thrilled to launch this upgraded website, which represents a significant step forward in how we communicate and interact with our residents.

"Our goal was to create a platform that is not only more informative, but also much easier to navigate. We want our residents to feel confident and empowered when accessing municipal services online."

De Jager also emphasised the importance of accessibility. "One of our top priorities was to ensure that the website is accessible to everyone, including those using mobile devices. The new design is responsive and user-friendly, allowing residents to access vital information and services from anywhere, at any time."

Residents are encouraged to visit the new website and explore its features. Feedback and suggestions are welcome as the municipality continues to refine and improve its digital presence.

Visit the upgraded website at **www.kouga.gov.za** to experience the new and improved online services.

New interactive tablet at Kouga Municipality enhances service delivery



“The newly acquired tablet offers a user-friendly interface, enabling residents to access a wide range of municipal services at the touch of a button.”

Residents of Kouga Local Municipality can now enjoy easier and more efficient access to municipal services thanks to the installation of a new tablet in the foyer of the Main Building in Jeffreys Bay. Pictures at the tablet is Public Participation Manager, Eugene Goliath.

Residents of Kouga Local Municipality can now enjoy easier and more efficient access to municipal services thanks to the installation of a new tablet in the foyer of the Main Building in Jeffreys Bay, located at 33 Da Gama Road.

This innovative addition aims to streamline service delivery and provide residents with convenient, on-the-go access to essential municipal resources.

Enhanced access to services

The newly acquired tablet offers a user-friendly interface, enabling residents to access a wide range of municipal services at the touch of a button. Whether it's paying bills, checking account statuses, or accessing important municipal information, the tablet provides a seamless experience that saves time and effort.

Moreover, the tablet serves as a gateway to the municipal portal, where residents can easily manage their accounts, make payments, and access various services offered by the municipality.

Benefits to the Community

The introduction of the tablet aligns with the municipality's commitment to improving service delivery and enhancing the overall resident experience.

By providing this modern, convenient tool, the municipality aims to:

- **Increase accessibility:** Residents can now access municipal services and information more easily.
- **Improve efficiency:** The tablet streamlines processes such as bill payments and account management, allowing for quicker and more efficient transactions.
- **Enhance digital literacy:** Offering internet access and an intuitive interface, the tablet helps residents become more comfortable with using digital tools and online services.

Step towards a smart municipality

The installation of the tablet in the foyer of the Main Building is part of Kouga Municipality's broader vision of becoming a smart municipality.

By integrating technology into service delivery, the municipality aims to create a more connected, efficient, and responsive community.

Residents are encouraged to take advantage of this new resource and experience the ease and convenience it brings to managing municipal services.

Municipality boosts water supply with new boreholes

Kouga Municipality has completed two additional boreholes in St Francis Bay, boosting the area's water supply by 0.8 million litres per day (Ml/d). This brings the total output from all five boreholes to 1.8 Ml/d, nearly meeting the average daily water demand.

The R3 million project, started in February 2024, involved developing the new boreholes near the R330 and upgrading metering and control systems at three existing boreholes at The Links. Telemetry systems and enhanced level control systems were also installed at the reservoirs.

The new boreholes mark a significant milestone in securing a sustainable water supply for St Francis Bay. With a combined yield of 1.8 Ml/d, we are better equipped to meet our residents' and businesses' needs.

Despite the improvements, the municipality will still rely on the Churchill Dam during peak periods.

Road between Humansdorp and Hankey to be resealed

The Eastern Cape Department of Roads and Transport (DoRT) has initiated a R218 million project to reseal and maintain the MR00391 road linking Humansdorp and Hankey. Spanning 26.5 km, the project starts in August and is slated for completion over 20 months.

Kouga Executive Mayor Hattingh Bornman expressed relief at the project commencement, highlighting its coverage of the Park Road entrance and Main Street in Humansdorp. The project involves rehabilitating the road's base pavement through specialized in-situ recycling with foamed bitumen, along with asphalt and Cape seal surfacing, shoulder reinstatement, stormwater maintenance, and updating road signs and markings.

Bornman emphasised community benefits, including subcontracting 30% of the work to local Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs). Community empowerment efforts feature training for local labor, subcontractors, and in-service training students, aiming to enhance economic growth and quality of life in Kouga.

Ongoing public engagements are planned to ensure transparency and community participation throughout the project's progress.

Replacement of existing water main in Mimosa Street back on track



Upon completion, Mimosa Street will be resealed and furnished with new road markings. So far, more than 350 meters of the 2 340 meters of road surface have been reinstated.

The nearly R18 million project to replace the aging water main in Mimosa Street, Jeffreys Bay, funded by the Water Services Infrastructure Grant, is now progressing after initial delays.

The 12-month project aims to upgrade critical infrastructure and reduce pipe bursts in the area.

The project involves laying a new 200-meter uPVC water main (315mm diameter) from Mimosa Street to Noorsekloof Road, connecting to existing pipelines.

Work includes saw cutting and excavating asphalt, as well as installing fire hydrants and a pressure-reducing valve. Mimosa Street will be resealed and marked upon completion.

About 20% of the contract value will be subcontracted to local Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) to support economic development in the community.

Residents are thanked for their cooperation during the project, scheduled for completion by 30 September 2024.

For more info, visit our Facebook page or visit our website:



@kougamunicipality



www.kouga.gov.za

TOWN PLANNING

Council declares amnesty period for building plan fines

The Kouga Council has announced a six-month amnesty period from 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024 for fines and penalties related to incomplete or incorrect building plans under the National Building Regulations Act, Act 103 of 1977. This also covers cases where inspection for occupation certificates was not requested.

The initiative aims to address past non-compliance issues, allowing property owners to rectify their building status without facing heavy fines or punitive measures. Normal application

approval fees still apply.

All submissions for exemptions must be put in writing and emailed to the Department: Planning and Development at adminbuildingcontrol@kouga.gov.za, plansexaminers@kouga.gov.za, and inspections@kouga.gov.za.

Alternatively, it can be hand-delivered to the department at the municipality's office in Woltemade Street, Jeffreys Bay.

Human Settlements Department adopts digital data collection



Upon completion, Mimosa Street will be resealed and furnished with new road markings. So far, more than 350 meters of the 2 340 meters of road surface have been reinstated.

The Kouga Human Settlements Department at Kouga Municipality has recently transitioned from paper-based data collection to a digital system using Survey 123.

This significant shift ensures that no data is lost, and that accurate information is captured by fieldworkers. The new system aligns with the National Housing Needs Register (NHNR) and supports inter-departmental planning by providing reliable data.

Once captured, the data is stored in the cloud, making it easily accessible and analyzable. This system provides coordinates for all services and structures in informal settlements, greatly enhancing the department's ability to manage and plan for these areas effectively.

Interns appointed

As part of the transition, the municipality has appointed 15 interns to assist with verification in all informal settlements across the region.

This initiative aims to improve the living conditions of residents by ensuring that all structures are accurately counted and properly documented.

Additionally, this programme provides valuable employment opportunities for the youth of Kouga.

The internships not only offer immediate employment, but also equip young people with essential skills and experience, thereby enhancing their long-term employability.

From rugby fields to water purification

Llewellyn Johnson



Under Llewellyn Johnson's (39) leadership, the municipality has significantly reduced its dependency on water from the Churchill Dam, cutting it from a substantial 70% to a lean 40% - fortifying robust water security measures for the area.

In the heart of Pellsrus, a small community nestled in Kouga, a young boy once harboured dreams of becoming a Springbok rugby player.

Today, at 39, Llewellyn Johnson, foreman at Kouga Local Municipality's waterworks in Jeffreys Bay, channels that same unwavering determination and fervent passion into the vital task of ensuring clean water for the residents of Jeffreys Bay.

Under his leadership, the municipality has significantly reduced its dependency on water from the Churchill Dam, cutting it from a substantial 70% to a lean 40% - fortifying robust water security measures for the area. And this reduction in dependency is just the beginning.

Nevertheless, the journey to becoming a foreman was not without its challenges; it required unwavering resilience and determination every step of the way.

Clean water runs in his veins

Johnson's journey began with a deep-seated love for rugby, which took him to Cape Town after school. There, he played for Wesbank, following a successful stint with the Eastern Province team. However, the call of home and family proved too strong to resist, leading him back to Kouga.

In April 2010, Johnson started his career at Kouga Local Municipality as a contract worker doing bush clearing at the waterworks in Jeffreys Bay. "It was hard work for little money, but I was grateful for the opportunity," he recalls.

“ Under Llewellyn Johnson's leadership, the newly erected water purification plant in Jeffreys Bay – one of four purification plants across the region – purifies transforms 3 million liters of borehole water per day, with the potential to double this output to 6 million liters per day. ”

Tackling each day with enthusiasm, he quickly made an impression. His diligent efforts did not go unnoticed, and he was soon entrusted with more responsibilities. By 2015, Johnson was appointed as a process controller at the waterworks. Just a year later, he was acting foreman, and in 2018, he was permanently appointed to the position. Reflecting on his rise through the ranks, Johnson says, "I started from the bottom and worked hard."

"My vision for the waterworks has always been clear – I dreamed big."

Water security

His hard work behind the scenes has been instrumental in ensuring water security for the residents of Jeffreys Bay.

Under his leadership, the newly erected water purification plant in Jeffreys Bay – one of four purification plants across the region – purifies transforms 3 million liters of borehole water per day, with the potential to double this output to 6 million liters per day.

He proudly shares, "We have reduced our reliance on water from the Churchill Dam from 70% to only 40% - dramatically cutting our water bill from the Nelson Mandela Metro Municipality."

Johnson's future plans are ambitious. "Our goal is to boost our borehole water supply to achieve complete independence from the Churchill Dam. I want to ensure a sufficient water supply not only for Jeffreys Bay, but for all towns in the Kouga region."

Beyond his professional achievements, Johnson, who attributes his success to divine guidance, is committed to his team. "My mission is not just to lead but to train and improve my workers," he emphasises.

Away from work

When not working, Johnson, who is married with three children, dedicates time to coaching his son and his son's friends in rugby – with his son playing the same position he once did, number 9.



The newly erected water purification plant in Jeffreys Bay – one of four purification plants across the region – purifies transforms 3 million liters of borehole water per day, with the potential to double this output to 6 million liters per day.

The heartbeat of Hankey's waterworks

Monwabisi Katoo

The sun is barely over the horizon, painting the sky over Gamtoos Valley in rich shades of orange and pink, but Monwabisi Katoo is already elbow-deep in his third water pipe repair of the day. As he hums a tune, he works with the precision of a surgeon, his large hands skillfully executing intricate repairs. Every twist and turn of the wrench are a testament to his skills and dedication, ensuring that the lifeblood of Hankey flows smoothly.

"I love what I do, and it keeps me going," says Katoo with a smile, tightening the final bolt on a freshly mended pipe. "There's no better feeling than knowing the community has water because of our hard work."

At 62 years old, Katoo's boundless energy and unwavering dedication defy his years, making him an indispensable part of Kouga Local Municipality's Civil and Water Services water team in Hankey.

"I love what I do, and it keeps me going," says Katoo with a smile, tightening the final bolt on a freshly mended pipe. "There's no better feeling than knowing the community has water because of our hard work."

The journey

Katoo's professional journey with the municipality commenced in April 2007 when he was hired to mend potholes. His unwavering dedication and remarkable versatility swiftly earned him a coveted spot on the building maintenance team as a skilled handyman.

In 2014, Katoo's career soared to new heights when he became a certified plumber (Artisan Aide: Water) in Hankey, where he continues to serve the community with unwavering dedication and passion. His daily routine is a testament to his relentless spirit. By mid-morning, he has often already dealt with multiple issues, ranging from burst pipes to faulty water meters. It's not uncommon for him to tackle more than six water leaks in a single day.

Despite the demanding nature of his work, Katoo remains unfazed.

"No job is too big or too small," Katoo asserts. "I always give my best because I know the people in this community rely on us."

His dedication extends beyond his technical skills. Katoo's genuine care for the community is evident in every interaction. Residents frequently express their gratitude for his prompt and efficient service, and his reputation as a reliable problem-solver is well-earned.

"Helping the community is what I enjoy the most," he says. "It is satisfying to see the relief on residents' faces when their water problems are fixed."

Indomitable spirit

As the day progresses, Katoo continues his rounds, repairing pipes and checking meters, each task a testament to his skill and perseverance. His hands may be worn from years of labour, but his spirit remains indomitable.

For Katoo, a devoted husband and father of four, plumbing is more than just a job – it's a calling. And in Hankey, his dedication ensures that every drop counts.

"Katoo is more than just a plumber; he's a community hero," says Pieter Felix, Water and Sewer Coordinator for the Gamtoos Valley region. "His work ethic and dedication are second to none. Whether it's a minor leak or a major pipe burst, he approaches every job with the same level of excellence."

"His passion for his work is inspiring."



Monwabisi Katoo's (62) boundless energy and unwavering dedication defy his years, making him an indispensable part of Kouga Local Municipality's Civil and Water Services water team in Hankey.

Kouga showcasing at World Travel Market 2024



The Finance and Economic Development Department at Kouga Municipality, alongside local tourism organisations and the Sarah Baartman District Municipality, represented the Kouga region at the prestigious 10th anniversary of the World Travel Market Africa (WTM Africa). Pictured are (from left) Hantie van der Westhuizen (St Francis Tourism), Anene Jonck (Kouga Acting Manager: Finance and Economic Development), Lorraine Maree (MMC: Finance and Economic Development), Edna Gerber (Jeffreys Bay Tourism), Heidi Halgryn (Tourism, Marketing, and Information Officer), and Nichola Uys (Gamtoos Tourism).

The Finance and Economic Development Department at Kouga Municipality, alongside local tourism organisations and the Sarah Baartman District Municipality, represented the Kouga region at the prestigious 10th anniversary of the World Travel Market Africa (WTM Africa) held at the Cape Town International Conventional Centre (CTICC) from 10 - 12 April 2024.

This event served as a pivotal opportunity to showcase the region's vibrant offerings on the global stage of travel and tourism.

The team highlighted the diverse and captivating attractions of the Kouga region and surrounding areas — promoting Kouga and its nine towns to tour operators, destination management companies (DMCs), and travel professionals.

WTM Africa is a renowned gathering in the travel industry, attracting close to 6 000 professionals annually to explore the latest trends and opportunities in both inbound and outbound African travel markets. This year's event saw an impressive participation of 705 exhibitors and 5 752 industry experts from 99 countries.

The diversity among buyers was particularly notable, with emerging markets like Greece, the Philippines, Switzerland, Singapore, Lithuania, New Zealand, Ghana, China, Japan, and Argentina making their presence felt.

Finance and Economic Development Acting Manager, Anene Jonck, expressed the event's success, stating, "The range and

diversity of participants at WTM Africa 2024 truly underscore the global appeal and significance of this event. It is inspiring to see so many new markets eager to engage and innovate in the tourism industry."

Alongside Jonck, the Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) for Finance and Economic Development, Lorraine Maree, actively engaged in various workshops and summits.

These sessions, hosted by international buyers, explored the latest tourism trends and industry-shaping changes.

Furthermore, Heidi Halgryn, Tourism, Marketing, and Information Officer, had a productive series of meetings with 18 trade buyers from various countries including the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, France, Sweden, Norway, Canada, and Ghana. She also engaged with several business tourism (MICE) buyers from Europe, Australasia, and the Nordics.

Reflecting on these interactions, she noted, "The opportunities to connect with such a wide array of international buyers were invaluable.

Each meeting reinforced the unique offerings of our region and opened doors to potential collaborations."

WTM Africa 2024 not only showcased the vibrancy and resilience of the tourism sector, but also highlighted the potential for future growth and innovation through global partnerships and local initiatives.

Heidi Halgryn honoured with Skal NMB Presidents Award

Heidi Halgryn, the dynamic Tourism, Marketing, and Information Officer in the Finance and Economic Development Department at Kouga Municipality, has been honoured with the prestigious Skal Nelson Mandela Bay (NMB) President's Award for her outstanding contributions to enhancing tourism in charming "dorpies," villages, and towns.

This coveted annual award, accompanied by a floating trophy, recognises excellence in tourism for the 2023/2024 year, symbolizing a continuing legacy of dedication and achievement in the field.

Brimming with excitement and gratitude, Halgryn emphasised the vital role of promoting tourism in small towns, underscoring its significant benefits for local economies and cultural exchanges.



Celebrating Southern Africa's finest tourism

The Finance and Economic Development (FED) team from Kouga Municipality recently made a memorable mark at the prestigious Africa Travel Indaba, held in the vibrant province of KwaZulu-Natal. Their presence was felt not only through their contributions to stand-building efforts but also in their enthusiastic promotion of Kouga's unique destinations.

Among the standout highlights were:

- Gamtoos Valley & Baviaans Tourism: Showcasing the charm of Patensie, Hankey, Loerie, and Thornhill.
- Jeffreys Bay Tourism: Highlighting the allure of Jeffreys Bay, Aston Bay, and Paradise Beach.
- Greater St Francis Tourism: Presenting the beauty of St Francis Bay, Cape St Francis, Humansdorp, and Oyster Bay.

The team's participation underscored Kouga's commitment to spotlighting its diverse and captivating attractions to a global audience.

The team, including Riaaz Lorgat (Director for Finance and Economic Development), Anene Jonck (Acting Manager for Finance and Economic Development), Heidi Halgryn (Tourism, Marketing, and Information Officer), Nadine Barnard (Pabala Private Nature Reserve representing Gamtoos Valley), and Hantie van der Westhuizen (Greater St Francis Tourism), held over fifty trade meetings. These interactions were pivotal in showcasing Kouga's diverse attractions and fostering potential partnerships.

Hosted by South African Tourism, Africa's Travel Indaba, organised by Synergy Business Events (Pty) Ltd, stands as

one of the premier tourism destination marketing events on the global stage. Renowned as a top three 'must-visit' event, the Indaba is a cornerstone of the international tourism trade show calendar.

The event transforms the Durban Exhibition Centre (DEC) and the International Convention Centre (ICC) into a bustling hub of Southern African tourism. The DEC showcases provincial authorities, regional products, and representatives from various African countries. Meanwhile, the ICC features a diverse array of exhibitors, including accommodation providers, tour operators, game lodges, transport services, online travel platforms, luxury products, Hidden Gems (SMME exhibitors), media publications, and industry associations. Outdoor exhibitors add to the vibrancy with transport, camping, and safari companies presenting their offerings.

"The Africa Travel Indaba is crucial for us in multiple ways," said Halgryn.

"Firstly, it significantly enhances the brand awareness of our area and destination. We have the unique opportunity to showcase our diverse products and attractions to an audience that might not be familiar with what Kouga has to offer. "Secondly, it's about networking – building connections and fostering relationships that are vital for the growth of our tourism sector. While online platforms served us during the COVID-19 pandemic, nothing compares to the effectiveness and personal touch of face-to-face interactions. Engaging with others in person allows for a deeper connection and a more meaningful exchange of ideas."

Unpacking the difference between sustainable and responsible tourism

Travel is one of life's greatest joys, offering a window into diverse cultures, cuisines, and landscapes. However, as tourism flourishes, so does the pressure on companies and society to adopt sustainable and responsible practices. While the terms "sustainable tourism" and "responsible tourism" are used interchangeably, discerning travelers may wonder, is there truly a difference?

At the heart of this distinction lies accountability.

Sustainable Tourism

This approach focuses on holding organizations accountable for minimizing their environmental footprint. It emphasises practices that ensure the long-term health and preservation of the natural world.

Responsible Tourism

This concept broadens the scope of accountability, placing the onus not only on companies but also on individuals. It encourages both to actively learn about and mitigate their impact on the environment and the communities they visit. While both forms of tourism aim to foster long-term positive outcomes, they do so through slightly different lenses.

At Kouga Municipality, we believe in the power of collective action. By understanding the impact of tourism, both residents and travelers can contribute positively to our region. Together, we can build a community that cares deeply about preserving our natural and cultural heritage, ensuring the sustainability of Kouga's tourism industry for generations to come.

Kouga empowers local residents

To enhance community safety and preparedness along Kouga's pristine coastline, the lifesaving section at Kouga Local Municipality has teamed up with the JBay Surf Lifesaving Club to offer lifesaving training to residents. This collaborative initiative aims to equip participants with the skills needed to qualify for lifesaving awards, ensuring they are prepared to respond effectively to emergencies in aquatic environments.



Multi-million building plans approved

During the last three months of the current financial year, Kouga Local Municipality approved building plans with an estimated total value exceeding R197 million. This approval encompassed a total of 188 plans, reflecting robust development activity in the region.

In the same period, the municipality also issued 163 occupational certificates for buildings, with a combined estimated value nearing R145 million. This indicates a significant progression from planning to occupancy, underscoring the municipality's commitment to supporting growth and development.

Moreover, a total of 534 building application inspections were conducted, with 357 of these inspections resulting in approval. This rigorous inspection process ensures that construction projects adhere to safety and quality standards, contributing to the overall well-being of the community and the sustainability of local infrastructure.

Successful evaluation drill at Village Square Centre



On June 28, 2024, the Fire and Disaster Management section at Kouga Local Municipality conducted a comprehensive evacuation drill at the Village Square Centre in St Francis Bay to test the readiness of shop tenants and security personnel in responding to emergencies.

The drill focused on evacuating shop tenants and their visitors swiftly and efficiently, with particular emphasis on the role of security in managing the evacuation process.

All shops were successfully evacuated within a remarkable five-minute timeframe.

‘Hero’ rescue dog bitten by puff adder while protecting human friend

Kouga Fire and Rescue Management



Roxy, the spirited 3-year-old rescue dog from Kabeljaws in Jeffreys Bay, has bounced back to her playful, energetic self after a harrowing encounter with an “angry” puff adder on 1 May 2024. Pictured with Roxy are (from left) Kouga Firefighter Ashleigh Makoba, Leah van Rooyen, Zania Alberts, and Bernard Maphenchane.



It took two long weeks for the swelling to finally subside. During this time, Roxy’s usual vivacity was replaced by a period of much-needed rest and recuperation.

Woof! Woof! Woof!

After a little more than two months, Roxy, the spirited 3-year-old rescue dog from Kabeljaws in Jeffreys Bay, has bounced back to her playful, energetic self after a harrowing encounter with an “angry” puff adder on 1 May 2024.

Remarkably, she survived not just one, but two venomous bites while bravely protecting her human friend.

‘She saved my life’

The tale unfolded with an urgent call from loyal and dog-loving gardener Bernard Maphenchane to Tania Alberts, the owner of Roxy. Roxy, the cherished four-legged friend and slumber buddy of Albert’s daughter, Zania, had fallen victim to a snake’s bite.

“Maphenchane was working in the garden, with Roxy following him like a shadow – her curious self - when she suddenly started barking,” said Alberts.

“Maphenchane initially thought it was a tortoise – a frequent visitor to the garden. But as he cleared away some of the leaves and heard a terrible hiss, he realised this was no tortoise.”

In the undergrowth lay an “angry” puff adder ready to strike.

Not pleased with the disturbance, the snake turned its ire towards Maphenchane. Yet Roxy, ever the heroine, fearlessly

put herself in danger’s way and lunged at the large puff adder without hesitation.

The puff adder, in its fury, bit Roxy twice – once on the head and once on the cheek.

Maphenchane quickly contacted Alberts, who was in St Francis Bay at the time, and sent a photo capturing the horrifying scene: Roxy, bloodied and bare conscious, whimpering on the cold bricks. Alberts recounted, “I quickly reached out to friends to rush Roxy to the animal hospital, and also contacted Kouga Fire and Disaster Management to handle the puff adder.

“When I returned home, Roxy was already at the animal hospital, while firefighters and experienced snake catchers, Ashleigh Makoba and Marichae Potgieter, safely relocated the puff adder to an open field.”

According to Alberts, after a few doses of antivenom and one day at the animal hospital, Roxy returned home to recover from the ordeal fully.

“It took two long weeks for the swelling to finally subside. During this time, Roxy’s usual vivacity was replaced by a period of much-needed rest and recuperation,” said Alberts.

Not all heroes wear capes – some have wagged tails and a penchant for getting into trouble.

Kouga Municipality completes parking area paving

Kouga Local Municipality has recently finished paving the parking area located opposite Tampa Bay Spur in Jeffreys Bay. This enhancement is set to provide improved accessibility and convenience for residents and visitors. The completion of this project underscores the municipality's commitment to enhancing infrastructure and amenities within the community, ensuring a more pleasant experience for residents and tourists alike.

Pictured at the parking area is Ward 11 Councillor, Fanie Heystek.



Experience the award-winning Chokka Trail

The Chokka Trail, situated in the greater St Francis Area, is an award-winning 62km slackpacking hike spanning four days and three nights, traversing Oyster Bay, Cape St Francis, and St Francis Bay.

Recognised by SA Tourism as the Best Visitors Experience in South Africa for four consecutive years, this trail offers an exceptional adventure. This hike showcases the highlights of the Kouga region, featuring a canal cruise on the renowned St Francis canals, calamari tasting, and a visit to Port St Francis.

If circumstances allow, you can also tour the Seal Point Lighthouse.

Trail highlights include the tracks of the Cape clawless otter, and with some luck, sightings of leopards or serval cats. You'll also encounter ancient Koi-San fish traps over 2 000 years old, captivating windblown patterns, a stunning section of coastal forest, and rare pot shards that transport you to another era. Birdwatchers will delight in spotting oystercatchers, kelp gulls, terns, and turnstones, and might even witness an osprey on the hunt.

Hikers need only carry a small daypack, as luggage is transported separately. Three meals a day are provided by the overnight destinations, and a local guide ensures you stay on the right path. Suitable for both seasoned hikers and novices, this diverse trail is particularly popular among families looking to spend quality time together outdoors and groups of friends celebrating special milestones.

All you need are sturdy hiking shoes, a comfortable daypack, and sufficient water containers.

Chokka Trail Run

On 10 August 10, the 7th annual Chokka Trail Run will take place, featuring an ultra-marathon, a marathon, a half marathon, and a 10km race, starting and finishing at the Cape St Francis Resort.



For more information and to register online, visit www.stfrancissport.co.za.

For rates and further details, contact **Esti Stewart** at **073 825 0835** or send an email to chokkatrail@gmail.com. Alternatively, visit www.chokkatrail.co.za.

Fundraiser event set to empower future journalists *Media and Communication*

In a vibrant celebration of community spirit and collaboration, the Media and Communication Unit in the Office of the Deputy Municipal Manager at Kouga Local Municipality, in partnership with LC Event Services, recently hosted a bowls fundraiser event.

This event aimed to support a less fortunate school in the Kouga region, and it proved to be a remarkable success.

The chosen school, yet to be identified, will receive essential equipment, including a camera and laptop, empowering learners to create their own school newsletter.

The municipality's commitment to community development extends beyond providing equipment. The municipality also

plans to offer photography and writing lessons to the learners, helping them develop the skills necessary for effective communication.

Additionally, the Media and Communication Unit will assist with the layout and printing of their quarterly newsletter, ensuring they have a professional and polished publication.

The municipality extends their heartfelt thanks to all the businesses that supported the event, whether by entering a team or through generous donations. A special thank you goes to the Jeffreys Bay Bowling Club, who made their facilities and expertise available in support of the event.



2024/2025 DATES TO REMEMBER

JULY 2024

7 & 28
16
27

Crossways Market
Pam Golding Winter Challenge Paddling Event
St Francis Market

Thornhill
St Francis Bay
St Francis Bay

AUGUST 2024

3
4 & 25
10
19 – 25
27 – 31
31

St Francis Market (Car Boot Sale)
Crossways Market
Chokka Trail
Kneeboarding World Titles
SA Longboard Champions
St Francis Market

St Francis Bay
Thornhill
St Francis Bay
Jeffreys Bay
Cape St Francis
St Francis Bay

SEPTEMBER 2024

1 & 29
7
7
8
21 – 22
24
27 – 29
28

Crossways Market
Pabala Funduro
Gamtoos Valley Farm Run
The Rising Women's Conference
Melkfees
Melkrun
GAM 1000 Fishing Competition
St Francis Market

Thornhill
Hankey
Patensie
Jeffreys Bay
Gamtoos
Thornhill
Gamtoos River
St Francis Bay

OCTOBER 2024

5
6 & 27
26

Level 4 Entertainment Disco
Crossways Market
Level 4 Entertainment Disco

Patensie
Thornhill
Humansdorp

NOVEMBER 2024

3 & 24
22 – 25
30

Crossways Market
Lukhanyo Memorial Soccer & Netball Tournament
Level 4 Entertainment Disco Event

Thornhill
Patensie

DECEMBER 2024

1, 15 & 22
14, 21, 22 & 23
21
24
26

Crossways Market
J-Bay Summer Fun Festival
Level 4 Disco Event
Level 4 Entertainment Disco Event
USN J-Bay Touchies

Thornhill
Jeffreys Bay
Humansdorp
Patensie
Jeffreys Bay

APRIL 2025

21 – 23

Teater by die See

Jeffreys Bay



www.jeffreysbaytourism.org



www.kougatourism.com



www.visiteasterncape.co.za



www.baviaans.net



www.stfrancistourism.co.za

FIRE SAFETY TIPS

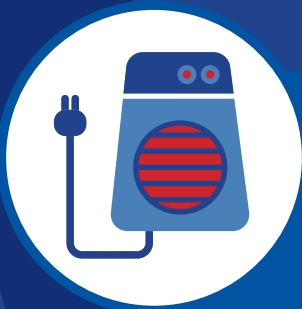


OPEN FIRES

- Make fires only in safe and approved areas.
- Ensure all fires and embers are completely extinguished before going to bed.

CHIMNEYS

- Keep chimney flues clean and well-maintained.

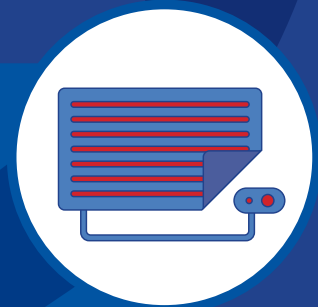


PORTABLE HEATERS

- Always keep heaters away from furniture and never use them for drying clothes.
- Unplug heaters before going out or to bed.
- Secure heaters against the wall to prevent them from falling over.
- Use gas or paraffin heaters in well-ventilated areas.

ELECTRIC BLANKETS

- Never use a hot water bottle in the same bed as an electric blanket.
- Unplug the blanket before getting into bed unless it has a thermostat control.
- Store electric blankets flat, rolled up, or loosely folded to prevent damage to internal wiring.
- Regularly check your blanket for wear and tear.
- Replace your electric blanket every 10 years.



For fire emergencies, call the Kouga Fire Department at **042 291 0250** or **112** from a cell phone.