



# Hermanus Business Chamber Newsletter

Friday, 24 April 2026

## Recap of the AGM on 9 April 2026

### Chairperson's Message & AGM Highlights

Our Chairperson, **Jana Smith**, warmly welcomed members and guests to the Annual General Meeting, with a special welcome to our guest speakers **Dr Roelof Botha** and **Cllr Clinton Lerm**, as well as **David Sutcliff** from CMV Auditors, who assisted with the financial statements.

Jana shared the Chairperson's Report, which included highlights from **Rae du Plessis'** term as Chair (March–September 2025). During this period, the Chamber focused strongly on engagement with Overstrand Municipality, contributing to both the Municipal Budget and the Integrated Development Plan. These engagements ensured that business priorities such as infrastructure, service delivery, and economic development remained front and centre.

### Working Together for a Better Hermanus

From October to March, the Chamber launched the much-loved "**Local is Lekker**" campaign under the leadership of **Gerrie van Biljon**. This is an ongoing project celebrating local businesses – and yes, stickers are still available for members! We also hosted several memorable events:

- **November's Year-End Gala Awards**, celebrating excellence across 10 categories. Congratulations once again to all nominees and winners – we are truly proud of you.
- December's "**Night of 1000 Drawings**" Art Walk Fundraiser, organised by **Liz Coats**, with proceeds donated to a worthy cause.
- **February 2026 Member Function**, featuring the launch of our upgraded website, a Swallow Park update, and an inspiring presentation by the Whale Centre representatives.

### Swallow Park – Creating a Lasting Legacy

We are delighted to share that Swallow Park's official opening is planned for just after the 2026 Whale Festival. A heartfelt thank you goes to **Trevor Edwards**, the tourism team, and everyone in the greater Hermanus community who contributed time, energy, and funds to this beautiful project. Together, we are creating a legacy for future generations.

### Strengthening Relationships

The Chamber, together with HRA and OCAN, held a productive meeting with senior officials from Overstrand Municipality, where mutual concerns were openly discussed. We are encouraged by the spirit of cooperation and look forward to ongoing, constructive engagement.

### Membership Growth – We Need You!

Membership growth remains a top priority for the Chamber.

Please remember to renew your 2026 membership via our website, ensuring that your business information is accurate and up to date in the member directory. A strong membership means a stronger voice for business in Hermanus.

## Membership Renewals

Have you renewed your membership yet?

Click here

<https://hermanuschamber.com/membership/>

If you have any difficulty, email Hermien on [info@hermanuschamber.com](mailto:info@hermanuschamber.com)

## Strategic Goals for 2026–2027

Our focus areas and project leads for the coming year include:

*Membership Growth:* Jana Smith & Hermien Schutte

*Digital Hub & Interactive Website:* Karin de Bruin

*Support Local Project & Media Articles:* Gerrie van Biljon

*Tourism & Swallow Park:* Trevor Edwards, Prof Jayne Rogerson, Debbie van Vuren, Anke Deyzel & Liz Coats

*Industrial Sector Upgrades:* Antoinette Bronkhorst, Jan Gelderblom & Berdine Nel

Ongoing training opportunities will also be offered – keep an eye on our communications for details.

## Exco 2026–2027

We thank our Executive Committee for their continued commitment and a warm welcome Berdine Nel as a new Exco member.

Exco Team:

Jana Smith – Chairperson

Gerrie van Biljon – Treasurer

Prof Jayne Rogerson

Anke Deyzel

Karin de Bruin

Hermien Schutte - Admin

Antoinette Badenhorst – Vice Chairperson

Trevor Edwards

Debbie van Vuren

Liz Coats

Jan Gelderblom

Berdine Nel



## Congratulations & Special Mentions

- Swallow Park Lucky Draw Winner: **Dr Kanthea Pillay**
- Auction of Peter Spouthworth's Painting: **Mike Vadas**

## A Message from Overstrand Municipality

Although **Executive Mayor Alderman Archie Klaas** could not attend in person, a message was shared expressing appreciation for the partnership with the Chamber and reaffirming the importance of working hand-in-hand to strengthen Hermanus, improve infrastructure, and grow our local economy together.

## Welcome to Our New Members

We are delighted to welcome the following members who recently received their membership certificates:

Caroline Gibbs (Alte Volare), Christelle Colman (AMI Underwriting Management), Claudio Lenci (Dal Italia Deli Hermanus), Dirk Heydenrych (Cornerstone People Solutions), Fabio Lenci (Fabio's Ristorante & Dal Italia Deli Hermanus), Galvin Lloyd (Lloyd & Co Landscaping Pty Ltd), Gert van Niekerk (Former Franchisee), JT Strauss (Two Chefs), Kobus Engelbrecht (Tranquil Private Rooms Hermanus), Kim McLean (Sharklady), Ross Keenan (StillFresh), Ryno Abri (Workspace Hermanus), Siyabulela Notwala (Blue Sky South Africa), and William Klingenburg (AMGA Strategy Pty Ltd).





A sincere thank you to our speakers at the AGM, Cllr. Clinton Lerm for sharing valuable insights on the Overstrand Municipality’s infrastructure; and

Dr Roelof Botha for his informative and thought-provoking talk on “The South African economy amidst global turmoil – will the silver linings remain intact?”

### Looking Ahead: Industrial Renewal Initiative

A new revitalisation initiative has been launched to transform Hermanus Industrial areas 1 and 2 into the cleanest and most visually appealing industrial hub in the Overberg region. Aligned with the Hermanus Business Chamber Strategy, the project focuses on improving environmental quality, enhancing employee wellbeing, and strengthening the area’s economic competitiveness. Phase one will introduce green spaces, branded stone waste bins, and public art installations, including murals, to create a more attractive and sustainable working environment. The initiative is driven by strong collaboration between local businesses, the community, artists, architects, and local government, with shared funding and accountability forming a core principle. By fostering a renewed sense of pride and delivering visible improvements, the project aims to stimulate economic growth, attract investment, and create a vibrant, welcoming industrial precinct for all stakeholders.



### Ministers Back Hermanus New Harbour Revitalisation

Infrastructure-led growth plans gain momentum for the Overberg, Hermanus, 17 April 2026 – A high-level engagement was held at the Hermanus New Harbour this week, bringing together national, provincial and local government leaders, alongside representatives from the business and fishing communities, to advance plans for infrastructure-led economic growth in the Overberg.

National Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure Dean Macpherson, Western Cape Minister of Infrastructure Tertuis Simmers, Overberg District Mayor Sakkie Franken, and Overstrand Executive Mayor Archie Klaas meet with Hermanus Business Chamber and fishing community representatives at the New Harbour, 17 April 2026.

The session was arranged by Cllr. Clinton Lerm and attended by National Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Dean Macpherson; Western Cape Minister of Infrastructure, Tertuis Simmers; Overberg District Municipality Mayor, Sakkie Franken; and Overstrand Executive Mayor, Alderman Archie Klaas, together with members of his Mayoral Committee. Also present were representatives from the Hermanus Business Chamber, ratepayers’ organisations, and the local fishing community.

## Newsletter Highlight



The meeting focused on revitalising the New Harbour as a catalyst for regional development, with discussions centring on infrastructure upgrades, improved facilities for the fishing sector, and creating an enabling environment for broader economic activity.

Jana Smith, Chairperson of the Hermanus Business Chamber, welcomed the commitment from all spheres of government: “This is a landmark opportunity to unlock business and job creating opportunities for Hermanus. Revitalising the New Harbour means tangible growth for our local economy, critical support for our fishing community, and new doors for entrepreneurs and young people seeking work. The Chamber is ready to partner with government to make sure these opportunities reach our small businesses and jobseekers.”

The Overstrand Municipality confirmed that follow-up engagements will take place with stakeholders to map out next steps and timelines for implementation.

### What this means for you

- *Local businesses:* New harbour upgrades aim to boost tourism, retail, and service demand. The Chamber will share updates on procurement and partnership opportunities.
- *Jobseekers & youth:* Construction and operations phases are expected to create jobs. Skills development initiatives will be communicated as plans are finalised.
- *Fishing community:* Improved facilities and infrastructure support are a key focus of the revitalisation.
- *Residents:* Long-term economic growth and improved public infrastructure at a key Overstrand asset.

Do you want to get involved?

Contact the Hermanus Business Chamber.

## Latest News Update

### Swallow Park Update

The gates arrived !



**CONGRATULATIONS!!** Congratulations to Cllr Clinton Lerm for being nominated as the DA Mayoral Candidate for Hermanus

### Next Member Function: 21 May 2026

Our next member function is set for 21 May 2026, please keep an eye out for more information

