HOLIDAY SEASON IN MOSSEL BAY

SPECIAL EDITION!

DECEMBER 2025 ISSUE



With thousands of holidaymakers flocking to Mossel Bay over the festive season, the coastal city – normally home to about 140 000 permanent residents - becomes a mega city over December.

A warm welcome to our visitors – and thank you for choosing Mossel Bay as your holiday destination!

To ensure our town continues functioning optimally, we would like to draw your attention to a few important arrangements and regulations, contained in this special Festive Season newsletter by the Mossel Bay Municipality.

The Afrikaans version of this newsletter is available in PDF format on the municipal website https://www.mosselbay.gov.za/



2025/26

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

CONTACT

The Mossel Bay Municipality can be reached at **044 606 5000**. In case of access to services not being available at this number due to phone line issues, use the alternative number – **044 050 8000**.

- Follow the municipal **Facebook page** for news flashes, information, notices and more at **https://www.facebook.com/mosselbaymun**
- Join the municipal **WhatsApp channel** - **https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029VaObfDb-BadmjaxmERb0d**
- The **municipal website** offers any additional, more in-depth information required, including newsletters, policies, by-laws, etc. – visit **https://www.mosselbay.gov.za/**
- Download the **Collab Citizen municipal smart phone application** from Huawei App Gallery, Apple App Store and Google Play Store (Functionalities of the app includes – purchasing electricity; access to emergency numbers; placing service delivery requests; obtaining push notifications; access to Mossel Bay Tourism's comprehensive event calendar, and more).

POLICE

MOSSEL BAY
044 606 2805
082 302 6670
082 522 3278

DA GAMASKOP
044 606 2201/7/8
079 893 9935

KWANONQABA
044 606 5601/2
082 520 5067

GREAT BRAK RIVER
044 620 8300/4/5
082 522 2807

HERBERTSDALE
082 520 5067

JOINT OPERATIONS CENTRE 044 606 5065

MOSSEL BAY MUNICIPALITY

DURING OFFICE HOURS:

WATER AND SANITATION	044 606 5282/5262
ELECTRICITY	044 606 5086/5139
ROADS AND STORMWATER	044 606 5264
TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	044 606 5201/5000
LAW ENFORCEMENT	044 606 5204

FIRE, RESCUE & DISASTER MANAGEMENT SERVICES:

MOSSEL BAY (ALL HOURS) 044 691 3722
044 606 5107

MUNICIPAL SWITCHBOARD AND CALL CENTRE: (ALL HOURS)
044 606 5000

EMAIL:
admin@mosselbay.gov.za

SMS FOR COMPLAINTS
44 802

DOWNLOAD THE COLLAB CITIZEN
MUNICIPAL APP (HUAWEI APPGALLERY, GOOGLE PLAY STORE, APPLE APP STORE)

GET IT ON Google Play | Download on the App Store | EXPLORE IT ON AppGallery

ALL AFTER-HOURS CALL TO THE ABOVE MENTIONED NUMBERS ARE AUTOMATICALLY TRANSFERRED TO THE MUNICIPAL CALL CENTRE (044 606 5000)

OTHER EMERGENCY SERVICES

REPORT VELD FIRES
044 691 3722 / 044 606 5107

NSRI
082 990 5954

SNAKE/BEE REMOVAL
044 691 3722 / 044 606 5107

HOSPITALS / AMBULANCES

MOSSEL BAY PROVINCIAL
044 691 2011

LIFE BAY VIEW PRIVATE
044 691 3718

AMBULANCE 10177
METRO AMBULANCE 044 805 5070/1
FRONTIER MEDIX 074 991 0911
ER '24' AMBULANCE 084 124/083 454 1175
RELAY EMS 0861 061 061

DISASTER & MASS CASUALTIES
044 601 1956

ANIMAL HELP

SPCA
044 693 0824
072 287 1761

GREEN DESK (JOC)
044 606 5204

STRANDED MARINE ANIMAL RESCUE TEAM
072 227 4715

SEABIRD REHABILITATION CENTRE
082 364 3382

MOSSEL BAY TOURISM

044 691 2202 | www.visitmosselbay.co.za

SERVICE DELIVERY ISSUES

If you spot a faulty streetlight, water leak, blocked stormwater drain, power outage, or any other municipal issue, please let us know as soon as possible. We're ready to assist!

HOW TO REACH US

- For formal, written correspondence to the municipality, email admin@mosselbay.gov.za
- To reach any of our directorates/departments telephonically, the municipal main switchboard can be contacted: 044 606 5000 (during office hours)
- To report emergency service interruptions (pipe bursts, unplanned electricity or water interruptions, faulty streetlights), contact the 24/7 Call Centre: 044 606 5000

FOR SERVICE DELIVERY & INFORMATION

- Download the Collab Citizen app
- Send an SMS to 44 802 (normal tariffs apply)
- For general information about the municipality, visit: www.mosselbay.gov.za

JOIN OUR BROADCAST PLATFORMS

- Facebook: facebook.com/mosselbaymun
- WhatsApp Channel: whatsapp.com/channel/0029VaObfDbBadmjaxmERb0d
- Municipal YouTube Channel: youtube.com/@mosselbaymunicipality7796

NEED TO REACH US URGENTLY?

The Mossel Bay Municipality's Facebook page is not ideal for service delivery requests, because it is a broadcasting platform and not continuously monitored, meaning service requests can get lost in the news feed. Also - should details about your service request be required, e.g. personal details like your address and contact number - **Facebook is NOT a private platform and can expose you to scamsters.**

OFFICE HOURS

Mossel Bay Municipality's public office hours are:
Monday to Friday: 08:00 – 16:15
Address: 101 Marsh Street, Mossel Bay Central, Mossel Bay, 6500

MUNICIPAL OFFICES CLOSED

All offices of the Mossel Bay Municipality will be closed on **24 December 2025** from 13:00 and will reopen on **29 December 2025** at 07:45. It will also close at 13:00 on 31 December and reopen at 07:45 on 2 January.

Calls to 044 606 5000 will go directly to the municipal after-hours call centre.
Please note that service delivery requests will be handled as normal, but access to administrative services will be limited.

TRAFFIC

With higher traffic volumes during the festive season, road users are urged to drive with caution and exercise patience.

Please adhere to the rules of the road – keep to the speed limits, do not allow passengers to sit on open vehicles, and do not drink and drive.

The upgrade of Louis Forie Road in Voorbaai is a major R520 million upgrade, funded by the Western Cape Government. The project focuses on improved safety, capacity and economic growth

Motorists are requested to be patient, as construction work on Louis Fourie Road may cause delays. Please allow additional travel time or make use of alternative routes like the N2.

(For updates, please follow Mossel Bay Municipality on Facebook).

To ease the flow of traffic, point duty officers will be stationed at the following crossings and intersections between 08:00 and 18:00 from 6 December 2025 to 12 January 2026:

- George Road – Santos Beach (08:00 - 18:00)
- George Road – De Bakke Beach (08:00 - 18:00)
- Louis Fourie Road – Bakke Street
- Louis Fourie Road – CP Nel
- Louis Fourie Road – Kaap de Goede (Hartenbos)
- Kaap de Goede – Kompanjie Avenue (Hartenbos)
- R102 – Suiderkruis (Great Brak River)
- The Island bridge (Great Brak River)
- Boulevard West and Industrie Road (Voorbaai)
- Louis Fourie Road – R102
- Monte Christo-crossing (only until 7 January 2025)
- Morrison Road and Island Road (1 person on either side of the bridge)
- R102 at Monte Christo (near the N2 on- and off-ramp)
- Hartenbosheuwels (Waboom Street and R328).

Dalmanutha Avenue, Hartenbos will be closed to heavy vehicles. Access control will be implemented between 12 December 2025 and 11 January 2026.

REFUSE REMOVAL

Refuse removal will continue as per normal throughout the festive season and on public holidays. Dates will include 16, 25 and 26 December 2025, as well as 1 January 2026.

Please put your refuse out just before 07:00 on your collection day.

Garbage bags placed out the night before often get tampered with and cause unnecessary littering and hygiene issues.

Mossel Bay Municipality uses a three-bag system:

- Black bags for non-recyclable, wet household waste;
- Green bags for garden waste;
- Blue bags for recyclable waste.

Please do not place hazardous items, such as medical waste, batteries, light bulbs, pesticides and others, in any of the mentioned bags. During the festive season, this type of waste can be taken to the KwaNonqaba or Sonskynvallei transfer stations, 7 days a week, from 07:00 - 19:00.

Branches must be tied up in a bundle. Small bundles will be collected.

Bags filled with sand will not be collected. You may dispose of clean sand at the Great Brak River landfill site.

WATER SUPPLY

Mossel Bay is well equipped to provide a safe and reliable water supply for the foreseeable future. All municipal water is rigorously tested - both internally and by independent service providers - to ensure it meets the highest health and safety standards. However, with the Western Cape experiencing below-normal rainfall and South Africa being a water-scarce country, we encourage residents and visitors to use water wisely. Every drop counts, and together we can make a real difference in conserving this precious resource!

Report water leaks or burst pipes immediately by calling our 24/7 Call Centre on 044 606 5000 or via the Collab Citizen app.

To learn more about water surety and the water supply network in Mossel Bay, listen to this podcast with Dick Naidoo, Director of Infrastructure Services - https://youtu.be/qZEQeVUOWwc?si=RuG19qusB-vi9L2gf
(Afrikaans - https://youtu.be/r9mQXcsTtA8)

FIRE

Fires are a major hazard in the Garden Route, and we urge residents and visitors to be vigilant and report any uncontrolled fires as soon as possible. Please be extra cautious when making open fires, especially during windy conditions.

Help us protect lives, property and our environment by following these safety tips:

- Plan ahead: Have an evacuation plan and make sure everyone in your household knows it.
- Be responsible with flames: Only make fires in designated areas, dispose of cigarette butts safely, and never leave candles or braais unattended.
- Keep emergency numbers handy: Display contact numbers for the fire department, ambulance, police, and the municipal call centre where they are easy to find.
- Make your property visible: Ensure your street number is clearly marked so emergency services can reach you quickly.
- Stay vigilant: Festive celebrations often involve extra fire hazards. Act responsibly to keep everyone safe.

Together, we can ensure a safe and joyful festive season in Mossel Bay.

The Mossel Bay Fire Department's emergency number is: 044 691 3722 (Fire, Rescue and Disaster Management)

You can also reach them via the municipal call centre at 044 606 5000, which operates 24/7 for emergencies.

FIREWORKS PROHIBITED

Mossel Bay Municipality has a stringent by-law in place regarding the use of fireworks.

No fireworks may be set off in public places, or within 500 metres of a public place, without official permission, granted by the South African Police Services (SAPS), Bomb Disposal Unit.

The Mossel Bay Fire, Rescue and Disaster Management Services are only responsible for fire safety inspections at approved pyrotechnic events. These

are approved by the South African Police Service. Hartenbos Seefront hosts a pyrotechnical display on 31 December 2025, the only approved display of its kind in the Mossel Bay Municipal area.

Please note that SAPS is the mandated authority for the keeping and sale of fireworks. Only four retailers in Mossel Bay have been approved by SAPS to sell fireworks legally.

Municipal officials, together with other role players, will conduct continuous inspections at shops across all areas. Confiscation notices and fines will be issued to non-compliant shops.

During the December holiday season, municipal law enforcement officials are vigilant in patrolling public spaces to monitor:

- The sale of prohibited fireworks
- The possession and discharge of fireworks in public places

All confiscated items will be handed to SAPS for disposal.

- Fines of R1500 to R2000 apply for the unlawful discharge of fireworks.
- Setting off marine flares for fun is dangerous, irresponsible, and illegal. Offenders will be held responsible for any damages caused.

To report the discharge of fireworks, call SAPS Joint Operation Centre at 044 606 5000. Witnesses may also make an affidavit at a police station, which can lead to further investigation and prosecution.

ILLEGAL DUMPING

Mossel Bay has a number of designated sites to discard of garden waste and building rubble:

- Small quantities of rubble (wheelbarrow to small bakkie loads) can be taken to Sonskynvallei or Louis Fourie transfer stations.
- Large quantities must be disposed of at the Great Brak transfer station.

Please refrain from illegal dumping. Dumping waste in open spaces pollutes our rivers, harms wildlife, lowers property values and puts public health at risk. It's not just unsightly - it is unhealthy and unlawful.

See it? Report it!

Help us take action by reporting illegal dumping to the Municipality at 044 606 5000.

NOISE CONTROL DURING THE FESTIVE SEASON

To keep Mossel Bay enjoyable for all, please note that the Public Nuisance By-law prohibits any noise that disrupts others - including loud music, shouting, or persistent dog barking.

Clubs, pubs and event venues must comply with Noise Control legislation.

Complaints can be reported to 044 606 5204 for law enforcement action.

REPORTING A NOISE NUISANCE IN 5 STEPS

Complaints regarding noise nuisance can be handled according to the following procedure:

Step 1: Report immediately
Call the Joint Operational Centre (JOC) at 044 606 5204 to lodge a complaint.

Step 2: Law enforcement responds
The operator will inform the law enforcement team on duty. Depending on the location and circumstances, the matter may also be handled in cooperation with the South African Police Service (SAPS).

Step 3: Provide full details
Give specific details (dates, times, frequency, etc.) and be prepared to testify in court. Prosecution can proceed even if the law enforcement officer does not experience the noise at the time of attending to the complaint.

Step 4: Sworn statement for repeated offences
If the offender is not caught in the act, the complainant and witnesses may submit a sworn statement at SAPS. This documentation will then be forwarded to Traffic and Law Enforcement for further investigation regarding the complaint.

Step 5: Enforcement and fines
A notice will be issued to the offender under the Municipal Noise Nuisance by-law. The offender must either pay a fine or appear in the Municipal Court.



If the matter goes to court, the complainant and witnesses must be willing to appear and testify.

E-SCOOTERS NOT ALLOWED

Riding an e-scooter can feel like a fun holiday activity, especially along Mossel Bay's streets and public spaces. However, it's important to remember: e-scooters are not legally permitted in public streets or paved areas, unless signage specifically authorises it.

This restriction is in accordance with the National Road Traffic Act and Municipal Bylaws to ensure the health and safety of residents and visitors to Mossel Bay.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT OUR BEACHES

Mossel Bay's Blue Flag beaches proudly showcase our commitment to world-class safety, cleanliness and environmental care.

The following beaches boast Blue Flag status:

- **Full Blue Flag:** De Bakke, Hartenbos and Little Brak River
- **Pilot Blue Flag:** Santos, Twee Kuilen and Southern Cross

While Mossel Bay Municipality aims to keep our beaches in tip-top condition, the weather and ocean sometimes wreak a bit of havoc, causing damage to infrastructure. Our teams and contractors are working hard to repair affected areas, but not all beach accesses may be open this season.

Owing to major damages caused to the Glentana beach earlier this year, construction is still under way to restore the beach, dunes and parking area to their former glory.

As a result, Glentana beach has not been given Blue Flag status.

ABLUTION FACILITIES

During the peak holiday season (1 December 2025 to 31 January 2026), public ablution facilities on our beaches are open from 07:00 to 19:00.

CLEANING TEAMS

Cleaning teams are on duty from 08:00 to 17:00, 7 days a week, to ensure the ablution facilities are kept clean.
The public is requested to refrain from vandalism and help keep our ablution facilities in such condition that the next person can use it comfortably.

ACCESS CONTROL

Access control will be implemented at several beaches within the Mossel Bay Municipal area from 6 December 2025 to 12 January 2026.
No alcohol is allowed on our beaches. Beach-goers will be required to declare possession of alcohol at the various checkpoints. Additional access control staff will be contracted in specific areas on New Year's Eve to ensure our beaches remain alcohol-free.

ACCESS CONTROL WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AS FOLLOWS:

- De Bakke parking – 08:00 to 18:00 (morning shift) and 14:00 to 24:00 (afternoon shift) (Access control and foot patrol)
- Santos parking – 08:00 to 19:00 **(Access control)**
- Diaz parking – 08:00 to 19:00 **(Access control)**
- Suiderkruis day camp – 08:00 to 18:00 (morning shift) and 12:00 to 22:00 (afternoon shift) **(Access control and foot patrol)**
- Souwesia day camp – 08:00 to 19:00 (morning shift) and 12:00 to 22:00 (afternoon shift) **(Access control and foot patrol)**

BEACH PATROLS

Beach patrols are conducted on foot, horseback and quad bikes to ensure public safety and adherence to the necessary legislative requirements.

Beach patrols will be done between 09:00 and 18:00 at:

- Santos
- De Bakke
- Blues Waters (area adjacent to Diaz Beach towards Louis Fourie Road)
- Diaz Beach
- Hartenbos
- Klein Brak River
- Suiderkruis
- Boggoms Bay
- Dana Bay (1st and 2nd beach)
- Glentana







NEW YEAR'S EVE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS

On 31 December, patrols will be conducted as follows:

- From 19h00 to 01h00: Fraaiuitsig/ Tergniet beach, Klein Brakrivier, Groot Brak Suiderkruis (16h00 – 22h00) and Santos beach.

Pointsmen will help ease the flow of traffic on New Year's Eve at the following intersections:

From 18h00 to 01h00

- George Road – Santos beach junction
- George Road – De Bakke entrance
- Majuba Street c/o Port Natal Road
- c/o Paardekraal Road
- c/o Kaap de Goede Hoop and Port Natal Road (23h00 – 01h00)
- c/o Louis Fourie Road and Kaap de Goede Hoop (23h00 – 01h30)

LIFEGUARDS

Lifeguards are on duty from 09:00 to 18:00 during the festive season. Lifeguards may be on the beach earlier than 09:00 to perform voluntary duties. Beach-goers are however urged to swim during official duty hours for their own safety.

Members of the public are urged to adhere to the lifeguards' instructions and to swim only in the demarcated areas, as stipulated by the lifeguards on duty. Do not swim at beaches where no lifeguards are deployed, nor swim before or after they have left the beach. Swimming is at own risk.

The lifeguards carry medical equipment, as per their level of training protocol. Please take not that Dana Bay beaches are wonderful for long walks, but not suitable for swimming due to strong currents.

DUTY DATES ARE:

Lifesavers are on duty at the following beaches from Saturday, 13 December 2025 to Sunday, 11 January 2026 (09:00 – 18:00):

- Gleniqua
- Onderwyser
- Outeniqua
- Dwarsweg
- Pienaar
- Suiderkruis
- Souwesia
- Nooitgedacht
- Koffiehuis
- Bayview
- Tweekuilen
- Point (tidal pool)
- Point (Poort)
- Boggomsbaai
- Vleesbaai
- Hartenbosmond

Please note that there are no lifeguards placed in Dana Bay. Dana Bay is not suitable for swimming, owing to strong and dangerous sea currents, specifically between Dana Bay and Springerbaai.

Between 3 and 6 lifeguards are allocated per beach, depending on the popularity of the beach and the number of beachgoers. Local lifesaving clubs may also do voluntary duty without notifying the municipality, thereby increasing lifeguard presence.

BLUE FLAG & MAIN BEACHES

Lifesavers are on duty at the Blue Flag and main beaches from Sunday, 29 November 2025 to Sunday, 1 February 2026 (09:00 to 18:00).

Blue Flag beaches:

- Klein Brak River
- Santos
- De Bakke
- Diaz
- Hartenbos
- Glentana

Please note that although not Blue Flag beaches, Great Brak River Mouth and Diaz beach have been added to this list of extended lifeguard service as main beaches.

The allocation per beach is between a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 8 lifeguards, depending on the popularity of the beach and the number of beach-goers.

UNIVERSAL ACCESS

Mossel Bay Municipality strives to make beach experiences accessible to persons with disabilities. For this purpose, a special beach chair is available for use. Members of the public wanting to use the special beach chair are requested to make arrangements to book the beach chair in advance. For more information, call 044 606 5000 or send an email to admin@mosselbay.gov.za

DRONES IN MOSSEL BAY: NOT PROHIBITED, BUT REGULATED

Mossel Bay is known for its breathtaking coastline, vibrant events, and active outdoor lifestyle, naturally making it a popular spot for drone enthusiasts and aerial photographers.

The use of drones is regulated by national legislation. The South African Civil Aviation Authority have regulatory restrictions and prescripts on the use of drones, and the Mossel Bay Municipality abides by these regulations. However, it is regulated through municipal by-laws to prevent public nuisance and ultimately ensure safety.

Relevant by-laws regulating the use of drones
Two key municipal by-laws guide the responsible use of aircraft, including drones, microlights, hot air balloons, and other airborne devices:

1. **Public Nuisance By-Law – Section 18**

This section prohibits flying or operating any aircraft in a way that:

- Directly or indirectly endangers people, property, or other aircraft
- Releases or drops substances that could harm animals or marine life
- Creates a nuisance near public spaces such as sports fields, schools, beaches, or social events

2. **Control of the Seashore and Sea By-Law – Section 7**

This section states that no person may, unless in an emergency or with prior written permission from the Municipality:

- Bring, take off, or land any aircraft or helicopter on a beach area
- Use hot air balloons, microlights, kites, parachutes, or similar devices in these zones

The term beach area includes the sea, seashore, sand dunes, and municipal land above the high-water mark used for recreation, such as promenades, walkways, lawns, and parking areas.

APPLY FOR PERMISSION

The Municipality is responsible for enforcing these by-laws and issuing written permissions where appropriate. Anyone wishing to operate a drone or aircraft in public or coastal areas must submit a formal application. These are reviewed by the Directorate Community Safety to ensure compliance with safety and environmental standards.

For more information or to apply:

- Call: 044 606 5000
- Email: admin@mosselbay.gov.za
- Visit: www.mosselbay.gov.za

BONFIRES AND BRAAIS ON THE BEACH

Open fires on beach areas are prohibited.
Fires are only allowed for braai purposes where a portable braai on a stand is used. No open fires on the ground are permitted.

After you have braaied, please ensure that the fire is extinguished.

ALCOHOL PROHIBITED

The use of alcohol in public open areas and beaches



areas, in terms of the Bylaw relating to Sea- and Seashore (GN 6879 dated 3 June 2011), is prohibited.

NO DRIVING ON THE BEACH

The use of vehicles on beaches is prohibited, in terms of the Bylaw relating to Sea- and Seashore. No vehicle is allowed on beaches except for emergency vehicles and crime prevention vehicles.

DOGS ON BEACHES

Dogs are only allowed on certain beaches in the Mossel Bay area.

In terms of the by-law relating to the Control of the Seashore and Sea and other relevant by-laws, dogs will be allowed on the beaches for the 2025/2026 festive season as follows:

From 1 December 2025 to 31 January 2026 - **NO DOGS ARE ALLOWED** in the following areas:

- Santos Beach (Pilot Blue Flag)
- De Bakke Beach (Blue Flag)
- Little Brak River (Blue Flag) between the river mouth and the north side of the beach.
- Hartenbos Beach (Blue Flag)
- Glentana Beach - west towards Great Brak River Mouth
- Tweekuilen (Pilot Blue Flag)
- Southern Cross Beach (Pilot Blue Flag)
- Diaz Beach
- Great Brak River Beach
- The Point

From 1 December 2025 to 31 January 2026, between 05h00 and 08h00, and between 18h00 and 20h00, DOGS ARE ALLOWED on the following beaches:

- Dana Bay - between First and Second Beach
- Dias Beach - between Twee-Kuilen river mouth and Bayview
- Hartenbos - between the river mouth and Klein Brak River mouth.
- Reebok/Tergniet
- Souwesia
- All areas of Glentana Beach – excluding the main beach and west towards Great Brak River mouth.
- Boggoms Bay – at the most southern area of Boggoms Bay, on the western side of the mouth of First Beach at Vleesbaai





MUSTS FOR DOGS ALLOWED ON BEACHES

- Dogs must be under control of the owner/ handler at all times.
- Dogs must be on a leash at all times.
- Dogs must not be allowed to interact with other animals or people.
- Owners are responsible for removing their dog's excrement from the beach.
- Dogs must not cause a nuisance to people or other animals.
- Dogs must not enter the water.
- Dogs must not be allowed to chase birds or other wildlife.
- Dogs must not be allowed to damage vegetation or dunes.
- Dogs must not be allowed to dig holes in the sand.
- Dogs must not be allowed to bark excessively.

OTHER ANIMALS ON BEACHES

No animals other than dogs are allowed on beaches.

HORSE RIDING ON BEACHES

Horse riding is not allowed on beaches in the Mossel Bay municipal area.

Only authorised horse patrols, as part of the municipality's community safety initiatives during the festive season, will be allowed.

This measure is in place to protect our beaches, ensure public safety, and maintain fair use of shared spaces.

Report unauthorised horse riding to 044 606 5000 (general municipal number) or directly to municipal law enforcement on 044 606 5204.

DEBRIS ON BEACHES

When heavy rains wash debris down rivers and into the ocean, some of this debris will inevitably end up on our beaches.

Natural debris play an important role in stabilising our coastline and protecting the sand from erosion. While Mossel Bay Municipality's beach cleaning teams consistently clean our beaches of unnatural waste material, no natural debris will be removed – except from official swimming beaches.

HARVESTING FROM THE OCEAN / FISHING PERMITS

Unlawful poaching of marine resources should be reported to the municipality's environmental department.

Send an email, with as many details as possible - photographic evidence, location, et cetera - to admin@mosselbay.gov.za for attention R Minnie. The environmental department undertakes to escalate these concerns to the mandated authority being the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment.

Members of the public can also contact DFFE directly at:

- 066 471 1400 / 066 471 1460
- Contact person: Heslene October or Shamley Titus
- Area: Gouritzmond to Wilderness

However, please note that not all persons harvesting from the ocean are poachers and may, in fact, be in possession of the necessary permits.

To obtain a monthly or annual recreational fishing permit, visit a branch of the South African Post Office or apply for a permit via the website of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: https://www.fishing.dffe.gov.za

ANGLING COMPETITIONS

No fishing competitions may be organised without the prior consent and consultation of the Mossel Bay Municipality.

In terms of the Mossel Bay Municipality By-law Relating to the Control of the Seashore and Sea (2011), no person may organise an entertainment, sport, or recreational event on the seashore without prior written permission from the Municipality.

Following Resolution EC62-02/2025, the Business and Events Committee has confirmed the process for angling competitions and similar events:

- Apply in advance: All organisers of angling competitions must submit a beach application to the Municipality for consideration.
- Meet approval conditions: If approved, organisers will be required to ensure:
- Adequate ablution facilities for anglers and spectators.
- No pollution of the environment.
- No obstructions in streets, and compliance with all other municipal by-laws.
- Angling is not permitted within 150 metres of designated bathing areas.

Once an application is approved, a copy of the approval letter will be sent to the relevant ward councillor. The ward committee will then inform residents in the affected area.





RABIES IN CAPE FUR SEALS

Rabies has become pendemic in Cape fur seals along the South African coastline, including Mossel Bay. This means the virus is circulating among seal populations and is unlikely to disappear naturally. Mossel Bay has seen confirmed positive cases. Rabies is fatal to humans and animals once symptoms appear.

The public is advised to note these guidelines relating to seals:

1. Keep a distance from seals at all times, both in water and on land.
2. Do not chase, touch or attempt to restrain a seal.
3. Ensure that dogs are under control and always on a leash.
4. Do not touch, handle or consume a seal carcass or any parts thereof.
5. Listen for and obey requests to vacate the sea or coastal areas as given by municipal officials, lifesaving staff, DFFE staff or their representatives.
6. If bitten by a seal, rinse the wound immediately with soap and water for 5-10 minutes and urgently seek medical attention.
7. Report any seals ashore or seal-related incidents immediately to the Stranded Marine Animal Rescue Team (SMART – 072 227 4715), or the municipality (044 606 5000) - 24/7.

SEAL ENCOUNTERS

Lifesavers doing duty on local beaches have been advised by the Mossel Bay Municipality to follow the same procedure when spotting a seal among bathers, as in the case of white sharks.
Bathers will be requested to desist from swimming and leave the ocean. Beaches will be closed for swimming until re-opened by lifesavers. Bathers and beachgoers are reminded that swimming and entering a beach area is at own risk.

MARINE ANIMALS AND SEABIRDS

Should you find a stranded or injured marine animal (including sea turtles, seals, penguins, etc) on the beach, please keep a safe distance and do not touch the animal.

Call: -

- Stranded Marine Animal Rescue Team (SMART): 072 227 4715
- The SAPREC Seabird and Penguin Rehabilitation Centre: 071 643 2496
- Mossel Bay Municipality: 044 606 5000







REMOVAL OF MARINE CARCASSES

Dead seals, or any other marine animal carcasses are removed by the Mossel Bay Municipality. Contact 044 606 5000.

STRAY ANIMALS

Found a roaming dog, cat, or livestock?
Mossel Bay Municipality works with the Garden Route SPCA to keep animals safe and streets secure. Strays are impounded under municipal bylaws, and owners face fines before reclaiming pets.
Report stray animals to SPCA Mossel Bay:
call the municipal 24/7 line at 044 606 5000 or 044 693 0824.

SNAKES AND BEE REMOVAL

Common snakes found in and around Mossel Bay include the puff adder, Cape Cobra and tree snake (boomslang).

Members of the public are urged not to handle snakes found in their homes or near campsites, but to alert Mossel Bay Fire, Rescue and Disaster Management (044 691 3722 / 606 5121) or 044 606 5000 - municipal switchboard (office hours) and call centre (after hours).

Mossel Bay Fire, Rescue and Disaster Management can also assist in safely removing bees through its appointed contractor.





PARKS

Mossel Bay Municipality proudly maintains 44 parks across the region, offering safe spaces for families to relax and stay active this summer.

Each park is equipped with play areas for children and many include outdoor gym facilities for teens and adults. From Dana Bay to Friemersheim, these parks encourage healthy living, creativity, and community connection.

As the holiday season begins, we invite residents and visitors to explore these spaces and give children the gift of play.

Don't let damage ruin the fun. Parks belong to all of us – please do not vandalise them!

Discover the spekboom maze in Heiderand

Looking for something different this holiday season? Visit Mossel Bay's unique spekboom maze in Heiderand – a green attraction that's almost a year old! Situated in Apiesdoring Street, this eco-friendly maze was created as part of the municipality's greening plan. It features 6 790 spekboom cuttings planted by hand!

It's not just a maze – it's a community effort, with contributions from local schools, residents, and even the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment.

The maze is designed for fun and learning, with knee-height paths for safety and interactive elements like a balancing beam, decorative bridge, and a wooden noughts-and-crosses game.

Perfect for families, it offers an educational twist while you enjoy the outdoors. Make it part of your holiday outing and experience something truly unique in Mossel Bay!



MOSSEL BAY CBD

Located in the heart of Mossel Bay, Harry Giddey Park is a beloved public space offering a peaceful retreat for families and visitors. This historic park features lush gardens, shaded walkways, and a variety of attractions including a children's playground, picnic areas, and sports facilities like tennis courts and bowling greens.

Whether you're looking for relaxation or recreation, Harry Giddey Park (entrance on Montagu Street) is the perfect destination to enjoy the outdoors and connect with Mossel Bay's heritage.

ENJOY HARRY GIDDEY PARK THIS FESTIVE SEASON

The park is open for visitors to relax and enjoy its tranquil environment, including viewing the animals during designated hours:

Park hours:

- Monday & Tuesday: 08:00 – 16:00
- Wednesday to Sunday: 08:00 – 19:00

If you plan to host an event, such as a wedding ceremony, church service, birthday party, or a small gathering, please note that prior written permission is required. Enquiries and applications can be made at the municipality to ensure compliance with park regulations and to preserve its natural beauty.

Please note that no dogs – except for guide dogs - are allowed inside Harry Giddey Park.

PRUNING OF TREES

Trees on sidewalks may not be pruned by members of the public.

If you would like the municipality to prune a tree, please send your request to admin@mosselbay.gov.za with the address and contact details.

LIBRARIES

Mossel Bay Municipality has 13 public libraries, including the central branch at 99 Marsh Street and branches in Hartenbos, Great Brak River, and more. Holiday-makers are welcome to register for temporary memberships and borrow books, audiobooks, CDs and DVDs.

All libraries offer free Wi-Fi, and you can enjoy digital reading by downloading the Libby app to access e-books and audiobooks with your library card.

Learn more here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nKZgf1I1MLk

Festive Season hours:
Mondays – Fridays: 08h00 – 17h00
Saturdays and public holidays: 09h00 –13h00
Closed on Sundays, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

For details, call 044 606 5171