



Recycling:  
 Making progress  
 one step at a time



Working together  
 for a greener  
 Langeberg



Flood risk  
 getting serious  
 attention

NOVEMBER 2011

UITGAWE 4:

# Let's say welcome!

IF we want to market and sell our beautiful area, we have to brand it well. That was the reasoning behind the new welcoming signs to the entrances of Ashton, Bonnievale, McGregor, Montagu and Robertson.

The Municipality has, for a while now, felt the urge to welcome tourists into our beautiful area. And the type of signs that all stores and businesses have at their entrances to inform visitors of the name of the store and to welcome them, have been missing for a long time for the Langeberg municipal area.

"The branding of a specific product plays an important role in the marketing and selling of that product," says Mr S.A. Mokweni, Municipal Manager. "The same is applicable within the tourism sector, where town names have become synonymous with unique products, for example: a special Merlot from Robertson or dried fruit from Montagu. Many of the tourists entering our towns are actually not aware of the name of the town, the name of the municipality or of the municipal logo."

In some of the towns "Welcome Walls" were erected earlier, but these do not depict the name or logo of the

WELCOME TO  
 ASHTON



Municipality. And because it is important that visitors recognise and associate with our logo and name, the Langeberg Municipality decided to erect the welcoming

signs, which depict the name of the town, municipality's name and logo. The signs were also approved by Provincial Administration and adhere to strict specifications and regulations regarding signage.

It is truly the intention of the Municipality to warmly welcome all visitors, both local and international, to our beautiful valley while introducing them to our strong brand.

Verwelkomingsborde, wat aan die streng regulasies en spesifikasies van die provinsiale regering voldoen, is by die ingange van die onderskeie dorpe in die munisipale area opgerig.

Die Munisipaliteit het dit belangrik geag dat hierdie borde opgerig word sodat toeriste deeglik bewus is van die dorp en area wat hulle besoek. Die handelsmerk van 'n produk speel 'n belangrike rol in die bemarking en verkoop daarvan en dieselfde geld vir toerisme. Om hierdie rede vertrou ons dat dit sal bydra tot die uniekheid wat ons area bied en dat besoekers hulle daarmee kan vereenselwig.

Dit is waarlik die Munisipaliteit se bedoeling om besoekers, plaaslik en internasionaal, hartlik te verwelkom in ons pragtige streek.

## Another facelift

THE Montagu Mountain Reserve is also getting a facelift.

Because it showed signs of deterioration, old and damaged signs were replaced, but additional signs will also be introduced and more than 28 signs in total will be erected throughout the Reserve.

The replacement and upgrading of signage forms part of the Montagu Mountain Reserve's action plan in collaboration with the Municipality.

To accommodate dog owners, a new designated dog area has been established at the entrance to Lovers Walk. We would kindly like to request dog owners to adhere to signage, stay within the designated areas and please scoop up after their dogs.

The aim of the Mountain Reserve is the conservation and management of the area, as part of an integrated system to maintain biodiversity and ecological processes, to be enjoyed by the public in a responsible manner.

The objective is to create a unique, well managed wilderness destination for tourists, thereby increasing visitor numbers and ultimately benefitting the poorest of the poor by means of local economic growth and job creation.

The designing of signs for the Dassieshoek Mountain Reserve (Arangies Kop Hiking Trail) is currently underway and these signs will also be upgraded soon.



ABOVE: Lovers Walk received a facelift as part of the Montagu Mountain Reserve upgrade.

FAR LEFT: Dog owners are urged to use the designated dog areas.

Die Montagu Bergreservaat sal eersdaags meer as 28 nuwe toerismetekens kry.

Nie net sal die ou tekens vervang word nie, maar addisionele tekens sal ook opgerig word.

'n Spesiale aangewese area by die ingang van "Lovers Walk" sal ook ingerig word vir honde.

Honde-eienaars word versoek om die tekens te gehoorsaam en binne die aangewese areas te bly. 'n Beroep word ook op eienaars gedoen om agter hul honde skoon te maak.

Tekens vir die Dassieshoek Bergresevaat (Arangieskop-staproeite) is ook tans onderweg.



# From the Municipal Manager's pen

**DURING the 2010/2011 financial year the Langeberg Municipality had many achievements, of which I would like to highlight a few.**

## Housing

From a housing point of view, approximately 298 subsidised low-cost RDP houses were built. This performance is a significant improvement from the 211 houses that were delivered in the 2009/2010 financial year.

Still, we are faced with a huge backlog and demand for houses. With various housing projects planned (according to the Human Settlement Plan) for all towns in the Langeberg region, we trust that in 2011/2012 even more progress will be made toward addressing housing needs. The Municipality will also undertake to address the issue regarding the rectification of poorly constructed houses as a matter of urgency.

## Electricity services

To alleviate pressure on indigent people, the national government has implemented a regulation for the provision of free basic electricity. In line with this policy, the Langeberg Municipality provides 50 free units of electricity to indigent households.

Keeping in line with the minimum standard of service delivery, which requires a basic infrastructure to be in place to allow the community access to electricity and the provision of basic lighting, the Municipality has implemented numerous projects and programmes to ensure sustainable provision of electricity to approximately 20 000 households in the Langeberg area.

## Community facilities

During the 2010/2011 financial year we witnessed the construction of the Congmanskloof Pavillion in Ashton to the value of almost R1,6 million. Upgrading to the value of R450 000 of the Nkqubela Community Hall also took place and we trust and believe that members of the community will take pride in



Mr S.A. Mokweni, Municipal Manager

these facilities and ownership so that they will be well maintained and taken care of. The building of a Thusong Centre has also commenced and this R4,5 million project will bring government services closer to the people of the Langeberg region.

## Environmental Services

We are particularly proud of the installation of a weigh bridge. An applicable support services at the recycling plant ensure that accurate statistics are kept of incoming and outgoing waste quantities, which will be invaluable to strategic developments in future.

With the completion of the weigh bridge, the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) at the Ashton landfill site was officially opened on 25 November 2010. Hereafter the two-bag system has been rolled out in the entire Langeberg municipal area and is now fully functional.

The Waste Transfer Stations in Robertson and Montagu have also been completed and

projects will be initiated in the 2011/2012 financial year.

Approval was also granted for a new landfill site and the acquisition of an appropriate site is currently underway. In the 2011/2012 financial year the Municipality will also focus on implementing wheelie bins and further reduction of waste to the landfill by means of further education and awareness of the importance of recycling.

## Financial Services

The Langeberg is proudly financially stable and has shown a debt recovery of more than 98% during this year. The Municipality has also received an unqualified report for the 2009/2010 financial year and trust that it will achieve this standard again after the audit of the 2011/2012 financial year is completed.

The Municipality is also currently supporting 6 185 households with indigent grants, which is 407 more than during the 2009/2010 financial year.

## Communication

During 2010/2011 we have experienced the full integration of the new name and logo of the Municipality and distanced with the previous Breede River Winelands name.

The new name and logo took its rightful place and we witnessed the name Langeberg Municipality grow to become everybody's name and logo.

We also introduced a new, more user-friendly and effective website and although additional work is still required, the structure is now in place. The municipal newsletter also received a new look and it is our goal to distribute on a monthly basis instead of quarterly.

For the future of communication, the Municipality will strive to communicate with the public more frequently and therefore will extend the capacity of the communications team. With this extension we hope to bring you more information and keep you up to date with the activities of the Municipality.

## Emergency & Customer Call Centre

**0860 88 11 11**

### INPUT

Our communication with you would be incomplete without hearing from you, whether it is criticism or encouragement.

Your feedback is therefore of paramount importance to us, as it completes the elements in the communication process which are the Sender, Message, Medium, Receiver and Feedback. Please address your comments or suggestions to [spothumus@langeberg.gov.za](mailto:spothumus@langeberg.gov.za) or to S. Posthumus, Private Bag X2, Ashton, 6715.

### INSAE

U terugvoering m.b.t die Nuusbrief is van kardinale belang vir ons, omdat dit die elemente van die kommunikasie proses voltooi wat insluit die sender, boodskap, medium, ontvanger en terug. U word versoek om in die toekoms asseblief u kommentaar of voorstelle deurgee aan [spothumus@langeberg.gov.za](mailto:spothumus@langeberg.gov.za) of aan S Posthumus, Privaatsak X2, Ashton, 6715.

created by



## Flood hazard: we're fighting back

**MANY residents of Montagu have voiced their concern about the current status of the Voortrekker bridge and the condition of the river at the confluence of the Keisie and Kinga Rivers.**

The Municipality shares these concerns and consulted with various role-players to endeavour a mitigation effort to address these concerns. What complicates the matter, is that there are many governmental departments involved, such as the Departments of Transport and Public Works, of Water Affairs, of Environmental Development and Tourism, as well as various land owners, including the Municipality.

Due to this, the Municipality has written a letter to the Provincial Disaster Management Centre (via the District Municipality) requesting assistance for the rehabilitation of the river system from the Voortrekker and Van der Merwe bridges to the Loftus bridge, and specifically the removal of the large quantities of sediment and debris in the rivers.

A meeting was arranged in Montagu by the Western Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre on July 12 this year, attended by representatives of all the relevant government departments.

At the meeting the Municipal Manager, Mr S.A. Mokweni, confirmed that the Municipality and community view the flooding of the bridge to be a major problem and would like a solution as soon as possible. Mr Colin Deiner, Chief Director: Disaster Management and Fire Brigade Services of the Western Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre,



Plans are made to prevent another flooding incident in Montagu.

informed the attendees that Minister Anton Bredell would like the situation at the bridge in Montagu to be treated as a priority.

Attendees were also informed that, although the Department of Transport and Public Works has already started with the upgrading project of the R62 (including the Voortrekker bridge), the planning for this area has been completed by the consulting engineers and there are various alternatives to consider. Authorities are in the process of evaluating the proposals to arrive at an economically, technologically viable and pragmatic decision. Upgrading is hoped to start in 2013.

But this doesn't address the immediate problem. In the short to medium term, it is vital that the Keisie, Kingna and

Cogmanskloof Rivers are cleared of vegetation, sediment and soil deposits.

In terms of regulations and the National Environmental Management Act of 1998, approval is necessary, however, from the Department of Environmental and Cultural Affairs and the Environmental Impact Management Unit, as well as a subsequent RoD (Record of Decision), before any work can be done on any river.

Following the meeting, a follow-up letter was written by the Municipal Manager to confirm the request for assistance from the Provincial Disaster Management Operational Centre and members of the Department of Environmental and Cultural Affairs and the Environmental Impact Management Unit have since visited the area and proposed the compilation of a River Maintenance Management Plan for the rehabilitation of the River, specifically in the areas at the Voortrekker bridge.

The River Maintenance Management Plan was compiled and submitted for consideration and approval and we are presently awaiting the approval of the plan, and the authority to commence with the clearing of the river.

Along with the submission of the River Maintenance Management Plan, Deiner is exploring options to fund the project. Bold efforts are made to speed up the process and the Municipality undertakes to keep residents informed.





# Celebrating new life

SEPTEMBER is National Arbour Month in South Africa and this year, once again, the Langeberg Municipality did not miss out on the good action.

The aim is to motivate schools, businesses and communities to plant and look after our wonderful and diverse natural tree heritage.

As part of our involvement in a greener and cleaner environment, the Municipality held a tree planting/ community clean-up drive on September 28, in the Northern Cemetery in Robertson.

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillors, Cape Nature, Buyisa e Bag, officials from the Environmental Services department of the Langeberg Municipality, scholars from Langeberg Secondary School and volunteers from the surrounding community participated in the planting of 52 trees and then proceeded to pick up litter in the surrounding open spaces. Members of the public were also introduced to the two-bag waste recycling initiative of the Municipality.

Other trees (10) had been planted at Masakheke Primary School in Nkqubela and Nikithemba Seniors Centre in Robertson. Forty other trees have been planted to replace street trees in various streets in Robertson.

We trust that events like this one will raise environmental awareness amongst our community and promote the cleaning and greening of the environment.



A community coming together to celebrate life through planting trees.

# Block tariff electricity 101

**BLOCK tariffs became a familiar concept in households and other users of single phase connection (<= 60 AMP) electricity supply after the Langeberg Municipality, in compliance with the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA), implemented them on July 1 this year. This means that electricity is billed in correlation with the amount used per household.**

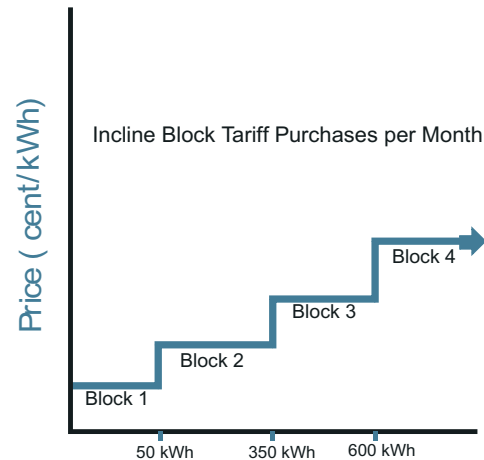
### What are Incline Block Tariffs (IBT)?

Incline Block Tariffs divide the electricity price into four sections or blocks. The first section is billed at the lowest price. As the customer purchases more electricity during the month, the electricity bought will eventually fall into block two, which is a bit more expensive. This process repeats automatically as the customer purchases further electricity and so moves into blocks 3 and 4. At the end of the month, the history is reset and the customer will again start the next month from block 1.

The process to move from one block to the next is automatic and depends only on the amount of electricity that is acquired by the customer. The movement to the next block is not at all affected by whether the purchases are spread over many transactions or if all the electricity is bought in one transaction.

Because the block-bound electricity increases in price, customers can save money by not buying more electricity than what they will use during the month, waiting for the next month to buy at the lowest price again.

The diagram below shows how the price rises as the amount of electricity (measured in kWh along the horizontal line at the bottom, from left to right) increases.



Electricity obtained during the month

### Who will receive Block Tariff electricity?

The Incline Block Tariffs have been implemented for all single phase connection electricity (<= 60 AMP), which includes households.

### What are the prices for Block Tariff electricity?

These are the prices approved for residents of the

Langeberg Municipal area from 1 July 2011. Prices exclude VAT.

Prepaid meter: single phase connection (<=60 AMP):

Electricity Purchase Blocks	Price (cent / kWh)*
Block 1 [0 - 50 kWh]	80c
Block 2 [50.1 - 350 kWh]	85c
Block 3 [350.1 - 600 kWh]	95c
Block 4 [600.1 >> kWh]	105c

Indigent tariff: (income = < 3000 per month):

Electricity Purchase Blocks	Price (cent / kWh)*
Block 1 [0 - 50 kWh]	0c
Block 2 [50.1 - 350 kWh]	71c
Block 3 [350.1 - 600 kWh]	90c
Block 4 [600.1 >> kWh]	95c

### Wat van tariewe op konvensionele kragtoevoer?

DIE Langeberg Munisipaliteit het van Julie 2011 af bloktariewe vir elektrisiteit implementeer vir alle verbruikers met 'n enkelfase-elektrisiteitsaansluiting. Die beginsel van bloktariewe is dat hoër tariewe betaalbaar is namate meer elektrisiteit verbruik word en die doel daarvan is om onnodige elektrisiteitsverbruik te ontmoedig. Die tariewe is:

- 0 - 50 kwh - 65c per kWh
- 51 - 350 kwh - 70c per kWh
- 351 - 600 kwh - 85c per kWh
- Meer as 600 kwh - 90c per kWh

Verskeie klagtes is ontvang omdat elektrisiteitsheffings gebaseer is op tydperke langer as 30 dae, wat tot gevolg het dat inwoners teen die hoër tariewe aangeslaan word vir die verhoogde verbruik as gevolg van die langer verbruikstydperk (langer as 30 dae).

Aangesien dit nie prakties moontlik is om alle elektrisiteitsmeters in die munisipale gebied op dieselfde dag elke maand te lees nie, is besluit om van Desember 2011 af die daaglikse verbruiksmetode te gebruik. Met die daaglikse verbruiksmetode word die blokke (0 50 kwh, 51 350 kwh, 351 600 kwh ) pro rata herbereken teen die verbruikstydperk. Indien die verbruikstydperk byvoorbeeld 35 dae is, sal die blokke as volg herbereken word:

- 0 - 57,53 kWh (50 x 12 maande ÷ 365 dae x 35 dae = 57,53)
- 57,53 - 402,73 (350 x 12 maande ÷ 365 dae x 35 dae = 402,73)
- 402,7 - 690,4 (600 x 12 maande ÷ 365 dae x 35 dae = 690,4)
- 690,4 en meer

Met die daaglikse verbruiksmetode sal verbruikers nie benadeel word indien die verbruikstydperk langer as 30 dae is nie. Dit is belangrik om kennis te neem dat indien die verbruikstydperk korter as 30 dae is, word dieselfde beginsel toegepas en word die blokke verkort.

Belangrik: Die heffings vir elektrisiteit, soos aangedui op die diensterekening wat vir Desember 2011 uitgestuur word, sal dus op die daaglikse verbruiksmetode baseer word.

### What about tariffs on conventional electricity supply?

THE Langeberg Municipality implemented Inclining Block Tariffs (IBT) from July 2011 for consumers with a single phase electricity connection. The principle of block tariffs means that higher tariffs are charged for higher consumption the more electricity you consume, the more you pay, hopefully encouraging electricity savings. The block tariffs are:

- 0 - 50 kwh - 65c per kwh
- 51 - 350 kwh - 70c per kwh
- 351 - 600 kwh - 85c per kwh
- More than 600 kwh - 90c per kwh

Many complaints have been received regarding electricity charges that were based on consumption periods for longer than 30 days, as the consumers were charged against a higher tariff for increased consumption due to the longer consumption period (longer than 30 days).

It is not practically possible to read all electricity meters within the municipal area on the same day each month, hence it has been decided to make use of the daily consumption method from December 2011.

Blocks will now be re-calculated on a pro rata basis according to the consumption period, for instance if the consumption period is 35 days, the blocks will be recalculated as follows:

- 0 - 57,53 kwh (50 x 12 months ÷ 365 days x 35 days = 57,53)
- 57,53 - 402,73 (350 x 12 months ÷ 365 days x 35 days = 402,73)
- 402,7 - 690,4 (600 x 12 months ÷ 365 days x 35 days = 690,4)
- 690,4 and more

With the daily consumption method consumers will not be disadvantaged if the consumption period is more than 30 days. It is important to note that if the consumption period is shorter than 30 days, the same principle will be applied and the blocks will be shortened.

**Important: The electricity charges, as indicated on the service accounts that will be provided in December 2011, will be based on the daily consumption method.**

Conventional power supply:

Town: Single Phase Connection <= 60 AMP

Basic: R101.00

Price per unit:

Electricity Purchase Blocks	Price (cent / kWh)*
Block 1 [0 - 50 kWh]	65c
Block 2 [50.1 - 350 kWh]	70c
Block 3 [350.1 - 600 kWh]	85c
Block 4 [600.1 >> kWh]	90c







An impressive sight, a massive number of cans are sorted and ready for recycling.



The sorting line where the recyclables are picked out and grouped together.

## Let's recycle together

**THE recycling efforts in the Langeberg municipal area are well underway.**

As part of Buyisa-e-Bag deliberations about the provision of functional resources to the Langeberg Municipality's recycling/buy back centre, and training of beneficiaries, a co-operative was established at the Ashton landfill site.

The Langeberg Municipality has long been engaging with Buyisa-e-Bag, a Section 21 company, whose mandate is to ensure the development of co-operative recycling enterprises in South Africa.

It should also fulfill the provincial mandate of implementing the Clean and Green Campaign at municipal level, while our partnership should encourage recycling in our communities to keep our environment

clean and green and emphasise recycling and re-use of waste according to the Waste Management Act.

The Ashton landfill site now has people who visit it to recover recyclable waste from the landfill while the Environmental Department is in a process of formalising their services and getting them registered into a co-operative.

Buyisa-e-Bag provided these waste reclaimers with training in Basic Business and Basic Waste Management. After the completion of these courses, the waste reclaimers at the Ashton landfill were presented with certificates by the Portfolio Head: Environmental Services, Cllr N. Crouwkamp, and the Director: Community Services, Mr J. Mhlom.



The waste re-claimers who successfully completed their Basic Business and Basic Waste Management training.

## 1350 trees saved

**SINCE the introduction of the two-bag waste recycle system, the Municipality has relied on residents to separate recyclable materials from waste. We would like to make use of this opportunity to thank residents for doing their share and provide feedback of what they have achieved during the last three months.**

These measurements may not seem like much, but let's translate it to more understandable units.

### Paper

Every ton of recycled paper saves about 17 trees. The residents in the Langeberg municipal area have therefore saved approximately 2 490 trees, more or less 20 years of age, over a period of seven months. One tree provides enough oxygen for three people to breathe, therefore 2 490 trees are enough to provide oxygen for 7 470 people. Also, one tree can filter up to 132 kg of pollutants from the air every year, therefore with the trees we saved, up to 178.2 tons of pollutants will be filtered from the air within the next year.

Recycling one ton of paper saves three cubic metres of landfill space, 4 000 kilowatt-hours of energy, 29 000 litres of water, and 30 kg of air pollution. We have therefore saved 439,41 cubic metres of landfill space, 585 880 kilowatt energy, more than 4,2 millilitres of water and 4 394,1 kg of air pollution.

### Start at the office

The Langeberg Municipality is practising what they preach and introduced a two-bin system in all offices to recycle paper. We would like to encourage all businesses within the area also to do their part and recycle office paper.

If one staff member in the average office recycles approximately 10 sheets of paper per day it equals 15 kg of paper per year.

1 tree supplies 60 kg of paper.

1 staff member recycling paper saves 0,25 trees per year.

1 tree absorbs 5 to 9 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.

Thus 1 staff member recycling for 1 year saves up to 2,25 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>.

In the Municipality with an office staff component of approximately 150 people, we will during the course of the next year, save more or less 337,5 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> just by separating our paper.

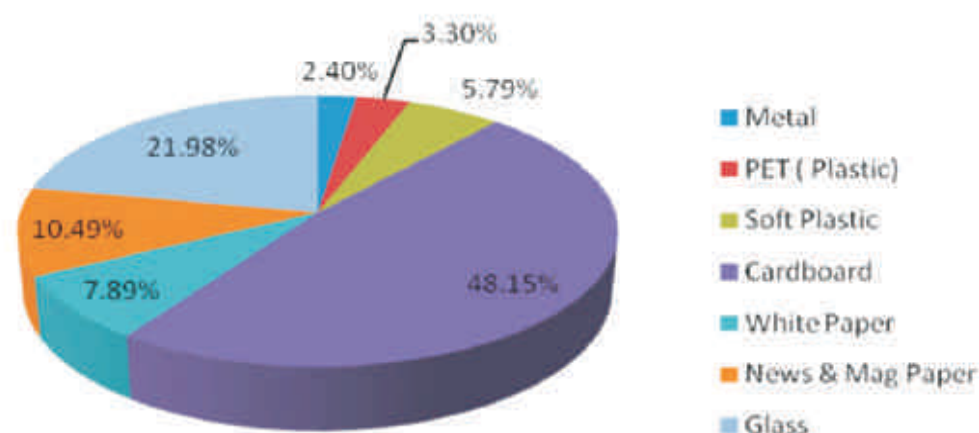
### Glass

Two new containers for the collection of glass with the purpose to recycle have been acquired. They have been placed in Main Road, Bonnievale and Mark Street, Montagu. We hope to, in the near future, make more of these containers available.

The energy saved from the recycling of one glass bottle can run a 100 watt light bulb for four hours. With more than ten tons of glass the residents have recycled during the past three months, the energy saved is enormous. It also causes 20% less pollution and 50% less water pollution than when a new bottle is made from raw material. A glass bottle will take more than 4 000 years to decompose and even longer in a landfill.

It is clear from the above mentioned figures that we may no longer ignore our responsibility to separate our waste and to recycle. Thank you to all the residents who are participating in the two-bag system. We sincerely hope that in future these figures will keep increasing as more people start to recycle.

	Metal	PET (Plastic)	Soft Plastic	Cardboard	White paper	News & Mag	Glass
Tons Recycled	5.28	7.18	12.66	105.81	17.49	23.17	48.12



These statistics are based on recycled material collected by means of the two-bag system and weighed (in tons) at the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in Ashton from April until the end of October 2011.

## Cash in on Absa Cape Epic

The Absa Cape Epic, which is set to come to the Langeberg in March next year, is known as the "Tour de France" of mountain biking and is regarded as the foremost mountain bike stage race in the world.

We will be visited by 1 200 riders (600 teams of 2 each) from 52 different countries (Russia, Ukraine, Switzerland, Botswana, Italy, France, USA, UK, Australia, etc.), covering over 800 kilometres during the eight-stage event. What's more, is that the Absa Cape Epic will receive 5 600 hours of global TV coverage in 175 countries.

The Langeberg Municipality is proud to announce that we will be hosting three stages:

- Stage 1 on March 26, 2012
- Stage 2 on the March 27
- Stage 3 on the March 28

These stages will include farm and mountain tracks in the Ashton, McGregor and Robertson areas and will also travel through McGregor, Nkqubela and Robertson.

The prologue will take place in the Durbanville area on Sunday, March 25, whereafter the riders and their support crews will travel to Robertson to prepare for stages 1, 2 and 3.

Robertson Primary School will be transformed into the Absa Cape Epic race village with international media rooms, a hospital and physiotherapy centre, kitchens, entertainment areas, bicycle repair facilities, tent village and much more.

This is an amazing opportunity for all communities to unite to ensure that all involved in the Absa Cape Epic 2012 will remember the

Langeberg area as an experience never to be forgotten.

It is also our objective to ensure that many of the participants, and their crews, will return to enjoy our valley's beauty, hospitality, people and friendliness.

An information session will be held on Wednesday, November 30 at 19:00 in the Town Hall, Church Street, Robertson.

Representatives from all businesses, community organisations and any other person interested in the services available during the Absa Cape Epic 2012 are encouraged to attend.

For further information, contact Dave van Schalkwyk on 082 89 60629 or 023 626 8200, or send email to [dvschalkwyk@langeberg.gov.za](mailto:dvschalkwyk@langeberg.gov.za).

## Switching on of Christmas lights

### Ukulayitwa kwezibane zeKrismesi

The Christmas lights will be switched on at the respective towns on the following dates:

Izibane zeKrismesi ziyakulayitwa ngokwedolophu njengoko ukdwelisiwe apha ngezantsi:

**Bonnievale**  
November 30  
**McGregor /Robertson**  
December 9  
**Ashton /Montagu**  
December 14

