



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD

CIVIC HONOURS
Ceremony

UMSITHO ONGOKUNIK
Imbeko kuBemi

BURGERLIKE TOEKENNINGS
Plegtigheid

**20
25**



Civic Honours

Ceremony & Luncheon

COUNCIL CHAMBER, 14 NOVEMBER 2025



FOREWORD



GEORDIN HILL-LEWIS

Two years ago, in 2023, we revived the tradition of bestowing Civic Honours on remarkable Capetonians, after a 12-year hiatus. I said at the time that this would become a biennial tradition as we seek to pay tribute to the men and women who've made our city – and the world – a better place.

It is my great pleasure to now do so again, and our list of recipients this year includes some truly extraordinary individuals – and also some organisations – who've contributed greatly through their service, their talents or their sacrifice.

To briefly recap the Civic Honours categories, there are five ways in which the City can honour a person or group. The very highest such an honour is the awarding of Freedom of the City. This is followed by the Signing of the Civic Honours Book, the awarding of the Honorary title of Alderman, the awarding of Freedom of Entry into the City, and finally the awarding of the Mayor's Medal.

As we did in 2023, this year we will again be bestowing honours in two of these categories: five will sign the Civic Honours Book, and eighteen will receive the Mayor's Medal.

Spanning the fields of sport, performing arts, academia, the environment, music, community service and philanthropy, our worthy recipients have all made a meaningful contribution to Cape Town society. I am honoured to confer Civic Honours on these exceptional Capetonians.

➤ **EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF THE
CITY OF CAPE TOWN**

FOREWORD



FELICITY PURCHASE

Today, we gather to honour and celebrate the extraordinary individuals and organisations whose unwavering dedication to their craft, leadership, and service has profoundly influenced the very fabric of our society.

With immense pride, the City of Cape Town acknowledges the remarkable achievements of this year's honourees, paying tribute to the sacrifices they have made and the countless lives they have touched in the pursuit of uplifting their communities.

As we recognise excellence across a range of fields, we not only commend the impact

of these exceptional contributors but are also reminded that the true strength of any society lies in the collective commitment of its people. Each of us has a role to play in shaping a more compassionate, unified, and forward-looking city and country.

May this year's Civic Honours celebration stand as a testament to the power of individuals and organisations who choose to lead with purpose, contribute selflessly, and inspire others through their actions. Their legacy challenges us all to do more, be more, and give more—for the benefit of generations to come.

To each of our distinguished recipients, we extend our heartfelt thanks and warmest congratulations. Your example uplifts us all.

> **SPEAKER OF THE CITY OF CAPE TOWN**

Signing of the **Civic Honours Book**

Inviting a person to sign his or her name against a citation of their achievements in the “Civic Honours Book” is a recognition of their lengthy and purposeful public service to Cape Town in any field of social, community or civic interest. This can be conferred upon a living person or in memory of a deceased person, and it can be for a current Cape Town citizen, or someone who may no longer live here, but has roots in the Mother City.





JACQUES KALLIS

Jacques Henry Kallis is considered by many to be the greatest all-round cricketer in the history of the game, and is one of Cape Town's most celebrated sporting sons.

Born in Pinelands, Cape Town, in 1975, Kallis attended Wynberg Boys' High School where his extraordinary talents as batsman, bowler and fielder were evident from an early age.

He began his professional career with Western Province in 1993, before being selected to represent the national team in 1995. What followed was a career of unprecedented achievement and consistency across all formats of the game, spanning 19 years at international level.

Statistically, Kallis is unmatched as an all-rounder in Test cricket. He scored 13,289 runs at an average of 55.37, including 45 centuries, and he took 292 wickets at an average of

32.65. In One Day Internationals, he amassed 11,579 runs and claimed 273 wickets. He is the only cricketer in history to have scored more than 10,000 runs and taken more than 250 wickets in both Test and ODI formats.

The recipient of numerous accolades, including ICC Cricketer of the Year, multiple SA Cricketer of the Year awards, and induction into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame in 2020, Kallis has represented Cape Town and South Africa with dignity and excellence throughout his career.

However, his contribution extends beyond his playing achievements. In 2005, he established the Jacques Kallis Scholarship Foundation, which identifies talented cricketers from disadvantaged backgrounds and provides them with educational opportunities at top schools. Many recipients have gone on to professional careers.

Jacques Kallis

UNMATCHED AS AN ALL-ROUNDER IN TEST CRICKET

Jacques Kallis's legacy as a cricketer of extraordinary talent, exemplary sportsmanship, and commitment to developing future stars embodies many of the qualities that the city celebrates and aspires to foster in its citizens. The City of Cape Town is proud to confer Civic Honours on Jacques Kallis.



OLIVER HERMANUS

Oliver Hermanus is a film director and writer who has risen to become one of South Africa's most acclaimed and internationally recognised filmmakers.

Through his distinctive cinematic vision, he has brought Cape Town and South African stories to global audiences while addressing complex social issues with nuance and artistic integrity.

Born in Cape Town in 1983, Hermanus obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Film, Media and Visual Studies from the University of Cape Town before receiving a scholarship to attend the London Film School. This educational journey prepared him to return to his roots and create work that examines the complexities of South African society with both an insider's intimacy and a thoughtful global perspective.

Hermanus's debut feature film, *Shirley Adams* (2009), set in Mitchell's Plain, tells the story of a mother caring for her paralysed son in challenging circumstances and established Hermanus as a significant new voice in cinema. His second feature, *Scoonheid* (*Beauty*) (2011), became the first Afrikaans film to be selected for the Cannes Film Festival where he won the Queer Palm award.

Further film works include the acclaimed *The Endless River* (2015) and *Moffie* (2019). His 2025 film, *The History of Sound*, was selected for participation in the main competition at the 2025 Cannes Film Festival. Hermanus is only the second South African director to vie for the Palme d'Or prize.

Throughout his career, Hermanus has maintained deep connections to Cape Town, frequently setting his films in the Western Cape and collaborating with local talent. His work

Oliver Hermanus

**ONE OF SOUTH
AFRICA'S MOST
ACCLAIMED AND
INTERNATIONALLY
RECOGNISED
FILMMAKERS.**

stands as testament to the city's complex social fabric and rich cultural diversity, presenting authentic stories that might otherwise remain untold.

Oliver Hermanus's significant contribution to cinema, his unflinching examination of South African society, and his commitment to bring Cape Town stories to the world stage make him highly deserving of Civic Honours.



TEMBA BAVUMA

Temba Bavuma has risen from humble beginnings in Langa, Cape Town, to become one of South Africa's most significant cricket figures and an inspirational symbol of transformation and excellence in the sport.

Born on 17 May 1990 and having grown up in Langa, a Cape Town township with a rich cricket history, Temba Bavuma's journey represents a story of determination, skill, and breaking barriers. He would go on to become the first black African batsman to score a Test century for South Africa and later the first black African to captain the national cricket team.

Bavuma made his Test debut in 2014 against the West Indies. However, it was his maiden Test century against England in Cape Town in 2016 that cemented his place in cricket history and the hearts of fans. This was a powerful symbolic moment in cricket, and a

significant milestone in South Africa's sporting transformation.

In January 2021, Bavuma's outstanding leadership qualities were recognised when he was appointed as South Africa's limited-overs captain, making him the first black African player to permanently captain a South African national cricket team. Later, in February 2023, he was appointed Test captain too, completing his rise to leadership across all formats of the game.

Under his captaincy, South Africa has achieved notable successes, including a historic series win against India as well as victory in the final of the ICC World Test Championship in 2025.

Bavuma's contribution to cricket transcends his impressive match statistics. He is a trailblazer for the game and proof to young

Temba Bavuma

ONE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S MOST SIGNIFICANT CRICKET FIGURES

cricketers from townships across Cape Town and South Africa that the highest levels of the sport are attainable regardless of your background.

Temba Bavuma's journey from the streets of Langa to international cricket captain embodies the transformative power of sport and makes him an outstanding candidate for Cape Town's Civic Honours.



TONY LEON

Tony Leon has made an indelible mark on South Africa's democratic landscape as a politician, diplomat, author, and public intellectual whose principled leadership and commitment to constitutional values have influenced the nation's political discourse and development for decades.

Anthony James Leon was born in Durban on 15 December 1956. He studied law at the University of Witwatersrand where he was the president of the Law Student Council and deputy President of the Student Representative Council. These early leadership roles foreshadowed a political career characterised by principled opposition and vigorous defence of constitutional democracy.

Leon became Leader of the Opposition in 1999 and moved to Cape Town. He led the Democratic Alliance from its inception in 2000

until his retirement from leadership in 2007. Prior to that, he led the Democratic Party from 1994. He is South Africa's longest-serving leader of the opposition since the advent of democracy in 1994.

Leon's contribution extends beyond his political career. After stepping down as party leader, he served as South African Ambassador to Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay from 2009 to 2012, representing the country with distinction on the international stage. His appointment by an ANC government demonstrated his reputation for integrity that transcended party lines.

Leon has remained an influential voice in public life as he continues to advocate for constitutional values, the rule of law, and effective governance. His analysis is valued across the political spectrum, and in 2025 he played a key role in the negotiations for the

Tony Leon

**A POLITICIAN,
DIPLOMAT,
AUTHOR,
AND PUBLIC
INTELLECTUAL**

formation of South Africa's first Government of National Unity.

Tony Leon's commitment to building and strengthening South Africa's democratic institutions, his principled leadership during a critical period in the nation's development, and his ongoing contribution to public discourse make him highly deserving of Cape Town's Civic Honours.

The Mayor's *Medal*



THE MAYOR'S MEDAL

Recreation and Sport



BABALWA LATSHA

Babalwa Latsha has broken barriers and blazed trails as one of South Africa's most accomplished female rugby players, becoming a powerful symbol of excellence and an inspiration for young women across Cape Town and beyond.

Born in Khayelitsha in 1994, Latsha's journey to international rugby stardom has been remarkable. Growing up in one of Cape Town's largest townships, she first encountered rugby as a teenager at Heathfield High School, where her natural athleticism and determination quickly became apparent.

Despite significant socio-economic obstacles and gender stereotypes, she pursued the sport with unwavering dedication.

In 2020, Latsha made history as the first African woman to become a professional rugby player when she signed with Spanish club, SD Eibar Femenino. This ground-breaking achievement represented not only her personal triumph but also opened doors for women's rugby across the continent.

Her Spanish stint was followed by a contract with English Premiership side, Harlequins, where she soon became an integral part of a powerful Quins pack.

As captain of the Springbok Women's team, she has led with distinction on the international stage, competing in the Rugby World Cup and numerous test matches. She continues to give back to her community through regular coaching at primary schools and assistance with talent spotting.

**> ONE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S
MOST ACCOMPLISHED
FEMALE RUGBY PLAYERS**

THE MAYOR'S MEDAL

Cultural Affairs



BASIL APOLLIS

Basil Appollis is a multi-award-winning actor, director, producer and writer with over 200 productions to his name since 1984, across stage, television, film, and music.

A graduate of UCT, where he obtained a Performers Diploma in Speech and Drama, the British Theatre Association where he completed a director's course, and also the Mauritz Binger Film Institute, Basil has left an indelible mark on South African theatre.

He has directed iconic productions, including *Kaapse Stories*, *Brother Love*, *This is My Life*,

and *The Taliep Petersen Tribute*. His work has earned him prestigious accolades, including the Kanna, Fleur Du Cap and Fiesta Awards, as well as various SAFTA nominations.

Appollis's talent extends beyond the stage, having co-authored and acted in *My Word! Redesigning Buckingham Palace* at the Baxter Theatre, as well as internationally. He also contributed to television as writer, director and actor in prime-time satire and sitcoms such as *Madam & Eve*, as well as directing the documentary, *Karin Kortje, Idol of Note*.

In recent years, Basil has continued his impactful work with productions like *Krotoa: Eva van de Kaap* and *Dance of the La Gumas*, proving his enduring influence in both drama and dance.

> A MULTI-AWARD-WINNING ACTOR, DIRECTOR, PRODUCER AND WRITER

THE MAYOR'S MEDAL

Recreation and Sport



BERNARD HARTZE (posthumously)

Bernard 'Dancing Shoes' Hartzze was a South African football legend whose dazzling skills and resilience against Apartheid-era restrictions left an enduring legacy. Born in Marabastad, Pretoria, Hartzze's mixed heritage classified him as coloured under the racial policies of the time, shaping his life and career.

At age 14, Hartzze helped establish Mamelodi Sundowns with schoolboy friends, and signed his first professional contract at 15. Apartheid laws limited his opportunities, barring him from the whites-only National Football League.

Joining Orlando Pirates in 1967, Hartzze thrived in the non-racial club, scoring seven goals on debut. However, Apartheid laws forced him out of the reclassified Bantu-only National Professional Soccer League, pushing him to the Federation Professional League for coloured and Indian players.

It was at this time that he moved to Cape Town, joining Cape Town Spurs, where his brilliance shone as a player-coach with a phenomenal goal scoring record. Here, he was recognised with the South Africa Sportsman of the Year award.

In 1974, Hartzze signed with the Tampa Bay Rowdies in the USA before returning to South Africa where he played for Hellenic, and also coached teams like Mother City FC and WP United. He received accolades from the Western Cape Government, the Confederation of African Football and Cape Town City FC.

Hartzze passed away in 2024 at the age of 73 and was widely lauded as one of South Africa's greatest football stars.

> A SOUTH AFRICAN FOOTBALL LEGEND

THE MAYOR'S MEDAL

Economic Affairs



PROF. BRIAN KANTOR

Professor Brian Kantor has made extraordinary contributions to South Africa's economic development, academic excellence, and public discourse through his distinguished career as an economist, educator, and public intellectual.

Kantor has maintained a lifelong connection to Cape Town while achieving international recognition for his economic insights. As Professor of Economics at the University of Cape Town, he shaped generations of South African business leaders, policy makers, and academics through his rigorous teaching and mentorship.

What distinguishes Kantor is his remarkable ability to bridge academic economics and practical application. As chief economist and strategist at Investec, he translated complex economic principles into actionable intelligence that guided investment decisions and business strategies, creating substantial economic value.

His economic analyses, published regularly in leading business publications, have provided clarity on complex issues facing South Africa's economy, and his book "How to Think and Reason in Macroeconomics" has become an essential resource for anyone seeking to understand South Africa's economic challenges.

As a public intellectual, Kantor has enriched South Africa's civic discourse through thoughtful contributions on economic and social issues. His ability to communicate economic concepts effectively has made him a valuable voice in discussions about the country's economic future.

Through his dual roles in academia and the investment sector, Kantor has demonstrated how economic theory can inform practical decision-making to address real-world challenges.

➤ **AN ECONOMIST,
EDUCATOR, AND PUBLIC
INTELLECTUAL**

THE MAYOR'S MEDAL

Community Affairs



PROF. BRIAN O'CONNELL *(posthumously)*

Professor Brian O'Connell is remembered and honoured for his visionary leadership at the University of the Western Cape (UWC), and the crucial role he played in strengthening the university at a time of great uncertainty.

As Rector and Vice-Chancellor of UWC from 2001 to 2014, Professor O'Connell's is recognised for his efforts in setting the university on an upwards trajectory during a period when many predicted the end of the historic institution. He sought to maintain the university's independence and autonomy,

while also enhancing its academic standing in South Africa and the world.

Through key infrastructure projects and decisive institutional leadership, Professor O'Connell made UWC visible in the public domain and reignited its place as a leading university on the global stage.

He was a visionary and transformative leader, and was well known for his passionate and ongoing commitment to social justice and building hope for future generations. Throughout his career he was engaged not only with the UWC but also with communities at large across Cape Town.

The City of Cape Town is indebted to Professor Brian O'Connell and his family for the leadership he displayed throughout his tenure at the University of the Western Cape – work which continues to inspire future generations.

> VISIONARY LEADERSHIP AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WESTERN CAPE

THE MAYOR'S MEDAL

Cultural Affairs



DENISE NEWMAN

Denise Newman is one of Cape Town's most accomplished and versatile performing artists, whose four-decade theatre and TV career has enriched the city's cultural landscape while breaking barriers and creating opportunities for others to follow.

Newman grew up in Athlone, Cape Town, and graduated from Athlone High School in 1972, before completing a post-matric learnership in the United States. After returning to South Africa to study social work, she found a job at the housing office in Hanover Park. This is where she discovered the Space

Theatre, the only theatre in the country at the time to have mixed casts and audiences without a permit.

Newman swept the floors and did the actors' laundry before becoming a stage manager in 1979. Her first major acting role was in *Political Joke*, directed by Jean Naidoo and written by Peter Snyders.

She made her film debut in 1982 in *City Lovers* and in 1985 she starred in *Two Weeks in Paradise*. Since then, Newman has moved fluidly between stage and screen, delivering memorable performances in landmark South African films including *Shirley Adams*, *Material*, and the internationally acclaimed *Four Corners*. TV viewers will also know her as Bridgette October in the soap opera *Suidooster* and Daleen Meintjies in *7de Laan*.

For her exceptional contribution to Cape Town's performing arts over four decades, Denise Newman is highly deserving of the Mayor's Medal.

**> ONE OF CAPE TOWN'S
MOST ACCOMPLISHED
AND VERSATILE
PERFORMING ARTISTS**

THE MAYOR'S MEDAL

Cultural Affairs



EMO ADAMS

Singer, actor and producer Emo Adams has risen from humble beginnings in Mitchells Plain to become one of Cape Town's most beloved entertainers and cultural ambassadors.

Born in 1978 and growing up in a musical family, his exceptional singing talent was evident from a young age. At just 9 years old, he was discovered by the renowned David Kramer and Taliep Petersen, who cast him as the homeless street child, Broe'tjie, in District 6: The Musical.

He would spend his teenage years singing in

Cape Malay choirs and performing in festivals, and in 1996 he and his brother formed a five-member boy band called JAG, which performed shows across the country.

In 2001, he would again star in District 6: The Musical, this time playing the role of the glamorous drag queen. He also starred in the stage production, Kat & the Kings, which toured extensively in Germany. In 2007 he released his debut album, Tall, Dark & Afrikaans.

His extensive television work includes a lead role in the kykNET series, Alie Barber, as well as frequent appearances on shows like Noot vir Noot and Liriekerai. He also hosted his own show, Jou Show met Emo, as well as the talent scouting competition Maak My Famous.

Adams' impressive and multi-faceted career of nearly three decades makes him an icon in the Cape Town and South African arts scene.

**> ONE OF CAPE TOWN'S
MOST BELOVED
ENTERTAINERS AND
CULTURAL AMBASSADORS**

THE MAYOR'S MEDAL

Conservation



FRIENDS OF THE LIESBEEK

For over three decades, Friends of the Liesbeek has demonstrated exceptional commitment to environmental conservation, transforming one of Cape Town's most historically significant waterways from a degraded urban stream into a thriving ecological corridor.

Since their founding in 1991, this volunteer organisation has evolved from conducting simple river walks and clean-ups to becoming an influential force in urban conservation.

What distinguishes the Friends of the Liesbeek

is their remarkable ability to balance independent advocacy with collaborative governance, creating a unique and effective partnership with the City of Cape Town while maintaining their integrity as citizen conservationists.

The Liesbeek Maintenance Project stands as their crowning achievement – a large-scale rehabilitation initiative that has successfully restored indigenous vegetation, improved water quality, and reintroduced diverse wildlife to the river ecosystem. These environmental gains have been accomplished while simultaneously creating valuable skills development opportunities for local community members.

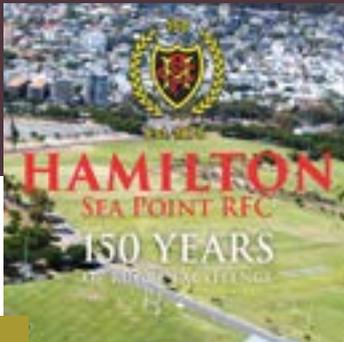
Beyond physical restoration work, the Friends of the Liesbeek has fundamentally changed how Capetonians relate to urban waterways. Through educational programmes, guided walks and regular volunteer events, they have cultivated a community of environmentally conscious citizens who understand the value of preserving natural spaces within the urban landscape.

Friends of the Liesbeek embodies the spirit of conservation that the Mayor's Medal seeks to honour – passionate dedication, proven impact and creating an environmental legacy that will benefit Cape Town for generations to come.

➤ **EXCEPTIONAL
COMMITMENT TO
ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION**

THE MAYOR'S MEDAL

Recreation and Sport



HAMILTON SEA POINT RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Hamilton Sea Point Rugby Football Club, affectionately known as Hammies, is South Africa's oldest rugby club, founded on 14 March 1875 in Cape Town. Initially playing both association football and rugby, Hamiltons adopted rugby exclusively from 1878, firmly rooting itself in the code's early local development.

Based at Green Point Common since its founding, the club has long stood as a central figure in Cape Town's passionate sporting community. In its early years, Hamiltons played matches against prominent local teams,

including Villagers and SACS, and helped lay the foundation for organised rugby in the Western Cape and South Africa.

A pivotal moment in the club's history came in 1910, when Hamiltons merged with Sea Point Rugby Football Club. From this union emerged Hamilton Sea Point RFC, strengthening its presence in Cape Town's rugby scene.

By 1914, the club's identity was cemented with the adoption of its distinctive red, black, and yellow hooped jersey. The club delivered many provincial and international players, amongst them former Springbok captain, Bennie Osler, the legendary Springbok lock, Jan Pickard, and flyhalf Gerry Brand.

Throughout its history, Hamiltons has been associated with both tradition and innovation, reflecting a proud legacy that spans generations. Celebrating 150 years of existence in 2025, Hammies remains a symbol of sporting excellence and heritage through its deep roots, its strong community presence and its immense contribution to the development of rugby in South Africa.

> A SYMBOL OF SPORTING EXCELLENCE

THE MAYOR'S MEDAL

Conservation



DR. JOAN PARKER

Over the past two decades, Dr. Joan Parker has been the driving force behind the transformation of the Upper Liesbeek River Garden (ULRG) from a neglected, overgrown area into a thriving urban green space.

As the volunteer coordinator since the project's inception in 2004, Dr. Parker has demonstrated unwavering commitment to environmental rehabilitation and community engagement. Her leadership on the project exemplifies the impact of dedicated volunteerism in urban conservation.

The ULRG, once a dumping ground plagued by crime, has been revitalised under Dr. Parker's guidance. Her efforts began with organising local residents to clear invasive vegetation and restore the natural landscape. Through persistent fundraising and community involvement she facilitated the employment of dedicated staff, including a gardener and a horticulturist, to maintain and enhance the garden.

Dr. Parker's vision extended beyond environmental restoration; she aimed to create a safe, accessible space for the community to connect with nature. Her work has not only improved local biodiversity but also fostered a sense of communal pride and stewardship. The garden now serves as a model for urban ecological projects, inspiring similar initiatives along the Liesbeek River.

Dr. Parker's enduring dedication to the ULRG embodies the spirit of the Mayoral Medal for Conservation. Her work has not only transformed a physical space but also galvanised a community towards environmental consciousness and action.

> THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE UPPER LIESBEEK RIVER GARDEN

THE MAYOR'S MEDAL

Cultural Affairs



LOUIS HEYNEMAN

Louis Heyneman has dedicated his life to the advancement of music, arts and journalism in Cape Town and beyond. With degrees in music and journalism from the University of Stellenbosch and a postgraduate scholarship to the prestigious University of Columbia-Missouri, Heyneman's career has been marked by excellence in both artistic and academic realms.

Following his early work as a music and art journalist at Die Burger, he became the deputy editor of De Kat magazine in 1987. In 1991 he was appointed the Director of the

Oude Meester Foundation for the Performing Arts where, under his guidance, more than 30 recordings of prominent South African composers and performers have been published.

Since 2000, Heyneman has served as the Chief Executive of the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra (CPO), transforming it into the leading and most active orchestra in South Africa with performances across diverse venues, from elite concert halls to underserved communities such as Ocean View, Grassy Park, and Khayelitsha.

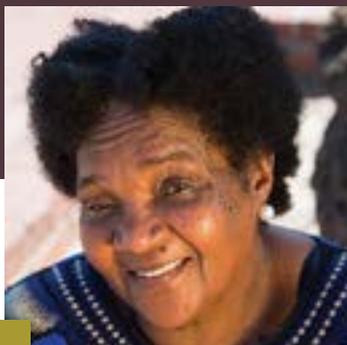
His stewardship has ensured that the CPO serves not only as a beacon of artistic excellence but also as a vehicle for education and community upliftment. Heyneman has overseen initiatives that support music education, providing instruments, training, and mentorship to young musicians, many from economically marginalised backgrounds.

As he prepares to retire after 25 years in December 2025, Louis Heyneman leaves behind a legacy of cultural enrichment, social impact, and artistic excellence.

➤ **DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO THE
ADVANCEMENT OF MUSIC,
ARTS AND JOURNALISM IN
CAPE TOWN AND BEYOND**

THE MAYOR'S MEDAL

Cultural Affairs



SYLVIA MDUNYELWA *(posthumously)*

Born in 1948 in Langa, Sylvia Ncediwe Mdunyelwa, affectionately known as 'Mama Kaap', stands as a monumental figure in South African jazz whose immense contribution to music and community development spans decades.

Beginning her illustrious career in the 1970s with the legendary jazz bassist, Victor Ntoni's sextet, she has performed alongside Cape Town's most renowned musicians including the Ngcukana brothers, Winston Mankunku, and Merton Barrow.

Mdunyelwa's dedication extends beyond performance to nurturing young talent. In 1990, she led aspiring musicians to the International Children's Jazz Festival in Canada, demonstrating her commitment to cultural exchange and youth development. Her academic pursuit at UCLA further enhanced her musical and theatrical expertise.

Mdunyelwa's international recognition includes performances at the prestigious Berlin Festival in 1994 and participation in a cultural exchange programme in Bogota, Colombia in 1997. Her recording achievements include her live album, African Diva in 1998 and her highly acclaimed Blue Note studio debut, Ingoma, in 2000.

Her influence extends to broadcasting as the presenter of Voice of Jazz on P4 Radio and through her board membership with Fine Music Radio. The Golden Guachupe Lifetime Achievement Award presented to her in 2013 acknowledges her significant contribution to community work in Cape Town.

Mdunyelwa dedicated her life to elevating South African jazz on the global stage while simultaneously investing in her community's cultural future. She passed away on 25 August 2023 at the age of 74.

➤ MONUMENTAL FIGURE IN SOUTH AFRICAN JAZZ

THE MAYOR'S MEDAL

Social Affairs and Services



THE HAVEN NIGHT SHELTER

The Haven Night Shelter has been a beacon of hope and dignity for Cape Town's homeless community for over forty years, providing far more than just overnight accommodation.

Since its establishment in 1978, it has evolved into a holistic organisation that offers pathways out of homelessness through rehabilitation, social welfare services and skills development programmes.

What began as a single shelter in Napier Street, Cape Town, has grown into a network of 15 shelters across the Western Cape, with

11 facilities in the Cape Town metropolitan area providing services to many of Cape Town's homeless residents. The Haven's mission extends far beyond providing essential services; it aims to reintegrate clients into society by addressing the root causes of homelessness.

The Haven operates on a holistic model that begins with meeting immediate needs – shelter, food, clothing, ablution facilities – before progressing to social welfare services that help clients rebuild their lives.

Professional social workers at each facility conduct assessments and develop individual development plans for clients, connecting them with appropriate support services including substance abuse rehabilitation, mental health care, family reunification, and assistance with obtaining identification documents and social grants.

The Haven works closely with the City of Cape Town, provincial government departments, and numerous corporate and individual donors to fulfil its mission. Their work represents the best of Cape Town's spirit of community care and social responsibility.

> A BEACON OF HOPE AND DIGNITY

THE MAYOR'S MEDAL

Extraordinary Bravery



THE MOUNTAIN CLUB OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Mountain Club of South Africa (MCSA) has provided longstanding, voluntary service to the people of Cape Town through its highly skilled Search and Rescue team for more than 130 years.

With roots dating back to the Club's founding in 1891, the MCSA has always placed public safety at the heart of its mission. The Club's Cape Town Section comprises approximately 70 trained volunteers who respond to emergencies in remote, mountainous and wilderness areas, often under extreme conditions where lives are at stake.

The Cape Town Search and Rescue team maintains expertise in technical rope rescue, wilderness medicine, helicopter operations, and high-angle environments. The team trains rigorously year-round and works in close coordination with agencies such as the South African Air Force, Metro Emergency Medical Services, the SAPS, and other rescue partners.

Their services are provided entirely free of charge, demonstrating extraordinary civic commitment.

Recognised nationally as part of the Department of Transport's Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre, the Cape Town team regularly leads or supports rescue efforts involving lost, injured or deceased individuals in hard-to-reach areas. Their actions reflect not only bravery but also professionalism, selflessness and high standards of volunteerism.

The MSRC plays critical role in saving lives and ensuring public safety in some of Cape Town's most challenging environments, embodying the highest ideals of selfless community service.

**> LONGSTANDING,
VOLUNTARY SERVICE TO
THE PEOPLE OF CAPE TOWN**

THE MAYOR'S MEDAL

Social Affairs and Services



THE SERVICE DINING ROOMS

Founded in 1935 during the Great Depression, the Service Dining Rooms (SDR) this year celebrates its 90th year of continuous service to Cape Town's most vulnerable residents by providing nutritious, cooked meals from its premises in Canterbury Street.

SDR stands apart from traditional soup kitchens by offering balanced, plated midday meals, essential ablution facilities, and crisis referrals to partner NGOs. Its core activities focus on poverty relief and service to those in distress – work that has remained remarkably consistent and relevant across almost a

century of political, social, and economic change.

Currently, SDR serves approximately 300 meals each weekday to people who come to its door, while also preparing meals and food parcels for off-site beneficiaries such as Mosadie Gives Back, Solomon's Haven, Youth Solutions, and others.

Despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, SDR adapted quickly, shifting from sit-down service to safe takeaway distribution without disrupting its support to the community.

Managed by a small team of five staff members and an operations manager, with oversight from a five-member volunteer board, SDR exemplifies financial prudence and operational resilience.

It relies on a mix of food donations and purchased staples, and receives strong backing from enthusiastic volunteers – including learners, retirees, students, and international visitors – who support meal preparation, distribution and logistics.

The Service Dining Rooms has shown unwavering commitment and extraordinary longevity, and has a vital, daily impact on the lives of Cape Town's most vulnerable.

**> SERVICE TO CAPE TOWN'S
MOST VULNERABLE
RESIDENTS BY PROVIDING
NUTRITIOUS, COOKED
MEALS**

THE MAYOR'S MEDAL

Conservation



THE TWO OCEANS AQUARIUM

Celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2025, the Two Oceans Aquarium stands as a beacon of marine conservation excellence in Cape Town, having evolved far beyond its original conception as a tourist attraction.

The Aquarium has welcomed over ten million visitors in its three decades of operation. However, its biggest impact has been as a leader in marine research, conservation, rehabilitation and environmental advocacy.

The Aquarium's sea turtle rehabilitation programme stands out as one of its most

significant contributions. Since its inception, this initiative has successfully rehabilitated and released hundreds of endangered sea turtles found stranded or injured along Cape Town's coastline.

Through its education department, the Aquarium reaches over 75,000 students annually through structured learning programmes, as well as outreach programmes that specifically target underserved schools in Cape Town's townships.

In 2018, the Two Oceans Aquarium Foundation was established, formalising the institution's non-profit conservation work. The Foundation has since pioneered marine education through its Marine Sciences curriculum in schools and the innovative Ocean Campus, launched in 2024.

The Aquarium continues to engage the public through its diverse exhibits showcasing South Africa's rich marine biodiversity, from the Kelp Forest to the Save Our Seas Foundation Shark Exhibit.

Through three decades of unwavering dedication to marine conservation, education, and research, the Two Oceans Aquarium has not only created an exceptional facility for public engagement but has actively contributed to protecting Cape Town's precious marine ecosystems for future generations.

> A BEACON OF MARINE CONSERVATION EXCELLENCE

THE MAYOR'S MEDAL

Social Affairs and Services



VICTOR PICK *(posthumously)*

Victor Pick is a name long forgotten in the annals of South African medical history.

Pick was intricately involved in the research and experimental aspects of the cardio thoracic surgical work done at the University of Cape Town by Professor Christiaan Barnard – work that would contribute immensely to the world's first successful heart transplant in 1967 at the neighbouring Groote Schuur Hospital.

Having started as a general cleaner at UCT in the 1940s, Pick became a laboratory assistant

in the early 1950s. When Barnard returned to UCT from America in 1958, the senior assistant in the laboratory was a man affectionately known as 'Big Vic'.

One of the first projects Pick was involved in – under guidance from Barnard – was to assemble the first heart lung machine brought to Africa. This was the beginning of the open-heart surgical programme at UCT that would go on to save thousands of lives in the decades that followed.

By 1962 Pick was managing the research laboratory team. It was this team's job to ensure the laboratory was ready before the experimental work could be done, and he often assisted with animal organ transplants.

When Pick died in 1969, he was just 36 years old. He had worked in the research laboratory for half his life. Pick has never been recognised for his contribution towards one of the seminal moments in global medical history and one of the most significant historical achievements in South African history.

**> INVOLVED IN THE
RESEARCH AND
EXPERIMENTAL ASPECTS OF
THE CARDIO THORACIC
SURGICAL WORK**

THE MAYOR'S MEDAL

Community Affairs



WENDY ACKERMAN

Wendy Ackerman is one of Cape Town's most significant philanthropists and business leaders as Non-Executive Director of Pick n Pay Holdings, whose contributions have transformed numerous lives and institutions across the city.

Her commitment to community service began during her university years when she taught English to black students at night schools and later at the English Academy in Soweto. This would evolve into establishing the Ackerman Family Educational Trust Fund, which provides tertiary education bursaries, and her oversight

of the Pick n Pay Bursary Fund supporting employees' children.

Mrs. Ackerman's pioneering spirit is evident in her advocacy for women in the workplace. In the 1970s, when many corporations were reluctant to promote women to senior positions, she championed recognition of women as career-oriented employees at Pick n Pay, setting a progressive standard for corporate South Africa.

She would go on to establish company-assisted housing schemes for staff in black and coloured communities, such as "Wendyville" in Soweto, and she initiated AIDS Awareness programmes throughout the Pick n Pay Group.

She has been acknowledged by the SA Nature Foundation and WWF (SA) as a Diamond Custodian of Table Mountain, and her cultural contributions include personal support for talented musicians and significant involvement with the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra.

Through her unwavering commitment to education, healthcare, environmental conservation and the arts, Wendy Ackerman's lifetime of service exemplifies the values we celebrate with the Mayor's Medal for Community Affairs.

➤ **ONE OF CAPE TOWN'S
MOST SIGNIFICANT
PHILANTHROPISTS AND
BUSINESS LEADERS**

**Making
progress
possible.
Together.**

