

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Once again the Committee has pleasure in giving account of its stewardship.

Allow me first of all, to pay tribute to my predecessor, Dan Fick and his wife Liz, for their unselfish contribution to the Betty's Bay Ratepayer's Association (BBRA) over a period of ten years, respectively in the position of Chairman and Secretary. The sound foundation that was laid by them, made it easy for me as a newcomer to the village, to take over the reins of the BBRA. I was also fortunate that Adrian de Kock, with excellent financial expertise, stayed on as treasurer and also doubled up in the position of Secretary. Two other members from the previous committee, Richard Starke and Wilna Rademeyer also rendered continuity to the work of the BBRA. To all the members of the committee for the dedication and enthusiasm with which they managed their portfolios in service of the community of Betty's Bay, a word of thanks.

We also owe a debt of gratitude to the members of the BBRA and concerned residents, who generously donated funds for various projects during 2015. Thank you for your loyal support.

We would also like to thank our Ward Counsellor, Lisel Krige, for her assistance and support throughout the year.

Sadly, we had to bid farewell to Avril Nunn, much venerated and admired in the Betty's Bay community, who passed away in February at the age of 91. Amongst all her achievements, she will be remembered for chairing the Betty's Bay Wild flower Society and guiding it's transition to become a branch of the Botanical Society of SA. With her background in the field of chemistry, she made a valuable contribution to the work of the BBRA in the portfolio of water/waste and sanitation. In 2013 she received the Mayor's Award for Excellence. We salute you.

### **COMMITTEE**

The executive committee consisted of the following members:

Chairperson:	Rudi Perold
Vice Chair:	Heine Foot
Treasurer/Secretary:	Adrian de Kock

The committee continued to structure its responsibilities according different portfolios, to address the various challenges facing the ratepayers.

**These portfolios are:**

Water, waste and sanitation: Richard Starke

Sand dune management,

Beaches and amenities: Hilda van der Merwe

Roads and storm water: Wilna Rademeyer

Property planning and development: Rudi Perold  
Martin van Rooyen was co-opted in September 2015.

Fire and emergency services: Although Wendy Tawse was selected in this position, she never took up her duties and eventually resigned.

Safety and Security: Rudi Perold  
Kobus Kirsten co-opted in October 2015.

Crassula Hall: Heine Foot

Whale Coast Development Forum: Heine Foot (representative)  
Rudi Perold (secundus)

Ward 10 Overstrand Municipality: Rudi Perold (representative)

The following members have indicated that they are willing to serve on the committee again:

Rudi Perold  
Heine Foot  
Adrian de Kock (only as treasurer)  
Richard Starke  
Wilna Rademeyer  
Hilda van der Merwe

I appeal to local residents and members of the ratepayers association to avail themselves to serve the community of Betty's Bay on the BBRA Committee. The following positions/portfolios are vacant and need to be filled at our Annual General Meeting:

- Secretary
- Property, planning and development
- Fire and emergency services
- Safety and security

## **THE BUZZ**

The Buzz is the official newsletter of the BBRA. This year we had a change in the position of editor, with Helen George now at the reigns, taking over from Nic Swart. Each month 200 copies are printed and distributed through local businesses and the Betty's Bay Municipal Library. The Buzz can also be accessed on our webpage via a PDF download. Thank you Helen, for a job well done as is evidenced by the many positive comments we have received in respect of the contents and changes made.

## **WEB PAGE**

The new webmaster of the BBRA Web Page is Donn Ingle. Thank you for the many hours that you spend in front of the computer to keep our members informed. Donn made changes to the page, its layout and design. The layout of the new Web Page and user friendliness has received many complements and thumbs up. I appeal to all the ratepayers to visit the Web Page on a regular basis, as this is the way in which we would like to keep you informed. It is not always possible to communicate with each person individually. Members are encouraged to keep on sending photos of our beautiful lifestyle village and surroundings to be posted on the Web.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

The membership currently stands at 399, which includes 8 life members. We are currently the association with the biggest membership in all of Overstrand. All property owners are encouraged to join the association so as to strengthen our call on municipal matters. In paying your rates and taxes to OM, you are not automatically a member of the BBRA. Membership fees are currently R60 per annum. Please contact our treasurer in this regard.

## **MUNICIPAL MATTERS**

The public participation with regards to municipal matters, is done through the ward committee system. The BBRA is represented on Ward 10 committee meetings by the Chair person.

The Draft Budget for 2015/16 was discussed and analysed by the Whale Coast Development Forum (WCDF), of which the BBRA is a member. The Forum was concerned about the high salary Bill of the Municipality's Top Management. From the Budget it is clear that these salaries are not sustainable and have become unaffordable for the taxpayer. One of the effects is an ever decreasing Capital Budget. The Capital Budget of R103,9m for the 2015/16 Financial Year (FY), is 15,4% less when compared to the 2014/15 adjustment budget.

In view of the ever declining Capital Budget, there was concern whether Overstrand Municipality (OM) would be able to replace the existing Capital Infrastructure. The sustainability of the maintenance of these items was also questioned, especially with the limit of R100, 000 per annum to cover the maintenance cost.

The implication for Betty's Bay is that less money will become available each year for Capital Projects and maintenance of infrastructure, such as roads, storm water pipes, boardwalks, etc. As in previous years the BBRA submitted a list of requirements to be considered for the budget within our region. As in previous FY's, this 'wish list' could not be addressed in total due to the financial constraints and pressure on the budget in the new FY. We will thus in future have to prioritise our needs.

With the ever decreasing budget, it is foreseen that in time to come, we as ratepayers, will have to consider a special rate levy in order to address our needs. The establishment of a Centre Improvement District (CID) is however a lengthy process as the necessary laws and by-laws are not in place and 51% of the ratepayers have to approve a special levy by means of a public participation voting process.

The portfolio managers have built solid relationships with the municipal officials and communicate the needs of Betty's Bay and its people on a regular basis. Often there is little reaction, mainly because their hands are also tied due to financial constraints and lack of manpower.

## **SAFETY AND SECURITY**

One of the biggest challenges facing the community of Betty's Bay, is the current crime situation, with an escalation of burglaries.

The safety structures in place in Betty's Bay collapsed at the end of 2014, as the annual general meeting of the Kleinmond Community Policing Forum (KCPF), on which Betty's Bay has representation, was declared unconstitutional. The Bettys Bay Neighbourhood Watch, as you all know, must function under the auspices of the CPF and as a result of the CPF structure collapsing the Betty's Bay NHW also collapsed, although sections of the community continued to act as a watch. A Word of thanks to all for your dedication.

In October this year, the Kleinmond CPF was revived and the BBRA is represented on the committee. This opens the door for a legal Neighbourhood Watch Structure to be re-instated. As Dan Fick was the co-ordinator and is no longer involved and head of the BBN Watch our structure is still not functioning, someone from the community is needed to take up the reigns.

The Betty's Bay Ratepayers Association (BBRA) is currently looking at the viability of a Safety Strategy and a Risk Management Project for the Area. We firmly believe that we need to search for a new innovative approach to our current safety situation, which is not only reactive, but pro-active in the prevention of crime.

We are thus in the process of negotiations with a crime risk management consulting firm, Millennium Management. The first phase of our plan to introduce a risk management plan is underway with a mandate from the majority of members present at a public meeting, with generous donations received from our members and ratepayers. The total amount received is R 27,300-00. The Firm contracted will now do the operational reconnaissance over a period of 3 to 4 weeks. This will be followed by a quotation to the committee for consideration in terms of cost and sustainability.

Betty's Bay is a lifestyle village and the expected outcome of the Safety Strategy is to restore the peaceful lifestyle that we used to have and that was so unique to our way of life, wellbeing and safety as well as increasing our property values.

We need to build a safer community, who are resilient because they are actively involved, organised, share information, resources and effort, are safer and less likely to allow criminal acts, such as drug abuse and gangs to become systemic within the community. We need a holistic approach.

## **FIRE FIGHTING**

Betty's Bay is in the privileged position to have Volunteer Community Fire Fighters. It takes dedication and many hours of training to be a volunteer.

During the fire of February 2015 they played an active role to fight the fires raging through the village, protecting households, along with their professional counterparts. The Counsellor of Ward 10, Lisel Krige, was ever present to support and assist and the people of Betty's Bay supported the fire fighters by providing refreshments.

As a result of the dedication of the Volunteers, a number of residents showed their appreciation by donating funds for the work of the Volunteer Community Fire Fighters of Betty's Bay. As the representative of the volunteers withdrew from the committee early in the year, I had deliberations directly with the Overstrand Municipality Fire Fighting and Disaster Management Division. We are now in the process to allocate funds, according to their needs.

Thank you to the volunteers for their enthusiasm and the support from the community.

## **DUNE MANAGEMENT**

The Dune Interest Group (DIG), under the leadership of Gotlieb van der Merwe, made good progress. Laurie Barwell was appointed as consultant and a Beach Front Management Plan was developed at a cost of R75,000-00, of which the OM has contributed R25,000-00. Donations from the community were deposited in the account of the BBRA and ring fenced for this project. Donations received amounted to R56,650-00, of which the BBRA donated R2,000-00.

The next step in the process in having this plan approved is the Public Participation Phase. The public meeting for the presentation of the Betty's Bay Management Plan will take place on 21 November 2015 at 1600h at the Community Hall in Pringle Bay. The management plan will also be available for viewing on the OM Web Site ([www.overstrand.gov.za](http://www.overstrand.gov.za)).

## **CLOSURE**

The Committee appreciate the contribution of every member of the ratepayers association. Our membership number demonstrates that the people of Betty's Bay would like to be involved in addressing the challenges of our village. Thank you for all the advice, support and constructive criticism via emails and the telephone.

We look forward to take on the challenges ahead and be of service in 2016.

**RUDI PEROLD**  
**November 2015**