

# 2015 RERA Committee Portfolio Reports

## **Chair**

**Eneth Kruger**

The RERA committee put shoulder to the wheel shortly after being elected at the 2014 annual general meeting: on 3 January 2015 it met to assign portfolios and consider the tasks ahead. A strategy session was held on 17 January, where the committee reaffirmed that RERA's purpose was to uphold the interests of all Rooiels ratepayers, underpinned by the Rooiels Vision and bound by local, provincial and national regulations and laws.

At Ward level, we asked that Rooiels' water test results be made available. These are now available on the Rooiels website. Throughout the year, public participation meetings called by Overstrand Municipality were advised of on the Rooiels website and reminders sent out via the Rooiels Community FaceBook profile. Ward 10 minutes are available on the Rooiels website, for your perusal.

Federation of Ratepayers meetings took place in March, June and October. Rooiels' return was welcomed after an absence of some years. At this forum, the ratepayer associations of Rooiels, Pringle Bay, Betty's Bay and Kleinmond, as well as a representative of the Kogelberg Biosphere share information on issues of common interest and/or concern, and where necessary coordinate action. This year agreement was reached that in general, tactical issues are to be addressed through ward committees, and strategic issues through the Whale Coast Development Forum. At its last meeting of the year, the Kogelberg Biosphere representative Edward Molteno invited members to raise alien vegetation clearance problems as the biosphere could help facilitate assistance through its established channels. As a result, the Federation invited the Rooiels Conservancy to join.

In October Rooiels joined the Whale Coast Development Forum. At this a-political forum ratepayers associations and interest groups across the entire Overstrand Municipal region meet to discuss/action overarching issues such as the municipal budget, access to decision-making at municipal level, the flow of information through ward minutes and appropriate tourism development.

RERA registered as an interested party in attempts to resurrect the Hangklip/Kleinmond Community Police Forum. Frank Raymond, Graham McClelland and Pierre Kruger represented Rooiels at the 22 October meeting where a new CPF committee was elected.

## **Secretary**

**Estelle Raymond**

2015 has been a busy and active year with a fully-functioning and enthusiastic RERA Exco of nine members (all elected at the AGM). We tried to bring our practices once again in line with the RERA constitution – stepping in to fill various serious functional and constitutional lapses which had occurred in 2014 and potentially jeopardised the legal standing and participation of RERA in the wider community also placing Rooiels' seat on the ward committee at risk.

During 2015 the Exco met eleven times. At our monthly meetings we discussed issues frankly and openly and decisions were taken on the basis of consensus. Minutes were duly placed on the website. In addition there were three planning sessions under facilitation of Ruth Mattison, looking at the wider issues facing our community. There were also two community gatherings that included our ward councillor. (This brings the total number of meeting to 16 for 2015). Three electronic newsletters were also sent out to all property owners and one Breeze.

**Spatial Planning, Government Liaison, Legal Matters: Frank Raymond**  
**Spatial Planning, Local Government Liaison: Julia Aalbers**

The current status of our area's town planning policies was evaluated following a meeting with Mr Kuchar, Head of Overstrand Town Planning and our Ward Councillor, Mrs Krige. Issues in Rooiels were discussed – including erf 115 and the surrounding private nature reserve within its boundaries, the lack of town planners based at Kleinmond with a specific dedicated knowledge of our area, the Densification policy of the Overstrand Municipality and the Integrated Development Framework. It is to be noted that following this meeting, special arrangements were made to ensure that a senior town planner would be available (as in the past) to the local community at the Kleinmond office every second Friday. It was confirmed that the Densification policy as it currently stands recognizes the need to protect Rooiels with the recommendation that no further subdivision or separate second dwellings be allowed.

Rooiels was represented at the 'Coastal Setback Line' meeting: proposals were made for Rooiels with regard to the environmental and heritage protection available within the Overlay process. Proposals were made about the latter based on the Rooiels Vision and the scientific study report on the Rooiels Estuary by Dr Alan Heydorn.

New town planning developments including the new SPLUMA, and regulations are being monitored. Specific erf development or redevelopment is monitored within Rooiels to ensure that development occurs within the available protective legislation.

**Building Plans, Roads, Firewise**  
**Pierre Kruger**

Throughout the year, plans for new homes and additions were made available by the municipality for comment. The challenge is the short period that Overstrand Municipality allows community organisations to review the plans and if necessary comment on. Most of the plans were standard and in line with regulations, but there were exceptions. The majority of builders also respected regulations pertaining to road reserves and litter, but of course there were a few who appeared to think that rules only apply to others.

Due to municipal budget constraints, infrastructure development in Rooiels verged on a standstill. Maintenance and repairs were however effected. This year, the damaged paved surface at the intersection of Ocean View / Study / Harveya were repaired. Gravel roads were graded just in time for the festive season, and Rooiels now sports a few more speed bumps.

Rooiels' evacuation plan was launched at the October community gathering. Your personal copy is included in the Breeze. The plan was prepared in line with the Overstrand evacuation plan and approved by Emergency Services District Commander, Marlu Rust. Going forward, this plan can be used as guideline in setting up a community-specific emergency plan that, for example, provides for assistance to vulnerable members of the community in times of emergency.

**Security and RESA liaison**  
**Graham McClelland**

Municipal law enforcement and security are two different entities.

**Municipal Law Enforcement**

Municipal Safety Office Emergency Contact No: **028 312 2400**

Municipal law enforcement is managed by the Municipal Law Enforcement office based in Kleinmond. Municipal law enforcement includes Pollution (light, noise & environmental), public nuisance, illegal dumping, beach & village safety, etc. There is a municipal safety response unit with vehicles that are able to respond to all municipal law enforcement issues.

## **Security**

Police contact no: **028 271 8200**

ASK (Pringle Bay) contact no: **072 345 3041**

SAFE (Betty's Bay) contact no: **082 410 7845**

Rooiels falls under Kleinmond Police. The Kleinmond SAPS have one visible policing patrol vehicle for the whole of the Kleinmond/Hangklip area stretching from Arabella to Rooiels. This area has in excess of 6000 houses and a few hundred kilometres of roads. Policing of this area with one visible policing vehicle is hopelessly inadequate and even though many representations to improve the current situation have been made to SAPS, there has been no improvement.

ASK, the dominant armed response company servicing Rooiels currently services Rooiels from Pringle Bay. ASK has one patrol vehicle based in Pringle Bay and services both Pringle Bay and Rooiels with the one patrol vehicle.

SAFE, the second armed response company, is based in Betty's Bay and services Rooiels from Betty's Bay.

As a result of the long distances between Rooiels and the armed response company base stations, alarm response times can take between 5 minutes and 30 minutes depending on where the patrol vehicle is at the time of the alarm, and whether the patrol official is otherwise occupied with another alarm call.

## **Security and crime in Rooiels in 2015**

Rooiels has fortunately experienced no major crime increase during the past year. Crimes during 2015 were mostly opportunist and concentrated on TVs, household electronic items, computers, tablets, cell phones and sometimes outboard motors on boats. Some information about Rooiels crime and criminals:

### **Breaking and Entering**

The modus operandi of the criminal hitting Rooiels appears to begin with a daytime drive through Rooiels or alternatively information gained from building contractors and other daytime service providers driving through Rooiels. Rooiels houses are surveyed by members of these workforces while working on site and opportunities are noted by the criminals.

Information is fed back to a syndicate and the criminals then choose a time – normally late at night (often a windy/noisy night) to be dropped off on the R44 (Clarence Drive) close to Rooiels. The criminals enter Rooiels via the beach, bush tracks or the roads leading off the R44. They appear to know the house(s) they want to hit and go directly to them.

The crime normally takes a few minutes and the speed the crime takes also depends on whether or how quickly the house alarm is triggered.

The items targeted to be stolen are normally not heavy and are easy to carry or hide. The stolen goods are sometimes hidden in adjoining fynbos and collected during the night, or the stolen goods are carried back to the R44 where the criminals and their goods are picked up during the same night.

### **Daytime Theft**

Due to the relaxed holiday atmosphere, some Rooiels holidaymakers relax their sense of security and forget to lock their houses and cars. Certain opportunist criminal elements walking and driving through Rooiels during the day are on the lookout for these easy opportunities and are very quick to slip in to take the cell phones, tablets, computers and anything of value lying around.

### **Criminals Renting**

It is also believed that sometimes a criminal element group rents a house in Rooiels for the high-season holiday. This house is then the base for the criminal group. The criminal 'holidaying' in the house then has the ability, day and night, to perform quick crimes in Rooiels and then disappear back into the rented house. The stolen goods are then loaded the next day and taken out of Rooiels.

Unusual Crime during 2015

One night a group of criminals, presumably with transport, drove through Rooiels and stole 3 or 4 metal flagpoles. They took a grinder/hacksaw and sawed through as much of the pole at its base as required and then pulled it down, quickly loaded the poles onto a vehicle and disappeared. They must have known exactly where to go. Nobody saw them.

### **RESA (Rooiels Security Association)**

The inability of the police and armed response security companies to improve on the hopelessly inadequate security situation in Rooiels resulted in Mark Butler, Diarmuid Baigrie and Graham McClelland forming a non-profit company, Rooiels Security Association (RESA), approximately 18 months ago. Substantial input has been received from Keith Moir, Duncan Hiles, Geoff Harris, Dick Lockley and Wessie van der Westhuisen. With the motto 'Making Rooiels a Safer Place', RESA is endeavouring to galvanise the collective support of all Rooiels house owners and initiate a process wherein a 12- or 24-hour, 7 days-a-week security patrol vehicle and security personnel are permanently based in Rooiels.

RESA has now received a majority 'Yes' vote from Rooiels residents and as such will proceed with negotiating with ASK, the dominant security provider in Rooiels.

The monthly cost to provide the 12- or 24/7 security will be more than is currently being paid to the armed response company, but the final extra monthly amount paid for the improved security is totally dependent on the final number of Rooiels home owners that support the RESA initiative.

For more information regarding the RESA initiative you can contact any one of the following:

Mark Butler 082 784 6754

Diarmuid Baigrie 082 777 7346

Graham McClelland 082 900 7631

Keith Moir 073 170 4969

Wessie van der Westhuisen 082 800 1818

Duncan Hiles 083 229 7748

Geoff Harris 082 964 1721

Dick Lockley 083 454 3964

### **Conservation Matters and Conservancy Liaison**

**Anuta Scholtz**

Collaboration and joint discussion on various points of interest to both REC and RERA has been a wonderful experience this year. We need to work closer together for the best outcomes as the functions of both organisations overlap in so many matters. A big thank you to the 2015 RERA Exco for reviving this cooperative approach. The members at the REC AGM have given the Conservancy the mandate to investigate amalgamation with RERA in 2016 and we look forward to a positive result.

### **Community Engagement**

**Ruth Mattison**

In these very challenging times it is important that we actively seek to build community. When government can no longer do its job effectively for whatever reasons, family, friends, neighbours and community are who we rely on. No-one can survive on their own. In Rooiels it is more critical than ever to support our local organisations. Together we can build a strong community that will help to ensure that we continue to enjoy our safe, friendly and beautiful village long into the future.

Thank you to the many people who contributed their time and energy this year. We have all benefited from your hard work.