

[View this email in your browser](#)

MID June Newsletter



Dear MID Members,

Looking back to where we were this time last year – still in hard lockdown with no idea when we would 'return to normal' – I feel myself breathing a sigh of relief. We have come a long way in 12 months: vaccines are rolling out (albeit too slowly for my liking); the majority of businesses in Muizenberg have survived the Covid crisis, while a handful of new businesses have sprung up; the beachfront is bustling; and life in general seems to be gaining some semblance of normality, very slowly but surely.

MID has also come a long way over the past year. We have a few more committed directors to carry the voluntary load, a fully-fledged CCTV camera system monitored 24/7 that is doing much to reduce crime in the area, a new-ish service centre for people experiencing homelessness in partnership with U-Turn, and we're about to launch our latest project, a budding partnership with FynbosLife.

This newsletter is a brief update of what we've been busy with. Of course there is always much to be improved upon, but I'm cautiously optimistic that the months ahead will bring more good news and, hopefully, a better-than-before normal.

Sincerely,

Peter Corbett
MID Chair

Fynbos Takes Root All Over Muizenberg

Regular vlei walkers will have watched, perhaps in awe, as the fynbos mandala garden next to the False Bay Rendezvous has sprung up over the past few months. It's a wonderful, interactive addition to this much-loved public space, and it's all the work of FynbosLife, a non-profit organisation that aims to 'open doors for people and wildlife through educational fynbos rehabilitation'.



The New Muizenberg School Class 3's doing on-site education at the vleis fynbos mandala. Photo: FynbosLife

MID is therefore very pleased to announce that we have entered into a long-term partnership with FynbosLife. It will include the planting and maintenance of several green areas in Muizenberg, including the gardens on Holland Road, Royal Road, Corner of Atlantic and Beach Roads, Surfer's Corner Circle and the railway area near False Bay College. The project will see alien plants cleared for indigenous strandveld plants that can withstand the windy, salty conditions of Muizenberg.



FynbosLife crew propagating seeds at their Zandvlei-based nursery. Photo: FynbosLife

The planting of sour figs in the Beachfront planter beds has already begun. This is the first step in the long-term plan to bind the soil in preparation for planting sustainable strandveld plants.

MID looks forward to working with FynbosLife to grow Muizenberg's green footprint.

Service Centre Giving A Hand Up, Not A Hand-out

The Muizenberg Service Centre for people experiencing homelessness has been up and running for 3 months. Located at number 5 Killarney Road, the centre is now servicing between 10 and 20 people per day.

Run by U-Turn and financially supported in part by MID, the centre offers people in need two meals a day, clothing and access to skills and rehabilitation programmes to assist them to overcome homelessness.



Residents, visitors and businesses are encouraged to 'give a hand up, not a hand-out' by buying U-Turn vouchers, which people in need can exchange for food and/or clothing at the centre.

Vouchers can currently be bought from: JOON, Epic Print, Sparrow Society, Surfstore Africa and The Wood Shop SA. Alternatively, you can buy vouchers online at <https://homeless.org.za/vouchers/>

Crime Spikes In The 'Berg

As the economic situation worsens, so does the crime situation in Muizenberg and beyond. While MID's service provider GRIT Security maintains regular patrols and monitors the cameras for incidents, residents, visitors and businesses are encouraged to be on alert and report any suspicious behaviour and/or incidents. Please save the below numbers to your phone for quick access:

GRIT: 021 788 8453

GRIT WhatsApp: 060 850 6260

In other news, MID is currently running a trial to test whether a change in allocation of GRIT patrollers will be more effective in terms of response effectiveness. For now, there will be 2 cyclists and one car on patrol during the day and only car patrols at night. All car patrols will have a driver plus an assistant. We will report back on the effectiveness of this change in the next newsletter.

Be On Alert For Crime Hotspots

In particular, the 'Peppermint Palace' building is of serious concern to MID, as it currently hosts a large number of known and suspected criminals. MID is liaising with The City of Cape Town to put pressure on the owners/developers of the property to follow through with their demolition order or, at the very least, adequately secure the building as an interim solution.



The 'Peppermint Palace' building has long been an eyesore and crime hotspot in Muizenberg.

The owners/developers of 'Peppermint Palace' are Salicure Properties. MID members with enquiries as to why the building has been allowed to fall into such a state of disrepair resulting in it becoming a crime hotspot, all with no apparent action being taken by Salicure Properties, are welcome to contact the Newlands-based company direct.

The contact person for 'Peppermint Palace' is Rhys Meredith. Email: Invest@creditsmith.co.za / Phone: 021 659 7040

Other 'hot spots' to be aware of include:

- York Road Parking area
- Beachfront Circle
- False Bay Station Railway Crossing
- The Footbridge

Self-appointed car guards at the beachfront are another issue of concern. While we are highly aware that there are many unemployed people acting as car guards to try to earn an honest living, there are, unfortunately, several others who harass people, while several have been implicated in criminal activity.

MID, with the support of the beachfront business community, is therefore supportive of the City's plan to introduce regulated, paid parking at the beachfront. Please note that the existing car guards will have an option to apply to become an official beachfront car guard, therefore concerns that longstanding Surfer's Corner car guards will lose their income are not currently warranted.

MID Business Spotlight Launches

The new MID website is long overdue but as the content is being done on a voluntary basis, it is therefore unfortunately taking longer than expected. We hope to unveil the new site in the next month or two.

MID Facebook followers will have noticed we have introduced a weekly #MidBizSpotlight, whereby we profile a business in the Muizenberg area. This is being well received and businesses report a surge of interest after they've been profiled. Local businesses need our support during this recovery time, and we urge all residents and locals to help us #supportlocal.

Subscribe	Past Issues	Translate ▼	RSS
-----------	-------------	-------------	-----

#MidBizSpotlight

Our local business in the spotlight this week is a relative newcomer to the beachfront, [The Commons Muizenberg](#)

Located above within the African Surfer backpacker building with awesome views of Surfer's Corner, this hybrid space is live music venue, vinyl and book shop, yoga studio and a vegetarian restaurant all in one.

Follow them for live events coming up, pop by for a game of chess by the fireside, browse collectable books and vinyls and definitely do try the food!

[#shoutout](#) [#localbusiness](#) [#supportlocal](#) [#supportlocal](#) [#supportlocalbusiness](#)
[#supportlocalartists](#) [#supportlocalmusic](#) [#supportlocalartists](#)



If you are a Muizenberg business owner and would like your business showcased, or you have a suggestion of which business should be showcased next, please email communications@mid.org.za

Contacts To Note



Public safety (emergency): GRIT 021-7888453

Public safety (WhatsApp): GRIT 060 850 6260

MID Ops Manager (Non-emergency service issues): ops@mid.org.za

MID Ops Manager (emergencies only): 082 463 1525

MID Chair: chair@mid.org.za



Copyright © 2021 Muizenberg Improvement District, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

