

## 2022 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This year has seen a number of events and decisions which have improved services to Muizenberg owners and residents. It will also mark the final AGM for me. After four years it is time to step down and hand over to a new regime with fresh ideas and initiatives.

Two other long standing Directors, Joanne Hichens and Toby Megaw are also retiring although Toby will remain as an alternate for the Public Safety Director. I particularly wish to thank both of them for their support and hard work over the past few years.

To all the remaining Directors, individually mentioned below, a huge thank you for what you have individually and collectively done for the Muizenberg community over the past year. The MID will certainly be in your good hands in future.

But much of the progress achieved in recent times could not have happened without the inspiringly enthusiastic and tireless energy and effort of Michael Lategan our Operations Manager. Together with Jaqueline doing the administrative work of the MID and the team of cleaners he has ensured that our budget has been well spent.

### STREET CLEANING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

During this year it has become possible to add a fourth cleaner to the team and this has made it feasible to thoroughly clean heavily trafficked streets daily and all others twice weekly. Many compliments have been given about the cleanliness of our streets and the freedom from litter. Unfortunately, despite regular requests to Council, getting infrastructure faults repaired has not always led to prompt action. But Michael uses his contacts in Council to improve delivery where possible. This can be a thankless task.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

The Board has been fortunate to be able to co-opt Wayne Turner early in the year as Director Public Safety. Wayne, like Michael, is a volunteer Council Law Enforcement officer. Together you will sometimes see them out and about in full uniform working with the Mountain Men or dealing with problems on the streets themselves. They constantly monitor the patroller performance and meet frequently with the operations management at Mountain Men to discuss service levels.

Very recently the MID has invested in a state of the art cellular based radio communication system between the Mountain Men control room and the patrollers. This not only allows rapid two way communication but allows the movement of the patrollers to be tracked in real-time on a monitor in the control room. This will greatly improve management of the patrollers and lead to greater effectiveness.

Petty crime is an ongoing problem in the MID as it is everywhere. This has worsened over the past few years given the rise in unemployment and poverty. We do our best with limited resources, together with all the law enforcement agencies, to reduce incidents as much as possible. But we also

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need the help of the public to be vigilant, street wise and to immediately report suspicious persons to the 24/7 Mountain Men control room via the dedicated WhatsApp line 0609927406. A patrol will be there within minutes.

## GREENING

Clair Timlin is our Portfolio Director responsible for upkeep of a number of green gardens within the MID area and beachfront. This year she has overseen the planting of some 1500 indigenous plants which, together with a further 2500 planted by Council, will, when fully grown, add to the attractiveness of the beach area in particular. Together with the help of Michael and a part time gardener Clair has made an important contribution to the appearance of Muizenberg.

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

For the past year MID has made a financial contribution to the running costs of the service centre run by U-turn in Killarney Road. We have always seen this as a stop gap whilst awaiting the allocation of land by the Council for a safe space also incorporating the service centre. The good news is that finally Council have offered MID the vacant parking area land in Sidmouth Road. The process of now entering into a formal contract with Council, getting plans passed, and consulting with the public etc, will take some time but at least we now can see light at the end of the tunnel and can begin to develop a meaningful programme. For this progress, the community should thank the new Mayor, Geordin Hill-Lewis, who has prioritised provision for homeless persons, and Richard Bolland, MID Portfolio Director Social Development who has pushed tirelessly to get an answer from the Council. The MID fortunately has available capital of about R2 million which we hope will fund the construction of the safe space. Once a firm proposal together with costs is ready, members will be informed and comments sought.

## BEACH FRONT DEVELOPMENT

Mike Romyn owns several properties in the beachfront area, lives in one of them and runs his business from another. So he is well placed to monitor the precinct and to keep the rest of the Board well informed about what is happening there. He has also been elected as a member of the Ward Committee for Ward 64. Two recent issues have been extensively discussed by the Board and although they are not strictly our responsibility the Board monitor them closely. First has been the restoration of the beach huts at Surfers Corner, the second the plans for the refurbishment of the infrastructure between Surfers Corner and the Pavilion.

## FINANCE

The Annual Financial Statements show that the MID is in a sound financial position. Under the close scrutiny of Mark Cramer our Portfolio Director of Finance the Board has been exemplary in its oversight role of how our R2.4 million income is spent. Every cent has been used effectively on services with value for money always paramount.

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Finally, from all of us at the MID, Directors and staff, we wish members, owners, businesses, and residents a happy and safe festive season.

From myself I want to say that it has been a privilege to serve as Chair of the MID for the last four years and it is now time to handover to others. Thank you all for supporting me and the Board during that time.

Peter Corbett  
MID Chair