



LEISURE ISLE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

LIRA COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2025

OVERVIEW FROM THE CHAIR

2025 has been another great year for LIRA and Leisure Isle. This Committee Report gives highlights of the many activities we have undertaken over the past year.

I am pleased to report that LIRA is in good shape and is fulfilling its objectives. These are to ensure that the environmental heritage of Leisure Isle is maintained; to liaise with the Municipality and other authorities to ensure appropriate levels of service; and to manage a cost-effective security system for the protection of residents.

Your committee accepts that it can't satisfy everyone all the time. We welcome your ideas and concerns. Please contact LIRA or a committee member directly, as this is so much more positive than communicating via the Island WhatsApp group.

LIRA has attracted five new committee members this year, bringing the total to eleven. Two plan to retire soon. Craig Clarke, who drove the security portfolio for two years, has stepped down from the committee. Craig initiated engagements with SAPS, the Knysna Community Police Forum, and with the Community in Blue, who all supported Allsound during the Festive Season last year. This successful initiative has been expanded this year. Thank you for your dedicated service, Craig.

LIRA's workload is shared by only a few. We have experienced policy advisors on our committee, but we need new members to take responsibility for our

various portfolios. The work is interesting and rewarding. Try it, and judge for yourself.

And thank you to all who have supported and assisted LIRA throughout 2025. We look forward to seeing you at the LIRA AGM.

MEMBERSHIP

This year we have put a big effort into encouraging all Island property owners, residents, clubs and businesses to become members of LIRA. Our membership currently stands at a high level of approximately 78%. Strong membership numbers keep levies low, result in increased income for LIRA's activities, and give us greater credibility in our engagements with the authorities.

Membership is voluntary. A few ask to join, but some need to be convinced that membership is in their best interest. Some refuse despite our best efforts. Fortunately, our Constitution allows membership levies to be flexible, so no-one is excluded on account of non-affordability. And many of you have generously made additional payments towards project costs not in the budget.

Please assist LIRA by encouraging your friends who are not yet members to join. Or arrange for me to meet them. If you need assistance in identifying non-members, please contact me. Many members have been recruited in this way.

We welcome all those who have joined us as new members this year, and thank existing members for their continued support.

COMMUNICATION

We keep our members informed through emailed LIRA Newsletters and notices, and through posts on our LIRA News WhatsApp group. If you would like to receive LIRA communications, or want someone to be added to our lists, please let us know.

Our refreshed LIRA Website was launched earlier this year, and it features our new logo, with new content and pics supplied by our members. It also has an archive of past LIRA Newsletters, AGM minutes and LIRA Budgets.

We have two email addresses: info@leisureisleknysna.co.za for general matters, and accounts@leisureisleknysna.co.za for financial matters. The contact details for our committee members are on our Website and Newsletters, and we welcome your calls.

FINANCES

Financial Results for 2025

The audited Annual Financial Results for 2025 are included in the AGM information pack, and will be tabled at the AGM. These can be summarized as follows:

- Revenue for the year, from levies and donations, was R2 298 220.
- Operating expenditure was R2 381 617. Major items were security (R1 838 138), garden maintenance (R113 070), administration and accounting (R101 164), and a Steenbok Reserve contribution (R78 000).
- After taking into account depreciation, interest and tax, we finished the year with a deficit of R11 720.
- Our Total Owners' Funds and Reserves now stand at R479 313.

Membership Levies

The 2026 membership levies were announced in our October Newsletter, and became effective from 1 November. They will be tabled for ratification at the AGM. The levies are based on the budgeted expenditure for the year, and the estimated membership levels. The proposed levies for 2026 are:

- Monthly-paid levies will be R625pm.
- Annual levies will be R7 500.

We are no longer offering an early-payment discount on levies, as this led to bookkeeping difficulties, with only a limited financial benefit. The Constitution allows for reduced levies for those who require this, and the Chair should be approached if you wish to pursue this.

Budget for 2025

The proposed Budget for 2026 was also circulated to members for their comments and inputs in October, and is included in the AGM pack. Ratification by members of the Budget for 2025 is required at the AGM. Details of the 2026 Budget are:

- Income from levies is R2 422 500, based on paid membership of 75%.
- Expenditure is R2 461 083. Of this, security accounts for R1 962 608, which includes R234 900 for season security. Garden maintenance (R133 800); Infrastructure maintenance which includes a provision for seawall repairs (R130 200); and Administration (R129 500) are major items of expenditure.
- The planned operating surplus is R3 417, after interest, depreciation and tax.

Pastel

This year we have employed a professional bookkeeper to handle our accounting and manage invoicing and statements. We are currently upgrading our systems, for implementation in the new year.

SECURITY

Island Security Arrangements

LIRA's security arrangements have once again been effective during 2025. Our LIRA Security Sub-Committee has met regularly, and made recommendations on the security budget, camera installations, and Festive Season security arrangements. We also hold a monthly Operations Meeting with Allsound, where we review and improve security matters.

Our Allsound contract includes the following:

- Six Island security guards, with a combined 100 years of experience on Leisure Isle.
- 24/7 Entrance Guards, stationed at the Guardhouse, who monitor all pedestrians and vehicles entering and leaving the Island.
- 24/7 Response Guards with a dedicated Allsound vehicle. Vehicle and foot patrols are done frequently.
- CCTV camera surveillance, which includes a license plate recognition camera, entrance cameras, cameras on vulnerable perimeters, at Greenhole, and in other areas along the waterfront. Provision has been made for another nine cameras to be installed next year, and plans are in place for further cameras to be installed when required.
- A 24/7 Rapid Response service is available to all residents, with back-up tactical support when needed. Call the Allsound Control Room, on 044 382 5589, if you have any security concerns, or require any other assistance - police, fire brigade, ambulance, etc. Keep the number handy - we pride ourselves on being able to have an Allsound Response Officer at your home within minutes.

There were five burglaries reported this year, and eleven reports of theft of property. Most of these were of a relatively minor and opportunistic nature, but there was one burglary by the notorious Barefoot Burglar, who was caught by Allsound after a camera alert, and two break-ins at unoccupied homes.

Please take care to secure your property. LIRA provides security in the public areas of the Island, but it is your responsibility to look after your homes and property.

LIRA's 2025 Festive Season Plan

We made an early start this year. The objective is to ensure that the busy holiday period on the Island is safe and enjoyable for all. We prepared a LIRA Festive Season Plan, which we distributed widely to the security authorities and all stakeholders, and which is currently being implemented.

We have had numerous engagements with the Municipality's Law Enforcement and Traffic officials, with the SA Police Services, and with the Knysna Community Police Forum. We hosted a well-attended Festive Season Launch Function at Greenhole, where our Councillor, the Speaker, the SAPS Sector Commander, and the Chair of the CPF all confirmed their support for our plans. Our focus is on Zero Tolerance of lawlessness - particularly with respect to the by-laws dealing with alcohol usage in public areas, and the anti-social behavior and dangerous driving that results. The responsibility for enforcing these by-laws rests with the Municipality, and we are making a strong effort to see that they meet this responsibility.

We have made sure that all the beachfront facilities - regulatory signage, picnic shelters, bins, toilets, etc are ready for the holiday-makers. Overgrown verges and bushy areas have been trimmed back to improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety, and improve visibility.

We are deploying Community-in-Blue patrollers over an extended period, as was agreed to at the previous AGM. We are also providing additional Allsound patrollers over the school holiday period. And although their enforcement authority is limited by legislation, they play an important role in assisting KM Law Enforcement and the SAPS, and they provide a visible uniformed presence to reassure residents and visitors.

Guards' Xmas Gratuities

We have a team of experienced and committed Allsound guards, dedicated to Leisure Isle. They look after us day and night. In addition to their vital contribution to our safety, they assist residents and visitors in many different ways. Please show your gratitude by donating to the annual Guards' Xmas Gratuities.

Cash donations can be made at the AGM, or at Sotheby's office, and EFT payments can

be made to the LIRA account: Bank: FNB, account name: Leisure Isle Residents' Association, account number: 6309 313 0862, reference: 'Guards'.

LIRA SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Our Social Committee has once again had a busy year, bringing Islanders together and building community spirit. Please be in touch if you would like to join us!

A well-attended 'Boat Club Bash' was held in January. A magical 'Harvest Table' dinner was hosted at Lindy's, with candles and fairy lights under the huge fig trees. We had a lovely 'Barefoot Beach Walk' along the Island front in March, ending with delicious coffee and croissants! In April an initiative to get Islanders walking and talking was started, called 'Walking Wednesdays'. 'Christmas in July' was an outstanding event hosted at Leisure Isle Lodge. The 'Friends in Deed' initiative to assist Islanders who may be needing help has been very quiet this year - which is a blessing.

The highlight of the year was the 'LIRA Social Evening' held in Kings Park on the evening before the Leisure Isle Festival. It was a fabulous evening with food, drinks and music, attended by 220 Islanders.

STEENBOK NATURE RESERVE

Steenbok Reserve, which is jointly managed by LIRA, the Municipality, SANParks, and the Friends of Steenbok Trust, has had another great year, and continues to be a favorite place where residents and visitors can enjoy the peace and beauty of this wonderful Island asset.

The Reserve's audited financial results for 2024/25 are very satisfactory. Income was R270 292, of which some R128 600 was contributed by members of the Friends of Steenbok Trust, and R131 414 from LIRA and Municipal grants. The year ended with a surplus of R78 170.

The 2026 SNR Management Plan and Budget have been approved by the SNR Management Committee. The 2026 Budget shows an income of R303 325, expenditure of R288 436, with a net income of R14 889. We are pleased to note that we have received our grant-in-aid from the Municipality.

Reserve maintenance, undertaken by the KM Parks department and our garden service provider, has ensured that Steenbok is kept in pristine condition while keeping a natural appearance.

Infrastructure activities this year included repairs to the seawall and the paved pathway, maintenance to the Seedpod, toolshed and irrigation system.

Extensive new signage was installed, including QR codes for access to the regularly updated Steenbok website.

Newsletters have been sent out regularly, and our social media platforms continue to grow. Monthly volunteer groups have assisted with garden maintenance. Wading bird, tree, orchid and Brunsvigia counts were conducted.

The Steenbok stall at the Leisure Isle Festival was again very popular, with strong sales of handmade Reserve-related gifts and an updated Friends of Steenbok Recipe Book. We have also received a generous donation from the Festival organizers.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Garden Services

The Island's public areas have this year been beautifully maintained by the joint efforts of LIRA's garden services contractors, the KM Parks department, and especially by the fantastic work done by our residents. Private gardens and verges, the grounds of the Country Club and Boat Club, Steenbok Reserve, and our many small parks, have all been beautified and improved. The Island is looking stunning.

Bins and Litter

We work closely with the KM Solid Waste department, employing handymen to position and service more than a hundred bins around the Island. We pick up litter, empty bins, and provide thousands of bin bags and doggie bags. We work closely with the Municipal refuse collection and seasonal cleaning teams. This mundane but necessary work has resulted in an almost litter-free Island.

Seawall Maintenance

We have been fortunate not to have had any significant storm damage to our seawalls this year. Our seawall authorizations with the national and regional environmental agencies have all been revalidated, enabling us to undertake any maintenance and repair work needed. Repairs have been done to the Steenbok seawall, and to beachfront stairs and handrails. Sinkholes behind the seawalls have been filled.

Island Infrastructure

We have assisted the under-resourced Municipality by undertaking many repairs and improvements to our public infrastructure. Post-and-rail fencing has been repaired and painted, and broken street signs replaced. New No Alcohol and anti-litter signs have been erected. The Greenhole public toilets have been

repaired and maintained. We frequently report faulty streetlights and water leaks

We have used our own team to fill potholes, and improvements have been made to the Guardhouse. New Island entrance lighting is being installed.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LIRA is presently not represented on the Ward 9 Committee, and we have asked our Councilor to address this. We believe that by being represented on this committee, we will be better able to assist our members, and improve communications between Island residents and the Municipality.

We have had extensive engagements with many Knysna Municipality departments and officials. They appreciate the contribution Leisure Islanders make, and generally are able to respond to our requests for their services.

We have continued to build working relationships with the security authorities. The new floor that has been laid in the Charge Office of the Knysna Police Station, in a project sponsored by Islanders, has been greatly appreciated.

Our involvement with the seawalls and Steenbok Reserve has led to good relationships with the environmental authorities. We attend the SANParks Estuary Forums, and SANParks and the KM Environmental department officials have been supportive of our activities, acknowledging our environmental responsibility and compliance.

We have participated in the work of the Knysna Infrastructure Group, and we interact with many other residents' and homeowners' associations, sharing information and assisting with matters of mutual concern.

We believe that these efforts that we have made to broaden our outlook, and to promote Leisure Island in the wider Knysna community, have enabled LIRA to provide a better service to our members.

THE LIRA COMMITTEE

The following members were elected onto the committee at the December 2024 AGM: Craig Carter, Alison Collier, Craig Clarke, Paul de Villiers, Sheena Mare, Colin Mathiesen and Dave Stromberg. At the first committee meeting in January Colin Mathiesen was elected Chair, with Craig Carter as Deputy Chair.

During the year, we welcomed the following new members, who volunteered to serve on the committee: Andrew King, Marius Nel, Bossi Monson, Ashleigh Norris, and Clint Wigg. Craig Clarke resigned from the committee in March.

Most of the current committee members have indicated that they will remain on the committee into the new year. There is no limit to the number of LIRA committee members, and we would welcome volunteers to further strengthen the team and spread the workload.

Colin Mathiesen, Chair, LIRA

16 December 2025