

LIRA 2025 AGM Review

The LIRA AGM was held on 19 December at the LI Country Club. Prior to the meeting, an information pack containing the LIRA Committee Report for the year and details of the 2026 Budget and Levies had been distributed to all members. (These documents are being uploaded in the next couple of days to the LIRA website for those who missed them.) At the meeting, members of the committee covered highlights of their portfolios and fielded questions from the floor.

The meeting was short, positive and entertaining, and all concerned received thanks for another successful year for LIRA and Leisure Isle.

Colin Mathiessen gave the **Chair's Overview**, thanking the committee and members, and confirming that our objectives had been met. He reported that membership numbers had risen from a low of 69% to the current 78%, stating that the target of 80% membership was achievable.

LIRA's **Communications** then were covered. These included emailed Newsletters and posts on the LIRA News WhatsApp group, and a newly-launched refreshed LIRA website. LIRA's wide spread of external engagements - with the Municipality and SANParks, the SAPS and Community Police Forum, citizens and civic initiatives, and with other residents' associations, were also described.

Marius gave the **Treasurer's Report**. The 2025 audited Financial Statements reflected satisfactory results, and were approved. The 2026 Budget had been circulated, and as before, security accounted for the majority of expenditure. The Income Budget assumed 75% paying membership. He noted that every year a number of presumed members did not pay their voluntary levy, and suggested that any additional contributions to offset this would be received gratefully.

The 2026 levy increases to R7500, and he explained that the early-payment discount had been dropped, as it had caused accounting complications with little benefit. He stressed that as the levy is voluntary, members could still make an early discounted payment if they wished. Or pay more! The Budget and Levy were approved.

Dave gave the **Security Report**, noting that the relationship with Allsound was excellent, our security system was operating effectively, and that the reported crime and incident levels were low. Entrance guarding had been improved, vehicle patrols increased, and additional cameras were planned.

An early start had been made to our preparations for the busy holiday period, and we had circulated our Festive Season Plan to all role-players to get their support. LIRA had covered all our bases - putting up no alcohol signage, clearing bushy areas, improving beachfront facilities, and deploying additional Allsound and Community-In-Blue patrollers. We now expected the authorities to play their part, and ensure that the by-laws were strictly enforced, and antisocial behaviour and dangerous driving dealt with. Dave was optimistic that this season would be peaceful and enjoyable for both residents and visitors.

There were a number of questions from the floor leading to discussion on security matters, including noise concerns, duplication of private and LIRA security, the effectiveness of our responses to by-law infringements, and the issue of dogs-off-leashes. It was stated that the four-year Allsound security contract would mature in April, and that this gave us an opportunity to enter into a new security contract that could address any shortcomings and provide even better security. The LIRA Security Sub-Committee would be working on this in the new year, and members were invited to join the Sub-Committee and contribute to this process.

Craig gave an overview of the activities of the LIRA **Social Committee**, who had organized a number of popular events during the year with the objective of fostering community spirit and social support. He thanked those involved, and stated that exciting events were being planned for 2026.

Dave covered highlights of another very successful year for **Steenbok Nature Reserve**, on behalf of Ingrid Meter, the incoming Chair of the Friends of Steenbok Trust, and Diana Stromberg, the Chair of the SNR Mancom. Steenbok's finances were in great shape, with contributions from the Municipality, LIRA, the LI Festival, and with generous donations received from friends of the Trust.

The annual Management Plan and Budget had been approved by the four stakeholders (including SANParks) who manage the Reserve in terms of the KM-LIRA Agreement, and work was progressing on the various projects included in the Plan. The importance of strong support from the Friends of Steenbok Trust was stressed, as this was vital to ensuring the preservation of this Island asset as a place for future generations to enjoy.

Brian Steele, the outgoing Chair of the Trust, was thanked for his long and valuable contribution.

The work of the **Island Maintenance** portfolios was covered briefly, and it was noted that the public areas were in great shape as the result of the efforts of LIRA, the municipality and residents. Refuse collection and litter and bin management was operating effectively, potholes were being filled, infrastructure had been maintained and improved, and public parks and

gardens beautified. There had been no serious damage to the seawalls this year, and only ongoing maintenance work was required.

The winner of the **Garden of the Year Award** was then announced. This went to Otto Wermüller and the other residents who had done such amazing work in beautifying parks in Powell, Hart and Founders roads. These wonderful efforts had encouraged other Islanders to improve other parks, and the runners-up prize went to everybody concerned.

The **Election of the LIRA Committee for 2026** then took place. All eleven existing committee members had been re-nominated, and no other nominations had been received. The Chair proposed that all be elected, and as there were no objections, this was accepted.

The committee for 2026 thus comprises Colin Mathiesen, Craig Carter, Ali Collier, Paul de Villiers, Andrew King, Sheena Maré, Bossi Monson, Marius Nel, Ashleigh Norris, Dave Stromberg and Clint Wigg.

At the first meeting of the committee on 13 January, Colin Mathiesen stepped down after three years as Chair. He was thanked for the role he had played in leading LIRA and driving the membership portfolio. Marius Nel was unanimously elected as the new Chair, with Craig Carter remaining as Deputy Chair. Ashleigh Norris stepped down as communications chair and Christy Nel assumed the role. Portfolio allocations are still to be finalised.

