

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 4 April 2026

INTRODUCTION

Dear fellow members, residents and homeowners.

As we wrap up another eventful year, I'm pleased to present this Chairman's Report. 2025 has seen continued progress in addressing key community concerns, from environmental compliance and municipal services to disaster preparedness and infrastructure. Our committee has worked diligently to represent your interests, fostering stronger ties with the Swellendam Municipality (SWM) through regular Information Sessions (MIS). These sessions have been invaluable for open dialogue, and I encourage all members to stay engaged as we build on this momentum.

THE COMMITTEE

I'd like to extend a heartfelt thanks to our dedicated committee members: Oliver Sedgwick, Ken Wentzel, Warren Brewis, Rene White, Eric von Oppell and co-opted members, Mike Williams and Warren Brewis. Warren and Mike will be formally nominated and voted on at this AGM.

Our appreciation also goes to the Area Representatives who have supported us throughout the year, ensuring local issues are heard and addressed.

Tony Davison resigned towards the end of the last year. He has been invaluable in guiding the MRRA from a steering committee to a now respected and successful organisation. We thank him for thankless service.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

This year, we've focused on strengthening our association's foundations while tackling pressing community matters. Key highlights include ongoing environmental rectifications, municipal service improvements, and proactive planning for sustainability. We've held productive information sessions with SWM, covering topics like water supply, waste management, and budget allocations.

No major constitutional changes were made this year, but we've built on last year's amendments to operate more efficiently.

Membership remains a priority—we've discussed strategies to attract new members and encourage broader participation. If you're not yet a member, consider joining to amplify our collective voice.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND S24G MATTERS

Environmental stewardship continues to be a core focus, with ongoing Nema transgressions and Section 24G rectification processes for local developments.

Broader environmental assessments and S24G applications affecting local properties were reviewed, stressing continued public participation and adherence to environmental protections. We do not see the issuing of fines as a success, as these transgressions should not occur if the correct procedures are followed for responsible development, but we still see it as favourable. If you have observations or concerns, please share them with the committee for follow-up.

WARD DELIMITATION

The Municipal Demarcation Board, in consultation with the IEC, has advanced the ward delimitation process to ensure balanced voter representation. The Delimitation draft was accepted and gazetted September 2025.

- The draft shifts Malgas and Infanta from current Ward 3 (with Barrydale and Suurbraak) to Ward 1 (Swellendam). This won't affect budgets but will provide representation by an active and committed Ward Councillor. We view this positively and encourage all homeowners to register their vote in Swellendam District.

WATER SUPPLY AND NUWEDORP CHALLENGES

Water access in Nuwedorp remains a key discussion point with SWM.

- **Delivery Schedule:** Water deliveries are set weekly and service is directly provided by SWM.

Recent shortages were addressed via site visits by SWM, leak fixes were done and taps were replaced.

Population growth, potential illegal tapping and vandalism are suspected contributors to regular shortages. We need to stress the fact that Nuwedorp was a temporary solution for displaced indigent people, while awaiting on housing in Swellendam. Unfortunately, this process fell apart during the last 15 years of administrative changes and challenges within our local government. We are continuing to explore the options available to provide for better circumstances for the initial group of displaced people.

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND REFUSE

Progress on waste handling aims for sustainability and community responsibility.

- **Current Sites:** Lease agreements have been negotiated for private land sites, currently in Malagas and Matjieskloof. Containers' poor condition is noted with fire damage, graffiti and missing doors as well as the littered surrounds. We also

have the odd inhabitant, which we are carefully controlling, together with SWM Law Enforcement.

- **Medium-term:** Continuous educational drive directed toward owners and residents on responsible disposal, composting and recycling.
- **Long-Term Plans:** Door-to-door black-bag collection was proposed but would result in higher refuse levies and not all properties can be reached.

A more sustainable long-term solution would be to have a central refuse area, fenced and manned with defined hours of operation. The site can possibly in future be used for recycling and composting, with community programmes where the local community can benefit.

- **Rubble and Composting:** There is a constant frustration with the refuse sites being used for items other than household and recycling. We urge the community to please recycle and separate their waste to ensure we are constantly bettering the system.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT & SECURITY

- **Disaster Management:** Fire and flood remain one of the main concerns along the Lower Breede. Our objective was to have maintained firefighting equipment available in all areas at specified points to be able to respond to a fire alert within a reasonable timeframe.

We were successful in placing equipment from Area 1 (Nuyshoek) up to and including Area 7 (Kontiki), also including the surrounding agricultural properties, providing private equipment. Infanta is incorporated into our incident plan.

Coordination, response and communication have been key factors, and the Disaster/Incident Management Plan have proven to be a success. With each incident, the plan is reviewed to ensure the team is always effective.

Ongoing work by our voluntary DM Team involves the assessment of still vulnerable areas; identifying important and accessible water points in each area and procurement and placement of more equipment as well as water and pipefittings should the assessment deem it necessary. Although not in the reported financial year, we need to mention the very successful fundraising effort for the disaster management fund, currently with an astonishing balance of R 247,850. We will report on expenditure during the course of the new financial year.

- **Two-way Radio Network:** Radio checks by our voluntary team continue to ensure that the equipment and repeaters are in optimal working condition at all times.
- **Security:** Recently, as part of the ongoing expansion of the security network, additional surveillance cameras have been erected across the area, with the most recent project being in Lemoentuin. Residents of the respective areas have been informed via their Whatsapp groups and invited, as members of MRRRA, to gain access to the surveillance network.

Further surveillance cameras, funded from the Ad-Hoc Grant-in-Aid are planned for the area and we ask residents for their input.

MALAGAS FERRY AND PUBLIC LAUNCH SITE

The Ferry operations have yet again been a topic of discussion and much more so during the recent dry-dock and inspection period.

Ongoing embankment issues, affecting the landing and docking of the ferry and that ultimately influences the integrity of the structure has been identified and current roadworks will hopefully be the start of improvements made.

During 2025, with the support of surrounding Farmer and Ratepayers Associations, we have written to Western Cape Provincial Government, the Premier, Mr Alan Winde to bring to their attention the downtime the Ferry and the serious negative impact on the Agriculture and Tourism Sectors in the Overberg Area and Western Cape.

We have received feedback from the Premier's office, acknowledging receipt of letter and reassuring us that the ferry/pont is part the government's yellow fleet and has their focus. We can say from statistics that there was a big improvement in the operations of the ferry/pont and a very big improvement on downtime due to mechanical failure.

A very successful 'Pont Status Update' group has been formed by the community, and we thank TWK for the live stream of the ferry/pont operations available to all in the community. It has proven extremely helpful for residents and travellers alike.

BREEDE RIVER ADVISORY FORUM – BREAIF

In September, the Estuary Management Plan have been gazetted with some changes in the zonation of certain recreational activities, ballast boat restrictions and identifying crucial conservation and rehabilitaion areas along our estuary.

NEW PROJECTS

- **Roadfunds for areas:** The ongoing debate of private access roads and the misconception of the responsible authority has been dealt with and owners in

each area must be aware of their responsibility for the upkeep of the private roads through their property.

Nuyshoek and Lemoentuin already have successful roadfunds and future planned projects.

Malagas and Matjieskloof are in planning stages for fundraising and road repairs.

- **Ad-Hoc Grant in Aid funds:** The Swellendam Municipality has, through its Ad-Hoc Grant-in-Aid program made available funds to assist the residents in their efforts to improve the road as well as for the expansion of the area's security network. These funds will be discussed later in the Treasurers report.

The availability of these funds has been communicated to the community on a regular basis, and we ask area representatives to make contact should they require funds for security expansion or minor road repairs.

- **Other:** The Swellendam LINK app has been discontinued and replaced by the Collab Citizen app.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Area Communication: Area WhatsApp groups have proved invaluable in spreading information and assisting direct neighbours.

Malgas has various WhatsApp groups, each created with specific intent and the most important is highlighted below:

- Area Groups 1-6
- Disaster Management
- Malgas Community Liaison – municipal affairs
- Malgassers – general queries
- Pont Status Updates

Residents are encouraged to ensure they are members of their Area Group in order to be kept informed of developments specific within their area.

Concluded matters: We need to report that, stemming from the haphazard dismantlement of the association's Exco during 2023, a matter of financial irregularity and misconduct was identified. Following a SGM held September 2023 and under the guidance of a steering committee, a formal criminal case was opened and the legal process concluded in October 2025 with a court outcome. The Exco notes this matter has now been finalised.

Membership

At 140 members, our membership has declined, we are only at a quarter of our potential membership base. We are hoping, through regular communication and

proven actions, to build our membership to its full potential. Please join and offer to be involved. We provide a forum to discuss concerns, be a collective voice and also provide opportunities for members to network with each other, building relationships and partnerships that can benefit the community as a whole.

Subscription remains at R250 per year. Another payment option is available and includes LBRCT subscription at R350 per year.

CLOSURE

We will continue to build our relationship and support the very important organisations in our area, including LBRCT and IRRA. From recent meetings and communications, we have seen it is invaluable for our organisations to support each other and work towards a better-informed community. We are after all, stronger together.

CLOSING REMARKS

2025 has been a year of steady progress, with resolutions focused on transparency, sustainability, and community welfare. Your participation and input are vital to build on the strength of the community.

Warm regards,

Monique Mulder Chairperson – MRRA April 2026