

# Onrus Vermont Special Rating Area Newsletter

September 2021



## LATEST NEWS

The Onrus Vermont SRA is run by a voluntary Board of Directors who provide their expertise, energy and time, without any remuneration, to the benefit of the community. A General Manager is therefore necessary to ensure consistency and the smooth running of all our operations.

After a thorough recruitment process, we unanimously decided to appoint Meredith Thornton to the role. She has been a resident since 2018 and has been visiting Onrus for the past 18 years. With more than 20 years of managerial experience, Meredith brings a unique skills set that is ideal for tackling the varied programmes of the Onrus Vermont SRA. She possesses sound values and has a passion for community and the environment. You are always welcome to visit and discuss any ideas or concerns that you may have. Kindly first email us on [onrus.vermont.sra@gmail.com](mailto:onrus.vermont.sra@gmail.com), or call ahead on 079 469 8606 so that we can be sure that someone is here to meet you. We even do home visits!



Our offices are at:

Unit 4

Rheezicht Centre

Main Road

Onrus

[Go around the back of the building  
and up the middle steel stairway]

## HOW WE OPERATE

Our Board of Directors meet fortnightly, or more often as required. As you can imagine, there has been a lot to do in order to get the non-profit company off the ground. The SRA operation has been streamlined by allocating each Director a specific portfolio. A Security Working Group and a Risk Assessment Working Group have been established.

The Directors and Working Groups are tasked with dealing with subjects within their area of expertise. They will regularly review data and keep a finger on the pulse of changing trends. They then present their findings/suggestions to the Board in order to move forward and action decisions.

### **List of Directors and their Portfolios:**

Anton du Preez (Chair) - Management & Programme Oversight  
Bernhard Teuteberg (Vice-Chair) and \*Pieter Botha – Safety and Security  
Vic Barnard (Treasurer) - Financial Services  
Duncan Heard – Environment and Urban Programmes  
Jana Smith - Human Resources  
Hennie Greeff – Marketing Initiatives  
Athol Swanson - Policies & Procedures  
\*Jean Orban – Overstrand Municipal Council Representative

\*non-voting members

## **SAFETY & SECURITY**

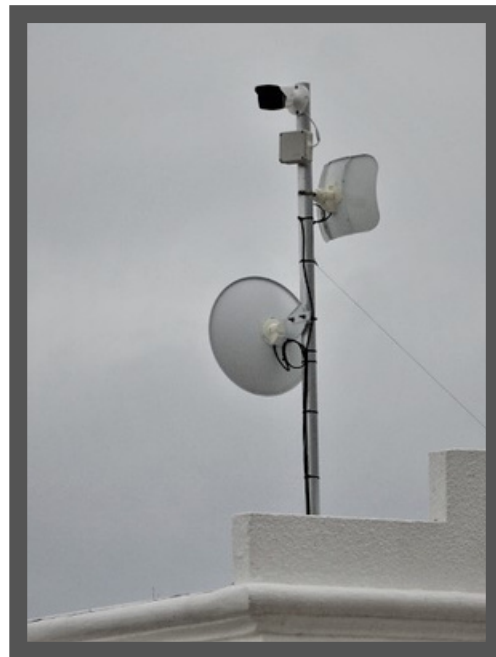
Our objective is to work collaboratively with Alfa Buurtwag, OnVerWag Neighbourhood Watch and other neighbourhood organisations in order to make our ward a secure and a serene place to live. We have been paying for the monitoring of seventeen OnVerWag cameras since July 2021. They are distributed from Berghof to Chanteclair, and in Onrus and Vermont.

We are currently comparing quotes and services offered by various service providers for camera monitoring and response. This process should be finalised soon, and when we have sufficient accumulated funds, we can expand this service to include a response vehicle.

We are acutely aware that there are sections of the R43 fence line that are in a state of disrepair. As a result this is an access point for pedestrian traffic, vehicles and possible criminal elements. We have engaged with the municipality on this matter and they have undertaken to address this with their provincial colleagues.

## **MEETINGS**

Since our last newsletter we have had three more Board meetings as well as several other meetings with community organisations and our current service provider.



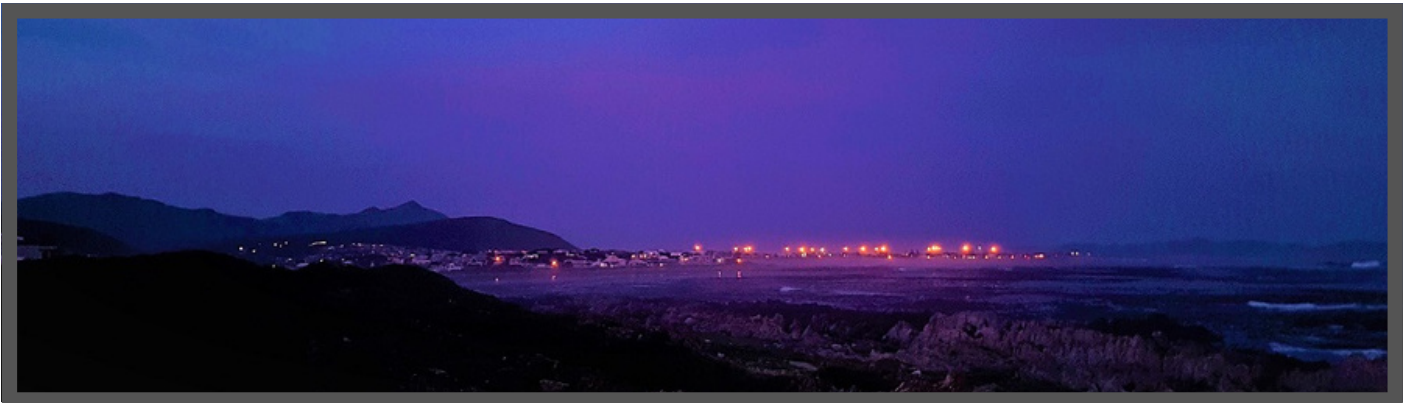
## FINANCIAL

Our Financial Agreement with the Overstrand Municipality has been finalised and signed, and we received our first set of funds a few days ago. We now need time and your understanding and patience in order to build up sufficient capital so that we can carry out all aspects of the previously approved business plan.

## ENVIRONMENT

There are areas in our ward where the alien vegetation needs to be eradicated. There is money within the municipality's environmental department that has been put aside for this so we are currently following up to determine at which stage this process is.

You may have noticed new sign boards being erected at the green belts – this is thanks to our environmental partner, Vermont Ratepayers and Environmental Association (VREA), who have arranged this, and the municipality is putting the signage up. VREA is also working with the municipality to find a solution for the problem of the sand encroachment across the coastal path near Brekfisbaai.



Misty evening lights of Onrus, from Jan Rabie Pool

## HAVING PROBLEMS PAYING THE SRA LEVY?

We understand that some of you may have financial restraints and that it is difficult to pay the additional rates for the OVSRA. You may be eligible for a rebate as a pensioner or to apply for indigent status. If you have any questions regarding the application process, please feel free to contact us.

### APPEAL TO THE COMMUNITY

Are you a trauma counsellor, first aid or medical professional? Would you be prepared to offer your services in the event of an emergency incident or other need in our community? If so, please send an email to [onrus.vermont.sra@gmail.com](mailto:onrus.vermont.sra@gmail.com), or call or WhatsApp 079 469 8606, mentioning your area of expertise and we will put you on our list.