

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: FINANCIAL YEAR 1 DECEMBER 2021 TO 30 NOVEMBER 2022

The financial year commenced with the committee needing to redefine their role and that of the organisation. This came about as the camera monitoring costs were taken over by the Onrus Vermont SRA established in July 2021. All costs to establish the SRA were reimbursed to Onverwag during our previous financial year.

THINK TANK: SHARING AND CARING

Three Think Tank sessions were held over a period of two months. We shifted our emphasis from Crime and Grime to Sharing and Caring. Initially, we focused on the Hermanus Night Shelter as their area of operation included our neighbourhood. The safety of the residents at the Night Shelter was at risk. The camera system needed an upgrade. The committee assisted with the purchase of 4 cameras. A committee member gave of their time to assist with the camera upgrade and installation while another member assisted with sponsoring the installation of a replacement motor for the driveway gate. The Night Shelter issues tickets which the public can purchase to sponsor a night's accommodation for residents. Several businesses in our community were approached to be outlets for the purchase of the coupons. This initiative has been well supported by the community.

Onverwag is a member of the Community Police Forum (CPF) who were involved with youth holiday programmes with our neighbouring communities. During the years, the committee has realised that vulnerable or troubled Youth are more at risk and often are the perpetrators of crimes committed in our community. The CPF, Hawston Library, in conjunction with the Yeboneer Programme, ran youth upliftment programmes throughout the year. The committee donated towards the running of the programmes which included various activities and lunch.

SCAMS & ON-LINE FRAUD

Scams and on line fraud are on the increase and in the safety of our own home. The average age group of our community is the ideal target market for the on line frauds and scams. The Committee embarked on an education campaign making residents aware of the pitfalls of on-line fraud and how to deal with the situation. The campaign kicked off with a well attended public meeting and received excellent coverage in the Village News. We continued with our campaign with smaller face to face workshops for the rest of the year. We would like to thank AIDA for the use of their facilities to run the workshops as well as 2 very special people, Lirene Van Zyl and Lizette Adams for their tireless input.

PATROLS

Patrols continued in the form of HIGH VIZ foot patrols. The patrols took place Peak season and public holidays which are part of a long weekend. The patrols focused on known crime hotspots which included the Coastal Path, Breakfast Bay, some of the Green Belts as well as in and around the Onrus Caravan Park. Patrols were carried out early mornings and evenings. The Eco Patrollers were included in the Patrols and able to share knowledge with each other about our area.

Onrus Beach hosted the IBC Bodyboarding World Tour in August 22. Our patrollers assisted with High Viz foot patrols throughout the event.

We brought about a change to the structure and organisation of Patrols. One committee member heads up Patrols while another committee member is responsible for Security and Safety as a separate portfolio. The two portfolios work closely together.

Patrols Training has continued on an annual basis. Thanks to Abner Ingles, we host a training session in the middle of the year for patrollers who wish to refresh their knowledge, new patrollers as well as other accredited Neighbourhood Watches in our area, are invited to attend.

ACCREDITED NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Onverwag is an accredited Neighbourhood Watch through The Department of Community Safety (DOCS) which is now known as Department of Policing Oversight and Community Safety. The Western Cape Minister of Community Safety, Reagen Allan, hosted workshops in the Overberg District. One workshop was the Overberg Policing Needs and Priorities where we were able to raise the issue of creating an E-Commerce Unit due to our ongoing awareness raising of scams and on-line fraud. The other opportunity was the Department engaging with Accredited Neighbourhood Watches covering topics of Gender Based Violence (GBV), victim support and substance abuse and the role of Neighbourhood Watches.

SPECIAL RATING AREA (OVSRA)

Onverwag is part of a Safety and Security Management Team created by the Special Ratings Area (SRA). An OVSRA Whatsapp group consisting of all the role players involved with Safety in our area has continued to function with great success. The whatsapp group as well as the radio supplied by the SRA allows Onverwag to be in immediate contact with the Response vehicle and the Eco-patrollers to respond to incidents or suspicious behaviour as reported by our members. Onverwag has given each Patroller a bicycle which we had initially received from DOCS. This has facilitated the patrollers being able to cover vast areas as well as a quicker response time to situations as they are reported. These patrollers are fit!

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: HOUSEKEEPING

Housekeeping within the organisation required improvements. Our cell phone was replaced with the purchase of a new one as this is essential for the ongoing communication with our members via our interactive Whatsapp Groups who are the eyes and ears of the community. At the same time we tidied up our membership by removing inactive members. All poaching related activities posted on our networks are forwarded directly to MCS who have made use of our information and led to successful arrests.

We have continued with the subscription of Dropbox so as to share and store documents between committee members and for ease of operation of the organisation.

The committee drafted a budget for the financial year. All Surplus Funds were ring fenced and transferred to a separate account for Special Projects such as improving the safety of the Coastal Path. Thanks to our Treasurer we kept within our budget.

SOCIAL MEDIA

In this digital age, social media has become an essential part of any marketing strategy. Everything today is on the internet. We needed to increase our online presence. The website was in urgent need of a revamp. A web designer and copy writer were appointed. Our improved website is now available both in English and Afrikaans. We are able to share relevant information with our members and the community via the blogs we upload onto the website. Look for us on www.onverwag.org.za as well as the Onverwag Face Book page.

We took the decision to discontinue with our information table at the ONRUS MARKIE as it was serving no purpose.

WARD COMMITTEE

The Ward Committee has established several sub-committee working groups. One committee Onverwag has representation on is the Coastal Path Working Group. There are no markers on the path, meaning that when an incident takes place, the person is unable to determine the location of the incident, making it difficult to respond or offer any assistance. The committee is considering appropriate markers for the surroundings and the by-laws regarding signage.

LOADSHEDDING

Load shedding is going to be a part of our lives this year as well as next year. Access to power supply is essential for the safety of our community especially when our alarms and lights are not working. Eskom in the Overberg has an aging infra structure with the result that power is often not restored after loadshedding. Onverwag is able to bring it to the attention of the relevant authorities through our Ward Committee membership. Thanks to members who report the fault to Eskom and forward their reference number on our Whatsapp groups when requested. We can act on this with the support of the Mayor, who in turn has contact with the Eskom Regional Office. We are able to post updates regarding power restoration time.

The committee elected in May 2022 following our AGM are:

May 2022

Changes during the year

Chair:	Anne Droomer	
Vice Chair:	Rob Molyneux	
Treasurer:	Gray Thomason	
Secretary:	Vacant	
Patrols:	Eddie Holloway	Security: Eddie Holloway
		Patrols: Coenie Gronewald
Patrol Admin:	Merrill Poller	resigned – Left for Overseas
Membership:	Ilse Myburgh	
Communication:	Jean Orban	
Community:	Michiel De Kock	

Special thanks to the **NG Gemeente** , **Onrus** for making their facilities available to us.

Thank you to our partners, **SAPS** Hermanus and the **OVSRA**.

Our auditors, **Pragma Konsult**, who willingly came on board for the first time this year offering their service pro bono.

The committee would like to thank the members who have donated throughout the year. It has made our task easier.

Most importantly, to all our members, thank you for the ongoing support. Without you, Onverwag would not be possible.

Thank you to Exco who have tirelessly volunteered their time and made the management of the Onverwag possible.

Anne Droomer

Chairperson

March 2023

What you should do to prevent falling victim to scams and fraud * issued by SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE

Never respond to emails or cell phone calls and messages appearing to be from a bank which requests your personal details

Do not respond to emails or cell phone messages requesting that the user clicks on a link which usually directs you to spoofed website

Never provide your online ID, password or PIN to anyone and never write them down or share them

Do not save your internet banking password on your desk top

Do not leave your computer unattended after entering your internet banking password

Always log off at the end of a session

Avoid doing internet banking at public internet cafes or other computer accessed by people you do not know

Change your PIN and password frequently

Put sensible transaction limits on your accounts

Only provide credit card details to reputable companies

Do not pay for something you have not seen

If it too good to be true, it usually is.

NEVER SEND MONEY OR GIVE CREDIT CARD DETAILS OR ONLINE ACCOUNTS DETAILS TO ANYONE YOU DO NOT KNOW OR TRUST