



**Good day, Park Islanders!**

We have had our second of four board meetings for 2025 and the year is progressing well! Projects and work done were reported on and plans were presented for the upcoming months - there is lots going on, and we are excited to report back in the newsletter.

A reminder of your PICID Committee Portfolios holders for 2025:

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1. Colin Reeves:      | Security Guarding Portfolio                            |
| 2. David McBain:      | Administrative Portfolio                               |
| 3. Boudje Giljam:     | Environmental Portfolio (Open Spaces)                  |
| 4. Gregory Meierhans: | Security Surveillance Cameras Portfolio                |
| 5. Patrick Tuckwell:  | Treasurer; Contacts & Street Representatives Portfolio |
| 6. Rob MacLean:       | Water Quality Portfolio                                |
| 7. Lara Röttcher:     | Communications Portfolio                               |

Please read on for the updates on each portfolio.



Photo credit: Cherry Giljam

The next Board Meeting is provisionally scheduled for the 24<sup>th</sup> of July. Please note that any of our members can attend the Quarterly Board Meetings to raise concerns or discuss issues of interest. However, this attendance is by appointment only. Please send us an email if you are interested and be sure to outline the topic you wish to discuss.

## Regarding Our Open Spaces

The Times They Are a-Changin', both short and long term. As winter approaches, we can focus on planting in our parks, and in the longer term, our choice of plants reflects the reality of a water-scarce region predicted to become even more water-scarce.

Our team of volunteers is expanding as our projects, large and small, expand - you will see evidence of this in many locations.

This winter, we plan to establish a Strandveld bed around the end of Michell Walk Canal in Thibault Park. Fynbos Life has begun preparing the ground as the area is infested with invasive Kikuyu grass, which will smother any new plantings. The area will be left dormant so that any growth from seeds still in the soil can be removed before planting the beds.



The new Strandveld beds that have been established in Thibault Park. Photo credit: Cherry Giljam



Fynbos Life has developed a planting plan for the area, and the plants are being propagated in its nursery. **The planting day is scheduled for Saturday, 5 July** - we will be advertising for volunteers to assist with planting 1000 plants on the day. Please save the date in your calendars now.

As with the plantings in the entrance garden and the corner of T'Wagen last year, the plants will be watered for the first summer, after which they will be established and able to withstand our long, dry summers.

The stumpery in Thibault Park is an artwork and playpark in progress and will evolve over the years. As stumps become available, we will add them.

Working with the CoCT Recreation and Parks Department, we plan to remove invasive alien tree species from our POS. We are currently identifying the trees, mainly Brazilian Pepper and Port Jackson, and CoCT will remove them. If you have invasive aliens on POS threatening your garden wall and/or sidewalk infrastructure, please send us an email with the location.



Maintenance continues to mainly consist of identifying, onboarding & resourcing (supplying hoses and/or water connections, etc.) to the local volunteer corps to assist with watering our garden beds in the public open spaces within their proximity. **If you know of anyone happy to become involved and take care of their corner of our public open space to assist with beautifying the PI-Precinct please let us know via email.**

## An Update on the Waterways Portfolio

With the seasons changing from summer, through autumn, the problems of (mainly) excessive algae and vlei grass has lessened.

The operational capacity of the weed harvesters, heavily criticized by many Marina residents during the summer months, has diminished as the need for them in such a capacity has reduced. However, they were both in action recently after the torrential rain in early April, brought loads of litter down the canals to the north of Zandvlei, not all of which was captured by the traps in the Coniston Park area.



Photo credit: Cherry Giljam

On Coniston Park – I circulated recently the news that the CoCT was reinstating its Liveable Urban Waterways plan that will hopefully largely reduce the amount of litter that flows down the canals and gets into the vlei and Marina canals. More information on this can be found on the CoCT website. This is a massive, positive step towards the health of the waters of Zandvlei and the Marina canals.

The Marina da Gama Excom has appointed Mr. Michael Melck, a resident on Halyard Walk, Eastlake Island, as the new MdG Exco Waterways representative. He replaces Ralph Richards who resigned some months ago. Michael, who runs a building company, is a former top canoe paddler in the Western Province and will, I believe, be a very good member of the Exco team.

The vacant post of Zandvlei Reserve Manager, vacated by Kyran Wright when he was promoted, has been filled by Mr. Darren September. He comes from the Table Bay Nature Reserve, where he was a Senior Field Ranger.

The water quality of the vlei and Marina canals this past quarter have been good. There was one 'spike' recorded near to the Zandvlei Sports Club clubhouse last month, but it wasn't too serious. Unfortunately, the cause could not be identified.



Related to the abovementioned, the amount of fish in the vlei and canals this past quarter has been amazing, my having witnessed many shoals in different parts during my paddling sessions and smiling faces of fishermen who remarked on their good catches (and releases!) whenever asked.

Recently, the height of the water in the vlei and Marina canals has been high – measuring just under 1.2m at the Park Island and Eastlake Island bridges. Whilst this has not been high enough to cause any flooding of the ‘built environment’, the level has, at many places, overlapped the gunite walls, which can be negative as such water levels can ‘eat away’ the soil behind the walls, causing collapse and cracking of said walls. The vlei mouth was opened today (22<sup>nd</sup> April), so the levels are already dropping.

The notices requested for ‘No Fishing’ off the various Marina bridges, still remains an issue with the CoCT only posting ‘temporary’ – laminated A4 size posters – on the 2 pedestrian bridges as well as the one onto Park Island.



Photo credit: Cherry Giljam

## Feedback on Our Security Program

Fortunately, we have had a relatively safe period in the past three months with no crimes reported. There have been a few incidents of bin pickers, but our residents have quickly reported these, or Deep Blue, our security service provider (SSP), which monitors our CCTV cameras, has spotted these and responded to challenge those people. Deep Blue have responded to 22 reported incidents so far this year, none of which have been anything serious. Many were related to inappropriate behaviour / activity in the park where these individuals were escorted out of the area. They have also responded to activity observed on our 10 community cameras. These have either been early morning bin pickers who are escorted out, residents out walking at unusual hours or suspicious vehicular activity.

Deep Blue is our preferred response company for incidents in Park Island as they have three vehicles in the area Monday to Friday during the day and two vehicles at night and over weekends. Ithuba Security also responds but has one vehicle in the area 24/7. Both SSP's only respond to incidents reported in the streets and not to private properties. For that service, you need to enter into a contract with your chosen SSP.

Contact numbers are as follows:

- Deep Blue Control Room WhatsApp text messages only 076 433 8658
- Ithuba Control Room cell phone number 079 905 7633 voice and text.

Both SSP's are on our Park Island Emergency WhatsApp group. Please report any suspicious activities spotted in the Thibault Road Park to the Deep Blue Control Room. Please give a description of the suspect or vehicle, such as colour of clothing or registration number and make and colour of motor vehicle. If anyone has any suggestions or needs to discuss any concerns, please WhatsApp Colin on 0836254845.

We want to reiterate that we have changed the name of the PI Security WhatsApp group to PI Emergencies to group is only for use in emergencies. The Emergency WhatsApp Group is a communication channel between the person initiating an emergency and the individuals responding - security companies, neighbours, and other residents. It is an additional communication channel that complements the residents' armed response. It must therefore be kept free of other posts at all times.

### Our Contacts Database

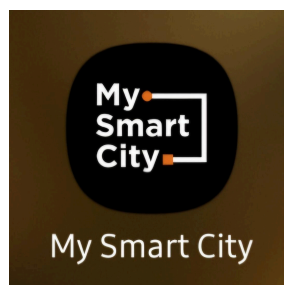
The contacts database for all residents of Park Island continues to be updated. The contacts database includes tenants and family members living here. We are continuously surprised by how often people seem to change their email addresses, so please do let your street rep know if your contact details change. Similarly, if you notice a new neighbour, please spread the news of our CID and encourage them to send us their contact details to our email [parkislandcid@gmail.com](mailto:parkislandcid@gmail.com). And if you're too shy, then pass the news on to your street rep or to Patrick Tuckwell. We need to keep our database as up-to-date as possible!

### City of Cape Town Reporting: Street Lights Out

This is a call to all our residents to please report street lights out with urgency to the City of Cape Town as it is a security risk to our area. Similarly, please report **any** faults in our wonderful area, like blocked drains or water leakages. Do not report it to us as we cannot assist.

The Service Request reporting must go through the City's official channels:

1. Report online: [www.capetown.gov.za/ServiceRequests](http://www.capetown.gov.za/ServiceRequests)
2. Call centre: **0860 103 089**
3. SMS 1: **31220** (electricity faults)
4. SMS 2: **31373** (water faults)
5. Email: [contact.us@capetown.gov.za](mailto:contact.us@capetown.gov.za)
6. App: Download **My Smart City** app via your app store (free of charge)



Please ensure that you receive a reference number for your service request. This number needs to be quoted when following up on the progress of your query.

## General

Our Website is up-to-date and you can access previous correspondence and all the PICID documentation here: <https://parkislandcid.co.za>.

**If you have any photos to share of our beautiful Marina and Park Island that we can use in our newsletters and on the website, please do share them with us!** Drop us an email and we will share the Google Drive Folder with you.

And finally, please feel free to contact us with any suggestions or comments at our email address: [parkislandcid@gmail.com](mailto:parkislandcid@gmail.com).

**Thank you for your continued support!**

Kind regards,

Your PICID Committee