

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE RRRA AGM 14TH MARCH 2026

ON BEHALF OF THE RAMSGATE RRA, I WELCOME YOU HERE TODAY.
THANK YOU FOR SPENDING TIME WITH US THIS MORNING.

You, the ratepayers and residents, are the reason this association exists. Your investment in this community – whether it's through your rates, your time, or your active participation – is what fuels our progress. This meeting is about recognizing that investment and showing how, together, we're building a stronger, more vibrant Ramsgate.

Before looking back at 2025, I want to acknowledge the contribution of all members of Exco and the Operating committee, for their selfless contributions to the achievements of the Association. There are also many volunteers who have added so much to work the Association does. So, to all of you, a HUGE THANK YOU. Without your support, very little would have been achieved.

Since the last AGM, the Ramsgate RRA has accomplished so much; it is hard to know where to begin! Some of the key successes are truly remarkable, with visible improvements being seen everywhere.

- Ramsgate RRA funds and manages the maintenance of the Ramsgate Marine Ramble. This beautiful asset is one of the main attractions for Ramsgate, so it is vital to preserve it for the hundreds of people who use it. Funds for this maintenance are limited to income from membership fees and donations, for which we are incredibly grateful. It now costs a minimum of R 31 000 a year for the upkeep of the Ramble. The Ramble is Suzette's pet project: she contributes so much time and effort to keeping it beautiful. Anyone who can help either financially or through the provision of services would be warmly welcomed.

- The condition of Marine Drive from Fascadale Road to the Waffle House Bridge was bad, even after the, sadly, incomplete resurfacing. Water leaks and sinkholes were accepted as the norm. The RRRA welcomed a Mayoral delegation, led by Councillor Zodwa Mzindle, to the area on 16th July, with senior representative of RNM and UGU. We used this opportunity to press for repairs to the water leak outside La Scali, the leaks along the sidewalk outside the bus stop, and to demonstrate the commitment to Ramsgate by sharing the expected outcomes of the Village Improvement Project.

Thankfully, the message was heard! The water leak was identified as ground water, in less than four weeks a French Drain was laid under Marine Drive, and the water fed into a storm water drain.

- Whilst on the subject of Marine Drive, after Raubex withdrew from the resurfacing project, the trenches at the three bridges in Ramsgate were causing damage to vehicles and creating massive hazards. In partnership with the Ward 2 Councillor, Alan Bosch, the Ramsgate RRA exerted huge pressure on the Department of Transport to address these risks, particularly before the start of the Tourist Season. During November, the DoT acceded to this pressure, and appointed contractors to carry out temporary repairs. As you will know, these repairs haven't lasted, and, after only four months, the trenches are deteriorating. So, we will start the process again!
- It took a year, but finally the ladies ablutions at Ski Boat Bay have been renovated. The roof was close to collapse with the trusses rotten, the security gate was rusted to virtually nothing, and the interior needed a complete makeover. Pressure on RNM resulted in a contractor being appointed to carry out the repairs and renovation. We are thankful for Mr Ivan Mchunu's support in facilitating these improvements

- The Run4Ramsgate Fundraiser and the Village Improvement Project were incredible achievements. Sarah Unsworth devoted so much energy to these projects; she was a bit like the Duracell Bunny. Sadly, Sarah is unable to join us today. She is in Sri Lanka and, due to the war in Iran, her flights were cancelled. She has written a review of the successes of these projects, which will be presented by Pauline Lee, after this report. The Association does acknowledge and thank all the individuals and businesses who helped turn these concepts into reality. There are so many of you: please check the Roll of Gratitude you'll find here today.

As I said last year, we continue to grapple with the issue of unreliable water supply and sanitation services... We are actively engaging with UGU, and will continue to do so, to demand accountability and explore sustainable solutions. Perhaps because of pressure from many affected parties, in the past year UGU have convened meetings with Ratepayers Associations and key stakeholders to share information about sanitation and water issues, which do provide a platform for voices to be heard.

- Maintaining the upkeep of our infrastructure, particularly our roads and storm water drains remains a persistent challenge. We are working with RNM to ensure that these issues are prioritised. Monthly meetings with Heads of Departments and Ratepayers Associations are poorly attended by the Municipality though

Sadly, poor financial management hampers both these Municipalities. Budgets for repairs and maintenance are limited, and, as such, it is important to maintain pressure to make sure essential services are maintained.

Last year, we promised to face our challenges head-on—and we've done exactly that. While the Marine Drive project has moved into a new phase, our work hasn't slowed down. We are still your voice at RNM HoD meetings and maintain a direct line to Mayor Zodwa Mzindle to ensure Ramsgate gets the attention it deserves.

Ramsgate's story is about resilience. We don't see problems as dead ends; we see them as chances to sharpen our focus and strengthen our community bonds.

This association is your vehicle for change, but it only moves if you're in it with us. Your ideas, your time, and your energy are what keep this town vibrant. Stay involved, keep showing up, and keep speaking up.

We are here to represent you, but we only succeed because of you. Let's keep working together to make Ramsgate the best place to live, work, and play.