

Rion Olivier joins the Garden Route Mall management team

A bright new face in the management team at Garden Route Mall brings with him years of experience in the property and retail industries.

Rion Olivier, the new General Manager at Garden Route Mall is passionate about his work and has more than 18 years experience from working mainly at Sanlam Properties.

While with Sanlam Properties, Rion started his career in the property finance division, which was really the pulse of the company. From 2000, Rion was involved in retail property, managing two Johannesburg malls, Fourways Mall and East Rand Mall.

“After four years I decided to take a break and became a consultant with Gensec Property Services, before joining forces with Pepkor Properties in 2004”, said Rion. In his first year at Pepkor, Rion traveled in excess of 106 000 kilometres, whilst being responsible for the Northwest and Limpopo regions. The brands under the Pepkor umbrella included Ackermans, Pep, Dunns, Shoe City, Hang ten and John Craig.

After Pepkor Properties, Rion continued his career at Broll Property Management, with the bulk of Fountainhead Retail under his wings – this period was not only hugely exciting but prepared Rion in more than one way for any further career moves in the property and retail sectors. The shopping centres included Centurion Mall, Boulders, Bryanston Mall, Benmore Gardens and Northmead Mall.

After three and a half years, working at the Broll Property Group, Rion and his wife Kobie, daughters Chené (8) and four-year old Karli decided on a life-style move to the coast.

On hearing of his desire, Attfund, who has shareholdings in Centurion Mall, offered Rion the position as manager of the Garden Route Mall, which he took up on 4 May 2009.

“This mall is stunning and I am delighted at the whole offering and experience. It’s early days yet but I’m impressed with the mall and its location between Mossel Bay, Knysna and Oudtshoorn.” said Rion after his third day at work.

With an in depth understanding of the industry, including eight years in retail management on senior level will enable Rion to resolve issues quickly.

Rion believes in problem solving and growing relationships with tenants and said a positive attitude will help the mall through the tough times and economic challenges.