



## NEWSLETTER MAY 2013

We are half way through the second quarter of 2013 and the last few months have indeed been very busy for the **Sundowner Residents Association**. The Annual General Meeting took place on the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2013. The AGM was very successful and the presentations from SOS and from Greg Pearce, chairperson for Sector 1, were informative and very well received. The first SRA Newsletter went out in February 2013 and it was initially planned that these newsletters would be sent out quarterly. However the first newsletter was so well received that the SRA has decided to start sending out monthly newsletters.

**From this month onwards, the monthly newsletter will be sent out around the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month!**

Please remember that the **SRA** welcomes your comments and suggestions on topics that you would like to read about in the **SRA** Newsletter. Please forward all communication regarding these suggestions to Anne Koppenaal via email: [55@wol.co.za](mailto:55@wol.co.za)

The **SRA** would love your input in the newsletter and welcomes any announcements you may have for the residents, provided the announcements are specific to Sundowner and contribute to the upliftment of the community. **All comments must be sent to Anne by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month.**

***"This is YOUR Sundowner. Be proud. You truly have a wonderful suburb."***  
- Colin Sheward, (ex-chairperson for SRA)

## Meet the SRA Committee

On behalf of all of the residents in Sundowner we wish **Colin Sheward** (ex-chairperson) and **Jacky Varty** (ex-vice chairperson) all the best on their new journey. Both Colin and Jacky served selflessly and tirelessly in their roles. The **SRA** would like to extend our thanks to them for their hard work and dedication over the last year to the well-being of all the Sundowner residents.

### **Chairperson: Mark Klinkert**

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2013 the committee elected Mark Klinkert as chairperson. We would like to thank Mark for accepting the election and we all look forward to working with Mark as the new chairperson!

### **At this year's Annual General Meeting the current SRA committee for 2013/2014 was re-elected:**

Mark Klinkert	Chester Connolly
Eva Tinnefeld	Ulrike Schottler
Adam Grater	Carrie Strauss

We would like to thank the following SRA members offering their services and assistance to the committee and we look forward to welcoming them as committee members soon:

Mike Dell	Tahana Ndlovu
Pat Mc Evilly-Woods	Baffour Ababio
Taki Papadakis	Siegfried Christoph
Dirk Schottler	



And last but far from least, a special thank you to **Anne Koppenaar** for all her hard work and her continued dedication to the SRA members. Anne organised a very successful AGM and we are all grateful for Anne's enthusiasm and passion towards her work and community!

**As promised, each month in the newsletter we will be introducing you to a member of the committee. This month we honour Chester Connolly as the longest standing SRA committee member.**

### **CHESTER CONNOLLY**

Chester is our longest standing SRA committee member. Chester moved to Sundowner in 2000 and joined the SRA committee in 2002.

Due to his experience in the signage and printing business, we have Chester to thank for the maintenance of the SRA signs and the posters and printing done for the SRA. The committee is very grateful to have Chester's calm and patient influence as this has helped immensely when dealing with the municipality. Chester is the SRA liaison with Johannesburg City Council, for the Johannesburg Roads Agency, City Power, Joburg Water and all other municipal matters.

In his spare time he likes to go mountain biking and camping with his family. Chester is very highly regarded on the committee for his experience and his willingness to always assist in any way possible.

## **Sector Policing**

*"Sector policing is an approach to policing whereby the service area of a police station is divided into smaller, manageable areas known as sectors. For each sector, the SAPS appoints a police official who is known as the sector commander."*

The Honeydew Precinct consists of 4 Sectors. Sundowner falls under Sector 1 of the Honeydew Community Policing area. Capt. Mphahlele is the sector 1 commander and Greg Pearce is the chairperson for Sector 1.

The sector meetings are held once a month in order to discuss crime problems and to strategize solutions for crime in the area.

## **Community Policing Forum**

The primary objective of the Community Policing Forum, or CPF, is to promote a partnership between the community and the local police. This does however require a lot of time and work on the part of the community.

The following meetings are scheduled monthly:

- Sector meetings monthly
- CPF meetings monthly
- Executive committee meeting monthly
- Cluster meetings including six (6) police stations

**The next Sector 1 Meeting will be on MONDAY 13 May 19h00, at the Barn Church off Kelly road, opposite the Boskruin Recreation Centre.**

SRA and SOS strive to ensure that a representative attends each of these meetings. This is not however always possible.

***Any residents willing and able to assist and attend these meetings are kindly asked to contact Anne Koppenaar.***

## **Current SRA Projects**

### **Guard Huts:**

The installation of new guard huts at all of the booms was approved at the AGM. The guard huts being installed are manufactured by Tight and Tidy and each guard hut has a self-cleaning



eco-friendly toilet in the hut which has the capacity for two guards to use. The current toilets only have the capacity for one guard and they require monthly cleaning and maintenance.

The installation of these beautiful new guard huts will begin on the **3<sup>rd</sup> of May 2013**. The project will take an estimated **3-4 weeks**. Please bear with the SRA as this will upgrade the area and it is best that the installation is done before winter starts.



As you can imagine, the SOS guards will be inconvenienced during this period as they will have no water and toilet facilities. There will be times when you see the booms not manned as the guards need to take toilet breaks. Our apologies for any inconvenience caused by this project. If you have any queries, please feel free to contact Anne.

Once installed, the SRA will be selling advertising space on the sides of the guard huts to generate additional revenue for the maintenance and up keep of our entrances.

### **Speed bumps:**

The **SRA** has received quotes for the installation of speed bumps at the booms to slow down traffic entering and exiting Sundowner. The cars on these roads are driving very fast and are putting the lives of our children and pets at risk. Slowing cars down at all booms will assist in the monitoring of vehicles by the guards and the cameras.

We have however been advised that municipal approval is required. As soon as we have more information on the procedures for gaining municipal approval the residents will be notified.

### **Domestic Workshop:**

The workshop held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 10:00 in Taurus Park was a huge success. *Numerous resident associations have shown that the implementation of such workshops helps to community awareness, increase alertness, develop crime-lowering habits and encourage the reporting of suspicious behaviour.*

**The SRA is still looking for a suitable venue for the domestic workshops and we welcome any offers to assist in this regard!**

## **SRA News**

### **Bookkeeping**

The SRA has opened up the position of bookkeeper to tender and we ask any Sundowner residents who are in the

bookkeeping industry and are interested in assisting the SRA to please contact Anne Koppenaar.

### **Membership Fees**

Sharon Hall presented the SRA finances, as published on the SRA website, at the AGM. An increase in membership fees of 8% from R 605 to R 655 per month was accepted by majority vote, to be effective as from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2013.

### **Acknowledgements**

The SRA would like to thank Nadira Pather from Adrienne Hirsch Properties. Nadira sponsored the printing of 1000 SRA information pamphlets to be distributed to Estate Agents and residents for show days.

## **Help the SRA!**

**Residents are encouraged to report any and ALL incidences to the SRA!**

### **Sundowner Park and Dam**

As an SRA committee member Eva Tinnefeld offered to be the caretaker for the rehabilitation project of the Sundowner Park. Below please find a note from Eva:

*"In December 2012, I met with residents who are keen to volunteer on the project. Since the last meeting I have been in contact with a member of the 'Wetlands in Crisis-Gauteng Wetland Forum'. I am currently waiting for a follow up and advice regarding getting the dam declared as a wetland. This is very exciting as it will significantly improve the value and interest in the area. I would like to thank all the residents and volunteers for their patience during this period of waiting. Any residents with knowledge or experience with wetlands and who are willing to assist/advise are asked to please contact Anne.*

*I would like to extend thanks to Gary, a Sundowner resident, who has suggested that a structure to be erected where the dam has broken through, at his own expense and man power. If approved this will be an interim solution.*



An application has also been made to the department to have the dam water tested to determine the presence of any contamination.

I hope to be able to provide you with more information in the next newsletter.

*‘The significant problems in life cannot be solved by the same level of thinking that has created them’ – Albert Einstein”*

Currently we are looking for assistance in managing the silt problem in the dam. Any residents who may have access to large vehicles that would be able to help remove the silt are asked to please contact Anne Koppenaal.

## Crime Update

### Sundowner is one of the few suburbs which can boast:

- Legal booms at all entrances, all monitored by 24 hour guards
- Two dedicated armed response vehicles
- Cameras placed at all booms

### Incident report for the last 3 months in Sundowner: (1<sup>st</sup> February to 1<sup>st</sup> May)

INCIDENT	Date	Street	
Burglaries	Apr 13 <sup>th</sup>	Taurus Road Anonymous	2
Attempted burglaries	Apr 13 <sup>th</sup> Apr 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar 28 <sup>th</sup> Apr 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Pluto Close Hardekool * Libra * Pisces	4
Hi jacking			
Armed robbery			
Mugging	Apr 17 <sup>th</sup>	Orion**	1
M/v theft	Apr 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb 16 <sup>th</sup>	Saturnus Pisces	2
Theft out of M/v	Apr 15 <sup>th</sup>	Saturnus	1

\* Stopped by SOS, two suspects arrested at Libra by SOS

\*\* Resident was hit over the head with a brick in his garden. He required stitches. Muggers gained entry by jumping over the wall. Resident pressed the panic button and muggers ran away.

**Obtaining stats from non-SRA members is becoming increasingly difficult. Please encourage your neighbours to report any and all incidences to Anne.**

### Suspicious Vehicles (from SAPS):

Reg	Make	Model	Colour	Involvement
	Ford	Bakkie-single cab	White	Burglary business
	Hyundai	Elantra	Red	Business robbery
	Toyota	Yaris	Bronze	Business robbery
	BMW	1 series	White	Att house robbery
BPO0CPGPB PO0CDGP	Hyundai	Bakkie	White	House robbery
	Merc	Benz	Silver	House robbery
YYP904GP	VW	Polo	Red	Theft out of mv/att theft of mv

### Crime Trends in Sector 1:

- SOS reported that there has been an increase in crime between 19:00 and 03:00 am.
- SAPS reported at the AGM that there has been an increase in smash & grab incidents.

## Safety Tips

**Please ensure that SOS guards have safe and effective access to your property in the event of an emergency.**

If you have high walls and an electric fence that is hazardous and cumbersome for a guard to climb over, then consider the installation of a Digipad at your gate.

A **Digipad** is a password controlled unit installed on a motorised gate that enables access to the property. Should the guard need access then the control room will provide the guard with a code in order to enter the property. The system is safe and ensures that the SOS guards are able to gain entry and assist you promptly without damaging your property or injuring themselves before they have chance to assist you.

**Remember to get to know your neighbour!  
Community spirit is important!**



## Maintenance Tips

In the last newsletter SOS encouraged you to check your alarm system batteries once a month.

The backup battery in the alarm powers the radio transmitter for armed response. A low battery could result in signals not being sent through to the SOS control room. Please ensure that the battery in your alarm is fully charged.

This month SOS is encouraging you to check that your alarm system is working.

**It is important to differentiate between problems with your alarm system/siren and problems with signals being sent through to the control room.**

Your alarm system requires regular testing and maintenance. This should include:

- Checking all sensors/passives/beams are working
- Checking all zones are working
- Checking all remotes are working
- Checking all panic buttons are working
- Checking the integrity of the wiring and cables
- Checking the alarm battery

**PLEASE TEST YOUR ALARM SYSTEM AND IF YOU ARE CONCERNED THAT IT IS NOT WORKING AS IT SHOULD BE, THEN PLEASE CONTACT ANNE/SOS TO ARRANGE FOR A TECHNICIAN TO CHECK YOUR ALARM SYSTEM!**

## SOS News

The overall response to the proactive protection that SOS is providing our residents with was extremely positive at the AGM. We would like to thank the residents of Sundowner for your assistance and support during the changeover to SOS.

### Arrests:

The SRA would like to congratulate SOS's Operation's Manager, Vlam, for the arrest of a drug dealer and the chasing down and arrest of a hijacker outside Sundowner.

We also congratulate Reaction Officers Paulos and Zweli for their arrest of two suspects attempting to break in to a house on Libra road.

### Cell Phones in the Patrol Cars:

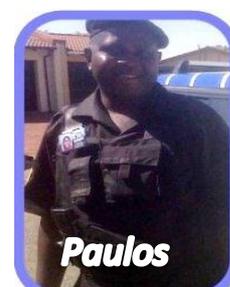
SOS and the SRA have decided against the distribution of the patrol car cell phone numbers. The reason for this is that all calls and communication with patrol cars must go through the Control room. This is in your best interest. It ensures that the control room is always aware of the location and activity of the patrol cars. Should there be a query on an incident, a follow up on the time and the order of events can only be done if the events have been logged and recorded in the control room. Kindly contact the control room with any and all reports of suspicious activity and the SOS control room will send a patrol guard to you immediately.

## SOS Award of Excellence

Please get to know the guards and reaction officers in your area. These hard working individuals are dedicated to your safety and security. Please report all outstanding behaviour to Anne so that SOS and the SRA can congratulate and thank the appropriate SOS staff.

This month's SOS Award of Excellence is shared by Reaction Officers **Zweli Muhlamvu** and **Paulos Masangu** for always going above and beyond their call of duty and for the arrest of suspects who attempted a burglary in Libra road.

On behalf of all of the residents, the SRA would like to congratulate and thank **Zweli** and **Paulos** for their good work!



## Community Feedback

- An SRA member has complimented SOS on the speed with which they assisted the resident relating to a medical emergency.



- Several residents have complimented SOS's new technician, Kenny, on his knowledgeable and friendly service and his ability to promptly and effectively repair problems that have had many people stumped!

**The SRA would like to thank Mr Clinton Carroll for the following feedback:**

*"On the 3<sup>rd</sup> April my house, 10 Hardekool, was hit by lightning and blew all my electronics. Most importantly it destroyed my alarm, gate motor and electric fence. The guards immediately responded when the system sent them a panic alert and they were on sight before I could even get the mains switched back on. They organised a car, that normally parks down the road, to park on my pavement for the night and for 24hrs a day until they had received the parts / new systems to be installed.*

*Obviously the vehicle still left on responses and patrols as scheduled with the SRA.*

*This inadvertently interrupted a non-members burglary at 3 am one morning. As the guys jumped my neighbour's wall the guard was right there to see it and stop them. They didn't catch them but stopped a burglary none the less.*

*The Reaction Officers need a special thanks. When my wife returned home or went out, they wouldn't let her get out of her car to open / close the now non-working gate and be a target so they opened / closed the gate for her. One Reaction Officer even commented he didn't like her getting out of a running car while she had two small kids on the back seat.*

*Their installation team was brilliant and in a day managed to get everything up and running again and in my opinion, the most friendly and knowledgeable guys I have met in a long time. One other thing I noticed is that when the car is parked on the corner of Hardekool the normal maniacs that fly around the corner all slowed down. Nice not to have screeching tyres for a few days.*

*Well done to an excellent team. The professionalism and customer service made a bad situation feel much easier to swallow and allowed my family and I to sleep better at night knowing we were protected and in good hands."*

**On behalf of the SRA we would like to thank and congratulate the SOS Team for their outstanding work!**

## Classified Adverts

From June 2013 we will be including a classified section in which you can advertise your business/skill/service. Should you be interested in advertising, kindly send your adverts to Anne by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month.

### Advert details

- 2.5cm x 7cm logo/picture/image in jpeg format
- 40 words
- Free to SRA members
- R40 per month for non-SRA members

## The SRA would like to take the opportunity to remind you of the following:

- Please make sure that Anne and SOS have the correct contact details for you.
- Please help us by encouraging your neighbours to join the SRA. Spread the news and make sure that your neighbours know what the SRA is doing for the community.
- Please remember to remain alert and aware and report any suspicious activity to Anne.
- All residents are encouraged to report intimidating or harassing behaviour to the police.
- Please don't forget to visit the **SRA** website ([www.sundowner.org.za](http://www.sundowner.org.za)) from time to time to get all the latest information on the **SRA**.

**A message from our new SRA chairperson:**

**Mark Klinkert**

*"If you see something unusual please make the additional 10% effort to report the situation. It is that 10% that most people do not do, and that the criminals do not expect, that makes the difference in chasing away crime."*



## Supporting Sundowner

The SRA is encouraging Sundowner residents and Sundowner businesses to support each other.  
Should you wish to get involved in our **Supporting Sundowner Drive**, please contact Anne!

### Sundowner Carwash

**MAY SPECIAL:** The Sundowner Carwash is offering all **SRA members** with an **SRA sticker** on their windscreen

**A FREE coffee** with their car wash!

**A FREE coffee** with their breakfast!

- \* Confirmation of SRA membership may be required!
- \* Breakfast is served from 8am-11am  
Corner Aries Avenue and Taurus Road, Sundowner

The logo for Marks Auto features the word 'Marks' in a large, bold, yellow font with a black outline, and 'auto' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it. The background is dark with a stylized road or track leading towards the horizon.

**SRA MEMBER SPECIAL:**  
All **SRA members** with an **SRA sticker** on their windscreen  
get a **10% discount on all labour!**

Marks Auto offers service & repairs to all vehicles – petrol and diesel. RMI and AA Accredited Workshop.  
Contact Marks Auto on 011 794 8841  
Corner Aries and Taurus Rd, Sundowner