

Newsletter: July 2020

Finance

The SRA's financial year ended on 30 June. We succeeded in spending over 90% of our Employee Related and Core Business budgets and managed to contain our administration costs/General Expenditure to 74% of budget.

Due mainly to the constraints of the COVID 19 lock down, our operational projects were significantly underspent, but the budget of R100,000 for the installation of additional security cameras was 91% spent.

This was overall a good performance under the difficult circumstances of the lock down.

Social Development/CAN

In June the board agreed to contribute R20,000 to the St James and Kalk Bay CAN (Community Action Network) to assist feed those in need in our community during this difficult time. These funds were thankfully received. We again thank all involved in the CAN initiative for the wonderful community support they are providing.

The CAN has been overwhelmed by the generous and kind support from our local community. From this ongoing support it has, for the past four months, been able to provide food parcels to families in our neighbourhood as well as supporting False Bay hospital and other well established NPOs in the greater south peninsula.

However, it is financially hard pressed to maintain its ability to continue to provide food parcels locally. The cost of providing 50 food parcels to those in need in our local community is R6500 a week. Please consider any size donation, even R50 a week helps it to feed someone in need in these difficult times.

Donate either via: <https://www.quicket.co.za/events/103214-st-james-kalk-bay-can#/> or by deposit to the newly opened CAN bank account: StJKB CAN; Nedbank; Account no. 1204174326; Bank code: 10430900.

Anna Els, our Social Development Coordinator continues to hold her Open Door clinics at the Community Centre on Tuesday mornings and assists those in need to the extent she can under the social distancing constraints imposed by the lock down.

Public Safety: Buzzer

The SRA decided in May to subscribe to a specific group security warning system called Buzzer, which works very similarly to the current SRA security WhatsApp app, and which will shortly replace our current app. Download/subscription of the Buzzer app will be free of charge to all subscribers as the SRA will cover the subscription cost.

The Buzzer app will show 8 pictures on a subscriber's mobile phone that describe various safety problems. The mobile phone holder simply presses on the picture that best describes the situation and it is automatically sent to the control room at which the exact location of the affected person can be seen. This facilitates quick response appropriate to the emergency described in the picture received.

The system will be linked to the SRA control room, Lake Security and Mountain Men to facilitate quick and appropriate response. It may also be linked to the City's Law Enforcement unit in Muizenberg in the future. The City supports the system and it is being used increasingly widely throughout Cape Town. Please visit <http://www.buzzer-app.com> for more information.

Download from the Apple App Store - <https://apple.co/3cYogNbfrom> Google Play - <https://bit.ly/2zpDfkR>

Despite this new and very helpful Public Safety tool, it is again emphasized that it is the primary responsibility of all to report crime to SAPS. This service is not intended to substitute the primary role of SAPS and Law Enforcement.

Public Safety: General

Despite three of their patrollers being out of action due to the COVID virus, Lake Security has maintained an excellent service throughout the lock down period. Visits to our 68 electronic stations throughout our SRA have never dropped below 7 times in any 24-hour period and only one station was visited less than the contractual frequency of 4 times per 24 hours. This is a terrific performance in difficult circumstances, for which the SRA is thankful.

Crime during the lock down has generally been limited to a small number of reported incidents of petty crime.

The SRA currently has 17 security cameras installed at strategic locations throughout St James and Kalk Bay. Unfortunately, the recent power failures have upset all camera systems and we are still correcting the resulting problems.

We have recently installed 4 more cameras in the St James Main Road area which are working but are still to be linked into our system. COVID has affected the technicians working on these installations but they should complete the installation in the next few days. Once this work is complete the SRA intends to install 3 more cameras along Main Road in St James.