

Sustainability report

launched

SAPREF launched its 2005 sustainability report at a function at the Clubhouse on 31 May.

The invited guests, mainly from our neighbouring communities and NGOs, received copies of the report, subtitled "A report to our stakeholders".

For the last five years SAPREF has provided verified information on its operational, economic, environmental and social performance. For the last two years, the report has started following some of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) guidelines for sustainability reporting. SAPREF expanded its reporting on people matters in the 2005 report which is titled "Sustainability in Focus".

MD Wayne Pearce said, "Our business strategies are focused on the three components necessary for a sustainable business; economic, environmental and social, and our business processes require that we set objectives, and report and review performance regularly. Our annual report is an extension of this philosophy and our commitment to openness. This report

records progress in 2005, as well as the areas where we need to do more and the challenges facing our business."

The report details the following highlights in 2005:

- SAPREF has continued to invest in the development of people and particularly in supporting the national skills development strategy through a learnership programme. The annual budget invested in training and development totals some R23 million.
- Very good progress has been made with achieving employment equity targets and increasing BEE spend, particularly on the cleaner fuels project where more than R24 million or 32% was spent with BEE companies.
- SAPREF's clean fuels project was completed on time and ahead of the government's 1 January 2006 deadline. An investment of R700m delivered the facilities to produce petrol with no lead, and diesel and petrol with reduced sulphur. In addition, lead has not been replaced



Some of the guests at the launch of the stakeholder report.



with any other additives. During the construction phase, 1000 people from neighbouring communities worked on the project.

- Since 1997 sulphur dioxide emissions have reduced by 60%, includ-

>>> Page 2



Look who's an artisan now

page 4



Powerful new computers rolled out

page 5



Pauline gets blue number for Two Oceans

page 11

Major shutdown under way

It was a long time coming – two years of planning; in fact the six-week shutdown began on 26 June and is for normal maintenance work on a number of units. At the same time, some project work is being done to improve the reliability of certain equipment. It is also a busy time for the inspection department.

There is a major increase in focus on health, safety and environment at this time. Our neighbours have been notified through flyers and community newspaper notices of the shutdown and the likelihood of flaring from time to time.

The top dome of the regenerator, seen here on site before shutdown began, was manufactured at Elgin Engineering in Durban. With the cyclone assembly, it weighs approximately 194 tonnes and requires a 450-tonne crane to hoist it into position on the FCCU plant. The hoist was planned for 10 July, weather permitting.



Sustainability report launched

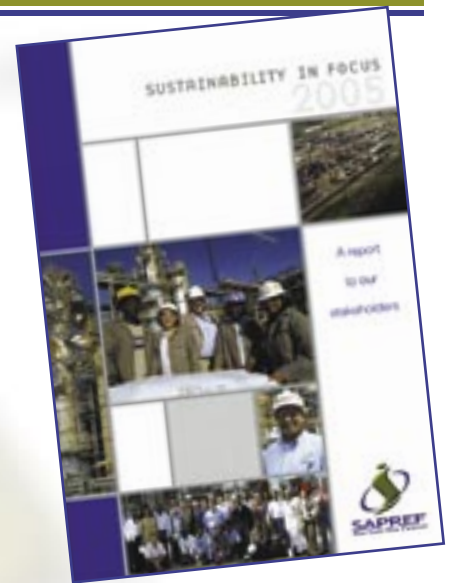
>>> from Page 1

ing operating to a self-imposed limit of 20 tonnes of sulphur dioxide per day averaged over the year. Performance in 2005 was better than this.

- Recommendations of an independent study into SAPREF's transfer pipelines between the refinery and the Island View storage facilities initially recommended that two lines

be recoated. At the time, SAPREF said it would go beyond the recommendations by coating all seven pipelines. During the bidding process for the work an alternative bid was offered to replace the lines and after careful review and investigation, it was decided to replace all seven pipelines.

- Staff and contractors achieved six million safe hours without a lost time injury. Safety performance contributed to a total recordable frequency rate of 1.5 and the second-best performance in 2005 of all Shell manufacturing sites.
 - The SAPREF Community Liaison Forum met 11 times in 2005 and has two task teams, one focused on the



environment and the other on social development.

- In terms of social investment, development of another science laboratory was started, this time at Zwelihle High School in Umlazi; a self-development programme was offered to local educators and learners from surrounding schools; SAPREF invested in a pilot soccer development programme and tournament initiated by the SAPREF Community Liaison Forum.



Khumbulani is the new finance manager

As we say farewell to finance manager Kalpesh Mehta at the end of June, so we welcome the new finance manager, Khumbulani

Cele, who has spent two months at SAPREF already as part of a hand-over period. He is part of the leadership team.

Long servers

Congratulations to the following long-serving people whose anniversaries came up in May and June 2006:

5 years

Sipho Dlamini, production accountant
Melanie Francis, occupational hygienist

10 years

Henry Chipeya, training manager
Bradley Richards, machinist

15 years

Colene Campbell-Gibson, HR assistant
Radesh Cheyanand, process technician
Shane Coxen, process technician
Calvin Govender, senior hydrocarbon accountant
Selva Govender, electrician
Yukesh Maharaj, main fuels scheduler
Glen Mathys, operations training coordinator
Leonard Mbokazi, community liaison officer
Ravi Naicker, process technician
Indrani Naidoo, process support engineer
Osborne Ngcobo, process technician
Andrew Ryan, rigger
Greg Smith, process technician

20 years

Graham Garlick, bulk filler

25 years

Mike Baijnath, process technician
Bongani Buthelezi, process technician
Reimar Fitschen, group leader – civil
Vee Moodley, XP day assistant
Colin Mthethwa, E&S
David Radebe, shift supervisor

30 years

Mickey Maharaj, HSE advisor
Jannie Vermeulen, QMI mechanic

35 years

Carl Booysen, planner

Khumbulani grew up in KwaMashu, but spent his high-school years at the Pholela Secondary School, a boarding school at Bulwer. In 1994 he completed his B Com, majoring in accounting, at the University of Natal in Durban (UND). He has subsequently done a post-graduate course in management accounting at UND, attended an executive development programme at the University of Cape Town's business school, and done a diploma in taxation.

As Khumbulani's B Com had been sponsored by the Natal Bio Product Institute, a company affiliated to the Natal Blood Transfusion Service, he joined them in 1995 in their finance department, becoming finance manager in 1999. He then joined Indian Ocean Fertiliser in Richards Bay as head of management accounting, and in 2001 was appointed finance manager of the Richards Bay operation of what was now Foskor, later becoming head of procurement.

He is married to Sindi and they have two boys. Sindi is the head of the social



Khumbulani Cele, finance manager

service department at SAPS, Pinetown. Khumbulani is a very keen golfer, playing to a nine handicap, and finds time every weekend for a game, while also enjoying family time. He finds golf helps him to network and to know people who can influence growth in those around them. He is a regular churchgoer. He also enjoys contemporary jazz and African music.

Khumbulani describes himself as well balanced and sociable; however, at work he sees himself as strict and deadline driven; he loves nothing more than to lead a team working toward a common goal, and his style is to give people their space.



Eric Manicom, centre, payroll and pensions accountant, celebrated his retirement from SAPREF at a party on 3 May. He had been with the company for more than 32 years.

Now Michael's an artisan



Happiness is when a person is given and takes an opportunity to learn and grow, and in three years qualifies as an artisan.

That is what happened to Michael Mthembu who joined SAPREF ten years ago. As he had the necessary attributes, his supervisor, Vinod Lalla, suggested he go through training to become an artisan. So Michael spent three months full-time for each of three years at the South African Sugar Association's training centre. In April this year, he did his trade test there – and passed. He has been promoted to artisan electrician.

Says Vinod Lalla, senior electrical supervisor, who managed the process, "We are all delighted for Michael. We gave him an opportunity, and he grabbed it. It just shows, if you put your mind to something, you can move to another level."

Michael Mthembu, now an artisan electrician.

Meet Gabriel Dube

Gabriel Dube, a SAPREF scholarship holder in his student days, joined us on 6 March as senior corrosion engineer. He comes directly from PetroSA in Mossel Bay where he had a similar post for five years.

Gabriel grew up on the South Coast near Scottburgh and completed his secondary education at Scottburgh High School. He then achieved a B Tech degree in chemical engineering at Mangosuthu Technikon, and worked at SAPREF for a year as a trainee process technologist and for another two years in the operations and process division at Sasol Fibres. He then studied corrosion engineering and science at the University of Manchester (Institute of Science & Technology), UK and obtained his M.Sc Engineering.

In his youth, Gabriel achieved his SA colours in athletics: his races were 800m and 400m. He also played wing for his technikon's first rugby team.

He has an inquiring mind and seeks to



get a better understanding, through reading widely, of politics, finance, business and economics. Being sociable, his best is a solid discussion on the issues of the day.

He sees himself as someone who gives more than he takes; in particular, he remembers his roots and likes to encourage the children where he grew up, whether it is financially, by giving maths lessons, or simply by acting as a role model.

Gabriel is married and has two small children.

Sandile Ngcobo elected to procurement forum

SAPREF is always proud when one of the team excels in a professional body. This is the case with Sandile Ngcobo, project commercial co-ordinator who was elected in April as Secretary of the South African Petroleum Industry Association's (SAPIA) Procurement Forum. He represents SAPREF, Shell and BP on the forum and also sits on the SAPIA board of governors. Both bodies meet monthly.

Says Sandile, "I feel honoured. It is an indication of the trust that exists between (SAPREF, BP and Shell) that I am able to represent them in this leadership position, and that they believe I can drive transformation forward the way we envision it to be.

"We work closely with the Department of Minerals and Energy with respect to the oil industry's BEE procurement target and industry charter."

New computers rolled out

The roll-out project team, from left, Jay Moodley, Romanus Dindi, Kiru Subramunier, Norman Warren, Avish Surajbali, Mlu Mokoena, Fred Turck, Siphon Hlophe, Marlon Reddy, Vis Moodley, Vodeshin Govender, Alan Kotze, Bugsy Khan and Ashwin Gayadin.



You may well have noticed a team of engineers in red shirts installing new computers since mid-May. Yes, it is five years since the last new computers were installed; this time the order was for 530 desktop PCs and 120 notebooks.

Fred Turck, IT manager, explains, "We awarded the tender to Dell again. Their modus operandi is extraordinary: within a week of receiving our order, they had manufactured the first 300 PCs in Ireland, and delivered them to SAPREF; the 120 notebooks also took a week.

"The computers have approximately three times more processing power (3.2 GigaHerz) and have 1 GB of memory. One of the big pluses is that the computers can be fixed quickly and easily, and software upgraded, from a central point."

The advantages of the new computers include:

- ergonomically and environmen-

tally friendly flat screen monitors on the desktop models, with a clearer image and zero radiation

- they take up less space on the desk
- the notebooks have much wider screens and a high-quality image
- the new docking stations are ergonomically designed
- the new design of the desktop is in line with World Health Organisation recommendations
- more security against hacking
- improved security as each notebook computer has its own swipe card for entering and leaving SAPREF sites.

The project manager was Romanus Dindi, with Norman Warren the asset owner and Vis Moodley the asset manager. They were assisted by Bugsy Khan and Grant Cohn. The seven-man installation team was from Business Connexion.

The "old" computers, which had been rented, were returned to RentWorks, the owner, at the end of June.

SAPREF helps boost business skills

As part of SAPREF's social responsibility programme, the company sponsored 43 Grade 11 learners from our nine surrounding focus areas, on an 11-week Junior Achievement business course held at the Training Centre.

The learners were split into two groups, and after some initial training, they had to come up with a product which they would then manufacture and sell. At the end of the course, their "businesses" were wound up and any profits distributed to the members. On this course, the groups' choices were for fancy notebooks and lip-ice.

Said Leonard Mbokazi, community liaison officer, "There is no doubt that the learners acquire considerable entrepreneurship skills on the one-evening-a-week course. For our part, we find the course definitely helps build relationships between us and our nearby communities."

‘Intervene and win’

to correct unsafe behaviour



Lawrence Schroder was the winner of the first R1000 prize for intervening.

SAPREF, along with Shell sites worldwide, held a campaign to raise the HSE focus during the week of 12-15 June. With a large shutdown starting on 26 June, the campaign was timeous.

The three central themes or “golden rules” were: COMPLY, INTERVENE and RESPECT YOUR NEIGHBOURS.

SAPREF people were encouraged to intervene and correct unsafe or non-compliant behaviour. Thereafter, to record the completed intervention in the incident system.

All such reports qualified for a lucky draw, one to be done every day for 20 weekdays, with R1000 up for grabs each time. (The R20 000 came from a safety award from Shell - see page 8.)



Roshini Hiralal busy with upgrading the booklet of HSE rules and regulations which was to be re-issued in June to help shutdown and other workers better understand the COMPLIANCE message.

‘Respecting our neighbours’ was reviewed with the SAPREF Community Liaison Forum. The issue was: what being a good neighbour really means in a mixed industrial and community area.

Safety certificates presented to all



All staff recently received a certificate in recognition of the achievement of eight million safe hours. Here, Dixon Lowe, right, presents a certificate to managing director Wayne Pearce.

With the other members of the Leadership Team, from left, Rodney Youldon, Liziwe Mda, Lora Rossler, Kalpesh Mehta, Khumbulani Cele, Musa Mkhwanazi and Siva Govender.

HIV testing

offered at all sites

Voluntary Confidential Counselling and Testing (VCCT) was carried out on site during HSE Week by LifeWorks.

About 20 presentations, including pre-test counselling, were made to groups of SAPREF people across all sites and at times suitable for shift workers.

Testing then took place using World Health Organisation-approved rapid kits (oral). The results were made known almost immediately to individuals at confidential post-test counselling sessions.

In a bid to motivate people to know their HIV status, five cash awards of R1000 were to be presented after a lucky draw with all staff eligible. The only condition was that 70 percent of SAPREF people take the HIV tests. Free baseball caps were also handed out to all undergoing VCCT.

LifeWorks emphasised that early diagnosis is the key to combating HIV/AIDS. By knowing our HIV status, we can protect ourselves and our families.



Dr Nikki Connellan, Norman Ngo-beni, Pauline Mngomezulu and Disebo Masukela, all of LifeWorks, assist SAPREF people to be tested for HIV.



Wayne Pearce, managing director, prepares to do the HIV test, assisted by Norman Ngo-beni of LifeWorks. Note the free cap.

Know your HIV status



Shell awards for SAPREF

S'bu Zulu received the awards on behalf of SAPREF from Paddy Milner, Shell's vice president - supply & distribution Africa and acting CEO.



SAPREF won three prestigious awards at Shell's 2006 Batho Pele Awards which were held in Cape Town on 31 March. Safety manager S'bu Zulu represented SAPREF at the ceremony.

SAPREF won two Team category awards for achievements in firstly, contractor safety management in the hazardous refinery environment, incorporating the challenges of shutdowns, and secondly the brown-fields LION project.

Thirdly, SAPREF was the overall winner, earning a R20 000 prize. All the winners received crystal trophies.

- SAPREF achieved one million hours without a lost time injury on 1 June. Each staff member received an electric toasted sandwich maker as a gift.

Electrical 'on the right path'

SAPREF organised and hosted a Regional Electrical Engineers Meeting (REEM) for Shell group delegates, held over four days at the Hilton Hotel in mid-May. There were 30 participants from Syria, Oman, Nigeria, Gabon, the Netherlands and South Africa, including ten part-time SAPREF delegates.

Said host Jeff McQueen, "There were many positive outcomes, such as the shared learnings between operation companies, and the opportunity for SAPREF electrical people to listen, partake, present and benchmark against other sites. The meeting was successful for all. SAPREF's electrical section is definitely on the right path."

Getting closer to our attorneys

A workshop/conference for four firms of attorneys and relevant SAPREF people was held at the training centre on 31 May.

Said host Fiona Gumede, legal services manager, "The occasion served a number of purposes. As SAPREF requires a broad range of legal assistance, we have now spread this work among four legal practices; at the same time, we have been able to appoint some BEE firms. Apart from the formal presentations, it was also an excellent opportunity for people to get to know each other."

SAPREF took the opportunity to give the legal practices a closer look at how we operate. Ernie Claassen was facilitator for the day; Bob Abel, a SAPREF pensioner, gave an overview of the company and its structure; Mike Anwana gave a global oil review; Fiona spoke on the legislative/regulatory framework and the role of the legal

services manager, as well as the role of the appointed attorney; Roy Singh spoke on BEE. Bob then presented an oil cooking course, and after lunch conducted a site visit.



Mokgere Masipa (Masipa-Nepaul), Fiona Gumede (legal services manager, SAPREF) and Jenny McIntosh (Garlicke and Bousfield).



Facilitator Ernie Claassen, Advocate Nigum Lalla, Mokgere Masipa (Masipa-Nepaul), Malcolm Lutge (Lutge Magigaba Incorporated) and Bob Abel, a former SAPREF employee.



Gary Rademeyer (Garlicke and Bousfield), Fiona Gumede (legal service manager, SAPREF) and Fay Hoosain, (legal advisor, Shell).



Anand-Nepaul (Masipa-Nepaul), Irvin Lawrence (Garlicke and Bousfield) and Mike Anwana (C&P manager, SAPREF).



Richard Haslop (Woodhead, Bigby & Irving), Bedver Irving (Woodhead, Bigby & Irving) and Roy Singh (C&P manager operations services).

Seeking better performance and HSE on wharf

At SAPREF's initiative, a cross-company ship-shore interface audit was done at Island View with Engen refinery (Enref). in May. This was part of an attempt to achieve a sustainable performance improvement of wharf operations at Island View, especially as more than 25% of SAPREF's and Enref's products are loaded onto ships.

An international objective audit framework was used to ensure we measure ourselves objectively against global marine standards, and the results were presented back to Enref's and SAPREF's leadership on 5 June by the audit teams, represented by Captain George Franklin.

Initiator Bas Kikkert said, "Both mixed audit teams did a great job in drilling down to the basics; the people audited

in both companies have been really helpful and transparent, with a desire to learn. We now have set a clear roadmap for a joint journey towards excellence with full buy-in from both MDs. A joint taskforce will lead the way from here, seeking maximum synergy between Enref and SAPREF. From SAPREF's side, our commitment is reinforced through the appointment of Yukesh Maharaj as the new dedicated Island View shipping manager."

High priority areas will be clarification of responsibilities, alignment of operating practices and procedures, and a joint approach to the training and measurement of compliance.

Wayne Pearce closed the meeting by saying, "There is a huge vibe in the room to learn, and

energy to do things better together. I very much support the proposed way forward, and this initiative is a tangible example of a broader goal to co-operate as neighbouring refineries, particularly when it comes to HSE."

Wayne Hartman, general manager of Engen, said, "I want to take this even further, and ask all people in the room to show real leadership, in communicating this vision and commitment to all people involved in our joint ship-shore operations, such that all know we are really serious about this."

In 2007 SAPREF expects the next Shell marine audit, which will be an excellent landmark to work towards, and achieve nothing but the highest possible: a "GOOD" audit result!

Yukesh there to boost efficiency

Yukesh Maharaj has taken on the new post of shipping manager, Island View.

Says Yukesh, "I am here to lift the efficiency of our shipping operation especially improving the turnaround times of ships, and to boost safety and other HSEQ related matters, thereby saving on demurrage claims."

Yukesh is currently reviewing and implementing earlier work done on the marine HEMP (hazards and effects management process), as well as aligning the operations of SAPREF and other berth users to the internationally recognised OCIMF standards. This

includes focusing on better HSEQ on the waterfront. He is also involved in the scheduling of the ships that call to load cargo for export or coastal ports, as well as ensuring the reliability of the berths.

Yukesh joined SAPREF in 1991 as a learner process technician, then joined oil movements becoming a team leader. In 2001 he joined the Island View team, working in maintenance, operations and as area training co-ordinator. Late last year he joined economics and scheduling for further advancements.

Yukesh has a B Tech in management



Yukesh Maharaj seen at Berth 10.

and is busy with an MBA. Durban born and bred, he loves the outdoor life with his children. He describes himself as quietly spoken but outspoken, sincere, and serious about everything he does.

Last word from Yukesh: "My aim is to substantially reduce demurrage claims by the end of this year. Working as a team, we will achieve this by improving wharf side operations, and by better scheduling and planning."

Presenting opportunities at SMME fair



SAPREF had a well-positioned stand at the South Durban Basin SMME Fair held in a huge marquee at Kenyon Howden Grounds at Montclair from 9-11 June. The fair provided a platform for businesses to offer contracts and procurement opportunities to SMMEs (small and medium micro enterprises) who might be future suppliers.

Helen Sigcau, vendor/system administrator, C&P, who was at the stand, said SAPREF was looking for linkages in a variety of areas:

- A range of engineering services
- Supply of materials such as heat exchangers and vessels; electrical supplies; tools, valves, pipes and fittings.
- Training of personnel
- Environmental impact assessments and safety audits
- Information technology
- General, such as scrap metal and wood, bird control, locksmiths, printing and signage
- Various financial services.

ABOVE: Lindi Mkhize, left, and Sam Ngubane, consultant PR assistants, talk to potential suppliers at the fair.

LEFT: the fair was in this marquee.



Baseoil four ask Pernis group to refinery

The North Zone four, who spent time at Pernis refinery in Holland late last year, organised a one-week return visit for their counterparts in May. The SAPREF baseoil four are Binesh Sewnandan, Nkosinathi Mhlanga, Jason Nadarajan and Nhlanhla Mazibuko.

Said Binesh, "Both groups learned a lot. They were very impressed with our attitude to housekeeping and the competency upliftment project. They were also surprised to find women on the plant and on the panels; at Pernis, women work only on the water treatment plant. We came to realise that at Pernis they are much quicker at implementing changes, partly because our procedures take longer here. Their shifts also have their own budgets to implement new ideas following the

management of change process; their personal protective equipment, for example, is bought out of this budget and gives them a greater sense of ownership."

David Bird, PUM north zone, said he was heartwarmed by the rapport that had been established, the diligence that had produced new ideas, and the passion to follow through. He said a lot of ideas had been implemented on the ops side, with plant changes in the pipeline. He appealed to the whole refinery to support the implementation of these new ideas.

The Pernis four gave a close-out presentation to a large group including management; their ideas were well received.



The Pernis group were intrigued to find alcohol testing in place at SAPREF – it was something new for them; they also joked that they might fail the early morning test after some of the nights out they had with their SAPREF counterparts. Here, Karel Kleijn, head process operator at Pernis, takes and passes the alcohol test at SAPREF main gate.

Said MD Wayne Pearce, "I am truly impressed by the team work and learning I see happening as a result of this pilot exchange; we must work to take such opportunities across all of SAPREF's operations to earn our own future."

Now Pauline can wear blue number

Four intrepid SAPREF people travelled to Cape Town in April to run the 56-km Two Oceans Marathon.

Pauline Bowes was running for the tenth time, and qualified for her blue (permanent) number. Dominic Hlophe ran for the third time, with David Bird and Bongani Mvelase tackling the race for the first time. All finished the race.

David said it was the most beautiful marathon he had run – and he has run more than ten in various parts of the world.

Medals galore in pistols events



The recent South African Pistol Association national championships hosted in Pretoria was a huge success for both Daniel Mngoma and Lloyd Lazarus, seen here at the post-champs dinner. Both Dan and Lloyd represented KwaZulu-Natal and felt proud to keep SAPREF's flag flying high.

Daniel achieved gold in Olympic rapid fire, and silver in the air pistol event. Lloyd achieved silver in the sport pistol event and bronze in free pistol and police pistol A.

The competition was tough, with the German team winning first place; Russia came in second and South Africa in third place.

Back home after the event, both Lloyd and Dan are hard at work practising to bring home gold in all events at the next championship.



Pauline Bowes with her medals from the Two Oceans Marathon, earned over ten years. Go, gal.

Calling all Columns readers

Please remember to update SAPREF if your postal address has changed, or if you know someone who would like to receive Columns.

Phone editor
Prudence Mbatha on
031-4801 303,
or email her on
mbathap@sapref.com

Wesley now African champ

Our Springbok archer, Wesley Gates, assistant area engineer CZ, has been appointed chairman of the technical advisory board of Archery SA, and as such he also sits on the executive board.

The role involves implementing development strategies to uplift the knowledge base and competency of archers and provincial coaches in not only technical aspects of the use of compound bows, but also proper coaching methodology and techniques. Wesley will be working with both development archers as well as archers of international calibre. The aim is to raise the standard of archery and bring back more medals from international tournaments.



In another new development, the Lotto Association has offered funding to archery, and Wesley will thus be sponsored for his travel and accommodation for both local and international competitions. He hopes to now travel more regularly each year to overseas tournaments with a team of archers. He continues to receive equipment sponsorship from USA-based companies.

Meanwhile, Wesley has not been slacking. He participated in the SA national champs in Cape Town, in the SA target and matchplay championships and in the 7th All Africa Games, all held from the 1 to 4 April; he won all three events (triple gold medallist), and can now call himself African champ. He also placed second in the SA indoor national champs held in Johannesburg in May, and came third in the SA field champs held in Mpumalanga in March.

They were Super Quick

A SAPREF running team, SUPER QUICK, came first in the Energy/Petroleum category in the Medihelp National Business Relay held in Yellowwood Park on 20 May.

They were one of six SAPREF teams of six that ran 7 km each over the hilly course; there were also three SAPREF walking teams of four.

Despite the heavy rain, all were proud to have taken part.

Showing their metalware were, from left, André van Rensburg, Des van der Merwe, Lawrence Schroder and Warren Knowler. Unable to be in the photograph: Indrani Naidoo and Champ Ramruthan.



Beyond tough, our Kevin & Jennifer



Kevin Govender, fire officer, and his wife Jennifer came third in the national Limpopo Off-Road Challenge held near Polokwane in April, making the guys in the SAPREF 4x4 Club extremely proud. Kevin and Jennifer also won the award for Best Team Spirit.

Says Kevin, "The five-day event was tough, very tough, and went way beyond a simple test of driving skills. Jennifer and I shared the driving 50-50, and yes, we had to drive through mud

and sand, and handle dongas and rivers, and so on, but there was so much more; for example, we had to do road and bridge building in teams, a GPS exercise, and an exercise involving refuelling with jerry cans; then there was the wheel-changing drill where I

had to lug a wheel across a river and back again at top speed.

"The judges were very big on safety and team spirit, and I can honestly say my training at SAPREF in this regard really helped us to get among the prizes."

Kevin and Jennifer had previously won the KZN regional competition, enabling them to go to the national event. There, they came away with two clamp-on spring-loaded awnings, a R500 gift voucher and two 4x4 trips away. The vehicle sponsor was Ford, whose Ranger 4x4 Kevin found to be "impressive". Kevin and Jennifer have been invited to be judges on the competition next year.



The four-by-fours in convoy at the start of the competition.

For more information on SAPREF, visit www.sapref.com



Proud to have achieved ISO 14001 and ISO 9001 certification

