

SUNDIAL IN STEENBOK

A sundial is also known as a shadow clock and written records of them exist from at least 1500 BC. It was invented in the Northern Hemisphere and our sense of clockwise comes from this fact. The shadow on a Northern Hemisphere sundial travels across the dial plate in a clockwise rotational direction and anti-clockwise for the Southern Hemisphere dial. When the first clocks started to appear the sundial was used to calibrate them. As man and mathematics developed further so did the sundial and its use in astronomy and navigation continues till this day. During the Second World War solar compasses, a specialised form of sundial, were extensively used in desert and polar navigation, the magnetic compass being of very little use in such places.



The dial is of 316mm stainless steel throughout and 300mm in diameter with a 6mm thick gnomon - (pointer). It is site specific and calibrated exactly for its global position. It is also longitude corrected for that site. The Equation of Time which is the difference between solar time that the dial reads and Mean Time in which we live is expressed as an integer (whole number) around the Gregorian calendar for each day of the year thus the dial is accurate to less than a minute of South African Standard Time.



On 22 March 2016 a new sundial sponsored by **Gardening@Leisure**. It sits proudly adjacent to the paved pathway in the fynbos area and is a popular place to visit.



KIDS ACTIVITY

Try work out the time using the Steenbok Nature Reserve sundial on a sunny day and record it here (eg. 09H30)

DATE: _____ TIME: _____ H _____