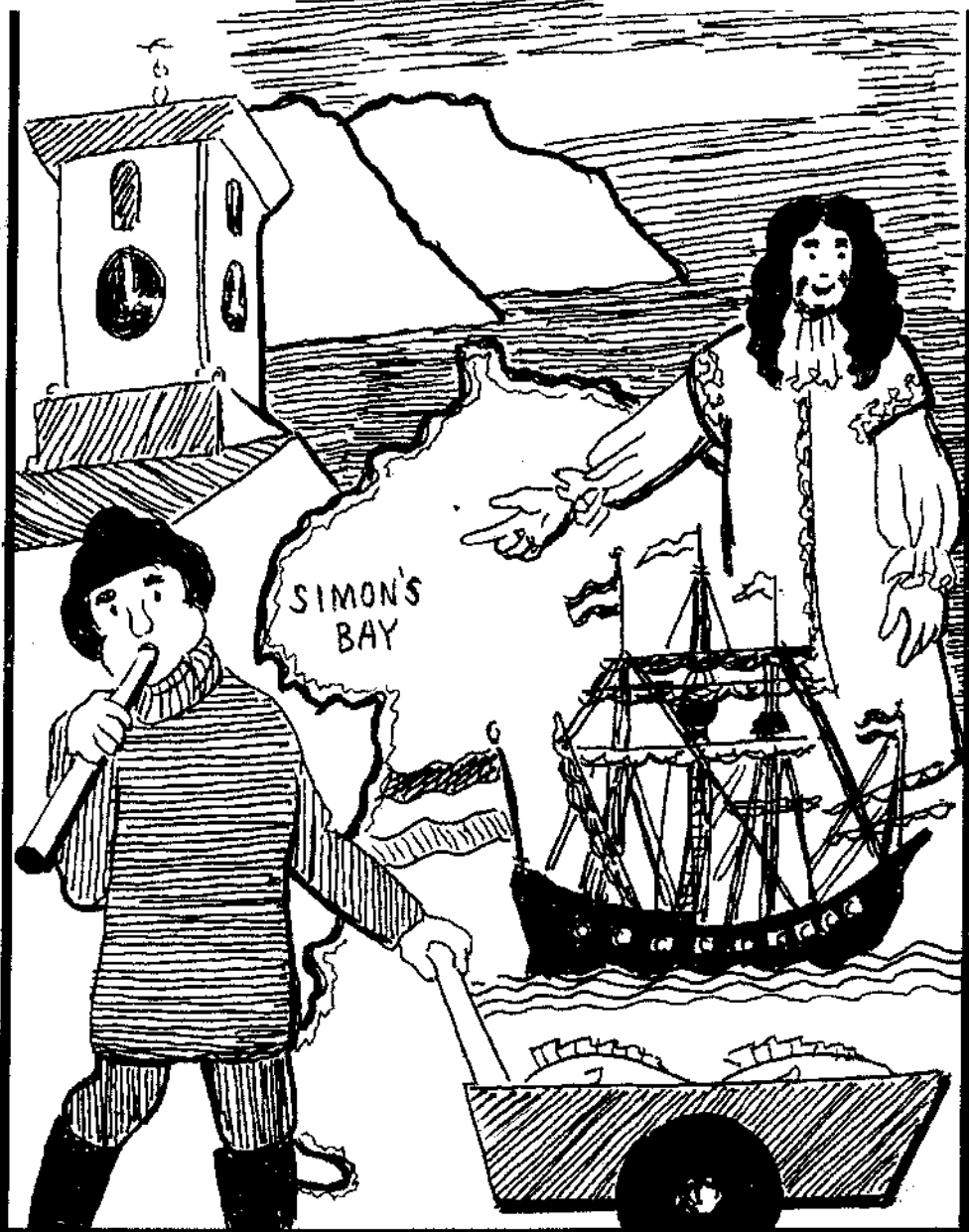


SNOEKTOWN CALLING

Vol 1 Issue 10

9 NOVEMBER 1998



Sponsor for November - Dr Reg Loxton

Editorial

It is apparent that our community is faced with a real problem with regard to invasion by aggressive troops of baboons. I have requested our Ward Counsellor to brief us on this issue.

An observation from the sideline suggests an ecological dilemma: natural predators having been eradicated, population growth which exceeds the carrying capacity of the natural habitat, and the natural consequence of a desperate need to find food elsewhere. The remedy is obvious - but, as the cliché goes, too ghastly to contemplate.

I am perturbed at the decline in quality service delivery by our SPM in general, but in this case in particular, the upkeep of our

streets, lanes, sidewalks etc. These are becoming overgrown with weeds and strewn with litter. Who, in that name of bureaucracy, is delegated to patrol the scene and initiate remedial action?

My reading of the situation is, that we as a community will need to take control of the situation and implement accordingly. There is need of positive leadership from our Ratepayers' Executive in this regard. We will, ourselves, have to do more in solving our problems.

Reg Lorton
Editor
786-1750



Irene Porter Properties C.C.

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Baboons - Aboons-holle

On Tuesday and Wednesday 27 and 28 October 1988, the Sir Lawrence Bay loop of some 27 baboons visited Froggy Pond, La Garra Park and Wabooma Glen Bay regularly had baboons climbing on trees, entering houses, turning everything upside down, wrecking for food, and causing general alarm and disturbance.

Confliction between man and animal has led to many baboons being shot, poisoned and trapped.

In an attempt to end the confusion and pass the South Peninsula Municipality engaged experts to do a study on the baboons. This has shown us much about these primates and dispelled many myths and legends which have grown around them.

Humans and baboons have co-existed on the Cape Peninsula for many years. Urban sprawl has led to more intrusion into the natural environment and the resultant loss of habitat for many animals. People have also become associated with food sources as a result of deliberate feeding of baboons by some misguided humans and by careless placebos such as littering.

Conflict has arisen, and habitats regularly eroded. The simple facts are that there is no longer a plentiful supply of baboons to replace those killed, the survivors are structurally and being destroyed, and we humans are thoughtless responsible for the imminent extinction of another animal species.

There are consistent complaints from the public that someone in authority must take responsibility for "dealing with" the baboons. We are, however, all responsible and must learn to deal with the problem we have ourselves created. Baboons must unlearn the association of humans with food. Communities and authorities must learn to work together.

Some recommendations from the study are:

1. Preventing baboons from entering villages, with help of baboon chasers
2. Always chasing baboons away from properties towards the mountains.
3. Reducing food available from residential properties e.g. by using baboon-proof rubbish bins.
4. Reducing food available from often vegetation i.e. bushes etc. by clearing.

A baboon newsletter edited by Ruth Karsky who together with Dave Gayner and Wally Paterson, PhD AG is continuing the research, has been published. Copies have been distributed to households in affected areas and are available in the library - it is essential reading.

If we all work together on this problem we will find solutions, but there are no quick fixes.

Do remember that baboons are a protected species. Feeding baboons, which includes harassing, shooting or poisoning, is a crime. So is feeding baboons. Any of the above makes you liable to prosecution.

N Holdenmaas

Baboon Task Team

Wally Paterson (Co-ordinator)	
Katharine Environmental Awareness Group	783-3433
Dean Fensale	
South Peninsula Municipality	75-9011
	05-6864300
Paul Holdenmaas	
Cape Nature Conservation	883 1660 182
	851 8312
Zain Erasmus	
Cape Nature Conservation	883 1660 652
	01 46822
Adrian Macdonald	
Cape Peninsula National Park	780-9100
Eric Van Schaikwyk	
SA Navy Botany Team	787-3511
Dave Gayner	

Cape Peninsula Baboon Project 780-1351
082 954 5262

Ruth Kinsky

Cape Peninsula Baboon Project 780-1351
082 954 5262

Please report all injured or dead baboons to
a member of the baboon task team.



Voter Registration

The dates for the registration of voters for the next year's general election are 27, 28 and 29 November 1998. The venues for registration have not been settled, yet. However, residents are advised to check the local newspapers for more details as they become available. **Remember that you will not be able to register if you are not in possession of a bar coded ID Document or if you do not have an official letter stating that you have actually applied for the new ID Book.**



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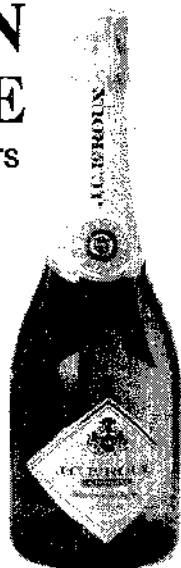
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Simon's Town Ratepayers' and Residents' Association

Property Watch

No.7 November 1998

1. Current Applications

Details of current applications being dealt with by the South Peninsula Municipality are:-

1.1 Erf 4075, Glencairn Heights, Simon's Town: Application to Relax Street Building Line. The applicant's responses to objections received are still awaited.

1.2 Erf 267, Glencairn, Simon's Town: Application to Rezone to General Residential. This application has been pended.

1.3 Erf 3590, Simon's Town, (Quarry Road): Application for Rezoning and Scheme Departures. This application will be tabled at the Urban Planning Committee meeting on 12 November 1998.

1.4 Erf 3403, Simon's Town, (Queens Road, Seaforth): Application to Redevelop "The Pantry". Approval for this proposal was given by the SPM subject to certain conditions, the major one being the provision of parking which will be for cars only to be used by occupants and lessees of units. Street parking time will be limited to 20 minutes.

1.5 Erf No 4350 Welcome Glen, Simon's Town (Glenhurst Street): Application for Rezoning, Sub-division and Scheme Departures. This application is scheduled to be tabled at the meeting of the Urban Environmental Services Committee on 12 November 1998.

1.6 Erf No 2306 in Camilla Street, Glencairn Heights, Simon's Town: Application to subdivide. Road access to the proposed subdivision must be investigated further by the applicant and agree by the SPM.

1.7 Erf No 967, Simon's Town (Highlands Development): Application for Scheme Departures. The developers have re-submitted plans showing 7 housing units instead of the approved 8 units. The public participation process has commenced and the names of interested parties have been provided to the developers who must canvass their opinions.

1.8 Bayview Heights, Simon's Town: The

current application to rezone to single residential and to subdivide the property is still pending.

1.9 Erf 3234, Glencairn Heights, Simon's Town: Application to Subdivide. This is a single residential property in Galiot Close. Comments and/or objections must be given to the SPM by 18 November 1998. Details may be inspected at the municipal offices in Fish Hoek.

2. Other Property matters:-

2.1 Inquiry into the Building Survey and Land Use Development Directorates: At this stage no results have been made known to the Simon's Town Ratepayers' and Residents' Association. As soon as any information is available it will be reported in Property Watch.

2.2 Work on the upgrading of Wharf Street and the new parking area alongside the mu-

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At Ease Bookshop, 90 St. George's
Street, Simon's Town.*

nicipal jetty is almost finished. It appears that only the lines demarcating the parking spaces need to be painted.

2.3 New Street Signage: A proposal for new street signage in Simon's Town was placed before the Architectural Advisory Committee at its September meeting. Since then the proposals have been discussed further and modified to the point where the AAC has sanctioned the installation, for a three month trial period only, of a number of these signs as a part of the public participation process. The signs will be both informative as well as definitive and will be consistent thematically and aesthetically. The public are invited to comment on these signs and to make suggestions to improve them.

Bruce Parker
Simon's Town Ratepayers'
and Residents' Association

Business Forum News

On the crime front George and Cassie report that crime has definitely been on the decrease in the past month, in fact the baboons have proved to be more troublesome than their human counterparts. A reminder to sign the letter at Simon's Town Pharmacy pledging your support for the magnificent job done by these two gentlemen.

As far as the siting of a post box in the main streets is concerned, thanks to the efforts of our Post Master, Cape Mail has agreed (although regulations stipulate boxes have to be a certain distance apart), but when and where this will also happen depends on the Cape Mail hierarchy.

A similar situation arose with the Pay and Display parking area for Jubilee Square. Again, thanks to the efforts of Nikki Holderness, Plessey was all set to install their system when a Johannesburg firm put in a bid and the SPM was forced to go to tender. Every effort has been made to hurry the process up in time for the coming season, but unfortunately the wheels of officialdom grind at their own pace.

The Wharf Street parking area is looking considerably more presentable. On completion this will be a 2 hour parking area. A Pay and Display set up is also being considered here. Although we are very happy to see progress in this area, a notice informing the public of how long work will be in progress etc. and apologies for working vehicles occupying 15 minute parking bays for 8 - 10 hours would go a long way to better community relations and co-operation. Like children we all like to know in advance what we are in for!

The walk way in the Cape Point area has helped a great deal for those of us who have to park down in that area. Thanks also to the Yacht Club for asking boat owners not to park their trailers in that area.

Welcome to all the new businesses that have come on board and thanks to their contributions to the Bobbies-on-the-Beat. Lets keep our town crime free and user friendly.

We have a busy season ahead of us!

INCREASE THE INCOME FROM YOUR HOLIDAY HOME

Do you have a holiday home or apartment which you would like to rent out to tourists from the UK?

We are producing a UK distributed brochure of properties to rent in the Simon's Town area.

If you would like us to include your property or would like more information please call either David or Claire Kerby between Monday 23rd and Sunday 29th November on 786-1200. We return to the UK on 30th November so it is important that you contact us before then.

Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch (also known as Community Watch or House Watch) is a further measure in the fight against crime.

The principal of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) is that the residents take responsibility for the safety, within their respected areas. The South African Police Service (SAPS) alone cannot successfully combat crime - it requires a COMBINED EFFORT by all sections of the society.

Home Watch (HW) is aimed at reducing domestic burglary, which is rated as one of the most upsetting crimes that can happen to a resident.

It is essential that information is passed to the Police by members of the public, as members of the SAPS cannot possibly see the vast majority of these offences being committed.

This is where Home Watch comes in. Residents know the occupiers of and regular visitors to the neighbours houses. They are also able to spot suspicious strangers and unknown vehicles visiting houses in the area. By passing their suspicions to a street co-ordinator or to the local SAPS, not only will much more crime be detected, but criminals will be deterred from your community.

Let's Fight Crime Together

What is Neighbourhood Watch?

NHW (Home Watch) is a group of concerned neighbours who combine together with the aim of reducing CRIME in their immediate areas.

Participants select their own representatives to act as a co-ordinator between the Police and the Community.

NHW Involves

1. Neighbours getting to know each other and working together in an atmosphere of mutual assistance.
2. Individual homes being secured with ap-

propriate locks and security systems.

3. Training given in the recognition and reporting of suspicious incidents.

Why is there a need for NHW?

Every year millions of crimes are committed in this country and unfortunately crime is on the increase.

As there cannot be a member of the Police stationed on every corner of the street, it has become necessary to enlist the help and support of the general public. After all, you and your neighbours are the ones who are most aware of what is going on in your area.

By co-operating with each other and the SAPS, you could help to prevent many crimes from happening, thus making your community safer and a more crime-free area in which to live.

How do you form a Neighbourhood Watch Group? Contact your local Crime Prevention Officer

Firstly, you need to contact your local Crime Prevention Officer, **Inspector CASSIE CARSTENS** at **786 2127**, who will readily offer you advice and assistance.

Talk to your Neighbours

Ascertain the level of interest amongst your neighbours. Visit each house, introduce yourself and discuss NHW. If there is sufficient interest, you can then set about arranging a meeting to establish a Home Watch in your area.

Steering Committee

Once a co-ordinator is elected he/she would be requested to attend the monthly Steering Committee held in the Rest Room, St George's Street every second Tuesday at 17.00.

At this meeting the relevant information regarding the combating of crime will be shared amongst all co-ordinators (attending residents) Home Watch stickers will be issued. These should be placed in the front and rear

windows of each house in your area.

Useful Information

So that you can recognise suspicious activity in your area, it is useful to have your neighbour's telephone numbers in order that you can check on the unexpected visitor and the like.

Other details that would be helpful to you are:

1. Details of the individual family members.
2. Hours of work.
3. Schools attended by the children and school hours.
4. Number and types of vehicles.
5. Who has dogs.
6. Planned holidays or visitors.
7. Planned deliveries or repairs.
8. Any other helpful information.

The above information could be helpful in the event of a burglary or any other type of accident.

How To Become Part of the Solution

Having read the above, if you or a member of your family are interested in becoming part of the solution to the combating of crime in your area, please complete the section below and return to:

**INSPECTOR CASSIE CARSTENS or
INSPECTOR G STORE at
786-2127 or SA POLICE STATION,
ST GEORGE'S STREET**

*John Page, Chairman
Neighbourhood Watch,
Simon's Town
Tel: 786-1551*

INCIDENT REPORT

If you see or hear anything suspicious or think a crime is being committed - this is the kind of information which will be useful to the police.

An exact description of what you saw

The time and date _____
The place _____

A description of the people involved

Male/female _____
Age (approx) _____
Height (approx) _____
Hair (colour, length etc.) _____
Build (tall, thin, stocky etc.) _____
Clothing _____
Other distinguishing features _____

A description of any vehicle involved

Make and model (if known) _____
Colour _____
Type (saloon, estate etc.) _____
Registration Number (even a part of this may help) _____
The direction of travel _____

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Down the Historic Mile

What a circus remarked Harold Hardskop at the end October meeting of SLAM. There was John Page and a bunch of excited spectators from the S&M and Cape Nature Conservation, doing battle with a troop of baboons who had invaded Murdoch Valley. Lots of shouting and running around. But with little effect - the baboons seemed to think it was great fun and appeared keen to put on a spectacular performance.

Staffel Boemans complained about the poor municipal service to our streets and lanes - these were becoming overgrown with weeds and litter. The problem was nobody was patrolling the streets and we had no one to report to. Dr Pienaar Mervelike Voornster and it's time the SLAM responded to get her recommendation to appoint John Page as the Town Ranger. At least then we would know whom to contact.

Piet Pienaar reported that the Bok had given up all hope and gave one of the boys a few ticks to clear the Club Lane steps. Perhaps the Bok can be persuaded to finance the clearing of Chapel Road down to Quarry Road which is a real disgrace. Niente Boepers confirmed that Quarry Road was really verkruid and a disgrace to the community. What must the tourists think!

Gert Fijnbosch reminded the meeting of the campaign to beautify the Main Road with bunting flags: still nothing from Dan or Norman or André or Paul - but there was need to start on the special effort from Irene Porter - well done Irene!

There was general consensus to rejoice that along last Wharf Street was properly paved and really looking good! However, what about the seaweed that was accumulating in the south-east corner of the little harbour at the Waterfront. Again the problem of rubbish along the seawall of the Town.

Streetwalker

Friends of Simon's Town Library

We wish to advise that due to the very generous donations in cash or kind, so willingly given by members towards the FOOD SALE held on October 5th 1990, an amount of almost R1000 was realised.

THANK YOU again dear Members for the very kind assistance given and also to those who were on duty at the food tables. Without this support nothing can be achieved. Please be assured that the funds are being put to very good use, as will be seen in our NEWSLETTER which will appear shortly.

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N.S.R.I. Station 10 Simon's Town Base

Monthly Letter November 1998

Station 10 has a new Station Commander in the person of Group Captain whose appointment was celebrated at an informal brass held at the Station House on Saturday 3 October 1998.

At the mention of Station 10 the name of Group Captain immediately comes to the fore. He was a founder member of Station 10 from 1969. Born in Durban in 1939, his parents moved back to "Brookings" in 1943, he completed all his schooling at Simon's Town Secondary school where he was head boy in 1959. He was apprenticed to the South African Railways and Harbours as an electrician, transferred to the Naval Dockyard in 1961, he worked there until he retired in 1993 as a Foreman Electrician. Group has always been involved in community related services, as a Scout Master of note, then as a (rescue) fireman at Simon's Town

Fire Station. His main drive, however, has been towards the giving of help and assistance to the community in medical matters. In 1987 Group ceased to be a full-time member of the N. S. R. I. when he was appointed as Chief Incident Controller of Station 10 N.S.R.I. Operations. As a crew member he served aboard all the Station 10 craft in one capacity or another, he was also Deputy Station Commander from 1989 until his appointment as Station Commander in 1994. He was also instrumental in bringing into being the Mobile Response Service of Station 10 in 1988. This service is well known at the Simon's Town area for attending to many medical and accident casualties on a continuing basis.

His appointment as Station 10 Commander is most appropriate and a just reward for his years of meritorious service to our community. He was efficient when asked what his most

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memorable operations were but he finally decided that the 1973 Chaucersal Search for the crew of the two S.A.A.P. Supacat boats which bridged into the sea off Walker Bay near Hermanus and which was conducted by S.A.N. R.N. (N.B.F.) station 10 and S.A.A.P. unit was memorable as was the successful recovery of the damaged yacht "Menacelle" from well south of Cape Point in extremely cold weather conditions. To top off a fine list of accomplishments Chops is also the Vice-Chairman and Logistics officer of the False Bay Air Ambulance Service of which he was also a founder member and his services have been operating since 1995. This is indeed a fine record of service to the South Peninsula community.

Summary of recent Station 10 events

Chops and his deputy, Dennis Zimmerman, drove to East London via the Fish River Sea to attend the launch of Station 7's new boat which is similar in design to the one that we have. In fact Dennis was a co-designer of the East London boat which was sponsored by

the Airports Company of S.A.

Rescue Demonstration

Station 10 participated alongside False Bay Ambulance and Fish Hook Fire Station in a Rescue demonstration in the pool at San Vito Primary School at a recent open day.

Rescue Display

Station 10 will conduct a rescue display with their rubber duck and motor rescue vehicle at Zwaanewyk School family day on Sunday 31 October 08.

Medical Rescue Course

Three Station 10 members have just completed an advanced medical rescue course.

Eddie Beaumont cheese and wine

On the 19th of October a cheese and wine function was held in Margaret Gidder Hall in honour of the late Eddie Beaumont. The Wave Plate which bears Eddie's name was on display there.

Your's Ayo

Dan Daffery, Support Committee

N.S.R.I. Station 10

GLADYS DILLEY ESTATES

Est. 1930

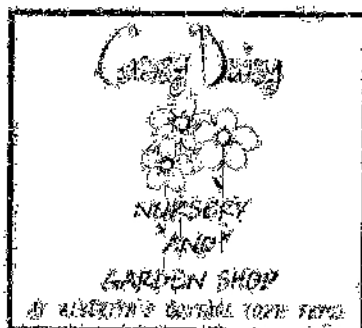
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Simon's Bay - The Early Years - Part 1

A Dutch soldier Antonii Visser arrived at the Cape in 1718 and applied for "burgher papers" the following year. Very little is known about Visser other than he was not a well educated man. His uncle, Johan Vlok, was a member of the Council of Policy at the Cape at that time, as well as being a wealthy land owner.

In July 1724 Visser applied for and was granted a "loan place" situated "agter den Steenberg" at Simon's Bay. Just two months later in September of the same year Visser inherited his uncle's estate and in turn became a very wealthy landowner. The properties he inherited were No 1 Strand Street, Table Bay and two farms at Wynberg. Several years later when Visser married he acquired yet another large farm at Tygervally.

During the years 1728 to 1730 Visser was a member of the court dealing with minor and marital cases. It is not known when Visser moved to Simon's Bay but it is thought to have been 1730. Prior to this he had a manager at his "loan place" at Simon's Bay. During 1725 a "veldthuis" was erected on the property. A collection of letters and other documents relating to the disastrous voyage of the ship PALLAS confirm that Visser was living at Simon's Bay in 1731 where he was conducting business as a Ship's Chandler as well as providing a sick tent for sailors. Visser built a simple three roomed farm house at his "loan place" for his family which was to become the origins of the present Admiralty House.

Despite the fact that the Bay had been surveyed on several occasions and despite the heavy loss of shipping in Table Bay, it was not until 1741 that the Council of Policy finally made the decision to use Simon's Bay as a winter anchorage. Another two years were to elapse before the arrival in the Cape of Baron Gustaff van Imhoff, en route to the

Dutch East Indies. The Baron had the authority to initiate several major projects, one was a breakwater to provide shelter for ships in Table Bay and the second the construction of the Magazine/Storehouse at Simon's Bay. The site he chose for the latter was to the South of Visser's property, on a fairly level piece of ground(1). The two storeyed building was 450 feet in length and 20 feet wide (approx 138m by 6m). It was built of sun baked bricks and locally hewn wood(2). Despite the fact that Baron van Imhoff chose the only level site available, a certain amount of excavation was necessary as the shore line was very narrow. This ground was used to lay the terras (sic) or parade ground as it would be known today. Apart from the necessary storage facilities the Magazine/Storehouse also provided accommodation for the garrison and the Postholder. A blacksmith and carpenters's shop was also in the building. During the years that followed several additions were made which included a southern and western warehouse, several storerooms as well as accommodation for a storekeeper's clerk. By 1795 the building was in a very poor state of repair and some of the additions had not been completed.

(1) On the site of the present day Detailed Clothing Store (slops).

(2) Yellow wood which grew in the Kloof.

S A Myers

BRAD'S

bistro & food store

Bistro / bistrou / ʔA small bar or restaurant

The world, I am sure, will never agree upon the exact origins of the word **BISTRO**. The most often quoted explanation is that "Bistro! Bistro!" is what Russian soldiers shouted as they made for café's after seizing Paris in 1815. But since the word really did not enter the French language until 1884, other explanations are more plausible. Some suggest the word comes from "Bismouille" or "Bismouille", which in the North of France refers to a mixture of coffee and "eau-de-vie", both drinks one might find at a **BISTRO**. Going one step further, we have the verb "Bismouiller", which refers to the preparation of an Eaux-de-vie made with water, alcohol and other products, which of course, might be passed off as wine in a low quality 'Bistro'.

Whatever its origins, everyone agrees that whether it's a café, a small unpretentious restaurant, or simply a place to enjoy a glass of wine and a simple yet hearty meal, a **BISTRO** is a place for good times with friends.

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SA Navy Dockyard Tours - Simon's Town

The SA Navy will conduct two tours daily of the West and East Dockyard in Simon's Town from 7 December 1998 to 15 January 1999. A bus will depart from Jubilee Square at 10h00 and again at 13h30 - no booking, no cost! Tours will not be conducted on public holidays and only a morning tour will be conducted on 24 and 31 December 1998. For further enquiries contact Lieutenant Commander Jaco Theunissen on (021) 787-3801 or 082 925 7157.

Navy Diary

WHEN	WHAT/WHO	WHERE
11-13 Nov 98 07h30-17h30	Gunnery Exercise 76/62mm	SA Naval Dockyard
7-10 Dec 98 07h30-17h30	Gunnery Exercise 76/62mm	SA Naval Dockyard
23-27 Dec 98	VWV Launch	SA Naval Dockyard A marked increase in activity in and around the Dry dock can be expected
9 Dec 98	Commander of the Kenyan Navy visit	Admiralty House
7 Dec 98	- Major General Rafrouf	
15 Jan 99	Two daily tours of East of East and Dockyards	Bus departs from Jubilee square at 10h00 and again at 13h30. Tours are free.

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sea urchin and sea urchin spines. However, heat treatment more effectively breaks down the molecular structure of their protein toxin. Signs of causing third degree burns, any wound should be immersed for at least thirty minutes in very hot water - at around 55°C to destroy Gelatin - as soon as possible.

It is essential that a stung victim immediately remove any fragments of spine. However, surgery is often required to remove the lodged spine of a stingray. Without this, further treatment with antibiotics and antitoxin agents is administered to prevent secondary complications. When not deeply embedded, sea urchin spines are best left to be naturally extruded and thereby avoid further tissue damage.

Untreated and, even minor abrasions and cuts from a rock surface can become infected by bacteria resistant to most antibiotics. These should first be cleaned with an antiseptic solution, then painted with

Mettiglate (Iodine or Mercuric Iodine) and kept dry. In an emergency, a deep cut should be treated with Epsom Balm to control the bleeding and dressed with Steri-Strip as a substitute for stitches. However, anything worse than a minor wound is best treated by a doctor or paramedic as soon as possible.

This also applies to acute poisoning from bathing in surf scum or beach scum exposed to the "red tide" phytoplankton bloom.

Many diving accidents are caused by lack of discipline. To provoke or mock the escape route of a dangerous animal is looking for trouble. Although seldom fatal, discharge of up to twenty five volts from a disturbed electrical eel is an unfortunate lesson. The greedy eels, stingrays and sharks also react violently when disturbed. To avoid a shark attack, divers should never explore unfamiliar ones without first consulting a local authority. Fortunately, the situation is not as grim as media sensationalism leads us to believe and it is more dangerous to cross

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busy roads!

After a shark-attack, the first step is to control bleeding with a tight tourniquet. The victim should then be laid on the back with limbs raised and head down. At this stage, the tourniquet should be replaced with a venous pressure-bandage. While some assistance is being sought, the victim should be given assurances to prevent panic but must not be moved. On arrival, paramedics first assess breathing and circulation. They then provide pure oxygen and start an intravenous line of Ringer's Lactate followed by a plasma expander. This lactate is a solution of essential salts, which helps to maintain fluid balance and thereby prevent shock from loss of blood. Only when fully stabilized is the casualty moved and then rushed to the nearest hospital.

All too often, people with little knowledge of marine life handle dangerous invertebrates such as cone shells without protective gloves. They do not realize that the teeth of some cones are adapted for "chemical warfare" with corded-tissue guided missiles and can launch a salvo of six! When at "battle stations", their "fire control" sensor system directs them to the target area. They begin to slip hollow teeth from an aft magazine-like sac for arming amidsthips by a neurotoxin injector. The first is then loaded forward in a long tubular proboscis ready to be fired. Fortunately, a strike from species in Cape waters is no worse than a bee sting, but their message is clearly to look but not touch!

It is the same message with explorers of intertidal rock-pools. Leave our common false plum anemone alone, because it is venomous! Incidentally, moved rocks should always be gently replaced after an inspection so as not to crush any animals. Never step on slippery algae-encrusted rocks, nor turn your back to the sea. Also never swim off any acutely sloping beach, nor go without a total block-out cream or lotion. UV radiation has been particularly severe since September this year (1998), when a hole in the ozone layer over Antarctica expanded to 27

million square kilometres!

Despite so many hazards, most can be avoided with a little common sense. There is no good reason to become paranoid about spending time on our beautiful False Bay beaches. However, just as accidents occasionally occur at home, they can happen in even a "safe" tidal pool and we need to be prepared. All of us should know how to apply basic First Aid and CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation). It is also a good idea to learn the Abdominal Thrust, which could save someone from choking to death on a foreign body in the air passage. That "someone" could be YOUR spouse or child!

Bevan Pank, Science Writer

Probus Club, Simon's Town

The concept of the "Probus" club goes back to England in the 1960's and was an amalgamation of the ideas of the Rotary Club of Welwyn Garden City, which formed a "Campus Club" and the Rotary Club of Caterham which formed the first "Probus Club". Both ideas stemmed from acknowledgement that many professionals, business men and executives felt cut adrift when they retired, suddenly losing the contact, company and stimulation of their commercial and industrial peers. "Probus Clubs" came into being to fill the gap, the English idea has spread around the globe. The first South African Club was formed in Durban ten years ago and the movement has spread into the Western Cape and Transvaal.

Probus Clubs have no political affiliations and the membership does not involve itself in fund raising or social movements, its sole function is to provide a forum in which its members can come together and enjoy the continued fellowship of their retired peers, colleagues and friends. There are no restrictions on membership, it is not necessary to have been part of Rotary and there is no com-

pulsion to attend meetings and functions. Nevertheless, as fellowship is the core of the movement, attendance and participation is essential, the whole purpose of the exercise is defeated if members do not give their Club the support of their presence. Monthly luncheons provide the social backbone of the Club's calendar, occasions which provide an opportunity for intellectual stimulation, enlightenment even, by outside speakers noted for their accomplishments. Two and three times a year outings are organised aimed at providing interest, entertainment and conviviality. Members' wives are invited from time to time to the major functions.

Probus came to Simon's Town in 1991 and in the vigorous hands of the founding President, retired Admiral Martin Kramer foundations were laid for an active and healthy Club. Since then Club has grown steadily under Presidents Dante Ferraris (1992), Allan Fairbrother (1993), Peter von Maltitz (1994), Allan Roberts (1995), John King (1996), Eric Bult (1997) and Peter Dodds (1998).

Current membership of the Club stands at 57 and on average 30 members attend the luncheons and functions, normally at the Simon's Town Country Club. Costs to members are modest, the Club is not designed to make money and all income is ploughed back into Club activities. Notable events in the recent calendar were lunch at the Western Province Racing Club, including a mild flutter, a visit to the Silver Mine Naval Complex and a tour of the Naval Banker and Hydrographic office, a visit to Stellenbosch to tour the Van Rhyn Brandy Cellar and the Distillers' Corporation Museum.

The Club recently held its Annual General Meeting and elected Maurice Bassett as its President for 1999. Applications for membership should be made to Club Secretary Malcolm Leggatt, telephone 786 3960, membership fee is R50 and current annual subscription is R25.

Peter Dodds, Simon's Town



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Wildlife of the Southern Cape Peninsula at the time of Simon van der Stel's survey of 1687 (Part 1)

Many residents of Simon's Town and the southern Cape Peninsula today might find it difficult to imagine this area as Commander Simon van der Stel saw it during his survey of the eastern coast of the Cape Peninsula and False Bay in November of 1687. Indeed, from the report of this expedition that has come down to us and other historical references, we are left with a picture of a virtual wilderness, inhabited by many species of wildlife which today one would expect to find only in the great game reserves of Africa.

This could be said to be somewhat remarkable when one considers that when Commander van der Stel set out on his expedition in November of 1687 the Cape Peninsula had already been the scene of European settlement for thirty-five years and that Van der Stel's expedition was by no means the first foray by Europeans into this area. Indeed, in the early years after the arrival of Jan van Riebeeck at the Cape in 1652 it is recorded in Van Riebeeck's journal that at least three parties of men were sent into the southern reaches of the peninsula to investigate one matter or another. Therefore it can be expected that this area had at least been explored but for the most part had been avoided by Europeans, with little found here of particular value to the Dutch East India Company or that could not be obtained more easily closer to Table Bay but for one exception. That exception was game animals needed to supply a desperate want for fresh meat experienced by the fledgling settlement at Table Bay.

To address this problem, Jan van Riebeeck had early on during his time as Commander appointed official huntsmen to exploit the game animals which due to settlement and hunting pressure had been driven from the immediate surrounds of Table Valley. That licensed hunters were established in the southern peninsula during these early years of European settlement is confirmed by a number of local place names, which have remained with us to the present day. As explained by local historian, Mrs. Margaret

Cairns, in an article she wrote about Jurgen Shoester, who in 1738 was granted as a "loan place" the area over the mountains from Simon's Town known as "Wildschutbrand"

"Such a grazing license as Shoester was granted had actually evolved from the first permits for hunting which were recorded in the "Wildschutboeke". When at a later date, loan places were added to the hunting permits the books maintained their original designation and as such, are preserved in the Cape Archives today"
(Cairns 1976:2)

The name Wildschutbrand or (roughly translated) Wild "shooters" fire, or "Hunters Fire or Camp" was originally, therefore, the name of a hunting concession area. This would also serve to explain the origin of another place name nearby, "Klaasjagersberg", or "Klaas de jager se berg" (Klaas the Hunter's Mountain).

As far as providing some insight as far as the species of large animals that were present in the southern peninsula at this time or the impact these early hunters may have had on them, it is unfortunate that the "Wildschutboeke" do not provide much specific information on the animals that were exploited or their relative numbers.

From other records and accounts, however, and from the specific habitat requirements of species that were recorded on the peninsula closer to Table Bay, a reasonably clear picture of the animals that are likely to have occurred in the southern reaches of the peninsula and the reasons some survived to the present day while others disappeared, can be arrived at.

Starting with the largest species of African wildlife, there are no historical records to confirm that at least two of the famous "Big 5", elephant and Cape buffalo, occurred in the southern Cape Peninsula. This is in spite of place names such as Olifantsbos and Buffels Bay (in the area of the former Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve) which could

be taken to suggest otherwise. The nutrient poor "fynbos" vegetation over much of the southern Cape Peninsula simply would not have supplied the year round nutritional needs of these animals. This can be said for rhinoceros as well. There can be little doubt that the rhinoceros encountered on the Cape Flats in early reports was any other than the black rhinoceros *Diceros bicornis* nor that this species had a habitat preference for areas with clay soils derived from Malmesbury shale. Indeed, the preference of black rhinoceros for the "renosterveld" vegetation, found on this veld type was such that it came to be seen as characteristic of it and hence the reason it is known to this day as "renosterveld". Now while it could be argued that similar soil types exist in places at the base of Table Mountain this is certainly not the case in the southern reaches of the peninsula. Therefore, it can be said with some certainty, that if black rhino did from time to time venture on to the peninsula proper from surrounding renosterveld areas, such as the Tygerberg hills, it is most un-

likely they would have been drawn into its southern reaches of the Peninsula given the soils found here and the poor nutrient status of the fynbos vegetation these give rise to.

Another large mammal that is unlikely to have been present in the southern peninsula is hippopotamus which might seem remarkable when one looks over the Noordhoek wetlands today and considers that hippo were present just over the Steenberg mountains in the vleis of the Cape Flats such as Rondevlei and Seekoevlei. In fact, the wetlands one sees today in Noordhoek differ greatly from the shallow, seasonal pans that were naturally present before dredging operations were undertaken this century, to deepen the channels. Still hippopotamus are known to travel great distances overland and it is certainly not inconceivable that some may have ventured into this area historically, if only during periods of inundation.

(To be continued in December issue)



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The U E Trade Mission Insist on Exclusivity of "Port" and "Sherry"

What about a case for Vodka? NEIL PENDOCK discusses this issue.

In stark contrast to the Europeans, who have become very twitchy of late as to what may be called sherry or port, are the Russians, who couldn't give a continental about who produces their national drink, vodka, or what it is called.

The Scots produce a vodka called Royal Czar Imperial but get very sniffy when the Japanese turn their hand to whisky. Absolut, the vodka with those very sophisticated ad campaigns, comes from Sweden, and the Poles even claim to have invented the drink. There are German vodkas called Rasputin and Gorbachow, names that would drive any French winemaker into paroxysms of righteous nationalistic indignation, and the Smirnoff drunk in South Africa is distilled in KwaZulu-Natal.

The Russians have little to fear. For better or worse, vodka will always be associated with them.

It all started a millennium ago when Prince Vladimir decided it was time for his country to get religion. Inviting priests from all the available faiths he chose Eastern Orthodox Christianity over islam since it allowed its followers to drink.

This tradition of drinking has continued ever since and today Russians are the world's heaviest drinkers. Last year they each consumed 13,5 litres of pure alcohol, and 10 percent of the adult Russian population are registered as alcoholics. Current life expectancy is less than it was under the tsars and Russia comes 135th in the world life-expectancy tables, just above Cambodia and Afghanistan.

When the head of Stolichnaya died of cirrhosis of the liver last year, at the age of 57, thousands of mourners flocked to his factory to pay their respects. An obituary in

Pravda newspaper commented that death from liver disease was "only natural for a man in such post."

In Moscow, people drink according to Russian rules, which is that there are no rules. Vodka is sold on the street from small kiosks and by babushkas who peddle *samogon*, home-brewed moonshine vodka, to make ends meet.

The main cause of death during winter is exposure after having one too many and passing out on the street. In the big chill of 1996, 600 Muscovites (including 120 women) succumbed to that deadly cocktail of vodka and ice, this in spite of the teams of police who round up those unsteady on their feet for a night in a heated cell.

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At the British Academy of Contemporary Ridiculous Arts in the audience five minutes before the end of an act. As the applause dies away, there is a loud scuffle down the theatre's many staircases to the ground floor for a piece of salted fish on ice bread and a half-pint bottle of vodka. The queues are long and robust, with pushing and shoving.

Vodka is the diminutive of voda, Russian for water. Distilled from potatoes, rye or in the case of Belarus from the Ukraine, wheat, vodka is overwhelmingly the favourite drink in Russia.

Nikolai Kuznetsov, a politician down to his little manners, preferred in-caroline vodka to the finest wines. "On a hunting trip with Fidel Castro he asked for the recipe of the firmer product Cuban peasants," "sent this drink on my dining table," he exclaimed.

Vodka should have neither taste nor aftertaste. One of the first advertisements for spirit in the US declared it to be the "white amuse-bouche. No more!" To ensure the drink has no taste, it is typically served by adding ice to water, too heavy to impart a pleasant and aromatic, creamy character.

It was not always so. Flavorless vodka was an impossible feat, distillers did this and they used to hide the spirit's roughness by adding herbs and spices. Flavor is making something of a comeback, with Glenfiddich's showing what happens to vodka when you make it in oak casks. Absolute has strong, citrus and pepper flavored vodkas.

The return of flavored vodka doesn't meet with universal approval. Lord Dunsford, the former editor of The Daily Telegraph and "witness to the 20th century," claims to be a passionate advocate of indulging other people's passions, however obscure. But he draws the line at "a girl who looks beautiful to dinner who calls for a chocolate-flavored vodka. There may well be cases you know in the same restaurant. It is more than likely that they will overcharge the order being placed. What sort of conclusions are they likely to draw?"

Forget about sipping and savoring your vodka as if it were a cognac or single malt. Correct protocol is a double tot, in a shot glass, thrown forcefully down the throat. The traditional accompaniment is caviar but for those on a tighter budget, salad having an acidic will do, in fact anything with a strong, robust taste will.

Hot or cuisine is not recommended, as was evident in 1996 when a Russian Olympic team. Russia came second last with an entry of a chicken that tried in butter rounded off by a sweet sauce in the red, white and blue colors of the Russian flag, with vodka on the side.

Back to the West, vodka is the preferred way to drink vodka. Common favorites are The Cosmopolitan vodka, Cointreau, cherry juice and fresh lime, and The Strawberry vodka and cranberry and grape fruit juice.

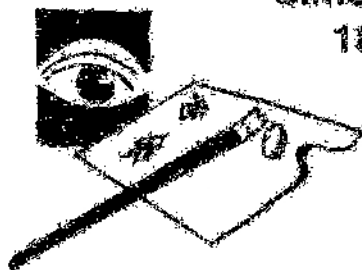
Most of the vodka consumed in the world is distilled illegally from an available source of starch, with no alcohol content strength or, in fact, any form of quality control. The capitalists in the West have your health and their profits at heart and have rapidly developed a direct distillation that can authenticate the contents of your glass. Distilled by the British manufacturer of Smirnoff, the distillation is a length of plastic coated with a chemical that turns dark blue in the presence of that brand of vodka. Anything else and the distillation does not react. No more!

Reprinted from
SUNDAY LIFE MAGAZINE,
Sunday Times, 11 October 1998.



Simon's Town Art Show

18 - 24 December



Venue Simon's Town Museum
 Hanging Wednesday 10th to Friday
 10th Dec
 Opening Friday 18th December

Final registration forms are now available at both the Library and the Publicity Office. Completed forms should reach us not later than Monday 25th November, for inclusion in the catalogue, which will be printed in the December issue of Seaboard Calling.

Art entries will be accepted, but these will be included only in a supplementary catalogue.

To date, no entries from the photographic community - come on folks, give it a try - this is your big opportunity.

Dear readers, we need substantial purchases of material supplies, all proceeds benefit the Ficks Bay Hospital, our Home Nursing Service, and Maccy Vasey Homes. We really hope to make good sales this year!

Ray Lorian
 Convener
 2 Chapel Road
 Tel: 786 1780



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WEDNESDAY 16th DECEMBER

10-30am TO 3-00pm

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Forthcoming Events November/December 1998

1. SIMON'S TOWN MUSEUM LECTURE:

Prof Mike Bruton will be giving a lecture on his trip on the QE 11 on the 18 November 1998 - 5.30 pm for 6 pm in the Museum.
Entrance Donation R8.00

WALKING TOURS OF THE HISTORIC MILE OR THE COBBLED LANES OF SIMON'S TOWN

The Museum is offering two walking tours of the town - The "Historic Mile" or "The Cobbled Lanes of Simon's Town".

Every Tuesday and Saturday departing from Simon's Town Station at 10 am. Donation R10.00. To book: Telephone Museum 786 3046.
After Hours: Bobby at 786 3189 or Audrey at 786 1805.

2. COLLECTOR'S TOY FAYRE

- Cape Model and Toy Club

Wednesday 16 DECEMBER 1998 10.30 am to 3.00 pm.

Simon's Town Town Hall

Dinky toys, Models, Trains, Meccano, Dolls, Soldiers, Toys Etc.

BRING, BUY AND SWAP

All welcome. Entrance FREE, Refreshments available

Stallholders - Enquiries Please phone 786 1395 (Warrior Toy Museum)

3. PANTOMIME - "RED RIDING HOOD" by John

Morley

Presented by **ANCHOR PLAYERS**

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Dates: Friday Dec 11 - 8 pm,

Saturday Dec 12 - 2.30 pm and 6.30 pm

Wednesday Dec 16 - 8 pm

Thursday & Friday Dec 17 and 18 - 8 pm

Saturday Dec 19 - 2.30 pm and 6.30 pm

Enquiries and booking: 786 2436 Simon's Town Publicity

4. SIMON'S TOWN ART SHOW

Venue: Simon's Town Museum, Court Road

Dates: DECEMBER 18 to 24

Time: 10 am to 9 pm

Cost: R7.00 per person. Enquiries: 786 1750

5. 1998 VOLVO ISAF YOUTH WORLD SAILING CHAMPIONSHIPS

28 DECEMBER 1998 TO 6 JANUARY 1999

SA Navy Sailing Centre, Westyard,

Simon's Town. Enquiries: 439 1147

Teams competing from 43 countries.

6. FRIENDS OF SIMON'S TOWN COASTLINE

Alien Vegetation Hack

SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER at 9.30 am - Meet at BOULDERS CAR PARK

Having been recently joined by SAVE (Swartkop Alien Vegetation Eradicators) will organise a hack together along the lower slopes of Swartkop.

SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER AT 9.30 AM

MEET AT TOP END OF WATSONIA ROAD

COASTAL WALK, FYNBOS STUDY led by MR HUGH TAYLOR, Plant Ecologist.

SATURDAY 19 DECEMBER at 9.30 am

MEET AT FISHERMAN'S BEACH

7. THE MASONIC CLUB, Alfred Lane

Saturday 14 NOVEMBER, Club Dance, R10.00

Sunday 15 NOVEMBER, Pre-Xmas Club Luncheon, R35.00

Friday 20 NOVEMBER, Bingo, R20.00

Saturday 28 NOVEMBER R1000 DRAW,

Cheese & Wine, Knudge.

See Pat O'Reilly for tickets.

Saturday 12 DECEMBER Club Dance

Wednesday 16 DECEMBER, Xmas Draw, Music, Snacks etc.

Sundowners on Sundays with a light meal.

Club dances held on the second Saturday of every month, unless circumstances dictate otherwise.

Fish and Chip evenings are being arranged, as soon as dates are known we will advise members.

ALL ENQUIRIES: 786 3827 or 782 3917

Chairman

Please let us know of any forthcoming events you would like publicised. Deadline for December edition - Thursday 26th November.

Contact Pat Lochhead, Peninsula Tourism

- Simon's Town. Telephone: 786-2436