

SNOEKTOWN CALLING

Vol 1 Issue 2

MARCH 16 1998



Sponsor for February & March - Dr Reg Loxton.

Editorial

Well now, we have successfully negotiated the bumpy ride of the launch of Snoektown Calling - indeed, the response has been most encouraging; it has become known as "the Blue Book".

Issue No. 2 is more of the same, with some innovations: Streetwalker makes its first appearance - an experiment to expose some important issues that bother the local community in general, but in particular the Central Business District (CBD). Although the presentation may appear frivolous, the intrinsic message is very serious!

The registration of Simon's Town businesses by the Publicity Association office is progressing well. It is clearly evident at this writing that we are far short

of the ultimate potential; the ultimate aim is a comprehensive classified Directory of all businesses and services in the old municipal area of Simon's Town. This will be a valuable and useful reference to both business and the community - so, all affected and interested parties, please get a move on and visit Pat at the Information Office.

Please note that the new toll-free number for all complaints and problems:

0800 611 223. The South Peninsula Municipality aims to provide a more effective emergency service with this new arrangement.

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Report on the General Meeting of the Simon's Town Ratepayers and Residents Association held on 26 February

The Guest Speaker, Mr Jannie Momberg MP, gave a report back on the trends in legislation brought before parliament last year. He also commented on steps to be taken to improve health care and on recent trends in crime. Mr Momberg also touched on what he considered to be major positive trends in the economy.

Turning to local matters, Mr Momberg noted that the local economy was becoming more dependant on tourism. He also reported that a further cutback of approximately 800 personnel in the Navy was expected. This was likely to have a detrimental effect on Simon's Town.

The next speaker was our Ward Councillor, Nicki Holderness. She spoke on the forthcoming White Paper on Local Government, which was due to be released in early March and was expected to be passed into law later this year. It is likely that this would lead to a single-tier local government system for Cape Town - the "megacity" resulting would further decrease the voice of Simon's Town. Cllr. Holderness also touched on problems encountered with our water supply and the growth of toxic algae in Glencairn Vlei. She attributed these in part to inadequate control by the CMC.

Cllr. Holderness also spoke on the progress made towards a new system of property rating, which would come into effect in 1999. Further public participation in this process would take place later this year.

Land restitution claims have been made in the Simon's Town area. These currently only involve State and Municipal land, but include some land earmarked for inclusion into the proposed Park.

The proposed date for transfer of the Boulders Park to the SANP remains 1 April, but technical hitches may delay this. On a question from the floor, Cllr. Holderness reported that the SPM had approved the use of part of Boulders by a film company for one day's use, this ignored a recommendation by the Boulders Advisory Committee.

The meeting was then moved onto business of the Association. The minutes of the AGM of 24 July 1997 were read in summary form and approved. The Chairman's Report was tabled, but not read in its entirety as it was published in the first edition of *Snoektown Calling*. The Chairman then elaborated on certain aspects of the current situation within the Association. These were:-

- The constitution needed updating. Proposed changes would be referred to members for comment before the AGM in July.
- The restructuring of the portfolios required additional persons to join the Committee - such persons were requested to contact the relevant Committee member. Without such support the Association would not be able to function effectively.

Under "General" on the agenda it was resolved to accept "Snoektown Calling" as the official vehicle for communication with the members of the Association. It was also resolved to support the first three resolutions taken by the "Redhill Forum" meeting on 19 February, and to develop the Constitution to provide policy guidelines to enable the Committee to act decisively on issues affecting its members.

Chris Hart

Crime Stop

We Need More Bobbies on the Beat

One Saturday shortly after closing my shop a young woman banged on the door asking for cough suppressed tablets, the liquid counterpart of which is favoured by addicts. Despite alarm bells ringing, I let her in and she said she needed a few more things. When she went to pay at the counter she said she needed to draw money at the cashifier and would be back shortly after leaving her goods on the counter. Needless to say she was never seen again and in her possession was the small vat of tablets.

I subsequently learned that she had arrived in a vehicle and hopped out while the driver kept the engine running, only to make a very quick getaway once her scam operation had been slickly executed.

The goods taken were not of great value but the whole incident happened so quickly and cleverly. One basis of similar incidents

happening more and more often.

One of the most effective ways of combating crime is by community policing. We are extremely fortunate to have someone of George Watson's calibre working for us here in Simon's Town. His package is entirely backed by the business community, so please support this essential project! Enquiries and payments can be made to Dorothy at Simon's Town Pharmacy, tel: 786-2183.

The murders in New York, Houston and Los Angeles dropped by 56%, 54% and 30% respectively between 1988 and 1996 after introducing this system!

Editor's Note: The above is a report from Irish Rugs. 'Crime Stop' is intended to become a regular feature, with definitive information of interest to the community.



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Down the Historic Mile

In our town there is an association which has taken upon itself the particular responsibility of protecting the sanctity and good order of the Historic Mile. This important body is known by its acronym SLAP: The Society of Loafers and Professional rondlopers.

Now, at one of its recent meetings we heard from Clara Fijnbosch (check the spelling) about the Town Ranger who used to patrol the streets regularly and report to the Municipality on anything and everything that needed fixing or putting right, and so on. This was when she was in Sub A at the school in the building where the Town Sheriff now has his office. At first he patrolled on foot but when things got a bit better he was given a bicycle.

But now we have no Council, no Town Clerk or Secretary and no Town Engineer! All we have left is Beverley, who will soon be moved elsewhere, and all that will be left in the Municipal Office will be John Page. So Clara Fijnbosch (check the spelling) suggested that we should act quickly and appoint Johnny Page as the Town Ranger; otherwise very soon, we will be left with no-one. The Chairman said "ja well no fine, but a formal proposal is needed". We all looked at Stoffel "Boesman" Terreblanche (no relation) because Stoffel knew all about the formalities of committee proceedings. Stoffel then said in a loud voice, "Meneer die Voorzitter, ek stel die vraag". General puzzlement prevailed for some minutes, until Piet Pompies rescued the situation by explaining that this was the way things were done at meetings in the Provincial Council.

After much talking to and fro the Chairman called the meeting to order for the voting. At this point Schultz stood up and just looked around at everyone. Now it is well known that Schultz has a Luger with him and it has been mentioned that there have been occasions when he used it like a hitman - so the story goes. "Any objections?" the Chairman asked. Of course with Schultz standing there and his reputation and all, not a word was spoken and the Chairman

declared the motion passed unanimously.

In due course John Page was formally elected as the Town Ranger. So folks, if you have any problems, just phone the Town Ranger at 786-1551 and alles sal reg kom! One day, before Christmas, our Ward Councillor will organise Johnny a cell phone, and all his problems will be solved.

Now the first job for the Town Ranger is to walk down the new redbrick pavement and mark with chalk all those spots where the bricks have become displaced, and then organise that the pavement be put right.

Stoffel reported on a message from Felix: "Have you seen the weeds growing in the streets and sidewalks of Mount Pleasant, and litter and rubbish every *** where?"

Piet Pompies was despatched to check this out. He had hardly been gone a few minutes when the Chairman sent Harold Hardekop in pursuit with a papsak in case Piet developed a weakness in the knees after

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himself up the hill and was in need of some "workable crutches". After a while - say the time it would take for two people to drain a papaw in the normal steady fashion - Pat and Harold returned to the meeting and reported that Felix had a point and perhaps the Town Ranger should check that.

It was mentioned that the top end of Quarry Road was a real mess and a disgrace. It was also noted that workmen were replacing a wave in a water main in the main road at Quarry Road - something to do with "pressing overhead". Then Clara Finbooch (check the spelling) wanted to talk about the Art Show, and how her Auntie Constance from Wythenshank wanted to see the show because she had heard about it on "Fine Music Radio". Well, Clara thought she had better check that show out just in case. "Well," Clara said, "I was shocked to see about eight nude drawings by a Clara Finbooch (check the spelling) - of course no relation of mine - with a bunch of wire for hair on the head and the other place where ladies also have a bunch of hair". Of course, Clara phoned Constance immediately, advising that she had better not come.

Auntie Gracelink complained that the Jubilee pedestrian robot was in the wrong place; it should be moved to Wilford Street. The problem was that motorists intending to turn left into Jubilee Square, kept their eyes on the turn-off and not on the robot. Now there is a story about Gracelink. She is the only person we know who has held a conversation from the end of the town pier across to someone at the BBYG slipway. It is quite far for South Easter. She is small and out of stature, but with one jab of a verbal fence her name.

Pat Pomphrey stated that it was now definitely a matter of priority that the traffic be forced to slow down in the CBD, with some traffic calming devices. Stiffel suggested we add "Demand" to this resolution - it had worked for the AYC. Hadn't it?

Clara referred to the "gipping baskets" of flowers outside the Simon's Town Pharmacy. As Clara said: "It's only too beautiful" and she hoped other shops would follow suit.

Street Walker

Simon's Town Publicity Association

Just a little note to our accommodation members who may have noticed a glass-fronted cabinet on the wall of the information Bureau.

We are currently including B&B vacancies for visitors arriving after Christmas and this has already proved most useful. As you may appreciate, it will be to your advantage to let us know if you have a vacancy for that period and then your accommodation will be included on the list.

Many thanks and may I take this opportunity to wish our members a happy Easter and go easy on the Hot Cross Buns!

*Sincerely,
Pat Lockwood*

Anne's Curios

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Simon's Town and Land Restitution

The Restitution of Land Rights Act (Act 22 of 1994) is part of the government's plan to restore or compensate people for land rights they lost because of racially discriminatory laws passed since June 1913.

In terms of this Act two bodies have been established to assist in the process of restitution. These are first The Commission on Restitution of Land Rights which has the task of dealing with all claims. It investigates the claim, publishes proven claims in the Government Gazette and contacts all parties involved to negotiate a solution. The aim of the negotiation is to reach agreement on the form that restitution will take. The second body in this process is the Land Claims Court. Negotiated solutions which have been approved by the Minister of Land Affairs are reviewed by the Court. If accepted, the settlement is made legally binding by a Court Order.

In cases where no negotiated settlement is reached the Court will hold a hearing and then issue a Court Order. The Court can order the restitution of land rights in the form of:

- return of the original land
- alternative land
- monetary compensation
- alternative relief comprising a combination of the above
- priority access to government housing and land development programmes.

It must be remembered that claims can be lodged by anyone who owned property, a direct descendant, or successor of such persons, or a tenant and not an owner. The Commission must establish all relevant facts including:

- whether the land is state-owned and if not, obtain particulars of the owner and the history of the acquisition of the land by that owner

- establish the date and circumstances of the dispossession of the right in such land
- establish whether any compensation or compensatory land has been received, the amount of such compensation, the basis on which such amount was calculated, and whether the compensation was properly determined and comparable to the value of the land dispossessed.

The State in term of the restitution process has 30 days to indicate its interest in land that a current owner may wish to dispose of and on which there is a gazetted claim. Claims may be lodged up until December 1998.

It must be remembered that in 1967 Simon's Town was declared a White group area in terms of the Group Areas Acts of 1950 and 1966. People who were classified according to the arbitrary laws of racial classification as being "white" were allowed to remain in Simon's Town. All others, i.e. approximately half of the population, some 6 000 people, were declared disqualified to remain and were to be removed forthwith.

Since many of these people had lived in Simon's Town for generations, in properties owned by their forefathers this legislated violation had considerable and tragic consequences. The completion of the process of social engineering also resulted in large sections of Simon's Town being left vacant particularly in the central and historic core of the town. In the late 1970's many of the buildings owned and occupied by those forcibly removed and which had become the responsibility of the Department of Community Development were demolished and eventually the land sold to private developers. Some properties remained with the state. The land acquired by private persons was often consolidated and the resubdivided. The obvious implications of this process are that a very complex problem

lies with the authorities in attempting to resolve claims.

Claims have so far been gazetted in relation to certain portions of state and municipally owned land in Simon's Town. This is merely the beginning of the process.

It is my own personal belief that we in Simon's Town have an opportunity and a challenge to involve ourselves actively in building reconciliation and stability. We cannot expunge the pain of the past but we can commit ourselves to working constructively in attempting to find a just, equitable and speedy resolution of an extremely difficult process of restoration of land rights.

Councillor (Mrs) N. Holderness
Ward Councillor: Ward 22:
South Peninsula Municipality

What Do You Know About Your Local Museum

For example, did you know that - the building in which Simon's Town Museum is housed, known as "The Residency" was built in 1777 by the Dutch East India Company to accommodate the Governor of the time when he visited Simon's Town which was at that time the Company's winter anchorage.

During "The Residency's" long history it has been utilised as a school, a hospital, a private residence, a custom's house, port captain's office, post office and gaol. Its last function, prior to becoming a museum was a Magistrate's Court and residence for the Magistrate. The original slave quarters, cells and stocks are still in existence and open for viewing.

What is there to see in the Museum?

The Museum depicts the cultural history of Simon's Town with displays on the Hunter

Gatherers, the arrival of the Dutch East India Company, the British Occupation in 1795 and the subsequent presence of the Royal Navy from 1813 to 1957. There are special displays on the famous dog Able Seaman Just Nuisance, a replica of one of Simon's Town's many pubs, shipwrecks, the Boer Prisoner of War camp at Boulders, the National Monuments in the town, a wonderful doll's house for children, the story of the 7 000 people who were removed from the town under the Group Areas Act of 1967, and much, much more.

What else does the Museum offer?

A talk with slides on the History of Simon's Town as well as the famous dog Able Seaman Just Nuisance. Talks on the Boulders Penguin Colony as well as Whales and Whaling. We offer walking tours of the Historic Mile or the Cobbled Lanes of Simon's Town on Tuesdays and Saturdays; and tours can be arranged to the Old Burying Ground, CS Cable Restorer or the excavated remains of the Glencairn Glassworks. All you need to do is phone and ask us. We have a Museum Shop, Information Bureau and Idie's Coffee Shop on the verandah, and the Lecture Hall and Courtyard are available as venues for all sorts of functions.

Over 30 000 visitors come to the Museum annually and in early 1997 we catered for 10 371 school children.

We hold many fund-raising functions for the Friends of the Museum and their guests, so we invite you to become a Friend of the Museum and enjoy the social side of the museum's activities.

**Why don't you come and visit us -
We are open 7 days a week and
We would be delighted to be of service
to you.**

Telephone: 786-3046

Cherry Dilley
Curator

Snoekie Shellhole

54 years of Service to Ex-Servicemen

Part 2

Since Snoekie's establishment in 1944 the shellhole has been served by twenty commanders whose terms of office varied in length. The official roll of past-commanders shows: V. Miles, seven years; L.J.D. Gay, nine years; E. Freel, seven years; W. Meaker, six years and P.W. Biermann, ten years of service.

Commanders Gay, Freel and Meaker played a prominent role in the creation of the Simon's Town Museum with the collection of memorabilia at the Warriors Room as motivation and the transfer of the shellhole to its present venue at the residency.

During MOTH Biermann's term of office, shellhole membership grew to forty five and quite a few MOTHS from other shellholes joined as dual members.

He also introduced naval terminology in the opening and closing ritual of the shellhole. The only other naval orientated shellholes are Adm. Halifax in Rondebosch and Battle Ensign in Johannesburg.

In 1989 he undertook, on behalf of Snoekie Shellhole, to renovate the grave of Maj. General Tim Lukin of Delville Wood fame and from this undertaking developed annual parades at the Plumstead Military Cemetery to commemorate Tim Lukin and Adm. Halifax who was buried in the same cemetery.

On behalf of the MOTHS and other ex-service organisations, the Snoekie commander, under the auspices of the South African Navy, organised parades and memorial services to commemorate the D-Day landings, V.E.-Day and V.J.-Day.

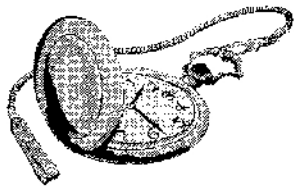
Finally the shellhole garden was utilised to serve as the Garden of Remembrance for the scattering of ashes of members called to higher service. A remembrance bench

with nameplates was also introduced in the garden to honour those MOTHS who answered the sunset call.

When MOTH Philip Biermann was elected Provincial Old Bill he had to relinquish his post as commander and an ex-Falklands veteran, Gavin Eyre was elected for the post. The top table now consists of a very eager and enthusiastic group of young MOTHS. It augurs very well for the future of Snoekie Shellhole.

(Next month Part 3: What is a MOTH and what are the requirements to become a member of the MOTH Order)

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Navy Gunnery Exercise in Simon's Town

A gunnery training exercise will take place on March 18, at Lower North Gun Battery. Gun's crews from ships of the Mine Countermeasures Squadron (MCM Squ) and Second Strike Craft Division (SSC Div) will conduct a battery firing of the weapons. These include 20mm SAN MK3; 12.7mm Browning; 7.62mm LMG and 40mm Bofors.

The combined surface and anti-aircraft shoot will give the gun's crews an opportunity to exercise together and against multiple targets. Exercises of this sort are seldom carried out at sea for safety reasons.

Here, in a controlled environment, the ships' gun officers will act as Local Gun Directing Officers (LGDOs). LGDOs are responsible for issuing firing orders, shifting of targets and are directly accountable to the PCO. They will put their gun's crews to the test under the watchful eye of the Policy Control Officer (PCO), who is in overall charge of safety.

A surface target will be fired upon and air targets will be simulated by means of rocket parachute flares. The flares will act as incoming missiles or aircraft. At the start of the exercise, targets will be engaged separately. Once the proficiency of the gunners is proven, simultaneous air and surface target engagements will be carried out.

As is usual for all gunnery exercises, the Range Safety Officer will ensure that it is safe to fire the weapons and the "whole watch" tower will be constantly manned. The exercise will commence shortly after 09:00 and is likely to continue for most of the day. Spectators will have the opportunity to view the exercise from the Simon's Town Main Road, just outside Lower North Battery. The exercise should also be visible from any point along the Main Road between

Glencairn and Simon's Town.

As the need for training naval personnel is of great importance, the exercise is an effective way of ensuring gunnery efficiency. In addition, exercises of this nature are also used to test the quality of ammunition.

*The first five jolly guffers will have a chance to join us from 10h30 to 12h30 and view the exercise from Main Wharf, a prime location adjacent to Lower North Battery. Please call Sam Lieutenant Lisa Handcock on 787-4329, weekdays between 09h00 and 18h00.
By Lt-Cdr Andrew Blake - SAs Chapman*

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The Dutch East India Company

Simon van der Stel in False Bay

Editor's Note

A review of published literature clearly identifies confusion as to the precise location of Yselestein Bay: present day Fish Hook or Simon's Town? The captain of the Yselestein (or Izzelstein) reported to the Head Office of the Dutch East India Company in Batavia his discovery of a "safe anchorage" in False Bay which became identified as Yselestein Bay. This report was passed on to the Commander of the Fort in False Bay. It is logical to assume that the Captain of Yselestein would have recorded in his ship's log the geographic coordinates of Yselestein Bay. But it is apparent that his coordinates were not included in the report to Van der Stel.

It is recorded that Simon van der Stel had a qualified land surveyor in his party with clear instructions to prepare maps and charts of the territory visited. Had coordinates of Yselestein Bay been available there would never have been confusion as to its location - Fish Hook or Simon's Town. This article will attempt to apply logic and allocate the most probable location identity.



Simon van der Stel

favorably impressed by False Bay as a safe anchorage during the winter months, because he reported as much to the Dutch East India Company in Batavia.

The Council of Policy reacted promptly, noting in its Resolution, "By order from Batavia, possession is to be taken of the place in False Bay, where the Yselestein anchored on June 1st". Early in December 1671 Lieutenant Breitenbach, with "some experienced travellers and burghers", left Table Bay for False Bay, with instructions to explore the region and have their findings laid down in a chart, by the accompanying surveyor Jan Willobel. Further instructions from Batavia required Lt. Breitenbach to look for a suitable roadstead in False Bay and to mark down any prominent mountain facing the sea.

On December 18 Breitenbach and Willobel returned to the Fort, to report that they had found an "apparently" safe roadstead for the

It's an ill wind, they say, that blows nobody any good. The gales that raged Table Bay (the Cape of Storms) in the seventeenth century were to drive ships seeking a safe harbour to False Bay, thus leading to the eventual "birth" of Simon's Town.

On May 29, 1671 the Dutch gould-stemmed Dutch merchant ship Yselestein - or Yselestein - driven by contrary winds, was obliged to anchor in False Bay. After its visualising and taking on water, Yselestein presumably proceeded on her way to Batavia, because there are no further entries concerning her in the journal kept by MCY Laibrand. Yselestein's captain must have been

ships, but only black water, killed freeseed and no foodstuffs, or ground for agriculture. On December 31 a written report was submitted by the Commissioners to the Council: the shores of Table Bay had been explored as far as Vaelestein Bay, without any advantage for the Council being discovered, except possible seal and porpoise. Rastenburg and White also reported the danger presented by a "certain blind rock lying right in the middle of the bay" (possibly Seal Island). Following on these reports, although False Bay may have been used by ships from time to time as a winter anchorage, no further exploration was undertaken for 16 years.

The situation changed - dramatically - when Simon van der Stel was appointed Commander in 1684: he set his time enlarging boundaries northwards and eastwards of Table Bay, and looking into the possibilities of commercial development of the land. At the end of 1687 he finally turned his attention to False Bay. During November of that year he led an expedition intending to make the first thorough exploration of the coast between Mylloberg and what would one day become Simon's Town. With a strong easterly breeze blowing, the Commander and some of his men left Table Bay with the plan of proceeding to False Bay and in the gullet De Noordt, to sound it and find suitable anchorage for the Company's ships. Three days later, on a calm evening, De Noordt left for False Bay, with the intention of taking the Commander on board there. The next day the little yacht Doffa followed.

Meanwhile, van der Stel and four of his bodyguards proceeded towards the Bay by land, on the way encountering a large leopard (lion) which got away despite "all conceivable means adopted by hunters and hunters". The Commander and his entourage, continuing their journey along the beach, met three Company's Springers armed with two muskets, all assigned to the mines at the Steenberg. Asked why they were armed and sent further inland, they

explained that they were searching for some runaway slaves, in order to deliver them into the hands of justice. The Commander then upon turned back towards Table Bay, where it would seem he had headquarters.

A week later, the growing ferocity of the South-Eastern prevailing van der Stel, from proceeding to Vaelestein Bay on foot, and not wanting to stand idle, he ordered the boats to be thrown out, and caught a good quantity of steenbrasons as well as, among other fish, a skate of such a remarkable size that four men had enough to do to haul it on land with a rope."

On November 17 (1688), the South-East wind having grown to violence and bringing stormy clouds, the Commander consulted one of his bodyguards about the way to Vaelestein Bay and how long it might take to get there. The man replied that they would have to proceed for two hours along a dangerous and almost impassable way over heavy boulders and through dense bush. Simon van der Stel therefore "abandoned his intention and engaged himself in like business with other works". The following day, in heavy rain, De Noordt was sighted sailing, probably the Fish Hook. The skipper reported that her bottom was "ruined and covered with barnacles, so that she steered and sailed with great difficulty. The Commander ordered De Noordt to be beached (at Fish Hook) and cleaned. A man of action, van der Stel used the time of waiting to inspect the surrounding land, rivers and forests. He found the road between Fish Hook and Simon's Town, which the bodyguard had described as impassable to be quite easy, which with little trouble and expense could be made fit for wagons. He discovered that Simon's Bay had convenient access to fresh water and land for refreshing any ships that would anchor there. The valley around was suitable for agriculture and pasture and there appeared to be numbers of "rabbits and other game. Some little way short of the Commander's cable and he ordered the horses to be turned and moved

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TYPE A - R25-00

Bermuda	Ham, Banana and Pineapple
Botticelli	Salami and Gherkin
Hawaiian	Ham and Pineapple
Jamaican	Bacon and Banana
Just Nuisance	Sliced Boneworms, Monkey Gland Sauce, Tomato and Onion
Macho	Chicken and Peri-Peri
Madras	Curried Mince, Banana and Onion
Milano	Chicken and Mushrooms
Napoli	Anchovies and Olives
Olympus	Spinach, Feta Cheese and Olives
Puccini	Salami and Mushrooms
Regina	Ham and Mushrooms

TYPE B - R28-00

Capa	Bacon, Mushrooms, Avocado and Garlic
Four seasons	Salami, Mushrooms, Olives and Artichokes
Highlander	Smoked Salmon, Onions and Capers
Jimmy	Bolognese, Bacon, Green Peppers and lots of Chilli

Rogue Roquefort Cheese, Ham and Mushrooms
 South Seas Tuna, Mushrooms, Onions and Gherkins
 Vegetarian Asparagus, Olives, Mushrooms and Artichokes
 Breakfast Bacon, Fresh Tomato, Mushrooms and Eggs
 Spring Chicken . . Ham, Chicken, Bean Sprouts and Spring Onions

TYPE C - R30.00

Pestado Calamari, Prawns, Mussels and Linefish
 Suzy Ham, Mushrooms, Salami, Green Peppers and Chilli
 Volare Smoked Salmon, Avocado, Green Cheese and Chives

TYPE D - R36.00

Spanish Chourico, Feta, Artichokes, Olives, Red Peppers
 and Sundried Tomatoes
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R3.00 per portion

Asparagus, Avocado, Boerewors, Capers, Mushrooms, Olives, Spinach

R4.00 per portion

Anchovies, Artichokes, Bacon, Calamari, Chicken, Chourico, Feta, Ham, Line Fish, Mince, Mozzarella, Mussels, Roquefort, Salami, Tuna

R5.50 per portion

Prawns, Smoked Salmon, Sundried Tomatoes

"The ship landed at Mouth of his river being exhausted by all the activity, was derided, attended by only one bodyguard, went a couple of miles further towards the mountains, or which were beautiful forests "with beautiful trees and growing in order, manner as if they had been planted by human hands", (Could this have been Bougainville?) He also came across two great ridges, "about the thickness of a man". These would be Kawa River and the Quality Head stream which fed by a spring,

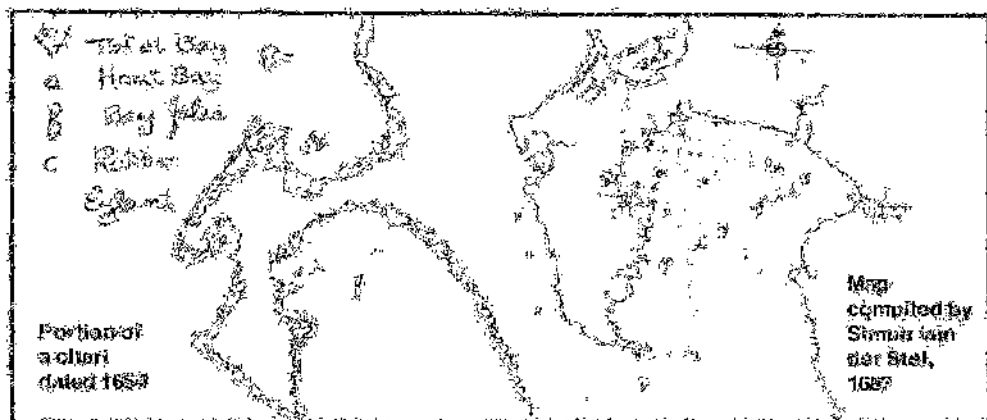
The south-east wind continued to plague, with occasional showers. The gale having again lashed and the weather being unendurable for landing. His Commander decided on November 19 to make the beach from Kak Bay or Vreman Bay, so they set sail down the coast. He remained busy with this until afternoon, when he decided to climb the mountain and examine the trees: what kind of wood there was and how large the trees were. The coming darkness cut short this examination and compelled him - aware too of the danger of wild beasts - to return to the beach and his tent.

November 20 found the Commander very busy fitting on a chain the mast and recently discovered sails, while the weather was still hard at work lashing the gale in plain, hot weather. In the afternoon, the sail was thrown out into the sea and a number of

sleepy men were caught and sailed down for the use of the Company's voyage.

On November 21 1687 the gale was made ready and saluted and the Commander went on board. He took his gunner first to a "fairly high rock" on which were toad many seals, penguins and seagulls, which were so little that "one could catch them with the hand and kill them." On the side of the rock was noted a "round cave, large enough to shelter a whole boat's crew in the event of bad weather. Not far from this a smaller cave was seen "about one ell above the water", during low tide one could see right through both openings. These caves or grottoes are located between Bougainville and Pongga Rock at Cape Paga.

The gale cruised around the bay, careful sailings being taken, and in the evening the Commander returned to his camping place, pleased with the work that had been done on the Company's behalf. As he was out and two "strange and beautiful fishes" not unlike the European salmon but far more beautiful" were caught, as well as fifteen silver fish and as many steelfishes. The boat had to make two trips to the gale, where the catch would be cleaned and gutted and packed into barrels. Before that was done however, the Commander ordered that the two "beautiful" fish be drawn "as life". Note: separate investigations are underway



and will be reported on with respect to vegetation, fish caught and wild life at that time.

The *Santa-Faust* continued to blow hard the following day, preventing the galleet from being used, so van der Stel - always eager not to stand around idly - and the shore and rivers in the vicinity sounded, to a distance of two Dutch miles from Ysselstein Bay. It was seen that despite the continuing stormy weather, the water in Ysselstein Bay was so still that the boat could easily sail to and fro, which would have been impossible out in False Bay. During the afternoon the Commander explored the surrounding rocks, land and shore, determined to discover whether the sea hereabouts produced oysters, after having searched "or some time for them, but which "had a good taste".

By November 24 the South-Easter had faded and was replaced by a warm northwest breeze, with clear hot weather. Wanting to take advantage of the change van der Stel boarded the Noordland sailed across to the eastern coast of False Bay, on approaching the found only sandy ground and no suitable place for harassing ships. He therefore turned back to Ysselstein Bay, continually casting the lead - as he had done on the way out - and found the fourth fathoms on the chart. He took his course close to the large rock (Roman Rock), where 20 fathoms of sandy bottom were found.

Bad weather the following day prevented the Commander from examining the second island in False Bay (Seal Island) and he ordered the skipper of the galleet - whenever the weather should turn favourable - to sail to Kalk Bay and take him aboard there; he went off overland. At his camp a sheep-shepherd near a tent was carried off by a lion and devoured "under the eyes of all the men" - all but the head. A true tale, true: leaving something on the plate.

November 28 1687: the galleet entered Kalk Bay and, after taking the Commander on board, proceeded to the second island (Seal Island); where they came within half a Dutch mile of it "an horrible screaming" could be heard coming from the seals, gulls and "molegassen" which covered the island. The galleet was anchored at about 20 fathoms from the shore and some crew members were sent off in a boat, armed with clubs. Attempting to land, the men could find no place to put their feet without stepping on seals or birds. The men managed to carry away two young seals, a few "molegassen" and three baskets of eggs. While they were thus employed on the island the Commander busied himself with catching fish, not wanting to get any closer to the horrible stench of the islands.

The fish whose colours Simon van der Stel so much admired were found to make delicious eating. They were in such great numbers and so easy to catch that a hook was scarcely thrown into the water than it was taken. Kormorsen, red-spotted and other fish are mentioned, also starfish which "despising the bait" went off with lead and line. Having enjoyed the expedition the Commander returned to Kalk Bay where his ship's duties were urgently required.

Simon van der Stel, influenced by van Broekhuysen's description of "Ysselstein Bay", may at first have thought it was the present Fish Hook; but as his exploration progressed and he discovered the obvious superiority of Simon's Bay, he must have come to the conclusion that this was in fact the bay where Ysselstein had anchored. He gave the Bay his own name, a name which Simon's Town bears with some pride, and Ysselstein faded forever from the picture.

Acknowledgements:

Simon's Town Historical Society.

M. Farnhamson; H. G. Wells

South African Naval Museum

William Peter Collection, The Castle

From the Chairman Simon's Town Publicity Association

Congratulations to Reg Louren and Kirsten on a successful launch of our magazine Snooktown Calling.

If this launching was successful, then it is now up to you the reader to ensure its continuation by your support.

As for your Publicity Association, the future will also depend on the active support of its present members and all those who have his interests at our town at heart.

Simon's Town Publicity Association is in rather a unique position as being the first tourist bureau in the Peninsula (no my knowledge) and the only one along our coast which is owned by the town.

Since the loss of the Municipal subsidy a few years ago, the bureau has expanded its activities. It does sell postcards, brochures, T-Shirts etc. It arranges accommodation for visitors on a commission basis. (This facility,

although only eight months old, is providing a significant income for the bureau). We also receive a monthly allocation from the South Peninsula Municipality which covers most of our staff salaries.

We have come along way from the original plans of a "pure" information Bureau. However we must continue to progress. The Municipality has indicated that their subsidy cannot continue indefinitely, there is a lack of privatising the tourist bureau throughout the Peninsula; there are arguments about the tourist influx both for and against.

We, the Committee of the Publicity Association are currently discussing the best way forward. One of our intentions is to hold a general meeting for you, the members to receive reports from the Committee, the South Peninsula Municipality and other interested parties. So watch this space!

Peter Fewell

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False Bay Yacht Club

We mentioned in the first edition of "Snoektown Calling" that the FBYC caters for anglers as well as "yachties" and, the incorporation of the Marlin and Tuna Club in 1996 ensured that our angling interests were more than adequately represented, with the new members bringing a number of large Tunny boats as well as over 100 Ski-boats into the FBYC fleet.

Many of our angling members have lived in the Simon's Town environs for longer than the Club's forty years of existence and one such member is Brian James.

Brian has been doing some reminiscing about the days before the advent of ski-boats and, as he says so feelingly, "when there were fish!"

He has kindly supplied us with this anecdote describing a youthful day's activities on the Bull Nose.

"Around early 1951, my Dad managed, through a friend of ours who worked in the Simon's Town Dockyard, to get a permit to fish off the Bull Nose.

Mackerel used to abound in those days and my duty was to catch live Mackerel on the inside of the Dock and carefully take them across the width of the wall in a damp cloth, so as not to injure them in any way, where James senior would hook them carefully through the skin behind the head and fit a balloon that would glide up to a swivel on the Mackerel perhaps 6 - 8 feet below the surface of the water. Long casts were not necessary, twenty-five to thirty yards would do the trick.

A person whose face I remember well and who I often saw on the Bull Nose and who I, at the tender age of 13 at the time, regarded as a 'very' Senior Citizen, perhaps my age now (pushing sixty!) - was a certain Mr London.

He had a Rambler Station Wagon and

always used to bring down to the Harbour, two very well behaved Airdales. He and my father would put out two baits each and then sit back and relax. One's perception of time differs when one is a youngster but I clearly recall that one did not have to wait long for, sometimes, all four reels to screech into action.

Here, Problem Number 1 would arise - with four rods 'vas' and only three people on the wall - what a quandary to be in! However, help could normally be obtained by all three of us yelling in unison, which would bring one of the Royal Navy staff running from the double-storied office which still stands on the wall to-day.

Problem Number Two would be the occasional arrival of a very stern and correct English Policeman who would remind us in no uncertain terms - "Ere, Ere then, you know that it's agen te rules for te yung 'un to fish then". To which Dad would reply that I was only holding the rod to stop it vanishing over the side whilst he got in the first fish.

Yellowtail were all in the twenty-five pound range and Snoek as well as Geelbek were caught here regularly.

One day, with about six anglers fishing on the Bulls Nose, I saw perhaps forty big Yellowtail landed as well as a monster Thresher Shark that had the lucky / unlucky angler up and down that wall for three hours before it was subdued and brought around into the Docks where there are concrete steps leading down to the waters edge. Here it was gaffed and all hands tailed on to drag it up to the gantry where it weighed in at over 300lbs."

As they say in the classics, "those were the days"!! There may well be other readers who reminisce about the days "when there were fish" and we would welcome interesting anecdotes about fishing and sailing in Simon's Town in the late forties and fifties.

Barrie Hurt

Antibiotics - Friend or Foe? (Do You Believe or Not?)

There is growing concern about the amount of ignorance that exists with the use of antibiotics (almost as bad as the one concerning the use of cortisone). The author is not a proponent for the abuse or misuse of antibiotics, but there are valid reasons for using them and it is hoped that some light could be shed on the subject.

Antibiotics are chemical substances which are either partly or wholly produced by microorganisms. At relatively low concentrations it can kill or inhibit the growth of other organisms such as bacteria; viruses; worms; yeasts and parasites (hopefully not the patient!). Where would we have been if it were not for drugs against diseases such as meningitis; TB; leprosy; pneumonia; thrush; malaria etc?

Those that act against bacteria, inhibit their cellular processes by preventing them from producing their own proteins and micro-elements, essential for the bacteria to

multiply and keep its nucleus (brain) intact. Others interfere with the bacteria's cell membrane, and it literally "falls to pieces".

The medicines against worms, either paralyse the poor thing or prevents it from absorbing nutrients and therefore starves it to death (cruel is it not!). Drugs against fungi, cause pores in its walls and all the contents leak out (they "bleed" to death). This is to mention but a few of the mechanisms in which these wonder drugs save lives.

The physician prescribing such a drug, has to decide on what the patient tells him (patient history) and what he finds clinically, whether an antibiotic is required and if so, which would be most appropriate. There is no such thing as a strong or weak antibiotic. Certain antibiotics "cover" (or kill) a certain range of "bugs" and depending on the clinical setting, an appropriate antibiotic is prescribed according to the most likely organism causing the disease. Sometimes



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the bacteria has been exposed to the antibiotic before and devised defence mechanisms (become resistant), then another class of antibiotic has to be used.

It is unfortunately so, that no good things come without a price and side-effects can occur. Most of these (besides an allergic reaction) are a small price to pay considering the good which can be accomplished (what is worse - a child developing a brain abscess due to a severe middle ear infection or the side-effects which might occur). Thrush can develop anywhere in the body due to the use of antibiotics (especially long courses or very wide spectrum antibiotics), but this can easily be prevented or treated by putting the balance in organisms back with an agent such as "Interflora".

It is therefore not a question of "believe or not believe" in antibiotics, they are medicines to be used with same care and responsibility as all others, e.g. blood pressure treatment; anaesthetics etc. and in the correct setting.

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Save our Swartkop Fynbos

Old, 155½ is that Simon's Town, a major defence base, is being stealthily taken over by silent invaders. Oodg, fagatagus, brrrrrr! "Don't panic," I hear you say, "they're only plants!" But there is a need for action and soon. The magnificent fynbos of the Swartkop ridge of mountains above Simon's Town is being replaced by aggressive weeds from other lands.

As everyone knows by now, fynbos, the smallest of the six plant kingdoms on earth, is unique in its beauty, scientific interest, tourist potential; yet without our help it is endangered.

Already in the 1930's before Froggy Farm was a suburb, there were informal, infrequent "picks" to try and stem the tide of invasion.

In the 1970's the identifiable "Dut" and Betty Trainor were among earlier taskmasters of the newly formed suburbs. Yet, a "complete"

nature lover with a sense of mission, soon joined the Simon's Town Flora Conservation Group to renew the battle. With the aid of local residents, friends from the Mountain Club and several large social organisation groups, Lita found old a tremendous job. But after 1988 fire had burnt off the slopes between Miller's Point and Simon's Town, the regeneration of alien seedlings intensified. This prompted John Hale and others (1990) to form a new group, SAVA: Lita's apt acronym for Swartkop Alien Vegetation Eradicator, to concentrate only on the slopes above Froggy Farm and Murdoch Valley. (The original Simon's Town Flora Conservation Group, under Peter Salter, now ranges over the whole Simon's Town area and beyond).

Our little group, SAVA, has up to now met regularly on a Monday morning, helped by Mountain Club members, on occasional Sundays (about four times a year).



LITTLE GARDENS

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In the last four years the veld has improved remarkably and our little "patch" of some twenty or thirty hectares is beginning to stand out as a floral gem in sharp contrast to the encroaching thicket of pines, hakea, wattle and myrtle to either side. However, as John Hale laments in his 1997 Annual Report, "the year's work has been characterised by a significant reduction in output arising from accident, incident or ill-health involving virtually all members, and there seems little prospect of recovering this situation ... without recruitment of new members." As a result, our original group has been reduced to ONE original member (myself!) and two or three very welcome newcomers. So - HELP! - we're hardly keeping pace with the relentless regeneration of seedlings, let alone breaking new ground.

Our "work" is not arduous. To anyone who loves our mountain and its flora and bird life, there is tremendous satisfaction in helping to restore the "good" vegetation and knocking the "bad". We spend two or three hours a week, currently on the slopes above Froggy Farm, using mainly long-handled loppers, occasionally small bow-saws, or simply pulling up seedlings by hand. Equipment and gloves are at present most kindly provided by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF South Africa). Usually we work on easy terrain on a gentle sunny slope not more than twenty minutes' walk from the roadside. Of course Monday mornings are not suitable to more than a handful, so we could change the day and the time to suit the greatest number, be it week-end or week-day, morning or afternoon. Even sporadic attendance would be most welcome.

So please join us - the view alone will put new heart into you! Phone me to talk about times and we can arrange something to suit the majority. John Hale, telephone 786-3406, though retired, will also be available to help those who want to work specifically above Murdoch Valley and closer to their cars.

Hugh Taylor, 786-1603

Friends of Simon's Town Coastline

The Friends of Simonstown Coastline is affiliated to the Wildlife and Environment Association of South Africa and upholds the general objectives of the Constitution of the Friends Scheme of the Society.

Simon's Town is a unique and highly threatened area, scenically and ecologically. Friends of the Coastline was formed to protect what still remains of the natural beauty of its coastline and surrounding mountain slopes.

We achieve our aims through Friends being actively represented on:-

1. Simon's Town Environmental Advisory Board (SPM)
2. Boulders Advisory Committee
3. The Industrial Activities Committee
4. Simon's Town Community Police Forum (Poaching and Pollution)
5. Peninsula Mountain Forum
6. Ratepayers Committee (Environmental Portfolio)

Our activities are varied:-

1. We aim to establish and maintain communication with individuals and institutions whose activities help or hinder the welfare of the coastline.
2. Education - To spread information and encourage greater public awareness to the value and wise use of the natural environment for present and future generations.
3. Organise volunteer groups to eradicate alien vegetation, and replace with indigenous plants.
4. Guided walks and interesting talks with local experts.

Joining the Friends of the Coastline enables its members to be in touch through other Friends Societies, with people of similar aims, throughout the Peninsula, who are trying to protect what remains of our natural environment from being dug up, chopped down, polluted and paved over.

**Contacts: Joachim Zimmer, 786-3991 or
Chris van Vuuren, 786-3890.**

Simon's Town Art Show 1997



L - R: Harry Dille -
Chairman Home
Nursing Service, Don
Addendorff - Honorary
Treasurer, Dr. Karen
Begg - Superintendent
False Bay Hospital,
Reg Lorton - Art Show
Convenor, Avril
Whito - Art Show
Accountant.

The second Simon's Town Art Show was held in the Town Hall during the final week in November last year. 28 local artists exhibited some 114 art works, with an attendance of about 250 visitors.

The Show was formally opened by his Worship the Mayor of the South Peninsula Municipality. Compared with 1996, quality was certainly up, as was public interest; unfortunately sales remained disappointingly low; some 26% of works on sale were sold.

The following is a brief statement of accounts as at January 31 1998:

Advertising revenue	R 1 200.00
Art works display fees	R 2 800.00
16% commission on art sold	R 4 185.50
Donation by Barbara Paynter	R 582.23
Door donations	R 1 293.46
	R16 161.21
Opening Balance 1.11.97	R 674.43
Interest received	R 20.16
	R17 055.80
Purchase of snacks & drinks	R 97.86
Rental of venue and paint	R 495.80
Bank charges	R 205.41
Cash in hand	R 9 291.93
Outstanding debtors	R 925.00
	R11 815.80

At a small function held in the Bulfrog Club on the Cape's Healders, on Friday February 20 1998, cheques of R5 900 each were handed over to the Home Nursing Service and the False Bay Hospital.

Planning has already begun for the 1998 Art Show, which is scheduled to take place during the last week in November. Registration forms will be available at the Library as from May 1 1998. The '98 Show will include a photographic section; we would also welcome greater participation by Simon's Town artists. There will be no change as to rules and conditions for exhibitors.

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The Anchor Players to Present Cape Premier!

For the first time in the Western Cape we will see Terry Pratchett's "Wyrd Sisters". This adaptation, based on the best-selling Discworld novel of the same name, has been seen in all English speaking countries worldwide. At any one time there are over 60 productions of this hilarious play in production! The Anchor Players will present the joint professional/ amateur South African Premier (rumours abound of a Gauteng attempt, but we're not convinced) of this madcap comedy.

Loosely based on the Bard's Macbeth with a bit of Hamlet (and Richard III's hump) thrown in for good measure, the plot is seen from the three witches' perspective in the finest tradition of British comedy. With a strong cast headed by Phyllis Early (1997 Cape Times Best Actress Award) and directed by professional director Cole Cameron (Rosebank Theatre, Johannesburg), a sparkling and unusual evening's entertainment is assured.

Opening on **18 March**, at the **Simonsberg Theatre, West Dockyard** with a benefit for the *Masque Theatre Re-building Fund*, the production runs until **28 March**. Please contact Nanny Ogg (Actress Pat Drake) at Simon's Town Publicity on **786-2436** to reserve your tickets. Performances are at **8pm weeknights** and **2.30 and 6.30 on Saturdays**.

Only attendance at this bizarre spectacle can answer the following disturbing questions:

Will the Wyrd Sisters stop the evil king from destroying the kingdom and amputating his own hands?

Why did Granny Weatherwax (a Wyrd Sister) enlist the help of common actors?

Will Magrat Garlick (another Wyrd Sister) stop washing her hair long enough to court the Fool?

And most importantly, **will** Nanny Ogg (yet another Wyrd Sister) be allowed to sing "The Hedgehog Can Never Be Bugged At All"?

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THE CAPE PREMIER PRODUCTION OF

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Wyrd Sisters



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Further Information on Snoektown Calling

I was pleased to receive the new magazine Snoektown Calling and to be reminded by Aldermann Holderness of the World War 2 origin of the catchy name.

I knew Cecil Wightman well in his later years as he was a neighbour in Higgovale and a fellow old car enthusiast. He drove a Ford "Tin Lizzie" and his exuberant character went with the car. At his funeral the snoek horn was sounded and answered by a chorus of hooters from cars belonging to the Crankhandle Club.

During the war the whole country was glued to his radio programme "Snoektown Calling". Although frankly propaganda it

was highly amusing and a great morale booster. Wightman's single-handed imitations of Hitler, Mussolini, Churchill and other wartime figures were fine farce. Other characters called to mind were Mnr Bagasieva and the chief of the mythical African country called Oobloogoongloo which today has a prophetic ring.

Incidentally Cecil Wightman's brother was the reclusive yachtsmen Frank, author of "The Wind is Free" an account of a pioneering voyage from Saldanha Bay to the West Indies in a home-built engineless yacht.

Bobby Johnston



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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

MARCH / APRIL / MAY 1998

1. Anchor Players hilarious comedy "Wyrd Sisters" by Terry Pratchett, adapted by Stephen Briggs. Simon's Town Theatre, Westford, Simon's Town. March 18, 19, 20, 21 and 25, 26, 27, 28. Week nights at 8pm. Saturdays at 2:30 and 5:30pm. Tickets R15.00. Booking - Publicity Bureau, tel 786-2436.

2. Simon's Town Museum

March - May: SAM (Hunter Gatherer) Rock Art Exhibition

April 9: An evening of Traditional Simon's Town cuisine (pre 1800) and entertainment. R50 per person. Telephone Museum 786-3046 for further details.

April 15: A Cruise Down the Mississippi River to New Orleans. Talk with slides. R8.00 per person. Telephone Museum 786-3046 to book.

May 13: Dr David Livingstone - Part Travel, Part Personal. A talk by Elizabeth van

Heyningen 5.30 for 6pm with a complimentary glass of wine or fruit juice. R6.00 per person.

Walking Tours of "The Historic Mile" and "The Cobbled Lanes of Simon's Town"

3. False Bay Yacht Club

April 10-13 Easter Regatta

4. Masonic Club

March 14 Monthly Dance

March 17 St Patrick's Day - get together

March 22 Luncheon

April 4 Chinese Meal

May 9 Monthly Dance

Please let us know of any forthcoming events you would like published.

Deadline: 16th of the month

Contact: Pat Lochhead, Simon's Town Publicity Bureau, Telephone: 786-2436.