

SNOEKTOWN CALLING

Vol 1 Issue 5

15 JUNE 1998



Sponsor for June - Dr Reg Loxton

Editorial

There are several issues on the horizon which need attention; the one is approaching critical dimensions: namely, registration for the new voter's roll, and in particular, the first step in the process which requires a new ID book with a bar code. If you don't have this new ID you cannot vote. One hears of six hour delays at Fish Hoek for application of the new ID - otherwise, to Wynberg you have to go.

I should say it is required of our Ward Councillor to arrange appropriate facilities in Simon's Town, to serve the convenience of her constituents. After all, we have here a Municipal Office, a Police Station and a Magistrate's Office - surely with these facilities in-house, something can be put together. So get yourself into gear, Councillor, and co-opt your ex-Council colleagues into action. We are deserving of this service. Watch this

space for developments.

A second issue approaching critical space is that of Land Restitution and the Land Claims Court. According to a recent report in the Financial Mail, the Sophiatown case could be the landmark judgement, setting a precedent for Simon's Town. A copy of this article will be placed on the Community Notice Board in Union Street.

Crime Stop is back on track and it is planned that this feature will stimulate the community to the need to help ourselves, and make us aware of the dangers that lurk in the neighbourhood. Be careful out there!

Reg Loxton - Editor
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786-1750



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Simon's Town - Rates and Tariffs Impact on the Residents

The South Peninsula Municipality (SPM) has set a 10% increase in rates as well as various increases in tariffs for the financial year starting 1 July 1988. The rates increase 10% of course is based on existing valuations and the base date for valuations varies considerably across the whole SPM area. The base date for Simon's Town is 1988 and Quesay Park for example 1974. The considerable discrepancy in dates means that a new general valuation is essential and this will be in place, base date 1 January 1991 for the 1990 financial year.

The increase in rates necessary for several reasons. Staff and other subsidised and grants have been cut and in some cases discontinued. The SPM has inherited just under 8 000 staff from the former administrations. These staff do not always form coherent administrative units and file, together with a lack of administrative buildings and, most importantly, incompatible computer billing and other systems means considerable cost implications in setting up a new co-ordinated administration.

A steep increase in rates is always unpopular and causes great financial hardship for many or fixed incomes. For Simon's Town residents who formerly had a smaller administration personnel paid at the level of a grade 6 local authority the jump to paying personnel at a grade 13 level has been a great burden. Moreover the process of equalisation of tariffs across the whole municipal area, something required in terms of the Constitution, has added further financial shocks.

The current rate in Simon's Town is 2.666 cents in the rand, the rebates as follows:

No.	Description	Rebate	Rates
1	On all developed residential properties	40%	1.034
2	On all commercial properties and private residential with additional houses on extension of the existing scheme	30%	2.038
3	On all private residential		

	variant when	10%	2.200
1.	On all properties given	0%	2.590
2.	On all properties given	20%	2.040

Tariff increases are being advertised currently. The existing basis for tariffs is retained and a uniform increase of 20% proposed for sewerage and refuse tariffs. Sewerage will be 3000.00 for the first large pipe and 2000.00 for each additional pipe per annum. Refuse will be:

domestic	R 5.00 per
pensioners	R 20.00 per
commercial	R 15.00 per
industry	R 10.00 per

Fish Hoek and former Cape Town City areas have tariffs for sewerage and refuse included in the general rate and the tariffs for former CMC areas are considerably lower than those in Simon's Town.

With a common valuation roll implemented to equitably distribute the tax burden within the whole municipal area it will be impossible to develop a uniform basis for determining equal tariffs for services such as refuse and sewerage.

The harsh realities of moving into a larger administration have been both painful and unpleasant for the Simon's Town community. This new year will hopefully see the achievement of a uniform valuation roll, a common system for determining tariffs and rebates, and the ending of some of the gross discrepancies and anomalies in the SPM area e.g. Quesay Park residents pay R4.01 per month for refuse collection. Grassy Park residents (base date for rates 1974) pay R10.58 per month for refuse collection. Council will also be striving for a lighter, more efficient administration which focuses on the core functions of local government, and identifies ways of reducing the cost of services while improving efficiency, and of generating additional income from sources other than taxes. Please note: ward report back meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in the Simon's Town Municipal office.

Alderman (Mrs) N. Holtmann

Simon's Town Community Police Liaison Forum

Judging by the number of armed response vehicles in the Simon's Town area at present, one could be forgiven the assumption that the townsfolk have been abandoned by the forces of law and order, and are scared, very scared. It is my very pleasant duty to inform the populace that not only is there an effective police presence, but also a formally recognised community forum in place.

The forum operates within clearly defined parameters - it is not there to control or manage the police function in any way, but rather to act as an interface between the police and their clients - you. It is even given funding for this purpose. It is generally known that the policy governing the police of today is far removed from that of the past. It was called a 'police force' - we now have a 'police service', which says it all. The thrust of today's policing is one of 'community policing', i.e. an 'organisational strategy which allows the police and the community to work

closely together to solve problems'. There is emphasis placed upon the concept of people themselves accepting the initial responsibility for their safety and security, in other words, becoming involved - hence the formation of forums.

The forum meets at least once monthly, on the **last Monday** of the month at the **Oatlands Conference Centre** at 16h00. The forum, at present, is reasonably representative of local organisations, including the municipality. However there is a need for the residents' associations to become involved, as well as the business community. The success of the forum depends entirely on the degree of representivity, and this is a matter which is being addressed.

The working committee, elected at the Annual General Meeting of March 1998 comprises:



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In common with the rest of the service our local police are under severe stress. Understaffed, underpaid, and, it might be said, working in what can only be described as aesthetically appalling conditions. The forum last month received a donation of R800 from someone who wishes to remain anonymous, to be used for a paint job - this will be done not only for the sake of the staff, but also for the public. Notwithstanding the fact that the local station is understaffed, so the exact act crime solving has taken place in the last few months - it is now hoped that the justice system will follow through.

Crime remains low, but even one incident monthly is one too many. Statistics are avail-

able at the station, and interested members of the public are welcome to view them. "Regulators" state that statistics may only be released to the press at a national level. There must be a reason for this, but it escapes me. However, they are made available at forum meetings for both committee members and observers. A syndicate operating from outside the area targeted cars in isolated parking areas at Scarborough Bay and Cape Point, removing items of value - they were recently caught. Gladstone market remains a "hot spot" for break-ins, as does Murdoch Valley. Residents in all areas are asked to be proactive - the heat security system in the world only operates when switched on, and is useless unless it is effectively monitored. Do check your system regularly.

The 1011 emergency number is still functioning well at the moment - the response time isn't satisfactory, and **Al Giver** of the Neighbourhood Watch reported that he made two calls - these weren't even logged, never mind responded to. At present, use the local police number - **786-2127**.

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Station Commander, *Captain 'Dupie' du Pisanie* is concerned that there may be a perception that the station is not operating effectively. He asks that disgruntled clients please inform him personally of problem areas, so that these may be addressed. Although at present he often has to be out of town, he always responds to messages.

I must also report the good news. There is always great concern in the town over the seemingly casual granting of liquor licences to all and sundry, without consideration of community needs. The new Liquor Act has tightened up procedures considerably, and your forum is asked for recommendations - which are taken into consideration.

In closing, I would like to invite any member of the public who wishes to make an input to the forum to do so: please - we need you, we have no wish to operate in a vacuum. If you have concerns, share them with us, we will do our utmost to assist:

Pauline van Eck
Simon's Town Police Liaison Forum

Property Watch

1. Three applications are currently in progress. The closing date has passed for objections and / or comments for two of these:

1.1 Departure to Relax Street Building Line applicable to Erf 4075, Glencairn Heights, Simon's Town. Closing date for comments and/or objections was 29 May 1998.

1.2 Rezoning of Erf 267, Glencairn, Simon's Town. Closing date for comments and/or objections was 5 June 1998.

After due process and evaluation of any objections received, these two applications will be submitted to the South Peninsula Municipal Council.

The third application is still open for ratepayers and residents to inspect. The details are available for inspection at the Engineering Department in the Municipal Offices, St George's Street Simon's Town

during normal office hours:

1.3 Rezoning and Scheme Departure of Erf 3590, Simon's Town, (Quarry Road). Closing date for comments and/or objections is 19 June 1998.

2. Other property matters of interest are:

2.1 Bayview Heights, Simon's Town: The current application to rezone to single residential and to subdivide the property is still pending with the South Peninsula Municipality. The validity of this application is dependent upon a final decision relating to the legal status of the land and the matter cannot proceed until this has been finalised.

2.2 Highlands Development, Goede Gift: The application for departures has been referred to the Provincial Government for a final decision. It is not known when this decision will be forthcoming.

2.3 Jan Smuts Drive, Seaforth: The application for the subdivision of Erf 1315 into 51 sites for single houses will go to the South Peninsula Municipal Council during July 1998. There were no objections to this application.

2.4 Welcome Glen, Phase 2: The resubdivision and rezoning of the remainder of Portion 10 of the farm Welcome Cottage on Erf 967 was approved by the South Peninsula Municipal Council on 4 June 1998. This will make available a large number of single residential sites to the south of the present Welcome Glen properties.

2.5 Rocklands Development: Council has approved the subdivision of Erf 4602 to allow the development of a secured housing estate. The development is adjacent to the Rocklands Centre at the end of Rocklands Road in Murdock Valley South.

2.6 Thomas Street: An application to subdivide Erf 4060 in Thomas Street into three sites was approved by Urban Planning Committee on 4 June 1998. These erven are zoned single residential.

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

Simon's Town Ratepayers' and Residents' Association Monthly Update

The big news this month is the 10% Rates increase for the coming year, which starts in July. The SPM has explained that this is largely due to the subsidies cut in the Municipal subsidy which it formerly enjoyed. This cut could have led to an increase of up to 40% in Rates, but the SPM reduced this by using a variety of stringent measures. Service charges will also be increased and in some cases services will be reduced. Capital works budgets have also been slashed.

On face value we are forced to accept the reasons and explanations given. Nevertheless we have been warned to expect substantial increases in Rates again next year when the new site-only rating system comes into force. These, we have been warned, could be in the region of 60%.

What cannot be accepted, however, is the situation where residents are unable to cope with increases that outstrip their ability to pay. This would apply to many pensioners, persons on fixed incomes and employees. The onus falls on the SPM to come up with an alternative.

One such alternative is to devise a new system for concessions; another is to place a cap on Rates increases.

Whatever the solution might be, we need your views.

With elections "around the corner", many residents are unaware that they will not be accepted on voting day. We believe that such a ruling may be unconstitutional, but the problem which has been highlighted are the totally inadequate arrangements made for the obtaining of new documents.

Commercial property developments imposed along the sea bay coast between Bloubaai and Simon's Town have highlighted the need for an integrated development plan that takes the needs of residents, including the local economy, into account. At this stage such an integrated plan does not seem to exist in a form that has the teeth to deal with various undesirable

proposals appearing.

All have highlighted, recently, is the lack of "freedom" of local facilities and the people's to disabled persons. This is something of developers and the SPM needs to bear in mind.

We remind our members that certain proposals have been made regarding amendments to our constitution. These cover the term of office of the chairperson, the appointment of sub-committees, the Association's policy on the enforcement and minor changes due to Simon's Town's absorption into the SPM.

Copies of the Constitution and proposed amendments are available at Gladys Dreyer's. Any member wishing to comment on these or propose further amendments is requested to contact the Chairman before 5 July to allow time for distribution before the AGM at the end of July.

Chris Mark, Chairman

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF

THE HOMENURSING ASSOCIATION and SIMONSTOWN ASSOCIATION

WILL BE HELD IN

**THE TOWN HALL,
ST. GEORGE'S ST,
SIMON'S TOWN, ON
TUESDAY 23 JUNE
1988 AT 2.30pm.**

Down the Historic Mile

John Lee, 34th and Chairman of GLAP, another Scout, a good member of our Association, has passed away.

Ja, said Steffen Boersman, our departed colleague Anja Brodbeck will be sorely missed, especially her big voice, but it was a real lekker party. After a minute's silence in respect of Anja when we thought about better things, including who had cash for a paapsak, the frothing got underway with a report from Steffen Boersman that he had made little progress with the matters assigned to him. The Dok had been sick and away and a group country and the Viers Councilor was ill with flu and without voice as a result - what's ever heard of a politician caught speechless? Anyway Steffen promises to corner the Dok and press for some action.

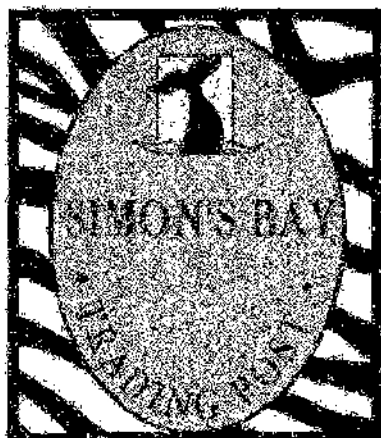
Stacy Flynthoosh expressed her disappointment at no progress with the changing business of flowers in the GAE. Miriela Ropotars said it really was a shame that important people like Dun and Norman and Fred and Ray, couldn't get going, really.

skating on, she said

Harold Hardekop suggested a competition, to be judged in December, as to the best shop front shop of flowers. First prize, one week at Blomvassmark, second prize, two weeks and third prize, three weeks - a kitchen. This sort of rivalry as to prizes caused some jealousy and Schuler became quite agitated. So before things got out of hand, Stofel suggested that the winner be awarded a free full page ad in Sørlandet-Gaalen. And so it was decided and he's agreed with the editor. Then the matter of who will be the judge? Clara said she should be because she has a feeling for such things, as her Aunt Constanze Niander from Weyberg, who is well respected in the art world. No good, said Stofel, the judge has to be a Simonsen - so what about the Ward Councilor.

At that point the papers arrived and it was resolved to postpone this important discussion to the next meeting.

Streetwalkers

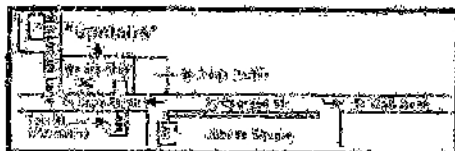


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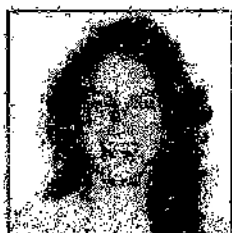
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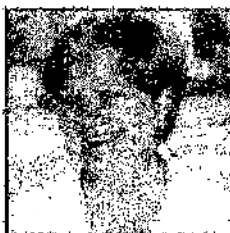
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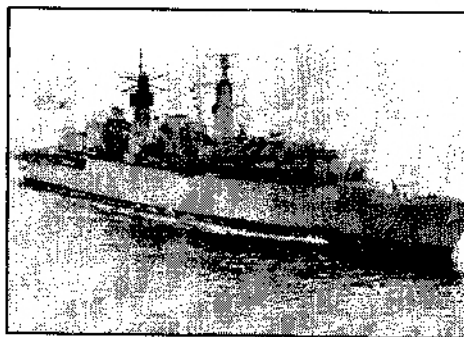
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News from Simon's Town Naval Base

A Brief History of HMS Cornwall 1939-1942

HMS *Cornwall*, commanded by Captain PCW Manwaring RN, and HMS *Dorsetshire* were ordered to sail at 2200 on 4 April 1942 from Colombo, Sri Lanka to join the Eastern Fleet just north of the Maldives. Course was set for Addu Atoll and both ships made good a course of 220 degrees at 22 knots. A large Japanese Naval presence had been sighted in the vicinity of the Atoll and it was believed that they were underway to attack Colombo - the reports being confirmed by the reconnaissance flights of the Catalinas throughout the night of 4/5 April 1942.

As suspected, the Japanese bombed Colombo on Easter Sunday 5 April 1942 at 0800. There were surprisingly few casualties and the accurate bombing was directed at military targets. Earlier that night, both the *Dorsetshire* and the *Cornwall* had altered



course to rendezvous with the Commander-in-Chief Eastern Fleet, Admiral Somerville.

At 1100 an enemy aircraft was spotted astern of the Ship. It was a calm day - very little cloud and only a light haze softened the glare of the sun. At 1340, the *Dorsetshire* sighted three aircraft flying overhead and opened fire on them immediately - assuming them to be hostile. The aircraft responded by dive

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bombing the *Corvette* as she lay a mile or so off the shore. The bombs were released at a low altitude and the first struck the after bar gun while the second was a near miss. At the same time another formation of three aircraft dove towards the *Corvette*. All three bombs struck with devastating effect. She lost her steering gear, communications and was holed amidships. In total, she took ten direct hits and came within a mile of sinking from the force of the first attack.

Corvette was still afloat but was under an almost continuous trade of bombs. A total of eight direct hits and six near misses were counted and the sequence of damage was lost in the fury of explosions and fire. A boat man on the starboard side saw the engine room flooded with the loss of life of all the stokers inside. The boiler room had to be evacuated because of flooding and all electrical supply was lost as well. A bomb between the forward and centre funnels killed the chaplain and the medical officer in the

sick bay. Most of the bridge personnel were killed or wounded when a bomb exploded on the starboard perimeter - the bridge having just been machine-gunned. Many of the flight Marines died in the blast of a direct hit on.

By now the flooding was beyond control and she began listing to port. Captain Manwaring, who had continued to command despite being seriously wounded in the right shoulder, realised that *Corvette* was doomed and at 1.05 p.m. gave the order to abandon ship. At 1.30 p.m. *Corvette* heeled over and went down by the bows with remarkably little disturbance at all. The survivors were in boats and the water which 27 Japanese dive-bombers flew low overhead and then headed off into the sun. Thankfully there was no attempt to machine-gun them.

The survivors then rallied the survivors around a jettisoned oil barrel, made a boat, two large sailing tenders and the *Corvette* floats and prepared themselves for the long wait to be rescued.

They knew that they would not be rescued for at least 24 hours but held out hope as a Fulmar passed overhead in the late afternoon telling them that help was underway. The wounded and exhausted were loaded into boats whilst the rest spent the night in the oily calm of the water. The following day saw the heat become intense and numerous sharks in the water. Fortunately the sharks were content to wait for the corpses of the wounded that had died and were committed to the sea. None of the living were attacked. The little food and water they had was shared sparingly. In the late afternoon of 6 April an Albatross flew overhead and shortly afterwards the masts of a cruiser and two destroyers were spotted to the south-west.

Their rescuer was the *Yacht Club* Captain, Angelsey RN, commanding officer of HMS *Enterprise*, and within the hour the *Enterprise* had rescued more than 1,200 exhausted and wounded survivors of the *Corvette* and *Enterprise* without a single loss of life. The men had been in the water for over 20 hours. For the survivors of HMS *Corvette* the ordeal

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was over. It was an Easter Sunday never to be forgotten - ten officers and 180 ratings (of whom 80 were Royal Marines) had died that fateful afternoon, more than 30% of them South Africans.

The significance and importance of this visit to South Africa for those survivors who will be our guests is quite plain to see. No other single Naval action seen during the Second World War had cost as many South African lives - all of them volunteers. It is for this reason that you will still find the ship's crest of HMS *Cornwall* boldly painted on the quay side in the Naval Base at Simon's Town.

Visit to RSA by the British Royal Navy

The HMS *Cornwall*, a Type 22 Frigate and the Support Tanker, RFA *Oakleaf*, will visit Port Elizabeth, Cape Town and Simon's Town from Friday 29 May to Monday 1 June, Cape Town from Friday 5 June to Monday 15 June and Simon's Town from Friday 15 June to Sunday 5 July 1998 respectively. The visits to Port Elizabeth and Cape Town are

informal.

During the visit to Simon's Town, the HMS *Cornwall*, will assist the SA Navy in conducting a part of the SA Navy's Submarine Officers Commanding Course (SMOC) training. She will also take part in combined exercises with the SA Navy. The exercises will serve to improve and enhance inter-operability between the forces. It also forms part of the excellent co-operation and friendly working relationship which exists between the Royal and South African Navies.

The type 22 class frigate is the mainstay of the modern Royal Navy Surface Fleet. HMS *Cornwall* is the first of four Type 22 Batch 3s. She is capable of defending herself and attacking targets above, on or below the sea surface. Employing "state of the art" technology, her modern sensors and new weapons provide the command with prompt warning of attack and the ability to engage the enemy at long range.

HMS *Cornwall*, the sixth Royal Navy ship to bear the name, is the lead vessel of the Second Frigate Squadron. She was launched on 14 October 1985 and commissioned in Falmouth, Cornwall on 23 April 1988 by the ship's sponsor, the late Diana, the Princess of Wales.

The immediate "predecessor" of the present HMS *Cornwall* was sunk by the Japanese in the Indian Ocean on Easter Sunday, 5 April 1942. Twenty five of the seconded South Africans serving on board were killed in the attack. The event will be commemorated by various functions for the survivors in all centres which the ship will be visiting.

The HMS *Cornwall* will be open for visitors as follows:

- Port Elizabeth - Saturday 30 May and Sunday 31 May from 14.00-17.00
- Cape Town - Saturday 6 June and Sunday 7 June from 14.00-17.00 at the V&A Waterfront
- Simon's Town - Friday 19 June. Naval families only



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The Handing-Over of Simon's Town Naval Base

Of all the notable milestones in Simon's Town's long history, one of the most important events must be the handing over of the Naval Base in 1957. On July 5 1955 the South African press announced that the British Government had agreed to hand over the administration and control of the Naval Base to the South African government, and that the transfer would take place not later than March 31 1957.

According to the orthodox interpretation of the Simon's Town Agreement, South Africa was bound to make three major concessions in order to secure sovereignty over the Naval Base. First, that Britain would retain the right to use not both peace and war even if South Africa remained neutral. Second, that South Africa would not subject coloured workers on the Base to the apartheid laws.

On a splendidly clear, windless day on April 2 1957, in a blaze of Naval pageantry, 140 years of British occupation of Simon's Town Naval Base came to an end as the Union Jack was slowly lowered and a Royal Marine band played "The Queen". The First Lord of the Admiralty, Lord Selkirk, asked upon Capt. H.F. Botes, British Superintendent of the Dockyard, to hand over the symbolic key of the dockyard to Capt. R. Dryden-Lyford - the first South African to command the dockyard. (This symbolic key was the original key of the gate of the First Royal Navy Yard at Simon's Town.)

The moment had arrived for South Africa to take formal possession of the Base. The national flag was hoisted and the SA Navy band played "Die Stem" while 8 000 special guests stood in attendance. Aircraft of the SA Air Force - Ventura bombers, Vampire and Sabre jets - flew over the Base in salute.

The occasion was a glow with the colour and sparkle of dress uniforms, medals and decorated swords, burning and flags and garden-party dresses. Ships, crisscrossed over the every wall of the dockyard. Alongside the quay the old, weathered wooden flag of the Commander-in-Chief South Atlantic and

South America, Vice-Admiral

Sir Geoffrey Hadden, as well as the flag of the Admiralty, a good anchor on a wooden ground. On the other side of the quay Sir Basil Hope was the flag of the South African Naval Chief of Staff Rear Admiral L.H. Berman - the first time any South African ship had worn this flag of the newly promoted First South African Admiral.

Moored alongside these two ships lay the frigates HMS *Mounts Bay* and SAS *Transvaal*. Across the harbour were the South African ships *Van der Stroom*, *Simon van der Stel* and *Wyndham*. And the Portuguese frigate *Esmeralda Diaz*. *Delon* and *Good Hope* had alongside right over their quarters, giving shade to the many naval and military officers, their wives and guests. Starvation foodstuffs, including supplies from *Good Hope* and *Mounts Bay*, the final supplies were observed.

Even the most solemn occasion has its lighter moments. A fire broke out in the linen room at the new Admiralty House, Wyndham, where the First Lord of the Admiralty, the Earl of Selkirk was staying prior to the handing-over ceremony. Fortunately the fire did little damage, but the First Lord's uniform was unscathed; another version is that the uniform had indeed been drenched either from the water from the forty fire extinguishers flung upon the blaze - and that Lord Selkirk had refused to appear in suits and ends of borrowed clothing. Whatever the sartorial problems, April 2 1957 was a great and glorious day in the history of Simon's Town.

As a footnote to the occasion, the Cape Times caught the reactions of citizens to the handing over. "Time alone will tell whether the change-over is a good thing for the town or not," was the theme of several businessmen. A banner flittered over the city streets in Simon's Town: "Farewell RN - Welcome SAN". Indeed, the manager Mr. G. G. said, "I am glad the South African Navy is here. We will have more ships here and the Royal Navy will still keep two ships, as they have now." "I am optimistic about

the future," said Mrs E. Stannard, cafe proprietor. "We are going to arrange our menus and will serve South African dishes instead of mainly steak, egg and chips." "Let us wait and see," said Mr Downes, hotel owner.

Acknowledgements:

Simon's Town Museum; Cape Times; Dryden-Dymond; Cdr. W.M. Risant, SA Naval Museum;

Right: Mr R. de Sa

Below: The Union Jack is lowered during the Handover Ceremony



The Hand-over Ceremony, 2 April 1957. Captain H.E. Bane, CBE, OBE, DSO, RN presents the keys of the Dockyard to Captain Pearl Dryden-Garnold, SAN



Left: Mrs E. Stannard

Below: Handing-Over Ceremony



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Henda Ramard

SA Navy in the Antarctic

In accordance with the Protocol of Environmental Protection (for Antarctica) of which South Africa is a signatory, the impact of man's operations within the limits of the Antarctic Treaty (south of the 60th parallel) has to be kept to an absolute minimum. Also, to put it simply; nothing which is taken into the area is left there.

Naturally that includes waste.

While not a dedicated ice breaker, the SA Navy's combat support vessel *SAS Outeniqua* has an ability to operate in certain ice conditions. This ability has been utilised in support of the Department of the Environment and Tourism on various Antarctic voyages during the building of the modern new South African base at Vesleskarvet, SANAE IV.

Despite being a warship, *Outeniqua* is, in terms of Article 1(2) of the Antarctic Treaty, permitted to operate in the area. She too has to therefore comply with the requirements of the Protocol of Environmental Protection and no effort is spared in doing so. This involves a complex waste processing system.

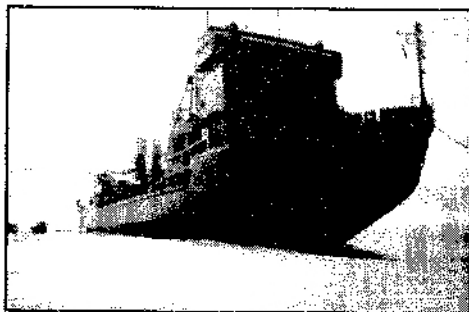
All waste generated on board is separated into specially marked bins, processed and stored for later disposal. Combustible waste is incinerated; tins and plastics are compacted and stored in containers carried especially for this purpose. The rest is dumped into hoppers on the main deck. All is then disposed of once in port.

Human and other water-based waste (shower / bath water) is processed on board until it is completely broken down and it too is stored for later disposal.

Unspoiled Continent

Antarctica is the fifth largest continent - being larger than Europe and Australia. With an average elevation of 2 250m it is also the highest continent in the world.

In area, the continent covers an area of some 14,2 million square kilometres. However this



varies as, in certain times of the year (September) the freezing of the sea ice can extend more than 1000 km from the coast. Antarctica is 99,6% ice-covered and contains 90% of the world's ice - estimated at some 30 million cubic km and measured at 4 775m thick. This contains 70% of the world's fresh water.

The weight of the ice itself has actually depressed the land mass by nearly 1 600m

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and the Antarctic continental shelf is three times deeper than that of any other continent.

Scientists estimate that, should all the ice on Antarctica melt, the level of the world's oceans would rise by 60m. West Antarctica would become an archipelago of small islands while East Antarctica would have a continental landscape approximately the same size as Australia.

Climatically, Antarctica is the coldest place on earth. The lowest temperatures ever recorded on earth were at the Russian Vostok station in 1983 when temperatures fell to -89.6° C (wade m&h source). Mean January temperatures range from -40° C to -30° C in the winter months to -13° C to -10° C in summer. Coastal temperatures are somewhat warmer with -15° C to -22° C in winter and -6° C to -4° C in summer. Highest mean is the windiest place on earth with wind velocities of up to 60km/h being measured; however this does not hold true for the Pole itself where winds seldom exceed

30km/h.

Aspects of Working in Ice

There are many aspects to take into consideration when working in ice. For instance, in ice conditions the ship goes into "ice mode": unusual speeds are regulated by means of the sternmost piston propeller but the engine revolutions are increased. The ship has a stern cone 17 inches thick with skimming along the side of the bow up to 2m in height. Engine controls moved to local control and the bridge watch-keeping personnel are kept busy constantly avoiding bergs, bits and pieces - and to monitor the larger bergs seen on radar. During Owen's last trip South, en route at the ice shelf an Antarctic blizzard of storm strength was blowing and visibility was extremely poor in the fog and sleet. The decks became covered in ice and extremely slippery. Aids and halyards below the deck certain instruments such as the wind anemometer (which on one occasion froze up and ceased to function). The water in the wet thermometer freezes but this is of

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little consequence as there is also no humidity in the region.

The Navy Down South

The SA Navy's combat support ship, SAS *Outeniqua*, has successfully completed the second and last phase of Operation Southern Lights VII. Carried out at the request of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEA) one of the aims of the operation was to provide logistical support during a joint venture with the Swedish Antarctic Research Programme (SWEDARP) who, together with other Nordic countries, operates in close proximity to SANAE IV, the SA research base at Vesleskarvet. A further aim was to provide assistance to the DEA themselves, by transporting personnel and equipment to and from SANAE in conjunction with the DEA's SA *Agulhas*. The Chief Director Meteorology was also assisted by laying weather buoys and establishing and repairing weather stations in the South Sandwich Islands.

Phase 1 was carried out between December and January 1997/98. Accompanying

Outeniqua were the SWEDARP teams plus naval officers from Israel, Kenya, Malaya and the Netherlands. During this phase, the SWEDARP teams were disembarked at Rampen Bukta, the closest point to the Swedish base at Wasa. This involved a first for the SA Navy when *Outeniqua* was able to come alongside the ice shelf and offload the personnel and equipment using the ship's Ro-Ro (roll-on / roll-off) capability. Thereafter *Outeniqua* headed east to offload personnel and equipment at Muskeg Nukta, the closest point to SANAE IV. This operation was, however, hampered by bad weather conditions and the transfers had to take place via helicopters and ship-to-ship transfer between *Outeniqua* and the red-hulled SA *Agulhas*. Thereafter equipment and materials used during the building of the new SANAE IV base were uplifted for return to South Africa as nothing may be left or dumped in the Antarctic.

SAS *Outeniqua* then called on Southern Thule, the southernmost of the South Sandwich Islands - celebrating Christmas en route - where they erected an automatic

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weather station. From there it was up to Zvezdoski, the northernmost island in the group, to repair the station there. En route to Cape Town, some 16 drifting weather buoys were laid in a pattern. Despite rough seas in the Roaring Forties, the ship arrived home a week early - on 15 January.

The second - and shorter - phase involved dropping two more weather buoys and unloading the SWEDARP personnel and equipment from Wisa plus containers and personnel from SANAB (including a number of naval members who were on detached duty). "Historically there were the foreign naval officers on board from Angola, Belgium, Brazil, Congo and Cote d'Ivoire. Also on board were guests of the DEA who were involved in the construction of the new completed base at Zvezdoski, SANAB. At Akabara, Agulhas was involved and she and the SA Navy were again working in close co-operation - her bright red tail being the only spot of colour among the white, grey and blue so far down south.

hampered operations, preventing the ship from again getting alongside the ice. Transfers were again by helicopter. Eventually, once all personnel had been uplifted, there were some 11 entities represented on board, including the five foreign naval officers, the Scandinavian teams and the South African guests and ship's company. A true "United Nations" effort, although accommodation became something of a problem.

According to the Officer Commanding, SAS Ostermiller, Capt Ernst Lochman: "The objective of Operation Southern Lights VII was to light early support the Antarctic summer season programmes of the DEA. Despite unfavourable weather and sea conditions at times, we were able to play our part in achieving this objective".

He said that the safe achievement of any objective in the Antarctic was a "difficult operation" but he was satisfied with what had been achieved.

This time the ice and weather permitted

Lt. Col Brian Stockton, SA Navy

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Diabetes mellitus

Diabetes is a common disease all over the world, affecting the life of millions of people and their families. It can be classified in two main groups, i.e. insulin dependent or insulin and those not dependent on insulin. The first group are mainly those which have a juvenile onset and there is a shortage of insulin. The causes are still uncertain and there does not seem to be any family history involved. The second group are the largest and has an onset later in life and a family history of diabetes is generally present. There is no shortage of insulin (perhaps even have too much), but the body's cells seem to be resistant to the effect of insulin.

Mechanics of diabetes

The cells of the body need to take up glucose from the blood stream to be able to do their functions. Imagine the glucose having to go through "doors" on the outside of the cells

and insulin is required to function as "keys" to unlock these "doors". In the non-insulin dependent diabetes (type 2, or so called "maturity onset diabetes"), there is therefore enough insulin, but the effect on cells is not as it should be. The blood sugar level therefore rises, but it cannot enter the cells. The result is that the kidney cannot hold back all the sugar and large amounts are passed in the urine (good energy lost). Sugar in the urinary tract acts as a diuretic and draw large amounts of water with it. The patient presents with poly-uria (passing huge amounts of urine), weight loss (if the sugar goes into the toilet), poly-dipsia (if the urinating leads to thirst) and poly-phagia (passing all that energy makes you hungry). When these patients eventually present to his doctor, his blood sugar is high, as well as a raised blood sugar level.

So What?

Uncontrolled diabetes and regulated blood sugar levels have complications. It targets organs e.g. kidneys; retina; peripheral arteries and nerves - to name but a few. Together with this part of the "package" of diabetes, could be a raised cholesterol. It is therefore really important that the diagnosis is made immediately and treatment commenced as soon as possible.

What Now?

No time to waste! - if you have to do so change your eating habits drastically. The most important step is to stop bombarding your poor cells with large portions of unadulterated sugar. The only way to do this properly is via your doctor and/or dietitian. The eating pattern also needs some overhauling in general to prevent the cholesterol from being a problem. The blood sugar level etc. will be monitored by your health professional and should the diet not do it alone, you might need some medication (not to replace the diet but to act as "oil to grease the wheels" on the "doors" of these cells, in order for it to



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let the sugar into them.

What's the Bottom Line?

Consider an important checklist for finding out if you or your child has a high sugar level. Have the level checked once a year at least as part of that regular check-up. If you or your child are diagnosed, do not despair! There are many helping hands and with modern developments and greater awareness, it's not as debilitating as before and you could lead a virtually normal life.

Watch this space in further issues for more information on Diabetes mellitus.

©A Diabetes Association, tel no 2461-1100
Greetings in health
Gee's 46.

PS: Enslin prewrote this. The sentence: "they are necessarily inferior to the original..." should read "They are NOT necessarily inferior to the original..."

Beach and Coastline Patrol

Due to the current financial restraints placed on the South Peninsula Municipality, even minor problems mentioned in my May report have not been solved as expected. Nevertheless, I still think my statement that SPM is "wide awake" and particularly in doing what long outstanding repairs. Once the new bridge programme is smoothly underway, there has been assurance that a district would accompany me on an inspection tour of all the beaches from Glencairn to Miller's Point.

Meanwhile, yet another problem could well arise in Seaford unless we immediately voice our objections. Since pavilions have virtually taken over Boulders Park, our only remaining sheltered beach is Seaford. However, this could also soon be virtually lost to a large commercial project. In such a sensitive ground with limited parking facilities, are we going to allow the developers to go somewhat overboard?

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Notice is hereby given that the
Simon's Arts Association

For Care of the Aged

will hold its AGM in the
Town Hall, St George's Street,
Simon's Town on Tuesday 20
June 1998 at 2.30pm.

AGENDA

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Confirmation of minutes of
AGM held on Tuesday 27 June
1997.
3. Chairman's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Election of office bearers
6. Guest speaker, Mr Steven
van der Merwe
General Practitioner
7. General

Anchor Players

"The Gingerbread Lady" by Neil Simon will open at the **Simonsberg Theatre** on Thursday, 2 July and continue on 3, 4, 9, 10, and 11 July. Curtain up week nights, 20:00 (8 pm), Saturdays at 18:30 (6.30 pm), with a matinee on 11 June at 14:30 (2.30 pm). Cost is R15 a seat for all shows and tickets can be bought at the door as usual, but if you wish to book, this can be done through Simon's Town Publicity at **786 2436**.

This comedy/drama is a fine example of Neil Simon at his most human and compassionate best. Directed by Sue Bolton with strong cast, including some interesting new talent. The leading role is played by Suzi Gehr whom all those who saw the Terry Pratchett play "Wyrd Sisters" in March, will remember for her stunning performance as the youngest witch.

Friday, 3 July will be Walter Hodges Benefit Night. Walter has worked tirelessly for amateur theatre for great many years as a set designer, constructor, director and actor. After many postponements, he now is able to have a hip replacement if he pays part of the bill. Anchor players would like to say thank you by giving him practical support.

Our audiences have included theatre devotees from as far afield as Cape Town and the northern suburbs, but we would really appreciate more local support from our own area of Simon's Town. For those people who have never given themselves the opportunity of viewing an Anchor Players production, why not phone **786 2436** and **book now**.

Watch this space for news on the pantomime in December!



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Simon's Town Historical Society

In the 20 April 1998 edition of Snoektown-Calling, the Society outlined its objectives and aims and you will recall that one of the objectives was the preservation of buildings of historical value and interest to Simon's Town.

In this regard, readers may be pleased to know that the society has written to the Public Works Department concerning the poor condition of a number of State buildings of historical importance including Palace Barracks opposite the railway station and Ibeka opposite the Naval tennis courts, which is now receiving attention.

Other projects the Society has on its 1998 calendar are:

- The survey of the old (now ruins) watermill at the Navy's sports field.
- A user-friendly display of the Simon's Town Museum's Naval badges.
- The mounting of a 12pdr cannon at the steps of the Museum.
- Restoring the letters on the one hundred

year old Victoria Reservoir foundation stone in Dolphin Way, Simon's Kloof.

e. Placing an additional plaque on the golf course to commemorate the Boer POW camp site which is also nearing its centenary, and

f. The survey and cataloguing of all original pressed tin ceilings still available in some Simon's Town homes.

The Society would like to record, photograph and catalogue all pressed tin ceilings for historical purposes, that are still to be found in homes in and around Simon's Town. A register of the various designs would be compiled and eventually home owners would be notified of the official design number of their ceilings. Pressed tin ceilings began 'dying out' some years ago as they looked out of place in the modern home. However, pressed tin ceiling replicas now appear to be in favour once again, but they are not the authentic item. The Society is of the opinion that a register of all authentic ceilings in our town should be drawn up. If your home has the original pressed tin ceilings and you are prepared to allow these ceilings to be photographed, categorised and registered, please contact the Chairman Terry Korsten, tel. 782-1889 or the Hon. Secretary Nigel Farquharson, tel. 786-2415.

Chairman

Simon's Town Museum News

"Black Hole Day"

If you have visited Simon's Town Museum, you will have seen the original slave quarters built by the Dutch East India Company in 1743. One cell, 'The Punishment Cell' is open to the public, two are used for storage and the fourth cell, also utilised for storage, is known as "The Black Hole" where slaves or prisoners were kept in solitary confinement.

The hundreds of children who visit the Museum get really excited about these cells, particularly "The Black Hole", so we decided

2nd SIMON'S TOWN SCOUT AND CUB GROUP

DISCO

on the 27th June 1998

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the time had come to convert "The Black Hole" into a new display.

We appealed to the Friends of the Museum to come and assist us with the huge task of clearing out "The Black Hole". What a wonderful day we all had discovering items that had been stored away for years which we have now brought out and placed on display.

Everything was dusted, cleaned and the concessions members checked before we neatly packed it all away, making room for our new display area. The items in storage were nice and clean, but were all covered in dust and feeling very grubby.

Gratefully, thanks to Arthur Davey, Helen Livingsome, Pam Nott, Peter Le Roux, John and Pam Hale, Maggie Damerell, Dr and Mrs Ovenside, Elizabeth Newby, Jean Nicholson, Len Sweet, Dorothy Fisher and Sue Kirkland-Walker for all their assistance.

Cherry Dilley
Curator

Peninsula Tourism - Simon' Town

(Simon's Town Publicity Association)

Message from the Chairman:

Following on our last letter to our members, we have agreed to join Peninsula Tourism on your behalf and by the time you read this, the Workshop on June 8 at Oudendaal will have been held.

The next main event is the AGM on July 22 followed by another of our popular "Pub Nights", also to be held at Oudendaal. Notices will be sent to all our members later. I would appeal to members to think about potential committee members now for the ensuing year or volunteer to become a committee member themselves. It is most important that we continue to have a strong working group who will ensure that the needs of our area are well represented.

If you have names for the committee, please contact Pat at 786 2436.

Peter Fensell, Chairman

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Drinks

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Served with Hot Potato Salad

Fresh Fish Pudding
Fresh Casserole & Potatoes

Barbecued Chicken & Hot Potato Salad
Light Curry & Vegetable Sauce

Grilled Beef & Potato Salad
Served with Hot Potato Salad

Hot Curry
Hot Curry & Potatoes

Grilled Beef & Potato Salad
(A la Mode Sauce)

Marinated Chicken Sausage
Served with Hot Potato Salad

Salad & Noodles

Hot Curry & Potatoes

Hot Curry & Potatoes

Grilled Beef

Hot Curry & Potatoes

Hot Curry & Potatoes

Grilled Beef

Grilled Beef & Potato Salad
Served with Hot Potato Salad

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Friends of the Simon's Town Public Library

The Simon's Town Public Library renders a wonderful service to all who live in our town, but it cannot exist without support from the community.

As a result the "Friends of the Simon's Town Public Library" was formed in 1996 to assist in matters both practical and financial.

Volunteers are needed to assist the Librarian and her staff in various ways, such as shelving and mending books and much more besides. More members are needed and we urge you to join and add to our numbers even if you feel you are unable to be of practical assistance. The membership is only R5.00 a year and you can sign up at the Library.

We live in an era of increasing financial cut-backs and it is essential that we have enough money "in the kitty" against the time when

materials are no longer as available as at present. For instance a current project to be financed by the Friends is buying furniture for computer work stations which will not be funded by Province.

The Friends of the Simon's Town Public Library have so far managed to raise more than R15,000, mainly by well supported book and food sales which take place at regular intervals in the main street. The Librarian and Friends Committee thank all members of the public who have helped in the past and hope to continue to enjoy this splendid support.

But to enable them to keep up the good work the Friends urgently need more books to sell. Please drop off any of your unwanted books at the Library or, if this is a problem, please phone Lonah Fawcett at 786-3432 who will arrange to collect them from you. Thank you all again.



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Forthcoming Events June / July 1998

1. SIMON'S TOWN MUSEUM

July 15

Two Oceans Aquarium. A talk with slides by Prof Mike Bruce, Director of the Education Trust of the Aquarium. Time: 17:15. Price: R5.00 per person includes complimentary glass of wine.

Please telephone: 786 6648 to book.

2. MASONIC CLUB

June 13 and July 1

Monthly Dance. (Feet) on Sat/Saturday).
R10.00 per person. Please bring own snacks.

June 21

Christmas in June. Booking essential.
Please phone 786 3327.

3. ANCHOR PLAYERS

July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 11. Week nights at 20:00;
Saturdays at 18:30

Saturday 11 July - "Matinee" at 14:30

"The Gingerbread Lady" by Neil Simon. A
new comedy/drama

Directed by Sue Bohan.

4. HOME NURSING ASSOCIATION and SIMONSHUS ASSOCIATION FOR CARE OF THE AGED.

Tuesday 23 June 1998 - 2:30 pm

Annual General Meeting will be held in the
Town Hall

5. FRIENDS OF SIMON'S TOWN COASTLINE.

Anti Vegetarian back along coast and
indigenous re-planting.

Date: SATURDAY 20 JUNE 1998

Time: 8.30 am

Venue: BOULDERS PARKING AREA.

In case of rain the back will take place on 27
June. Will those who can't please bring these
along: we have 4 small buckets. The back
will end at approximately 12 noon.

Enquiries: 786 1603 or 786 3890

6. MUSIC LOVERS

We have the tradition of having a social hour
for classical music. If you are interested,
please phone NATALIE - 786 1329.

The only opportunity to share knowledge of
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Please let us know of any
forthcoming events you would
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- FRIDAY, 3 JULY 1998.

Contact Pat Leckhead,
Peninsula Tourism - Simon's
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Telephone: 786 2436.