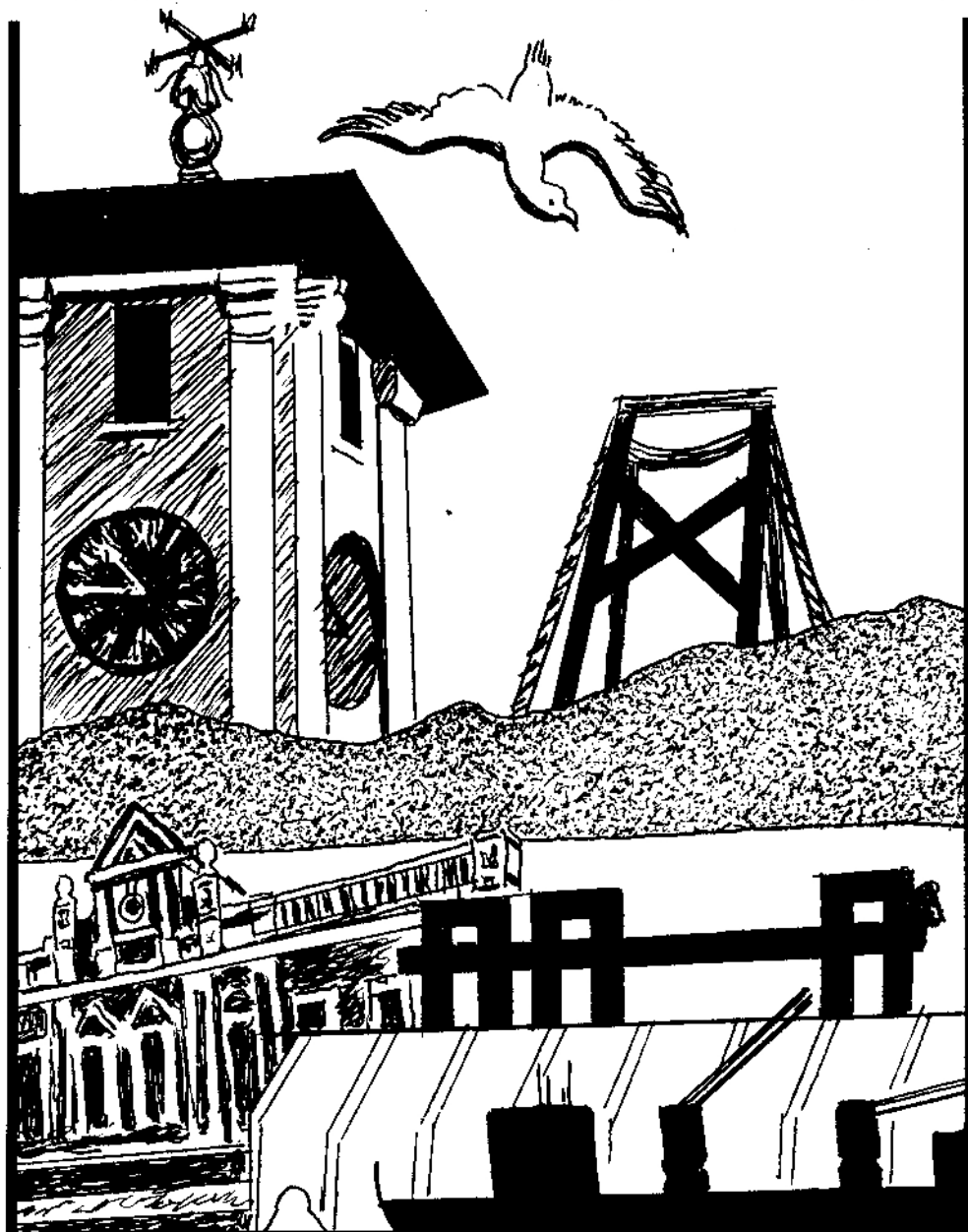


SNOEKTOWN CALLING

Vol 2 Issue 7

13 SEPTEMBER 1999



Sponsor for September - Dr. Reg Loxton

Editorial

This issue includes the second article compiled by Sgt. Allen van Essen under the general heading of "Security Watch". It is hoped to make this a regular feature with the principal objective of keeping the community informed as regard crime/security, but - in addition - to provide guidance as regards prevention of theft/burglary. Therefore it is strongly recommended that you carefully peruse the August article - at least twice. This is most useful information; we need to change our sloppy ways as regard to crime prevention.

Also in this issue we have the first of a series on the Falklands Conflict, a personal account by Gavin Eyre, the current Commander of Snoekie Shellhole: the Simon's Town MOTH Establishment.

Now: the vexing question of access to Boulders Beach by Simon's Town residents. Formerly, as a resident, I enjoyed the convenience of a Boulders Park season ticket. Now, I am told, I must apply to the National Parks at Silvermine for a season ticket which grants me entry to Boulders, Cape Point Reserve and Silvermine. BUT - I only want entry to Boulders! So what the hell: this sounds like bureaucratic constipation!

The residents of Simon's Town demand access to their traditional beach, at a reasonable price. So lets have a special season ticket to suit our wants and historic rights!

Reg Loxton, Editor
2 Chapel Road, 786 1750



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Down the Historical Mile

The August meeting of SLAP proved to be full of drama and commotion, mainly from Mientjie Boep-pens.

You see, she had heard about the ECLIPSE and she was determined not to miss this historic event. So she organised herself: "Piet Pompies promised to borrow me his koffie-bottel" in which to keep warm her favourite beverage mixture, because you see, the ECLIPSE could be a long wait. Also, "Wingnut would borrow me special spectacles, because the newspaper says, if you look directly at the ECLIPSE your eye will burn out."

So, at due time Mientjie took up her position at a pre-selected vantage point on a bench at the place Bobby calls "Pishoek". Well, nothing happened, so Mientjie went home, very confused and - as she said - "the hell in!"

Stoffel Bosman tried to explain that the ECLIPSE could only be seen in the Northern Hemisphere. But Mientjie would have none of it. "There's the sun and there's the moon, so the ECLIPSE must happen. After all, the sun rises in the east and sets in the west, and the moon does its own thing - the same all over the world, not so!"

Stoffel tried again with the Northern Hemisphere story, but Mientjie would have none of it: "Net 'n klomp nonsense." In the end it was resolved to leave Mientjie with her own thoughts - as a matter of keeping the peace.

Ja well, no fine, said the chairman.

Streetwalker



Snoektown Calling Supporters Club

Donations for August 1999

1. Individuals:

Sharon Bosma	R 50.00
Barbara Paynter	R100.00
Bob Johnston	R100.00
Mr. & Mrs. N.P. Fawcett	R50.00
KVS	R50.00
Pam & John Hale	R100.00

2. Associations:

Simon's Town Museum	R150.00
Simon's Town Hist. Society	R350.00

3. Corporate

NIL

Cheques should be made out to Snoektown calling and handed in at the Crazy Daisy garden shop. Please do not make donations via the Ratepayers association - this only creates confusion.

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Simon's Town Ratepayers' and Residents' Association

PROPERTY WATCH
No. 15 September 1999

1. CURRENT APPLICATIONS.

Since the last report in Property Watch, only one new submission has been received. Refer to item 1.12 below. Details of applications currently being dealt with by the South Peninsula Municipality are:

1.1. Erf 2298, Simon's Town - Boulders Beach Guest House: Application to rezone from General Residential to Business. The situation has changed dramatically since the last report in that this application was advertised on 30 July 1999, which date was not made known during the enquiries preceding the last Property Watch, and the closing date for comments/objections was 3 September 1999. The Simon's Town Ratepayers' and Residents' Association submitted an objection to the proposed rezoning on the following grounds:

1. The approved Simon's Town Structure Plan recommends that the entire Boulders area should be part of the Conservation Area and it also states that the zoning of the properties in this area is Single Residential. The Structure Plan does not recommend nor does it indicate that the Boulders area should be a business development node.

2. Rezoning of this property will encourage the proliferation of undesirable commercial development in an area in which the basic infrastructure is not designed to cope with high density development. Already, parking in the area has become a problem since the creation of the Boulders National Park.

3. A previous application for rezoning was refused in 1996 by the Simon's Town Transitional Metropolitan Substructure pending a study (an Environmental Impact Assessment) of the whole Boulders area and the revision

of the Town Planning Scheme. Neither of these two conditions has been fulfilled, at this stage.

4. Rezoning will establish an unfortunate precedent which will make it difficult, if not impossible for the local authorities to refuse other similar applications.

1.2. Erven 4348 and 4349, Welcome Glen: Application for consolidation, rezoning from undetermined use to single residential and business and for subdivision into 9 portions. The Urban and Environmental Services committee did not approve this application at its meeting in August.

1.3. Erf 4719, Welcome Glen: Application for rezoning from undetermined use to single residential and for subdivision into 5 portions. This has been approved.



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Friday
500 grams & Chips R12.50

1.4. Erf 4595, Cairnside: Application to subdivide into two portions. The Urban and Environmental Services committee did not approve this application at its meeting in August.

1.5. Erf 267, Glencairn: Application to Rezone to General Residential. This application seeks to "regularise" an illegal usage and has been re-advertised. The closing date for comments/objections is 27 September 1999. Details of the application may be obtained at Tel: 710 8367.

1.6. Erf 3590, Simon's Town, (Quarry Road): Application for Rezoning and Scheme Departures. This application has been returned to the Provincial Government by the SPM, presumably with its recommendations. Further comments are apparently awaited from the applicant and the objectors.

1.7. Erf No 967, Simon's Town (Highlands Development): Application for Scheme Departures. The developer's application to build 7 housing units instead of the originally approved 8 units has been approved by the provincial government. The application to subdivide the property into seven portions to comply with the provisions of Section 9.1 of the Town Planning Scheme regulations was approved the Urban and Environmental Services committee at its meeting in August.

1.8. Erf 3844, Simon's Town: (Afrikaner Road, Murdock Valley South). This is an application for a second dwelling on a consolidated erf. Processing the present application has not been finalized, yet.

1.9. Erf 625, Simon's Town: (Military Way, Bayview). Application to sub-divide into two portions. There is no formal road access to the one erf. This has been queried by the SPM but no response has been received from the applicant. This application is still pending.

1.10. Erf 250 and Erf 345, Glencairn: Application for subdivision into 6 sites each 350 sqm in extent. Erven in the general vicinity seem to be much larger than these. The application is pending, at present, awaiting the finalization of the purchase of a portion of council land which was previously leased by the applicant. One objection to the proposed road closure was received. This was referred to the applicant whose response has been sent to the objector for further comment. When this is received the application will be referred to the SPM's Executive Committee for a decision.

1.11. Erf 2454, Glencairn: Application for Special Consent to Establish an Off Course Tote adjacent to the Glen Adinda Hotel, Glencairn. The process of obtaining the consent of adjacent property owners is apparently still continuing. It is recommended that anyone wishing to comment or object should do so without delay. Details may be obtained at Tel:

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1.12. Erf 4830, Simon's Town: (58 Hopkirk Way, Glencairn). Application to subdivide into two erven. This property is zoned as single residential. Originally it was two separate erven which were consolidated. The application is pending because the SPM is awaiting revised subdivision diagrams before notifying the adjoining owners. Details may be obtained from Tel: 710 8367.

2. OTHER PROPERTY MATTERS.

2.1. Portion of Erf 1399 and Portion of Seaforth Road, Simon's Town: (The old Seaforth Restaurant). The adjudication committee is scheduled to meet again on 15 September 1999 to discuss the remaining tenderer's proposal in more detail before making its recommendations to the SPM's Executive Committee. Once the final tenderer has been accepted by the Executive Com-

mittee, further public participation will commence.

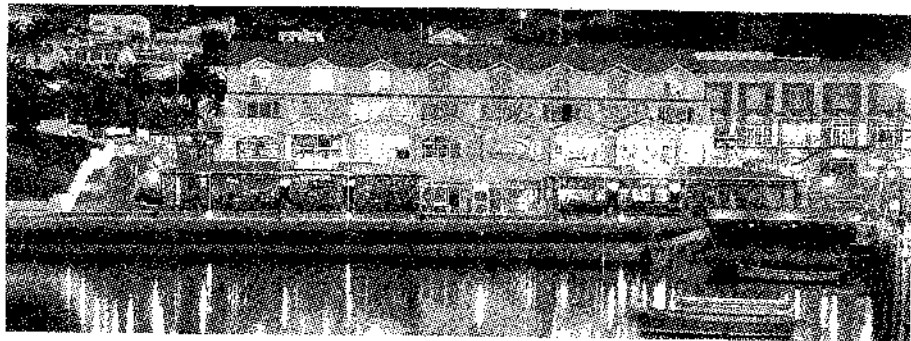
2.2. Simon's Town Station Development: Nothing further to report.

2.3. New Street Signage: No further action has been taken by the promoters to obtain the approval of the SPM for the new signage, at this stage. In the meantime, the existing banner signs are, in fact, illegal since the AAC's approval for these to be displayed was for three months.

2.4. Wildschutsbrand Farm (CFM1404): Nothing further to report.

2.5. Inquiry into the Building Survey and Land Use Development Directorates: Despite repeated telephone messages being left with the relevant municipal official to discuss this matter no response has been received. Does this mean that nothing is actually being done

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to implement the recommendations in this report?

2.6. Peninsula Urban Edge Study: The consultants reported that numerous comments had been received from the various discussions and public meetings. All these are being evaluated and a comprehensive report will be compiled with replies to all comments submitted. The completion date for this was towards the end of August 1999. However, no confirmation could be obtained that the report has been completed.

2.7. Cole Point Parking Area: The demarcation of the parking spaces was delayed by a breakdown of the line marking machine but the work has been completed. The completion of the landscaping, tree planting, irrigation and street lighting is awaiting finalization of costings for the lighting which was not part of the original budget.

2.8. Miller's Point: An environment based as-

essment has been submitted to the SPM. This is being evaluated before progressing it further to all interested parties for comments. The future usage and development of Miller's Point will be determined by the abovementioned study.

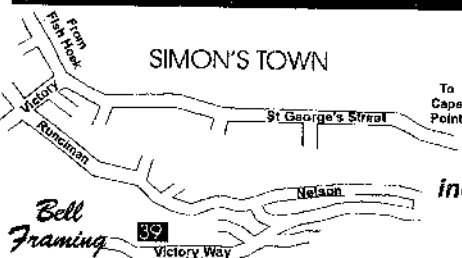
2.9. Leased Municipal Properties in Simon's Town: The leases on various municipal properties are approaching their end dates. Amongst these are Albertyn's Stables and Cottage, Oatlands and Simon's Town Country Club golf course. These have been followed up and more information is awaited which will be publicised when it is available.

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

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Chairman's Report

Our Committee will be holding a final strategy session on Monday 6th September 1999. We want to know how better to concentrate the Association's activities so as to focus on improving municipal services to residents, to ensure strict regulation of development within Simon's Town, to enhance the environment and to plan with both the Navy and the Municipality to achieve these objectives. Insofar as the Navy is concerned, we are prepared to working together to prepare an Environmental Management Plan. One of the first aspects that will be dealt with is the removal of various barbed wire fences, which detract greatly from the beauty of the town.

Another aspect that we will be dealing with during the course of the strategic seminar is the intended subscription drive and cleanup generally of Simon's Town. If you wish to participate, please complete the attached form and place it in the suggestion box at the notice board on Union Street or leave it with Gladys Dilley Estates.

The Committee of the Association has spent a lot of time and effort on environmental matters generally. One of our great concerns is that the SPM should not be permitted to allow wholesale development without proper preplanning and careful analysis of what the consequent requirements of such developments will be. Our conclusion, that the SPM approves developments without certainty that the infrastructure will be able to handle the increased loads, has now been officially confirmed. We have received the Southern Peninsula Sub Regional Plan (SPSP) from the planners of the Metropolitan Council. It states that the transportation structure is limiting and that this calls for a transportation plan to complement the SPSP, that Simon's Town's stormwater handling capacity was just sufficient for the mid 98 status and that Simon's Town's drinking water supply was "barely adequate" for the mid 98 status of development. We will once more request the SPM to

hold developments for which there are no rights yet, until the infrastructure problem has been resolved.

Some of the issues, that our environment portfolio has dealt with:

- * Attended workshops that dealt with the development of visions and policies for the Peninsula National Park. The facilitators have a difficult task to reconcile the widely different views of various population groups. One of our inputs: The approval of so called "conservation related developments" within the park should not be dealt with on by one. All proposals for -say- a five year cycle need to be considered together.
- * Serving on the advisory committee, which will develop or review the False Bay water quality advisory and control system.
- * Searched for quality standards and typical values for the Simon's Town drinking water supply. The SPM and the Cape Town

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Metropolitan Council (CMC) share the responsibility for the supply. We have looked for and found information that enabled us to request test results for specific quality parameters -the concentration of harmful chloroform type compounds is one-.

Whilst Umgeni Water does regularly test for the compounds we have identified, the SPM informed, that they have so far only monitored some of them.

The committee is now preparing a request to the SPM and the CMC to provide the wider public with information of general interest by using e-mail and/or the Internet. The Simon's Town Public Library is connected and that would enable those who do not have access otherwise, to inform themselves. Such systems work elsewhere, the need for them will increase as we move into the Megacity area and we have just demonstrated on a small scale that it can be done in an effective way. Water quality monitoring results and applications for rezoning are but two of many ex-

amples of information, which the municipalities can be provide via e-mail or the Internet.

Andrew Duncan

APPLICATION FORM

TO: The Treasurer
Simon's Town Ratepayers' &
Residents' Association
P O Box 47, SIMON'S TOWN 7995

Please enrol me as an Ordinary Member of your Association. I agree to abide by the terms of the Association's Constitution.

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* I am registered, or entitled to be registered as a voter in Ward 22 (Simon's Town).

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SIGNED:

DATE:

NAME AND ADDRESS (in block letters please)

.....
.....
.....

** Delete whichever is inapplicable.*

NB. For your convenience, subscriptions can be handed in at Gladys Dille Estates, St George's Street, Simon's Town, in a sealed envelope addressed to our Association.

1999 Simon's Town Art Show

Final call to all artists, crafters and photographers to register. Forms are available at the library and the Crazy Daisy garden shop at Albertyns Cottage.

Completed forms must be returned to the Crazy Daisy garden shop OR to No 2 Chapel Road NOT LATER THAN Friday 24 September. The catalogue will be published in the October issue of Shoektown Calling. Critical dates are as follows:

Venue: Simon's Town Hall

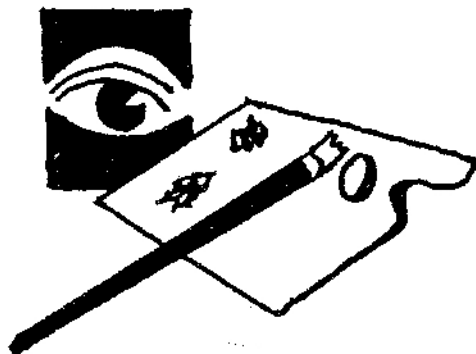
Dates: Friday 29 October to
Wednesday 3 November.
Doors open 6pm Friday.
Daily hours 10am to 9pm

Hanging: 2pm Wed 27 October
to 4pm Frid 29 October.

In terms of charity undertakings: a cheque for R3000 has been handed to Happy Valley Homes; shortly, R3000 will be given to False Bay Hospital, and when all outstand-

ing hanging fees have been received, a final R3000 will be given to the Simon's Town Home Nursing Service.

Reg Loxton, Convener
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Ward Councillor's Report

1. DOMESTIC WASTE REMOVAL

Because of the change in rating system in our area and the inclusion of the refuse tariff in the rates levy, the recycling project in its original form has had to be shelved. Furthermore in the move towards rationalising the service across the S.P.M., household refuse will only be collected once a week, according to the following schedule:

- ~ From Rocklands Road to Blue Water's Close every Monday from 6 September 1999
- ~ Red Hill, Pinehaven every Tuesday from 7 September 1999
- ~ Glen Marine, Dido Valley, Da Gama Park and Welcome Glen every Wednesday from 8 September 1999.

2. GARDEN WASTE REMOVAL

This will be removed on a fortnightly basis.

- ~ Rocklands Road to Dido Valley Road and Da Gama Park every alternate Thursday starting 9 September 1999.
- ~ Welcome Glen, Glencairn and Glencairn Heights every alternate Thursday starting Thursday 16 September 1999.

Only 12 bags or bundles at a time will be removed. Larger amounts can be dumped at Blue Water's Close. Arrangements can be made for special collections by the municipality for a fee. Contact phone number is 7863660.

3. COMMERCIAL AREAS: WASTE REMOVAL

These will be serviced according to special Business Agreements and tariffs set according to the volume of waste and frequency of collection.

These changes bring our area in line with the rest of the S. P. M., and will be closely monitored by the Health Department.

4. STREET CLEANING

This will be confined to high trafficked areas

such as main roads, CBD's and tourist routes. Elsewhere residents are encouraged to clean the verges and gutters themselves. At the very least try to ensure that activities on your own property do not adversely affect your neighbour or the roadway, especially while building.

5. WATER SUPPLY

Water restrictions still apply in Simon's Town. The graph shows the worrying state of the dams.

Various initiatives are underway to assure supply. These include the installation of pumps at Dido Valley, improved supplies from the Mulzenberg-Clovelly pump and pipeline and the initiation of an effluent re-use project. Manual monitoring of key reservoirs continues until Telkom installs the data link from Schaapkraal's 24-hour radio/telephone centre to Kendal Road Water Depot, which will enable remote monitoring to be done.

In view of the potential water supply problems it may be a wise precaution to install a water tank connected to roof runoff. Certain residents have already done this and have recommended tanks supplied by Atlas Plastics (tel. 7041252, fax 7041256). They are made in various sizes, in horizontal and vertical designs and there is no charge for delivery. I have pinned the pamphlets illustrating the tanks on the board in the cash office.

6. DIDO VALLEY DEVELOPMENT

A long-outstanding application to the State for the transfer of land to the local authority for development primarily for affordable housing has at last been successful. On 26 August 1999 I was advised that the Minister of Public Works had approved the disposal of approximately 47 h.a. to the S.P.M. on the basis of development which could include a limited commercial component and some middle/upper income housing "provided that all income derived from the proposed commercial ventures is used exclusively for

the development of low-cost housing, essential infrastructure and social facilities for the inhabitants of informal settlements in the Simon's Town area - specifically the Red Hill community."

Planning for development will start as soon as consultants are commissioned. A major exercise of public participation, including all sectors of the community will also commence. There are various statutory requirements which must be complied with, which will take some time.

I am of course fully aware that there are those who will feel that any affordable housing scheme will negatively affect them. These concerns are understandable and must be taken seriously. However, I urge them to take part in the public participation process. The principle of cross-subsidisation which has been established is shown to have worked successfully in, for example, the Westlake development. If we all work together in this

we will have a development which can be an asset to the town.

7. COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

There are many members of the community who give of their time, energy and money to clean sections of the streets and beaches and to garden various areas, big and small. These residents contribute to the general amenity and deserve our sincere thanks, particularly for their persistence in difficult circumstances. Some residents have volunteered to maintain gardens in areas that do not even adjoin their own properties and special thanks must go to them for their dedication. Some people have benches erected in memory of their loved ones - perhaps a garden would be a fitting memorial too. Please contact me if you would like to become involved in such a project.

*Alderman (Mrs) Nicki Holderness
Ward Councillor: Ward 22
South Peninsula Municipality*



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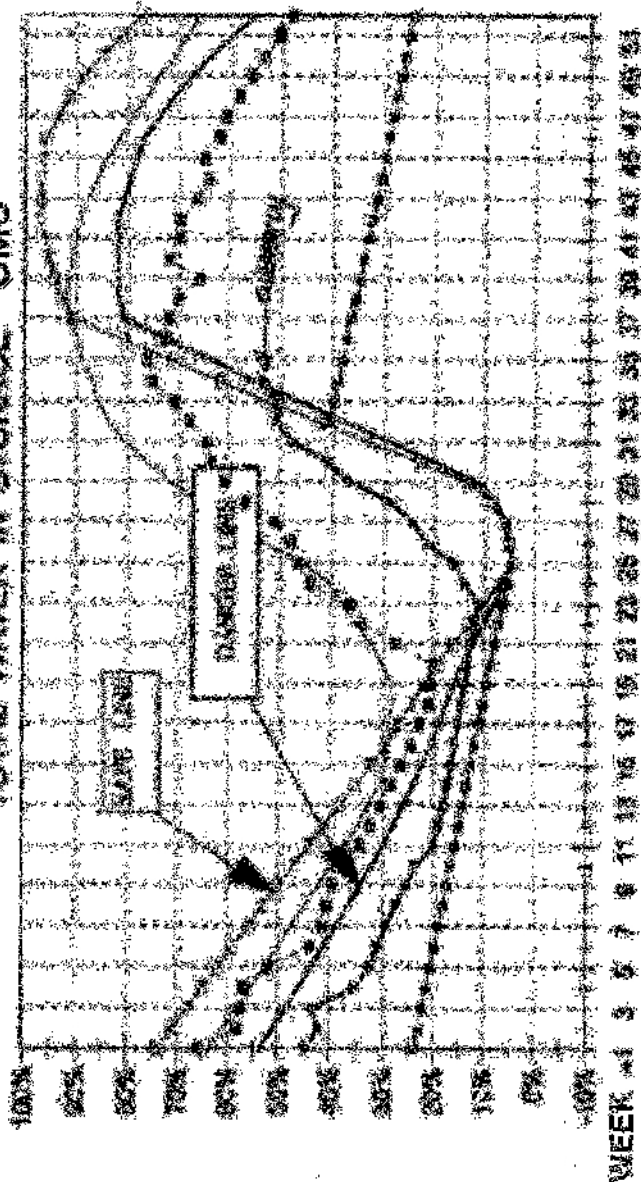
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SIMON'S TOWN SUPPLY TOTAL WATER IN STORAGE CMC



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Crime Report : Simon's Town Police Precinct

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Do you have adequate security products fitted to your home and do you use them properly?

Is your home vulnerable to burglary and are you unsure about the safety of your family and property? Perhaps you need to re-assess your own home and judge for yourself or let a neighbour or trusting friend who can be objective assess your home with regard to the security aspect.

In July the most frequent method of breaking into a house was by means of forcing a door open. The door concerned is usually the front door if it is slightly secluded or the back door. The perpetrator forces the door open by kicking it open or by forcing it open at the lock using a lever type instrument.

The houses chosen are usually those without security gates at the entrances. The second most forthcoming method is to break a window. Once again windows are chosen which are slightly secluded, covered by bush or high walls and are normally not protected with burglar bars. In August it was found that the most frequent method of entry was to break a window followed by forcing a door open. It is common fact that criminals will choose the easiest target which is slightly secluded to provide cover, than choose a house with an alarm, security devices and which is not "hidden" behind high walls.

In the recent past a home fitted with a burglar alarm was targeted by a perpetrator who broke a window at the back of the house to gain entry. When the police had arrived on the scene with the relevant security company it was found that the



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perpetrator had only opened the window slightly before he was scared off by the alarm which was duly activated once he had opened such window. The house concerned was a holiday home and the intruder an opportunist walking around the neighbourhood with a lever/file wrapped in newspaper which he used to force doors or in this case break windows.

An independent survey was conducted recently by this office choosing a street at random. It was decided to determine how many homes had adequate front doors and security gates.

A total of thirty homes were surveyed and it was found that only 13 were fitted with security gates and only 11 had solid front doors. In the majority of instances the homes were fitted with burglar bars, but what about those that were not? Your safety is our concern but it is also your responsibility. If you are concerned about crime in your area then please consider joining the neighbourhood watch. The contact persons are Inspector G.T. Store at tel. 786-2118 or Mr John Page at tel. 786-1551.

Crime Statistics

Priority Crimes : Statistical Analysis
1Jan to 31 August.

Crime : Burglary Residential

Month	1998	1999
January	9	6
February	12	5
March	16	18
April	9	16
May	12	22
June	7	10
July	11	11
August	12	5
Total	88	95

Burglary : Entry Method used

Method	1998	1999
Window broken	20	34
Forced window open	20	11
Door forced open	17	30
Door unlocked	5	4
N/A or Unknown	13	6
Forced burglar proof	7	1
Duplicate key	0	5
Taken	3	1
Broken at catch	4	0
Putty removed	0	1
Through roof	0	1
Lock damaged	0	1

Arrests : August 1999

Possession of a stolen motor vehicle	1
Drunk in public	15
Warrant of arrest	2
Interdict	1
Burglary	1

Arrests : September 1999

Drunk in public	3
-----------------	---

Sgt. A. van Eyssen
Crime Information Management
SAPS Simon's Town

Many thanks to Nashua for their sponsorship of a cellphone upgrade for George.

And grateful thanks to Avril Venter for the loan of a cellphone for Nico Truter, the new Bike-Squad member (replacing Louis for the time being). His number is 083 528 3036.

We're still looking for a donated cellphone for the Bike Squad - new or very good 2nd hand - as a pool phone. It's not much good having the chaps out there if we can't get hold of them! Please help.

Dorothy, ST Pharmacy
786-2133

Simon's Town Bike Squad

The 'Bike Squad', a combined effort by Business, the Community Police Forum and most importantly, the Police Force itself, is an initiative which crime statistics and public comment show to be a success story in the war against crime in Simon's Town.

The philosophy is simple, prevent crime. An arrest – hooray – another criminal gets put into an over-worked, under-resourced system, and will probably, one way or another, walk free, all at taxpayers' expense. The boys on their bikes, well equipped, visible, and fully supported by the community have become Simon's Town's solution – the spin-off is that they are a tourist attraction – what a bonus for a tourist oriented town!

The squad initially consisted of two – one, George Watton being our 'rent-a-cop' supported by the Business Association, the other Inspector Cassie Carstens a regular police officer. The first two bikes were supplied by the Community Police Forum. The uniforms were a problem, this was an entirely new method of policing – sponsored by Chubb, a practical uniform was acquired, and has been accepted by the authorities. A third bike was donated by Charles Bates – another cell-phone was sponsored by Chubb, the Business Community continue to support George, and with the acquisition of a fourth, top of the range bike, donated by Cedric Duncan, the squad has effectively doubled, as the squad must of necessity work on a 'buddy' system. Cedric's donation has enabled a second squad, who will operate in the Boulders and Murdoch Valley areas. The bike was presented to the Forum on Tuesday 12th, at Café Pescado, accompanied by Bob Gosney's superb pizzas and other appropriate refreshments – a very generous gesture by Bob and Sue.

Training has been by Cassie Carstens, who uses the Internet to acquire information, particularly regarding training, and who has succeeded in establishing contact with simi-

lar efforts in the U.S.A, where bike squads are an active policing component. At present there is a rigorous training program taking place at the Station – push ups, star jumps, ten kilometre ride, and then run home carrying the bike (not for the faint hearted) – a high degree of fitness is needed for the task, and our own 'thin blue line' are very keen to pass the fitness test for bike squad shifts.

None of this would have been possible without a partnership between the Police and the community. The generosity of our citizens and business community has excited the admiration and approval of higher authority, who are extremely supportive of an initiative which is affordable, effective, and which brings our Police Officers back to the people.

**Pauline van Eck,
Chairman, Simon's Town
Community Police Forum**



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As we head for the Millennium and all this excitement, one way or another it is proposed to be bringing up we are getting more and more enquiries for an association over the period. Fixing them all up satisfactorily is proving to be a difficult task. Some enquiries are for only a short period, which obviously at that time of year is not too popular, unless they can be slotted in. We appeal to anyone who would like to let their houses for the period to contact us, even if it is only a tentative enquiry.

Speaking of the Millennium, some of you may have heard a whiff or two about the celebration party which is to be held in Simon's Town on

31 December/1 January. We will be looking for people to help co-ordinate special

portfolios - but more details of this in the October issue.

Regarding the appeal in the August issue for information on the local place of Captain MacGibbon, we had a response from Mr Bruce Williams who has kindly taken the issue under his wing.

Visitors are discovering the "Secret Season" for themselves. Our weather has been exceptionally kind to them this year, although rain is still needed as we know. The flowers are providing a splendid show of their own and to its can be arranged from R205 for the day if anyone would like to take advantage of this.

See us off in Blyth Scotland and England.



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where her son is residing. We wish her Bon Voyage and a happy holiday.

One of our members experienced an "arriving" incident. She was awoken at 4-am by a visitor who was staying in her cottage. He was somewhat off the weather, but not apologists. He had lost his keys and glasses, consequently had difficulty in recognising the house. The ensuing confusion set the neighbouring dogs barking which caused the neighbours to think their car was being stolen.

As our member says, she would write a book!

All the Best, Sue and Pat

Simon's Town Museum News

Special Lectures to Commemorate the Centenary of the Anglo-Boer War.

SEP 15 WED - "FROM BELLEVUE TO BERMUDA"

Audrey Hand will present a talk with slides relating to Simon's Town's involvement in the Anglo-Boer War.

OCT 13 WED - "THE ROLE OF WOMAN DURING THE ANGLO-BOER WAR"

A talk by Dr Elizabeth van der Linde.

OCT 27 WED - "THE ROLE OF THE ROYAL NAVY IN THE ANGLO-BOER WAR"

A talk with slides by commander "Mac" Dixon.

NOV 17 WED - "THE TOWN GUARDS OF 1901"

A talk by Prof. Arthur Davy, a Vice-President of the Simon's Town Historical Society.

The evening commences at 8.00pm when you are invited to join us for a glass of wine or refreshment prior to the lecture at 8pm. We would be most grateful if the ladies, as usual could bring along a small plate of snacks. DONATION: R10.00 per person.

Cherry Diney, Curator

Simon's Town Business Association

Festive lighting for Simon's Town Businesses.

The Business Association, in conjunction with the Millennium Centenary and the S.T.M.A. has put forward an initiative to install a spectacular lighting display in the main street from the entrance to Simon's Town (station area), right through to the Police Station. We are trying to create a noteworthy display of lights that will attract attention to our village and thereby **MORE VISITORS AND MORE TRADE** for the local businesses.

THEME: An illuminated outline of each building along the main street. We have some magnificent, but dingy with exceptionally beautiful outline. Just imagine what an incredible glow we could create if each one of us outlined their particular building.

PRIZES: S.T.M.A. are sponsoring prizes for the best dressed building and/or shop window festive lighting display. (more details on this later)

COST: We have investigated the costs and found these to be extremely economical. Of course it is up to you whether you like the lights you choose but following is an estimated cost for lighting:

- * 12 metre string of plain white (small) outdoor all weather lights. R100.00 exc. VAT
- * 8 metre string of plain white lights but twice the quantity of lights and which "twinkle" continuously. R100.00 exc. VAT
- * A Net of lights - 1.2m x 3m (75 bulbs). R200.00 exc. VAT
- * Cascading lights: 5m x 3m. R750.00 exc. VAT
- * Bunting (lights) - 1 x 5m x 3m (a plastic tube which can be made into any shape)

Depending on quantity ordered but approx. R30 m. (exc)

Running costs: Approx. 30c per every 15 hours.

WHAT TO DO:

1. Decide which type of lights you require.
2. Measure up how many metres you require to outline the building/shopwindow/ etc.
3. Place order and have money ready for collection. (money with orders please).

ASSISTANCE OFFERED: If you need assistance deciding which lights, how many metres, how to put them up, how to connect them, or any other question. **ASK!!!** We have an electrical engineer and many willing hands who will help you every step of the way.

WE NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE AND CO-OPERATION TO PUT SIMON'S TOWN ON THE MAP. IF EACH ONE OF US DOES A LITTLE BIT WE CAN CREATE AN AMAZING EFFECT. DON'T BE THE ONLY "DARK SPOT" IN THE TOWN! JOIN THE FUN!

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(Heather Lunderstedt Estates)
Andre Duraan (Salty Sea Dog)
Dirk Van Niekerk
(Electrical Engineer - 786 1320)
John Keys (2/6 Pub)

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Beach & Coastal Patrol

Although I have long contacted the authorities direct (with mixed results) on beach problems, this has been costly and very time consuming. My voluntary responsibility ends with a monthly report only on what I inspect. In future, others more informed than me can report on what action is planned.

I am not going to repeat myself by detailing the sad state of so many beaches, which incidentally also applies to the marine life in some areas. Shelley Beach once boasted some of the best underwater scenes on the Peninsula, but this is no longer the case. However, good news for anxious parents is that young Glencairn surfers have been joined by plough snails, whose presence indicates safe water. By using its foot as an underwater sail, one species - although blind - was recorded to surf 45 metres up a gently sloping beach! Of particular concern from a tourism aspect is the state of

beach approaches on Main Road. Hopefully, the authorities will repaint the signs and traffic lights at Glencairn. It would also help matters, if the landscaped verges were more often cleared of litter. Furthermore, the bumpy road just past Makeral Bay needs attention, as do unswept gutters and crumbling weed-infested pavements closer to Simon's Town.

One highly visible problem that can only be solved at great expense is the irresponsible installation of ugly pipelines above the beach at Franks Bay. At least the approaches are now clear of alien vegetation, thanks to efforts by Friends of the Simon's Town Coastline. Those of us who really care about the environment and wish to do something constructive over occasional weekends should seriously consider joining, by telephoning Chris van Vuuren (the Chairman) at 786-3890.

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"Fishy Tales" - 4

Last month, I wrote that the fishy characters of Simon's Town reside in five different areas, although the likes of sea anemones also inhabit stressful rock pools. To further explain, the uppermost zone in the Cape - Littorina - is so called, because it accommodates the tiny African periwinkle *Nodilittorina africana*. Next come two Balanoid zones named after *Balanus*, a common barnacle genus which mostly covers the upper part. The lower section has dense seaweed growth merging with the previously mentioned Cochlear zone covered in pear limpets. Finally, there is an Infralittoral fringe rich in red-bait and other soft-bodied, shell-less animals.

A zonation pattern also occurs on our sandy beaches. First is the Supralittoral or driftline, where live air-breathing crustaceans and insects. Below lies the Midlittoral zone, which is home to isopods, plough snails and the wedge clams incorrectly called white mussels. Then comes a Sublittoral fringe with various molluscs, as well as the swimming crab which so loves to nip guys with wide-legged bathing trunks.

Our waters are isolated from other temperate regions by the warm southerly flowing Agulhas current and a cold northerly upwelling Benguela system. This explains why False Bay in particular has so many unique species worthy of protection. On this note ends yet another fish tail, which incidentally is the most tasty part to swallow - hook, line and sinker!

Bevan Park

News from Naval Base, Simon's Town

Ships in Naval Dockyard

The Snow Flower and Snow Drift are reefers (fruit) which belong to Holy House Shipping in Sweden. The two reefers are registered in Nassua.

They have a British Master and Chief Engineer with Phillipino crew onboard. Snow Flower and Snow Drift will stay in Simon's Town for about four months.

Little maintenance work will be carried out, and there will be one crew looking after both ships.

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"Spring clean the boat" as a popular idiom tells us and we have got to this time of the year in the warm seas region of the Peninsula that we should be more alert and ready to face the challenges that lie ahead as the boating season gets underway and there is more activity on the diving front and more types of leisure craft put to sea in the summer times ahead. The winter has not been very hard on us from the point of view of cold that has been experienced on the Peninsula and the weather to play down the recent disaster of the Cape Flats.

There has been a spate of tragic events that have occurred in the South Peninsula of late a few of them in the waters around us.

On the 23rd of August at 14:00 a call was received at Station 10 from the S.A.R.S. at Simon's Town that a diver was in progress in the vicinity of Smiltswinkel Bay. As the crew were about to launch the "Eddy Beamer" they were informed by the S.A.R.S. that the call was a hoax. At 16:00 a further call was received from Port General (Cape Town) today (date diver had reported his partner missing in the vicinity of Smiltswinkel Bay. The boat was launched a second time. Having the diver that originally made the report with the aid of a third diver had recovered the body of the missing diver. The crew of the "Eddy Beamer" then succeeded in a very difficult recovery of the body to Simon's Town where the person was certified dead on arrival by a paramedic. While the above mentioned events were in progress the Station "D-64" vessel had been to Smiltswinkel Bay and after searching the area could see no sign of any persons on the shoreline in that vicinity on the hoax call theory appeared to be confirmed. It turned out that the original call to the police had been made by one of the divers on a mobile phone and he had then carried on searching for his missing friend. Despite all efforts to revive the recovered diver by U.R.R. he tragically died.

On the 23rd of August at 18:00 the vessel "Catalpa Star" was being launched to carry out sea trials after undergoing engine repairs when a call was received from the False Bay Yacht Club that a person was being blown onto the East Dockyard wall. The table was taken in tow and towed to the yacht club where they could be taken to task by a senior Yacht Club official for having been rescued by all before.

At 10:22 on the 4th of August a call was received from Port Captain Cape Town of an overdue diver at the wrecked wreck of the S.A.S. "Patriot" near Millers' Point. The "Catalpa Star" was launched and the call was dispatched to Millers' Point. The Metro Rescue Ambulance False Bay E.M.S. were informed. At Millers' Point the diver was already on the lifeway and a paramedic was applying O.R.R. (eventually a medical doctor

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at the scene terminated the C.B.R. "Caltex Star" returned to base and the 4x4 mobile transported the body to False Bay Hospital. This was the second loss of a young life in a very short space of time.

There are obviously hoaxers at work in the vicinity of Strandfontein. On the 26th of August at 18:00 a call was received from a Simons' Town resident saying that he had seen three red flares in the direction of Strandfontein. Then a call from Station 16 who had been alerted by the Port Captain of Cape Town that red flares had been reported by a caller from Gordons' Bay seen in the vicinity of Seal Island another caller from Retreat who reported seeing red flares in the direction of Seal Island. "Caltex Star" was launched and proceeded towards Seal Island where nothing could be seen of any vessel in distress but while they were on task in the area Red flares were sighted as coming from ashore in the Strandfontein area. Station 16 mobile 4x4 drove up and down the area but

could find nothing. A report was submitted to Mulzenberg Police but no interest was shown so "Caltex Star" returned to base. On the 28th of August the "Caltex Star" was launched on the strength of a call from a concerned citizen that a whaler type craft appeared to be in difficulty in the sea off Murdoch Valley with five persons on board. On conducting a search no vessel of this description could be found and the search was abandoned.

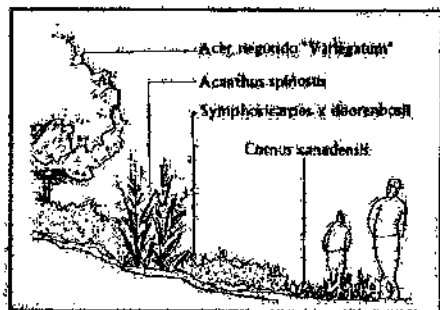
The Station Mobile has been fairly active during August having attended at some of the above mentioned incidents as stated and some that were not in conjunction with sea going incidents.

On the 1st of August a patient was treated and transported to False Bay hospital with a fractured ankle. Again on August 21st a patient was treated and handed over to False Bay ambulance service who had suffered severe head injuries. Finally on the 22nd of

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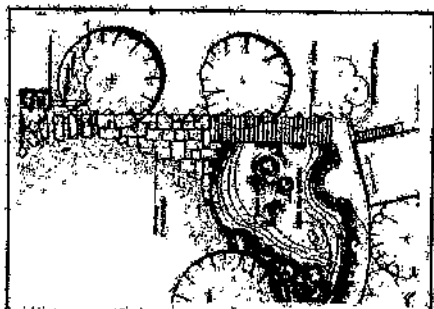
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August while on stand by duty at Simons' Town School rugby a player injured his shoulder . He was treated by Chops Craig taken to False Bay hospital. In the past month two tragic fatalities occurred involving young people in this area a young women was killed in a motor accident on the Kommetjie Road and her fiance tragically lost both his legs and another young man was killed when a soccer goal post collapsed and fell on him causing fatal injuries. These last mentioned incidents were attended to by personel of the False Bay Volunteer Ambulance Service many of whom are involved in the N.S.R.I. It is very tragic and sad that such accidents have happened in our area and we can only give our heartfelt condolences to all the relatives and loved ones of the persons concerned.

Congratulations are extended to the Chairman of the Station 10 Support Committee Mr. Phil Ferreira who has been elected a Di-

rector of the National Sea Rescue Institute at the A.G.M. held on the 2nd of September 1999.

Station Commanders' Report.

Engines of Caltex Star have been serviced by crew members at a cost of R5000.00 this was a saving of R10000.00 in labour costs. The remainder of the items of this report have been covered in the articles above. The face lift to the front of Station 10 boat-house is a great improvement and has been completed in time for the parking area upgrade . Bravo Zulu to all the workers who brought this about. Let us hope and pray that September will be a better month all round than August has been.

Yours aye, Don Dollery
Member Station 10 Support Committee

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The Falklands Conflict: A personal Experience.

Part 1. Sailing To War.

The following is a personal experience of the part Gavin Eyre took in the Falklands Conflict in 1982.

In the month of April 1982 I was a Corporal serving with a specialist Engineer unit named 59 Independent Commando Squadron Royal Engineers based at Crownhill Fort, Crownhill, Plymouth, South Devon. We were Commando engineers having earned the coveted Green Beret on the All Arms Royal Marine Commando Course. Our role as a unit was to provide Engineer support to the Royal Marine Commando units namely 40, 42 and 45 Commando. I belonged to a newly formed Troop within the Squadron called Reconnaissance Troop which consisted of:

myself as

Cpl - Section Commander

L/Cpl - Section 2nd in command

Sapper - Machine Gunner

Sapper - Radio/ Signaller

My Recce section were specially trained in the following:

Royal Marine Commando course (Green Beret)

Mountain and Arctic Warfare Trained

Parachute Trained (selected)

Helicopter Trained

Special Recce Trained

As well as the above we had our personal Artisan Trades such as Carpenters, Plumbers, Bricklayers, Draughtsmen etc. and on top of all that we were all specialist in Combat Engineering which consisted of:

Field defences

Mine Warfare (Laying, Detection, Clearing, Disposal)

Demolition's (Bridges, Defences, Buildings)

Water Supply

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We had just returned from our Norway Deployment and were looking forward to our Easter leave. At the troop parade on Wed 31 March a rumour that some problems were brewing in the South Atlantic at a place called the Falkland Islands. Not many of us had heard about this place so gave it the relevant thought.

With the whole Squadron due to go on leave on Fri 2 April the mood was relaxed to say the least. We carried on with our mundane tasks of cleaning and greasing all our engineer equipment and placing in moth balls.

By lunch time that day our troop management had been summoned to the OC office (Officer Commanding) for a briefing. As a result of this briefing we were all placed on 48 hour stand-by to move. With this warning order to move came the mobilisation of all our engineer equipment and the G1098 stores. These were to be packed and loaded into our vehicles. By close of play on the 31 March our equipment was ready to go. The next evening we were told to prepare our personal fighting gear and duly did so.

The next morning April 1 we were informed that we had moved to a 24 hour stand-by to move. As a troop we started to refresh ourselves on the basics of soldiering. Field craft, NBC warfare. Signals. On this day the Argentineans invaded the Falkland Islands. On the morning of the 2 April we were confined to Camp and moved to 12 hours to move and the announcement came that the British Government was assembling a task force to sail to the South Atlantic.

On 3rd April Saturday again we waited to move. Training continued and we prepared our notes on all the possible Engineering tasks that we could expect to carry out. We were told that we could travel within 2 hours of the base and I grabbed the opportunity

to say farewell to my family. On Sunday 4 April we were allocated our ship the RFA Sir Gallahad and loaded her to the gunwales with all our equipment. That evening we were confined to camp and certainly made the most of our final evening ashore.

The next day Monday 5 April, 59 Independent Commando Squadron was mobilised. Some 240 men from our squadron plus a contingent of Royal Marines and a troop of Blowpipe Royal Artillery loaded ourselves onto the Sir Gallahad. We sailed from Plymouth to a fantastic departure with the Royal marine band playing and huge crowds sending us on our long sail south. Our escort ships were HMS Antelope and HMS Arrow. The Sir Gallahad belonged to the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and in our terms was a flat bottomed bath tub, the correct term being a Landing Ship Logistic (LSL).

The crew were mainly Chinese with a small contingent being English. Life on board was boring to say the least. Our conditions were very cramped and therefore we were limited in what we could do. Our daily routine consisted of Fitness training, Weapon training, Signal training, First aid and Geneva Convention. Once a day we also were given Spanish tuition over the ships tannoy. Ships duties had also to be carried out, such things as: Fire drills, Evacuation and Air Raid drills. All this along with the revision of our normal Engineering tasks kept us occupied.

We arrived at the Ascension Islands some two and a half weeks later where at least we could soak up some sun. On the journey down we had some problems with the water system and therefore had to shower in salt water. We were a semi dry ship and were allowed two cans of beer per day. We loitered around Ascension and watched with amazement the amalgamation of a huge fleet of ships. After threats of Argentinean submarine activity depth charges were dropped throughout the night which really hampered sleep. This continued for a few

days until it was decided to sail from our position nightly. We continually listened to the world service of the BBC hoping for a political solution of this whole thing but it never came. As Engineers we were used on the Atlantic Conveyor to do various tasks. This ship was a sight to be seen. She was loaded with a huge array of equipment and ammunition. The deck was full of aircraft and helicopters.

We waited around Ascension for a couple of weeks until it was announced that we were sailing to recapture the Falkland Islands.

Gavin Eyre



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Simon's Town School News

This past month has been a very busy time for Simon's Town School. First there was a Variety Concert on 20 August, and then our annual Founder's Day on the 25 August. On 3rd September, we are having a Cultural Day. The Variety Concert was very successful, with many individual singing and choir items as well as traditional Indian, Xhosa and modern dances. The talented learners performed to a very appreciative audience.

Simon's Town School celebrated its 105th birthday on 25 August with a cadet parade and Memorial Service for past pupils who sacrificed their lives for our country. Various sporting fixtures were organized in which past pupils also participated. A great day was had by all.

The senior Netball had a very full season this year. With two new schools joining the

league, we had 9 matches in 12 weeks. Although we did not reach the Quarter-finals as a team, one of our players got through to the semi-final round of the WP-USSASA trials. Congratulations to Nombuso Magazi. We are looking forward to a brilliant 2000 season, with the help of some professional coaching.

A new sport started this year, has been Squash. The players are all beginners, but have fared well. We have played 7 matches, winning 2 and losing 5. With the enthusiasm they have showed, I am sure that they will improve next year. The team consisted of V. Makha, J. Holloway, E. Michaels, D. immelman, S. Erasmus, F. Gouws and G. Evans.

Mr De Waal

Principal, Simon's Town High School

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Coffee Culture - The Brew

The secrets of great wine are in the bottle. Providing that reasonable care is taken with the bottle, the wine when poured, will present the consumer with exactly what the vintner intended in the way of bouquet, body colour and taste. The secrets of great coffee are found in the art of restaurants and cafes, the patience of the cupper (professional coffee taster) and the skill of the roast-master. Yet often, the secrets of a great coffee's year long journey from flower to cup are buried by the poor brewing practices of foodservice operators only minutes before they reach the consumer.

A cup of good coffee is more than great beans. It is the particular care that must be taken in the preparation of the beverage. There are a number of simple rules to observe if you want to make a good cup of coffee every time:

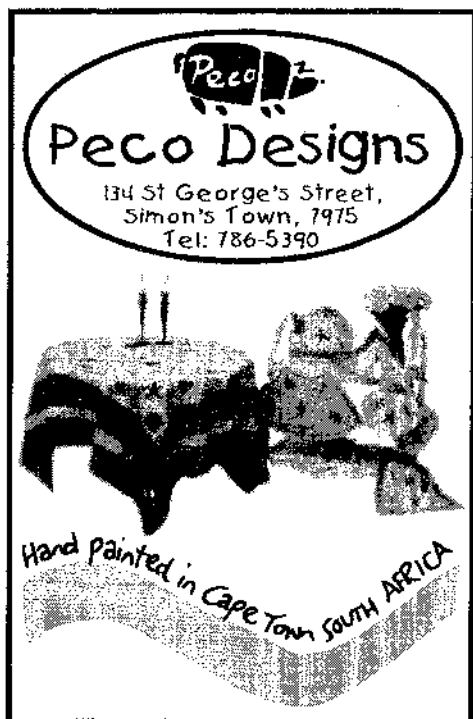
* Use freshly roasted 100% Arabica beans, ideally roasted half an hour ago but preferably no more than a week ago. * Always store the beans in an airtight container. Lowering the temperature also helps. Store the beans either

in the refrigerator or the freezer which helps retain the carbon dioxide gas in the coffee beans along with the aromatic flavour compounds. * Grind the beans immediately before brewing. * Use fresh, cold water that has been drawn from a tap that has been left running for a few seconds. Bring the water to the boil but do not over boil, and do not pour boiling water on the coffee. * Use the method you prefer - plunger, drip or whatever - and leave the coffee long enough to brew. * Drink the freshly brewed coffee as soon as possible. * It is always advisable to warm your cup before you pour the coffee.

There are a myriad of well designed coffee makers available today. Some of these are:

The percolator. Invented in France in 1827 and became very popular here until about thirty years ago. Some still use this method however percolators produce a bitter-tasting brew as it boils the coffee.

The filter drip machine. The filter paper method is an excellent way to brew a clear,



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*For your Marine &
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Contact Ian Forbes

light bodied, fragrant cup of coffee. It is easy to clean as one just discards the paper and used grounds. There are a number of automatic drip coffeemakers on the market.

The plunger - or French press. This is an excellent way to make coffee. It was invented in 1933 by an Italian called Caliman.

Many people prefer coffee made this way because it extracts the full flavour from the ground beans.

The espresso machine. From the neat little stove-top pot called a mocha express to the sophisticated electric counter top models. Each creates a rich, individual cup of espresso by forcing pressurized hot water through a small filter basket filled with richly roasted, finely ground coffee.

The proof of a good coffee is of course in the cup and professional coffee tasters rate coffee on the following criteria:

Acidity. An acidic coffee is neither acidic or sour. Rather it is pleasantly bright, tart and refreshing. (Think of the dry sensation in table wines). Without acidity, coffees are lifeless, even undrinkable. Some people prefer their coffees intensely acidic; for others the sensa-

tion has its limits.

Aroma. Aroma is one of the great delights of coffee and one of its most fleeting. Certain evanescent spicy, fruity or flower-like notes may manifest only in aroma. General features of taste and acidity usually can be detected in aroma as well.

Body. Body describes the full sensation of a coffee as it is hefted on the tongue or rolled about the mouth. In general, substantial body is one mark of a distinguished coffee.

There is nothing magical about brewing coffee. There is no one "best method" of making coffee. One has to use the one that suits you and to some, the ritual is all important.

Try the different methods of brewing coffee. Each different method will highlight a different aspect in a coffee's flavour profile. Certain coffees at given roast colours will lend themselves more to one type of method than another. Experiment - matching the right coffee to the right brewer is an exciting treasure hunt that offers big rewards for the discerning coffee drinker.

Malcom Clark

(Malcom Clark is Roast Master of the Caribbean Coffee Co in Simon's Town.)

COFFEE AT DJANGO'S

Situated within our spectacular restaurant overlooking the yacht club in Simon's Town is our very own *coffee roastery* where we roast and blend coffee from all over the world, thus ensuring the freshest and tastiest coffee yet.



THE CARIBBEAN COFFEE COMPANY

Shop 1, Quayside Centre, Simon's Town

 **786-1431**

SIMON'S TOWN PRO MUSICA DIVINA

The music society has had a busy first year this far and still the curtain will rise again a few times before the new millennium. On 30 September we welcome the Freiburg Cathedral Boys Choir (on tour from Germany), a choir with a tradition dating back to the 13th century. The choir is well known in Europe and give sacred and secular concerts - many of which have been recorded for TV and Radio. They will be conducted by Monsignor Raimund Hug and will be performing at St. Francis Church on 30/9/1999 at 7.30 pm and tickets are available at the Simon's Town pharmacy at R 30.00. Part of the funds raised will go to the Red Hill Pre-primary school.

A Christmas concert is arranged for 16 December (also at St. Francis Church) and will feature local soloists Andrew Jackson; Sheridan Fensham and a brass quintet consisting of members of the Blue Bay Brass Ensemble. An orchestra made up of Cape Town professionals (conducted by Steven van der Merwe) and the Fish Hoek Senior High School Choir will also be performing well-loved Christmas music. Although the programme will take the form of a concert, the audience will also get a chance to join in with a few hymns - accompanied by the choir and orchestra (goose-bumps material !!)

Training has also commenced for the concert in March / April 2000, when the Mozart Coronation Mass and Krommer Oboe concerto will be performed.

SIMON'S TOWN PRO MUSICA DIVINA MEMBERSHIP CLUB

It is also the hope of the society to raise funds for future concerts and musical events. It is becoming increasingly difficult and unfair to approach single sponsors for large donations. The better musicians also charge more for their time (rightfully so). Local young talent who need financial assistance for further studies often enquire at the door of musical societies. All these factors lead to increasing ticket prices. In order for the society to meet these challenges, we have thought of starting a Membership Club. For R20.00 per month (paid monthly by an debit order or a once-off payment of R 240.00 per year) members would receive a complimentary ticket to all our concerts; free entry to our planned music appreciation courses; a news letter; possible block bookings at the Nico Malan and much more.

*We invite all lovers of live music (and the thrill of bringing a musical culture to our community) to join our Club. Please phone **786-1697** and give us your details or visit us at the society's "headquarters" at **Dr. van der Merwe's surgery (114 St. George's Str Simon's Town)** and complete the membership form.*

We look forward to welcoming you to our Club soon !

Fine Music Radio - 101.3 Stereo

Established just 4 years ago, Fine Music Radio 101.3 FM Stereo has become one of the most popular community radio stations in the Cape.

Combining a careful mix of the finest in classical music with the best in jazz, this station provides much needed musical entertainment in a world inundated with rap, hip-hop and raucous pop.

'Let FINE MUSIC do the talking!' is their motto and this is borne out by the more than 70 volunteer announcers who present classics and the jazz 24 hours a day.

The station is funded by radio advertising as well as by members of the public who have joined the FMR Association. A membership fee of only R180 a year entitles the member to discounts at numerous outlets throughout the peninsula, special offers and competitions run by FMR and the in-house magazine Opus which offers

information on all the radio programmes as well as interesting articles on announcers and music in general.



In September Fine Music Radio will take up residence in spanking new studios situated in the Marble Foyer of the Nico Theatre Centre. The move will enable the radio station to become more visible to the general public and, hopefully it will attract a lot of new members and advertisers.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Fine Music Radio Association give them a call at 480-3180 or post a cheque for R180 together with your name and address to Fine Music Radio, P.O. Box 1013, Cape Town 8000.

*Prepared for Fine Music Radio
by Rick Everett*



SPRING GALA CELEBRATION September 13 to September 28

Work by

Judith Mason, Michael Munnik, Catherine Paynter, Ryno Swart,
George Taylor-Botha & other important artists.

Gallery Hours : 10.00am to 5.00pm daily

ALBERTYN'S STABLES FINE ART GALLERY

King George's Way, Simon's Town, Tel: (021) 786-1816, Cell: 082 920 5322

The Night Sky - September 1999

For those people in Europe and across Asia Minor, Iraq and India, who were able to see the eclipse, it was a memorable experience - particularly in places of totality when the shadow of the Moon was seen to move across the Earth at 2000mph. The Sky Video I was kindly lent, showed different people's reaction to the event, from being soaked at Falmouth, Cornwall, to a cloudless event in Bulgaria. The period of totality at any place was only two minutes and a few seconds.

The Planets. The conjunction of Mercury and Venus on the 26th August was a spectacular sight for those who were able to see it, but viewing has been limited this month due to clouds and rain. Venus is at its greatest brilliancy at -4.6 in the early morning sky during September, when it joins Mercury, magnitude -0.3, in Virgo on the 5th.

Jupiter and Saturn are both bright planets rising after midnight, in Aries. The First Point of Aries is the herald of Spring in the Southern Hemisphere. The planets Uranus and Neptune are still in the constellation of Capricorn, and may be seen with binoculars. Pluto is in the 13th constellation of the Zodiac, Ophiuchus, and at least a 4½ inch telescope is needed to see it. Mars remains near the bright star Antares in Scorpius this month. The sun crosses the celestial Equator on the 23rd September and we have the Spring Equinox in the Southern Hemisphere.

The constellations visible this month are from the west, Libra; Scorpius; Sagittarius; Capricorn; Aquarius; Pisces and Aries. The Earth also moves closer to the Sun from 1.009 astronomical units (+ -93 million miles) to 1.002 au. on the 1st September, with the result that the apparent diameter of the Sun increases from 31.42" to 31.56".

The Moon. The last quarter is on the 2nd September; New Moon 9th; First quarter 17th; and Full Moon is on the 25th. It has been observed that the Southern Hemisphere Pole Star, Sigma Octans, situated 45" from the South Pole in 1900, is now a hundred years later, 1 degree away, due to the Precession of the Equinoxes, as the Earth wobbles like a top. In the Northern Hemisphere the Bear and Plough are also moving for the same reason. Due to the precession of the Equinoxes all star charts have to be remade every 50 years. The latest charts are for Epoch 2000, so when buying new star

charts ensure that they are for Epoch 2000.

Meteor Showers. The Aquarid showers have been disappointing with only about 3 meteors per hour being observed at maximum. They may continue to be observed this month until the 20th, but only after 11pm. During September 1582 many people living in Europe were upset due to the Papal Bull of Pope Gregory XIII decreeing that on the 4th October the calendar was to jump 10 days. This corrected the previous calendar of Julius Caesar, which had been instituted in 46 BC. After being in use for 1628 years, Saints Day and Festivals did not fall at the correct time, particularly Easter. There had been other attempts at Calendar reform, in 1345 Clement VI tried to correct the Calendar, as did Leo X in 1517, but they were unsuccessful due to opposition. Protestant countries did not accept the Gregorian Calendar for many years. Imagine the confusion this caused. Great Britain and Colonies only used the New Calendar from 1752 and Protestant Germany in 1775; Japan in 1873; Russia in 1917 and China in 1949.

As Holland was part of the Spanish Netherlands in 1582, the Gregorian Calendar was used there from October 1582, and subsequently the Cape. However, even the Gregorian Calendar requires correction of 1 day and 55 minutes every 4000 years. The latest reform was in 1972 when Atomic Time was instituted. The year is now measured by 290,091,200,500,000 oscillations of the Cesium Clock. There are two types of year, the calendar or Tropical Year; - which is measured by the length of time between two successive equinoxes - when the centre of the Sun crosses over from the Northern Hemisphere to the Southern Hemisphere, relative to the First Point of Aries, which is 365.2422 days. The other year is called the Sidereal Year (sidereus star), measuring the time taken by the Earth "to make one complete circuit round the star sphere as seen from the Sun. It can also be considered as the time taken by the Sun to make one complete circuit round the star field as seen from the centre of the Earth." *Nortons Star Atlas Epoch 1950.* This is 365.2564 days. The variation in time and the changing positions of the stars from Epoch 1950 to Epoch 2000 is also due to the Precession of the Equinoxes.

Peter I. van Blommestein

Forthcoming Events September/October

1. **SIMON'S TOWN MUSEUM**

Telephone 786 3046

Special Lectures to
Commemorate the Centenary of the
Anglo Boer War

Wed 15 Sept

"FROM BELLEVUE TO BERMUDA"

Audrey Read will present a talk with
slides relating to Simon's Town's
involvement in the Anglo Boer War.

Wed 13 Oct

**"THE ROLE OF WOMEN DURING
THE ANGLO BOER WAR"**

A talk by Dr Elizabeth van Heyningen

Wed 27 Oct

**"THE ROLE OF THE ROYAL NAVY IN
THE ANGLO-BOER WAR"**

A talk by Commander 'Mac' Bisset.

Winter Lectures commence at 5.30 pm,
when you are invited to join us for a
glass of wine or fruit juice prior to the
Lecture at 6 pm.

Donation: R8.00 per person.

2. **THE MASONIC CLUB**

Tel: 786 3827, 782 3917

Sat 11 Sept

**SPRING BALL - DINNER DANCE
AND CABARET**

R30.00 per person

Sat 18 Sept

BINGO & SUPPER R20.00 per person

Fri 24 Sept - BEER FEST

Sun 26 Sept - BUCK 'N TOM SHOW

3. **PENSIONER'S FREE MONTHLY BUS**

To Pick 'n Pay from Murdock Valley
(Ixia Crescent Terminus) then via
Glencairn and Fish Hoek to Sun Valley
and return. For dates, times and pick
up points, please telephone 786 3137

4. **GLENCAIRN "BRING 'N BUY" sale**

Sat 18 Sept - 9.30 to 12 noon

Garden party in the grounds of No. 69
Glen Road, Glencairn. Arranged by
the Glencairn Tennis Club in aid of St
Luke's Hospice, False Bay Voluntary

Emergency Medical Services and
Tennis Club Funds.

5. **OPERA STARS at the LINDBERGH ARTS FOUNDATION**

18 Beach Road, Muizenberg

Fri 8 Oct 7.30 for 8 pm

Anton Stoltz with **"THE FIVE OF US"**
will present Favourite Opera and
Operetta arias: Verdi, Puccini, Lehar,
Kalman etc.

Tickets: R40.00 include wine, fruit juice
and snacks.

Booking from 17 Sept: Pat or
Ian McDonald at 531 8261,
Nigel Fawcett - 786 3432

6. **FRIENDS OF SIMON'S TOWN COASTLINE - Enquiries: 786 3890**

Sat 18 Sept

**INTERNATIONAL COASTAL
CLEAN-UP DAY**

2 pm in Museum Hall, Simon's Town -
A short talk and slide show on coastal
pollution.

2.30 pm LONG BEACH, SIMON'S TOWN

If enough people turn up, parties will
be allocated to other beaches as well.
If required, please bring gloves; other
equipment Refreshments will be supplied.

Fri 17 Sept, 9 am

Clean up by school children will take
place at **SEAFORTH** and **WATER'S
EDGE BEACHES**. Parents and other
visitors are welcome.

Sun 3 Oct, 9.30 am

Alien Vegetation Hack with SAVE.
Venue: South end of Watsonia Road,
Murdock Valley, Simon's Town.

Sat 9 Oct, 9.30 am

A geological excursion with Prof John
Rodgers, University of Cape Town.
Venue: Smitswinkel Bay Parking area.

ALL WELCOME!!!

Deadline for October edition:

Thursday 30 September

Publication Date: Monday 11 October

Contact Pat Lochhead, Tel: 786 2436

Peninsula Tourism - Simon's Town
(Simon's Town Publicity Association)