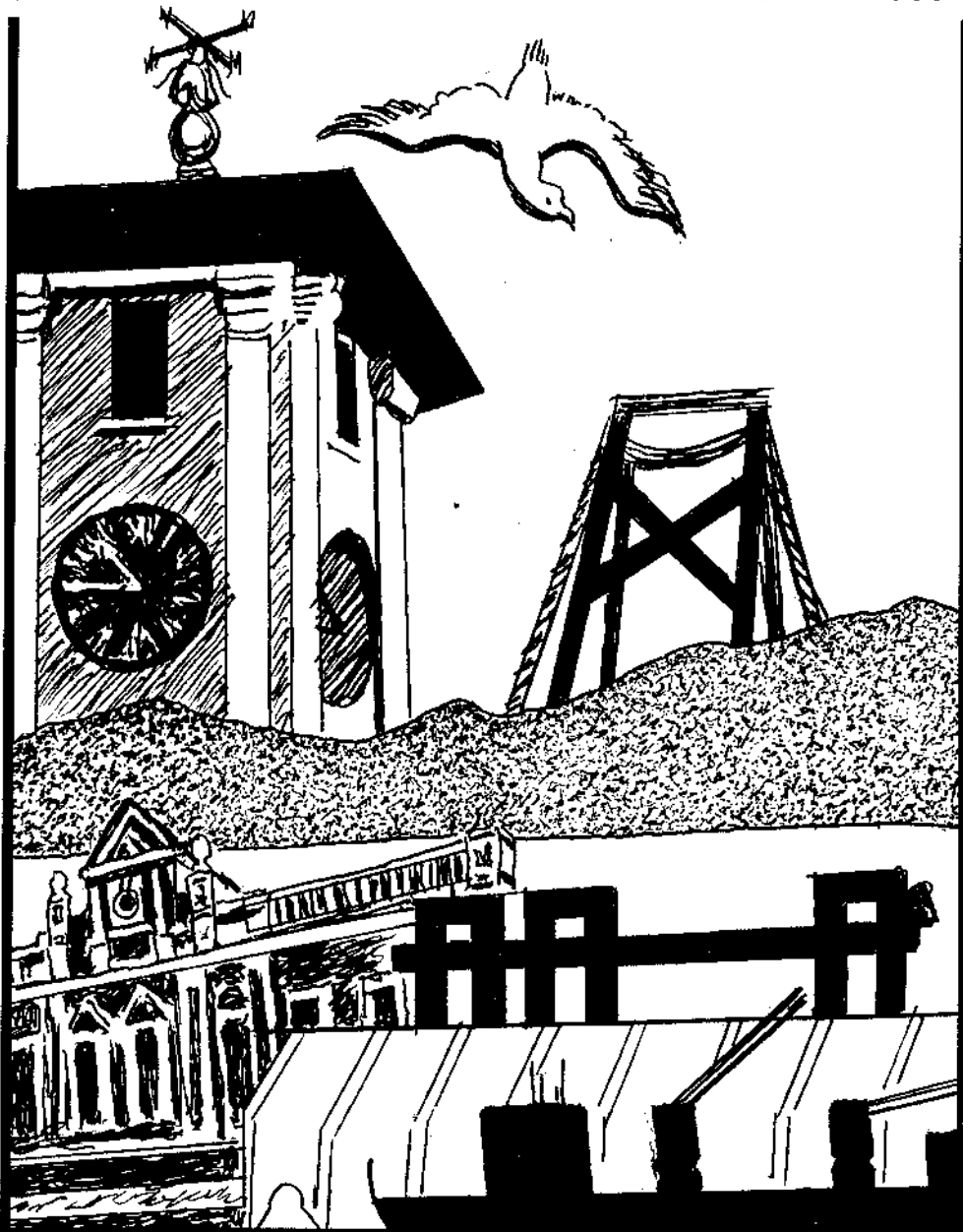


SNOEKTOWN CALLING

Vol 2 Issue 9

8 NOVEMBER 1999



Sponsor for November - Dr. Reg Loxton

**Simon's Town Ratepayers' & Residents' Association
Committee Members and their Portfolios:**

Chairman:	Andrew Duncan	786 1583
Vice-Chairman:	Bruce Parker	786 2955
Secretary:	Verena Hinsch	782 7806
Property:	Bruce Parker	786 2955
Environment:	Juliet Bass	786 2362
	Joachim Zimmer	786 3991
	Sharon Bosma	786 1072
SPM Liaison:	Neil Grant	786 1491
Fund-Raising & Membership:	Cedric Duncan	786 2538
Traffic:	George Bowes	786 1495

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Fish Hoek Printing & Publishing

Somerset House, Cnr. Recreation & Main Road, Fish Hoek

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Editorial

As starters: thank-you to the Crossword Puzzle entrants - all 75 of them; fantastic support. So the crossword will continue. Some said it was too easy, others: why make it difficult! I will try to hijack other restaurants into more prize offers.

Now for the heavy stuff: the public meeting of Tuesday 26th last, when the National Parks presented their proposed development plan for Boulders Park. Well, it was rowdy meeting and not much accomplished. We accept the fact that the penguins are there, that the Park is a major tourist attraction, that National Parks will exploit the honey-pot to the maximum for financial gain, and - dare I say it? - to hell with the severe discomfort to the local residents!! My reading of the resident's concerns is simple and serious, with respect to major structural development in Boulders Park and surroundings:

1. There will be no worth while economic benefit to the Community;
2. The infrastructure, especially road traffic, parking etc, cannot handle the envisaged substantial increase in traffic: both vehicles and

people.

3. The citizens don't want a major tourist information centre in Boulders Park - indeed, no more structural development: the total area of the Park is only 1.5 ha.

4. The ultimate solution is very simple: National Parks must develop a second penguin colony in the Cape Point reserve, say at boltjies Rif, where they can build a Penguin Scenic Park as big as they like, ala disney World etc. National Parks argue that penguins cannot be relocated - nonsense! I say. The penguins relocated themselves to Boulders: the exponential population increase is due to immigrants. So the logic is that something must have motivated the birds to move to Boulders - work out the process and organize a new colony in the Cape Point reserve.

That is the ultimate answer and National Parks must stop fudging the issue and get themselves into gear. Let us stand firm: NO TOURIST DEVELOPMENT AT BOULDERS.

My sê gesê.

Reg Loxton, Editor

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Down the Historical Mile

Art's and Quinlan's meeting of SLAF's premiere discussion was about the Simon's Town Art Show, because all its members benefited directly and indirectly from the proceeds of the earnings of the show. Clara Fijnbosch and made special arrangements for her aunt Constance Mieraber to attend the opening night on Friday 28th.

Aunt Constance reported it was a grand opening, assate and with the decorum that befits an important Cultural Event. Not like the opening of the 1998 showed the Museum, when a raucous element of the Fish Hoek played to all the wife and a such a windy situation, indicating of a serious cultural event. As Aunt Constance said, she would never happen in Wynberg, where they know better.

Anyway, Aunt Constance said she had really hoped to see further works by Clara Fijnbosch who had exhibited that collection of strange nude drawings with steel wool covering private parts, and so on. So what comes next? was the question. Unfortunately, no Clara Fijnbosch this time.

Then Clara Fijnbosch, who is a respected member of SLAF, recalled on the many experience of her friend Mienie Wouter Marais, from Ryersanderend, Mienie, you should know, had styled herself Mienie Wouter Marais in honour of a popular radio programme of twenty years ago. Anyway, Mienie, through a good friend in Fish Hoek, had received a copy of a local newspaper in which it was reported that the opening of the Simon's Town Art Show would take place at turn on Wednesday 27th November.

Now, Mienie loved nothing more than art show opening nights. So she had a special built-made, organised special transport from Ryersanderend and on and in Simon's Town to make her grand entrance. And what did she find? The show was the process of closing down. Of course Mienie was outraged and put on a big performance.

Fortunately the Dock, who sort of manages the Show, calmed her down with a few dops and dinner at a local restaurant. Aunt Constance Mieraber remarked that this would never ever happen in Wynberg, so the motto is, the Fish Hoek press will always get it wrong.

Streetwalker



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Simon's Town Ratepayers' and Residents' Association

PROPERTY WATCH No 17 November 1999

1. CURRENT APPLICATIONS.

Two new applications, one for rezoning and subdivision and one applying to buy or lease council land, have been submitted since the last report (see items 1.15 and 1.16). 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. It is intended to submit this for consideration by the Urban and Environmental Services Committee on 4 November 1999.

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. Following the non-approval of this application by the Urban and Environmental Services committee, a new application has been received. This will be advertised for comments and/or objections and the closing date will be 26 November 1999. Details may be obtained from Tel: 710 8367.

1.3. Erf 4719, Welcome Glen: Application for rezoning from undetermined use to single residential and for subdivision into 5 portions was approved. However, the objectors have appealed to the Provincial premier against the approval.

1.4. Erf 4595, Cairnside: Application to subdivide into two portions was not approved and the applicant has appealed to the Provincial premier against this decision.

1.5. Erf 267, Glencairn: Application to Rezone to General Residential. This application seeks to "regularise" an illegal usage and has been re-advertised. Objections were received, referred to the applicant who has responded. A report to the Urban and Environmental Services Committee is being prepared.

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 and the Provincial premier's decision is awaited on the appeal against the approval of this application.

1.7. Erf No 967, Simon's Town (Highlands Development): The application to subdivide the property into seven portions was approved by the Urban and Environmental Services committee at its meeting in August.

1.8. Erf 3844, Simon's Town: (Afrikaner Road, Murdock Valley South). Application for a second dwelling on a consolidated erf. The application has not been processed.

1.9. Erf 625, Simon's Town: (Military Way, Bayview). Application to subdivide into two portions. This application is still pending.



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1.10. Erf 250 and Erf 345, Glencairn: Application for subdivision into 6 sites. The application is pending settlement 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. The application must still 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 not complete.

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 SPM has received the revised subdivision diagrams and the process of notifying the adjoining owners is under way. Details may be obtained from Tel: 710 8367.

1.13. Erf 4837, Simon's Town (Cornwall Street): Application to subdivide this property into 2 portions. The SPM has referred this application to the AAC and the National Monuments Commission.

1.14. Erf 2212, Simon's Town (Cockburn Street, Glencairn Heights): Application for a Bed and Breakfast establishment. Comments from the SPM's internal departments are still awaited before the report to the Urban and Environmental Services Committee can be prepared.

1.15. Erf 4350, Simon's Town (Welcome Glen): In the December 1998 issue of "Property Watch" it was reported that an application for rezoning, subdivision and scheme departures to allow the building of 17 dwelling units in front of the existing town house units had been approved. Following reconsideration of the original application, a new application has been submitted to rezone this property from Group Housing to Single Residential and to subdivide it into 10 erven ranging in area from 450 square metres to

589 square metres, most of them being approximately 500 square metres. This will not be advertised as there was previously only one objection and concerns were voiced by the Simon's Town Ratepayers' and Residents' Association. However, details may be obtained at Tel: 710 8367.

1.16. Erf 2930, Simon's Town (Erica Road, Murdock Valley): Proposed Alienation or Lease of portion of this municipal land. This was advertised in the press on 15 October 1999 and the closing date for comments and/or objections is 8 November 1999. Details may be obtained from Tel: 710 8376.

2. OTHER PROPERTY MATTERS.

2.1. Portion of Erf 1399 and Portion of Seaforth Road, Simon's Town: (The old Seaforth Restaurant). The report by the Adjudication Committee was discussed and accepted by the SPM's Executive Committee on 19 October 1999. The public will be invited to view and discuss the development



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proposals at a public report back meeting on Thursday, 11 November 1999 by Cllr Holderness.

2.2. Cole Point Parking Area: Work has commenced on the irrigation system and the laying of electrical cables for the street lighting. When this is finished (expected before 30 November), the planting will be done. It is hoped this parking area will be complete before the main influx of Christmas holiday makers commences.

2.3. Leased Municipal Properties in Simon's Town: A schedule of leases on various municipal properties which are approaching their end dates was published in the October edition of "Snoektown Calling". It was reported that the leases for the Quarterdeck Restaurant, Jane's Place and Suzi's will expire on 31 October 2001 which is correct, but it was not reported that these leases have renewal options.

Bruce Parker

Snoektown Calling Supporters Club

Donations for October 1999

1. Individuals

Duncan Bates	R 50.00
HA Price	R 50.00
Jim & Maureen Waring	R100.00
Mike & Dolly Winterton	R 60.00
Julian & Juliet Bass	R250.00
Mrs D Jacobs	R 50.00

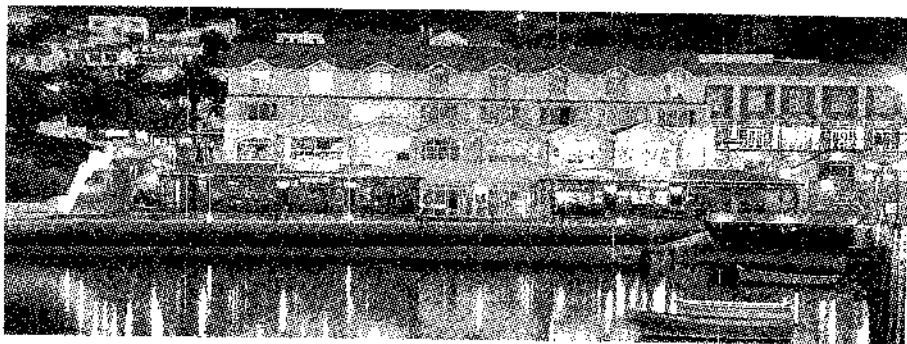
2. Association

Simon's Town Ratepayers & Residents Association R1 200.00

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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Chairman's Report

Snoektown Calling will be closing down as from December unless we can muster sufficient financial support for Reg's efforts. Our Committee has tried its best by calling for increased membership because the Association pays R300,00 per issue of Snoektown Calling. Please complete the application form for membership, if you are not already a member, so that we can offer more financial assistance to Snoektown.

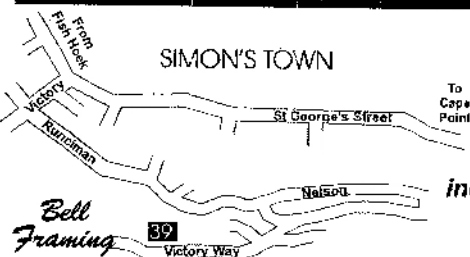
You may have noticed at the Dido Valley intersection that various trees have been planted on the left hand side approaching Simon's Town. This is a combined effort with the SPM and Chris Bonthuys, the regional manager, will be arranging for at least another 40 trees. The trees in question are Wild Pears and can take the wind. Chris has also arranged for the trees to be watered on a regular basis. Well done Chris Bonthuys and

AB Rossouw. The Navy has agreed to take down the barbed wire fencing and replace it with attractive fencing around the buildings on the right hand side. This is going to be our big millennium project trying to beautify the approach to Simon's Town. In addition the Navy in conjunction with the Association are arranging a cleanup carnival which the Navy is designated as Operation Sputnik! for the 17th November 1999. All volunteers are to meet at 8 a.m. in the grassed area outside Cole Point gate. The Navy expects at least 300 volunteers from their ranks. It will be wonderful if we could find an equal number of volunteers. Already members have offered their own vehicles and trucks to assist. The Municipality will also be offering backup assistance. From our side we have arranged with Energade to supply free Energade cool drinks. The Navy has arranged a braai for lunchtime with free

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T-shirts and hotdogs and the like so it is going to be a grand occasion. Well done Admiral Louw. Certainly none of us can complain that Simon's Town is derelict or dirty if we don't lend a hand. There will be someone on duty all day at Cole Point so that if you arrive late, you can be directed to where the work is taking place!

There is considerable discussion taking place at the moment in regard to plans at Boulders and the Seaforth Restaurant. The point at hand is that there is concern from residents that Simon's Town is being used to fill the coffers of the Cape Peninsula National Park with little advantage to the town. Certainly our roads are being clogged up. Our facilities such as dustbins and the like are being overfilled and not emptied and it is becoming increasingly difficult for locals to use the beaches. This is not right or fair.

With the Seaforth Restaurant, the Municipality is granting a right to lease what amounts to a crown jewel for 25 years at a rental that has been insufficiently analysed and considered. If the Municipality on one hand complains that they have no money to supply us with dustbins and cleaners, and yet on the other allows use of prime and irreplaceable municipal land at ill-considered rentals, then it is wasting both our time and money.

We have asked the Municipality to let us use their present unused offices, but to date, approximately a year after our request, no progress has been made. It seems absurd that a building is left empty and a Municipality's own ratepayers are unable to make use of it in the interim.

Perhaps much of this occurs because we have not received the kind of support we need. Sign up today and send us your cheque.

Andrew Duncan

Happy Valley Home Simon's Town

NEW TELEPHONE NO: 786-5087

At present there are sixty residents in Happy Valley Home, ten of whom are children. We receive donations of food which have to be augmented through purchases. Funding for the home is made up of a Provincial Administration grant, monies gleaned from recycling projects and infrequent scrap metal collections, donation from concerned citizens and the Ministers Fraternal of Simon's Town and Fish Hoek valley Churches. Clothing and other basic necessities are also surrounding areas. A sound constitution stresses the rehabilitative aspect and ensures the continuity of the home.

Our goals for the future are to establish training workshops and a skills development centre which would include literacy, mothercraft, job training and life skills which are sorely lacking and one of the main factors contributing to the degenerate lifestyle of most of the residents. Men and women are being housed separately in dormitories. There are some facilities for married couples but they are very limited at present.

The predominant personal problems encountered are alcohol and dagga abuse, which has greatly decreased. Rehabilitation in these areas require an integrated approach covering individual therapy, health training, work therapy and training in life skills as mentioned previously. This service is only now beginning to be established. To these ends helpers and money are needed to achieve the object of returning these people as responsible members of society.

The next Annual General meeting of the Happy Valley Home for the homeless will be held on the Chapel on the premises of the Home on 18 November at 17:00. All donors, and people who have an interest in the home are welcome to attend. Tea, Coffee and refreshments will be served.

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Chairman - Board of Governors

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Ward Councillor's Report

ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE FOR RESIDENTS

1. WATER.

The Cape Metropolitan Council Water Department officials have assessed the water position in Simon's Town and have reported that if pumping at Muizenberg is maximised throughout the summer months, beginning immediately, supplies should be adequate to satisfy demand and still leave a reasonable residual level in the dams at the end of summer. Dependent on rainfall, pumping should also continue in the winter, so that the dam levels can be maximised by the end of September each year.

The levels of all the dams and reservoirs will be closely monitored and should there be a dramatic increase in demand affecting assurance of supply, the public will be notified accordingly.

Water demand management efforts will be redoubled so as to increase the level of water conservation awareness in general. The point was stressed that water is a finite resource and new approaches to how we use water must be found.

Please do remember that now that we have a single water authority responsible for bulk supplies the water is treated to the same standard and using the same chemicals right across the Cape Metropolitan area!

2. BY-LAW FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS.

Council has approved the proposed by-law for advertising. It seeks to allow defined areas to be declared municipal improvement districts according to an improvement district plan when requested to do so by not less than twenty five percent of the ratepayers. This must then receive the support of fifty percent of the ratepayers to become binding on all. A management body can then be established and a special levy imposed for that area which can be used for the purposes that community feels are important. This by-law will be advertised for comment

for a period of 90 days.

3. LAW ENFORCEMENT: WASTE.

There is now a single by-law which applies uniformly across the S.P.M. and a series of fines to apply to enforce our waste management policy. Dumping, littering, leaving or placing domestic waste or garden refuse on the road verge on any day except on the day of collection, and various other matters are covered in the by-law and liable for penalties if infringed. The law enforcement officers will now be blitzing various areas.

Remember that the person who owns the premises from which the waste has come is the person who will be held liable. This is especially relevant for those who are building. So many people think they can simply ignore the mess their builder makes.

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

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Simon's Town Business Association

Since the inaugural meeting on 18 May 1998 the Association has gained "born strength" to strength. It functions and operates in terms of a proper constitution with aims and objectives. A copy of the latter has been delivered to all businesses who applied and was granted membership. A membership drive was launched to get businesses in Simon's Town and Glenami to join and form a strong and united body.

After the 18th meeting the executive committee met monthly applying its mind to problems in general as well as to individual issues that were raised.

The next meeting which is a Quarterly General Meeting open to all of business will be held on 8 November 1998 at 10:15 in the Municipal Building Simon's Town where a full report back will be given on the activities

and achievements during the past six months. Shisake, wine and Hot Whisky sponsored by Ollpeys will be served after the meeting.

The main objectives at the present moment are:

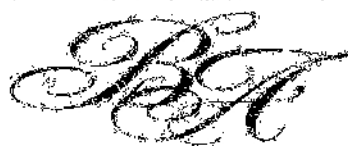
1. Getting Buellmises to dress-up their shopfronts by means of festive lights. A decision has been made that quality supply and costs were assembled and passed on to everyone concerned. The objective is to make main roads as attractive and festive as possible.

2. To try and get as many donors as possible from the business community (and residents) to contribute to our opposition to the bike scheme. Many in the CBD area are well aware of the valuable work that is being done by constables George Watter in respect of crime prevention and Law Enforcement. We are needing his services even more with the festive and millennium season coming up. There is a strong possibility that the Town stands to lose his services should we not get enough support where pressure is put on us by the Community Patrol Board who controls Community Patrol Officers. More detail about this very important issue at the meeting of 8.11.1998.

3. The launching of the local shop front competition during the festive season. Valuable prizes sponsored by Ollpeys are available. The launch takes place at the meeting on 8.11.1998.

4. A drive to attract as many businesses as members and regards to all in business, especially the new ones and we believe there are more on the cards.

**Heduraan
President**



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News from Naval Base, Simon's Town

SAS Protea Makes a Difference

Most of us come face to face with a street child begging for money, or for the matter food at some time in our lives. Our reaction? We tell them hit the road...

On Wednesday, October 20 Capt. Reeder, Officer Commanding **SAS Protea**, a SA Navy Hydrographic Vessel, donated a cheque of R2000 on behalf of his ships' company, to the **Beautiful Gate Children's Home**.

Mr and Mrs Toby Bruwer, founder and owners, saw the need for a home for street children whilst they were in Holland. They immigrated to South Africa in 1991: the mission - to make their dream a reality. **Beautiful Gate Children's Home** situated in Mui-zenberg opened its doors in 1994. It is the first and only one of its kind in the Southern

Peninsula. Currently it is home to 12 boys aged 7 to 13 years. Beautiful Gate only focuses on boys due to the fact that 80 % of street children are boys.

Every Thursday, the staff goes out to the streets of Cape Town to find these children in need of help. The Childcare Workers build close relationships with these neglected children and informs them about their facilities. Once the child fits their criteria (age and wants to be rehabilitated) he will be taken to a Social Worker, Mr Peter Schultz, who will take the necessary steps to "remove" him from the streets. Beautiful Gate and its staff will be his "family" until he reaches the age of 14, and then his is put back into his family's care.

On Saturday, November 6 another milestone will be reached when yet another Child Care facility will officially open its doors at Beautiful Gate, which will be situated in



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Spoorheads (the Old Boys Town) to babies diagnosed with HIV. The case family will be able to pay \$5 to HIV+ babies. On Wednesday, September 15 baby Tabu was taken under their loving care. At present they are taking care of two HIV+ babies.

We want to thank the staff of Beautiful Gate for the wonderful work done as far as making a difference in their lives. We take so much for granted and sometimes forget about those in need!



Capt. L.D.M. Reeder, Mr. T. Brower and Members of Ship's Company.

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Trekker's 80 Years of Service

"Voor Trekker", the Kuyasa-built ocean racer that triggered a boatbuilding boom in Simon's Town in the 1960s, was purchased by the Naval Heritage Trust and the SA Navy to celebrate 80 years of naval service, on 23 October.

Organised by Natalian Bruce Dalving, "Trekker" took SA's first international ocean racing in 1968, with a brilliant finish in a single-handed race across the North Atlantic. This led to SA's first international race, the Cape to Rio race, in 1971.

The yacht was handed over to the SA Navy by Dr Anton Rupert on 1 November 1980 on behalf of the SA Ocean Racing Trust. There was a drop-out of sports of enthusiasm for sailing and boating throughout South Africa, and small boatyards were transformed into major industries, providing new job opportunities for many South Africans.

"Trekker" went on to win world titles, and in recent years has been used extensively by the SA Navy for sail and sea training, training of young people from all sections of the community.

"Voor Trekker's" 80 years of naval service was celebrated by a sail past in Simon's Bay on October 23. The SA Navy's hydrographic survey vessel, SAS HOUTE, acted as the review ship as the Navy ship sailed by, escorted by a fleet of yachts from several yacht clubs.

A special commemorative cover signed by Bertie Head, organised by the Naval Heritage Trust in co-operation with the SA Navy, will soon be on sale. A hot tell history of "Voor Trekker" with her many dramatic and remarkable achievements over these decades, will be published by the Naval Heritage Society in the next issue of the journal, Naval Digest. The society and Naval Digest are available at the SA Naval Museum in Simon's Town.

Gun Run Vs Whaler Challenge

Ever heard of the saying "There's always a first time for everything". On Friday, October 1, 1999 it was definitely a first for the Staff and students of SA Naval College in Gordon's Bay.

As part of the Hermanus Whale Festival the training staff of SA Naval College challenged their students to a race with a difference. The officers had to pull (row) a False Bay Whaler and the students had to pull a Field Gun Carriage all the way from Gordon's Bay along the coastal road to Hermanus. Distance covered by the whaler team was 78 km and 82 km for the runners.

The whaler team consisted of seven crew and the gun run team comprised of three relay teams consisting of nineteen members. Average speed of the whaler was 6 km/h and that of the runners 7 km/h.

The events started at 02h00 and the esti-

mated time of arrival in Hermanus was 16h00. Well, as we all know we cannot plan the weather for any occasion. Murphy's law: gall force south easter winds were on the "menu". But the teams were not discouraged by the weather, and off they went. Unfortunately, things did not go according to plan. The whaler team got as far as Hangklip and had to call it a day. Unaware of the competitors misfortune the runners forced themselves "to reach for gold".

It was decided not to dampen the spirits of the spectators: the whaler was transported by road to the new harbour at Hermanus and the team rowed into the old harbour to coincide with the arrival of the Field Gun team. The media was taken out to sea with a Namacura to cover the event.

Whilst the last relay team was just outside Hermanus the other two teams changed into their "ice cream suits" and on the arrival of the gun, marched them into town. On arrival in the new harbour, the whaler team was

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met by the runners attired in their rig, which was sponsored by Moby Dick, the overall sponsor of the Whale Festival.

As usual our sailors attracted all the attention. It was suggested that this should become an annual event. The reason: to add some naval history to their beautiful town. Personally...I think they just loved our sailors!

PO Shiralda Miller
Naval Base - Simon's Town



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INVITATION

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National Sea Rescue Station 10 Simon's Town Base

Monthly Newsletter

The silly season for some small boaters and swimmers is upon us. This is the time of year that N.S.R.I. members come to full alert because any day can produce a number of rescue related dramas.

Saturday 28 November serves as an example of what may occur. At approximately 1610 all is quiet at the boathouse, stand-by crews are attending routine maintenance, suddenly a call comes through. There is a report of a possible drowning at Longbeach, Simon's Town. Members from the station rush to Longbeach where an inebriated person has swum out to the raft and is unable to return. He is assisted to shore by two divers. The paramedics examine the patient and find him to be fit but much the worse off for liquor. The ambulance team take him to False Bay hospital just to ensure he is all right. Upon analysis of the incident it is obvious that one person, the worse off for liquor can cause the senseless call out of at least ten people and activate the deployment of expensive equipment on a day when most people just wish to relax and enjoy the peace of a weekend - such selfishness!!

In fact this incident brought home to me the selflessness of people who join institutions such as the N.S.R.I., ambulance and fire fighting services. This also lead me to interview this month's N.S.R.I. Station 10 personality. He is the newly appointed Deputy Station Commander Denis Zimmerman.

Born in Valhalla, Pretoria 3 June 1948 the family moved to Simon's Town in 1957, where Denis' father joined the S.A. Navy Band. He did well at school and excelled in the Naval Cadet Detachment becoming a Petty Officer and head school cadet in 1964. He became apprenticed in the motor trade and qualified at Kulu Garage in 1970 as a motor mechanic. He married Melody Strydom in 1970. They have four children Michele, Glenn, Darren and Megan and are proud grandparents of three.

Denis attained an ambition when in 1975 he joined the S.A. Navy permanent force and has served at:- SAS Chapman, SAS Scorpion [Boat 3], SAS Donkin [Small Craft], Naval Base Simon's Town, NSD Wingfield and Naval Logistic Base and has served at sea in SAS Gelderland, Nautilus, Pretoria and Tafelberg.

Denis joined Station 10 N.S.R.I. in 1993 and through hard work and application has risen to his present position. He has been a controller for "A" crew, the Station Engineer and is now Deputy Station Commander. More importantly for Station 10 Denis is a member of N.S.R.I. National Operations and Technical Committee where as the representative for the 8-9 metre Rescue Craft, he feels, that he has obtained maximum satisfaction for his work in the development of the new 9 metre boats which will become the standard res-



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cue craft at all N.S.R.I. stations. In fact the existence of this craft in the Sea Rescue Service is due mainly to his efforts. This is the selfless task that he has performed to help his fellow beings. East London station is already operating the new design of boat and the hull of Station 10's new boat has begun to take shape.

Denis is also a Leading Fireman in the Simon's Town Volunteer Fire Brigade. His son, Darren, the Coxswain of Station 10's 8 metre rescue craft, is a volunteer fireman and a qualified para-medic. Quite a record for one family's selfless service to the community and not forgetting the back-up these two stalwarts get from Mrs Melody Zimmerman.

The most recent call out for Station 10 occurred on the 13th of November at 10:00 when Station 10 member David Behr intercepted a call at False Bay hospital from an Irvine and Johnson trawler, at sea approximately 30 miles SSE of Cape Point, saying they had a crew member on board who was injured and comatose. The Station 10 crew was summoned and launched in Caltex Star at 11:10. Coxswain Darren Zimmerman rendezvous at 13:00 at about 25 miles SSE of Cape Point with the trawler [a secondary radio link had been set up at Cape Point lighthouse thus keeping control with the rescue craft]. The patient was uplifted from the trawler without incident, being stabilised on board by the para-medic. The vessel returned, battling against the strong wind. The patient was off loaded at Miller's Point where he was taken to False Bay hospital by the False Bay Volunteer Ambulance Service. This was a highly successful operation. Station 10 received a letter from the management of Irvine and Johnson praising them for their much appreciated effort.

Report by the Deputy Station Commander

The N.S.R.I. Mobile Unit attended at two motor vehicle accidents.

A body was retrieved from the sea near Cape Point.

Station 10 hosted "METRO" members on an

advanced Medical Rescue course.

Station 10 crew stood by at open days at Zwaanswyk High School and at Kirstenhof Primary School.

Both of Station 10's boats were surveyed by D.O.T. inspectors and were passed.

The trailer of the wave rider was damaged and has been repaired.

Paul Alexander is now a trainee coxswain for the wave rider.

Station Commander attended new Station Commanders meeting and stood in on NOTC meeting.

Some Station 10 members attended a course on "Downed Aircraft" at Cape Town airport.

Finally, Station 10 Support Committee wishes to express it's utmost appreciation to the following supporters:-

The Beaumont Family of Bergvliet for their donation of R7500.

The Beswetherick Family of Simon's Town for their donation of R2500.

Penfin Holdings of Fish Hoek for the returns of their golf day of R2000.

We would like to assure these supporters that the funds will be put to very good use.

*Don Dollery
Station 10 Support Committee.*

Beach & Coastal Patrol

Twenty-41 original, Reg. London cannot continue indefinitely to almost daily harass this publication. Unless he gets more support, this anti-sport "spike" could soon end. Are we all so irate or disinterested, that this "Ride" was contributed by individuals in support during September? What have happened to our community spirit?

Although my October report was not published for some reason, this is just as well. It would have you read the same old story every month about the poor condition of our beach approaches and facilities. With tourists arriving in droves, I hoped that by now the SPCA would have attended to the most noticeable problems. Unfortunately, there are still many sections of crumbling pavement full of weeds between Glencairn and Long Beach. A definite fault is that the once formidable laws of Long Beach no longer exist.

Immediate problems are obvious, some of them: Backer's Bay is spoilt by a long absolute half-way siding and the approach road to Glencairn station is not fully paved. During heavy rain, the latter situation is a major obstacle for commuters.

Complain to Shelly, Seafort and Winarni beaches of the dreadful state of their toilet blocks. That is Winarni beach has for years not had a sign to indicate the section for women. Another problem common to most beaches is the brightly coloured and rusty drums for litter. Incidentally, the area at Water's Edge (winarni) contains glass "beer bottles". With no beach cleanables around, these responsible were probably the same group who dumped a section of the trunk some time ago. Furthermore, the highly visible grassy approach needs not just mowing this summer but also watering. In the case

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of Seaforth, some weeding would certainly enhance our tourism image.

While on the subject of tourism, I believe that some guy has been poaching on my territory! According to some doctors and pharmacists, "Diversions" – a healthcare magazine – in September published a lead article of his on Peninsula tourism. Since so much apparently features our area, those residents with time to waste might care to read it.

I must now conclude this report with a warning to visiting readers from the Northern Hemisphere: Protect yourselves from skin cancer! On 15th September, a hole in the ozone layer over Antarctica measured 25 million square kilometres. When relaxing – even under an umbrella – on our beaches, always apply a water-repellent UV blocker. This is particularly important between 11h00 and 15h00.

Beachcomber

Security Watch

Burglary (Residential) 4 - Flagship way, Simon's Town; a bungalow at Smitswinkelbay; a garage at Hopkirk way, Glencairn; Fairburn street, Glencairn. The door was forced open in all 4 incidents and most burglaries were in unoccupied homes.

Burglary Business 1 - Simon's Town High School where a duplicate key was used.

Theft out of motor vehicle 9 - Smitswinkelbay parking area; Scarborough beach parking; 4 at Boulders beach parking; Glencairn beach parking area; Castle Rock, Millers Point; St. George's street, Simon's Town.

Theft of motor vehicle 4 - Glenhurst road and Glenoak road in Welcome Glen - both Toyota vehicles were recovered the same night; Smitswinkelbay - a Nissan 1400 bakkie Friday between 8:00 and 16:00; Hill-top road, Scarborough - a Toyota bakkie taken overnight.

October Arrests

Drunk: 9, Theft: 1, Warrant of Arrest: 1, In-

terdict: 1.

The theft of Toyota motor vehicles has been identified as a national project it is being investigated. ATM related crimes are still occurring - the target is tourists once again. We ask all tour operators, members of the community and affected persons to please report this type of activity immediately in the interest of protecting our tourist industry. Help us identify and successfully prosecute those responsible and we shall all reap the benefits thereof. *You can make a difference.*

The Theft of Handbags in Restaurants has reared its ugly head and unfortunately targets ladies and tourists. The latest incident occurred at a local restaurant. A lady hung her handbag over her chair while she dined with friends and when they were about to leave she noticed that her handbag was not where she had left it and could not be found. It is believed that a Chinese or Taiwanese couple could be involved in the incident - they were confident in their approach and made use of a cell phone. The lady had a long coat which she could easily have slipped the bag under. They left the restaurant in a hurry before anyone caught onto their act.

Sea Fisheries related crimes are still occurring and will be addressed by operations planned for the very near future involving all role players. The precincts operation innovation to be held shortly will address all Simon's Town priority crimes.

The management and staff of the SAPS in Simon's Town and Military Police would like to extend a special word of thanks to **Chief Petty Officer William Angus John McNish of the Military Police** who is set to retire on 29-10-99. CPO McNish played an integral part in forcing a closer working relationship with the SAPS and the Military Police and was also instrumental in the planning and execution of joint operations held in the Simon's Town precinct. We commend your effort and thank you for your dedicated contribution towards the just cause of society.

Sgt A. Van Eysen

Heather Lunderstedt Estates cc

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The countdown to the New Millennium has started with all its impact. Most people by now will know of **THE PARTY** on Jubilee Square. We have had a wonderful response to it both by visitors who parked at the One-Millionth donut year and local residents. Comments like "a lovely family atmosphere" and "a feeling of friendliness and security" have warmed the hearts of the hard working organisers. The celebration is being organised by a small committee supported by Orla Nikki Holderness assisted by Peninsula Tourism and local business people.

Details to date are as follows:

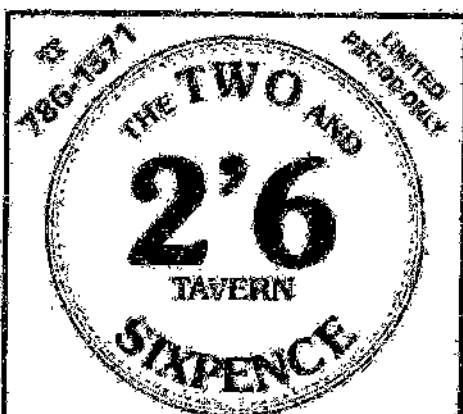
Peninsula Tourism has been granted a lease off St George's Street with parking on the street to Paul's Quay. Two access points at wheel Street and Alfred Lane, which will be strictly monitored by marshals - the alleys and steps will be blocked off.

The enclosed area will be open for trading, i.e. Fast, Central, Standard, Clay Connections, Brand Trading, Kebab, Bismarck, which will be open and offering coffee and tea available. Navigators - they have the away pizzas (although others like La La Rue, Plymouth Standard, Buns Bayou, The Lord Nelson Hotel, Hot Apple, 200 English Pub, Mrs Dewood will have a stall in front of her shop and there will be other food stalls along the west side of the street. There are still a number of spaces available for food stalls. If anyone is interested, please let Sandy Nickerdinger know at 786 2214. The bars will be on Jubilee Square to quench your thirst, with wine, craft and soft drinks. Police and security officers will be manning the whole event. NSM will be on duty. Tickets at R30 each will be in the form of a wrist band, will include an indemnity clause and can be kept as a souvenir. They will be on sale from the tourism office and Simon's Town Museum from mid November.

An UPDATE on the party will be published in the December issue of Shoektown.

Simon's Town Tourism is to produce a Simon's Town Calendar. It will have the excellent photographs of well known Simon's Town sights and will shortly be on sale at various outlets, including the Bureau and Simon's Town Museum at the reasonable cost of R33.95. Ideal for sending to friends and relatives overseas.

A word to all our accommodation members. A portfolio of A4 size laminated pages is being developed in each Peninsula Tourism office for the benefit of visitors seeking lodgings, places to stay. Both sides of the page can be used and include a little write up on your accommodation. As this is a working file



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seems easier to peruse if the photographs are top to bottom of the page and not sideways. If anyone would like advice on this, please pop in and have a look. The larger exhibits now on the walls are being phased out in favour of the portfolio. Incidentally, one can make a page for each Bureau under the umbrella of Peninsula Tourism, as this is to be standard practice. While on this subject, we would be most grateful if members would check up on their brochures in the bureau. It is to their advantage to do this which also keeps us in touch with everyone. Also, members should remember they are entitled to display brochures in all the Bureaux as paid up members of Peninsula Tourism. To anyone who may be about to have brochures made, it is a great help, both to staff and visitors if a clear, simple map on the back of the brochure is included.

An encouraging response has been received to the appeal for an annual subscription for Snoektown Calling, which has started a debate towards finding a solution. **The appeal is still open, so please let either this office or Dr Loxton know if you would like to help to keep Snoektown floating.**

A friendly group of British journalists visiting Simon's Town for the Anglo Boer War Centenary was hosted by Peninsula Tourism. Lunch was generously provided by Boulders Beach Guest House. Afterwards they were treated to a relaxing trip around the harbour on the Spirit of Just Nuisance, where a Sun Fish added to the enjoyment.

On a closing note, we were visited at the bureau by an agitated young German tourist, who had seen a whale flourishing its flippers very close to Fish Hoek beach. She was very concerned that it had beached itself and she would not be placated by an explanation that this was natural behaviour. She left with the assurance that we would speak to Nan Rice.

Best Regards
Sue and Pat

Friends of the Simon's Town Library

Thank you!!! Thank you!!! Thank you!!!

For your very generous, cheerful and willing donations to our **FOOD SALE** held **8 October 1999**. As a result of your help, the sum of **R950.00** was realised and increases our target figure greatly. Such efforts from the Friends does make the work of the Convenor so much easier and one feels so very enthusiastic about collecting funds for such a good cause as our Library.

Once again, grateful thanks.

Bobby van Vuuren
Convenor

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Part 3 - The Battle for Darwin and Goose Green

My section had been warned for some time by OC 59 Squadron that it was possible we would be supporting 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment (2 Para) in a raid on Darwin and Goose Green. Confirmation of a warning order for participation in a large scale raid on Darwin and Goose Green with 2 Para was received at 17h00 on 26 May. We deployed by support helicopter to 2 Paras assembly area in the Sussex Mountains. We deployed with borrowed equipment as much was still on the bombed Sir Lancelot and we had been up the previous night off loading shipping. We arrived just in time to move out at 20h45 to the planned laying up point (LUP) near Camilla House. The distance was some 17 kilometres over boggy, rocky ground with many water obstacles. We arrived, exhausted, at about 07h00 on the 27 May and were briefed to rest before a better defensive position was set out at 10h00. By 11h30 we had moved into a tight troop location, having dug in and camouflaged against the main air threat. Unfortunately an announcement by the World Service news that British Paras were within 5 miles of Darwin threatened to compromise our position. The Commanding Officer (CO) Colonel H Jones, was furious and rapidly dispersed the Battalion in company groups over a distance of about 3 kms. We dug in again furiously within three quarters of an hour and kept hidden, resting where possible. During the afternoon the RAF Harriers sent sorties over our positions to soften up our targets. This raised our morale considerably.

The CO's orders for the operation were delayed from 15h00 that day as contacts by forward standing patrols produced prisoners whose information affected the plan. At 20h15 I attended the orders group. It was to be a 6 phase, night/day, silent/noisy attack. We all could see that this was a very difficult operation and of course the start of land operations for the task force. We were due

to move out at 22h00. My section were to be attached to D Company 2 Para. The plan was to carry out a series of company group attacks to clear allocated objectives on route to the overall prize, which was to be seized and held. In support of us we had Harrier aircraft from first light, Naval Gunfire Support (NGFS) until 08h30, a single section of the battalion mortars and three 105mm light guns from 29 Commando Regiment RA.

Tasks for us were not well defined but we were expected to carry out normal RE assault tasks such as limited mine breaching or marking and minor demolitions. The carriage of our Sapper equipment caused much concern due to the weight. We opted to use a very heavy fighting order which we felt increased mobility even if it increased discomfort. Whilst not engaged in the Engineer role we were to help with immediate first aid, cassavac, re supply of ammunition and prisoners of war and in the infantry role if required. After the Battalion start line was secured we moved off at about 02h00 astride the main track. All our nerves were soothed with the continual sound of our artillery and NGFS pounding our objectives. We were all scared as it was pitch black, horrible weather and off into the unknown we went. We could hear the other fighting companies to our left flank encountering their first objectives with massive amounts of fire power being expended. It wasn't long before we hit our first enemy. We suddenly were hit with a tremendous amount of machine gun fire coming at us. The tracer lit up the ground and we flung into action. The commands from the forward fighting troops now in extended line for a frontal attack echoed around the battle field. The fire and movement from the Paras was awesome and we picked up quite a few casualties. At this point we started to experience the indirect fire from the Argentine artillery which was unnerving to say the least. We fought through the position and re grouped. At this stage we were treating

our own casualties which was pretty gruesome as the Argi machine gun fire had been extensive.

After the first position had been taken we carried on but always aware of the battles off to our left flank. Small pockets of enemy positions were found which were soon dealt with in the aggressive Para manner. By this time daylight had arrived and we were very vulnerable to artillery fire and of course aircraft. We continued to move forward cautiously on our next objective. It was about this time that we had come to a halt and I was called forward to the OC 2 Para. He instructed me that we had come upon what looked like a minefield and I was to go and investigate. We were on a small rise and with my heart in my mouth walked forward. About 30m into the minefield I could see the crude set up of the 1000lb bombs with orange bailing wire used as trip wire. I couldn't see any anti personnel mines however was

still not certain. It was at this stage I came under sniper fire and soon made myself horizontal to the ground. The OC put covering fire down for me and I withdrew from the minefield. The OC made the decision to go through the minefield and we did just that. 5 minutes after leaving the small rise it erupted under heavy bombardment.

To our left flank we could hear that the other companies were having a very difficult time. The battle was raging and we could hear over the radio that our ammunition was running out. This carried on for a good couple of hours as our troops were pinned down. This was where Colonel H was killed.

We moved on to the outskirts of the Goose Green settlement where we were strafed by anti aircraft guns used in the ground role. Small pockets of enemy positions were found and cleared. By this stage we were escorting some 40 prisoners of war some of whom had bad injuries. We came to a halt

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about 500m before the Goose green airfield where we were experiencing some heavy incoming artillery and anti aircraft fire. We found ourselves some large craters to shelter in and took cover. The pucara the argi ground attack aircraft then flew low over our position and discarded his load of napalm which luckily landed 20m past our position, we also put a lot of ground fire into the plane and shot him down. As last light approached a surrender attempt was made by the Argentinian soldiers where a mix up occurred and several lives were lost from both sides. By this stage all troops were very weary and hungry and it looked as though we would not complete our mission by that day. We prepared ourselves for a cold and wet night and certainly got it in the form of snow. We posted sentries and tried to rest. Little did we know that already proceedings were under way for a surrender. The following morning I was to discover that all the craters that we had occupied were mine craters that the cattle had set off previously and that now

we were in the middle of a minefield. I instructed all the soldiers and prisoners to retreat back to the fence line treading very carefully. Luckily we took no casualties from this little incident.

Finally the Argentinian commander took the surrender and they laid down their weapons. My section were the first engineers into the settlement of Goose Green. We were welcomed by the locals with open arms who then proceeded to make us cups of hot steaming tea served from English Bone China Queen Elizabeth commemorative mugs.

As a battalion we lost 18 dead and 35 wounded and out of that 1 Engineer Corporal Mick Melia from our other section was killed. I will remember him.

Gavin Eyre



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Gout - the "rich man's disease" ?

Many people have had the unpleasant experience of waking up one morning with a painful toe (a Greek misstatement!) which feels as though it has been broken in half, and then when hobbling into their doctor's surgery for sympathy - only to be laughed at.

Gout is a genetic disorder which leads to elevated levels of uric acid. Uric acid is an end-product of the breakdown of the materials found in cells called nucleic - the "bricks" of the cell. Over the span of years, the progressive accumulation of uric acid levels in the blood leads to a high concentration of the acid in the joints and tendons. This leads to the formation of needle-like crystals in the joints and tendons, and leads to subsequent painful arthritis (joint inflammation).

Ninety percent of sufferers get gout because they either overproduce uric acid (with normal urinary excretion) or don't excrete enough (with normal production). Ten percent of sufferers get it because of other conditions e.g. chronic kidney disease, patients with leukaemia or on chemotherapy and other very rare metabolic conditions.

Areas of the body affected by the lit's crystals (uric acid) are: big toe (major pain!), associated with much hobbling (initially); instep; ankle; knee; wrist and elbow.

How to avoid it

Acute attacks are precipitated by sudden weight loss (as in patients who have Gout). Alcohol (especially wine) interferes with the body's ability to get rid of uric acid. Again, moderation (your doctor would be able to tell you); overindulgence in rich food and high fat diets.

Foodstuffs which have a high uric acid producing ability are: **AVOID** them: Kidney, liver, tongue; brains (veal, pig); all meat stock;

and gravies; brewers and baker's yeast; corn; herring; mussels; pavier; sardines; anchovies; mackerel. **LIMITED INTAKE** (once a week or less): game; veal; venison; goose; turkey; duck; trout; salmon; mutton leg; mince meat and sausage.

Unfortunately the above foods are only guidelines. Fortunately, these days there are wonderful medications which control the uric acid levels and protect for acute attacks. If you are one of the happy "hobbling" hoards - I am sure that your doctor would be able to help (with sympathy) - and if he does not have sympathy, wish a good attack on him!

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Edgar Wallace In Simon's Town

When young Edgar "Dick" Wallace left Southampton on July 18 1896 as an orderly in a troopship, bound for South Africa, he was excited at the prospect of new opportunities, new experiences in the country "where di'monds lay about the street". Keyed up by rumours of a coming war and the hope of "seeing some fun", Wallace expected to be posted to the principal British garrison in Natal, and was disappointed when he heard that his destination was to be Simonstown (as it was then written), whose importance was as a naval base, with sailors outnumbering soldiers 3 to 1.

The youthful orderly found the Town dull, "little more than an ramshackle single street running haphazard along the curving spit of land" which formed the harbour. He was however consoled to some extent by the unexpected beauty of the country: The gardens of Simon's Town and the "steep hill"

behind it were gay with lilies, freezias and "flowers undreamed of outside a florist's window". He walked to the hospital down a long avenue of eucalyptus trees, his eyes dazzled by the glint of the sun on the water, and the brightness of the white walls of Admiralty House.

Wallace presented himself in Simon's Town Hospital, where he learned that he was to share a "tiny two-bunk room, squeezed in between the dispensary and the ward" with Sergeant Pinder, who also acted as cook. Kitchen and dispensary were spotless; the four bed ward was empty. It began to seem as though Simon's Town, which rarely had the excitement of casualty (infectious cases were sent to Wynberg), were going to live up to its reputation of being "the greatest loaf known to orderlies in the whole service."

Duncan Bates *Professional Land Surveyor*

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ESTABLISHED 1988

Sergeant Pinder and his party lived frugally on fishing, deer fish, wild geese, sheep and venison. One of Wallace's duties was the daily shopping, and he went into Simon's Town cheerfully, glad of the opportunity of spending half an hour in the general store, or watching the fishermen bringing in their catch.

The intolerable thing about Simon's Town was that there was nothing to do. There was no theatre, no entertainment of any kind. If one excused the brothels - and no one dreamed of providing any other diversion for Her Majesty's Forces! Drunkenness was prevalent, despite the fact that English beer was a shilling a bottle. To get drunk necessitated going to the devil's bar for 'lucky beer', a powerful Dutch home brew.

The only person who seemed to think that the soldiers and sailors staying in Simon's Town would be better off for recreation outside the brothels and saloons was the Wesleyan minister, the Reverend William Caldecott, who was busy with plans for a Soldiers' and Sailors' Home. While this was being built - very slowly because of lack of financial support - Mr. Caldecott had established a temporary recreation room, which possessed a modest reading library. It had something in common with a temporary soldiers' mess and canteen, patterned library books and bare wooden tables.

However, the Simon's Town Wesleyan Mission House had a quality of its own, thanks to the personality of its guiding spirit. In the recreation room of a garrison town, Marion Caldecott was a phenomenon cultured and well-read. Known to the soldiers and sailors as 'Madam', Mrs Caldecott sat in her straight-backed chair and impressed Wallace with her "magnetic personality".

Simon's Town was Mr Caldecott's last circuit as army and navy chaplain. He returned to England and Mrs Caldecott and their daughters moved to Plympton.

In 1867 Edgar Wallace gave praise for his

work when the wounded from the Boer War's punitive expedition were landed at Simon's Town and the little ward for boys became an active (and overcrowded) clearing station. Some time after this, Wallace left Simon's Town for Cape Town.

Quoted from 'Edgar Wallace, A Biography' by Margaret Lane

Published by Wm. Heinemann Ltd
London, about 1938

Simon's Town Museum News

Anglo-Boer War Commemoration

The Department of Environmental and Cultural Affairs chose Simon's Town Museum as the venue for the launch of its Boer War Travelling Exhibition. The function took place on Monday 11 October 1988 (the centenary of the declaration of the war) of-

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ficiated by Minister Glen Adams with Minister Mark Wiley, His Worship the Mayor Cllr O J Jacobs and Mrs Jacobs, The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Felicity Purchase, our Ward Councillor Mrs Nicki Holderness and officials from the Department and Museum Service as honoured guests.

At the same time the Museum launched its upgraded Boer War display depicting Simon's Town's role during the war such as the Boer Prisoner of War Camps at Seaforth and later at Bellevue (now the Golf Course at Boulders), the Royal Naval Brigade, the hospital at Palace Barracks, the Town Guard, etc.. The Museum's collection of artefacts relating to the war are also exhibited.

Please come and see the display. We have always done our own displays in the Museum, but this one was professionally undertaken, at considerable expense, by Museum Technical Services. It really looks most handsome, particularly in our redecorated Gerry Read Lecture Hall.

The special Lectures relating to the commemoration have been exceedingly well attended. Unfortunately, the final lecture, "The Town Guard" on the 17 November 1999 by Professor Arthur Davey, a Vice-President of the Historical Society has had to be changed due to his recent unfortunate accident. Instead the Curator, will present an informal talk with slides on her recent research trip to St Helena Island. (See back cover for details).

False Bay Hospital Fair - 16 December 1999

Simon's Town Museum always takes two stalls at the Hospital Fair and we contribute half of our profit to the Hospital Fund. If you have any jumble you wish to dispose of please will you pass it on to us. Our Convenor is Sue Kinkad-Weekes - Telephone 786-1195 or the Museum 786-3046.

Cherry Dilley
Curator

Personal Experiences Column

Like I wrote last month, Gavin Eyre tells a fascinating story of his experiences during the Falklands conflict. So does Bill Damerell of Froggy Pond on sailing ships, but it was not told to this Simon's Town publication. Until such time as yet another "salty seadog" - but not a very busy owner - uses this column, I am therefore obliged to fill it with landlubber's drivel!

When viewing my old colour prints of the Victoria Falls above me, I feel quite sick. It was so reckless that the police apprehended me for causing a public disturbance! I would rather enlarge on my previously mentioned diner with known KGB agents. This occurred in Canberra, where I was once a guest of the Australian Government. To gain public sympathy, they feigned victimization of arson by occasionally setting fire to their Embassy's hedge. However, these fires were so isolated and small that nobody believed them. When the subject was brought up at diner, the Russians could not keep a straight face. They were just regular guys enjoying life without too much interference from Moscow.

My accidental hypnotic spell on the wife of New Zealand's ambassador happened at a party in Sydney's plush Piper suburb. Complaining of a headache, she was so entranced by my monotone advice that I had to awaken her by suggestion when snapping my fingers. Although her headache was now gone, I was careful to talk with more inflection in future.

Bevan Pank

"Fishy Tales" - 5

of this phenomena can get into serious trouble!

This column did not appear last month because my computer crashed. It is fine now, but the fish tails are off and I need to continue with the logical extension of zonation patterns. So this is more about the marine environment rather than the biology of its inhabitants - and specifically how tides work.

Many beach-scavenging animals - and humans for that matter - are caught unawares by the fact that tides rise about 50 minutes later each day. The air-breathing beach hoppers of Kommetjie cope when feeding on washed-up kelp at night, because they can reset their biological "clock". But swimmers and rock anglers without knowledge

People with small children who explore our rocky shores need to know that the best - and safest - time is at low spring tide. This occurs in the Southern Hemisphere every fortnight between 09h00 and 10h00 (as well as 21h00 and 22h00), which is when the moon is either full or new. During such periods, Earth, moon and sun are virtually in line. Their combined gravitational pull then produces extra large and small spring tides. At half moon, the sun at right angles to it and the consequently reduced pull causes a much smaller range of neap tides.

The centrifugal forces generated as Earth and the moon spin around each other also

Simon's Town Pro Musica Divina

Magic of Christmas Concert

The Simon's Town Pro Musica Divina presents a Christmas concert - "The Magic of Christmas" - at St. Francis Church (Simon's Town) on 16 December at 7 pm. The programme will be performed by an orchestra consisting of Cape Town professionals and also features a brass quintet (members of the Blue Bay Brass Ensemble). The orchestra will be conducted by Steven van der Merwe and the St Francis organ will be played by Juliet Bass.

The voice talents of Sheridan Fenchem (soprano); Andrew Jackson (tenor) and the Fish Hoek Senior High School Choir will perform Christmas music beauties such as "O Holy Night"; extracts from Bach's Christmas Cantata (Wachet Auf); "It came upon the Midnight Clear" and "What Child is this" and many more. The audience will also have a chance to clear their throats for singing heart warming carols like "O, come all ye faithful" and "Hark the herald Angels sing" accompanied by the full orchestra; choir and organ. The brass quintet will thrill music lovers with Willie Haublich arrangements of favourites such as "Jingle Bells; O Come O Come; Deck the Halls" etc. - certainly a Christmas to remember.

Tickets will be R25.00 and may be booked at Simon's Town Pharmacy or booked telephonically at 786 2133. Members of the Simon's Town Pro Musica Divina Members Club are requested to please book their free seats as soon as bookings open up to 2 weeks prior to the performance since they have preferential bookings.

Come and enjoy an evening of lovely Christmas Music and partake in this piece of magic in our magic village.

have a pulling effect, but only on that side of Earth not facing the moon. However, since Earth rotates every 24 hours, any point on its oceans passes daily beneath not one but two bulges (hence high tides) and two intervening troughs (hence low tides). The reason why they are not consistently on time is because the moon orbits Earth every 28 days. This causes it – as well as the tides – to rise one-twenty-eighth of a day (about 50 minutes) later each day.

Much of this is explained in a Tide Table available from all Engen service stations. Visiting divers and fishermen in particular, will find the brochure very useful. This is because it also lists restricted areas, catch limits and even bait collection guidelines. More important to people who are sick and tired of my fishy tales, it regretfully tells much better ones!

Bevan Pank

Simon's Town School News

The High School Prize-Giving was held on 12 October 1999. Congratulations to all 113 prize-winners for their excellent achievements. The guest of honour for the evening were His Worship the South Peninsula Mayor, Mr Jacobs and his wife, who presented the prizes. We were also honoured by the presence of our Circuit Manager of the WCED, Mr van Wyk accompanied by his wife.

The top academic achievers in each grade were:

- Grade 8 - Ampfarisaho Mulaudzi
- Grade 9 - Abigail Pearce
- Grade 10 - Lauren Matthys
- Grade 11 - Eliza Coetzee
- Grade 12 - Nicola Berry

Special Awards

Sportsman of the Year - Michael Reimers

Outstanding Extra mural Achievement

- Ryan van Graan (Soccer)

Outstanding Service to the School

- Shuroot Smith

Highest Award Dux Trophy- for Loyalty, integrity, leadership, academic excellence and outstanding service to the School.

Roxanne Adinarayan

The new Student Leaders for the year 2000 were also announced at the prize-giving. They are Eugene Valentyne, Patrick Pretorius, Nathan Jonkers, Ryan Crouch, Alain Windvogel, Zolile Stamper, Kim Sorsa, Melissa Welthagen, Monique Titus, Noleen Yorke and Tarsha van Wyk. Leighsel Coetzee has been appointed Head Student Leader, with Eliza Coetzee and Rudi-Dan Fisher as her deputies. Congratulations to them all.

All through the year, various grade 7 learners were given the opportunity to act as Junior Leaders. As of the fourth term, nine of those learners were chosen as the Junior Leaders for 1999. They are Timothy Lombard, John Bussio, Octavia Ndzandza, Nicole Erasmus, Lauren Mentor, Wesley Jacobs, Gareth Baatjes, Bronwyn Weitz and Bianca Narainsamy.



Self Defence Classes

I was one of twenty-two very fortunate women who availed themselves of the opportunity to join a self-defence class organised by Inspector Store of the SA Police.

We were patiently and thoroughly tutored by George and Cassie, who spent five, two-hour sessions making sure that we mastered each movement before progressing to the next stage.

We may not be experts on the subject, but we were made more aware of the dangers facing us, and aware of options which we can use to protect ourselves in certain instances.

George and Cassie were outstanding in their handling of a very diverse group of women.

They never made anyone feel inadequate or incompetent, and handled our inexperience good-naturedly and with humour.

I am most grateful to all concerned for the effort they put into arranging and organising the course for us.

Rona Crow

For more information about these Self Defence classes contact Inspector Store at the Simon's Town Police on 786-2118 during office hours.

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Coffee Culture - The Enfeebling Liquor

While coffeehouses served as the early social clubs of the time, the drink itself has seemingly galvanized drinkers to develop and act upon their own convictions. It was, for instance, from the Café Foy in 1789 that Camille Desmoulins led the mob, that two days later, brought down the Bastille. It was in a Boston coffeehouse in 1773 that citizens planned the Boston Tea Party. And it was from a New York coffeehouse during the dawn of the American revolution that citizens convened a mass meeting in response to the battles at Lexington and Concord. It has been stated, "One of the most interesting facts in the history of the coffee drink, is that wherever it has been introduced it has spelled revolution. It has been the world's most radical drink in that it's function has always been to make people think. And when people began to think, they became dangerous to tyrants and to foes of liberty of thought and action."

It is not surprising then that Monarchs to Popes spoke out against coffee. Even taverns and physicians, fearing a loss of business denounced coffee. In 1679 the French physician Colomb argued.

"We note with horror that this beverage, thanks to the qualities that have been incautiously ascribed to it, has tendered almost completely to disaccustom people from the enjoyment of wine - although any candid observer must admit that neither in respect of taste or smell, not yet colour, nor yet of any of its essential characteristics, is it worthy to be named in the same breath with fermented liquor, with wine! ... and why? Because the Arabs had described it as excellent. They had done so because it was one of their own national products, and also because its use had been disclosed to men by goats, by camels or God knows what beasts! ... The burned particles, which it contains in large quantities, have so violent an energy that, when they enter the blood, they attract the lymph and dry the kidneys. Furthermore, they are dangerous to the brain, for after having dried up

the cerebrospinal fluid and the convolutions, they open the pores of the body, with the results that the somniferous animal forces are overcome. In this way the ashes contained in coffee produce such obstinate wakefulness that the nervous juices are dried up; ... the upshot being general exhaustion, paralysis, and impotence ... For these reasons, we have to infer that the drinking and use of coffee would be injurious to the inhabitants of Marseilles."

In another example, in Prussia and Hanover coffee met with opposition for economic reasons. Noting the huge amounts of money flowing to foreign coffee merchants, Frederick the Great became increasingly critical of coffee, and in 1777, issued a Coffee and Beer Manifesto, declaring:

"It is disgusting to notice the increase in the quantity of coffee used by my subjects, and

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Contact Ian Forbes

the amount of money that goes out of the country in consequence. Everybody is using coffee. If possible, this must be prevented. My people must drink beer. His Majesty was brought up on beer, and so were his ancestors, and his officers. Many battles have been fought and won by soldiers nourished on beer; and the King does not believe that coffee-drinking soldiers can be depended upon to endure hardship or to beat his enemies in case of the occurrence of another war."

In 1784 another manifesto to ban coffee drinking among the lower classes was issued in Cologne, allowing it only to classes that could afford to buy it in huge quantities - in effect making it available only to the wealthy:

"To our great displeasure we have learned that in our Duchy of Westphalia the misuse of the coffee beverage has become so extended that to counteract the evil we command that ... no one shall sell coffee roasted under a fine of one hundred dollars, or two years in

prison for each offence.

Every coffee-roasting and coffee-serving place shall be closed and dealers and hotel-keepers are to get rid of their coffee supplies in four weeks. It is only permitted to obtain from the outside coffee for one's own consumption in lots of fifty pounds. House fathers and mothers shall not allow their work people, especially their washing and ironing women, to prepare coffee, or to allow it in any manner under a penalty of one hundred dollars ... To the one who reports such persons as act contrary to this decree shall be granted one-half of the said money fine with absolute silence as to his name."

As in a number of other countries, coffee was already firmly entrenched in German habits, and managed to survive the various taxation's prohibitions, and general suppression exercised against its use. Today, in fact, Germany remains the largest coffee consumer in Europe.

Malcolm Clark

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The Night Sky - November 1999

Every year in November the Earth crosses the orbit of the Comet Tuttle, and its debris lights up the night sky in the form of a meteor shower, known as the Leonids. This occurs between the 14th and 20th of November. Interested viewers may see the meteor from midnight on these dates; but the shower occurs usually between 3 and 4am when most people are asleep. In 1966 it was recorded in some places that there were 150,000 meteors per hour, but due to the time, few people saw them. Usually there is a heavy shower every 33 years, so we expect one this year either on the 16th, 17th or 18th November between 2am and sunrise. The latest predictions are that the shower will be at the maximum at 3am on the 18th. The meteor shower may be photographed using a standard camera with ASA 100 to 500 film. The camera must be mounted on a tripod in an area not polluted with street lights. The shutter may be kept open for 15 minutes at a time. The meteors as well as the star trails will then both be visible. Meteors may be heard on Long Wave radio.

The Taurid meteors may be seen during the whole month of November. They are visible from 9:30pm until 3:30 am and are frequently coloured. The dominant colour is yellow, but red, green, orange and blue meteors are also seen. They are slow moving as they enter the Earth's atmosphere at 28 km per second, and originate as particles of the Periodic Comet Encke.

The planets, Mercury, the innermost planet crosses the face of the Sun on Monday the 15th of November. Unfortunately this will not be visible here, but only in the Pacific Basin between Japan, Borneo, Australia and North and South America. However, a transit of Mercury was observed in Simon's Town at 7:30am on the 12th November 1986. The planet Mercury was seen as a small black dot that passed horizontally across the lower third of the Sun's disc in silhouette. It took about 40 minutes. The next transit of Mercury will be on the 7th of May 2003, and may

be visible here. Transits can only occur for the inner planets Mercury and Venus. On the 7th of June 2004 there will be a transit of Venus, the last one was in 1882. Earlier transits of Mercury and Venus were used to calculate both the size of the Sun and its distance from Earth. A transit was the reason for Captain Cook's voyage to Tahiti.

Mercury is visible low in the west in the early evening. Magnitude +1.5 - 0.6. Venus is very bright in the early morning sky during November. Mars is a Magnitude +0.9 and is visible in the south west at dusk as it moves from Sagittarius to Capricorn. On the 13th it is 3° South of the Moon.

Jupiter is very bright, in Pisces and Magnitude -2.9. Jupiter is an interesting sight with its moons, using both binoculars or a telescope.

How many moons have you seen? 4, 5 or 16.

Saturn is also bright, with its rings opened at 20°. It will continue to brighten as it comes closer over the next few years. Saturn is on the Pisces-Aries border, taking 29.5 years to complete an orbit around the Sun.

Uranus is visible using binoculars. It may be found in Capricorn. Its period of rotation around the Sun is 84 years. Neptune is not visible unless a telescope is used. It is in Capricorn. Pluto is lost in the Sun's glare this month.

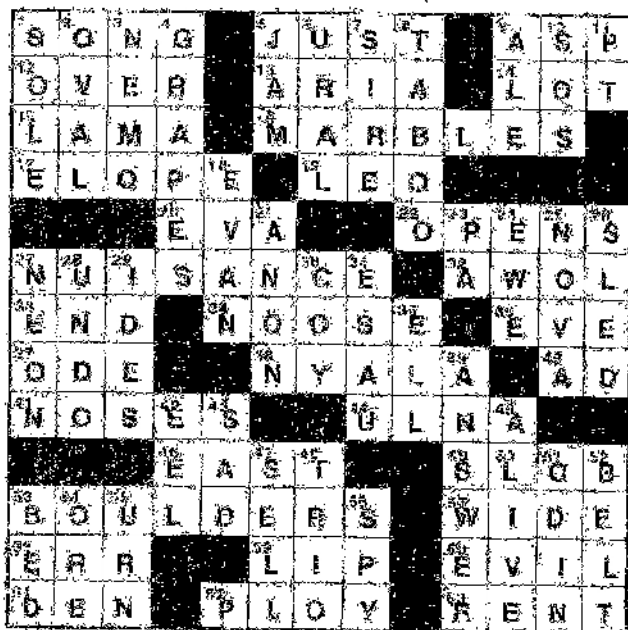
The Moon. The New Moon is on the 8th, First Quarter 16th, Full Moon 23rd, Last Quarter 30th.

The Sun continues to come closer to the Earth this month. On the 1st its distance was 0.993 au., but on the 30th it will be 0.986 au. Comets. At present Comet Temple has been seen just after sunset in Sagittarius. Comet Macholz may be seen on the north side of Cancer using a telescope.

Peter I. van Blommestein

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Congratulations to Mrs S. C. Kruger for winning our last Crossword Puzzle (No. 1). Hope you enjoy your prize from Café Pescado.

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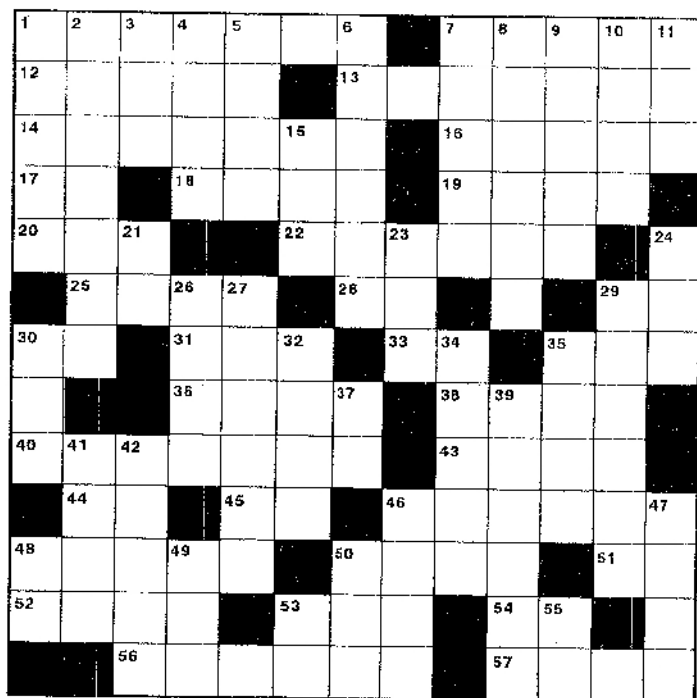
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NB. For your convenience, subscriptions can be handed in at St. George's Jewellers, 122 St George's Street, Simon's Town, in a sealed envelope addressed to our Association.

CROSSWORD

PUZZLE 2



Across:

1. Rest or relief
7. Pursue
12. Establish Principle
13. American City
14. Species of local penguin
16. Change
17. Morning
18. Send out
19. Spill over edge
20. Kept secret
22. _____ Mandela
25. "Captain" of the Ark
28. Royal Engineers (abbr)
29. Compact Disc (abbr)
30. Doh; ray; _____
31. Colour
33. Alcoholics Anonymous
35. Owned
36. To a position
38. Person or item close at hand
40. A many-sided figure
43. Scotsman

44. Perform
45. Royal Navy (abbr)
46. Oil Carrier
48. _____ Ford
50. Centre
51. Required position
52. Therefore
53. Vehicle
54. South Africa (abbr)
56. Make smooth
57. Russian Emperor

Down:

1. Indian prince
2. Look at closely
3. Thus used
4. Bag
5. Muslim leader of prayers
6. Holy christian Festival
7. Of high quality
8. Call to the hounds
9. _____ Rupert
10. Very short distance

11. Aural organ
15. Transgress
21. Perform
23. Meadow
24. Increase
26. Nautical term
27. Need sustenance
29. U.S. Coffin
30. Diagram of a route
32. English school / college
34. Hot relish
35. Country bumpkin
37. Supported by
39. Sincere
41. "smelly" European river
42. Years
46. Ripped
47. Lion's cry
48. Male pronoun
49. Legendary giant bird
50. Head apparel
53. Chartered Accountant (abbr)
55. Symbol for Arsenic

PRIZE: R100 voucher valid at Café Pescado

Name: Tel. No:

- Entries in plain envelope addressed to Snoektown Calling Crossword Puzzle and delivered to Simon's Town Bottle Store before Friday 26 November.
- First correct entry drawn will be the prize winner.
- Result and solution in the following issue of Snoektown Calling.

Forthcoming Events November / December

1. SIMON'S TOWN MUSEUM

Telephone: 786 3046

Wed 17 Nov - Due to Prof Arthur Davey's accident, the advertised lecture has been cancelled.

Instead on Wed 17 Nov will be:

"A WEEK WITH THE SAINTS"

An informal talk with slides by Cherry Dilley on her recent trip on the RMS St Helena to St Helena Island.

Thurs 16 Dec

FALSE BAY HOSPITAL

FUND-RAISING FAIR

The Museum will be having its usual "Jumble Stall" at the False Bay Hospital Fair.

We appeal to you to once again let us have your jumble, except for books, magazines or records. This is a community project and your contributions will help both the hospital and the Museum.

2. THE MASONIC CLUB

Tel: 786 3827, 782 3917

SUNDOWNERS every Sunday from 5.30 pm

Fri 26 Nov - XMAS HAMPER DRAW

Sun 5 Dec - CHRISTMAS LUNCH

12.30 for 1 pm. Booking essential

Sat 11 Dec - R1000 DRAW

Cheese and Wine

R10 per ticket entry to Draw.

3. ANCHOR PLAYERS

Will be presenting another edition of the popular Sounds Eclectic Show -

"SOUNDS ECLECTIC 11"

A variety of words and music.

Thurs, Fri Sat 16-18 Dec

Week nights 8 pm

Sat 6.30pm at Simonsberg Theatre

Booking: 786 2436/786 5798

4. MILLENNIUM CELEBRATION!!!

JUBILEE SQUARE

Fri 31 Dec 7 pm to 2000 onwards!

Dancing * Food Stalls * Bars * Pipers * Security *

Count Down to the NEW MILLENNIUM

Tickets will be available from mid-November at Simon's Town Tourism and Simon's Town Museum. Price R30 (See further details in PENINSULA TOURISM COLUMN)

Tel: 786 2436 / 786 5798

5. FRIENDS OF SIMON'S TOWN COASTLINE

Enq: 786 3890

Fri 12 Nov

SOUP, CHEESE & WINE at the Yacht Club R40 per person.

Jeremy Croudace, a professional photographer who has received national recognition for alien plant clearance on Red Hill, will present a slide show on fynbos flowers and alien plants.

Enquiries: SHARON 786 1072

ELAINE 786 3562

YVONNE 712 9997

Thurs 18 Nov 7.30 pm

Simon's Town Town Hall

A talk with slides by Ms Pavitray Pillay of the Marine Biology section, University of Cape Town

Note: This talk was previously advertised for Wednesday 17 Nov

Sat 20 Nov at 9.30am

ALIEN VEGETATION HACK

Venue: Fisherman's Beach, Simon's Town

Sat 18 Dec at 9.30 am

WALK to study coastal fynbos led by Peter Salter.

Venue: Boulders Parking Area

6. PENSIONER'S FREE MONTHLY SHOPPING 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.

Deadline for December edition:

Thursday 26 November

Publication date: Monday 6 December

Contact Pat Lochhead, Tel 786 2436

Peninsula Tourism - Simon's Town

(Simon's Town Publicity Association)