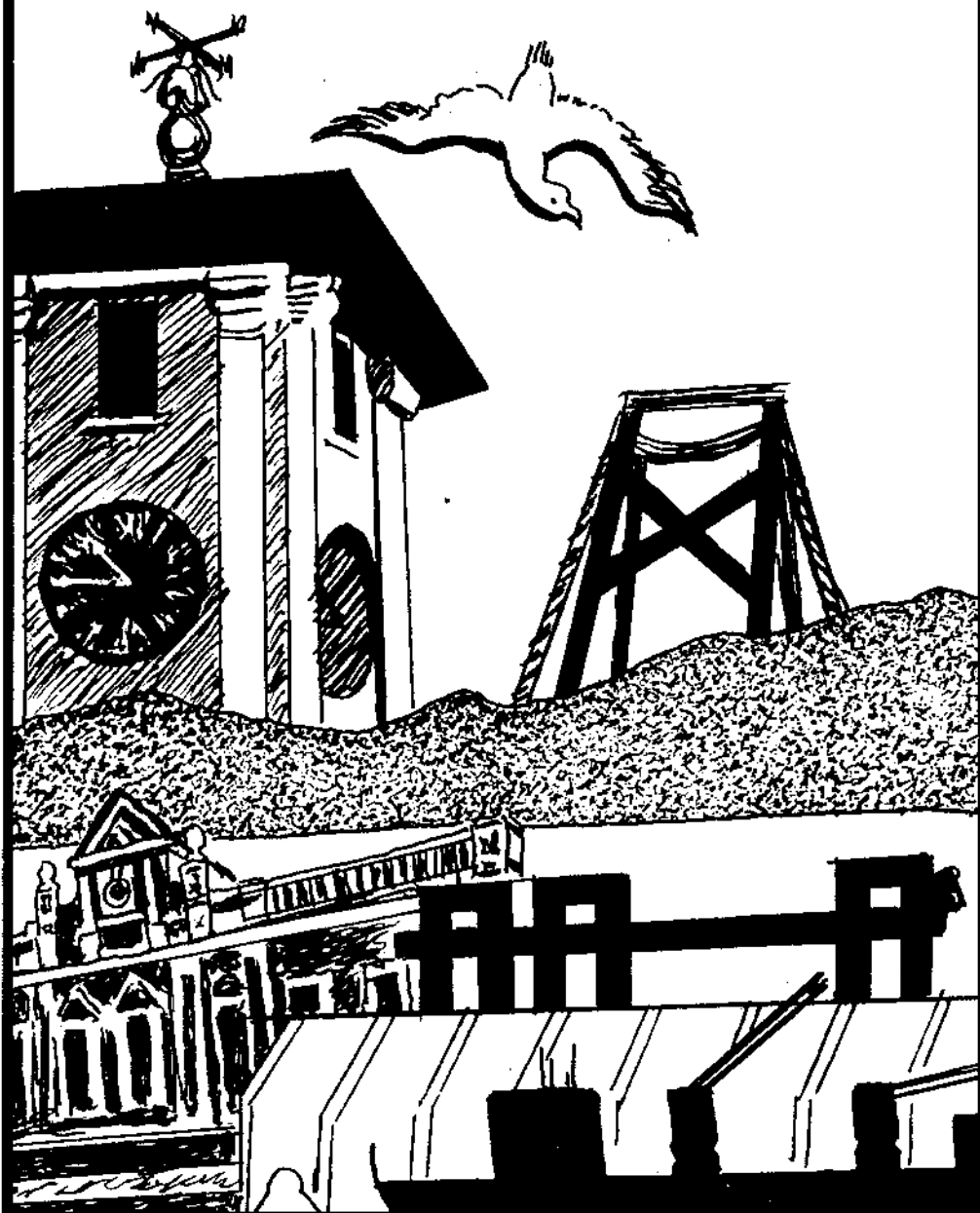


SNOEKTOWN CALLING

Vol 3 Issue 1

8 MAY 2000



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Editorial

So the controversy about the Castoro Otto and its generator noise rages on without a meaningful solution in sight. I shall not exacerbate the frustration through further comment, other than to emphasise my own conclusion, expressed in the March issue of Snoektown Calling, namely: the relevant Minister or Ministers must issue a clear and unambiguous statement which sets out the parameters under which the Naval Dockyard will operate in general, and in particular the limitations as regards emission of noise, dust etc. So, **let the minister speak.**

Furthermore, I have requested the SA Navy to describe the Re-equipping Programme in relation to the Dockyard activity; this statement appears in this issue,

under the heading "News from Simon's Town Naval Base".

Now, an important cultural event in Simon's Town: The Simon's Town School Gala Music Concert and Dinner on **20 May**; an event to raise funds for the Hotel-Keeping and Catering school. Your enthusiastic support is necessary to keep the school going. Further details are given elsewhere in this issue.

An accolade to the False Bay Echo for the brilliant "spoof" story on the transfer of the SA Submarine base to Kalk Bay.

Reg Loxton
Editor
786-1750



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Down the Historical Mile

Stoffel Terrabiancho came to the April meeting of SLAP with an article of local newspapers. Mr Chairman, he said, there is trouble brewing in the town; serious trouble. Mr Chairman, and I can tell you now there will be fighting and blood will flow. Clara Hincosah suggested she had better check her first aid box and Schultz had better see to his Lager. One never knows what may happen when people get worked up.

Stoffel explained that there was this group called STOP who wanted the Eastern Out, that great ship the Green barge, to go away because it made a noise and in any case it was ugly. The other side said No, the barge can stay because it pays rent and wears ears about the noise anyway. Also, ugliness is in the eye of the beholder.

Then there followed a debate about the meaning of STOP. Stoffel maintained STOP meant nothing; all they wanted was to stop the noise. Harold Hardkopp argued: notice - STOP stands for Simon's Town Opposition Party, a new radical organisation that strongly opposes anything in the Dockyard that makes noise, makes smoke or dirt and doesn't look lekker.

This group really gets worked up, remarked Piet Nompoko, as he scanned through the letters and articles brought by Stoffel. There was only one solution, said Clara: they will have to fight it out on Jubilee Square. She won't be the referee and no weapons, especially bludgeons - only sticks not longer than two metres, and Schultz would be standing by in case of unfair play.

So SLAP recommended accordingly.

The Chairman concluded: let this matter now be settled and thereafter let peace be the town be blessed. Anyway, what is upon us and there are more important things to worry about.

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Ward Councillor's Report

1. Bed & Breakfast / Accommodation Establishments

In terms of current regulations anyone who lives in an area zoned Single Residential is required to apply for a departure or for rezoning to run any form of accommodation establishment. The Land Use Inspector is the official who will check whether there are infringements of the regulations. Current reports in the media make it clear that the general public feel very strongly on this issue. Unfortunately policing these infringements is time-consuming, costly and frustrating. Nevertheless it must be done.

The life of a departure, unless otherwise specified is five years and if permission was previously given you will have to re-apply.

2. Dido Valley Development

I have been advised that the Department of Finance has finally authorised transfer of the State land in this area to the SPM for the

purposes of developing affordable housing on the basis of cross-subsidisation. In other words investigation can start for the kind of development which would generate funds for the provision of housing over and above that which the Department of Housing can provide.

There is still considerable red tape to plough through in this connection and the planning and rezoning requirements will ensure considerable opportunity for public participation and comment. This is essential to ensure development which while assisting new entrants to the property market is appropriate to Simon's Town.

3. Land Restitution

This appears to have stalled while Central Government rethinks the whole process. Unfortunately expectations and hopes were tragically raised but the economic realities have forced reassessment. I raise this now

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since it does seem that Central Government is reviewing the potential release of its properties in Simon's Town for land restitution.

4. Ward Demarcation for the Unicity

The proposals for the new wards have been released. Simon's Town is shown as part of a ward which includes the hillside of Fish Hoek, up to Kommetjie Road and Ocean View. The rest of Fish Hoek is included in a ward which encompasses Masiphumelele, Noordhoek, a small part of Kalk Bay, Tokai and a section of Constantia. What a senseless mess; it does not take into account geographic and physical realities or communities. The Demarcation Board chairman has stated, rather defensively, that these are initial proposals and that there will be opportunities for public comment and input.

Since it has been announced that the unicity will have 200 councillors, half of these ward councillors, it appears that the current SPM area will have about 13 wards, i.e. 26 councillors. The current municipal ad-

ministrative structures will obviously continue for some time. Since there will be fewer councillors and considerably bigger wards it follows that more and more decision-making will be delegated to committees and to officials. It is in the context of community input and participation that the size and shape of wards needs to be assessed. The considerable frustration that residents currently express about their interaction with their local authority is a mere shadow of what is to come.

5. At my next ward report back on 11 May I shall be discussing municipal finances, rating and valuation processes. This is a subject that is of critical importance to us all. If you have questions on these matters please do attend. Meetings are held in the old municipal office at 19:30 in the ward committee room.

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



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We wish to inform all our customers that the restaurant will be closed for the annual staff vacation and renovations to the building during the period 29 May to 18 June 2000.

Thank you for your loyal and valued support during the last year. We undertake to keep and maintain the same standard of service on our return on 19 June 2000.

Simon's Town Ratepayers' and Residents' Association

PROPERTY WATCH No 21

May 2000

1. CURRENT APPLICATIONS.

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

1.1. Application to Subdivide Erf 1210, Simon's Town: This is a single residential zoned property with road frontages on both Forest Hill Road and Runciman Drive. Details may be obtained from the SPM's Land Use Department in Plumstead by telephoning 710 8000. No changes have taken place since the report in last month's issue.

1.2. Application to Subdivide Erf 1422, Simon's Town: This is a single residential zoned property with road frontages on both Klein Tuin Road and Gay Road. Details may be obtained from the SPM's Land Use Department in Plumstead by telephoning 710 8000. No changes have taken place since the report in last month's issue.

1.3. Erven 2472 and 2473 Simon's Town (off Colton Road): Application for rezoning (to build a private road), subdivision (into six erven) and departures (in respect of building lines). Comments and/or objections must be submitted to the SPM's Land Use Department by no later than **19 May 2000**. Details are available at the Fish Hoek public library.

1.4. Erf 60, Simon's Town (Glencairn): Land Use departure application on behalf of the Waldorf Schools. Apparently a number of objections were submitted. These will be included in the report being prepared for the Urban and Environmental Service Committee for the June meeting.

1.5. Erf 2930, Simon's Town (Erica Road, Murdock Valley): Proposed Alienation or Lease of portion of this municipal land. The Property Manager's decision is still awaited.

1.6. Erf 2298, Simon's Town - Boulders Beach Guest House: Application to rezone from General Residential to Business. The applicants have lodged an appeal against the Urban and Environmental Services Committee's recent refusal to approve the rezon-

ing application. No doubt all those who objected to the application will receive letters from the SPM advising them of this appeal. This letter also invites anyone wishing to comment on the appeal to do so within 30 days of the registration of the letter. The letter was dated 20 April 2000 so anyone wishing to comment should ensure that their letter is submitted before Saturday, 20 May 2000. Apparently action has been taken by the SPM to stop the illegal usage of the property in terms of the current zoning of the property.

1.7. Erf 267, Glencairn: Application for a 2nd dwelling. The closing date for objections is 11 April 2000. There have been some objections and a report will be prepared for the Urban and Environmental Service Committee for the June meeting.

2. OTHER PROPERTY MATTERS

2.1. Albertyn's Cottage: Tenders for the lease of this building were submitted on 3

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Judith and Anna Guillet.

March 2000. The Executive Committee of SPM considered these on 11 April 2000 and resolved that the tender be awarded to the highest tenderer whose offer was to develop a sculpture garden with a small sculpture gallery, art supply shop and art information centre, including a studio where sculpting will be taught.

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

Simon's Town Business Association

Corrigenda

Notice of the first Annual General Meeting of the Association was previously incorrectly reflected. Kindly note that the correct date will be **22 May** at 18:15 in the Simon's Town Museum.

Amendment of the Constitution

Notice is given that the committee wishes clause 3.3 of the Constitution to be amended to read as follows:

"The annual subscription of the Association payable by members shall be the amount recommended by the executive committee and resolved at the Annual General Meeting each year. Subscriptions are due and payable in advance on **1 May** of each year.

Refuse Collection

Due to the fact that the South Peninsula is imposing an exceptionally high levy on businesses for daily refuse removal with effect from **1 June**, the Executive Committee has decided to call on private enterprise to undertake the task within Simon's Town CBD and Glencairn. The Committee sees it as an ideal opportunity for someone with initiative and drive and suitable transport to start a Refuse Removal Business at a competitive rate to the Municipal Dump at Strandfontein. Please contact Andre Duraan on 786-1918 OR Heather Lunderstedt on 786-2120 (a/h) before **19 May**.

Andre Duraan
President

Snoektown Calling Supporters Club

1. Individuals

Mrs Rees-Williams	R200.00
Max Hales	R150.00
Mr & Mrs Ted Dicey	R200.00
Prof. GM Berger	R200.00
Anonymous (AG)	R500.00
Don Adendorff	R200.00
FT Gottgens	R500.00

2. Associations

False Bay Yacht Club	R300.00
ST Ratepayers': March & April	R600.00

3. Corporate

NIL

Cheques should be made out to Snoektown Calling and handed in at the Simon's Town Bottle Store, or post to 2 Chapel Road, Simon's Town, 7975. Please do not make donations via the Ratepayers' Association - this only creates confusion.



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Chairman's Report

Andrew Duncan, is still away on vacation, so the Chairman's Report has fallen onto my shoulders, once again, this month. You will, no doubt, have seen the last Chairman's Report which was independently distributed to our ratepayers and residents thanks to the generous sponsorship of one of our members. Our sponsor wishes to remain private, so I will only say that this Association is sincerely grateful for the spontaneous generosity displayed to ensure that our voices could be heard.

Arising from that separate distribution of the Chairman's Report, I am pleased to be able to report that there has been a very positive development which has people talking to each other and trying to find solutions instead of taking positions which serve only to emphasize the divisions in our community. If our standpoint has done nothing else than serve as a calming salve on a very inflamed point of contention, then we are well satisfied. We can proudly say we helped to find the path which may lead to an accept-

able resolution of a very unhappy situation. Following the extremely well attended and successful general meeting of townfolk on 28 February 2000, a follow-up meeting was held on 4 April. I am grateful to Wilf Nussey for the following synopsis of what happened at that meeting: "The general meeting held on April 4 in the assembly hall of the Simon's Town School was poorly attended in spite of being publicised well in advance and members' enthusiasm that it should be held. The general meeting on February 28, you will remember, was a very successful workshop session which clearly identified the things that most worried Simon's Town residents and produced some ideas about tackling them. It was decided then that a report-back meeting analysing these should be held a month or so later. But only some 28 people turned up on April 4, maybe because of the inclement weather. However, it was NOT a failure. Under the guidance of Sharon Bosma, who organised the first workshop, those present split into four

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groups to discuss three areas of concern condensed from the many suggestions at the February 28 meeting: Environment, Services and Communication with (SPM) officials. About half those present did not wish to join breakaway groups, and elected to discuss whether there was any point to these workshops, and what alternatives there are to the Simon's Town Ratepayers' and Residents' Association, such as working through our local councillor. This group's conclusions are listed as Group 4: Alternative means. Local councillor Nicki Holderness remained with that group. A number of common issues emerged from all four and priorities for action by the STRRA committee were set, among them: better collaboration between us and our ward Councillor, better communication all round and preparation for the coming of the megacity/Unicity - in addition to the hardy perennials like traffic problems, inadequate waste removal and the like. Once the committee has taken on these tasks it will report back to you in more detail."

Communication is essential to ensure that

people with differing opinions and disparate ideas are heard and listen to each other. This Association will continue to promote the necessity for open and transparent discussion as a means to identifying and solving the problems we encounter in the greater Simon's Town area. We welcome any comments about what we are or are not doing for our constituents, so please strengthen the Association by joining us. We are heading for the Unicity, which inevitably means that our small voices will become smaller and less heard. We are already talking with Glencairn Civic Association about amalgamating our two Associations to increase our impact on local affairs and with a view to forming a more powerful and effective body to take care of the community's interests. We do need local support and we do need more members to ensure that we increase our relevance in local affairs. It is in your own interests to join us and make your voices heard.

Bruce Parker

**Vice Chairman : Simon's Town
Ratepayers' and Residents' Association**



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Crime Watch - Simon's Town SAPS

Crime statistics : 1 - 25 April

Burglary (Res)	5
Theft out of M/V	2
Theft of M/V	1

Arrests

Drunk	12
Sea Fisheries	11
Warrant of arrest	2
Theft	2
Trespassing	5
Malicious injury to property	1
Drunken Driving	1

Burglary (Res)

2 incidents occurred during the daytime, 1 over a period of 5 days, 1 over a period of 3 days and 1 on a Thursday night. The most frequent methods of entry used is to force a door open.

Theft out of M/V

1 occurred on a Sunday night and the other during the day. The target is normally parking areas and remote parking spots where people leave their vehicles unattended for longer periods of time, so try and lock your vehicle away, and if you have to park it outside, remove any valuables that might be visible.

Theft of M/V

There was only 1 theft of a M/V reported which occurred in Misty Cliffs on a Friday during the daytime between 16:00 and 17:00 and a VW Golf was taken.

We call on the community to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to your local police service. ***Together we can make a difference.***

Sgt A van Eyssen

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April has been a month of unexpected contrasts – the number of visitors to the Information Bureau dropped after the March school holidays and Navy Week, but soared again at Easter and the National day long weekend. The demand for holiday accommodation was quite heavy. Most of the visitors were South African and British families wanting self-catering flats, cottages etc. During this month, we welcomed two new members – “The Ark” (two elegant cottages set in a very special garden) and “The Light-house” a home (with four bedrooms) which will offer spacious accommodation for visiting families. Both of these places are in the Seaforth/ Boulders area and not surprisingly have wonderful sea views. In addition, sincere thanks are due to two local members for providing accommodation at very reasonable rates to distressed Zimbabwean families who have recently left their farms.

I recently attended the Open Day at the Happy Valley Home, where Mrs Cindy Dollery, Mr. Snyman and their staff are doing a remarkable job in operating a well-run shelter for approximately 60 homeless men and women and their children. The neat clothing store and the creche run by a dedicated teacher for about 10 children were particularly impressive. Mr. Snyman said that there is a constant need for extra beds and that donations of unwanted items would be appreciated.

We were delighted to welcome Brian Taylor from Plymouth, U.K. to the Bureau. He has recently completed a Masters thesis in Tourism and is interested in promoting Simon's Town as a tourist destination in his home area. Brian will be releasing more information about his plans as soon as possible. South Peninsula Tourism offices have been advertising the Surf 'n Turf Festival held between 21st April – 1st May. A wide variety of events were held throughout the area from Constantia to Simon's Town including Hout Bay.

Simon's Town concentrated on events aimed at children – the most successful scheme was the “Passport to the South Peninsula” at R5 for children aged 13 and under. Discount coupons were offered at 14 different venues. Among those participating were the Warrior Toy Museum, Boulders National Park, “The Spirit of Just Nuisance” boat, Mineral World and the Simon's Town Museum. Spier Wine Estate also offered a discount on their Vintage Steam Train of the 30th April. Attendance at the venues varied greatly and it is hoped that this project can be further developed and improved in the future. Grateful thanks to all participants for their generous discounts.

Sadly the Mini-Gladiator Festival was marred by the south-easter and was not well-attended. This was most disappointing as there were two very worthwhile attractions. Patrick and Dee Brimelow have two Giant



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Simon's Town

Slides in addition to their popular Mini-Gladiator unit – these are available for fetes and special community events. The other excellent participant was the Cart Horse Protection Association which offered pony rides. It was hard to believe that the three well-groomed, healthy-looking ponies were once the victims of ill-treatment. They can be hired for parties and special events and the proceeds go to this outstanding animal charity. Our grateful thanks to Dee and Patrick and their staff, Nigel and Fagriya of the Cart Horse Protection Association and Mr de Waal, parents and staff of Simon's Town School.

We are still waiting most impatiently to hear when the E-TV children's film on Simon's Town will be screened. All participants will be contacted when the date is finally known.

In conclusion, the arrival of the visiting German Naval ships is eagerly awaited. Life is never dull in Simon's Town.

*Best wishes,
Sue Sturman*

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Simon's Town Museum News

It is at this time of the year that we prepare our Annual Report for submission to the Department of Environmental and Cultural Affairs together with the Application for our annual Subsidy.

For those in the Community who are interested, I have extracted from the Report a few items of interest. If you would like to receive a copy of the Annual Report, please feel free to telephone the Museum on 7863046 and we will gladly post you one.

Financial Matters.

The Museum's Income for the year amounted to R75 276 with the expenses totalling R66 661. Our main income is derived from the Entrance Donations plus Schools and Groups (R35 715,00). We were most fortunate to be awarded the higher Provincial Subsidy of R22 700,00 last year, for which we were most grateful, together with R1 400,00 from South Peninsula Municipality. The one-third share of Historical Society subscriptions amounted to R3 657,00.

The Friends of the Museum Development Fund generated R30 327,00, which, among other projects, enabled the Museum to acquire a new computer, an additional monitor for the Early History Room and to upgrade the Anglo-Boer War display for the centenary commemoration. Congratulations to the staff, volunteers and Friends for their contributions to the Development Fund.

Education - Education continues to play a most important role in the Museum's activities. 127 Schools comprising 9 750 learners visited the Museum in 1999, with the record number of 1 940 children in May alone.

Without the dedicated assistance of Irene Toerien, who does the Whale and Penguin Lectures, and the Custodian, Ron Priefert who handled the downstairs area, as well as our volunteers, Len van Oudtshoorn, Len Sweet and Hans de Blocq, it would be impossible for the staff to cope with the

Edutrain groups every Monday and Tuesday morning, and we are exceedingly grateful to them all.

Objectives for 2000/2001

1. Continued service to all visitors to the Museum.
2. Transformation of all applicable displays in the Museum to ensure representation of the whole community of Simon's Town.
3. Completion of the following displays :
 Project Phoenix Phase II
 Fishing and Whaling
 Trade and Industries including the Blacksmiths, Mineral World and Marine Oil.
4. Completion of the following research Projects :
 St Heleenians who came to Simon's Town with the Royal Navy and earlier, settled in the Town and were subsequently removed under the Group Areas Act of 1967
5. A documentary video on the life of Able Seaman Just Nuisance.

Volunteers.

The names of our 34 volunteers are listed in the Annual Report and we would like to extend our ever-grateful thanks to each and every one of them for the assistance they render to the Museum and to the staff.

Visitor Totals for 1999:

TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS	31 263
Foreign Visitors	7 202
73 Adult Groups	1 045
127 School Groups	9 750

Cherry Dilley, Museum Head

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13 Brand Street



242 Queens Road



159 McFarlane Road



4,6 & 8
Cockburn Close



20b Gay Road



7 Brunswick Street

Can we do the same for you?

Simon's Town School Gala Concert

Planning of this event is in the final stage, and all four burners are cooking! For the sake of convenience I will repeat the vital statistics:

Venue: School Assembly Hall - entrance to car park via Belmont Road (the side entrance)

Date: Saturday, 20 May

Booking: School Office

Tel. 786-1056

Fax. 786-1065

Tickets: Concert and Dinner: R150 per seat
Concert only: R30 per seat)

Special dinner

Seating for some 78 persons has been arranged. The dinner will follow after the concert, say 20:30 or so. Bar service will be available. Negotiations are in progress for credit card facility, but not yet finalised - so just to be sure, **bring your cheque book**.
Dress; jacket and tie; black tie for the brave.

As an additional fund-raising effort an *auktion* of a selection of vintage wines and spirits will be held. If you have a donation to offer for the auction, please contact Reg Loxton on 786-1750.

Provisional Programme to include:

1. String chamber orchestra: Air on a G String - JS Bach.
2. Variations on a theme by Richard Burich composed by F Kuit.
3. Choir and Orchestra
"Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring" JS Bach.
"Rhythm of Life" Lyrics by D Fields.
4. Individual piano items featuring pupils playing numbers out of the jazz mainstream tradition.
5. Acapella vocal quartet singing "Kaapse liedjies".
6. Jazz piano trio featuring pupils playing mainstream and original compositions.
7. Guitar ensembles playing 3 or 4 items

(still to be decided about whether to include the guitar group).

Also under consideration is works by:
Barber; Haydn; Boccherini; Bach Suite.

Provisional Menu:

Starters

Cream of Butternut Soup

OR

Seafood Cocktail

Main Course

Chicken Cordon Bleu

OR

Beef Medallions a la Madagascar
both served with turned potatoes and
seasonal vegetables.

Dessert

Pears in red wine served
with Cognac Cream

Cheese Board and Salads on the table.



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Simon's Town Public Library : The Way Ahead

Since its inception in April 1996 the organisation known as the Friends of Simon's Town Public Library has been accumulating funds to assist with the provision and maintenance of a library service for the benefit of the residents of Simon's Town, Glencairn and the surrounding area. Although ours is one of the smallest libraries in the SPM Area, it is one of the busiest.

To date we have accumulated approximately R 35 000, mostly from book and produce sales, which are always well supported by members of the community. Small amounts have been spent on enhancements to the library service but the bulk remains, in an interest bearing account, available for major projects compatible with the aims of the "Friends."

One of the stated aims of the Friends of Simon's Town Public Library is to assist the Librarian to maintain an appropriate level of

service to the community. There has been talk recently of relocating the Library and, with this in mind, the "Friends" committee has decided to be pro-active and petition the South Peninsula Municipality for permission to take over the two storey building which previously housed the Simon's Town Municipal Offices, for use as a Public Library, and for the existing library building to be allocated for use by all the local interest groups as a cultural centre in which meetings, functions and exhibitions could be held.

The "Friends" committee is of the opinion that the move to the larger building would be advantageous as it would allow the Librarian to have an office, affording the privacy appropriate to her position as a supervisor and administrator. In addition, rooms could also be made available for study and Internet access purposes.

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The proposed relocation would be likely to require some financial support from the "Friends" and it is for this purpose that funds are being accumulated.

A business plan outlining our proposal has been drawn up and a copy has been submitted to the Ward Councillor for consideration by members of the Simon's Town Integrated Working Group.

It is obvious at this stage that, should the friends be successful in their application to take over the building, the permanent staff would not be able to supervise resources and activities spread among several rooms on two levels. To do this, a group of volunteer helpers, operating under the auspices of the "Friends" would be required to support the Librarian and her staff.

At present the Friends of Simon's Town Public Library boasts a membership of 165, a fairly small proportion of the number of people who use the Library regularly. Of the 165 members, only about 90 have paid their subscriptions for the year. If you are a member and have not yet paid you R 5,00, please let the Librarian have it as soon as possible. In order to be able to assist the Librarian to maintain and improve the vital service she, and her staff, provide for the community, we need more members and, above all, we need members who are prepared to commit themselves to giving a little of their free time on a continuous basis for the benefit of the community.

The "Friends" intend to call a special general meeting, to be held on 15 June, to report on progress with the preparation of our bid to obtain other premises and to determine whether or not our members would be prepared to make a sufficiently large commitment to make the proposition viable.

If you would be prepared to make such a commitment, please advise the Librarian or contact Sheila Rice, the Secretary of the Friends of Simon's Town Public Library, by telephone at 786 3909 or by e-mail at kemndine@mweb.co.za.

WH Rice
Chairman

News from Simon's Town Naval Base

Impact of new ships and submarines on naval activities in Simon's Town.

To claim "*the Navy dockyard is Simon's Town and Simon's Town is the Navy dockyard*" is today a gross exaggeration. What can, however, not be denied is that the existence of the Town of Simon and the Navy's dockyard are intertwined: If one dies, the other will fade away as well. It is therefore no wonder that many people refer to the SA Navy Dockyard more appropriately as the "Simon's Town Dockyard".

The level of activity in the dockyard can directly influence the level of activity in Simon's Town, in terms of the number of residents, the amount of traffic, the number of people on the streets, the noise levels and small-business turnover. It has been, for a number of years now, that the activity levels in the

Crazy Daisy

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dockyard have reduced. The result was that Simon's Town became a more quiet village.

But, all of this is about to change.

The new Government has approved a major defence acquisition programme under which SA Navy will take delivery of four MEKO corvettes and three Type 209 Submarines. The acquisition of these warships will lead to a rejuvenation and modernisation of the SA Navy's maritime support and defence capabilities on a scale not experienced before.

The new submarines are to be built, fitted out and commissioned in Germany. The Corvettes will also be built in Germany, but sailed as "empty" ships to South Africa where their combat systems will be installed and commissioned. Their combat systems will be fitted in Simon's Town to be specific. The reason behind the installation of the corvette combat systems being done in Simon's Town is that the selected corvette

combat systems comprise of a large number of locally developed sensor and weapon systems. The installation, setting-to-work and commissioning of the corvette combat systems will take place over a period of several years and will be done under contract by private industry. This means that there will be an influx of a large number of contractor personnel into Simon's Town area for the duration of the installation and commissioning phases.

The new acquisition programmes are very expensive. It is therefore extremely important that the projects be completed successfully with no cost overruns. The definition of a successful acquisition project is not how technically good the new vessels are at delivery, but how well the Navy will look after the vessels in years to come. The SA Navy has to honour an obligation to this country, and to the taxpayer, to ensure that they look after the new vessels for as long as is humanly possible.

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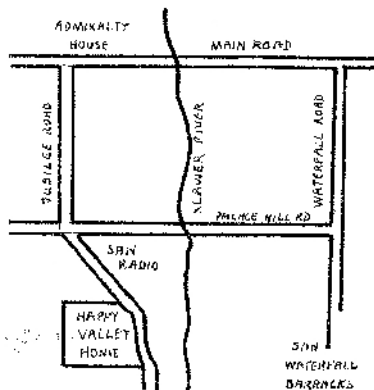
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(Not 30 litres as incorrectly reported in April issue)

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To be able to look after the new vessels properly, the Navy will have to invest in the rejuvenation of the "Simon's Town Dockyard". The Navy is serious about its obligations and plans are currently being formulated which will lead to the refurbishment of infrastructure, the employment of more technical staff, the alteration and extension of buildings and the erection of new facilities. There will come a time when work will be done around the clock. It is also planned that the commercial repair activities of the dockyard will be continued as well. The dockyard is therefore set to become abuzz with activity. The good days are back again.

The anticipated increase in the level of activity in and around the dockyard will hold a number of direct benefits to the community of Simon's Town. There will be an increase of contractor staff, which will lead to an increase in spending on the small - business offerings of the area. Guesthouse owners and hotels will see an increase in bed occupancy. There will be more people employed in the dockyard, which will lead to an increase in demand for housing. Dining and entertainment business enterprises will benefit as well.

On the down side: The local population will increase, demand for water will increase, traffic will increase, noise levels will not decline and the issuing of traffic tickets for illegal parking will increase. Simon's Town will lose its tranquillity - and may thrive again.

Beach & Coastal Patrol

Since there is little if any reaction to these reports, I am wasting my time and someone else might care to take over the column next month. I was much happier writing on our marine environment in "Fishy Tales". But as previously mentioned, few readers were sufficiently interested to provide positive feedback. I will still write occasional reports. However, these would mainly be summarised information relevant to our area provided by friends in quasi-Government. A

good example is the water quality off bathing beaches from Glencairn to Miller's Point.

As reported last month, the Frank's Bay toilet block had a damaged roof with exposed rafters and now further damage has occurred. Although the S.P.M. receive copies of "Snoektown Calling", I have found that they react quicker to phone calls. These they appreciate, because they have no time to drive around looking for problems. To prove it, I did not advise them of the damaged roof. Perhaps all of us should therefore report obvious problems instead of ignoring them.

In conclusion, Dr. Loxton has asked me to comment on a letter from Mr. M.H. Hales. This gentleman has kindly suggested that the S.P.M. telephone him to gain vehicular access to Water's Edge for removing washed-up kelp, but he should rather contact the Department direct. His other remarks refer to my February report covering



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Boulders, which he feels is at variance with the true position. He could well be right, because I only report on my personal observations. I apparently failed to notice what mostly concerns him by way of environmental degradation due to penguin habitation and burrowing. However, I am not qualified to comment on his remarks concerning SA National Parks policy.

Beachcomber

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

I often wonder why I have such a difficult time to find things to write about in this monthly article and I have second thoughts about whether these articles are of interest to those of you out there who read them.

Then as happened, at our last committee meeting, Gus Ridgway reported on the takings from the NSRI boats that are placed on

shop counters in our area and as far afield as Lakeside and Cape Point. The astonishing amount collected over a period of one year, by Reg Hopkins (who places and retrieves all the boats) and Gus (who counts, packages and banks all monies) is R16 762.80 which is a little more than last years' amount. Now that is a healthy sum! Which is a credit to the efforts of Reg and Gus, who are no spring chickens and Reg is not all that well these days, but what a wonderful fund raising effort. Station 10 is indeed lucky to have their services. So perhaps these articles also have the effect of keeping Station 10 in your thoughts.

An aside on the Cape Point collection boat is rather amusing. Overnight the kiosk at Cape Point Reserve, where the collection boat is kept, was raided by baboons. The boat was broken open and coins and notes were scattered all about the kiosk but the amazing thing was not one silver coin could be found and all collection boats contain

HEATHER LUNDERSTEDT ESTATES cc

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"I WARNED YOU THAT THE STAIRS WERE A BIT STEEP"

THE AGENCY WITH THE "DIFFERENT" APPROACH



some silver coins. Perhaps the baboons have a secret stash of silver coins somewhere. Who will ever know? The silly picture comes to mind of the senior baboon scuttling over the veld with a canvas bag of coins in his paw.

On 8 April a call was received that a man had been badly injured overboard from a fishing trawler and Station 10 was asked to stand-by. The trawler steamed towards False Bay. By the time the call-out came and the paramedic was on board in False Bay it was unfortunately too late for the injured person.

On 17 April the Mobile crew were called out to attend a person who attempted suicide at Boulders Beach. Fortunately the person was able to be placated.

Station 10 personnel were called out to attend to the car which went over the cliff from the closed Chapmans Peak drive. No casualty was found and it all ended in mystery.

Another ambulance service call-out to Long Beach, Simon's Town was to a possible drowning. Unfortunately nothing could be done for the person.

A donation was gratefully received from the ever faithful Beaumont family. Station 10 is very thankful for their continued support over the years.

A donation was also received from Sytrets and Station 10 will put the money to good use. Thank you Sytrets! (more about this in the next issue.)

On Saturday 22 April and Sunday 23 April Station 10 boats attended a rescue demonstration at Kalk Bay harbour. As the weather was damp not many people attended but live helicopter rescue work was demonstrated by the boats and the rescue helicopter. On Sunday no flying took place but live boat exercises took place outside the harbour.

What was greatly appreciated by young crew members was being taken by harbour master Pat Stacey for chips and cold drinks after the demonstration.

Further good news is that it appears as though the much vaunted 30% to 40% fuel saving by the agents on the new Mariner motors on board "Spirit of Free Masonry" is for real. At least some things live up to their advertised capabilities!

Be safe out there and taught lines until next time.

Don Dollery

Member Station 10 Support Committee

A Tanganyika Journal - Part 4



December 20

Our first wedding anniversary has come and gone without notice; no champagne, no soft lights and sweet music. The seeds that Mother smuggled to me in a rolled-up newspaper were duly planted in a small bed dug by Shamba boy, who watched closely but blankly, from time to time adjusting his sarong, which has an alarming tendency to unwrap itself.

Yesterday witnessed the appearance of tiny green shoots.

"Hah!" I exclaimed excitedly, pointing them out to Shamba boy. He crouched down and shook his head.

"Hapana hah," he said. "Hii," pointing to the

shoots, "hii nyasi". I dashed indoors to consult the dictionary and went sadly outside again, to pull up the spears of grass. When Sailor arrived he remarked that the seeds would most likely be decimated by various insects. What can I say?

December 24

I record this event although it's a black mark against me.

We've had a visit from Terry Maginn, who's two bricks and a ticky high, and rather timid. He is in charge of a vegetable farm and regularly arrives with baskets of welcome fresh produce. My introduction to Terry was when he, Sailor and I were struggling through a stand of tall grass. Terry disappeared. Sailor looked around and noticed a slight movement of grass some distance away. So he rescued Terry, who had completely lost direction.

There's been ongoing antagonism between Biesbak and Sheba, with the cat making the

most noise and fuss, and I have probably unfairly taken her part. Now, Biesbak is a one-man dog and Sailor was his god - until Sailor had gone down to Lindi on official business and found this young Doberman-Labrador cross living a precarious life: kicked around and generally ill-treated, and trusting no man. Sailor tried to make friends but the dog wouldn't be approached. Eventually Sailor cast a blanket over the animal and bundled it into the Landrover. And that was how Biesbak came to Namanga. Since then they have been together constantly and shared hunting adventures, and I can appreciate how great a sacrifice it was to give his pal to a new owner.

It's been a wonderful gesture on Sailor's part; the reward is that Biesbak and Terry are happy, looking after each other, safely tucked away from the world of men who think it macho to kick a dog or tease a rather short man.

Duncan Bates

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The Night Sky

The Scorpion becomes the dominant constellation in May. The Southern Cross is clearly visible all night. If a line is taken on the vertical axis of the Cross and it is extended Southwards, it will be bisected by an imaginary line taken halfway between the Pointers and extended to the South. This will indicate the position of the South Pole in the sky, which is near Sigma Octans, visible to the naked eye, which was until recently the South Pole Star. On the west side of the Southern Cross is the False Cross, which is larger than the Southern Cross being 9° long by 7° across, but none of its stars are as bright as the Cross. The False Cross is two hours ahead of The Cross. The third cross in this part of the sky is the symmetrical Diamond Cross.

There is a dark patch in the sky near the two Pointers Alpha and Beta Crucis, called The Coal Sack, which is a cloud of dark matter which prevents the light of the stars beyond it being visible to our eyes. However, below Beta Crucis is a spectacular cluster, visible using binoculars, called The Jewel Box. It is composed of red, yellow, green, blue, violet and white stars. The name was given to it by Herschell. Another interesting star cluster not far from The Jewel Box is Omega Centari. This is a tight cluster of over 50 000 stars, mostly white, which is clustered around a circular patch. A report in the May Sky and Telescope, states, "A pleasant surprise from the Hipparcos satellite data is that Alpha, Beta and Delta lie at a similar distance from the sun - about 350 light years - making them true neighbours in space. Gamma is much closer at 88 light years". This refers to the stars of the Southern Cross.

The constellations seen this month are; Gemini, the Crab, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn, and Pisces, but only Scorpio and Sagittarius are strong constellations with bright stars, so many of the others are difficult to identify.

The Planets - Mars is too close to the Sun to be seen in the west after the 7 May, but it will appear at magnitude 1.8 in the morning sky in the middle of August. Jupiter will not

be seen until 15 May, in the early morning sky, in Aries at magnitude -2.8.

Venus is still visible for a few days early in May in the morning sky, but will disappear until the third week in July, when it will reappear at magnitude -3.8.

Saturn at magnitude 0.4 will reappear in the morning sky at the end of May.

Many people are worried about the effect of the tidal forces of Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn during May, and some have predicted earth shattering results and even a change in the tilt of the Earth's axis. This is all nonsense! The first conjunction of these planets occurs on 5 May, followed by a second one on 17 May. The most recent conjunction was on 10 May 1941, when Mercury, Venus, Jupiter, Saturn and Uranus were in the same position between the constellations of Taurus and Cetus, as will be the two conjunctions in May this year.

The conjunction of so many planets has only occurred on February 1524; 19 June 1385; 12 December 1226; 14 September 1186 and 28 May 1059 BC. As these are dates of historical interest, those who are interested may look them up and see what happened!

The Moon - The New Moon is on 4 May; First Quarter on the 10th; Full Moon on the 18th and the Last Quarter on the 26th. The next eclipse of the Moon is on 16 July.

The Sun - On 1 May Sunrise was at 07:20 and Sunset at 18:05. At the end of the month Sunrise will be at 07:43 and Sunset at 17:45.

Meteor Showers - The Aquarids peak on 4 May at 4am. The Scorpids are visible between 27 May and 20 June at a more reasonable time from 9pm.

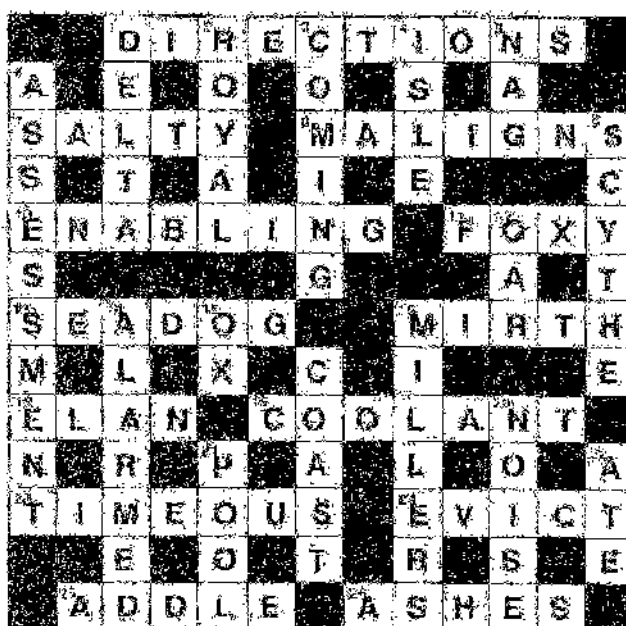
Comets - No new or interesting comets have been reported.

Note that astrology is (Oxford Dictionary) "*art of judging of reputed occult influence of stars upon human affairs*". "*Astronomy is the science of the study of stars.*"

Peter van Blommestein

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Congratulations to A. Nussow for winning our last Crossword Puzzle (No. 6). Hope you enjoy your prize from Café Pessade.

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

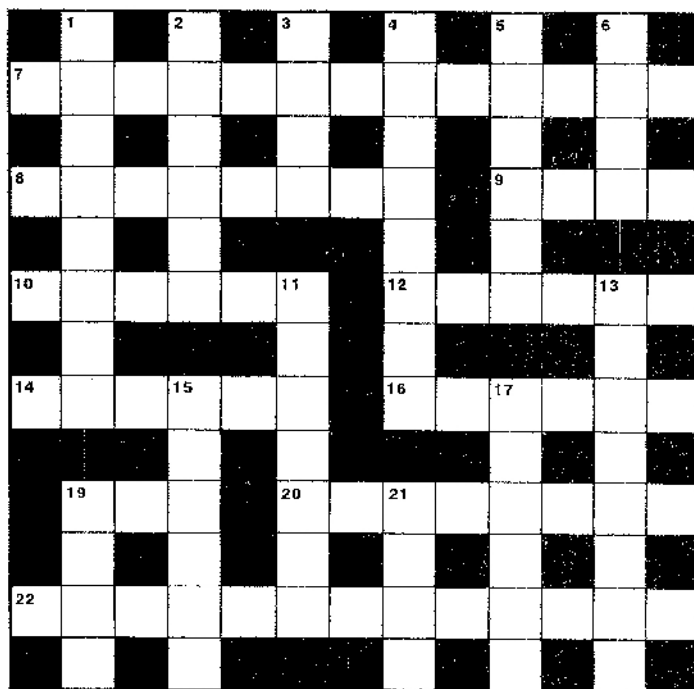
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CROSSWORD



PUZZLE 7

Across

- 7 + 14 Most peaceful place in
Simon's Town (3,3,7,6)
8 Lunate shaped (8)
9 Better sown when young & wild (4)
10 A platform for peaceful dislike (6)
12 A short bat & a Napoleonic Marshal
: a Royal Navy ship (6)
14 See 7 across
16 Hardship (6)
19 See 1 down
20 Emphatic : diet sins possibly (8)
22 Beaker meeting any odds mixed
a drink (6,3,4)

Down

- 1 + 19 across In a Utopian world? (5,3,3)
2 Eastern art of dwarfing plants (6)
3 A cutting tool (4)
4 Refined, foods too (8)
5 A retired thoroughfare (6)
6 Annoying insect;
not a political party (4)
11 Hopefully we won't cope thus
this winter (7)
13 Snaking uphill turns (3,5)
15 If not a minus from the world body (6)
17 Oppose (6)
19 Hearts, teeth, ears, bones can each
do this (4)
22 Tons of this in Simon's Town (4)

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 Tuesday 25 April.
- First correct entry drawn will be the prize winner.
- Only one entry per person permitted.
- Result and solution in the following issue of Snoektown Calling.

Forthcoming Events May / June 2000

1. SIMON'S TOWN MUSEUM

Ph. 786 3046

Wed. 17th May - 5. 30 for 6 p.m.

"TURTLES, TUNNELS AND TRAFFIC - A TOUCH OF VIETNAM"

Talk with slides by Dr. Syd Cullis
R10 per person (includes a complimentary glass of wine/fruit juice prior to lecture)

2. THE MASONIC CLUB

Ph. 786 2126/ 782 7191

Sunday 14th May 12.30 for 1 pm

Mother's Day Lunch (Roast Beef and Yorkshire Pudding - R32.50 per head)

3. FRIENDS OF THE SIMON'S TOWN COASTLINE

Enquiries Ph. 786 3890

- All welcome

Thursday 18th May at 7. 30 pm

Illustrated Talk - "The Geology of False Bay" by Andre' du Plessis

Venue: Museum Hall, Court Road, Simon's Town

Saturday 20th May at 9. 30am

Alien Vegetation Hack and Planting of Indigenous Shrubs

Venue: Fisherman's Beach, Simon's Town

Sunday 4th June at 9. 30 am

Morning walk to Grootkop

Venue: Opposite Pinehaven Village, Redhill Road

Sunday 11th June at 9. 30am

Alien Vegetation Hack and Planting of Indigenous Shrubs

Venue: Links Crescent but **MEET AT Boulders car park**

4. PENSIONER'S FREE MONTHLY SHOPPING BUS

To Pick 'n Pay from Murdoch Valley (Ixia Cres bus terminus), then Simon's Town, Glencairn and Fish Hoek to Sun Valley and return. For dates, times and pick-up points please telephone 786 3137

5. WALKING TOURS OF THE HISTORIC MILE, SIMON'S TOWN

Every Tuesday and Saturday (Booking essential) Ph. Bobbie 786 3189 (Tues) Ph. Audrey 786 1805 (Sat)

6. SPIER STEAM TRAINS

Sunday 21st May 1.

Cape Town - Simon's Town return (stops at Plumstead and Muizenberg) Adults R60 children 12 and under R30. Departs Cape Town 10.00 am. Returns ex Simon's Town 2.00 pm

2. Simon's Town - Plumstead Return (stops Muizenberg) Adults R50, children 12 and under R25. Departs Simon's Town 12.00 noon. Returns to Simon's Town 2.00pm. Spier's delicious picnic is available on board if pre-booked. R60 per person. For tickets & enquiries phone Spier Vintage Train at 419 5222 or Peninsula Tourism at 786 5798 or 788 6176 or 790 1264

Deadline for June edition

Thursday 25 May

Publication Date - Monday 5 June

Contact Sue Sturman

Tel 786 5798 or 786 2436

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