

SNOEKTOWN *CALLING*

Vol 3 Issue 12

7 May 2001



1863 West Gate, Simon's Town - Wesley Methodist Church

May Sponsor - Iona Loxton

Editorial

The cover for May is a drawing of the West Dockyard gate as it was in the 1860's, with the Wesleyan Church in the background. A history of this church is included in this issue. In a later issue the cover will show the gate as it is today and included will be a history of the gate.

On Saturday afternoon 21 April I attended the Open Day of the Happy Valley Home - well supported and a fine performance by their own youth choir. In June the Home will be five years old - well done and praise upon all management concerned, especially Cindy Dollery.

With regret, no Property Watch this month, the baton was dropped in the change over - I wonder what eventually happened to the redevelopment of Seaforth Restaurant?

After much to-ing and fro-ing, we at last have a review article on the Glencairn Viei. What a saga of non events this has been. What should have been a very simple manmade event - a prime example of bureaucratic constipation - so bogged down that forward movement

seems unlikely.

The current report on Coastal and Beach Patrol makes depressing reading. Our beaches are in bad shape, getting worse and Administration doesn't give a damn - no money, can't be bothered! We will have to find a solution - a new approach!

Welcome to the Da Gama Park Residents Association, WO1 Combrink is the CEO. Lofty ideals, with heavy emphasis on combat of crime and grime. Much clean-up has already been accomplished. Well done!

I hear with alarm a report of a recent robbery in the Glencairn area - held up at pistol point, tied up, threatened and virtually cleaned out. Gracious, what next - Chicago, and Al Capone here we come.

Next step: an armed camp with permanent checkpoints! What will the Police report say this month?

Reg Loxton, Editor
2 Chapel Rd, 786 1750



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Down the Historical Mile

Mister Chairman, exclaimed Mientjie Boepens with strong emphasis, I have disturbing news to report; I read from the People's Post, page 2 of 25 April; it says here, "... and the infamous and often controversial connoisseur of Tassenberg, Dr R Loxton". Ek sê meneer, dis 'n skande and verskriklik to say things like that about our Dok; in any case he graduated from the Tassenberg School, many many years ago. Piet Pompies suggested this was a job for Schültz. After further discussion of this blatant outrage it was resolved that Schültz, with his Luger, would pay a visit to the People's Post and find out who this okie is and deal with him/her in a violent manner commensurate with the gravity of the offence. These were Stoffel's words and everyone felt happy because they sounded good.

Now Clara Fijnbosch wanted her chance to tell SLAP about the visit to Oudshoorn - Die Klein Karoo Kuns Fees - with her Aunt Constance Nienaber, from Wynberg, you know. First it was the problem of getting there. Well, Aunt Constance organised a lift with a distant relative, one Pietman Roelofse (Roelie for short) who was an admirer of Aunt Constance because of her superiority in cultural matters. Then there was the problem of accomodation - but fortunately Aunt Constance remembered a cousin, who went to school in Simon's Town, and was now an opsigter at the skougronde - so cousin Nienaber fixed us up with a sort of place to sleep.

I can tell you, said Clara, Aunt Constance was simply oozing with pleasure of a cultural kind; ek sê meneer, this saamtrek of Afrikaners, white and non white, was something special and a wonderful experience, although some were Afrikaners didn't like what they heard in "My Verwoerd" and walked out. Of the some fifteen performances attended, Aunt Constance rated 'Die Balade van Koos Sas' as the best - good music, good lyrics, good story and expertly produced without being blasted by oversized loudspeakers.

An interesting post script: the Dok's wife Iona was visiting her grandparents on the farm Droëkop at the time of Koos Sas' death. She was a very young child at the time and heard the commotion outside and the shot that killed Koos Sas. What do you know about that, remarked Wingnut Williams, we live in a small world!

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Ward Councillor's Report

1. For easy reference I list the garden refuse collection dates for our area.

Simon's Town

3 May 2001
17 May
31 May
14 June
28 June
12 July
26 July
9 August
23 August
6 September
20 September
4 October
18 October
1 November
15 November
29 November
13 December
27 December

Glencairn

10 May 2001
24 May
7 June
21 June
5 July
19 July
2 August
16 August
30 August
13 September
27 September
11 October
25 October
8 November
22 November
6 December
20 December

The whole system of waste collection is

under review at the moment since there are various practices over the metropolitan area, some more efficient than others. The above dates will stand until further notice.

2. The 24-hour emergency number on the back cover of Snoektown was incorrect. **The correct number is 7033070.** This number is for water breaks, sewer system problems and also for illegal squatting.

3. The Simon's Town cash office will be closed from 9 May 2001 to 25 May 2001. This is to allow for the relocation of the office to the corner section, after which work will start on the relocation of the library to the main building. I shall move to the empty office accommodation upstairs until further notice.

The relocation of the library will mean an enhanced facility for the public, as there will be more reading and study space. Our

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Thank you to all the Friends of the Senior's Town Library for all their hard work in raising funds to assist with the project. Perhaps the upstairs could also be utilised through community activities. Suggestions?

4. The financial state of the new City presents a worrying picture as an overview of the full facts and figures we have inherited from the previous seven local authorities reveals. The prudent financial management of the previous South Peninsula Municipality was not universal.

Staffed by about 20000 personnel, the City has an operating budget of R855 and a capital budget of R255.

Expenditure is divided as follows:

- Electricity 32%
- Water 26%
- RSC levy 12%
- Miscellaneous 16%
- Rates 24%

Expenditure:

- Salaries and wages 37%
- Material expenses 23%
- Capital charges 16%
- Contribution to reserves 3%
- Repairs and maintenance 8%

Armses currently stands at Fri, Sat. and rising.

Other Concerns

If the income from electricity and other related services goes to new bodies as proposed by central government and the RSC levy also disappears, then where will the electricity be made up?

The low funds for repairs and maintenance is alarming. Deterioration leads to infrastructure expenditure or the breakdown of services. It must also be remembered that salary and wage negotiations are conducted at central level.

Alderman Mick Holderness
Ward 69 City of Cape Town

Sneektown Supporters Club

1. Individual

Prof van Wyk	R 150.00
DM & TR Warding	R 200.00
Rock Mundy	R 75.00
Iona Loxton	R 2000.00
ME Gole	R 100.00

2. Associations

NIL

3. Corporate

NIL

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Simon's Town Civic Association

APRIL NEWSLETTER

April - the Month of Public Holidays - has so far been good for us. We had desperately needed rain just when some of the vegetation on the mountain slopes were surviving the big fire that was beginning to threaten from drought.

On April 1, the date that Nuisance was born and died, we had a very successful Just Nuisance Day with 49 Great Dances in the annual parade. And from April 5 to 8 the new, streamlined Navy Festival was a great success despite the rain, with huge numbers of visitors crowding the village and docks. The only blip in the Festival organisation was a lack of extra municipal cleaners to mop up after the proceeds, which led to the remarkable sight of some of our leading citizens voluntarily going up and down Main Road on Saturday morning emptying waste bins and picking up litter. Truly women and boys on the call of civic duty.

"I hope nobody thought I was redneck" is

raising the rubbers for scraps," she remarked.

Water

Instead of the lengthy, sometimes every month, De Wet Munnawill heretofore took as an arbitrary one from the norm in his monthly water report, we're continuing to monitor closely closely with the help of the Directorate of Water and Waste Management, City of Cape Town. This is his April 9 report:

"Here are my comments on the results for March.

"The first chlorine observations are consistently low if we require an optimum level of 5 parts per million (mg per liter). Most results are below the detection limit of 0.10 ppm and are regarded as <0.10 mg/l (ppm) and only Simon's Town Municipal Yard (2001-03-20) and Simon's Town Community School (2001-03-27) show values above 0.10 ppm.

"The only other item of concern is the total chlorine residual content, for which the maximum tolerance has to be 100 counts per 100 mg. On 15 March the Simon's Town at Glenelg reported 47 per 100 mg and on 27 March the value was >100 per 100 mg. The other site that was unexpectedly high on 27 March was Hansard's Beach Car Park which also reported values >100 per 100 mg.

"It is disturbing that the Glenelg 771 was consistently high for a week. The next report from the Directorate will be checked to see whether this problem has been eliminated."

Traffic

The committee has asked the Transportation and Traffic Department of the Cape Metropolitan Council to reassess the traffic situation in Queen's Road (the Main Road) where it is joined by Harrington Road and Seaforth Road and take steps to improve safety. Many people have expressed concern about the possibility of accident there because of periodic congestion (thanks to the Simon's Town School, local shopping centre and a bunch of flats, inadequate park-

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ing, seasonal tourist pressure at Seaforth, and a tricky bend in the road which partially obscures the view for motorists - too many of whom travel too fast.

Marine Oil

In the Town Hall in March developer Rhett Molyneux, and his architect outlined plans to use the seven hectare Marine Oil factory in Dido Valley for a shopping mall, a light industrial/ commercial complex behind that, and a housing project higher up. Broad details have been published in the local newspapers. The committee believes the scheme looks good in principle and will obviously be a vast improvement on the factory.

We intend asking the developer to:

- * ensure that the appearance matches the character of Simon's Town,

- * provide more parking than envisaged,

- * include a local community hall for use for various forms of sport, meetings and social gatherings,

- * make contact with the nearby Da Gama Park, Dido Valley and Glencairn residents who are likely to be the centre's main users,

- * persuade the municipality to radically improve and upgrade the junction of Dido Valley road and Main Road.

Sub-councils

Chris van Vuuren and Klaus Scheid attended a meeting organised by the Southern Civic Alliance with Mr Brian Watkyns of the Cape Metropolitan Council about the proposed new sub-councils. Our two "Far South" wards - 67 and 70 - were to be joined in one with Wards 62, 64, 68, 71, 72 and 73 covering Bishopscourt, Constantia, Wynberg, Plumstead, Diep River, Muizenberg and Tokai.

As described by Mr Watkyns the system looked reasonably good, Chris van Vuuren reported back, but there seemed no chance of Wards 69 and 70 being permitted to go it alone as one sub-council despite the Far South's distinct difference to the areas north of the Silvermine ridge. The committee and the SCA argued strongly for this distinction to be recognised, which may have had

some effect because the CMC is now talking of combining us with the Muizenberg, Lavender Hill and Tokai wards - a deal more compact than the first proposal. Sub-councils will be given a variety of lesser powers like licensing dogs and liquor, controlling certain properties and building plans and running markets but details are far from final. They will have budgets allocated by the Unicity.

Upcoming events

- * On April 18 at 19.30 the Simon's Town Historical Society will hold its annual general meeting in the Simon's Town Museum.

- * On April 20 in the morning the Anchor Players will hold a function at Admiralty House and begin auditions for a one-act play to be staged in July in the one-act play festival.

- * On April 24 at 18.00 the Community Police Forum will have its Annual General Meeting in the Museum.

- * On April 25 the STCA committee will meet Mr Howard Langley, director of the Cape Peninsula National Park, to discuss mutual interests.

- * On April 27 the Museum will run a white elephant stall at the False Bay Hospital community fair.

- * On May 2 the Environmental Advisory Committee will meet and it is hoped all the various green groups will be represented. They must formally select one person to represent all of them on the STCA committee.

- * On May 16 the Museum's winter lecture programme begins with a talk by Bobby Johnston on his trip to the Azores. Thereafter there will be a lecture every month until November.

Other matters

Seaforth: There have been many complaints from residents about changes caused by the road barrier there, particularly traffic backup problems to Queen's Road, Ward Councillor Nicki Holderness told the committee. She is asking the SPA to reassess the situation.

Parking: The old tank farm at Seaforth is to be resurfaced soon to create parking space.

Fire station: Our local fire station, manned

entirely by volunteers, has been partly refurbished but the chief and his men still need paint, carpeting and other materials to complete the job. Any donations will be most welcome - particularly a lounge suite in reasonable condition.

Metrorail: Their officials appear to be about as punctual as their trains. Meetings have been arranged repeatedly for them with the Community Police Forum but they failed to turn up every time.

Quarry: The committee decided it has no objection to Mr Quentin Gray giving firearm instruction at the old Elsie's Peak quarry to groups of up to 10 people three or four times a month.

Finally, our **Annual General Meeting:**

Because of the formation of the STCA late last year from the old STRRA and GCA, which had different AGM dates, the usual half-yearly meeting has been abandoned for the current year.

The AGM, however, will be held on Wednesday, July 25, barring unforeseen circumstances, in the Town Hall and the full agenda

will be circulated beforehand.

But please give thought now to whom you would like to see elected to the STCA committee. Several of the present members are standing down for various reasons and will need replacing. We have plenty of talent among our much-expanded membership.

A reminder: If you obtain an e-mail address, please let us know so we can send this newsletter to it instead of through the post. Thanks.

With best wishes from the committee.

Simon's Town Civic Association

PO Box 47, Simon's Town, 7995

Chairman: Mrs Jacky Weaver 782 5335

Vice-chairman: Geoffrey Palmer 786 5402

Treasurer: Ian Allan 782 2736

Communications: Wilf Nussey 786 1368

Salty Sea Dog Restaurant

To all our valued customers

Your fish restaurant on the Simon's Town Pier will be closed for the annual staff vacation during the period

28 May 2001 to 17 June 2001.

We wish to welcome you all back on **Monday 18 June 2001** for a free glass of wine with every meal ordered at the table during that week.

Thank you for your support and friendship during the past three years.

Debbie and André

Simon's Town Business Association

President's Annual Report

This month sees the end of the second year of existence of the Association in its present form. The following are highlights of events and matters dealt with during the last year:

1. Pavement Advertising Boards

Businesses along St George's Street have been notified that the Council will only allow one such board on the pavement notwithstanding the by-law prohibiting any such advertising. Some businesses still exceed this allowance and are jeopardising others who obey this law, as it is highly possible that Council will insist on the removal of all boards. Please comply.

2. Web-Site

The Association has acquired as a third equal partner with Tourism/Publicity and Historical Society/Museum, our own Website called 'Simon's Town.com'. The idea is to promote the objectives of business to the benefit of all in the town.

3. Affiliation

The Association is represented on the Simon's Town Civic Association as well as on the Community Police Forum in an attempt to also promote the interests of all in Simon's Town.

4. Refuse Removal

With effect from January 2001 many businesses have entered into agreement with "Personalised Waste Removals" managed by Mr Peter Booysen, a local businessman, proving to be more cost effective with a better service.

5. Community Patrol Officer

The system of Community Policing is still going well. Notwithstanding the resignation of Const. George Watton earlier this year, a new officer in the form of **Sgt. Donovan Roberts** was appointed in his place. He is proving to be as great an asset to the town as his predecessor, covering the CBD and adjoining areas like Ricketts Terrace. Appreciation to Mr John Stirrup who collects monthly contribu-



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from members who support and appreciate the idea of Community Policing, being an effective deterrent. The idea of appointing a new CPO was the motivation in collaborating with "Pro-Active Marketing" earlier this year. Due to intense aggressive marketing among the people of Simon's Town, the Association has distanced itself from its former functions. The concept of "Blues Smilies" in Simon's Town fell flat. The Association has agreed in principle with a proposal to the concept of a so-called "Lobby on the Beat", provided it does not jeopardise our CPO. This "Lobby" will be a security officer who has no special powers of arrest, like a policeman who is a Police Officer in terms of the Criminal Procedure Act.

6. Finance

The cash on hand at the last AGM stood at a mere R25.66. A great effort by the Executive Committee, commencing now steps at 20. This, together with the sale of raffle tickets for a motor school, boosted the proposals income to R145500, as at the end of April 2001. A Gala Evening will be held on 28 May 2001 at Admiralty House.

Businesses who paid their annual subscription in advance will automatically get a invite to this prestigious event at which the Deputy Minister of Justice Ms Cheryl Howard will be the guest speaker. A finger supper and soft drinks will be provided. Further tickets are still available at R200 per couple - enquire Mrs. Foster Phone 780 1676. The draw of the Summer Raffle will be done at this occasion.

7. Whales Carnival

Although the idea of organising a Whales Carnival for Simon's Town was an initiative of the Business Association, it was taken over the event which is ideally been taken by Tourism Industry and Historical Association/Museum, backed by Business and others. A meeting with these parties has already taken place and ideas are being considered. A notice this year then during 2002.

8. Benches on Town Pier

The Association is still considering the placing of benches on the Pier. The Council has suggested the first three. It is open up to others to donate towards further benches. Further ideas in this regard will be appreciated.

9. Fire Station - Simon's Town

In response to a request by the Ward Council on the Association decided to donate and equip the recreation area of the local Fire Station for the benefit of volunteer workers on standby duty. Assistance by anyone in the form of a dog table, easy chairs etc will be appreciated.

10. Other Business

Continual attention is being given to various other matters like parking, signage, water supply and electricity.

11. Annual General Meeting

The second AGM will be held at the Gordon onch Centre of Oodlands Holiday Village, Hecoy Farm on Monday 23 May 2001 at 19:30. A notice among the contribution will be noted at this meeting. It is suggested that the Executive Committee be replaced with a committee representatives of all the different categories of business.



RA Duran
President
STBA

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STCPF - Law and Order

Report back on AGM held on 24 April 2001

Councillor Nicki Holderness, Captain R Shelley (SAN) and Dr S vd Merwe and members were welcomed. A quorum was confirmed, Dr vd Merwe, the Guest Speaker, gave a presentation on the CMR (Cape Medical Response) and made everybody aware of the 'Golden Hour' for a patient, the time after a stroke, heart attack, serious accident etc. If a patient can be sustained in this short time - the chances of survival are that much greater. The times we are living in, especially as far as the medical world is concerned, immediate response from a Government ambulance is - well, you can guess, sorry too late!! For further info to join our own CMR phone 782 0606 or fax 782 0707. For only R35 a month, you could save your own life or that of a family member. What's the price of a bottle of wine? R35. Work it out for yourself.

A summary of what your Police Forum Achieved:

Once again thank you to our various sponsors, without your generous help none of our projects would have been concluded. During this year the Forum paid for:

1. Repair and service of bicycles.
2. Lamination of area maps in our Police Station.
3. Replacement of a lost cell phone and monthly payment assisted by Chubb.
4. R250 donation to Ocean View to help launch their Police Forum.
5. Printing and awarding Community 'Merit Certificates'.
6. Donation of R500 to Snoektown Calling and R250 to Happy Valley Home.

The Police Forum receives a Government grant of R3000 per year.

The Millennium Party donated R2000 for SAPS overtime.

Bank interest received of R365.97

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Tuesday

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Rice
&
Salad

Wednesday

Lamb Chops
with
Two Veg
&
Chips

Thursday

Alfredo Tagliatelle
with
Home Made Pasta
Garlic Bread
&
Salad

Friday

Grilled Hake Fillet
with
Chips
Or
Baked Potato
&
Salad

The Menu Changes on a Weekly Basis

Special Arrangements can be
made for Special Diets & Deliveries to
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At a nominal Delivery Charge



Expenditures: Stationary, telephone, bank charges, donations, official functions were paid.

A 32 day deposit account of R6391.45 and each in the bank of R1672.84 is the current financial state.

Other activities your Forum has been involved with during the last year April 2000 - April 2001:

**1. Palace Barracks- Vandalism
- Vagrants**

Action taken - Vagrants removed by SAPS, and valuables removed by CPF and stored at the Museum and Happy Valley Home

Status - Palace Barracks closed and monitored by Law Enforcement agencies

2. Lack of Police Presence in CBD

Action - Mobile Police Station placed in town (Caravan), towbar sponsored by CPF (Cedril Duncan), with no support from Telkom to park in their yard.

Status - Ongoing, depending on staff.

3. Application of liquor license at 7-eleven in Simon's Town

Action - CPF opposed application in liquor

court.

Status - Result outstanding.

4. Delays at Magistrate Court

Action - Volunteers asked for Admin duties at court and there are now two courts in operation.

Status - Offenders are given community sentences for minor offences.

5. Burglaries in unoccupied homes

Action - Started local housesitters organization.

Status - Ongoing.

6. Crime in Da Gama Park

Action - Total assistance and support from CPF

Status - Total reduction in crime - ongoing.

7. Break-ins in Vehicles at Diving Spots

Action - Started car attendants (Happy Valley occupants, and sponsored bibs by CPF.

Status - Ongoing.

8. Vagrants/Drunkenness at Shorty's

Action - 'Get Shorty'

Status - Closed down and re-located

9. Challenge to coordinate all community bodies

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Action - Liaison with all civic bodies - meetings thanks to Tony Robinson, Will Nussey, and Nicky Holderness.

Status - The formation of STCA

10. Correspondence Problems - Post

Action - Arranged free post box, thank you Anne and Postmaster.

Status - Ongoing.

11. Game Rangers - Poachers at Night

Action - Arranged night sight equipment, Joe Frylinck - Two Ocean's Commando. Unable to catch poachers who escaped to sea. Liaison with SA Navy Namacurra for support.

Status - Convictions, ongoing.

12. Aggressive Marketing of Blues Buddies - Interactive Marketing

Action - Arranged meeting with all parties to put their case in Civic Centre

Status - Strategy changed - less aggressive

13. Shortage of SAPS and Law Enforcement Officers

Action - CHUBB initiated the provision of a "Bobby on the Beat"

Status - Ongoing.

14. Lack of Police Presence in Town

Action - Requested SAN look at the reintroduction of the shore patrol from Station to Sick Bay (IMT)

Status - Ongoing.

15. Building rubble in the Main Rd, 4 parking bays covered in rubble

Action - SPM contacted. Thank you Mr Leon de Goede from Fish Hoek.

Status - Rubble cleared.

16. Clarity of the status of the municipal police

Action - Contacted Mr H Bester - discussion.

Status - No municipal police for us at this stage - hire your own.

17. Closure of Simon's Town Police Station

Action - Discussion with SAPS Metro Police.

Status - No closure of this station.

18. Shortage of Police vehicles - only two allocated to Simon's Town

Action - Discussion with Thorp Delta (Mr Nicki Thorp) to provide a new car free for use by Simon's Town Police. CPF to provide Comp. Ins. and pay for servicing and petrol. Insur-



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ance sponsored by Ingrid le Roux and petrol sponsored by SAPS.

Status - Sponsored car (Insurance Bataleur Brokers, Petrol - SAPS). The car does not cost the community a cent but increases the patrol capacity by 100%.

19. Lack of traffic control in SMST

Action - Requested permanent traffic presence

Status - Unsuccessful - ongoing.

20. Armed Poachers

Action - Arranged bullet-proof vests, SAPS and game rangers.

Status - Sponsored by Chubb, ongoing.

21. National Parks Board Long Street office closed. 45,000 rounds of ammunition storage problem.

Action - Facilitated safe storage by SAN Navy.

Status - Thanks again, SA Navy.

On completion of the Chairman's report, Councillor Holderness handed a merit Certificate to Mrs Dorothy Mecinski for her hard work and efforts (continuous) in order to ensure enough monies are collected in order to pay our Community Police Officer and the Patrol Board.

Councillor Holderness then took the chair for the election of the new committee.

Those elected were:

Chairman - Blackie Swart

Vice Chairman - Tony Robinson

Treasurer - Peter Law

Secretary - Dorothy Melinski

Appointed SAPS Member - Station Commissioner Capt Du Pisani

Refreshments were then enjoyed by all.

Thank you to all outgoing members, Annabel will hand over Treasurer duties to Peter Law, and we wish her a happy journey and stay as she will be joining her family in England at the end of the year. We will miss our tight fisted Treasurer! God Bless.

**Blackie Swart
Chairman STCPF**

Friends of the Simon's Town Library

Friends of the Simon's Town Library will have noticed with deep regret the passing in February of **Rose de Kock**, a well known and loved resident of Simon's Town. Rose, in the past gave so much to the Library in the way of volunteer help and she was also most generous with donations to our various sales. She will be sadly missed by us all.

It will be of interest to note that Rose de Kock bequeathed to the Friends of the Simon's Town Library, the very generous sum of R5000.00, which will be put to very good use when we move to our new premises.

Our grateful thanks Rose, and may you rest in peace.

Bookworm

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News from Naval Base - Simon's Town

Arrest of Illegal Poachers in South African Waters

A fishing vessel was intercepted and apprehended in international waters 260 nautical miles South of Cape Agulhas at 11:00 on Thursday 12, 2001. This was the result of the swift assistance provided by a South African National Defence Force Task Group after a request was received from the Australian Government. The South African Government responded positively by making two SA Navy vessels available to transport Australian Armed Forces and Fisheries Protection personnel to the area where the fishing vessel could be intercepted.

The Task Group comprised:

Australian Armed Forces and Fisheries Protection personnel

An SA Navy contingent including the

Hydrographic Survey Vessel, SAS PROTEA under command of Capt Abri Kampfer and Strike Craft, SAS GALESHEWE, under command of Cdr Mickey Girsu;

An Air Force contingent including an Alouette III helicopter and crew;

A medical contingent from the SA Medical Health Services; and

South African Marine and Coastal Management personnel.

The vessel had been detected fishing illegally in the Australian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) surrounding the Sub-Antarctic Heard Island on March 29. According to the Australian Federal Minister responsible for fisheries, Wilson Tuckey, "the vessel, which had obscured its identification markings and its national flag, is believed to be the Togo-registered South Tommy, with some 90 tons of Patagonian toothfish from Australian waters on board. This catch is thought to be worth more than a million dollars."

An Australian civil patrol vessel, the Southern Supporter, tracked the South Tommy for fourteen days, maintaining continuous hot pursuit until the apprehension was affected.

The South Tommy was boarded by a task force including Australian Fisheries Management Authority officers and armed Australian Defence Force personnel operating from the SAS PROTEA, under the protection of SAS GALESHEWE. The crew offered no resistance to the boarding party which brought it under Australian control, in accordance with Australia's rights under international law. The Australian boarding party is now en route back to Australia with the vessel, where it will be impounded and prosecution commenced under Australian law.

According to the Australian Minister of Defence, Mr Peter Reith, "the success of the operation is a tribute to the close and effec-

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tive cooperation between the Australian Defence Force and the SANDF."

"South Africa provided outstanding support at short notice to Australia to assist us in apprehending the South Tommy," the Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Alexander Dower, said. "This is essential to the good relations between our two countries. This demonstrates the value of co-operative enforcement action to conserve fisheries and marine ecosystems under international law."

According to the Chief Director of the South African Department of Foreign Affairs, Mr Naudé, "This operation provided a valuable opportunity for the South African Navy and fisheries protection personnel to gain exposure to such procedures. Australia and South Africa intend to continue working together against illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, including through cooperation in the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources."



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Simon's Town

Programme of Visiting Ships

10-16 May Visit by British Naval Ship,
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Simon's Town Harbour
Cape Town Harbour

16-25 May

10-20 May Visit by British Naval Ship
RFA Black Rover

Simon's Town Harbour
Cape Town Harbour

21-25 May

23-28 May Visit by French Naval Ship
FNS BOUGANVILLE

Simon's Town Harbour

29 May - 5 June Visit by French Naval
Ship **FNS NIVOSE**
Cape Town Harbour

An Appeal for 'The Friends'

**An Appeal for donations of books and
bric-a-brac (not clothes) for our sales for
fund-raising for the Library.**

If you have anything at all to donate, please leave it at the Library or alternatively call one of the undermentioned numbers and we will collect any items you may have. With thanks,

Lonah Fawcett **786 3432**
Bobby van Vuuren **786 3890**

St Luke's Hospice False Bay

I would like to thank our generous False Bay public for their continuous donations of goods for sale at our Container and Village shops.

Please note a change of venue for the winter months: MAY- OCTOBER

Our Container shop based in the False Bay Hospital Grounds will trade every Tuesday (weather permitting) and the Village shop, Recreation Rd, Fish Hoek, will trade Thursdays and Saturdays 9am-12.30pm. Please continue your support.

**Margaret Collet
Convenor**

The Editor
Snoektown Calling

SA Navy Band Activities in Simon's Town

It is always a pleasure to read your magazine and I was interested to see mention of the SA Navy Band in your 5th February edition. Any suggestion regarding ways in which the Navy Band can contribute to events taking place in Simon's Town will be given a high priority, although the idea of utilising them at midnight on New Years Eve requires careful consideration, bearing in mind that we are already occupied on most public holidays and many weekends throughout the year.

It is a privilege to be able to serve the community whenever we can fit this into our schedule, bearing in mind that our first duty is to be available for direct tasking from the highest level of the Navy, which in some instances, includes duties emanating from the Department of Defence. The Band also represents the Navy throughout South Africa and has performed during the last twelve months in Pretoria, Kwazulu-Natal,

several East Coast venues from Knysna to East London, and recently in Mossel Bay. In almost all instances we have performed in the formerly disadvantaged areas, in addition to the more traditional venues, carrying out projects to help uplift bands, groups of young traditional dancers, choirs etc.

In the Western Cape we have supported CAFDA, various branches of Hospice, Rotary, Red Cross Children's Hospital, Community Chest, Church projects etc, plus special upliftment events in Guguletu and Grassy Park. Our ongoing educational upliftment project is carried out twice weekly in the schools of Ocean View, Masi-phumelele and Simon's Town. Our scheduled performances in the area of "Snoektown Calling" include those in Jubilee Square for Hospice, Simon's Town Museum, the Just Nuisance Celebrations, plus additional special occasions such as memorial and commemoration services etc. We also perform annually at the Simonsberg Theatre and for the Dry Dock Concert, plus the Navy Festival (this years events were from 5-8 April). All this is in

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addition to welcoming visiting ships and dignitaries, both military and civilian, plus the continuous ceremonial tasking for direct Naval events, many of which are in Simon's Town. We also regularly perform in the Muizenberg and Fish Hoek areas, the latter keeping us busy until the last Sunday before Christmas. It is only after this event that the musicians can be granted an official Leave Period to spend with their families.

Best wishes,

MJ Oldham
Director Naval Music: CDR

5th Annual Charity Bridge Drive

The Fifth Annual Charity Bridge Drive to aid the **False Bay Hospital** will be held on **Wednesday 6 June** at **1.30pm** at the **St James Retirement Hotel**. Entry R18, with R3500 in prizes. Phone **782 6741**.

Artweek - Simon's Town

Monday 6 August - Saturday 11 August

Simon's Town Artweek will be running from Monday 6 August until Saturday 11 August. Accommodation can be arranged. Each day will be different, but with a Simon's Town theme running through all the subjects. These will include sketching out of doors; working in our studio; using various techniques; demonstrations on metal casting and etching, and a hands-on pottery day! Some evening activities are also planned. (Of course they may be free if the participants wish). Simple lunches and teas are included.

Total cost for 6 days is R500.00

For details of the course or accommodation please phone or fax: (021) **786 1212** or email: estellebyrne@worldonline.co.za
This course has been convened by the Simon's Town Art Group.

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Peninsula Tourism

(Simon's Town Publicity Association – Tel. 786-2436)

April was quite a lively month thanks to the Navy Festival (6 - 8 April) and the Easter weekend.

The month started on a high note with the "Just Nuisance Birthday Parade" held in brilliant sunshine on the 1st April. About 50 dogs and proud owners marched behind the Navy Band from the Museum to Jubilee Square. The most unusual participant was a sedate-looking alpaca. I thought that the Danes were remarkably well-behaved considering the heat and noisy crowd. Simon's Town Museum deserve warm congratulations for organizing such a unique event.

The Navy Festival opened with a splendid concert by the Navy Band in the East Yard Drydock. The undoubted highlight of the evening was the Band's performance of the 1812 Overture which ended with the firing of the Navy's mighty cannons. A night to remember.

The following morning Peter Marais, the Mayor of Cape Town attended the Naval Parade through Simon's Town but unfortunately the weather deteriorated in the afternoon. The rain held off the next day (Saturday) but returned on Sunday. Despite this, the Festival was very well-attended. Congratulations to Cmdr. Jaco Theunissen and the hard-working organizers.

Another successful Festival was held this month - the annual "Surf and Turf Festival" arranged by Peninsula Tourism offered a wide choice of events through out the South

Peninsula. In Simon's Town the Sea Kayak company, which operates from the Waterfront offered lessons to beginners and a variety of adventure outings for paddlers of all levels of proficiency.

In addition as part of the Festival, our tourism bureau sold a number of "Children's Passports to the South Peninsula" which offered discounts to numerous attractions for children such as the toy museums (Simon's Town and Muizenberg), Sea cruises including "Curlew" and "The Spirit of Just Nuisance", Mineral World, the World of Birds, Imhoff Farm and many others.

Just as we were feeling somewhat overwhelmed by so much frenetic activity, yet another special event was held. On the 21st April the Anchor Players held a very elegant "Champagne and Croissants" Breakfast in the lovely grounds of Admiralty House. After a fascinating tour of the gardens led by Sandy Myers, guests were treated to a performance of "Whale Nation", a monologue superbly performed by David Muller.

Despite this wealth of social and cultural activities, the most exciting event for the Bureau staff was the completion of the painting and redecorating of our previously very drab-looking office. This long overdue Transformation was paid for by Peninsula Tourism and thanks are due to Cathy Alberts for her help and especially for her bold choice of colours. Thanks to Thorn

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and my husband Brian for painting the display boards, brochure racks and furniture. Especial thanks to Brian who spent two full Sundays painting when I know he'd much rather have been paddling his surf-ski across Fish Hoek bay.

Anyone who hasn't visited our lighter, brighter information Bureau is cordially invited to do so.

Best wishes,

Sue Sturman

Anchors Away Village - False Bay

Anchors Away Village is based on an American concept for the Mentally Impaired. We will be taking this a step further in our concept, to include another 'disadvantaged' group in this country - the Physically Impaired. The Village will be completely self-sustaining without the necessity of Government subsidy; creating jobs for the Disabled, and involving people of all races, who can help and relate to each other. This project was researched for 4 years before fundraising began in 1996, and proved that this type of project is not only necessary, but is now even more needed than ever before.

In order to begin building, R2 million is needed. There are no administrative costs involved at this stage, and all money raised is paid directly into an account at Nedbank. For the bulk of the funding for building we are forced to approach large companies to help sponsor

'Units'. Each unit/cottage will house 4 Mentally Disabled, with one Physically Disabled as Housemother/father of the group. Naturally, every cent we can raise will be of assistance! We are seeking the aid of both local and international investors.

Our reasons for conceiving this idea of a 'home and life-style for life' for our special citizens, are briefly:

1. At present our elderly, mentally disabled, are sent to Psychiatric Institutions - the few that remain, where nursing care is virtually non-existent.
2. Many State-owned Institutions and Care Centres are being closed down, due to insufficient funds. A lot of those still running, are unstimulating and unimaginative.
3. To provide on-going sport activities after school-leaving, and to encourage participation in Para/Special Olympics.
4. To satisfy the needs of those adults, to be with their own kind; to feel unthreatened in their own environment.
5. To provide them with jobs, and therefore, dignity.
6. To cut the 'apron-strings' timeously, before parents pass away and leave their 'children' stranded and devastated.
7. To create an opportunity, once established for Holiday-Exchange Programmes for up-country, as well as international Mentally or Physically Impaired to visit the Cape.
8. To relieve the load carried by the government with regard to the handicapped in this country.

The plan is to have Phase 1 running within the next couple of years.

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Simon's Town Museum News

**International Museums Day: Friday 18th
May 2001**

**You are invited to the Museum's Open
Day from 10h00 to 16h00 on Friday 18th
May 2001.**

**All visitors will be welcomed with a cup of
tea or coffee and there will be no en-
trance donation.**

**If you would like a Tour of the Museum
our staff will gladly accommodate.**

We look forward to meeting you !

Museum's Annual Report

Our Report for the year ended 31st March 2001 is available (free) to anyone who would like a copy - please just telephone the Museum **786-3046** or E-Mail us at stmuseum@mweb.co.za. There is also a lot of information on our Website simonstown.com.

For those readers who do not have access to

the Internet here are a few facts and figures relating to the Museum:

Staff and Volunteers

In addition to four full-time and one part-time permanent members of staff, the Board of Trustees employs three people to assist us with school groups and overseas groups as well as 13 other people who work on Public Holidays and Week-ends - this enables the Museum to stay open 7 days a week.

We have a wonderful corps of 35 volunteers who each come in weekly to help with various tasks such as Reception, Education, Research, Photographs, Filing, Library, Indexing, Newspaper Cuttings, Catering, Walking Tours, Oral Histories, etc.

Visitor Totals During 2000

Total Number of Visitors	28 817
Number of Schools	103
Number of School Children	1 310

Fundraising

A Tattoo-Art Studio

in Simon's Town

If you live in Simon's Town, you have possibly seen or heard of, the tattooed lady who runs in the mornings. I am her son, and also the artist responsible for all her tattoos. As you can imagine, she attracts a lot of attention and is frequently asked questions like:

'Who is the tattoo artist and where does he work?'

I have been inspired to open a Tattoo Studio in Simon's Town, but unfortunately lack the necessary funding needed for such an undertaking. I thus appeal to anyone willing to sponsor me or to lend me the capital. In exchange I can offer shares in the tattoo studio or an apprenticeship to anyone keen on learning how to tattoo, and, once qualified, to become a partner.

If you are interested or can offer me any advice, please contact me, Simon Loxton, at **786 2296** between 7-9pm or leave a message during the day with my mom Lindi.

Aided by our volunteers the staff managed to raise R24 119,38 by organising various functions like the Open Air Concert on Jubilee Square, The New Year's Eve Party, Court-yard Functions, etc.

Objectives for 2001/2002

- * Continue to encourage visitors, especially school children, to Simon's Town and environs.

- * Upgrading of displays to make the Museum more user friendly and interesting for our visitors and learners.

- * Continue with our transformation programme so that displays will depict the rich diversity of cultures that make Simon's Town unique.

- * Complete the following displays:

Integrate two rooms for the revamp and completion of Project Phoenix Phase I and II.

Upgrade Trade and Industries Room and include the Old Municipal Blacksmiths' Shop. Fishing and Whaling displays to be incorporated into the Wreck Room.

Restore the Rocket Wagon and create a more suitable under-cover display area.

- * Research Projects:

Slaves in Simon's Town

Other groups which would include Italians, Jews, Chinese, etc.

Simon's Town contribution towards the fight for Freedom and Democracy in S A

Documentary video of the life and times of Able Seaman Just Nuisance.

Cherry Dilley
Curator

Just Nuisance Day Parade - 1 April 2001

This year a few days before the first of April it seemed as though van der Murphy's law prevailed, in that everything that possibly could, was going to go wrong. The treasurer of the Dane Rescue Scheme was taken to hospital. Another went down with flu. To cap the list of fallen comrades, the Great Dane Troy, who was to lead the parade, was rushed to the After Hours Vet Clinic and put on a drip at 3:30 am on Thursday morning before the Great Day. He has since made a full recovery; but now we had no trained dog to lead the pro-

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cession. All those months of practice getting him used to the South African Navy band and wearing a Royal Navy cap were of no avail.

However, as in all the best Westerns, the Lone Ranger came to the rescue in the form of Troy's father, a dog called Argon. Fresh from his work as a film star and with owner Berwyn, now an expert in animal makeup, it was going to be a cinch.

Meanwhile Murphy was still up to his tricks: The Navy announced that we would have to find our own public address system as they were using theirs' at the Navy Ball. This was to be held aboard the combat support ship the "Outeriqua" on the evening previous to our parade. All hung on a thread until we managed to get a replacement.

Ron Preifert, our "sailor," the only person slight enough to fit into one of the old Royal Navy lower deck uniforms, had damaged his back and was in considerable pain. With the help of Doctor Stephen and painkillers, he was pronounced fit to march, providing, "Nuisance" was well trained and didn't pull. He assured

him that Argon was a really experienced dog who never pulled.

The great day dawned. The march was to start at 3 o'clock in the afternoon from the Museum and proceed to Jubilee Square. At 12 o'clock we went down to the square. It looked as though there wasn't going to be a march at all. The parked cars were still in position. There were no police, no lorries with stacks of chairs, no PA system. A traffic officer arrived breathlessly. "I don't have any tape to start closing off the entrances." "Don't worry," we said. "We have come equipped with a roll of the stuff." Whereupon he began to unroll our tape and soon the square was closed off. Then another traffic officer arrived with the police tape. An argument ensued and we departed quietly for the Museum!

During this time, Danes were magically appearing all over Simon's Town. Everywhere one looked there was a Dane, or two, or three. Soon they began to gravitate towards the Museum where water had been put out for them in bowls. Argon and Berwyn arrived and were introduced to Ron who was resplendent in his 1940's Royal Navy white tropical uniform. "I'll just darken his muzzle," said Berwyn and proceeded to use a black makeup stick on Argon's grey whiskers.

The Navy Band arrived, as did the MOTHS and HMS GANGES ASSOCIATION with their banners. Forty nine Great Danes turned up and one woolly Alpaca on a lead. All the Danes seemed quite happy to accept the Alpaca with the exception of a brindle puppy who spotted "The emperor was not wearing any clothes." She barked!

At a few minutes to three, Argon and Ron went to the head of the procession with Berwyn hovering near them. The band lined up next, then the Great Danes and lastly the MOTHS and HMS GANGES ASSOCIATION.

On the dot of three the parade moved off. As they reached the Main Road, the big base drum struck up marking the beat. On hearing this, Argon leapt forward causing Ron to fly through the air, doing a creditable simulation of an arabesque. Retaining tenuous contact

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with Argon, the two hurtled down the road with a startled Berwyn in hot pursuit. The three of them would not have disgraced a July Handicap start. After some 50 metres brakes were applied by both men embracing Argon. Their combined effort brought him to a quivering halt. By the time the band had caught up he had been persuaded to walk.

As they marched towards the square the band struck up a lively medley and the crowds began to cheer. It was a colourful sight with the banners of the MOTHS and HMS GANGES flying. The red tabards worn by the leading Danes contrasting with the white uniforms of the Navy Band. All headed by the now resplendent Argon led by Ron, his immaculate uniform besmirched by Argon's makeup and with his "historical" shoes the soles of which had begun to part company with their uppers as he marched. He was nevertheless the hero of the hour.

On arrival at the square, the band took up position on the podium. The Danes and their owners positioning themselves at the side: The former to find water and the latter seats.

Everyone settled down to hear the Great Dane version of the song from Rogers and Hammerstein's South Pacific, "There is nothing like A DANE."

*We got sunlight on the sand. We got moonlight on the sea.
We got mangoes and bananas that we get for nearly free.
We got submarines and tugboats with a lot of fancy names,
What ain't we got? We ain't got Danes.
We have parties that are rowdy. We get movies. We get shows.
We get preaches from our skipper and advice from Holy Joes.
We get runs up Nuisance steps. We get dizzy sure as hell,
What don't we get? You know damned well.
Chorus
There is nothing like a Dane. Nothing in the world.
There is nothing you can name, that is anything like a Dane.*

After Councillor Nicki Holderness had welcomed the Danes and their owners, Father Henry Frieslaar of the Church St Francis of Assisi blessed the Danes. This was followed by the Last Post and Reveille when the MOTHS and HMS GANGES ASSOCIATION lowered their banners and Cllr Holderness placed an arrangement of fynbos at the foot of the statue of Able Seaman Just Nuisance.

To end the ceremony on a happy note the Navy Band played "All the Nice Girls Love a Sailor"

Anna Youds

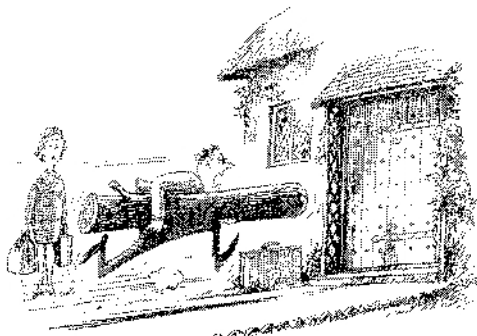
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" THE LOCK UP AND LEAVE "



" THAT DAMNED LOCK'S RUSTED UP AGAIN "

THE AGENCY WITH THE "DIFFERENT" APPROACH



Simon's Town Wesley Methodist Church

Methodism in South Africa was first introduced in the year 1806 by a Sergeant J Kendrick of the 21st Yorkshire Light Dragoons, who formed a Society of Methodists among his fellow soldiers in Cape Town. The following year he was put in charge of the detachment of Dragoons conveying the mail to and from Simon's Town. On 4 October 1807, he records in his diary, "The Lord has enabled me to speak a few words occasionally in Simon's Town".

It is probable that he conducted these 'services' in the building known as the 'Company's Stables'. The horses of the Dragoons were normally stabled there overnight and he with his party would have been quartered in the Guard House.

The seeds sown in the town by Sgt Kendrick germinated and grew into a flourishing congregation. When the Rev Barnabas Shaw came to Wynberg in 1816 his attention was

drawn to Simon's Town, where he found the services were being conducted in private homes. When Rev Shaw left for Namaqua-land, his assistant, the Rev Robert Snowdall, devoted much of his time during the next 10 years to procuring a permanent place of worship in Simon's Town.

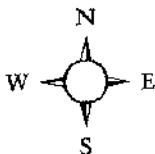
His endeavours bore fruit on 13 October 1826, when four of the most prominent citizens, Messrs CM Lind, Notary and Landowner, JC de Wet, Butcher and General Merchant, PJ Arendse Raven, Wardmaster and William Anderson, Clerk to the Collector of Customs and Warehouse-keeper, waited upon the Government Resident, Lieutenant Colonel MG Blake. Unfortunately Blake was not available and they accordingly left in his office a Memorial with a request that he would be so kind as to forward it to Government with his support. The Memorial reads as such:

"To his Honour Major General Bourke CB, Lieutenant Governor of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope. The Memorial of the undersigned inhabitants of Simon's Town and its vicinity, humbly sheweth.

"That your Memorialists are anxiously desirous of enjoying the ordinances of the Christian religion, in Dutch, as well as English, and also promoting the Religious Instructions of the Free Coloured People, Slaves and Hottentots; the Divine Service not having been performed in Simon's Town in the Dutch language; and as by the greater part, being Native Inhabitants, have been deprived of the Ordinances of Religion in their Vernacular tongue. That your Memorialists can now have this evil removed, by the labours of a Wesleyan missionary, if a suitable place of worship be erected."

There were 72 signatories to this Memorial, most of them resident in the town but others from as far as Muizenberg, Kalk Bay, Noordhoek, Olifants Bosch and Silvermine.

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Lt. Colonel Blake forwarded the Memorial to the Secretary to the Government, Sir Richard Plasket on 17 October with a strong recommendation for its favourable consideration by the Lt Governor. Even though Col Black was prepared to recommend the grant of land for it to be built on, a non-conformist Chapel was something to be kept in the background and not displayed for all to see on the most prominent site in town.

Eventually on 2 August 1828 the Lt. Governor, Major General Bourke, signed and sealed a Deed of Grant in Freehold to eleven trustees of a piece of land 352 square rods 26 sq feet and 88 inches in extent, for the purpose of erecting thereon a Chapel of such dimensions as they may consider necessary. The trustees were not given any right or authority to dispose of the land or to appropriate it for any other purpose.

Construction of the building was completed and the Chapel was formally opened for Divine Service on Thursday October 9 1828.

Thus it was that when Rev Shaw returned in May 1829, he could, with every justification, remark that "The building reflects credit upon all who were concerned with it and the conspicuous situation in which it is placed may remind the weather beaten traveller on entering the Bay, that a House of Prayer is open for his reception." The Simon's Town Wesley Methodist Church is still a beacon to all seamen entering Simon's Bay and is the oldest Methodist Church in continuous use in South Africa, and its present Minister is Rev Edwin Myers.

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The Old Burying Ground

Johannes Hedricus Brand was born in Simon's Town in 1771 and on 1st January 1810 was appointed Deputy Fiscal in the Town, a post we would relate today to that of Mayor, Town Clerk and Municipal Head combined. He also held additional posts including those of Harbour Master, Justice of the Peace and Notary Public. In 1811 he wrote to the Earl of Caledon, the then Governor of the Cape, on many matters concerning the Town including the introduction of a new cemetery.

At the time burials were carried out behind the VOC Hospital (present day Log Command - between Soldiers Way and Cornwall Street) which had become overcrowded. It was also in full view of the hospital windows, not a pleasant experience for those on their sickbeds. Approval for the new cemetery was received and on 8 November 1813 twenty one private graves of the 60th Regiment commenced building of the wall around the Ground, a wall which for the most

part still stands today. It was then one morgen in extent but with further additions grew to the size we know. Since 1910 no plots for graves have been available in this cemetery.

In the Naval Reservation section of the Burying Ground, now called the Garden of Remembrance, and well maintained by the Navy, are laid to rest the remains of many sailors and soldiers, some of whom had originally been buried in other parts of the cemetery. These include several Kroomen who served in the Royal Navy. This re-interment was done in 1970 with the co-operation of the SA War Graves Board.

Much of the history of Simon's Town lies interred in this small and interesting area.

When Paddy and Estelle Byrne moved to Simon's Town from Glencairn Heights some four years ago, their new home on Forest Hill overlooked the north-west corner of the



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Ground and a pitiful and neglected sight it was. However, Estelle, an energetic and resourceful lady then in her mid-60's, decided that something needed to be done and set about the task armed only with basic gardening tools. The first part to be tackled was the area outside and close to the entrance gate in that top corner, slowly clearing the debris and overgrowth of years gone by and replacing this with neatness and colour and beauty of newly planted shrubs and gardens.

Many work hours and some 30 trees, 50 shrubs and a dozen proteas later, together with an established lawn and cleaned gravel paths, this one corner of The Old Burying Ground is an example of what the whole could look like. No assistance has been received from the Municipality apart from a free water supply - and an annual "weed-eating" exercise which once involved all Estelle's flowers. Small but welcome donation from the Gardening Club and also private sources have also helped but apart from that Estelle has undertaken the work on her own.

This is a long-term project and Estelle could sorely use some assistance. If any reader would like to join in or assist in any way, or can provide a gardener from time to time to help with some heavier work, it would be gratefully appreciated. The result could be an area attractive and interesting to both residents and tourists. Estelle can be contacted on 786 1212.

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Simon's Town Art Group

STAG was established some years ago, and has already organised two annual exhibitions that were held in the prestigious British Hotel upstairs Courtyard. Each time over 30 artists showed their works, which covered a range of techniques and subjects. They hold a monthly meeting, and anyone wishing for more information should phone 786 5514.

The Simon's Town Art Route takes place every last Sunday of the month at three venues, namely the Simon's Town Museum in Court Road, the studio of Victoria Dryden in Thomas Street and the STAG studio in the original Municipal Building, access from St Georges Street.

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

May 2001

The seasonal change appears to be with us. The days are cooler, cold fronts are more obvious and North westerly winds are occurring more often and seem to be gaining in strength. We also experience the occasional fog over the sea. All in all these are dangerous conditions for seamen, especially for those that are not fully prepared to meet the elements.

Ah! you say but there are regulations that must be complied with prior to venturing out on the briny. Boats must carry life jackets, flares, smoke markers, have anchors, oars over and above their sails and or motors. They should be seaworthy and in fact have a certificate to prove that they have been inspected and found to be seaworthy. Boats should at least have a compass to give the skipper an idea of the direction he should proceed in and in these days of easy communication should have a means of contacting people ashore. A prudent skipper

should inform someone ashore, either a yacht club, boat club or some local authority (nearest Port Control) of his intended times of departure and return and the area of his proposed movements.

More often than not these basic things are not done and policing of matters at sea is less evident than it is ashore, and that is why there is a need for an organisation such as National Sea Rescue. It is not their function to police these things but they do tend to pick up the pieces and they give appropriate advice when it is due or sought.

With these thoughts in mind, visualise a call-out from Port Control Cape Town on Thursday 12th of April at 12:05 to assist a 7 metre fishing vessel lost in thick mist en route from Simon's Town to Kalk Bay. With only an echo sounder as working equipment on board, the skipper reported by cellphone that he was lost and running into shallow



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water. He was told to proceed to seaward until the twenty metre contour was showing on his echo sounder and then to anchor. "Spirit of Free Masonry" (R10) was launched at 12:20 and proceeded along the 20 metre contour in Simon's Bay and the casualty was reached approximately 2 miles South of Kalk Bay harbour. The fishing vessel then followed R10 back to Simon's Town and safety. It should be noted that this vessel had no compass, no marine radio, only two parachute flares and was not safety certified.

R10 was coxswained by Darrin Zimmerman with crew members Spooky Selk, Kobus Lourens and Louis Duimelaar. The base was manned by Denis Zimmerman and Warren Combrink.

On Saturday 23 April Station 10 hosted an exercise in Simon's Bay where Station 9 (Gordon's Bay) Station 16 (Strandfontein), members of the Cape Town Fire Services Diving Unit and Station 10 members and members of 22 Squadron SAAF participated, in all, seventy persons were involved. Gaenor Erasmus of the N.S.R.I. headquarters staff also was able to participate in the exercise. The purpose of the exercise is to train personnel in all aspects of rescue which can be performed between vessels and helicopters i.e. lifting / lowering people to and from the sea, transferring persons from boats to helicopters and vice versa. Unfortunately the early morning produced a fog which prevented operations and the exercise only got under way after midday. With boats and semi rigid rubber ducks from the three stations all in the water and with two Oryx helicopters hovering above them presented a very dramatic sight indeed. Many local residents had ringside views of a most entertaining exhibition of tried and tested rescue methods being performed and many a passing motorist saw a show they had not bargained on seeing. These exercises benefit all participants, the boat crews, divers, paramedics and the helicopter pilots and crew and when things happen for real everything runs like clockwork and precious lives are saved. After the well run

exercise all parties repaired to the Station 10 boathouse to a well deserved braai where the participants were able to chat to one another over the days proceedings. All praise should go to Louis Duimelaar who was Station 10's chief organiser of the joint exercise.

On Sunday 24 April two call-outs occurred. At 14:25 a call-out was received from a member of the public to say that a hoby cat had overturned off Fish Hoek and appeared to be sinking as a red flare had been fired. "Spirit of Free Masonry" (R10) was launched at 14:30 coxswained by Dave Fellows. Kobus Lourens, Morne Coetzee, Christopher Pepper and Jane van der Riet formed the crew. Off the dockyard wall they were hailed by the crew of a yacht who thought the rescue craft was coming to their aid as they had called to False Bay Yacht Club for assistance. The coxswain told the skipper to anchor and he would return to assist them after he had attended to the first call. On arrival in Fish Hoek bay it was found that the hoby had righted itself and the coxswain of R10 was assured by the skipper of the hoby cat that he was no longer in trouble. R10 returned to the yacht. The skipper informed him that he was unable to start his outboard motor as the cord had pulled out. The yacht was taken in tow but could not recover his anchor so it was buoyed and cast off. The yacht was towed to the marina and made fast. R10 returned to uplift the anchor and return to base. The yacht skipper later came to the base to thank the coxswain for helping him and to collect his anchor. R10 was recovered at 15:25 and an eventful weekend came to a close.

At 08:35 on Sunday 29 April a call was received from Port Captain that the fishing vessel "Zuiderkaap" had a crew member on board who was experiencing chest pains. The vessel was returning to False Bay. "Spirit of Free Masonry" (R10) launched at 09:10 and proceeded at all good speed to rendezvous with "Zuiderkaap" off Millers Point. In the meantime arrangements had been made with

Cape Medical Rescue Services to send a paramedic in the Hunter's Gold rescue helicopter to be lowered to the fishing vessel. At 09:25 R10 went alongside the casualty and assessed the situation and four minutes later the paramedic was winched down from the helicopter onto R10 to which the patient had been transferred and he stabilised the patient while the boat was under way to the False Bay Yacht Club working jetty. On arrival at the jetty the patient was transferred to an ambulance and taken to Constantiaberg Hospital. The coxswain on this call-out, Station 10 Station Commander Dave Roberts had arranged with Dave Behr of Cape Medical Response who had organised the helicopter and paramedic and the Cape Medical Rescue participation. Such co-operation results in rapid rescues taking place. R10 was recovered at 10:25.

A Station 10 member who is often mentioned in my articles is **Kobus Lourens** and he, like many of our volunteer members, grew up in Simon's Town where his father

worked in the Naval Dockyard. He attended Simon's Town High School and then he joined the dockyard and completed an apprenticeship as an electrician. He was attracted to the N.S.R.I. due to a love of the sea and boats like many other Simon's Town lads and also joined the Simon's Town Fire Brigade as a volunteer fireman. Kobus joined Station 10 in 1986 and served until 1994 when he left owing to business reasons. He rejoined the station in 1998. Kobus is married and he and his wife Anthia live in Milkwood near Sun Valley. He is a qualified coxswain of both boats and because of his experience is a highly rated by his peers. He has been on many call-outs and remembers one very vividly when a fishing trawler overturned and the old boat "Caltex Star" went to the rescue and thirteen crew members of the trawler's crew were saved and were all brought back to shore almost overcrowding the boat.

Talking of volunteers, Station 10 has a few

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vacant berths as some valued members have had to leave because career requirements have taken them to Gauteng or places North. Persons who feel they have a love of the sea and are handy around boats and have boating experience and are keen to serve the greater public on a voluntary basis and are 18 or over should come to the Station boathouse which is near the entrance of the False Bay Yacht Club, preferably on Sundays when duty crews are there, or contact Station Commander Dave Roberts on his cellphone 083-225-8277. Persons must be keen to serve and undertake training and be easily contacted by telephone in a hurry and must have access to reliable transport. This type of recreational activity is rewarding and being a member of a well co-ordinated team offers good opportunities for comradeship and fulfilment. Go well out there, yours aye,

Don Dollery
Member Station 10 Shorelink

Glencairn Vlei - Where to and Why Not?

Glencairn Vlei is a manmade wetland. It involves land and water and is not totally natural. First, the road and railway line intercepted the natural discharge point to Glencairn Beach. Then the construction of the Lewis Gay and Kleinplaas Dams affected summer and winter flows. Drying out of the vlei in summer with added development of housing and stables caused odours and insect problems. In 1997, a public participatory scientific investigation concluded that the addition of treated sewage effluent to the vlei to create a permanent water body was a feasible option. The vlei was bermed off and the level raised to create the wetland area. Unfortunately the proposal was not implemented according to the recommendations.

Despite being manmade, our vlei is home to a variety of specially adapted water plants, otters and bird life. The quality and quantity of water reaching it determine its character. It has the ability to filter or trap suspended

particles and as a result water quality can be improved.

The Glencairn Vlei should be regarded as a priority conservation area because of its flora and fauna and its asset as a recreational facility. Among resident waders are the Blackheaded Heron, Grey Heron and Sacred Ibis. Other birds include the African Black and Yellow-billed Ducks, Moorhen and Redbilled Teal. From the north come Cuckoos and Swallows and from Russia the Steppe Buzzard. The vlei must be regarded as vulnerable as a result of the complex interaction of physical and biological processes, which are easily upset.

Management strategies should reflect the parameters influencing the balance of the system which include:

- manipulation of the hydrology, e.g. improvement of overall flow and controlled flushing
- manipulation of the vegetation, e.g. selective seeding and planting and control of undesirable weed species and
- wastewater quality, e.g. alteration of wastewater pH status via chemical addition and O2 status via mechanical aeration.

In the summer of 1998, as a result of the extremely dry conditions at the time and the pumps being turned off/slucies opened by officials of the local authority without due regard for existing instructions and procedures, a bloom of toxic green-algae occurred in the vlei. This incident had fortunate and unfortunate consequences. Fortunately it highlighted the fact that the treated effluent that was being pumped into the vlei was not meeting the legislative requirement that it be treated to General Standard. The Cape Metropolitan Council subsequently made major improvements to the Sewage plant and some of the pump stations in Simon's Town and the quality of the treated effluent discharged has improved. Unfortunately, the Department of Water Affairs could not guarantee that the standard of the effluent would match the legislative requirement of General Standard and did not believe that this standard

was sufficient. It would not issue a permit to discharge the treated effluent into the vlei, which originally the municipality could apply for. The effluent supplementation was halted.

Both nature and man have gradually reduced the value of the Glencairn Vlei.

Mismanagement has sabotaged a wonderful scheme which cost thousands of rand and which could maintain the vlei as a permanent body of water, as achieved by the old Simon's Town Municipality and technically supported by the Institute of Marine Technology (IMT). The cutting off of water circulation and the allowing of alien plants to invade the wetland have been destructive activities. The situation has deteriorated to such an extent, that even the stone engraving in memory of John Wiley, an environmentalist and a Member of Parliament, is barely legible. At the weir, stepping stones for the Clawless Otter to supplement its diet in the inter-tidal zone have become impassable. No longer can the underprivileged children from the two camps off Glen

Road safely observe the bird species that will hopefully still be prolific during spring.

Wetlands have a capacity for coping with pollution, but beyond a level of tolerance, the living processes break down and the wetlands will die. The only way around this is to have a clearly defined policy and well co-ordinated and controlled planning and development. The management of the Glencairn Vlei, as a wetland, which does not fall inside a nature reserve, is the responsibility of the South Peninsula Administration (SPA) of the City of Cape Town. By co-operating with and using the expertise of other authorities and organisations like the Cape Metropolitan Council (CMC), the Cape Peninsula National Parks and Working for Water, this responsibility translates into the conservation, development and preservation of our wetland as an asset to the community and a tourist attraction. Where else can visitors and eco-tourists hop off a train to swim, study marine life and see so many birds close to a station? Millions are being spent at the entrance of Fish Hoek on a flood control scheme with walkways and re-vegetation with the help of CMC funding. Why are we being neglected?

In 1998 Ms Julia Woods from the South Peninsula Municipality was tasked with organising a review of all possible options for management of the vlei to determine the best possible option for up-gradation and long-term sustainability. Today, three years later, after a draft Management Guidelines Report (September 2000) prepared by Dr. Barbara Gale from Aqua Catch cc for the SPM and CMC, at a cost of R 30000 we still do not have:

- a final report/way forward from Ms Woods despite numerous requests made for information,
- a walkway/nature trail around the perimeter,
- clearance of alien plants and removal of litter except where it is removed by volunteers from the community,
- response to requests that organisations like Working For Water be asked to help clear the vlei of alien vegetation,
- re-establishment of indigenous flora and fauna, and most important

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• clarity or any money awarded by the CMO's Environment Management Department for the visit, to deepen and re-shape existing erosion control bushes, remove alien vegetation and re-establish indigenous shrubs, has not been spent.

Managed diversity. Glencairn Vlei has in the past and manages to become a high quality area for nature and can allow both the adults and the children from inside as well as outside the community to derive enjoyment, recreational and educational activities.

Are we going to allow another and negligence to further destroy the local and the animal diversity that could be our vlei? If we do, it will make a mockery of our world-renowned case for the environment.

'Beachcomber and the Weaver Bird'

Navy Stories

Communication Glitch

Whilst in Durban at Salisbury Island, the SAS RAFFELBERG was being refitted during the late 1960's as a Navy Resupplyment Vessel. This was a logistic task to transport some grey hairs and some equipment was supplied by the SA Navy. No problem - we all speak the same language - English. Other equipment, like furniture, etc., has to be approved by the Quartermaster General - Army. Letters of motivation had been written for each item - a mammoth task.

As we in Simon's Town knew SASRA use "Bosun's Chairs" to park the ships while work on lifting, maintenance. The Chief Bosun's Mate (commonly known as 'The Butler'), rank CPO, had ordered 5 Bosun's Chairs. Months passed and no Bosun's Chairs. The Supply Officer (overseas Cdr) contacted Pretoria, who eventually spoke to Sergeant Major SM about the delay in authorising the issue of said chairs. "He should be the 'according to his job as Chief Petty Officer is equivalent in rank to a SMFF Sergeant and therefore only entitled to one chair, what is this CPO's problem?" SM, citing great restraint and patience the SM eventually got the orders and the Butler got his 5 Bosun's Chairs. The SM was assured

that the CPO would not sit on all 5 Bosun's Chairs at the same time!

Loyalty, or Just Plain Board?

If you are a well trained naval officer, you tend to have strict routines, always a programme and certain times for certain happenings. The SAS PRESIDENT STEYN had to put to sea for very important exercises. Unfortunately the Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer found it more difficult to be in charge of a horse than the ship's Operations Room and could not go to sea for these anti-submarine exercises. I was ordered to join the "AS" for the duration.

Like any horse, a ship has certain habits, particular to that horse or ship. One Saturday afternoon 1300 N. miles off the coast - on radio reception "FM, NM or AM, I walked past the Workshop and heard a Rugby offbeater - "Bridgelines All Goals". Reception was loud and clear. This was strange because I had just been to the ship's Radio Office and no reception on the most powerful equipment in the fleet, but the Workshop "Phillips" was receiving the best

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I went into the wardroom and stopped in my tracks. Here was somebody, sitting in the Wardroom, on a Saturday afternoon with a civvy raincoat, a hat, beers and a bag of naartjies listening to a rugby test. I asked what the score was, "Shut up and wait!! The Springboks scored the try, the announcer

said 15-3. I sat down and the person with the upturned raincoat collar and hat pulled over his ears asked me if I had paid for my ticket? I was dumfounded at this 'weird' situation. The person burst out laughing, took off his hat - the ship's Engineering Officer smiled at me. He had a 33.3 long playing record of the test match. Whenever the ship was at sea on a "Rugby Day" and not in reception range, out would come the LP. Everybody know except me - being new.

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views are a big asset to our well-being. Unfortunately, it is exactly these aspects that "seclude" us from the major trauma and emergency medical centres (e.g. private hospitals and Grootte Schuur etc.). Ambulance services (whether private or state) take anywhere from 25 to 45 mins to arrive at a scene. Private ambulance services are based in places such as Milnerton and Pinelands - even helicopters (at great expense) take time to mobilise. There are approximately 27 state ambulances, servicing a population of 2.5 mill people of the entire provincial area. Mobilization of these services take time - a commodity which a seriously ill patient cannot afford. We are also privileged in the area with very dedicated and well-trained doctors, but his/her response are also often hampered by a lack of assistance and specialized equipment (e.g. a defibrillator)

This is a problem which locally-born paramedic Dave Behr and Simon's Town general practitioner Dr Steven van der Merwe realized approximately 6 years ago. Dave had tried numerous options to address this problem including sponsorships and voluntary service-based programs. The obstacle crept up every time was finances. A service of this nature does not receive ongoing sponsorship; a permanent staff member (e.g. Dave) cannot work for free and medical response always cost a huge amount of money. The False Bay Voluntary Ambulance Services (one of the projects) are doing a sterling job of reponding and giving medical services and any other service operating in this area rely heavily on their assistance. The problem however, remains that they have a voluntary crew and (especially in week days) require assembly before responding - time that may not be wasted in an emergency.

It was decided that a subscriber-based emergency response unit was the only solution to this problem. Cape Medical Response (CMR) saw the light in April 2001. For R 35.00 per month an entire household (all its occupants and invited visitors) will be reponded to in a medical emergency within minutes. The family doctor will be notified immediately (if not already done by

the family) and the patient will be stabilized. Due to the dedication of this vehicle to the Deep South only (to facilitate early response time), the subscriber will be covered in this area (e.g. motor vehicle accident within the area). Should an event occur outside of the area, Dave could still be called, and he would dispatch another close-by service. Once on scene, Dave and the relevant doctor will stabilize the patient and call on the relevant back-up. State ambulance for those who cannot afford the private sector and private services for those with medical aids of finances to afford it. The main object however has been accomplished - the patient is stable and life-saving procedures have been applied. At this stage there is time available to wait for back-up.

This is an essential service in this area and R 35.00 per month per household (special rates can be arranged to cover bussineses etc.) is not a big price to pay for your life and reassurance. For more information phone: **782 0606** or visit us at our offices at 101 Vallyland Centre.

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Beach & Coastal Patrol - May

Several months have passed since a report was last submitted on our problem areas, because of its repetitiveness. On account of either other priorities, lack of funds, or unawareness of this publication, the authorities took little action. At the risk of time again being wasted, this is the current situation from Glencairn to Millers Point.

Glencairn:

On a positive note, directional signposts at the junction of Main Road and Glencairn Expressway have at last been replaced. Unfortunately, the corroding traffic lights have still not been repainted. Furthermore, seating in the bus shelter is falling apart for the lack of a few missing screws. The only partially barricaded end of the parking area allows vehicular cowboys to kill the fynbos and create a dust bowl. Although there is a new restrictive beach sign, the many old illegible ones with rusty supports were not removed. Some parts of the catwalk have collapsed, the subway pavement is badly crumbled and wooden seating is overdue for re-varnishing. Finally, the tarred off-ramp to the station ends in muddy pools of rain and inconveniences commuters.

Shelley Beach:

As with most beaches, there is no name sign to make it easier for tourists to identify. Instead, there are many rusty columns that once supported long gone warning signs of its rail crossing. Both toilet doors long ago had broken hinges and were since stolen. Furthermore, the lower steps have been so neglected, that they are now almost beyond repair. This is indeed a sad fate for a beach that once offered snorklers some of the best underwater scenery on the entire Peninsula!

Mackerel Bay:

But for its tatty infrastructure, this beach is one of our most spectacular and visitors love to photograph its trek fishermen. Perhaps we still need to clean up our act for more discerning tourists. Exacerbating the problem, our worst section of road is at the nearby Lower North Battery.

Long Beach:

As previously reported over and over again, this once popular family beach has long lost its appeal. Unfortunately, nothing is done about it. Perhaps Intersite and S.P.A. should together and sort out the problems. A photograph on a popular magazine cover once featured its tidy lawns, but they have long gone. Dumped rubble includes a large section of out-fall pipe still encased in concrete!

Seaforth:

The only problem was a foul odour around the dilapidated toilet blocks, which also serve Water's Edge. Its source is a small structure next to the No. 4a pumping station.

Waters Edge:

Along the beach path from Seaforth, the wire fence protecting a dune rehabilitation area had been deliberately cut. The small gap has since been filled with small rocks by S.P.N.P. Some mischief maker was obviously encouraging access to the penguins! All that is needed from the maintenance aspects is to re-varnish the wooden seating.

Boulders:

There are several patches with penguin burrows along Willis Walk, which have been denuded of vegetation. Considering the steep incline, S.P.N.P. officials will no doubt take measures to prevent soil erosion. Unfortunately, they are in a no-win situation. For example, it was demanded of them by some people to cut back the shade-giving vegetation on the beach itself, but they are now being criticised by others for doing so. At least they try their best in helping to save a highly endangered species. Surely, that is to their credit?

Windmill Beach:

Both approaches to this beach via Burghers Walk and Links Crescent have changed through cutbacks in vegetation. One reason is to discourage penguins from nesting too close to private property and another is

probably to get rid of alien plants. Either way, it is only a temporary aesthetic problem. What bothers visitors in particular is the lack of a sign for so easy to identify the women's toilet. Absence of a sign is a little noticed on the steep and eroded pathway leading to Franks Bay. Why have no timber posts yet been "set to this post for the set route?"

Franks Bay:

Although the toilet block also serves Fishermen's Beach, its long lost section of roof has still not been replaced. However, the structure is so dilapidated that replacing it might be a better option if only to enhance our tourist image. Directly opposite is a wonder shack situated in the No. 983 local substation, which is sadly in need of repainting.

Fishermen's Beach:

As with other beaches, only a few easily read directional and restrictive signs have now been superimposed onto the many faded, barely legible ones. "Who's in

charge of signs needs to be ascertained. Tourists are not to know the location of Franks Bay, for example. Neither do they realize that it is also called Froggy Pond by the locals.

Miller's Point:

There is much less litter than in previous years. Almost all the rusty signs are now on the verge of disintegrating. As previously reported, the reinforcing concrete modules along the tidal pool's length are breaking up. The lawn is now non-existent and there are no signs on either the challenging nor toilet facilities. Lack of signs equally applies to the toilet block facing Blanche Bay, which is also weathering badly.

In conclusion, it seems that many different authorities and the departments within them are now responsible for maintaining our beach infrastructure. Perhaps there is a need for a committee or a co-ordinating body, so that they all work together as a team.

Beachcomber



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A Tanganyika Diary - Part 4

July 24 1982

We now have a domestic staff of 5, including old Mimi, whose real hoodum barely gets the dust of the dirt yard. Mimi began as our dhobi, but didn't iron Mimi's clothes to my liking; the men must be kept at maximum heat to lay any eggs deposited by mango flies. He is now houseboy and Honoratus is the new, efficient dhobi.

I love the girls, each sunrise, sit motionless running down to the Lumeme River, laughing and chattering as they go. Once in the water they shed their colorful kangas and wash these and themselves. After announced splashing they emerge from the river, wrapped in one wet cloth, the school trading around their heads like sails. Besides these two ketches Regina and Weena in blouses, because Christopher is apt to exercise his gums on her shoulder.



July 25

Dietitian

Sandra Schultz

BSc Dietetics (Stellenbosch)

Pr. no. 2408173

- Slendering and lifestyle change
- Diabetes Mellitus
- Cardiovascular Disease
- Intestinal Disease: IBS, Irritable Bowel, Spastic Colon
- Kidney disease
- Food allergy and intolerances
- Eating disorders: Anorexia Nervosa, Bulimia, Binge Eating Disorder

Glennah Naidoo

Pr no 762-7206

Medical Aid Rates

Sulter's race is taking him ever further into the bush; he returns after about eight days, to replenish supplies - and laborers, who tend to disappear. Conditions for survey are extremely difficult. Field work has to be done on foot and is hampered by dense grass growth, tall trees and steep inclines. Notable success - what there is - is out of comparison for 6 months. During the seasonal flooding in the Valley, On occasion Sulter has resorted to the use of four large canoes, traveling along the Kilombero River. Where they are working at present, the presence of just a fly is a health danger. It also, incidentally, inhibits the keeping of livestock, except for limited numbers of goats. The Patern Mission maintains a small dairy here which is entirely under cover throughout the year. Despite the seriousness of this disease, I am reminded of Ogden Nash's famous rhyme: "Grossing mammals let her Alet Holey. Take the taste". Frivolity is thought.

August 18

Woke up last night to the sight of a large fire blazing in front of the supply tent and the sound of agitated voices; askaris probably on their necks. Hardly dozed off again when I heard a strange, coughing sound, quite near but not very loud. First at the window, then at the door and finally fading away. This morning I went outside for the askaris to pig a report before they went off duty. Their spears were stuck into the ground next to the ashes of last night's bonfire; our brave warriors were cowering at the back of the tent, and when I called them out went scurrying off without so much as a "jambo Memsab". Then the cause of their odd behaviour was revealed: the footprints of a leopard, going around and around the boma. A chilling thought: the beast could easily have pushed through the screen door.

Uneasy sleep is not uncommon when Sailor's away, and for a couple of nights after his return I tend to be a little confused. One night I woke up to see a figure silhouetted by the pilot light of the fridge. In basic KiSwahili I croaked, "what do you want? I'm going to shoot you." I don't have a firearm; Sailor had forgotten that, and for some minutes things were pretty tense, while he persuaded me to put down the non-existent firearm.

August 26

Sailor has brought Danté home on an improvised litter - he's down with malaria. Sailor had tried treating him with Mepacrine but he couldn't keep it down. Malaria is the bogeyman here and carries off a high percentage of the infant population. For some reason CD actually likes his daily dose of bitter quinine - I use it as a bribe: if you don't eat your breakfast, you won't get your spoonful of dawa.

The Night Sky

The positions of the constellations are always changing and soon the bright Orion (the Hunter) in the evening sky in the West will be followed by Gemini (the Twins) and the weaker (not bright) constellations, the Crab, Leo (the Lion), Virgo (the Virgin) and Libra (the Scales).

Last month mention was made of the companions of Orion, Canis Major (Big Dog); containing the brightest star in the sky and Canis Minor (little Dog) having Procyon as its brightest star. Canis Minor was incorrectly called Puppis. But Puppis is the Stern of the ship Argo. The ship's Keel Carina was described, but somehow the Stern became detached! This was kindly pointed out by a reader in Edgemoor. Thank you Tony.

Now that the triangle which has been seen for several months, formed by Saturn, Jupiter and Aldebaran is below the western horizon, it has been replaced by another with Arcturus, in Bootes the Bear Hunter, abbreviation Boo, Spica in Libra the Scales, and Regulus in Leo. In the South above the mountains, the Southern Cross is an easily identified constellation, with the Pointers Alpha and Beta Centauri. To the West of it is the symmetrical Diamond Cross and 30°, or two hours ahead of the Southern Cross is the False Cross, and West of it the very bright star Canopus, the second brightest star in the sky. These two crosses and Canopus belong to the constellation Argo, the Ship, which fills most of the sky between the Southern Cross and Canis Major.

Mr Salaam Cader reported that on Wednesday night 12 April 2001, a friend of his who was fishing at Strandfontein saw the Aurorae Australis. "It looked like a red searchlight in the sky beyond Cape Point. It was mostly red, but there was also a little green and white". It is good that I was informed and am able to make a report of this sighting. Thank you. I saw this Aurorae on 14 March 1989, at a time when there was also a lot of Solar activity. The present great in-

crease in Sunspot activity will last about 15 months, during which time the abnormal weather conditions may produce either droughts, floods or excessively cold weather. It is surprising that local Watchkeepers have not observed the Aurorae.

The Planets

Mercury, magnitude -1.5 on 1 May to +1.6 on 31 May is an evening planet, which will be difficult to see in the western twilight. On 7 May it is 4° North of Saturn; on the 8th 8° North of Aldebaran; on the 16th 3° North of Jupiter; at its greatest elongation on the 22nd; on the 24th 3° North of the Moon.

Venus, magnitude -4.5, is visible with Mars in the morning sky. On the 4th at its greatest brilliancy; on the 19th 4° North of the Moon.

Mars, magnitude -1.1 on 1 May, but -2.0 on the 31st, is in the East in the evening sky in the twilight. On the 10th it is 2° South of the Moon. The bright red disc grows from 14" to 19" this month. The last time it was as large or as bright as this was in 1988. Several features such as icecaps, are visible using powerful binoculars or a small telescope.

Jupiter, magnitude -1.9, on the 24th it is 1° North of the Moon. Next month it becomes a morning planet with Mercury, Venus and Saturn. Its four bright moons, Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto are usually clearly visible. They would all be visible with the naked eye if it were not for the glare from Jupiter, which has 16 moons. The great red spot on Jupiter is easily seen with binoculars.

Saturn, magnitude +0.1, on the 7th it is in conjunction with Mercury, and they are easily found as they are in Taurus. On the 25th Saturn is in conjunction with the Sun.

Uranus, magnitude +5.8, is 3° North of the Moon on the 15th and rises after midnight in Capricorn. If binoculars are used it is easily found.

Neptune, magnitude +7.9 remains in Capricorn, rising between 10-11pm this month. On the 14th it is 3° North of the Moon.

Pluto, magnitude +13.9 is in the 13th sign of the Zodiac, Ophiuchus but is only visible

using a large telescope.

The Moon

New Moon is on the 23rd; First Quarter on the 30th; Full Moon on the 7th; Last Quarter on the 15th.

On the 2nd the Moon is at Perigee when it is nearest to Earth, and at Apogee on the 15th, when furthest from Earth.

There will be a partial eclipse of the moon on July 5th at 14hr10min, which ends at 19hr39min. A lunar eclipse can only occur at Full Moon. The Moon will rise in partial eclipse.

The Sun

On 1 May, Sunrise is at 7.20am and Sunset at 6.06pm.

On the 31st Sunrise is at 7.43am and Sunset at 5.45pm.

There will be a total eclipse of the Sun on 21 June from Lobito in Angola, Lusaka in Zambia to Quelimane in Mocambique. From Windhoek to Pretoria it will be 78%, but at Simon's Town it will be less than 60%, but nevertheless worth watching using special solar glasses or suitable welding goggles. The First contact of the Eclipse in Simon's Town will be at 13hr17min. Maximum Eclipse at 14hr36min; Fourth Contact at 15hr49min.

An excellent booklet on this eclipse may be purchased from the author Mr Cliff Turk, Cape Centre, ASSA, PO Box 13018, Mowbray 7705. Also it is advisable to obtain the special solar glasses or suitable welding goggles soon and be prepared for the event.

Meteors

The Alpha Scorpiid shower is expected between April 11th and May 12th, with a maximum on May 3rd at 9pm.

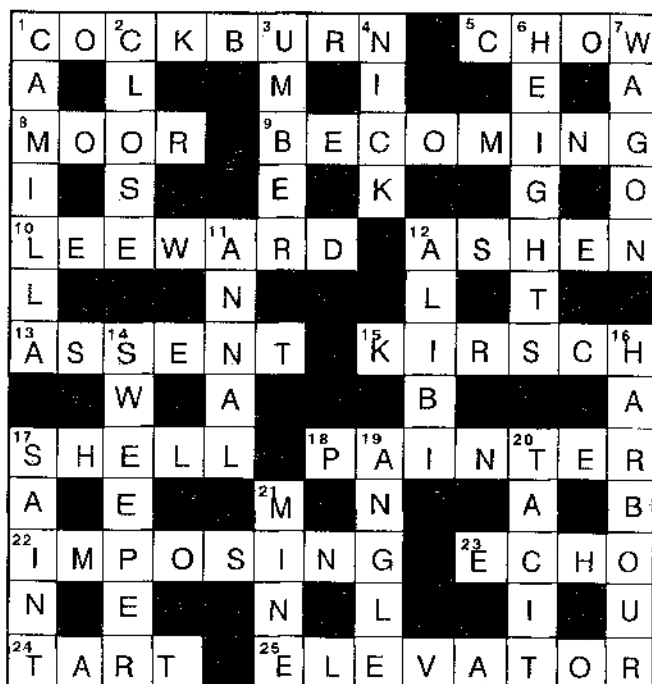
The Aquarids peak at 4am on the 5th.

The second Scorpion shower commences on the 27th.

PS: A camera lens may be used to project the image of the Solar disc on to a piece of white cardboard. Permanent damage to the eyes will result if anyone is foolish enough to look at the Sun without wearing special solar glasses or suitable welding goggles.

Peter I van Blommestein

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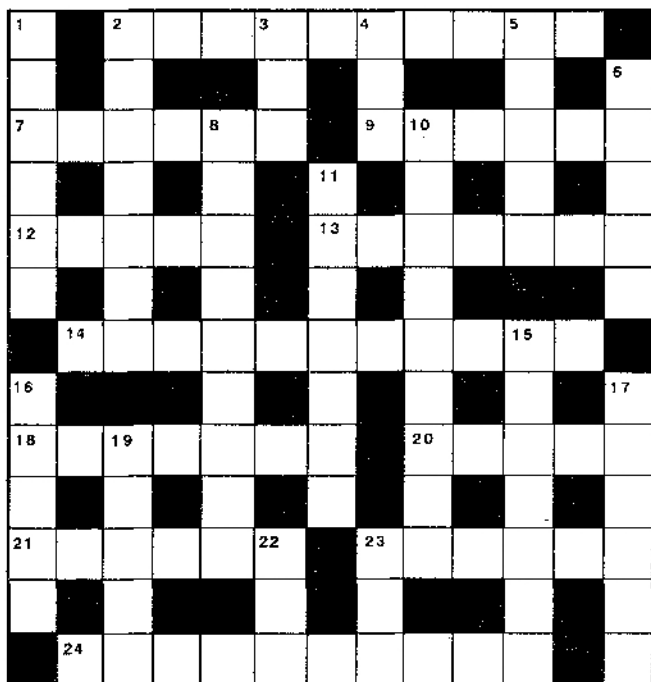
WINNER for Crossword No 3 - Barbara Wilely

**Simon's Town Civic Association
Committee Members and their Portfolios:**

Chairman:	Mrs Jacky Weaver	782 5335
Vice-chairman & Property Report:	Geoffrey Palmer	786 5402
For the ex-GCA:	CPO Manu Choudree	782 7241
	and Ian Allan	782 2736
Treasurer:	Ian Allan	782 2736
For the ex-STRRA:	Dr John Morris	786 1765
	and Wilf Nussey	786 1368
Communications:	Wilf Nussey	786 1368
Red Hill:	Amos Lombo	780 9204/W
		780 9123/ H
Security/Safety:	Cdr. Blackie Swart	786 2508
Cultural Affairs:	Cpt. Terry Korsten	782 1889
Environment:	Dr. Mike Berger	786 4823
Economic Development:	Andre Duraan	786 1918
Recreation/Community:	Dr Reg Loxton	786 1750
SA Navy:	Captain Chris Roodt	787 3049
National Parks:	Justin Buchmann	780 9100
Pollution Monitor:	Dr John Morris	786 1765

CROSSWORD

PUZZLE 4



Across

2. There's an inner gleam stirring next to Woodlands! (4,6)
7. Thin follows a square in rough clothes (6)
9. Walker staggers on the steps to Just Nuisance's grave (6)
12. An expert in a luxury car goes fast! (5)
13. Two points to an ancient coin will make you an aristocrat (7)
14. A local dale with ever-open arms? (7,4)
18. The man in the engineers makes a good drink! (3,4)
20. Mr Mombert, for instance, in the drink is quite enough! (5)
- 21, 1Dn. Sadly Ethel and Doris are no longer ... Below Runciman Drive, perhaps (6,6)
23. Live, own and keep good order (6)
24. Five go through the induction process, eyeless it is said. Their presence has been requested (10)

Down

1. See 21 Acr
2. Don's ask a Macdonald about this valley or there'll be a massacre (7)
3. How a horse would sound when refusing? (3)
4. Would this be the rock on which Noah grounded? (3)
5. "Bwana" is wrong for addressing an Indian Viceroy (5)
6. Simon's Town's Admiral must be environmentally correct (5)
8. Order the course (7)
10. This old german Count should descend to his last resting-place (9)
11. It would appear a century for Afrikaners in this street above Marine Oil: or are they being gulled? (7)
15. Make it clear that it used to be flat (7)
16. It's funny that five hundred turn over together (5)
17. Erase the permit in the river (6)
19. A Simon's Town street in SW England? (5)
22. A meridian which is Zulu now (3)
23. Although the old boat is bottom-up! (3)

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 21 May 2001.
- 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 2001

1. ANCHOR PLAYERS

Simonsberg Theatre

11 May at 8pm for ONE NIGHT ONLY

"Tour de Femme"

Booking Ph **785 2466**

2. SIMON'S TOWN MUSEUM

Phone **786 3046**

Wednesday 16 May, 5.30 for 6pm

'Nine Emeralds in the Atlantic' - a lecture by Bobby Johnston.

R10 per person (includes a complimentary glass of wine or fruit juice prior to lecture)

3. FRIENDS OF SIMON'S TOWN COASTLINE

Enquiries Ph **786 3890** - All Welcome

Wednesday 9 May, 7.15 for 7.30pm - Talk by James Hallinan on "The History of Simon's Town. Simon's Town Museum.

Sunday 13 May, 9.30pm - Hack & Planting of Indigenous Shrubs, Boulders and Links Cres. Meet at Boulders car park.

Sunday 27 May, 9.30am - Combined all day walk with the Simon's Town Flora Conservation Group to Manekloof, Simon's Town.

Meet at Da Gama Park Shopping Centre parking area. Enquiries **786 3890**.

4. MASONIC CLUB, SIMON'S TOWN

Quiz held on the 1st Friday of each month - R10pp (supper R5 pp).

Bingo held on the 3rd Friday of each month - R25pp includes supper.

Dances (free) held on the 2nd, 4th and where applicable, the 5th Friday of each month.

Dates for May/June: 11 May - Dance

18 May - Bingo

25 May - Dance

1 June - Quiz

8 June - Dance

All events commence at **8pm sharp**. It is essential that bookings be made for the Quiz and Bingo nights, where light suppers will be served. **Sylvia on 782 7191** or **Norma 786 2126**.

Simon's Town Home Nursing Service

P.O. Box 625, Simon's Town, 7995

Tel: (021) 786 1242

Cell: 082 807 3439

We have been in operation since August 1992, and we care for the entire Simon's Town area, from the top of Glencairn Heights to Millers Point and beyond.

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For further information, please contact us on our office phone **786 1242**.

Please, if I am not available, leave your name and telephone number on the answering machine and I will return your call.

Sister Elizabeth Swart

Simon's Town Home Nursing Service



Deadline for June Edition

Thursday 24 May

Publication Date - Monday 4 June

Contact Sue Sturman

Tel 786 5798 or 786 2436

(Simon's Town Publicity Assoc)