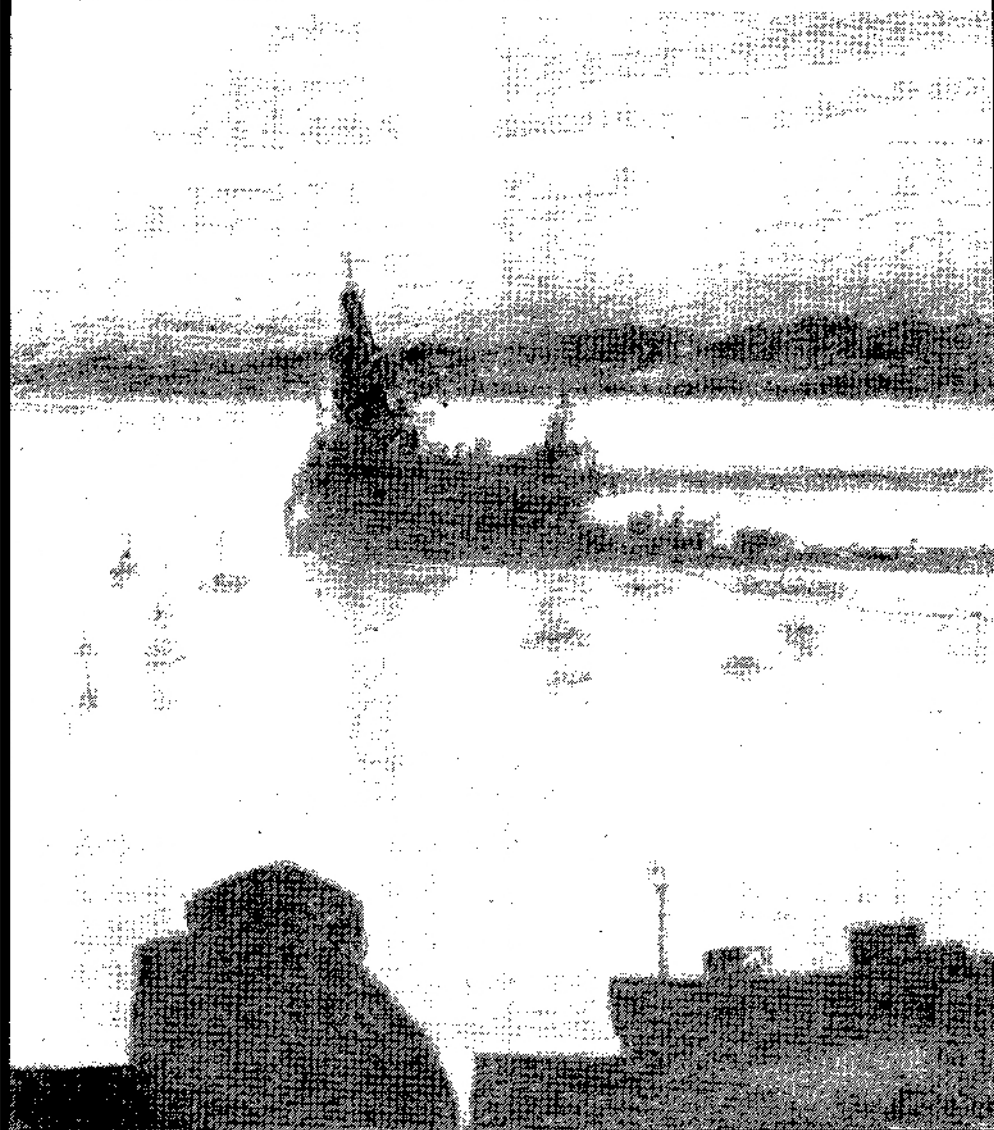


SNOEKTOWN CALLING

Vol 3 Issue 3

3 JULY 2000

Winter Dawn over Simon's Bay



July Sponsor - Dr Reg Loxton with the help of the Supporters Club

Editorial

The AGM of the Ratepayers and Residents' Association is upon us, requiring the election of new office bearers, among other things.

We have a divided community, as evidenced by the Castoro Otto affair; there is much bitterness around. Hasn't the moment of truth arrived when we should carefully review the current situation and the way forward? - bury the issues of conflict and concentrate on those matters of common interest which affect all the citizens of our community. The present Committee is skewed; we urgently need wider representation, covering the diversity of our community - Simonites as well as Simonstonians. And we need more members!

Elsewhere in this issue is a statement from PROBUS, in which the parameters of its constitution and ethos are set out. This explanation is a-propos my remark about PROBUS in the editorial of June last. I have been a contented member for quite some years, so what can I say? Only that I was unaware of the severity of its prescriptive *modus operandi* - well I never!

*Reg Loxton, Editor
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Dear Dr Loxton

Re: Your editorial in the June edition of Snoektown Calling.

In your editorial you indicate that the PROBUS Club should have the responsibility for supporting community functions such as the Simon's Town School Musical Evening. We feel that this is a misrepresentation of the purpose of PROBUS and that this matter needs to be put into some kind of perspective.

Firstly, you, as a long-standing member of this Club, will appreciate that PROBUS is not a service-oriented club such as Rotary, Lions, Round Table, etc. The Constitution specifically states that it is for retired or semi-retired persons and the intention is to provide a forum for fellowship and enjoyment for those people who are invited to join it. **PROBUS therefore does not have a responsibility to support any community functions whatsoever.** It is a matter for the individual to decide which functions he will support if he so wishes.

Having said the above, it should be brought to the attention of the Public that we readily agreed to have the Headmaster of Simon's Town school attend our luncheon as your guest, so that he could talk to the members about the function with a view to encouraging them to attend. This is not normal procedure for the Club. The Headmaster was well received, and informed me on the telephone subsequently that he was happy with the outcome. In fact, I believe you and the Headmaster are to be congratulated on a financially successful function based on your feedback in the editorial.

We would appreciate it if you would publish this letter in your next edition of Snoektown Calling so that a proper perspective of the matter can be appreciated by the residents of Simon's Town.

George Eglington
President, PROBUS Club of Simon's Town

Down the Historical Mile

The June meeting of the SLAP started with a report-back: Clara Fijnbosch on the debate about our womenfolk in the Town and their preference for wearing pants. Well, she said, she had told Aunt Constance - from Wynberg, you know - about the whole affair and Aunt Constance's comment was that such a thing could never happen in Wynberg because the ladies of Wynberg were very conscious of their appearance on the street and they had a tradition of refinement to uphold. Further, she said, perhaps it had something to do with the South-Easter, which is likely to drive anyone crazy - that is why she prefers to live in Wynberg.

Stoffel Boesman reported that the portfolio holders for shipping (Wingnut Williams) and the environment (Piet Pompies) had completed a very important research programme and feasibility study and they

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wished to report their findings. Stoffel, being the fusspot that he is, insisted members be allocated portfolios, in keeping with the SPM; you know we must move in step with the Global Society of the Millennium 2000. Harold Hardekop remarked that he thought a portfolio was some sort of carrybag, you know, like a small portmanteau. Stoffel gave Harold one of his special withering looks and that shut Harold up for the rest of the meeting. It was well known that Stoffel regularly practised this withering look because he had read somewhere that "looks can kill" and "looks are more telling than words".

Anyway, the report by Wingnut and Piet Pompies: well, said Wingnut, the problem of what to do with the stricken bulk carrier MV Treasure, loaded with 140 000 tons of iron ore, got them thinking, and this is the solution:

We have a serious pollution problem in False Bay, due to the accumulation of dangerous chemicals in the Bay carried into the sea by sewage effluent and stormwater runoff. Now, the experts tell us that the sure way of fixing the problem is to put iron into the water. Wingnut couldn't explain how this happens, but anyway we must believe the experts. So, said Wingnut, why not dump the iron ore into False Bay!

So, Wingnut said, he and Piet Pompies had done a lot of homework and the plan is:

1. Bring MV Treasure into False Bay - the eastern end.
2. Line the ship up, the bow pointing to Admiralty House.
3. Stoke up the boilers to maximum revs and let go to build up maximum speed, the Wolraad Woltemade pushing at the stern as hard as it can. The target: Admrality House.
4. About 400m short of Admiralty House the ship wil plough into the sand and begin to slow down.
5. Stop engines and the Treasure will come to rest 100m off Admiralty House Beach.
6. All the bunker oil is pumped out - and there we have it: enough iron in the water

to keep False Bay pollution-free for at least a hundred years.

Both Piet and Wingnut assured us that the calculations had been properly done: the composition and profile of the seabed, the shape and draught of the hull, the power and speed of the ship, and so on.

Mr Chairman, this can work and it will make SLAP famous. But Mientjie Boep-pens, who was known for her negative attitude, wanted to know: what if your sums are wrong and the ship doesn't stop but ploughs through Admiralty House and ends up in the main road - what then? Ja well, no fine, said Wingnut. If that should happen, the least people can say is that they tried.

Of course, this was such a big scheme, with so many ifs and buts that the members could only shake their heads in wonder - nothing more to say.

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Lipton Cup

Lipton Cup, South Africa's most prestigious yacht race, is due to be held in Simon's Town from the waters of False Bay Yacht Club, from August 5 to August 12 inclusive.

Our club, one of the few yacht clubs experiencing membership growth, intends to take maximum advantage of this event, which is the first time that the Lipton has been hosted in Simon's Town.

A Lipton Cup Organising Committee with whom the club is in constant contact is meticulously thinking out the Lipton Cup arrangements. The idea of running a Boat and Accessories Show simultaneously with Lipton has been mooted and will be implemented. This show will not run for the full Lipton Week, but from Saturday August 5 to Wednesday August 9. This includes a weekend and one Public Holiday.

A specialist show organiser from Johannesburg who has organised highly successful shows in this very area, such as the Navy 75th Celebration Exhibition, will provide and has budgeted for, a 40 x 20 metre marquee, individual show stands, carpeting, security, signage and exhibitor promotion. Lettable space will be available on the hard which will be cleared for the occasion. Also water space will be available at competitive prices.

The marquee will be set up outside and adjacent to the club entrance in the public car park, and the only access to the Lipton and other activities would be through this marquee. Stallholders will therefore have a captive audience for a period of time. The membership of the club numbers 900. There is absolutely no parking difficulties anticipated as the Navy has made its vast adjacent facilities available to us.

The Lipton event, as well as the Boat show, will be extensively advertised in the press and on radio. In fact, we hope to have Ra-

dio KFM broadcasting from our premises.

Between the Lipton Committee and our club, various events of public interest will be held throughout the period and entrance to our premises will not be restricted in any way. Children will be especially catered for and trips in the bay organised by our own ferries and other neighbouring charter people.

We anticipate a daily public presence of some 1200 people because this, in essence, is not a Yacht Club show, but a Simon's Town Show. There is always, on any given day, in any given week in any given month, a large presence of foreign visitors in our area. There will be approximately 1200 people directly involved in the sailing of Lipton and the organisation of the event. The Simon's Town Publicity Association have been given a stand and we believe that any potential participant in this show has a more than average chance of creating substantial product sales.



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The Lipton Cup and the Boat show are on the web:

www.steorage.co.za/Lipton_Cup

www.steorage.co.za/Boat_Show

New Year's Eve Function - Jubilee Square - 31 December 2000

A small group of people representing various organisations and businesses in Simon's Town have formed a committee to arrange a New Year's Eve function for the community on Jubilee Square on the 31 December 2000, their mission being to ensure that whatever profits can be gleaned from such function will remain in Simon's Town for the benefit of the various charities, organizations and churches in the area.

A Millennium Fund, made up from some of last year's profit, was instituted by Simon's Town Publicity Association and our Ward Councillor, the purpose of the fund being to sponsor community festive occasions held on Jubilee Square, in particular the New Year's Eve Party. Any surplus funds generated after payment of all costs are to be distributed as follows :

1/3rd to be returned to the Millennium Fund.

1/3rd to be distributed between community charities and other organizations that serve the Simon's Town Community.

1/3rd to be divided between those organizations responsible for organizing the community function/festivity. (This does not include businesses).

We invite any members of the community to join the Millennium Committee, either in a personal capacity or as a representative of a charity or organization wishing to assist with this year's party thereby benefiting from the profit as mentioned above. The

committee already has representatives from Simon's Town Publicity Association, Church of St Simon and Jude, Simon's Town Methodist Church and Simon's Town Museum. Two members of the business community have offered their services for the benefit of the Town.

Interested persons are most welcome to contact me at the above numbers for further details.

We will also liaise with the businesses in the CBD regarding the arrangements for the evening.

(We will not be closing off the Main Road this year !)

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Weekend of Music with the Simon's Town Pro Musica Divina

The Simon's Town Pro Musica Divina is presenting a weekend of excellent music in Simon's Town.

On Saturday 15 July at 7.30pm the UCT String quartet will perform in the Sts. Simon and Jude Catholic Church. This very talented group: Anouk Espi (violin), Camilla Driver (violin), Xandi van Dijk (viola) and Eddie McLean (cello) have been performing together from an early age. They will be making their international debut at the Grachten Music Festival in Amsterdam in August and also attend masterclasses with Colin Carr, Phillipe Graffin and Pascal Devoyon. They have recorded with SABC's Tube television, The Honeymoon Suites and the Orb. Currently they are working on and recording a soundtrack for a South African film called "Interface". They will be performing music by Haydn, Brahms and Shostakovich.

On Sunday 16 July at 6pm, the Magdalene College Choir (Cambridge), on tour in South Africa, will be performing at St. Francis Church. This mixed choir of 24 undergraduates at Cambridge University, will be entertaining us with music by Britten, Purcell, Bach, Gabrieli and Brahms. The 550 year old college chapel's music life is overseen by Precentor and organist, Dr Stephen Farmer. The choir is made up of choral scholars, student members of the Magdalene college and the wider university. Their latest CD is a recording of the Cathedral Music of Thomas Attwood.

Tickets are R25 each or R45 for two. They may be booked at 786 1697.



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Chairman's Report

The 2000 Annual General Meeting of the Association will be in the Town Hall at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, July 25.

All members are urged to attend, as well as any other residents of Simon's Town, because this will be a watershed meeting at which two decisions must be taken that will materially affect the future of everyone in the community, whether or not they are members.

The first decision is whether we should join forces with the Glencairn Civic Association to create a new civic body provisionally titled "Simon's Bay Civic Association". Your committee strongly favours a merger in the belief that Glencairn is very much part of the Simon's Town community, our interests are the same and we need to unite to resolve common problems. The GCA mem-

bers fully approved a merger at their AGM in May. If we agree, the AGM must also approve a constitution for the new body and elect committee members. With the uncertain future in the coming Uncity, a merger makes good sense.

If it happens, we will need a new constitution and name. There is little difference between the two constitutions and they have been drafted into one without difficulty. Copies will be made available to you. We hope to take the process further to enable the Association to work more closely with other local organisations with special interests, like security and environmental protection, to mutual benefit.

The second decision is whether or not a Municipal Improvement District (MID) should be formed in Simon's Town by the new association to provide services which the authorities cannot or will not, such as additional police and traffic officers, street

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and beach cleaning, tourism marketing, a central office, and communications. These benefits will not replace existing services, but will augment them. A MID empowers a community to raise a small levy on top of everybody's rates which it can use to have its own management to plan and largely control development and administer the extra services. It can be established only with the approval of more than half of the ratepayers, who will be polled after the scheme has been fully advertised and explained.

MIDs have been established in many communities and business districts in South Africa including a number in the Western Cape. An authority on the subject will explain to the AGM exactly what it entails. A full agenda and basic information about the MID system will be distributed nearer the day. Routine will be kept to the minimum at the AGM so Mr Alan Dolby, special consultant to the South Peninsula Municipality on MIDs, can tell us what they are all about.

They have proved their worth elsewhere in South Africa including parts of the Peninsula, and particularly in America, where they have considerably reduced crime, littering, graffiti, pollution and increased property values.

The Committee has put into effect many of the initiatives raised by members at our two workshop general meetings. We arranged them in several broad groups:

Environment and Development: The STRRA still firmly believes a Strategic Environment Assessment should be done of the Simon's Town area in spite of the projected cost of R80 000. Before that we have to decide what we want from an SEA: what our specific development and protection benchmarks should be. That process is in hand, but cannot reach finality until STRRA members decide at the AGM whether or not to merge with the GCA and to create an MID.



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Meanwhile we have improved communications with the SPM through the Integrated Working Group and direct contact, we continue to maintain a close watch on property, and we monitor municipal services. Mountain rehabilitation and alien plant removal are taken care of by large-scale projects for the entire Peninsula. The SPM has taken huge steps to prevent mudslides and rockfalls following the big January fires. We hope to have closer links with the National Parks in the future.

Water: We continue to insist on minimum standards and continued quality control. The SPM have considerable technical problems in ensuring clean water and until these are overcome, we might have to suffer unusually high chlorine levels. The situation has not yet been reached where the coli content is consistently low.

Communication: We are taking steps preparatory to a merger with the GCA to improve contact with other civic groups like

the Business Forum, Friends of the Coastline, Police Forum, etc, because our interests overlap and the STRRA should be the umbrella for all. We hope to soon have an office which all of us can use.

Municipal Law Enforcement: The SPM now has law enforcement officers based in Simon's Town to cope with problems like rubble dumping and from our experience, they react fast and effectively. Their phone number is 786-3667. Unfortunately, we do not yet have a resident traffic officer.

Police: The SAPS are doing a fine job in keeping us freer of crime than perhaps any other urban area in the Western Cape. We have an excellent Community Police Officer working with them, but we are having an uphill struggle to finance him. If we get our MID, this will be a top priority. Meanwhile any financial help to keep him operative will be very gratefully received. Send it to P O Box 612, Simon's Town, 7995.

Other: All the other matters raised at the workshops – refuse collection, overgrown empty plots, insufficient rubbish bins, barbed wire atop walls, unclean streets, proper signage, tourist bus traffic, and more – will be tackled under the headings listed above or are low on the list of priorities.

The Castoro Otto affair has been laid to rest, thanks to a generous local engineer, the ship's Captain and his officers, and cool-headed recognition that in a shared community such as ours, there must be give and take on both sides. The STRRA had no small role in this.

Andrew Duncan
*Chairman Simon's Town
Ratepayers' & Residents' Association*

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Property Watch no. 22 July 2000

1. Current Applications

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

1.1 Erf No 3619, Glencairn: Application for Amendments to the Approved Site Development Plans at the Glencairn Shopping Centre to permit the building of 3 new shops and extensions to the Seven Eleven supermarket. The closing date for objections is **11 July 2000** and details of the application may be seen at the municipal offices at the Fish Hoek Civic Centre

1.2 Erf No 1247, Simon's Town: (Off Harrington and Queens Roads, Seaforth). Application for a Departure to permit the establishment and operation of an art gallery and coffee shop on a residential property zone for single residential use. There is no closing date for objections at this stage, but the surrounding owners will be advised of this application.

1.3. Application to Subdivide Erf 1210, Simon's Town: This is a single residential zoned property with road frontages on both Forest Hill Road and Runciman Drive. Objections received were referred to the applicant for comment. SPM has requested more information relating to one proposed boundary line in the submission.

1.4. Application to Subdivide Erf 1422, Simon's Town: This is a single residential zoned property with road frontages on both Klein Tuin Road and Gay Road. This application was approved by the Urban and Environmental Services Committee on 1 June 2000.

1.5. Erven 2472 and 2473 Simon's Town (off Cotton Road): Application for Rezon-

ing (to build a private road), Subdivision (into six erven) and Departures (in respect of building lines). Objections were received and the SPM is processing this application.

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

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

1.8. Erf 2298, Simon's Town - Boulders Beach Guest House: Application to rezone from General Residential to Business. The applicant has lodged an appeal against the Urban and Environmental Services Committee's refusal to approve the rezoning application. All those who objected to the application should have received a letter, dated 20 April 2000, from the SPM advising them of this appeal. This letter invited any-



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Simon's Town

one wishing to comment on the appeal to do so within 30 days of the registration of the letter. The decision of the Provincial Government is now awaited.

1.9. Erf 267, Glencairn: Application for a 2nd dwelling. Objections were received and a report will be prepared for the Urban and Environmental Service Committee for the July meeting.

2. Other Property Matters

2.1. CFM 983, Wildschutsbrandvlei: Application for Land Use Departure to permit an arts and craft shop, a pottery studio and sales outlet and a place for curio sellers. The Redhill Conservation Group has submitted a strong objection to this application. The closing date for objections was 23 June 2000. Details may still be viewed at the Fish Hoek municipal offices.

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

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Due to extra space available, we will now also offer other services such as a visiting social worker, reflexologist, chiropodist, physician and gynaecologist who will attend on a sessional basis.

Parking will not be such a problem as it is in the centre of Simon's Town and we will try and persuade the Traffic Department to install a pedestrian crossing close-by. The elderly and disabled will have no problem accessing our practice, since we have a gentle garden path (wide enough to accommodate even a wheelchair) inside the walls of the garden.

We will be running our practice from there as from 3 July 2000, and our numbers remain the same i.e.: Rooms 786 1697 and emergencies 082 573 9597. We also invite you to an Open Day on 8 July from 9am to 4pm to view our new rooms or to come and say "hello".

Greetings in Health.

Ward Councillor's Report

1. One thing I receive a lot of complaints about is dumping and dirty streets. Members of the community generate that dirt. We are currently fortunate in having street-sweepers in the business area of Simon's Town. One of these is General Ndongeni. He has worked for the municipality for nearly fifty years and is due to retire at the end of July 2000. He has been an important part of our community for so long and I wish him many happy years of retirement.

But will he be replaced? Other areas do not have street-sweepers dedicated to them. The SPM merely continued with the old Simon's Town practice because those doing the job did not wish to move away. Be grateful for their continued service.

Earnest Nel is the cleaner responsible for Jubilee Square and the waterfront. He too is extremely hardworking and conscientious. He also cleans the public toilets - a

never-ending task.

As you may know, we now have new systems for the collection of refuse from businesses. Trade refuse agreements are drawn up with each business according to the estimated quantity of refuse. The rate is set per bag and has added to business costs. The cost of refuse removal has risen sharply as bulk costs of dumping at the site in Strandfontein have also risen dramatically. When this site is closed the nearest dump will be at Vissershok and collection costs will be even higher.

Some businesses do not want to pay the extra tariff and have started dumping where it suits them. This of course merely adds to the problem that we have with litter and brings me back to my initial point: we are responsible for the cleanliness or otherwise of our town.

2. On the advice of environmental experts, seaweed will not be collected from the



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beaches, except from the most heavily utilised beaches during the season.

3. People living in areas which baboons regularly invade will be required to have baboon-proof bins. We have a prototype, which has proved successful, and you will be advised of the availability by letter.

4. The small lanes and empty plots in the centre of town are becoming more and more insalubrious with what appears to be an increase in the number of vagrants. The shelter established some years ago in the town, specifically to house those unfortunate members of society is doing sterling work under Cindy Dollery and her team. Unfortunately some vagrants will not use the shelter and many of those doing so are not from Simon's Town, but are sent here by people elsewhere.

It is a sad reality that certain communities will not establish shelters and prefer them to be somewhere else. Each community should accept responsibility. Fish Hoek, for example does not have one despite the obvious need.

One of the main collecting points for vagrants, who buy cheap and poisonous alcohol for their daily consumption, is Palace Barracks. It is appalling to see this once magnificent building, vacated by the Navy some years ago, rapidly become a fire hazard and a cesspit. Since it was handed back to Public Works Department it has been vandalised and infested by vagrants. All this in spite of repeated applications to the Minister of Public Works, her regional representatives and MP Mr Jannie Mornberg.

Bureaucracy and inertia reign supreme.

5. And now for something completely different! Much alarm and consternation has been spread on the subject of massive increases in rates. This has arisen because of speculation on the proposed Act, which will govern the administration of that pre-eminent source of local government income - Property Tax.

I do try to keep up with all relevant legislation, but I lost contact after the 10th draft. It is also apparent that as the legislators try to come to grips with this form of taxation, certain harsh realities of life keep coming to the fore. One of these is that adding to the tax burden any more needs very careful assessment.

Currently the proposals are that property i.e. land and improvements must be valued at market value and that this will apply to all land, including farms, tribal land, and other properties previously not liable for property tax, across the country.

The municipality will however, determine the rate in the rand that will be applied. The problem is that a new General Valuation will have to be done since there are widely different valuation dates across the metropolitan area alone. This will be a hugely expensive exercise and will take time. Rates will apply to property owners who



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have never paid rates in their lives - how will these be explained and will the principle be accepted? Arrears for rent run into multi-millions right now.

Finally, on the subject of market value: this is interpreted as what a willing buyer would pay a willing seller. Market values in Simon's Town have rocketed since the last General Valuation in 1986. The Act currently does not allow for any phasing in of a new system, nor does it allow capping of rates for longer than three years.

There has been too much secrecy on this subject from Central Government. A matter of such critical importance should be publicly and thoroughly debated.

Alderman Nicki Holderness
Ward 22 South Peninsula Municipality

THE SIMON'S TOWN MUSEUM GHOSTS

Part 1

Old buildings, by their nature, are always susceptible to ghost stories, but The Residency, now the home of the Simon's Town Museum, seems to have more than its fair share of vaporous inhabitants.

'Eleanor' is the name given by the Museum staff to the most documented 'presence' in the Museum. She is certainly not alone, but as there have been more reported sightings - or experiences - relating to Eleanor, I will start with her.

These sightings have always described her as a young woman dressed in a long grey or lavender bombazine dress - sometimes

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wearing an old-fashioned bonnet. The most dramatic of these experiences have taken place during the period when the Residency was used as a Magistrates Court. During this time the Magistrates and their families lived on the south side of the house. At that time the present Lecture Hall was divided into 3 bedrooms, the Simon's Town Room was used as the Drawing Room and the Early History Room appears to have been the Dining Room. The Hist. Soc. Room and the two rooms now containing schools, churches and military exhibits plus the kitchen made up the rest of the family accommodation.

Eleanor seems to have liked the Magistrates' wives, following them, sitting with them during their tea parties, sometimes even speaking and being taken for a living person. The most notable sightings have taken place over the last 60-70 years, although perhaps we only know about these because the people concerned, or certainly members of their families are still alive.

The wife of Magistrate Albertus Truter van der Poel (in office from 1941) met the ghost in the kitchen. Mrs van der Poel was worried about giving a big dinner party. While preparing the food she suddenly felt a reassuring touch on her arm and a friendly presence murmured, 'Don't worry, everything will be all right'. She caught a fleeting glimpse of a woman in a long grey dress. The dinner party was a great success!

The Neethling family experienced several sightings. Magistrate Duncan Neethling (from 1946) saw a young woman in the dining room, sitting on a sofa. He went to ask his wife who she was. His wife replied that there was no-one there. He went back - she had gone. He later saw the same woman following his wife around the kitchen, but his wife insisted that she was alone.

The Stewart family (including teenage children) were in residence in the early 1950s. One afternoon Mrs Stewart was in a bed-

room and the only other person in the house was the maid. Mrs Stewart heard the front door (which should have been locked) open and close - then a woman's footsteps, which went through the hall into the lounge, then into the dining room. Mrs Stewart called out - no answer. She went to look and walked along the passage. Suddenly a woman passed her, dressed in a long dark bombazine dress with a tight bodice, which had a small turned down collar, matching cuffs and long sleeves. She thought the woman must be a visitor, but a strange one! Mrs Stewart and her maid searched the house, but couldn't find anyone. The front door was still locked. Mrs Mar-Gerrison was helping Mrs Stewart make snacks in the kitchen one afternoon and reports having seen the same young woman in the passage.

Contrary to the other sightings, which have described a young woman (presumably an adult), Mrs Pat Gordon-Davis (1980s) reported having seen 'a dark little girl around

Crazy Daisy

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14 years, in a heavy brocade dress and wearing a bonnet'. She described the girl as 'friendly, with a sense of humour'. Perhaps Eleanor has a young friend!

By 1980 a smart new Magistrates Court had been built for Simon's Town and The Residency, now unoccupied, became a possible new home for the town's museum. While exploring the house to establish whether or not it would be suitable, Cherry Dilley (now the Curator) and Nicki Holderness investigated the stairs, which led down to the ground floor from the passage by the kitchen. While they climbed

down - someone or something closed the door at the top of the stairs and they were trapped! There was certainly no wind howling through the house that day and they were lucky that people found them and released them before too long. Those stairs claimed another victim later on when Cdre. Dennis Kinkad-Weekes attempted to go down, only to have the door slammed behind him with such force that his finger was trapped and he lost the nail!

In 1984 Captain Hutchinson, the first Custodian of the Museum, moved with his wife into the renovated flat, which formed part of

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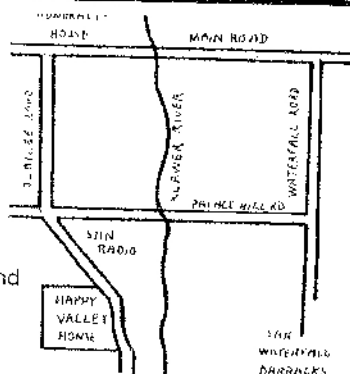
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the ground floor of the building. This time Eleanor seems to have taken a fancy to the husband! On many occasions Capt. Hutchinson was aware of a woman whispering to him (even while in bed with his wife), but on asking his wife to repeat what she had said, found that she had not spoken at all. When their 3 year old grandson came to stay, he was found one afternoon in his bedroom, playing with his toys and happily chatting to someone across the room. The child could see a lady - the others couldn't!

It seems that Eleanor continues to haunt the same part of the house where she has always appeared, even though the building has been altered to accommodate the museum. The staff have become quite used to her presence. They talk of hearing footsteps in rooms that are empty; doors open - but no-one comes through; power is mysteriously switched on and off; things will disappear - then suddenly reappear in a strange place. 'Oh, it's only Eleanor', they say. The new Custodian, Roy Newman, has already had problems with this young lady. 'I hear her footsteps following me around, especially in the kitchen', he reports. 'She will keep switching lights and power on and off'. Staff and visitors alike have experienced a ghostly tap on the shoulder and a presence so strong that they have been unable to enter, or proceed through a room, almost as if someone is physically stopping them.

But who can this woman really be? The traditional story is well known and suggests that she was possibly a servant or governess who lived at the Residency in the late 1700s. The legend has grown up that she was in love with either a fisherman or a sailor, but was forbidden to see him. She would creep out secretly to meet him on the beach, but one day she waited in vain, was caught in a storm and got pneumonia. She died of the illness - and, of course, a broken heart! A variation on this tale suggests that she was a young girl who was forbidden by her family to play with her friends (the chil-

dren of the local fishermen) and would secretly meet them on the beach. Sadly this story also ends with illness and death. The old stairs near the kitchen, which caused such trouble for Mrs Dilley and Cdre. Kinkead-Weekes, would certainly have given her an easy and unobtrusive way down from the top floor and from there along a passage to the side door, but no evidence has yet been found of the supposed secret passage which led to the beach.

This tale is often linked to the mysterious mural on the wall of the 'pub', which was supposedly painted by a young sailor during the years when the Residency was used as a Royal Navy Hospital (1798 - 1803). This young man was admitted after a fall from the mast of a sailing ship and had lost an arm. The hospital bunks were arranged in three tiers along the wall and it is thought that he was given a top bunk. One day he was sitting very sadly on the beach, wondering what would become of him as he



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could no longer be a sailor, when a young woman appeared. She encouraged him to develop his talent as an artist. He went back and painted the mural, but although he searched he never saw her again. Of course the woman in the painting is thought to be the one he saw on the beach - the ghost of the girl who died. The mural remains a mystery, as there is no way of knowing who the artist was, when exactly it was painted, or what the figures represent. For many years it was thought that the mural had a power of its own, in that it could never be successfully photographed, but that spell seems to have been broken by modern cameras. At the same time a camera may well have once captured the fuzzy image of an extra guest at a museum function. There is a photograph on file which shows a white shape above the seated guests!

We will probably never know who Eleanor was (is?) and what her real name might be. She is certainly not Eleanor Macartney, the

14 year old daughter of Earl Macartney, who was Governor of the Cape in 1797 and 1798, as his family remained in England during his spell of duty here. However, she seems always to have been a pleasing presence, at the most mischievous, like Casper - a 'Friendly Ghost'. The same cannot be said for the inhabitants of the lower ground floor!

Watch this space in the August Issue for the chilling conclusion of the Museum Ghosts!

N.S.R.I. Station 10 Simon's Town - July 2000

First I wish to apologise to Paul Alexander for wrongly referring to him as Paul Andrews in last month's article. It was however, Paul who deserves the congratulations. Something else which I would like to blame on the computer "gremlins" is the fact that I said "Spirit of Free Masonry" has Mercury motors when in fact they are Mariner motors. My regrets to all concerned.

Once again this year we are experiencing balmy days interspersed by the odd rainy days, but no snow on the mountains yet and we have just passed the winter solstice. We do need the snows and winter rains to top up our storage dams.

Station 10 is still having a quiet period. There was a call out to assist a small yacht off Seaforth, but the matter resolved itself and there was no casualty. There have been some calls for the 4x4 Mobile to assist the police with persons with minor injuries.

At present Station 10 has 14 new recruits, so a training course has been devised in order to bring them to the stage of being useful crew members. For the next six months, recruits will attend a two hour training session, once per fortnight, under the guidance of the station training officer Warren Combrink. The training will be task book orientated which should give the students the advantage of working at their own pace

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An updated version of the N.S.R.I. Constitution and a model for the updating of Station Standing Orders has been received at Station 10 and is being put to use to revise the present Standing Orders. Deputy Station Commander Denis Zimmerman will attend the N.O.T.C. meeting as representative of the 8 and 9 metre class of sea rescue craft. What is unusual about this meeting is that it is being held in Mossel Bay instead of at Head Office.

The Station has been informed that through kind sponsorship from Syfrets it is to get a new defibrillator which will be able to be used on patients in the rescue boat or in the 4x4 Mobile. This instrument will have an automatic function thus allowing for it to be put to use by trained ambulance personnel, as opposed to the much higher grade trained persons which could use the

conventional instrument. The previously sponsored defibrillator is still in use and is at present carried in the ambulance used by the False Bay Volunteer Ambulance Service which is largely staffed by Station 10 personnel. Station 10 personnel who will be able to use the new defibrillator will attend a four hour training session on the use of the new instrument.

Recently at a function at the False Bay Yacht Club, Station Commander Chops Craig and the Chairman of the Fund Raising Committee Phil Ferreira were presented with a cheque for R10000 which is made up from an annual levy on members of the club. This money will be handed over to N.S.R.I Headquarters and will be put to use for upkeep and running costs at Station 10. N.S.R.I. Station 10 is eternally grateful to the members of the False Bay Yacht Club for this great donation.

Station 10 members were also grateful to the South Peninsula Municipality for the re-

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cently received grant of R1500.00. This will also go towards station running costs. The Reg Hopkins Boat Collection also realised R2594.00 over the last two months. These donations are achieved by Reg's sheer grit and dedication and all in the N.S.R.I. fraternity are ever grateful to him.

Statcom Chops Craig is voluntarily helping the Fish Hoek Fire Department for the next three months in the brigade office while senior personnel undergo training.

Well, that is all from me this month. I wish you all well and please keep safe out there! Yours aye,

Don Dollery

Member, Station 10 Support Committee.

A Tanganyika Journal

Part 6

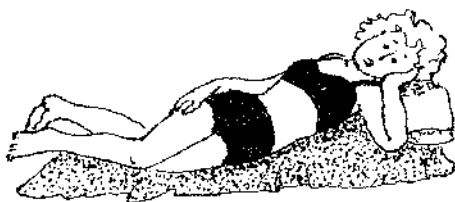
January 15 1950

The seedlings are doing well, but we are about to leave them and the little banda which has been home. The conservation team has been moving further into the bush, and Sailor is having to travel a considerable distance to and from work. Obviously, he will need to camp with the other men, so I have a choice: stay on at base camp and see Sailor maybe two days a week, or go with him and live under canvas. No choice, really.

January 21

Mile 9

I swear never to read another word about the romantic lifestyle of the Bedouin. Tent life is rugged: stings and bites by various dudus. Shade temperatures don't rise above 96F, but the tent positively bulges as the air inside heats up. Ours is a fairly large, square brown tent, "Officers for the use of". There's a tarpaulin underfoot. A central pole has a couple of nails on which to hang garments - "watch out for hairy worms" said Sailor belatedly when I put on a jacket and felt all the fires of hell up my arm. Two beds with mosquito netting, an enamel washbasin on a metal stand. For health reasons



the choo is quite far from the tent - naturally buzzes with choo flies. It's best to go there after dark.

On the whole Mile 9 is a pleasant place. The bachelors' Mess tent is roomy and airy and there's an office with a half-wall of bamboo and a tent canopy. I have a job of sorts - in lieu of an Asian" - drawing neat copies of all the field maps scrawled by the men. I am also in charge of the tiny Met station and am teased when I hold forth about humidities and hygrographs. Sheba has disappeared without a trace. I blame myself for not being around in the tent. Siamese need company.

April 20

I have a new career: official photogrammetrist. A young Canadian - with ginger-haired wife - arrived to give the Mile 9 men a course in photogrammetry. Not a sausage they said, none of this back-to-school malarkey - and they put the finger on me. I have found the course fascinating, despite dozing off - because of the heat.

Nelda, the Canadian's wife, has been a problem. She sunbathes out in the open, wearing the scantiest of underwear. Bobby Gunn ordered me to Do Something about her: she was a distraction. Why not tackle the husband? I suggested. No, said Bobby, cringing. So I gave it thought, and explained to Nelda that the sun was dangerous to fair-skinned people, and it was wise to keep covered at all times. Well if she couldn't sun bathe, said Nelda, what else was there to do in this god-forsaken backwoods? She was bored stiff.

I offered to take Nelda for a walk - suitably clothed - and we wandered off, Nelda darting this way and that. After a while I thought we should return to camp. But the sun was at its zenith. We'd started off going vaguely west, with the sun at our backs, but now there was no indication of east and west. Don't panic, I thought. Pray to Saint Anthony, finder of lost things. Stay calm. All the while, this silly female chattering while I was trying to come upon footprints. Then I saw it: Thank God (and St Anthony), a clearing ahead and in it the defunct railway cutting, which had been opened by officialdom and closed by the rains. Turn left, hug the cutting and lo! there were the tents. "You know, honey," Nelda told her hubby, "I really thought we'd got lost, but she (that's me) knew where we were all the time."

News from Naval Base Simon's Town

Navy gets involved after oil spill

The South African Navy Tug, UMALUSI from Simon's Town, and a Harbour Patrol Boat from SAS UNITIE, the Navy's Cape Town based citizen unit, were called out at short notice to assist with the oil spilled by the sunken Treasure.

On arrival in Cape Town, the UMALUSI was fitted with specialised equipment from the Dept of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. The equipment is designed to skim oil off the sea surface and pump it into a Bladder, towed astern. She is presently operating off the entrance to the Cape Town Harbour.

The Harbour Patrol Boat is assisting Cape Town's Port Control with manning and controlling the boom which allows the ships in and out of the harbour.

Navy Diver takes Helm

It is not every day that a Diving Officer is afforded the opportunity to command an SA Naval ship. Commander (Cdr) Roy Hendersen, a competent sailor, joined the SA Navy in 1985 after being inspired by his dad who also served in the SA Navy. This and his keen interest in sailing stood him in good stead for his future naval career. On 26 June he assumed command of the ton class Mine Sweeper SAS EAST LONDON (one of only two still operational in the world). "It is my dream to afford my men the opportunity to become true sailors by allowing them more time at sea," says Cdr Henderson.

He recently competed in the Cape-to-Rio Race 2000 where his yacht, Manex Southern Isles won the prize for the best prepared yacht and was the first yacht to cross the Greenwich Meridian line. He was also awarded the honour for being first in the

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deviation (Centurion Class), and second in class three. Overall he placed twelfth out of 96 competitors.

We wish him "fair winds and safe seas" in his new command.

Commander (Cdr) Andrew Blake has now successfully completed his command on the SAS EAST LONDON. He will take command of the mine-hunter SAS UMHLOTI.

Cdr Blake, who joined the SA Navy in 1983, was the Fourth Officer and Engineering Officer onboard the commemorative Caravel BARTOLOMEU DIAS which sailed from Lisbon to South Africa in 1987. He has also served on SAS TAFELBERG, FLEUR, KIMBERLEY, UMZIMKULU, UNGENI, UMHLOTI, WALVISBAAI and EAST LONDON.

**PENINSULA TOURISM –
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Although June has been a comparatively quiet month, there are several exciting events in the near future which should help to brighten up the winter months. A special highlight is the concert of the Magdalene College Choir of Cambridge University to be held on 16 July at St. Frances' Church. From this month, Dave Hurwitz and Glen Knox, the owners of the popular "Spirit of Just Nuisance" will be offering regular trips to Seal Island and Cape Point on their new vessel "Nuisance Express". (Booking is essential). Ever since the large "Good Hope" ferry was discontinued in November 1998, numerous visitors have been requesting cruises to these two destinations - so we welcome this splendid new service for visitors.

In addition to these events and new tourist

attractions, the last Sunday of each month has undoubtedly become the liveliest day of the month in Simon's Town. Not only will the popular Spier vintage steam train continue to operate throughout the year on the last Sunday of each month (Cape Town - Simon's Town return and the lunchtime Simon's Town - Plumstead return), but the artists of Simon's Town have launched the Simon's Town Art Route to be held on these days. Their excellent brochure introduces the artists and their work with an essential map showing all venues. Good luck to all those participating and to the hard-working organizers Michelle Brouard and Estelle Byrne.

Unbelievably a year has passed since our last Annual General Meeting with the memorable "Xmas in July" dinner generously provided by Oatlands. This year the A.G.M. of Peninsula Tourism, Simon's Town will be held at the Simon's Town Museum at 6pm on Friday 28 July. We have been very fortunate in securing Admiralty House for a so-

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cial function to be held after the meeting, and hope that as many members as possible, especially new members, will attend.

Finally members of the False Bay Yacht Club are extremely busy preparing for the Lipton Cup and the Boat Show which will be held from 9- 12 August. Peninsula Tourism Staff will be assisting the Theewater Yachting Club in running the information kiosk for the duration of this gala event.

Although far fewer tourists arrive in the winter months there is still plenty of life in Simon's Town, and our accommodation establishments have been offering special "Secret Season" prices to entice the visitors. Restaurants are also producing bargain winter menus - please send details and menus to the Information Bureau. Staff especially appreciated the delicious samples sent by a neighbouring restaurant under new management. We are also pleased to be able to welcome back the Duraans of Salty Sea Dog from their holiday in Greece - we hope that Andre has recovered from his eye-strain.

Best wishes,

Sue Sturman

The Night Sky

The 21st June was the Winter Solstice, when the Sun was directly over the Tropic of Cancer in the Northern Hemisphere. The Summer Solstice is when the Sun will be directly over the Tropic of Capricorn.

Due to the precession of the Equinoxes, as the earth spins like a top about to topple over, there is a westwards movement of about 50 arc seconds per year. The North Pole traces out a circle taking 25,800 years to complete the journey, and then it begins its journey again. It is all due to the gravitational attraction by the Moon and the Sun on the Earth's equatorial bulge. As a result, the North and South Pole stars are slowly changing, as are the constellations over the Tropics. The Sun is now over the 23½° line of the Tropic of Cancer in the constellation of Taurus. In the summer it is directly over Sagittarius 23½° south of the Equator, so the present names are incorrect and a change to the correct names should be made. There is the northern Tropic of Taurus and the southern Tropic of Sagittarius! The Tropic is the turning point of the Sun, that is, the position at the Winter and Summer Solstices, before returning to the Equator for the Equinoxes on 20 March and 22 September.

The Planets

Mercury has disappeared into the glare of the Sun in the first two weeks of the month. On 15 July, Mercury is visible in the east

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Crime Statistics for the period 1-28 June

Burglary (Res)

8

Wien Maritz, Glenahol, Scotchburgh, Palace Hill Rd, Smitaswank Day 2, Yelkane Glen, Skurdosh Valley

Burglary (Bus)

3

Jubilee Square, Seven Seas, Simon's Town, Ukuze State, Mthobeni

Theft out of M/V

1

Near Studlands, Waterfall Rd, Simon's Town

Theft of M/V

2

A 1982 Toyota Hilux from Barnwell St, S's T. & 1986 Toyota Ventura from Main Rd, Glenahol

In the cases of the residential burglaries, 4 occurred during the week at night, 1 over a period of time, and 3 during the day on Mon, Tues and Wed respectively. In the majority of instances, a window was broken or forced open to gain entry and the homes were vacant.

The theft out of M/V occurred on the early hours of the morning, in the parking lot near Studlands.

The theft of the M/V occurred on a Sunday night and started early morning.

All the business burglaries occurred at night.

Attacks

Drunk	5	Rape	1
Shoplifting	2	Theft	3
Housebreaking & Theft	2		
Carjacking & Burglary	2		
Sex Fisheries Related	3		

Possession of suspected stolen prop. 1

Sgt A Van Eyssen

before sunrise at Magnitude +3.0, until 14 August.

Venus will be an evening object at Magnitude -4.3 from 21 July.

Mars is too close to the Sun to be seen until 15 August, when it will be back in frequent station at Magnitude +1.8. Jupiter is back in Taurus at Magnitude -2.1 in sight in the early morning sky.

Saturn will be found near the right Jupiter in Taurus at Magnitude +0.4.

Uranus is in Capricornus, as is Neptune for the remainder of the year. They are both difficult to find, and a 10 inch telescope is required to see them.

Pluto is at Magnitude +14.6 in the constellation of Ophiuchus, and is not easy to find.

The Moon

New Moon is on the 1st of July. First Quarter on the 8th, Full Moon on the 15th, Last Quarter is on the 22th.

Eclipse of the Moon

There will be an eclipse of the Moon on 16 July which will only be visible after the Moon has risen at about 03h, as a partial eclipse of a rising Moon.

The Sun

The sunrise on 1 July will be at 7h03, sunset at 17h48. Sunrise on 30 July will be at 7h03, sunset at 18h04.

Meteor Showers

During July there will be a number of meteor showers. The Perseids from July 10 to 18 will be visible from midnight. Capricornids from July 11 to August 2, from 20h00 until sunrise. Pegasus from July 8 to August 17 from 21h00 until sunrise. South Aquarids, July 21 to August 29, from 22h00 until 03h00. Alpha Capricornids, July 15 to August 28 from 24h00 until 01h00. Some good showers are expected. Please let me know of any sightings of meteors together with the date and time, as well as position.

Comets

There have been no reports of any new comets this month.

Aurora Australis

There are no reports of Aurora being observed in Simon's Town, but in the Northern Hemisphere, they are at present being

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frequently seen. The constellations which dominate the night sky are the Southern Cross, the False Cross and the Diamond Cross in the southern sky.

On the eclipse, the Scorpion is the largest and brightest constellation, followed by Sagittarius the Archer. This is situated at the centre of the universe.

Using binoculars, Herschel's Jewel Box on the side of the Southern Cross, as well as the Open Cluster are easy to find, and worth taking trouble to identify at this time of the year, when the Cross is so high in the sky.

Peter I. van Blommestein

Friends of Simon's Town Library

We have pleasure in advising that the sum derived from our Cake/Bric-a-Brac sale amounted to over R1000.

We would once again like to thank most sincerely all those who donated in cash and kind to this sale - your unfailing generosity is very much appreciated.

Bobby van Vuuren, Convener

Book Sale

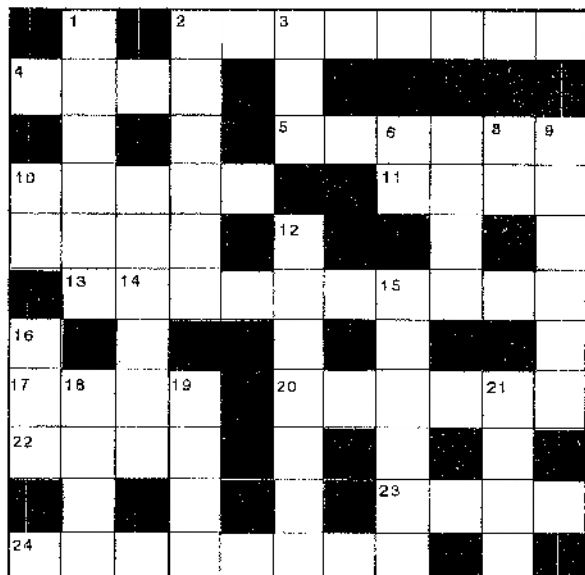
To be held by the Friends of Simon's Town Public Library, on **Friday 14 July, from 9am to 1pm** outside **Simon's Town Pharmacy**.

Although the "Friends" offer a good selection of quality second-hand books, **donations of books** are urgently needed and can be left at the library or call 786 1553 to arrange collection.

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

Chairman:	Andrew Duncan	786 1583
Vice-Chairman:	Bruce Parker	786 2955
Secretary:	Verena Hinsch	782 7806
Property:	Bruce Parker	786 2955
Environment:	Juliet Bass	786 2362
Development Planning:	Tony Robinson	786 1222
SPM Liaison:	Neil Grant	786 1491
Fund-Raising & Membership:	Cedric Duncan	786 2538
Publications and Publicity:	Wilf Nussey	786 1368

CROSSWORD



PZZLE 5

Crossword Puzzle 8

Across

2. Local circular tower
4. This fish makes my aunt ill
5. Picture made of coloured tiles
10. A local form of transport
11. Remarkable person
13. Does a mad flower grow in this nursery?
17. Crowd lawlessness
20. God's abode
22. A large, heavy book
23. Sail support
24. Did this local village resort produce a cereal crop?

Down

1. Clinging seed
2. Mooring for pleasure yachts
3. Raised edge
6. Thus
7. Against
8. That is to say
9. Coloured pencil
10. A lung disease (abbr)
12. Hurricane
14. Space
15. Frightens
16. Skill
18. Smallest amount
19. A duck
21. The sun rises here

Production and Printing of Snoektown Calling:

Fish Hoek Printing & Publishing

Somerset House, Cnr. Recreation & Main Road, Fish Hoek
Tel: 782-6016 / 70 Fax: 782-2868 E-mail: thepost@intekom.co.za

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

JULY/AUGUST 2000

1. SIMON'S TOWN MUSEUM

Ph. 786 3046

Wed. 12th July 5.30 for 6 p.m.

"WILLIAM FEHR & his gift of history to the future - Cape Town Castle". Talk with slides by Dr. Karl Kuperski R10 per person (includes a complimentary glass of wine/fruit juice prior to lecture).

2. FRIENDS OF THE SIMON'S TOWN COASTLINE

Enquiries Ph. 786 3890 - All welcome

Sunday 9th July at 9.30am

Alien Vegetation Hack with SAVE.

Venue: South end of Watsonia Drive, Murdoch Valley North, Simon's Town.

Saturday 15th July at 9.30am

Alien Vegetation Hack and Planting of Indigenous Shrubs.

Venue: Links Crescent **BUT MEET** at Boulders Car park.

Tuesday 15th August at 7.30am

Illustrated talk - "Processes and Sea Water Quality in Simon's Bay" by Mr Karel Wainman (I.M.T. staff member).

Venue: Auditorium, Institute of Marine Technology, Martello Rd, Simon's Town.

3. PENSIONER'S FREE MONTHLY SHOPPING BUS

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

WALKING TOURS OF THE HISTORIC MILE, SIMON'S TOWN

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

4. SPIER STEAM TRAINS

Sunday 30th July

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

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

Deadline for August edition

Friday 4 August

Publication date - Monday 14 August

Contact Sue Sturman

Tel 786 5798 or 786 2436

Peninsula Tourism - Simon's Town

(Simon's Town Publicity Association)