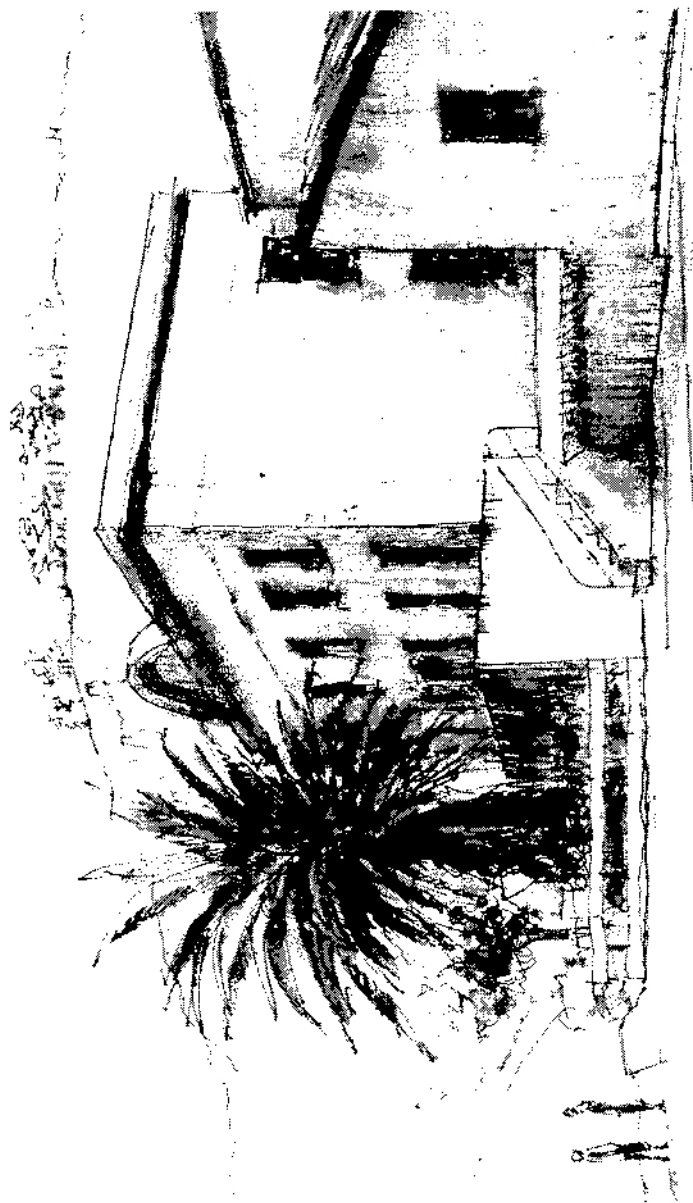


SNOEKTOWN CALLING

Vol 3 Issue 5

11 SEPTEMBER 2000



Palace Barracks

September Sponsor - Reg Loxton with some help from the Supporters Club

Editorial

So the Simon's Town Civic Association has been formally constituted, representing the merged Simon's Town Ratepayers and Resident's Association and the Glencairn Civic Association, plus a wide spectrum of community and special interest groups. A bold and imaginative concept; but may prove difficult to manage in the long run. Let us give them maximum support and generous participation.

Elsewhere in this issue is published a provisional list of birds occurring in our area, compiled by Charles Ellis. There is obviously scope for a more convenient arrangement, and possibly the production of a cassette of relevant bird calls. Expert advice and comment will be welcome.

Elsewhere also is a report on the vagrant invasion, occupation and vandalism of Palace Barracks. What a disaster - it should

never have been allowed to happen. We desperately and urgently need a mechanism to prevent a similar occurrence! It is a community issue and there is need of an early warning procedure. Is the Log Base in Arsenal Road (Mount Pleasant) to be the next disaster?!

Perhaps the Neighbourhood Watch system is the appropriate vehicle, which implies that our new Simon's Town Civic Association should actively promote the Neighbourhood Watch system.

A series of three articles on the SA Navy Diving School commences in this issue - most interesting and informative.

Reg Loxton
Editor

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Down the Historical Mile

We've had a dry winter, complained Harold: no proper rain, and the next thing that will happen is water restrictions. Ja, commented Harold Henricson, the waterfalcon hasn't been better than a miserable tickle. Is this the beginning of the great drought like we had in the thirties?

Yes, said Mencia Bospiera, this is the Lord's punishment for our evil ways. First the great fire of Wednesday the 19th of January and now the drought. What comes next? Pestilence and terrible sickness and people dying by the thousands? Schultz showed signs of stress and as fellow bird started heading for the toilet he knew he keeps in his pocket. The situation was getting out of hand and the Chairman decided to have better interviews.

Wait, wait folks - let's not get carried away. Today is Sunday 3rd September and it's been raining for a few days now, there's hope that things won't be so bad after all - don't panic!

Mr. Mr Chairman, said Stoffel, the signs are clear: heavy rain and flooding in the Tropics, inland are followed by drought this side of the Hax River. My great-grand, said Stoffel, was never wrong: he said the Hax River is the great divide. Mencia is right, we are to be punished for our evil ways. First the fire, then the drought and then what next? The Storms, our own beloved Voo-pee, worst even than the Great of the Curia Cup. What could be worse than that? remarked Piet Pringle, worse than a pestilence.

Clara Fjotouch suggested that maybe this was the beginning of a Great Flood, didn't the Dok say that at the time of the last big flood the sea was at Sundman Drive and got past of the Cape water island? Well, said Clara, we can always move with sure Confidence-Monster, because the water was such a thing could never happen in Wyberg.

Maybe we're going to have a Big Freeze-up, suggested Wright Williams, because didn't the Dok also say that the icebergs

were just off Cape Point and you could walk across False Bay. Yes, said Harold, the signs are clear: when last did we have a day temperature as low as 18°C including - and the sea must be getting colder. Eile by the Wyngat undertook to check the sea temperature on a daily basis and report back at the next meeting.

And so the speculation continued, but one thing was certain: that the folks were unsure of the future.

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Ward Councillor's Report

There are many issues of concern to us all here in Simon's Town, which are as yet unresolved. I shall list some here and give updates over the next few months in the run-up to the advent of the UniCity.

Remember that whoever the ward councillor may be the ward will be much larger in size, incorporating sections of Fish Hoek, Ocean View, and Kommetjie. The officials currently serving our area will remain the same as will the current systems and policies. An alert and informed community is essential.

Here then some items that will affect our future:

1. **The new zoning scheme.** This is awaiting final comment from the officials and will go to the Urban and Environmental Planning Committee for final approval in the next few weeks. It must then go to Province for approval, a process that can take some time. The zoning scheme is of fundamental importance in regulating the nature and scale of development in Simon's Town.

2. **Design guidelines for the conservation areas.** These have been completed and will be printed and available for distribution in October 2000. These will eliminate anomalies in the old guidelines and co-ordinate the several sets of guidelines in various sections of the town. In terms of the new SA Heritage Resources Act any alterations or demolition of any building over 60 years old requires the approval of the SA Heritage Resources Agency (formerly National Monuments Council).

The role and function of the Architectural Advisory Committee is therefore essential in assisting council in its statutory obligations in this respect. The guidelines will assist the general public.

3. **Traffic management plan.** This report from the consultants is still outstanding.

4. **Boulders Park Development Plan.** Af-

ter much debate by Council and members of the public it has been resolved.

- That the revised plan be approved as a basis to secure the release of funding to obtain the necessary approvals from the National Department of the Environment and Tourism, and for finalising the SPM and SANP agreement; on the understanding that there will be further community consultative processes on the detailed design, planning and implementation of the plan with interested and affected parties.

- That the Technical Working Group submit a report to the Committee regarding:
 - (i) the possible closure of Klein Tuin Road to vehicular traffic, in view of the traffic problems caused by members of the public and,
 - (ii) how the number of visitors to Boulders Beach will be monitored and what steps will be taken to ensure overcrowding will not occur.



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5. **Glencairn Vlei.** A consultant was commissioned to prepare a report on the way forward in the management of what should be an asset to the community. This report will come to Committee next month. One of the community's desires was to have a more permanent body of water in the valley to attract more bird life and to eliminate the smell from rotting vegetation in the dry months. If the invasive alien gum trees higher up the valley on Rotary and Gordon's Camp land were removed, experts assure us that there would be considerably better natural water flow downstream.

Work on the field area is also necessary and will be done by Parks and Recreation in the next few months.

6. **Land Restitution Process.** This long sad story drags on bogged down by bureaucracy.

7. **Palace Barracks and the disposal of State Property.** Another long sad story of government inertia allowing what was an asset when the Navy handed it over to Public Works Department in 1999 to become a liability, a health and fire hazard and an eyesore. Some mechanism must be found to enable properly planned and speedy resolution of property disposal by the State. The current system, if one could call it that, would lead to degradation of large portions of Simon's Town.

This together with the determination of land for affordable housing opportunities in Simon's Town is the biggest challenge facing our community.

8. **Dido Valley Development.** Consultants have been commissioned to do more detailed planning for this area so as to determine the nature, scale and capacity for development here. Council is bound by the former Simon's Town Municipality's resolution that the area be for formal housing for the Red Hill Community, for those working in Simon's Town who currently cannot afford to purchase property here and for those who were evicted under the Group Areas Act and who wish to return.

9. **Use of Municipal buildings.** The relocation of the library to the main building (the former Council offices) is being investigated. The library is currently the 12th busiest of the 16 SPM libraries but has the smallest space. The cash office would be incorporated in the development and there would be space for work areas and study facilities.

There are other issues, which will impact on us in many ways. These include proposals to develop a new Naval Headquarters, which would see the consolidation of currently dispersed offices and the subsequent vacating of properties outside of the dockyards; the regular proposals to develop Intersite properties at Simon's Town and Glencairn stations; and of course the resolution of transfer of further land holdings to SA National Parks.

*Alderman Nicki Holderness
Ward 22 South Peninsula Municipality*



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Simon's Town Civic Association

Simon's Town's movers and shakers made history on Tuesday evening, August 29, by creating the most broad-based new organisation in the community's history - embracing the welfare and interests of everybody.

A meeting of 32 people enthusiastically approved the new body and confirmed the name "Simon's Town Civic Association". They came from virtually every special interest group in the area of the former Simon's Town Municipality plus the two former civic bodies - the Glencairn Civic Association and the Simon's Town Ratepayers' and Residents' Association, plus the South African Navy, plus the South African National Parks.

The STCA is the most fully representative organisation the town has ever had and is the climax of long weeks of negotiation and debate initiated by the GCA and STRRA, moved by a variety of people, notably Mrs Jacky Weaver, Bruce Parker (who has since stepped down from civic affairs), Tony Robinson and Ian Allan, and vigorously encouraged by Ward Councillor Mrs Nicki Holderness.

In the last Newsletter on August 21 we reported that a meeting of the "umbrella group" of interested parties decided their representatives should go back to their own committees to debate the idea of a single, united civic body. This would span six categories of interests such as safety and security, business, culture and recreation in addition to the former civic associations, which by their nature had the widest membership spectrum.

On Tuesday evening in the town hall they reported back with unexpected and enthusiastic support. Mrs Holderness acted as facilitator, recapped what had happened before, and said that the organisation now being formed could be the precursor of a village management board or possibly stronger body to direct local community affairs in the future. It was particularly impor-

tant, she said, to involve the Navy as the keystone of Simon's Town's history, character and economy.

Proper housing was being planned in Dido Valley for the 500 or so people of the Red Hill shack community, she said. When they moved there they would become ordinary members of the Simon's Town community like everyone else and no longer be shack dwellers. It was important to involve them now. Tony Robinson and Ian Allan said they had met Amos Lombo, leader of the Red Hill community, and four of his committee members. They had eagerly made a commitment to join the new body. They would, however, have problems attending meetings because of working hours and transport.

CPO Manu Choudree said that Commander Blackie Swart had obtained a mandate to join from everyone involved in security and safety, including the police, security com-



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panies, traffic officers and naval police. Terry Korster was given a mandate to join at a meeting of the town's various cultural organisations. Mike Berger, speaking for several environmental groups, said all agreed it was important to have input, but because environmental affairs and problems often extended beyond what would be the boundaries of the STCA, they obviously could not confine their activities within it.

Andre Duraan, for business, publicity and tourism, brought solid support from the Business Association. Dave Hurwitz, speaking on behalf of the Simon's Town Publicity Association, said Peninsula Tourism fully supported the project, but with the reservation that tourism and business should have separate representatives. Mrs Holderness said this difficulty could be overcome by re-defining the category as "Economic Development" and grouping both tourism and business into it with one representative. This was agreed.

Dr Reg Loxton said he had approached clubs, welfare organisations, schools, religious bodies and other institutions in the recreation and community category and was awaiting their response. Neither the Navy nor National Parks was able to send a delegate to the meeting. However, Tony Robinson and Geoffrey Palmer had met Admiral Louw, who said the Navy wanted a representative on the committee of the new body and not merely an observer. The representative would be Captain Chris Roodt. Ian Allan said he had approached National Parks and they too, wanted a full committee representative, not an observer. He would be named later.

On the strength of these report-backs, Mrs Holderness put to the meeting the formal proposal, seconded by several people, that a new organisation be created with a committee of three each from the former GCA and STRRA, and one each from the various categories, the Navy and National Parks.

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The proposal was accepted unanimously.

The meeting then unanimously elected the following **Committee Members and their Portfolios:**

- * Chairman: Mrs Jacky Weaver, 782 5335
- * Vice-chairman: Geoffrey Palmer, 786 5402
- * For the ex-GCA: 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: Manu Choudree (782 7241).
- * Cultural Affairs: Terry Korsten (782 1889).
- * Environment: 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: To be named later.
- * Pollution Monitor: Dr John Morris (786 1765).

Mrs Weaver thanked Mrs Holderness and everyone present for bring the process this far. The meeting then confirmed the new organisation's name as "Simon's Town Civic Association". The committee will meet on the second Monday of every month. Top priority will be enlisting members. It was agreed that the STCA would stand or fall by the strength or lack of membership and it was vital that a recruitment campaign be

launched once a suitable membership fee system had been devised.

Other priorities will be establishing an office with a telephone and secretary for use not only by the STCA, but also by the various groups sustaining it. Meanwhile the STCA can be contacted at **P O Box 47, Simon's Town, 7995** and through the following committee members:

Chairman: Mrs Jacky Weaver - 782 5335 (a/h).

Vice-chairman: Geoffrey Palmer - 786 5402
Communications: Wilf Nussey - 786 1368

Wilf Nussey

Snoektown Calling Supporters Club

August

1. Individuals

John & Susan Reese-Williams	R400.00
George McCourt	10.00
Michelle Brouard	60.00

2. Associations

Neighbourhood Watch Froggy Farm	R100.00
False Bay Yacht Club	500.00
Friends of the Cape of Good Hope	50.00

3. Corporate

Navy Week Sponsors	R2000.00
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Peninsula Tourism

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

Thanks to the False Bay Yacht Club, the Anchor Players and the Navy, August proved to be quite a lively month in the town. Congratulations to the Royal Cape Yacht Club for winning the Lipton Cup and to the hard-working organizing committee. Let's hope that the winds will be more favourable for the Spring Regatta.

Cole Cameron's production of "Rashomon" (an Oriental detective story) earned very favourable reviews. The next highlights will be the Diane Chandler evening in November and the Christmas pantomime.

In the second week of the month, many groups of Naval personnel from the visiting Peoples Republic of China ships were seen in the streets of Simon's Town and Fish Hoek, but communication was very difficult. Numerous friendly bows and smiles were exchanged, but certainly in our information

bureau both sides were frustrated by the language barrier. We hope they enjoyed their visit. After the difficulties recently experienced by the German naval personnel in exchanging currency in Simon's Town, we were glad to hear that the Navy had made special arrangements with Rennies and one of the banks to help our Chinese visitors.

Last month we received an interesting e-mail from Pat Lochhead, who seems to be settling down happily in Calitzdorp with her "city cat". She says "Before moving here, I had heard that a cat seems to change its personality in Calitzdorp. I didn't quite believe it, until I experienced it with our own previously timid and rather introverted tabby. The moment she stepped out of the car, with tail erect and sniffing the air, she decided that she liked it here and after exploring the fascinating new smells, settled in. No butter on paws for her. Pat (and cat) returned re-



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city for a brief visit and stayed in a hotel. He & B's. While Pat stayed with George and Johnny Napier at Sans Pareil, but sat was with Danny and Mark at Harbour Lights.

At the end of the month the AGM of Peninsula Tourist was held at the Museum Theatre in Mudgegong. This was a very important meeting and Ray Taylor of Cairns Metropolitan Tourist explained the forth coming amalgamation of Local Tourist Boards (LTB's) in the Western Cape. Dr Miles Richardson gave a very interesting account of his challenging job of marketing the Cape overseas and in the rest of Africa. Peninsula Tourist has organised a most enjoyable and profitable AGM and Cathy Albrow (LTB's Executive Officer) gave a brief summary of the highlights of the year. The Gilbert & Sullivan Millennium Party shared special praise.

Cathy also announced exciting plans to then up the ante South Peninsula Tourist with a programme of "Enchanting Evenings and Delightful Days" from Saturday 23 to Saturday 30 September as follows:

Saturday 23 Sept - The week commences with a formal dinner dance at Kirimbosch Restaurant (Tickets are \$125 per person - contact Les 660 0791 or Derek 772 6647 or 768 6649).

Saturday 23 - Saturday 30, 9.30am & 11am daily - Anna Ambrose storyteller at The Old Barn Theatre, Westlake. (Ph 768 5166 / 667 3106 / 668 1058).

Saturday 23, Sunday 24 & Mon 25, 10am - 4pm - Handweavers Guild exhibition "Threads 2010" at Lincolnton Foundation, Mudgegong (Contact Tade 336 2652 or Lyn 768 2179).

Sunday 24 - Poetry launch at Her Postbox, Mudgegong (Contact CELIA 768 7123 / Marie 768 1305).

Tuesday 26, 7.30pm - Outrage Evening - Gershwin and all the jazz at the Hearing House, Simon's Town. (Tickets R10, phone Alana 766 4869).

Tuesday 26, 8.30 to 7pm - Sensory Sessions at Kalaideoscope Studio, Simon's Town (Ticket R100, contact Lara 766 4408).

Tuesday 26 Day/Evening 8 - 7pm - Sully's at the end of the night (Ph. Nicole 768 6176).

Wednesday 27, 12.30pm - Sully's Africa 123 national group, Kalaideoscope.

Wednesday 27 - Ray Silvester Memorial Musical Evening at the Wild Rose Guest House, Mudgegong (Contact Beverley 768 3291).

Thursday 28, 10.45am - 12.25 - Children's Stories on the Rain. (Ph. Nicole 768 6176).

Thursday 28, 7pm - Hawaiian Show at Taragona Lodge, Port Bay (Tickets R22, Ph Nicole 768 6176).

Thursday 28, 8pm - Gilbert & Sullivan Soc. Stand up and sing at Lincolnton Arts Foundation, Mudgegong (Ph 768 7009).

Friday 29 Day - Kalaideoscope Studio at Kalaideoscope Studio, Simon's Town Evening 8.30 to 7pm - Sound and Colour Journey Workshop (same venue - Ph. Lara 766 4408). Prices R100 Day and R150 Evening).

Friday 29 Evening - Not Gertie's (except from 10.30) Lufenstein, Port Bay (Ph Les 7121226).

Friday 29, 8pm - San Juan Whistle Nation by David Muller at Port Bay Manor, Port Bay (Ph David 768 7009).

Saturday 30, 3pm - Sacred Heart 1800 (telling) by David Muller at Tokal Arboretum (Ph 768 1230, Bring dog, Ph David 768 7009).

5.30 pm - Whistle Nation by David Muller at Fish Hook (Ph David 768 1000 / Ph 768 3991).

Saturday 30, 12pm - 5pm - Graffiti and Zec gacoma at Mudgegong. (Ph Nicole 768 6176 or Debra's 668 543 6668).

Saturday 30, 10am & 11.15am - Rainbow Puppet Theatre (Sleeping Beauty) at Mudgegong, Constance. (Tickets R5, Ph Alison 768 2266 / Watson 668 2703).

Saturday 30, 7.30pm - Soundplay with Sarah Gecoma, Scarborough. (Tickets R100, Ph 768 1305 / 768 5195).

An amazing selection of entertainment for all tastes including entertainment for children during the school holidays. Please phone the Simon's Town Information Office (766 2438 or 766 5798) if you have any difficulty in contacting the organisers of the events listed.

Sue Sturman

Law and Order STCPF

At a meeting of the Simon's Town Community Police Forum (STCPF) held on 31 July 2000, it came to my notice that there was a serious problem regarding vagrants at Palace Barracks. The South African Navy (SAN) and the South African Police Service (SAPS) could not act to remove these vagrants, as the SAN was no longer the legal owner of the building, and the SAPS had had no complaints from the present landowners - the Public Works Department (PWD). Due to bureaucratic inaction, buck-passing and total absence of decision-making, nothing - or so it seems - was going to be done to protect this treasured, valuable historical property from being vandalised and damaged and, I imagine, eventually burnt down.

The vagrants - "dronkies" - had stolen, had

wrenched out antique built-in cupboards and complete window frames (which were used for firewood); they had defecated on the beautiful old wooden floors, where once lovely carpets - now stolen - used to be.

It had been months and months since the Navy had handed over the building to the new landowners. The vagrants moved into the unprotected property and systematically began stripping and destroying the place. There was, of course, lots of talk and correspondence all around, **but no action!** I therefore decided to take immediate action. A truck, a driver and labour were arranged and within twenty-four hours what could be salvaged was saved and stored in a place of safety. An inventory was made and handed to the Station Commissioner. My sincere "thank you" to the members of our community for your help in this undertaking.

There is great concern among private landowners regarding safety and security, as it

BRONZE AGE SCULPTING SCHOOL

Due to popular demand, the Bronze Age Foundry in Simon's Town will begin sculpting and art classes from the beginning of September. Both adults and children will be catered for in the programme.

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Dana Weiner: Creative Art Classes for Children: Ages 6-10

Philip Barrett: Young Adults/Adults/Students - Self Portrait/ Bust

Frank Sharp: Students/Adults - Portrait Drawing

Andrew Stroe: Children Ages 6-10

Papier-mache Classes (Learn to make animal-shaped mirrors, vases, carnival masks and jewellery)

Sarel Greyling: Students/Adult - Life Drawing/ Life Sculpture

Andre Stead: Students/Adults

Introduction to Bronze Age Sculpture Foundry and the Lost Wax Casting Process

Anya Kotzula: Children Ages 6-10

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Children

Terms: 4 September - 22 September

1 October - 1 December

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Cost: R65 per lesson including materials

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Yacht Club. Telephone 786 1816.

is on the cards that the Navy will be handing over much more property to the PWD (the new owners). As these buildings are vacated and handed over, more vagrants will descend on Simon's Town. Result: more vandalism, theft and other crimes; beggars and dronkies slouching around our town, which is bound to make life uncomfortable and unpleasant for all of us.

A timely plan/system will have to be formulated with all parties concerned, to prevent a repetition of what happened at Palace Barracks. Various ideas come to mind:

1. The SA Navy retains responsibility for security of the property handed over and no longer belonging to them: impractical and from a manpower aspect, impossible. The SA Navy recruits sailors, not security guards for other people's properties.

2. Responsible new landowners must employ private security firms and accept proper responsibility for their property; indeed, a condition of transfer of ownership should ensure provision of acceptable security.

3. A neighbourhood watch system to be created to patrol - impractical and difficult.

4. Expedite sale of the properties: for example, offers had been made for Place Barracks. Once more, bureaucracy at work: the time factor on the offer had expired, so once again, no action.

Anyone with ideas, suggestions or constructive criticism, please contact your CPF: **The Secretary, PO Box 612, Simon's Town 7995**. If you are not a member of a Neighbourhood Watch organisation, please join, or form your own NHW now. We need you, your neighbours need you - you need you. And it's free. Contact **Mr John Page 082 808 2220**.

Last but not least, **Thank You** to the volunteers who are assisting the Chief Prosecutor in our courts. Well done!

Dan Swart (Blackie)
Chairman, Simon's Town Community
Police Forum



Fine Music Radio

Fine Music Radio (FM 101.3) is now in its 6th year of broadcasting classics and jazz to the greater Cape Town area. Although operating with just one transmitter, situated at Tygerberg, the station can be heard as far afield as Worcester on one side and Simon's Town on the other.

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Fine Music Radio is well aware that a lot of potential members are living in the Simon's Town area - which, as you know, is a very special part of the world, filled with many who have retired from the hustle and bustle of the city, people who want to fill their days with fine music!

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To join, all you have to do is send a cheque for R180 to **Fine Music Radio, PO Box 1013, Cape Town, 8000**. Alternatively, call 401 1013 and pay by credit card - it's that easy!

Fine Music Radio - music spoken here - FMR 101.3 Stereo.

Practical Philosophy Course for Simon's Town and Fish Hoek begins soon!

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The local branch of the internationally respected School of Practical Philosophy has been operating in Cape Town since 1972 and in Simon's Town and Fish Hoek for several years. The nine week course is based upon the underlying unity behind all apparent diversity: it explores our nature and that which needlessly limits our horizons. The approach is empirical, that is you are asked to test every aspect in the light of your own experience. Thus discussion and exchange of ideas is central to exploring wisdom, truth and solving problems. We explore the great philosophical issues of past and present into practical use in our daily lives

for our own benefit, for family and for the community in which we live and work.

Tutors, who remain students also in the spirit of continuous enquiry, give their time without material fee in service to the community. The now nine week introductory course starts on **Monday evening October 9 at 8pm**, meeting for about 2 hours each week at the **Simon's Town Museum** (established after Admiralty House going south). The **Fish Hoek group has a Wednesday morning meeting at 10am at Trafalgar Park** and meeting point opposite the Hospital on 17th Avenue.

The cost of R280, to cover students and pens/paper, is for nine sessions in December 4- continuing sessions available.

Pickup a leaflet at your library or leaflet table along on October 9. The School reports at meetings and holds, no previous knowledge of this subject is needed - only an open mind and an enquiring spirit. Phone 786 1798 for Simon's Town enquiries and 782 7541 for the Fish Hoek training sessions.



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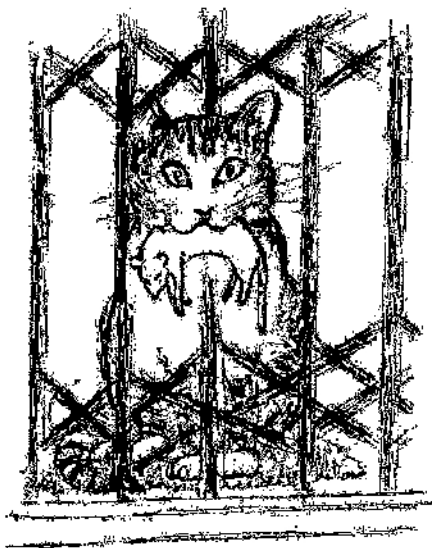
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My Cat

Her name is Tammy, once Marshall's Tammy, played little, painted red. Of all the cats that are out there, there's none like Pretty Tammy.

She was an SPCA, 10 months old, and when I inspected the pens for a suitable animal to take home. She grabbed the round the leg and hung on with urgent determination, meowing "I'm the one you're looking for! For Gabe, get me out of here." I'm pretty sure she's, so I needed. 2. This cat that I'd early was going to be as cute and as sleek as a cat could be.

While she was being secured in a cardboard box, a passing dog showed interest, and the cat growled aggressively. That was the final decider. A cat that growls must be something special.

Cat is very set in her ways; her attachment to her attachment (though she'll commandeer mine with an innocent air) her ritual of curled times, and her tail is a box. She will come barging in doors from the vacant half-acre stand and door - my parking lot -

to her toilet box. Because - Her mother (she) told her when she was a kitten, "Here a box is the only place, the there's where it's done place, the only place where you get the cat to go".

We have a symbiotic relationship: my job - 1. Search her head and neck for ticks which she picks up on hunting expeditions, not much of a hunter, scoring no more than 8 out of 10. From time to time she brings to a mouse which she deposits under my chair, preferably alive - in which case there's a small fish to ensure that the mouse doesn't escape into the rest of the house (the head is usually left for "others, placed on one of my sandals).

2. To search her neck for sores or eruptions, delayed, I am told, by a hormonal imbalance, the result of the startling operation. The cure is simple: a 5mg tablet of Ceraid crushed and added to the breakfast meal. And in a week the problem disappears. No doubt there are other medical issues that work equally well, consult your pharmacist. If not treated, the skin manifestations will spread rapidly, ending up on the lower back. So take care!

Cat's part of the deal to scrub the backs of my hands with her rough tongue. At first I thought this was after the cat. She has been known to lick vigorously on the leg, and who has acquired my. Salt, I've replied. Occasionally cat would vigorously nibble a particular spot returning to the same place. What is the reason for this strange but determined behaviour? My explanation: cat detects cancer cells and attempts to remove them, either by licking or nibbling. There should a cat nibble is so, while grooming. It's removing cancer cells, not just, as I've said.

So what about that for a hypothesis about a symbiotic relationship?

Reg Lorton

South African Navy Diving - A Brief History

Part One - The Beginning

Although much is said about the Divers of the South African Navy, the real history of these men of the murky depths remains a mystery to mere mortals. The Divers of the South African Navy are found serving at various naval bases and ships. The largest collection of these strange underwater creatures resides right here in the Simon's Town Westyard, and has done so for the last 43 years.

The South African Navy Diving Centre, as it is known today, dates back to 1957. South African Naval Diving however dates back to the Second World War. The first navy divers were recruited shortly after the establishment

of the electrical branch in 1940. The first South African Diving Officer recruited was Lieutenant (later Lieutenant Commander) John Johnson, MBE.

The Royal Navy ships HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH and HMS VALIANT were struck by Italian "human torpedoes" whilst alongside in Alexandria harbour on 19 December 1941. South African divers welded steel plates to the two crippled battleships. At this time a South African in the Royal Naval Reserve (RNR), Lieutenant Peter Keble proposed to the regional High Commander, Admiral Cunningham, that South Africa should supply a salvage vessel. As British salvage resources at the time were fairly limited, the proposal was accepted and approved.

A small South African coaster, the GAMTOOS was chosen as the prospective

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salvage vessel. The vessel was converted in East London, from where she set sail for Tripoli on 12 November 1942. GANTOOS joined the allied war effort, arriving in Port Said on 20 December 1942. She set to work in Port Said working on two Royal Navy warships, before she was deployed to Tripoli. The harbour in Tripoli was blocked by various underwater obstructions, including wrecks, boulders and boobytraps. The ship's divers cleared the harbour and GANTOOS had the honour of being the first ship to enter the port after liberation. She remained in Tripoli completing various salvage tasks, often under enemy air attack.

The GANTOOS then went on to Alexandria and was redeployed to Italy. She further served in Algeria and Naples. In Naples, a South African ship's company took over the Royal Navy salvage vessel, the HMS SALVESTON. The Commanding Officer of the GANTOOS, Lieutenant Commander (Lt Col) C. J. van der Merwe, handed command over to Lt Col Hugo Bismarck (later Admiral and Chief of the SAN as well as the SADF).

Three weeks after the Allied landings in the south of France, the GANTOOS was there, clearing the port of Marseilles. From here she moved to La Ciotat, Corsica, Mada and Gambia before finally returning to Durban. As you can surely imagine, by this time the South African RNVR had become an experienced salvage and diving force. After WWII the GANTOOS was handed over to the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and only one crew, Leading Seaman W. S. P. H. Underhill, joined the Permanent Force Navy. The remainder of the crew discharged and many of these men volunteered their services to Naval Reserve Bases including SAS UNITE in Cape Town.

After WWII

South African Naval diving remained quiet for the next 2 years, until the South African minister, the SAS SKILPAG, took at her mooring in Durban, necessitating the Navy's first post-WWII salvage operation. The SKILPAG was refloated using the boom sal-

vage vessels, the SAS SOMERSET and SAS FLEUR. The Navy's current Diving Support Vessel proudly bears the name of her predecessor, SAS FLEUR, while today the original SOMERSET moos alongside in the V&A Waterfront as a museum ship. From 1943 until she decommissioned in 1988, SAS SOMERSET served as the South African Navy's salvage vessel.

The South African Navy Diving School was established on 1 July 1957 in the Simon's Town wastepond. The school is presently in the original building and is steeped in tradition.

In 1967 an act ensued when the SAN disbanded its salvage section because it no longer had a requirement for a full salvage capability. The disbandment of the Salvage diving section led to the birth of the Operational Diving Teams (ODTs), in Durban and Simon's Town respectively. The teams were operational by 14 July 1967.

The Present

On the 1st of April 1998 the SAN Navy Diving School and the ODT West (Simon's Town) amalgamated for reasons of streamlining the two original 'regulators' and cost-cutting. The result of this amalgamation has been the establishment of the South African Naval Diving Centre, a dynamic organisation with training, support, operations and explosive divisions.

South African Navy Divers have proudly served their country for decades including many national and international assistance tasks. It must be borne in mind that these divers are trained primarily as rescue divers. Many peacetime tasks are performed above and beyond the call of their normal duties. Of the more recent tasks, the rescue mission with the SAS Ab Thro on the shallicker liner off the Wild Coast, the MV OCEANOS, received the most coverage. Other taskings have included international assistance rendered to the people of Tanzania following the capsule and sinking of the ferry MV BUKOBA (in excess of 400 persons were recovered). The training and estab-

lishment of divers and diving bases in Tanzania and Malawi. Harbour Clearance in Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo) and countless rescue missions off the coast of our Republic.

South African Navy Divers continue to loyally serve the Republic of South Africa and its people at any time and under any circumstance.

-thanks to Cdr Bisset of the SAN Museum-

Commander Richard Penn
(Officer in Charge SAN Diving Centre)

This Brief History will be made up of three parts, so look out for Part Two in the series - Training.

Simon's Town Art Route

This month's Art Route will be on 24 September. Studios and venues are open between 10.30am and 4pm. Brochures can be collected at the Info Office, the

Museum or at Heather Auer Gallery, CraftArt Gallery, Albertyn's Stables or Wood 'n Art. Visitors are most welcome to come and browse.

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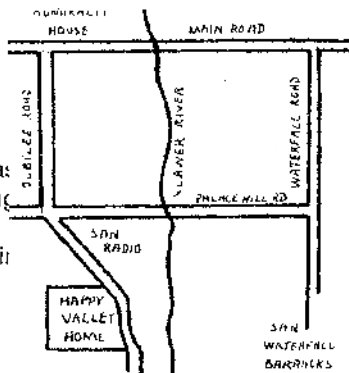
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Bird Species Recorded. In The Glencairn and Simonstown areas:

(The figure refers to the page number.)

Common Names: ref.	Scientific Names:	Local ref.	Notes
1. Red-bellied Parrot	Spheniscus carolinensis	Page 25	Page 3
2. Doves	Pachyptila aegyptiaca	25	5
3. White-chinned Petrel	Pterodroma aegyptiaca	41	32
4. Cape Gannet	Morus capensis	55	53
5. White-headed Cormorant	Phalacrocorax albicollis	57	55
6. Bay's Cormorant	Phalacrocorax neglectus	57	57
7. Cape Cormorant	Phalacrocorax capensis	57	56
8. Osprey Cormorant	Phalacrocorax minoratus	57	53
9. Gray Heron	Ardea cinerea	61	62
10. Cattle Egret	Egretta alba	63	71
11. Hadedad's	Eurypyga hagedash	73	94
12. Egyptian Goose	Alopochen aegyptiaca	77	102
13. Rock Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	109	101
14. Cape Parrot	Fringilla capensis	137	105
15. Black-headed Gull	Larus melanocephalus	143	205
16. Black-headed Gull	Fulica cristata	147	206
17. African Black Oystercatcher	Haemaphysalis maculata	153	244
18. White-fronted Plover	Oenanthe marginatus	157	246
19. Crowned Plover	Vanellus coronatus	159	255
20. Black-headed Plover	Vanellus melanurus	161	258
21. Spotted Plover	Vanellus capensis	163	257
22. Greater Shearwater	Chloris alba	205	312
23. Kelp Gull	Larus dominicanus	207	313
24. Common Tern	Sterna bergii	207	323
25. Sabine's Gull	Larus sabini	208	314
26. Grey-headed Gull	Larus cinereus	209	315
27. Herring Gull	Larus argentatus	210	316
28. Sooty Tern	Sterna bergii	211	324
29. Sandwich Tern	Sterna bergii	211	325
30. Common Tern	Sterna bergii	213	327
31. Rock Pigeon	Columba livia	221	349
32. Rock Pigeon	Columba livia	221	349
33. Red-eyed Dove	Streptopelia capensis	225	352
34. Cape Turtle Dove	Streptopelia capensis	225	354
35. Laughing Dove	Streptopelia senegalensis	225	355
36. Kestrel Cuckoo	Ceryle alcyon	237	359
37. Spotted Eagle Owl	Bubo africanus	241	401
38. Red Kingfisher	Ceryle alcyon	241	401
39. Greater Striped Swallow	Hirundo lunifrons	243	356
40. White-necked Hawk	Circus alpestris	255	358
41. Cape Bulbul	Myiophobus capensis	261	360
42. Masked Chat	Oenanthe monticola	263	361
43. Fawn Chat	Oenanthe monticola	263	361
44. Cape Robin	Cowbird capensis	265	361

46. African Sedge Warbler	Phedrytes laticauda	335	650
48. Grassbird	Spharocercus alba	341	661
49. Loversant's Cuckoo	Crotophaga alberta	351	677
48. Strophe Buzard	Buteo burchardi	367	149
49. Spotted Parrot	Prioniturus	382	686a
50. Flap (White-eye)	Zosterops pallidus	359	796
51. Cape Wagtail	Motacilla capensis	402	713
52. Bulwer's	Halcyon chloris	477	746
53. Southern Boubou	Lanius ferrugineus	486	756
54. Red-winged Starling	Corythornis alba	493	769
55. European Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	525	847
56. Yellow Starling	Crotophaga alberta	525	762
57. Orange-breasted Sunbird	Nectarinia olivacea	534	777
58. Lesser Double-collared Sunbird	Nectarinia chalybeata	533	784
59. House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	535	801
60. Cape Sparrow	Passer melanurus	531	809
61. Cape Weaver	Ploceus capensis	401	912
62. Cape Canary	Serinus canalicollis	421	872
63. Cape Shrike	Pseudocaprimulgus	425	874
64. Cape Bunting	Emberiza capensis	425	885
65. Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	63	87

This list is incomplete due to more species being added as a later stage.

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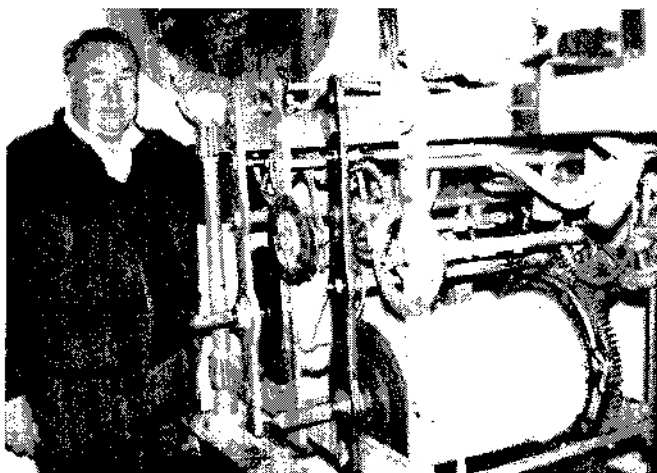
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News from Naval Base Simon's Town



The Bell Tolls

Story by Karen Engledow, printed in the Navy News Magazine

Simon's Town's "Big Ben" is back in swing the pendulum that is, thanks to a donation from the Naval Heritage Trust.

The build-up to the Millennium proved all too much for the grand old dame and on 31 December 1999, her quarter strike mechanism sounded its death rattle. Her broken parts were collected on 23 June 2000, by Mr Albert L. Bucher, a highly qualified Swiss clockmaker, who fortunately now resides in Cape Town.

After nearly four weeks of meticulously crafting new pieces by hand in his workshop, he returned to Simon's Town on 20 July 2000. The installation, with the assistance of WO2 Nick Reed from the Fleet Maintenance Unit, took over three hours to complete. It was a great moment in good timing, when at 2 o'clock, the bells, dating back to 1816, rang proudly from the clock tower.

The clock tower was built after the Deputy Fiscal J.H. Brand had requested that a sundial be provided because of the difficulty in

ascertaining the time in summer. This recommendation was improved upon by the provision of a clock in the tower of the new Mast House and Sail Loft in the Dockyard, which was built in 1816.

The clock, made by Dutton and Son, is balanced by three weights. Each one weighs approximately 200kgs and comprises of the quarter strike, the time mechanism and the hour strike. The three cables that hold these weights are each 35 metres long and take about half an hour to wind once a week. They hang down into an enormous wooden cupboard with long narrow wooden stairs that lead up to a trap-door where the clock mechanisms are housed. Past this are even more stairs that lead to the three bells within the top of the clock tower. Quasimodo - fabled character from "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" would feel quite at home high up there!

Visitors to the SA Naval Museum are permitted to go as far up into the attic as to view the weights for the clock. The SA Naval Museum is open to the public every day from 10h00 to 16h00.

STATION 10 NSRI - Simon's Town September 2000

On Sunday 27 August, Station 10 stayed busy as a show from N.S.R.I. Station 20, the Komatipoort station, and two senior officers of the South Peninsula Municipality Fire Department who are also members of their Underwater Diving Unit. The two Station 10 boats, the Station 10 boat, their crews and other personnel took part in a practical ventilation exercise, first from Air Hook and then from an boat the "Cape Renoster" at her berth.

Both scenarios for the exercise were set-up so that rescue crews could act in case of the difficulties involved in dark calm weather conditions and in sheltered water before having to deal with them in the open sea in case of the worst of them. The exercises were well executed and benefited all concerned. After the hard work the crews and their guests enjoyed the traditional Station 10 treat.

Almost a month ago, on a Sunday, Station Commander Dhons Craig telephoned Ward Councillor Alderman Nick Hildebrand to ask her if he could be of assistance in helping to get repairs done to brick paving, asphaltting and the lighting in the parking area adjacent to Station 10 boat house. The repairs were promptly executed. At at Station 10, thank Alderman Hildebrand for her very prompt response to the request.

To continue the introduction of Station 10 crew members to the residents of Simon's Town, Dave Roberts has been a member of Station 10 for 22 years. Dave is 45, an Ocean Fish Hook and his son Ian is also a crew member of Station 10. Dave believes that Rescue Service Work is a great team building experience, where training plays a major role and keeping busy both yourself and the members of your crew is integral to the running of this station. Dave became

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interested in all forms of rescue when a teacher of his sadly drowned in the bay. At that time he met Chops Craig who introduced him to sea rescue work. Since then he has become a fully certified 9 metre boat coxswain and has participated in many sea rescue missions.

In the last few years Dave has been running the Station 10 finances in the capacity of treasurer which is no easy task in itself. He draws up the annual budget in conjunction with other leading station members and then sees that it is properly adhered to.

Dave is also a member of the False Bay Emergency Medical Unit and is qualified to level 5 in Basic Ambulance work. When one takes into account that Dave holds a responsible and busy position in his daily work and often gets home late at night, it is indeed remarkable that his interests are so public spirited and indeed underline his contention that he has always felt very strongly about community service!

Meet **Russel Wright**, a bachelor in his mid-thirties who lives in Sun Valley, who was also introduced to the sea rescue service because his family knew Chops Craig. Russel is a factory supervisor at Top Stones in Dido Valley. He likes to be involved with sea rescue because each job presents a challenge and requires improvisation, even exercises such as they carried out on Sunday 27th August.

He also feels that this is an opportunity to assist people in situations when they need it most and in many instances are in danger. Russel is currently putting in time to obtain his 5 metre class certification from the South African Maritime

Safety Authority. He is qualified as a Basic Ambulance Assistant level 3 and is working towards his level 5 qualification at night classes which he attends regularly. He is also a volunteer fireman with the Fish Hoek Fire Brigade and is qualified as a Station Officer which means that he would be

placed in charge of a firetender. We can only say well done Russel, the community appreciates people who are as public spirited as you are!

Station Commander **Chops Craig** after 15 years as Deputy Station Commander and having completed a two year term as Station Commander has decided to stand down from office. It is normally at this time of year that elections are held amongst Station crew members to elect persons to the office of Station Commander and Deputy Station Commander. So at the next writing I will be able to announce the office bearers. Fortunately Chops will remain in service at the Station in whatever capacity he is required so his valuable services will not be lost.

Recently the Support Committee held its Annual General Meeting at which all office bearers were re-elected unanimously. It was decided that henceforth the committee would be known as the Shorelink Committee, as is the practice at some N.S.R.I. sta-

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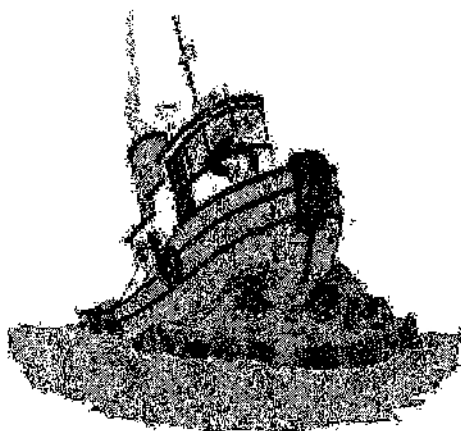
There.

To close, some local incidents may have occurred if they were sailing double of line when two identical fast moving rescue craft were seen running together in Smith's Bay, Walli. They may not covered their eyesight was spotted, as the other craft with the new Port Alford boat which is undergoing sea trials from Station 12. All that remains to say is the current is now fast approaching, so heading-wise is on the lookout and take care!

Yours truly,

Don Dollery

Station 10 Shorelink Committee.



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Posing with the friendly snowman are from left: Kyle Mills (Gr.6), Robin Mentor (Gr.5), André Munro (Gr.5), Nolan Narainisamy (Gr.6), Jarryd Frieslaar (Gr.4) and Craig Pillay (Gr.6).

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Friends of Simon's Town Library - Resume of Chairman's Report for 1999/2000

The Friends of Simon's Town Library is an organisation which has four stated aims forming part of the Constitution which guides and governs the actions of its Committee. The purpose of this report is to demonstrate to you, the members, the extent to which your Committee has succeeded in achieving its aims during the year.

Membership and Library Support

The number of paid up members is still a small proportion of the number of regular library users and all members are urged to encourage their friends to join us in doing what we can to maintain and improve the service provided by the Library.

Your Committee has during the past year purchased a copy of the video "Othello" for the benefit of Matric students who had this Shakespearean play as their English setwork for this year.

Also, in response to frequent requests for the book "Beloved African" which was not available through normal channels, a copy was purchased by the Friends Committee and donated to the Library.

During the year we bade farewell to Mrs Frankie Shoosmith, the Assistant Librarian, and presented her with a gift on your behalf.

Your Committee had planned to hold a "Report Back" meeting in June to advise members regarding the proposed relocation of the Library to the old Municipal building and the part which will be played by the Friends of the Library. Unfortunately this had to be cancelled and will be dealt with at this meeting. Should the proposed transfer of the library to the ground floor of the Municipal go ahead, the increased space will require increased supervision and staff shortages will have to be compensated for by volun-

tary assistance.

I should like to thank my Committee for the time they have dedicated and the work they have put into fund raising. Bobby van Vuuren, my Vice Chair convenes the cake and bric-a-brac sale and also repairs damaged books for the Library.

Nigel Fawcett looks after the financial side of things and my wife, Sheila handles the secretarial work. Lonah Fawcett handles the very successful book sales which have been primarily responsible for swelling our funds. Annemarie Nathan, Olga Meyer and Ramsay Wright give vital practical assistance with our sales and other activities. Other persons to whom we are grateful for their services are:- Alfred Nathan for transporting and setting up tables for sales; Neville McLaughlin for auditing our accounts and preparing our year-end accounts; and last but not least to Monica Sieboldt-Berry who has been a tower of strength since the Friends organisation was formed. Our thanks also to Patricia Inggs for allowing us pavement space in front of

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Simon's Town Pharmacy, and to Hairwaves for storing trestle tables overnight.

Fund Raising and Expenditure

The fourth aim of the Friends is to solicit financial donations and to appropriate library material. The Friends fund-raising has taken the total accumulated funds over the R40 000 mark, although the excess of income over expenditure is just over R1500 less than last year. Lower interest rates have unfortunately reduced our income.

Income from subscriptions is higher than last year, but still a small proportion of the Friends' earnings. In anticipation of increased demands on our accumulated funds the Committee intends raising subscriptions to R10 per annum. If the Library is relocated to the Municipal building, we will have to provide financial assistance in order to provide equipment and facilities which are not made available by Unicity Authorities. The proposed relocation of the Library is an exciting prospect and we must thank Alder-

man Nicki Holderness, our Ward Councillor and Mr Leonard Fortuin, the SPM Library Manager, for their support of the proposal. If the proposal receives approval we will have to call on members to assist in the move and possibly with the operation of the enlarged facility.

Income from book sales was lower this year and we need a steady supply of donated books for our sales. These have been reduced to a trickle and we would be glad of any donations throughout the year. Should you have books available, a Committee member can arrange to collect them.

I should like to conclude by thanking all our members for their generous support during the year and particularly to those who have attended this meeting.

Chairman
Friends of Simon's Town Library

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Simon's Town 7995

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The Simon's Town Museum Ghosts

Part 2

Downstairs in the cells, which were originally class quarters, the echoing passageways, small barred windows, the heavy wooden doors and creaking giant bolts and locks clearly set to be a perfect home for ghosts. If there weren't any, surely one would have to invent some! But this will prove necessary, as something is already down there.

Just fairly recently there had only been one report of a sighting below stairs. One day in 1988, Cathy Fisher-Jensen, one of the museum staff, had a 3 year old child with her in the office. While everyone else had gone to an art room exploring the various rooms and paused at the top of the stairs which go down to the lower floor, Cathy wanted to take him down, but he started crying in the lift and refused because "there are two bad ladies down there", one would he let Cathy go down. He was absolutely frightened by what he could see, so Cathy the woman was not visible to anyone else. At the same time he had an odd, faded Eleanor upstairs in the Early History Room and identified her as a nice lady, wearing a long dress and was not at all worried about her.

In April of this year, as part of the "Start in the 19th Festival, the Museum ran guided tours and I was asked to take visitors around and tell them about Eleanor. I had been spending quite a lot of time downstairs in the weeks before that, taking groups of school children around and had never felt at all uncomfortable in the cells. One afternoon I took some young children around upstairs for a guided tour and, not at that time realising that anything had been seen in the lower floor, they agreed to also take them to see the cells. As I entered the Awakening Trial Cell I was hit in the face by an icy blast of air, but there were no doors open, the wind blowing and from that moment I felt such a threatening and cold presence about me that I must admit that I was scared off and got

upstairs again as fast as possible.

The next day some boys came for the Ghost Tour and by then I had dismissed my experience as pure fantasy, so when they asked if there were ghosts there I said "No, of course not, only upstairs". They then went down without even, only to come flying back up a few minutes later. "We've seen something", they said, looking very shocked. Apparently one of the boys, on his way back up the stairs, felt the need to turn round and saw a tall black woman standing at the bottom. He then also looked back and reported feeling good just the way she was a person. The mother of the boys and I laughed to ourselves and dismissed it as overactive imagination, but I did not know at that time the story of Cathy's 3 year old son that the woman he had seen had been standing in exactly the same place!

Activity now seems to be increasing down in the cells. Two visitors recently came to visit the Museum and visited the lower ground floor, quite a stretch of a night's stay.

REFRIGERATION REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE



BUTCH BURCHELL



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ries. Apparently they came running upstairs and out onto the stoep having heard footsteps coming up behind them while they were looking into the Black Hole. They had turned round to see who was there, but they were alone. They arrived upstairs badly shaken and pale with fright! I have since heard from one of the volunteer staff, Jo Colgate, that her husband had been looking around the cells one day and while in the Punishment Cell suddenly realised that the big heavy cell door was closing and shutting him in. No one else was downstairs at the time and no wind could have moved that heavy and solid door away from the wall.

So, what goes on down there? Visitors often turn back at the entrance to the cells, sensing a presence there which frightens them. Some claim to have both seen and heard the people who were kept or worked in that sinister and tragic place many years ago. An investigation has been carried out using a special tape-recorder, which was said to be able to pick up vibrations from the past, still held in the cell walls. The results, which were listened to by several staff members, gave the sound of shuffling and of echoing footsteps. Was this, perhaps, the sound of a prisoner, chained to the wall, shuffling around to find some modicum of comfort and the echo of the warder's footsteps approaching along the passage?

In the meantime the passageways and the cells are frequently filled with lively school-children; there is laughter and new life. In the future we may have the opportunity of finding out more about the history of this most intriguing part of the building with the help of archaeologists. For now, we can only speculate about who might still be living in their own nightmare world downstairs.

Sheila Hodge
Simon's Town Museum

Please give me a call if you have any experiences or anecdotes to add to the above or if you would like us to take you on a Ghost Tour around the Museum Building 786-3046.

Simon's Town Museum News

Slaves at "The Residency": Mrs Ute Seemann, an Historical Archaeologist, and her team, commenced the excavation and research into the presence of slaves in the Museum Building, from the time it was constructed by the Dutch East India Company in 1777, to house the Governor of the Cape when he visited Simon's Town, until it was sold to the British in 1798 to be utilised as a hospital.

Part of Ute's brief includes researching the subsequent use of the slave quarters as a gaol from when the Magistrate's Court opened in 1810 until the new Court was built in 1979. What happened in the cell marked "Punishment Cell" where the streaks on the ceiling are purported to be from whippings? Who was kept in the dark cell known as "The Black Hole" and were slaves or prisoners or both, chained to the rails affixed to the walls in Cells No.1 and 2? As the research progresses we will keep you informed of Ute's findings.

Please feel free to ask for a Guided Tour or even one of our popular Ghost Tours which take place daily at 4pm.

Telephone the Museum 786-3046.

Heritage Day:

Monday 25 September 2000. Being a Public Holiday we are holding an Open Day when former residents will be visiting the place of their heritage. There will be traditional food stalls, arts and crafts, music, videos and slide presentations depicting Simon's Town as it used to be. We hope local residents will find time to visit us that day.

Should you wish to have a stall please contact the Museum 786-3046.

Cherry Dilley
Curator

A Tanganyika Journal - Part 8



could never touch the meat, with or without rice. I was finally persuaded to go when Sailor said we probably wouldn't see a living thing, not even francolin.

After easing along tracks and paths for some time without a sign of edible life, there was a sudden flurry of movement in the grass and a cloud of guinea fowl rose creaking and clacking into the air. With the Jeep still drifting forward, Sailor let fly. By the time I'd opened my eyes and my ears had stopped ringing, the birds had disappeared into the grass - all but one, which lay still in the pathway.

June 15

A letter from Dad, strongly rebuking me for my criticism of OFC personnel. "Child!" my Anglophile parent stormed, "I cannot believe that what you have written is accurate or true." Well, he should see the wanton waste of equipment, for one thing: tractors, transport, machinery that had got bogged down during previous rainy seasons, and been left to rust. I'm sure that if I sent him the evidence of my box Brownie, he would refuse to look at the snapshots. Sailor "liberated" a Jeep - No 55- fixed it up and now has his personal transport: no more having to sign chits whenever he needed a vehicle.

Some days ago I found Sailor busy with a ramrod and a shotgun. "Coming along?" he asked, squinting down the barrel. I said no thank you politely. "Do you good," he remarked. "See a bit of the country. Work up a thirst." I pointed out that I couldn't bear to see anything killed (except a snake). "But you don't mind having the poor corpse on your plate with rice and gravy," Sailor said with uncalled-for coarseness, fair enough. But if I saw the actual slaughter take place I

"I think one dropped over there," Sailor whispered, and moved off, having instructed me to remain quite quiet. But the large bird lying in the path began to stir, and the sight of it flopping around roused my basest instincts. "It's getting away," I shrieked. Sailor looked back with a frown and pantomimed "Quiet!" "Hit it!" I yelled, jumped up and down in the Jeep. "Shoot it!"

We had two of the bachelors over at dinner time that night, to share our good fortune. "Damn good bird you picked," said Little Mac admiringly, as Sailor carved the tender white meat. "Yep," he replied, handing over my plate on which were lying two potatoes and some beans. "Good eating, guinea poep".

Silently I handed back my sparsely furnished plate. "What?" said Sailor. "Oh sorry - I forgot to give you gravy," and ladles some over the potatoes. "It's such a pity," he said to our guests, "that she cannot bear to see anything being killed, and is dead against eating the meat. Such a pity. Some more, you chaps?"

The Night Sky

At this time of the year the Constellation of Scorpio the scorpion dominates the evening sky. It is found in the brightest part of the Milky Way and has 17 very bright stars of mostly 2nd magnitude of brightness. The brightest star in this constellation is Antares the red star found near the heart of the Scorpion. It has a faint companion, coloured green, which will only be seen using a telescope.

Sagittarius, The Archer, follows the Scorpion, and will be found east of it. Sagittarius is a fascinating Constellation as it is in the centre of the Universe. Look at Sagittarius' 12 main stars to see the centre of the Milky Way galaxy.

The next constellation after the Archer is Capricorn the Goat, made up of not very bright stars - but it is quite easy to make out his horns. However in the western evening sky Leo will set at about 9pm, followed by Virgo. This is where Comet Linear was at the beginning of August, between Leo and Virgo. The brightest Star in Virgo is Spica. On 22 September is the Equinox.

The Planets

Mercury will be found in the early evening sky during September at magnitude -0.8. This planet has the best conditions for viewing from the middle of September until the middle of October in the evening sky.

Venus is also an early planet this month at magnitude -3.9 which is very bright and makes it easy to find in the western sky after Sunset. At the beginning of the month it will be near the moon which is only a few days old, and on the 18th Venus will be 3° north of Spica the brightest star in the Constellation of Virgo.

Mars is in the morning sky at magnitude +1.1 and is to be found in Leo at the beginning of the month, but by late October it moves into Virgo. On the 25th Mars will be 2° South of the Moon.

Jupiter is in the morning sky in Taurus at magnitude -2.0 and will be 2° North of the Moon on the 19th.

Saturn at magnitude -0.1 is not as bright a planet as Jupiter in the morning sky. It is cream coloured, whereas Jupiter is a bright white colour. I am frequently asked by Fish Hoek residents, "what are the two bright planets in the early morning sky?"

The three morning planets are Mars, Jupiter and Saturn, Mars is not as bright as the others.

Uranus is in Capricorn for the remainder of the year and may be seen from 10pm. Its blue green colour is very distinctive and at magnitude 5.7 it may be seen without using binoculars - but it is suggested that binoculars are used to view Uranus. It is 4° North of the moon on the 11th.

Neptune at 7.8 magnitude is also in Capricorn, but may only be viewed using binoculars. It is 1° North of the Moon on the 10th. **Pluto** is too small and difficult to find without a telescope.

The Moon

New Moon is on 27 September; First Quarter on the 5th; Full Moon on the 13th; Last Quarter on the 21st.

The Sun

Sunrise on the 1st is at 7h06. Sunset 18h27. Sunrise on 30 September 6h28 and Sunset at 18h47. The equinox occurs on the 22nd when the length of the day and the night are the same, as the Sun is directly over the Equator. Spring is here again! On the 23rd the Sun begins its journey from the Equator to the Tropic of Capricorn. The 21st of December is the Summer Solstice and on the 22nd the Sun starts moving North again to the Equator.

Meteor Showers

There were no reports of fireballs or meteors during the last month. No meteor showers are expected during September.

Comets

Comet Linear was seen by many people when the weather was good. Others said it was not as bright as they had expected. Some had difficulty finding it - even using binoculars. There was not very much

"comet fever" around. Perhaps it was the fault of the weather, or was it that other things were found more interesting? When Comet Halley was around there was great interest. We don't often have the opportunity to see a fan tailed comet at such a convenient time, as just after Sunset! Did nobody see it pass the Southern Cross?

Aurora Austr

No reports were received of anyone seeing the Aurora.

The famous astronomer Stephen James O'Meara wrote; "As humans, we enjoy interacting with the heavens and we like to see the objects we admire interacting with each other. It makes the vastness of space feel a little less lonely!

Peter I van Blommestein

Simon's Town Pro Musica Divina

The Simon's Town Methodist has recently purchased a new organ and a concert will be held at the Church on **8 October at 5.30pm** to celebrate the event and to play in the new instrument. Well-known Cape Town organist, Grant Brasler (assistant organist at the St. George's Cathedral) will perform pieces by Bach; Widor; Rheinberger etc. He will also be accompanied by accomplished; virtuoso Cape Town violinist Quentin Crida and cellist Barbara Kennedy. A string quartet will also perform music to enhance the festivity of this event.

Unreserved tickets will be R20-00 and may be booked at **786 3775** or purchased at the Central Hotel in Simon's Town. Only 200 tickets are available - so book early. Do not miss this opportunity to hear very talented Cape Town musicians in action and celebrate the welcoming of this "newcomer" to our community.

Change Your Mind about High Blood Pressure

High blood pressure (hypertension) is one of those medical problems that remain a mystery. We still do not know why people become hypertensive. Despite putting men (and women) on the moon and having photographs of Mars, we do not know why humans become hypertensive (on average later in their life). The fact that we have to accept it, is that it is a problem we have to accept (like boldness; freckles and taxes). Hypertension is a very treatable condition and when treated is much less of a problem. When ignored however, can lead to many miseries e.g. heart attacks; strokes; blindness; kidney damage etc.

There are some very simple things to remember. Unfortunately there are no homeopathic remedies that work - despite numerous claims (Get-a-fix is always open to hear the views of other druids). Patients with hypertension can make a difference however - lose weight; stop smoking; exercise; decrease their stress etc.

Should the need rise to use medication, remember that it is probably a lifetime commitment. Not because the patient commenced treatment, but because hypertension is not curable - only controllable. Therefore - stop the drug and up goes the blood pressure. There is none so dangerous a hypertension as one that used to be controlled (on medication) and then left uncontrolled (forgetting medication or stopping spontaneously).

Another thing to remember is, the name of your medication. There are millions of "small white or pink pills" and "water or heart pills". If you cannot remember the drug's name, write it down on a piece of paper and put it in your purse/wallet etc. Doctors (other than your usual), rely heavily on you to know what medication you are on and whether what he/she wants to prescribe will "clash" with your current medication.

Do not stop medication for "silly" reasons. If the side effects are bothersome, discuss them with your doctor. If they are financially draining on you, discuss it with your doctor.

Remember, hypertension is not the problem, how you treat it is the problem. Far too many people are still dying because of the complications of hypertension - do not let it happen to you. Remember also, hypertension very seldom give warnings (headaches and dizziness is rare) - so have it checked regularly.

Yours in Health

Get-a-Fix

2nd Simon's Town Sea Scouts and Cubs Group

We are hosting a **Soap Box Derby Day** to raise funds which will enable us to send our Scouts on their annual Summer Camp during the December / January school holidays, as well as to buy new equipment to replace that which was destroyed by the fires which raged in our area in January of this year. Our target is R7 000,00.

Please build your cart and come and join in the fun. There are prizes to be won.

We are also selling plots, 3m x 3m, on our Flea Market for R15,00 per plot for the day. Come and sell your goods and enjoy the day with us.

Venue :Glencairn Sports Complex
Date :7 October 2000
Time :09H00
Entry Fees :Each category has its own fee per team of 4 ranging from R20,00 to R30,00
Closing Date : 26 September 2000

For further information, contact **Cheryl Howie** on 082 954 7203 or (A/H) 785-3133.

Dr. van der Merwe's Rooms

Dr. Steven van der Merwe wishes to inform all his patients and colleagues of his successful move to new premises. We are now situated at the corner of Main (Queens) and Forest Hill Road.

Exactly 700 metres towards Sea Forth from the old practice. We have settled in very comfortably and have a very peaceful environment - merely sitting in our waiting rooms are healing. Parking is easier and ample - on the left side of the Main Road or in Forest Hill road.

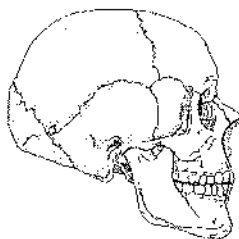
We have also continued our association with Dr. Fletcher-Jones (gynaecologist). She consults on Thursdays from $\pm 12h00$ to 17h00. Dr. Jacques (ENT surgeon) also does sessions at the rooms on Tuesday mornings (or by arrangement) for those complicated problems.

A dietitian (Sandra Schultz) also assists with dietary problems on Monday and Friday mornings. There has been many enquiries concerning a chiropodist - we have found one, but need to know what the needs are of our patients - please let us know.

New additions are also Mrs. Sheila Berger (social worker and counsellor) who attends as required on Wednesday mornings and Sajé Raffee, massage therapist and reflexologist for your stressed-out bodies.

All these enhancements are done purely to increase the quality of our patient care. We remain yours in health...

Steven; Anita and Deseré



Friends of Simon's Town Library

Due once again to your generous and enthusiastic support, our recent Bric-a-Brac and Cake Sale realised an amount of R1030 gross. Cash donations as well as baked items are gratefully received and enable us to increase the funds which we hope to keep growing and growing.

We are continually asked what we will do with the money so garnered and the answer will be seen in our Chairman's Report in this issue of this magazine. If we can relocate the Library premises, all patrons will benefit and we thank you in advance for your continued support. **Please become a friend of the Library!**

Bobby van Vuuren - Convenor

St Luke's Hospice False Bay

Our container shop based in the grounds of False Bay Hospital continues trading on Tuesdays and Thursdays 9.30am-12.30, except on rainy days.

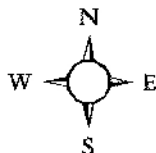
In early September we will have been operating for three years and take this opportunity to sincerely thank our wonderful False Bay Public for their support and for all the donations.

Our New Village Shoppe in Recreation Rd is 4 months old this month and is going from strength to strength. Trading takes place every Saturday 9am-12.30 except public holidays, and excellent upmarket clothing, new products and bric-a-brac are available at competitive prices.

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or business can be arranged by
appointment with Wendy Bell

CRIME REPORT

On 8 August the Simon's Town Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator held a 2nd monthly meeting at the Simon's Town Rest Room. The meeting was chaired by Mr John Page.

It was a very well attended meeting as persons residing in the Carnell, Carletonville areas, had received invitations from Mr Loxton to attend. This was in view of the fact that this area (known by local police as "Little England") had experienced a spate of burglaries, robberies and thefts of motor vehicles.

Mr Page explained to those present why it was necessary for the Neighbourhood Watch concept as some contribution seemed to exist amongst those present as to what it was all about.

As a member of the Simon's Town Neighbourhood Watch, the following principles should be borne in mind:

- You are the eyes and ears of the Police (report any suspicious persons or activities as soon as possible).
- Know who your neighbours are (it's not necessary to be a busy body).
- You are not a vigilante (do not take the law into your own hands).
- You are not expected to take unnecessary risks (tell the police, it is their job to do so).

Members of the Simon's Town Neighbourhood Watch, by adhering to the above principles have helped the police in carrying out arrests and in general have ensured that the area is a safer place to live in.

Anyone interested in becoming a Watch co-ordinator is welcome to attend the monthly meetings held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5pm in the Simon's Town Rest Room, or Inspector GT Store can be contacted on 786 2118 during office hours.

Insp GT Store

CPF say Thanks to SAP

At a small President's Reception on 22 August the Community Police Forum (CPF) said "Thank You" to members from the Police Station. Specially designed certificates, award with the Simon's Town and SAPS badges, were presented to Insp Store and Constables as well as CPO Dutton and Mrs Luyt for "Duty Over and Above Normal Duties".

Those members described their varied efforts to conduct "Self Defence" classes for female members of our community at the police. The team also conducted classes for other False Bay Communities also at the post. Well Done!

Unbelievable, some things in life are so true!

• Do self defence classes - Contact Insp Store 786 2127.

• Join a neighbourhood Watch - Contact John Page 898 4220.

• Feel free to make donations. The Treasurer, STCPW, PO Box 612, Simon's Town, 7995.

Please support your local P&A (Peace of Mind) - thank your Police Forum.

Dan Swart (Blackie), Chairman

Glencairn Bring-and-Buy

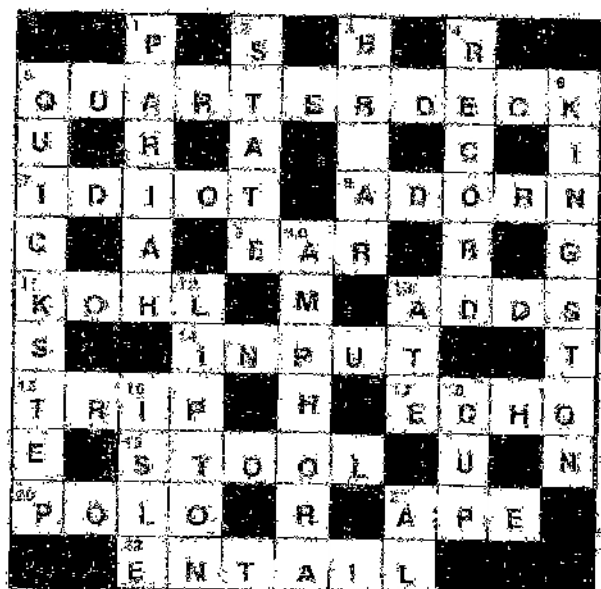
On Saturday 16 September from 9.30am-12.00 at 88 Glen Road, Glencairn, home of the Cadwathils. For the past 42 years this event has been hosted by members of the Glencairn community and the Glencairn Tennis Club in order to raise funds for charity, particularly St Luke's Hospice (FHI) and the Glencairn Emergency Shelter. So come along and have fun, we would welcome any contributions of books, plants etc. There will be a refreshment table and activities for the children.

Proudly sponsored in the interests of public safety

Chubb
ARMED RESPONSE

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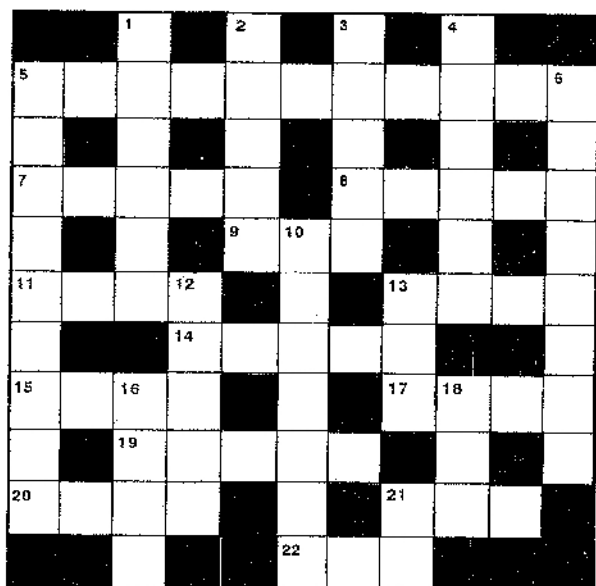
9**

**Winner of Crossword Puzzle No. 9
- A Meyer**

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

Chairman:	Mrs. Jacky Weaver,	782 5335
Vice-chairman:	Geoffrey Palmer,	786 5402
For the ex-BCA:	Manu Choudhree	782 7241
	and Ian Allan	782 2736
Treasurer:	Ian Allan	782 2736
For the ex-STBA:	Dr John Morris	788 1785
	and Will Nussay	786 1368
Communications:	Will Nussay	788 1368
Red Hill:	Amos Lombro	786 9204/W
		780 9123/ H
Security/Safety:	Manu Choudhree	782 7241
Cultural Affairs:	Terry Korsten	782 1889
Environment:	Niko Berger	786 4823
Economic Development:	Andre Duraan	786 1918
Recreation/Community:	Dr Reg Loxton	786 1756
SA Navy:	Captain Chris Roadt	787 3649
National Parks:	To be named later.	
Pollution Monitor:	Dr John Morris	785 1785

CROSSWORD



P U Z Z L E

10

Across

5. Do the Cape's best for Seafood (4,7)
- 7 & 8. Chinese Admiral: a recent visitor to Simon's Town (read your August Snoektown Calling properly) (5,5)
9. Express triumphant surprise (3)
11. A horse's father (4)
13. Immediately (4)
14. Yanks (5)
15. Fencing sword (5)
17. Overtake (4)
19. A ship's propeller (5)
20. Current month abbreviated (4)
21. Snow sport equipment (3)
22. Observe (3)

Down

1. Any small matter (6)
2. So Please Excuse Gobbledegook Order initially (5) (Compiler's priviledge)
3. Japanese volcano (5)
4. Palestine; The Promised Land (6)
5. Maybe she cost so much (2-7)
6. Arrange in working order (8)
10. Sets solidly (7)
12. Throw out (6)
13. Cleopatra's scaly nemesis (3)
16. Observe (4)
18. Noah's Vessel (3)
21. The Cape Doctor's direction abbr. (2)

PRIZE: R100 voucher valid at Café Pescado

Name: Tel. No:

- Entries in plain envelope addressed to Snoektown Calling Crossword Puzzle and delivered to Simon's Town Bottle Store before Tuesday 26 September.
- 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 SEPT/OCT 2000

1. SIMON'S TOWN MUSEUM Ph. 786 3046

Wed. 20th September at 5.30 for 6pm "Aspects of Peru" Talk with slides by Betty Davis. R10 per person (includes a complimentary glass of wine/fruit juice prior to lecture).

2. FRIENDS OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE - Conducted walks in Cape of Good Hope section of the National Park are on the third Sunday of each month.

April - September 11h30, October - March 8h00. No charge (apart from R20 admission to park). The next walk is: 17 Sept. Enquiries: 786-1774.

3. FRIENDS OF THE SIMON'S TOWN COASTLINE Enquiries Ph. 786 3890

All welcome

Friday 15th Sept. at 9.30 am Coastal clean-up by School children at Seaforth beach.

Saturday 16th Sept at 9.30 am International Coastal Clean-up Day

Venue: Long Beach, Simon's Town

Tuesday 19th Sept. at 7.30 pm Illustrated Talk - "Migrating and Coastal Birds" by Ms Claire Spottiswoode

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

Saturday 30th Sept. at 9.30 am Morning walk along the lower slopes of Swartkop, Simon's Town.

Venue: South end of Jan Smuts Drive, Seaforth, Simon's Town (via Harrington Road next to Simon's Town School)

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

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

5. SPIER STEAM TRAINS Sunday 24th September

1. Cape Town - Simon's Town return (stops at Plumstead and Muizenberg). Adults R60 children 12 and under R30. Departs Cape Town 10am. Returns ex Simon's Town 2pm.

2. Simon's Town - Plumstead Return (stops Muizenberg) Adults R50, children 12 and under R25. Departs Simon's Town 12 noon. Returns to Simon's Town 2pm. 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 786 6176 or 790 1264.

6. THE AFRICAN RHYTHM EXPERIENCE

Tuesday 26 September, 11am-3pm at Oatlands Holiday Village, Simon's Town.

Actively participate in a percussion, drum and dance circle and experience the heartbeat of Africa! You will be provided with an instrument and taught how to play and listen. Lunch is delectable African cuisine. R120 per person, booking essential though Peninsula Tourism 788 6193, Ushka 780 1759 or Oatlands 786 1410.

7. PENGUIN GOLF DAY - SIMON'S TOWN COUNTRY CLUB

4 BBB Stableford Alliance - 2 Best scores to count. Morning and afternoon sessions. Golfers to dress in Black & White. Enjoy a game of golf on the links course with panoramic views across False Bay.

R50 entrance, ph Yvonne 083 284 3524.

Deadline for October Edition: Thursday 28 September,

Publication Date - Monday 9 October Contact Sue Sturman Tel 786 5798 or 786 2436

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