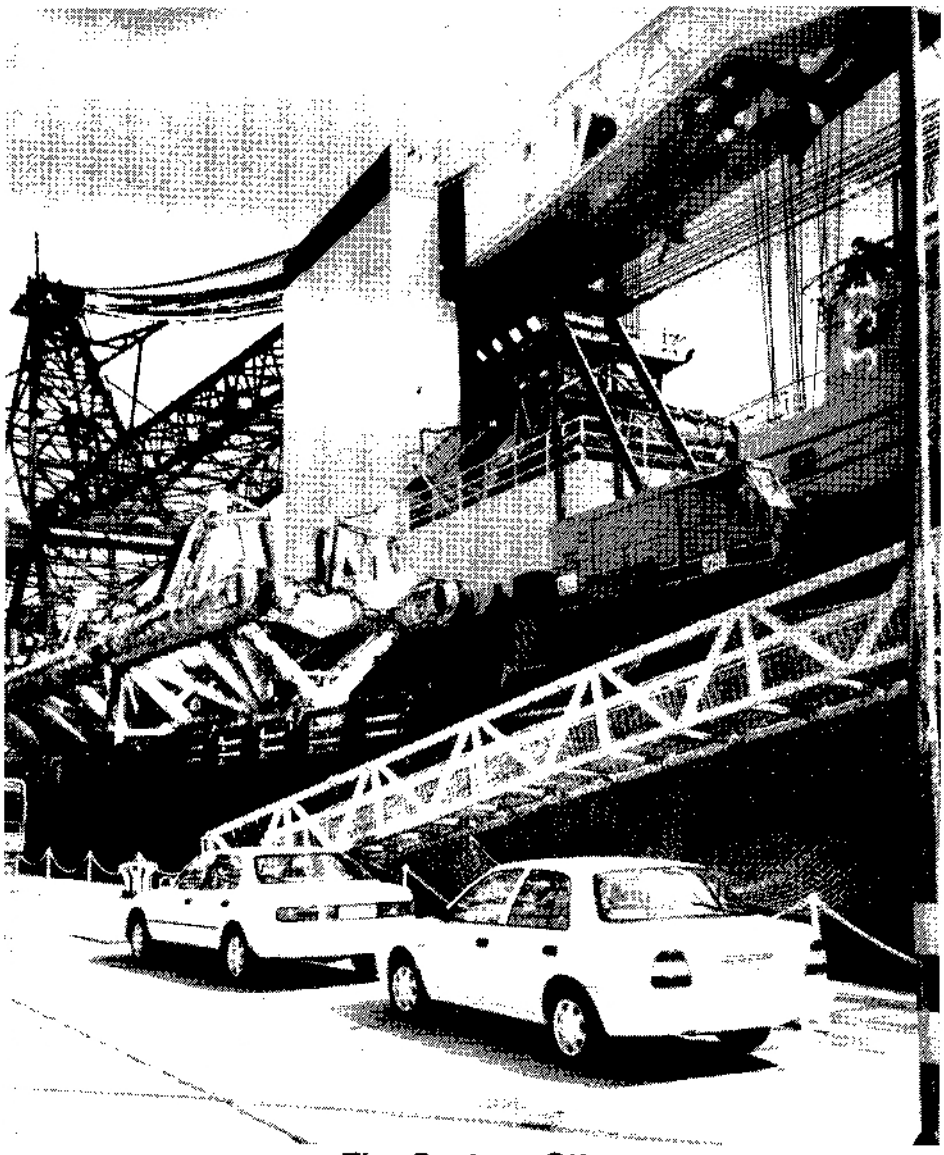
SNOEKTOWN CALLING

Vol 3 Issue 6 9 October 2000



The Castoro Otto

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

Editorial

Your editor has been in a state of poor health these last few days - indeed it would be true to say, he has been somewhat deurmekaar! So a struggle to finalise this issue of Snoektown Calling, with the help of friends and so on.

With regret, no winner for Crossword No 10, September; a good proportion of near winners, but all stumbled with the name of the Japanese volcano.

The checklist of birds in our area has been well received and several suggestions on omissions have been handed to the compiler Charles Ellis, to be found at the Simon's Town Bottle Store. In December we will publish an updated checklist, probably arranged alphabetically by common names. I am looking into the feasibility of a video tape incorporating the listed birds.

Now HIV/AIDS and the SA Navy: After much persistent pestering I managed to get hands on a standard Defence Force statement; too long to publish in full, so we have resorted to a review article which it is hoped, will embrace all pertinent factors. However, a judgement recently handed down by the constitutional court could introduce uncertainty. The court found that SAA had no right to refuse the appointment of an applicant as cabin steward on the grounds of being HIV positive. Does the Defence Force Act enjoy precedence over the Constitutional Court? Quite a dilemma!

The local government elections according to the new dispensations, are upon us with the announcement of the election date now imminent. Our serving Ward Councillor, Alderman Nicki Holderness, has served Simon's Town well, conscientiously and with great devotion. We owe her, so let us give her full support in the election campaign!

Reg Loxton, Editor

Irene Porter Properties c.c.

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Down the Historical Mile

Meneer die Voorsitter, ek stel die vraag - of course that was Stoffel Boesman, Stoffel Boesman Terreblanche, as Stoffel wishes to be known and please - no relation to his namesake Eugene, of Western Transvaal fame. The real and important thing is that Stoffel has a relative in the Provincial Assembly and SLAP should have rules of procedure. So it's important for people to be aware of Stoffel's official connections. We don't know what this relative does in the Provincial Assembly - probably a cleaner, but Stoffel would prefer us to believe he is an elected member of Council.

Anyway, this was Stoffel's proposal: in the last Snoektown Calling, our Ward Councillor spelt out the important issues remaining on the books to ensure that these be carried forward to the new Unicity Government.
SLAP also has a list, and after a fierce debate resolved as follows:

1. A separate Post Box at the entrance to Union Street. We were nearly there but our promoter of the day ran out of steam, and the campaign fizzled. New start-up required.2. Mientjie Boep-pens's lost bench; Mientjie explains: there was a park bench and a concrete dustbin against the Navy wall just some ten metres down - slope of Quarry Road entrance. She loved that bench and rested there everyday on her way to check out what the gang were up to at the garages in Quarry Road. Well, one morning she found the bench and dustbin reduced to a heap of rubble. She was told an SAP vehicle had rammed the bench and bin with such force as to cause their total destruction. The next day the heap of rubble was gone, but to date no rebuilding has taken place, and Mientjie DEMANDS that at least the bench be replaced!
3. The robot at Jubilee Square should be moved - the present location is dangerous to pedestrians. The Dok has nearly been run over three times this year, and that is where Andrew Hoepel had his argument with the bakkie. And WHAT ABOUT THOSE RED STRIPES? We still don't know why they are there.
4. What's happened to the pay-parking scheme on the Square?
5. The West Dockyard Gate. The one section of the iron gate has collapsed and it is propped up with big block and drums and ropes - a terrible sight and a bad impression of our Navy. As Stoffel says, dis 'n skande, meneer, and we are ashamed!

That's enough, said the Chairman and in-

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structed Piet Pompies, the portfolio holder for traffic, parking etc to pass our list on to the new Simon's Town Civic Association. Clara Fijnbosch wanted to know about this new organisation. Wingnut Williams explained: There were these two community organisations - the Simon's Town Ratepayers and Residents Association and the Glencairn Civic Association; they got together and decided to amalgamate. So they have implemented the accepted procedures of re-engineering, restructuring, redefinition of core functions; outsourcing, redefinition into new business with emphasis on state of the art information technology and finally downsizing when they discovered they had more members than the conference table could accommodate.

And what now? asked the Chairman. Well, I don't know, said Wingnut. Maybe something will happen when they put the wheels on.

Streetwalker

Lines on an SAN Paying Guest

Who loomed up large one startled day?
Castoro Otto.
Who, rumour said, was here to stay?
Castoro Otto.

Loud were the plaints and shrill the cries:
"Who gives offence to ears and eyes?
Castoro Otto".
Others there were, with hearts less mean,
Who gladly welcomed on the scene
Castoro Otto.

From towering rig to dazzling light,
Which vessel is a wond'rous sight?
Castoro Otto.
And when at last it leaves the Bay
To voyage further on its way,
We'll hope to welcome back some day
Castoro Otto.

SORRY, WE DON'T SERVE
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But the experts do have this to say abou...

"Fine food, fine company."
Peter Benchley - Author of Jaws.

"Fantastic food and service."
John Bredar - Film Producer, National Geographic.

"Ah, the food, the wine, the kindness..."
David Doubilet - Underwater Photographer, USA.

Drop in sometime and try our sumptuous pancakes *(why have a copy when you can have the original!)*, **wonderful breakfasts, our exciting seafood. And of course our famous COFFEE - roasted and blended** ***right here.***

NEWS FLASH

November sees the launch of THE CURRY CLUB. Our new Chef will be producing superb curries from around the world, Mauritius, the Caribbean, Malaysia, Thailand .... Evenings, Wednesdays to Saturdays. Booking essential.

The Caribbean Coffee Company (at Django's)
QUAYSIDE CENTRE MAIN ROAD SIMON'S TOWN TEL 786 1431

Ward Councillor's Report

It appears that unresolved conflict between national government and various interest groups has led to the postponement of the date for local government elections - perhaps to the end of January 2001. This has enormous implications for good governance in the metropolitan area affecting the budget as well as service delivery. Perhaps we too should dig in our heels like the traditional leaders and say enough is enough.

An update on current matters of relevance to our community:

1. The contract for the redevelopment of Seaforth Restaurant has finally been signed. The draft plans will go to the AAC for assessment. An environmental management plan for the actual construction works is also required.

2. In terms of the Traffic Management Plan, it is proposed that access to Seaforth Car Park will be via Seaforth Road only. Residents in the remaining area will use Miller and Gay Roads and will be issued with either discs or smart cards to gain access. This plan will be put up in the library for your information.

3. Council has approved further investigation of the relocation of the library. The estimated costs are high, but this is such a worthwhile project that we must investigate all options to achieve more space and an expanded service to the community.

4. The Urban and Environmental Planning Committee has discussed the way forward in the management of Glencairn Vlei. The draft management guidelines will be distributed for comment, but committee has resolved that:

- it be managed as a seasonal wetland and that treated effluent not be added to supplement the natural flow.
- That the berm be retained but its plates be permanently open.
- That SPM officials engage with the upstream landowners to develop a plan for the clearing of invasive alien vegetation with the purpose of increasing natural flow.
- The CMC's Catchment Management Department be requested to set up a Catchment Management Forum for Elsie's River. This will offer opportunities for accessing funding.

5. Water restrictions will be applied across the whole Cape Metropolitan Area, from 1 November 2000. The draft regulations indicate that watering will only be allowed on even-numbered days of the month, before 10am and after 4pm for one hour only. Currently the water storage levels in the Brooklands Catchment System are similar to those of the previous two years i.e. 60% full on the 18 September 2000.

It must be remembered that with the implementation of the Dido Valley Pump Station, we are no longer reliant on the Brooklands supply to the same degree. A note of cau-

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tion: the only supply from regional water resources for the area south of Silvermine comes through the Clovelly/ Muizenberg pipeline.

6. A uniform by-law has been approved for the whole SPM area, which regulates the keeping of animals and poultry. Animal is defined as any "horse, pony, mule, donkey, cattle, pig, sheep, goat, camel, reptile, indigenous animals and other wild and exotic animals". Poultry is defined as any "fowl, goose, ostrich, duck, pigeon, dove, turkey, bird, peacock and/or peahen whether domesticated or wild".
In terms of the by-law "No person shall keep or permit to be kept on any premises or property any animal or poultry without the ***written* permission of the Local Authority and such permission may be withdrawn if at any time a nuisance is caused or the requirements of this by-law are not complied with".**

A "nuisance" is defined as meaning "inter alia, any act, omission or condition which is in the opinion of the Local Authority detrimental to the health or offensive or injurious or which materially interferes with the ordinary comfort or convenience of the public or adversely affects the safety of the public or which disturbs the quiet of the neighbourhood".
The keeping of dogs is governed in Simon's Town by a different by-law and although a new comprehensive by-law is necessary to replace the several currently applying across the SPM, this will have to wait for the Unicity. There is no by-law for the keeping of cats.

7. Do you want a tree planted on the pavement adjoining your property? If so, apply to the Parks Department, Hout Bay office and they will investigate a suitable site and plant the tree for you. You must of course promise to love and cherish it!

Nicki Holderness
Ward Councillor: Ward 22: South Peninsula Municipality

BP

HAVING A DINNER PARTY?

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Simon's Town Civic Association

Property Watch No 23, October 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 7-11 Supermarket. Awaiting SPM response to objections received.

1.2. Erf No 1247, Simon's Town: (Cnr Harrington & Queens Roads, Seaforth). Application for a Departure to permit the establishment and operation of an art gallery and coffee shop on a residential property zoned for single residential use. The closing date for objections is 4 Oct 2000.

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. This application has been approved by the Urban & Environmental Services Committee.

1.4. Erven 2472 & 2473, Simon's Town (off Cotton Rd): Application for rezoning (to build a private road), subdivision (into 6 erven) and departures (in respect of building lines). Objections have been received and will be discussed by the Urban & Environmental Services Committee on 10 October 2000.

1.5. Erf 60, Simon's Town (Glencairn): Land Use departure application on behalf of the Waldorf Schools. Apparently a number of objections were submitted. As a result a report is being prepared for the Urban & Environmental Services Committee by independent consultants.

1.6 Erf 2930, Simon's Town (Erica Rd, Murdock Valley): Proposed Alienation or Lease of portion of this municipal land. A final decision is still awaited.

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1.7 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 & Environmental Services Committee's refusal to approve the rezoning application. The decision of the Provincial Government is still awaited.

1.8. Erf 267, Glencairn: Application for a 2nd dwelling. This has now been approved by the Urban & Environmental Services Committee.

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 application and objections are being assessed.

Geoff Palmer
ST Civic Association

Water Quality Assurance

The process of purifying water for domestic purposes consists essentially of three steps;
1. Coagulation and Settling
2. Filtration
3. Disinfection

Coagulation and Settling
Water from rivers, dams or lakes contains finely divided, suspended material that needs to be removed in order to provide clear drinking water. The process of coagulation is brought about by the addition of substances such as alum (aluminium sulphate), slaked lime and/or various organic coagulants. This causes the particles to agglomerate and to settle out as larger particles in the settling tanks. Rand Water (Gauteng) precipitates some 600 to 1000 tonnes of precipitate per day.

Filtration
The now relatively clear water is filtered through sand filters to remove all (or nearly all) of the sediment.

Disinfection
The clear water still contains material too fine to be trapped by the filtering process. Many of these particles are bacteria. Although some bacteria are useful (for the fermentation of grape juice into wine, for example) many are harmful. They are small (0,5 to 5m) in diameter, that is 0,5 millionths of a metre to 5 millionths of a metre, and can only be caught by ultra filtration, which is not practical on a large scale.
Consequently they are destroyed by disinfectants. The most commonly used disinfectant is Chlorine, which is added to the water in controlled amounts. As I understand it, the level of Chlorine dosage that is aimed for is between 2 and 4 parts per million. This usually expressed milligrams per litre (mg/l).

Water Quality Tables are based on analy-

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ses carried out by the Scientific Services Department of the Cape Metropolitan Council. Water samples are drawn at various points and a known quantity of water is subjected to ultra filtration. The total number of bacteria trapped on the filter is counted under a microscope and related to the amount of water passed through the filter.

Among the bacteria there are several types that are more or less dangerous. One group that is of particular interest is the so-called coliform bacteria. The recommended level is Nil per 100 millilitres while the maximum allowable level is 10 in 4% of the samples. Of the coliform bacteria the one that is of most concern is described as Echerichia coli (E.coli). Finally there is the group described a faecal coliforms. The recommended values are Nil/100ml, but 1/100ml is acceptable in not more than 4% of the samples.

If one examines the tables of results which are available if you are interested, the overall quality of the potable water in the Southern Peninsula is acceptable.

Although there have been complaints that the water tastes of chlorine since it was announced that additional chlorination has been implemented, most of the chlorine results are well below the optimum level of 2mg/l.

John Morris
September 2000

Snoektown Calling Supporters Club

September

1. Individuals	
John & Susan Reece-Williams	R 300.00
JM Schorn	100.00
Lance Burra-Robinson	100.00
2. Associations	Nil
3. Corporate	Nil

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Peninsula Tourism

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

September has been a month of weird weather and whales (lots of them). After the unusually mild winter, it was rather startling to see snow-capped mountains across False Bay. Two puzzled Irish tourists complained "We came to Africa to get away from rain."

By the middle of the month the bay was full of yachts as the False Bay Yacht Club Spring Regatta started. My husband and I thoroughly enjoyed the Club's opening cruise aboard "Honeychile" with its owner Mr Gerber, his skipper and crew, who skilfully avoided a number of whales basking in the bay. We counted about nine with at least four close inshore just below the North Battery. On that same Sunday, Dave Hurwitz saw an Orca whale (close to the harbour entrance) from his boat "Spirit of Just Nuisance".

Peninsula Tourism has welcomed two new members this month – Trish Myers-Smith of "Living Wards" (a very attractive home with three bedrooms in a complex) and Yvonne Franks, the owner of "Tak", a superb house on the mountain slopes above the town. Both homes have exceptional views across False Bay and are welcome additions to the stock of accommodation available for visitors in the Simon's Town area.

Other highlights in September were the "Enchanted Evenings and Delightful Days" – events held throughout the South Peninsula by Peninsula Tourism. The opening function was a dinner-dance at the new Silverleaf Restaurant at Kristenbosch. Another popular event (arranged through Metrorail) was the "Storytelling train" which ran from Wynberg to Simon's Town and back. In this novel "moving venue" the chil-

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dren were entertained by storytellers and a magician. It is impossible to cover so many different events, but the wonderful dinner and cabaret evening "Gershwin & all that Jazz" held at the Roaring Forties restaurant on the" Cable Restorer" in Simon's Town harbour must be mentioned.

The Simon's Town calendar for 2001 will be available during October and the Publicity Association was very fortunate to secure the services of Dr. Peter Goldman, a retired surgeon from the United States and a superb photographer.

Another recent achievement of the Publicity Association was the purchase of the existing simonstown.com website. This is a joint venture with the S.T. Business Association and the S.T. Historical Society and Museum. It is hoped that members of all co-operating organizations in the town will benefit from this exciting venture and will provide the regular input necessary to ensure that the website can be improved and maintained as an invaluable and up to date comprehensive source of information about Simon's Town.

As Summer approaches more visitors are starting to arrive and we hope for a busy holiday season. The Committee planning the New Year Party on Jubilee Square are hard at work. On a sadder note, we have to say a reluctant goodbye to George and Jenny Napier of Sans Tache, who are moving to Swellendam. Their many friends in the town will miss them both and we wish them a restful retirement and hope they'll still visit Simon's Town now and then. Thanks also to George for his hard work as treasurer of the Publicity Association.
Best wishes,

Sue Sturman
Peninsula Tourism

Eleanor Currie
082 456 5946
785 3124

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Francis Case
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782 2612

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39 VICTORY WAY

7 COCKBURN CLOSE

4 BRUNSWICK ST

38 DE VILLIERS WAY

CAN WE DO THE SAME FOR YOU ???

Review of the official Defence Force statement: "Dealing with HIV/AIDS in the Dept. of Defence"

(Published in full in Salut Magazine of September 2000)

The official HIV/AIDS policy of the Department of Defence, promulgated by the Surgeon General, has been constantly updated to keep abreast of new scientific developments. This policy aims to provide guidelines for the management of employees and prospective employees who are, or are suspected of being, HIV positive and to ensure non-discrimination on between individuals with HIV infection and those without.

HIV is seen as a chronic debilitating and potentially fatal disease, and as such would exclude people from joining the SANDF as **uniformed members**. These applicants may however join the DOD in a civilian capacity. HIV positive members of the DOD who qualify for treatment by the SAMHS are employed with a multi-disciplinary treatment approach that includes specialised HIV/AIDS care when required, at one of the HIV Specialist Centres.

In addition, HIV members are not utilised in positions where their disease could influence their work performance or where their work environment could impose negatively on their disease process.

Leaking a mandatory testing policy, and due to the high cost of testing which prohibits large scale anonymous HIV screening, the prevalence and incidence of HIV among members of the Department of Defence is not known. However, the HIV epidemic in the DOD is closely monitored and the Strategic Health Task Team, headed by the Surgeon General, and including the SAMHS has

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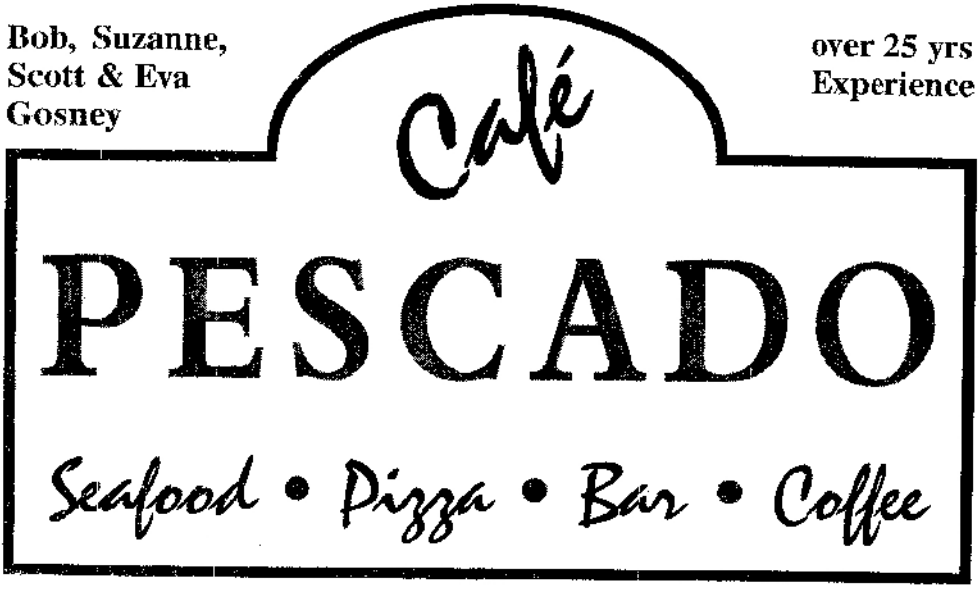
a comprehensive plan to deal with this issue.

The management of members who are HIV positive is exactly that same as the management of any member who has been diagnosed with a chronic, debilitating disease.

All members of the SANDF have access to free condoms via their nearest military Medical Institution. Established HIV workplace units also provide condoms free of charge. Other preventative measures include Healthy Lifestyle Training.

News from Naval Base - Simon's Town

With regret the Navy has nothing to say this month!



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The South African Naval Heritage Society

The Naval Heritage Trust was established some years ago to preserve and foster the naval heritage of South Africa. In 1997 the Naval Heritage Society was established to support the Trust and assist in achieving its aim to firstly generate an awareness of the South African Navy amongst the public at large and to instil a sense of communal pride in our Naval Heritage, and secondly to help educate the general public about their naval heritage, as well as the culture and traditions of our Navy.

In achieving these aims the Society has undertaken a number of projects including: recording of the oral history of those who have served in our Navy; a commemoration of the sailing yacht VOORTREKKER's thirtieth year in the Navy; a photo record of all the badges in the naval dry-dock and various projects to assist the Naval Museum.

Last year the Society introduced their journal, the Naval Digest to members and to the public. This is at present a bi-annual journal and the first three had the following main themes:

Vol 1. The story of the SAS Natal including her successful anti-submarine action whilst on her maiden voyage during World War II.
Vol 2. The story of the VOORTREKKER.
Vol 3. The story of HMSAS PARKTOWN at the fall of Tobruk.

Copies of these journals are available at the Naval Museum in Simon's Town at R25.00 per copy. Better yet, if you join the Society, membership R50.00 per year, you will get free copies of the two journals printed during that membership year.

It is easy to join, either go to the Naval Museum and fill in the form or post your cheque for R50.00 giving your name, title and postal address to:
The Secretary, Naval Heritage Society, Private Bag X1, Simon's Town, 7995.

Gerrie van Tonder

BARCH (UOFS) MIA

ARCHITECT

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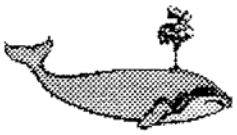
Important Notice

The Simon's Town Business Association in conjunction with the Simon's Town Publicity Association and Peninsula Tourism have decided to hold our own



Whale Festival

during

September - October 2001

as we believe there are more whales along our coastline than anywhere else.

It will probably be called "The Simon's Bay Whale Display"

Come and Have a Whale of a Time

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

Congratulations ***Dave Roberts*** on being elected as the Station Commander of Station 10 in the place of Chops Craig who announced himself not available for re-election. He said he would be prepared to assist in the running of the Station and be of use in any way he could. Dave, whom I introduced to readers last month, is well qualified to carry out his duties as he has served at Station 10 for the last 22 years and is adept in all aspects of sea rescue.

Chops took a nasty turn on Sunday 24th of September when he collapsed at the base with chest pains. Fortunately Coxswain Darren Zimmerman was on Station with an ambulance and rushed him off to hospital. After tests it was found not to be cardiac related. More tests will be carried out at a later stage. No more nasty scares Chops!

Congratulations to Paul and Olivia Alexander on their marriage and seeing that they are both dedicated members, they will now have to go into separate crews.

Things at Station 10 have been rather busy of late. On the 15th of September at 17h10,

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Specially formulated for Simon's Town and Glencair
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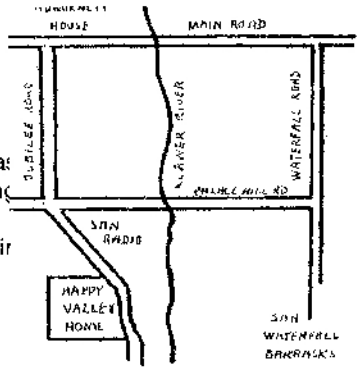

* Matrix of Kaolinite
* Good quality compost admixture
* pH modified to Neutral
* Excellent water retention properties
* Highly recommended for pots and containers, lawn top-dressing and general fill
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a call was received from a lady saying a person had been seen swimming in fairly rough conditions, heading towards the Just Juice buoy off Glencairn station. The swimmer was said to be wearing black and he suddenly disappeared from view. "Spirit of Freemasonry" was launched and the mobile was sent to the area. Men walked the shoreline searching. The Police helicopter also arrived at the scene and conducted a search. After an hour of intensive search nothing was found and the search was called off.

On the 23rd of September at 11h10, a call was received from the Port Captain's office to go to the assistance of a dive charter boat that had reported he was experiencing fuel pollution. Launch was delayed as a Navy boat was known to be in the area, but after not being able to make contact, Rescue 10 was launched at 12h49. When Rescue 10 arrived at the casualty it was already being towed by the Navy vessel, so it returned to base. Later the crew of the casualty arrived at the N.S.R.I. boathouse to thank the crew of R10 for their efforts.

Also on the 23rd at about 14h00, I happened to look out from my home in Glencairn at the Yachts racing in False Bay and I observed that one had capsized and it was apparent that the crew were having difficulty righting it. I telephoned Station 10 and informed them of the position. I was told that the mobile would go out to investigate the position. By this time two yachts were capsized. The R10 was launched. They passed a Navy Nammacura attending to the first boat, so the R10 proceeded to the second casualty and found a semi rigid boat assisting them. R10 then returned to the first casualty which had righted itself and sent the Navy boat on its way, and then capsized again. R10 then took this vessel in tow and returned to Simon's Town. The owners were so grateful that they gave the Station a donation.

On the 28th of September at 15h15 two swimmers got into difficulty in the sea near Surfer's corner at Muizenberg. One of them, a young women, managed to reach the shore and raise the alarm that her companion was missing. "Spirit of Freemasonry" was launched and proceeded to the area, but because of the surf height could not get near enough to the shore and the search

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had to be called off. It is very sad to relate, but it is found the person drowned. Sea Rescue can be very rewarding when positive results are achieved, but also demoralising in the above related cases.

To continue in the series of introducing Station 10 members to the readers of Snoektown Calling, it is a pleasure to write about **Geoff Burchell**, who as an offshoot of every well known Simon's Town family, grew up and went to school in Simon's Town. Living in Seaforth near Seaforth beach, he naturally developed a great interest in the sea. Swimming, diving and fishing were all pastimes that greatly interested him. It was through these interests that he came to be a member of the N.S.R.I. at Station 10. He has now been a member for nine years. He is a fully qualified boat boxswain for both of Station 10's boats. Geoff is married and is the proud father of a daughter and they live in Sun Valley. Although Geoff trained as a motor mechanic and is qualified in that line, he has never been very interested in motor vehicles. Due to his interest in boats and the sea he turned his training to good use by being an outboard motor technician and is employed at a firm called Marine Equipment Supplies.

When I asked Geoff if any unique missions stood out in his experience, he told me of an occasion when on the "Caltex Star" they had been called out to attend a fisherman who had fallen down the cliffs at Hoolkrans in the Reserve. The weather on that occasion was so foul that in False Bay on the way to the casualty, the boat experienced such heavy seas that a section of the mast snapped off causing damage on the boat that required cutting rigging and stays to clear the debris. After all this, the body which had been sighted by a helicopter could not be found and the search had to be abandoned. He also remembers well the occasion when two men and a women were washed off the wall at Kalk Bay harbour in very heavy seas and he was part of the crew that went to the scene. The woman

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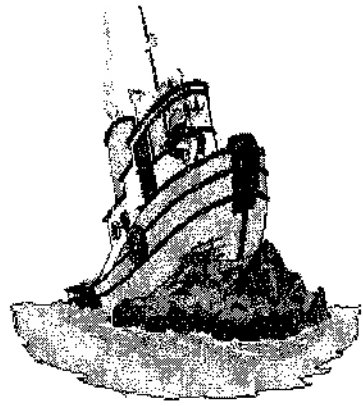
was lucky to be washed onto the rocks near the Brass Bell Restaurant, but unhappily the two men were drowned. The sea at Kalk Bay was so rough that the rescue craft had to go alongside and the crew conducted the search on foot. Geoff, like many of his colleagues at Station 10, was a volunteer fireman at the Simon's Town Fire Brigade. Geoff is a caring person and Station 10 is very privileged to have his voluntary services, as it is to have the services of all it's other crew members. It is hoped that these caring people will be around for a long time to come.

One of Chops Craig's last duties as Station Commander was attending the opening cruise of the False Bay Yacht Club which he says was a very enjoyable occasion, sunset cruise with whales in the sea all around them. Station 10 also participated in the F.B.Y.C. Spring Regatta by doing a few demonstrations which were well received and also assisted with cycle races which were routed over Red Hill and round the mountains to Cape Point Reserve and back to Simon's Town. A few cyclists that came short were assisted by the mobile crew. That is all for now. Take care.
Yours aye,

Don Dollery
Station 10 Shorelink Committee



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The Night Sky

There are always six signs of the Zodiac above the horizon at one time, as one sets in the West another rises in the East. Some of the constellations have stars which are not very bright, making them difficult to identify.

In October the constellation of Libra, the Scales, is setting in the West at 9pm; it is followed by Scorpio, which has dominated the winter sky with its bright stars, Sagittarius the Archer, is next. Capricorn, the Goat, is directly overhead at this time. Aquarius, the Water Carrier, is next, with Pisces rising in the East. In 1846 the planet Neptune was discovered in Aquarius. Below the horizon is Aries, the Ram, which is the First Point of Aries when the new cycle of the Zodiac begins.

Most of the Southern Cross is below the horizon at 9pm; only the Pointers are vertically overhead at this time. The Equinox was on 22 September when the Sun was directly over the Equator. The Sun is now moving South towards the Tropic of Capricorn, which will be reached at the Summer Solstice on 21 December.

Recently someone asked how many minutes earlier do the stars rise each night at the same position?
They rise 3 minutes, 56 seconds earlier each night.

During the Spring, the bright star Achernar, the head of the Constellation of stars called Eridanus, the River, is clearly visible above the Simon's Town mountains at 9pm with the Small Magellanic Cloud west of it. Low over the mountains is Canopus, the harbinger of Spring, a bright star of magnitude -1.0.
Cetus the Whale, is visible South of Pisces, the Fish of Zodiac fame. North of Pisces, above the Ecliptic is the famous Spring and

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Summer Constellation, the Great Square (of the flying horse) Pegasus. At this time of the year, he is viewed in profile as though he is climbing the mountain! He is clearly seen from 11pm.

The Planets

Mercury is low in the Western sky after sunset, at magnitude 1.0. It is behind the mountain soon after dark, having an inferior conjunction on October 30th.

Venus is the very bright planet, magnitude -4.1, visible both before and after sunset in the West. By 7.30pm is has set. On the 27th, Venus is 3° North of Anteries the brightest star in the Scorpion, on the 30th it is 4° South of the Moon.

Mars, magnitude +1.4 moves from Leo into Virgo towards the end of the month, where it will remain for the rest of the year, as a planet in the early morning sky, as a featureless orange dot.

Jupiter, a bright white coloured planet rises early in the evening in the East, at magnitude -2.8 in the constellation of Taurus. On the 16th it will be only a few degrees away from the Bull's Eye, Aldebaran.

Saturn, magnitude -0.2, is cream coloured, and is higher in Taurus than Jupiter. From the middle of the month it will be near Pleides (the Seven Sisters). Saturn's rings are now tilted at 24° from the horizontal, and are clearly visible using a pair of binoculars.

The blue-green **Uranus**, magnitude 7.4, and **Neptune**, magnitude 8, are both in Capricorn, but it is necessary to use a telescope to see them. Neptune is 1° North of the Moon on the 7th, and Uranus is 1.5° North of the Moon on the 8th.

Pluto is in Ophiuchus at magnitude 14, so it is only visible using a large telescope of +12".

The Sun

Sunrise on the 1st is at 06h25 and Sunset at 18h49. Sunrise on the 30th is at 05h58 and Sunset at 19h04. There are still a large number of Sunspots every month, which may give rise to unusual weather conditions.

The Moon

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New Moon is on 27 October, First Quarter on the 5th; Full Moon on the 13th; Last Quarter on the 20th.

Meteor Showers

There was one report of a fireball last month. The Orionids Shower is on 21 October, visible from 02h00. Not many people will be observing at this time.

Comets

Comet Linear was not observed by many people and only a few reports were received. Unfortunately it partially disintegrated during the month. There is a periodic Comet McNaught-Hartley visible at present at RA 9h30 and Dec -43.2°. This places it in the Constellation of Vela, South of Leo.

Aurora Austr.

No reports of the Aurora being observed were received.

The Telescope

It is interesting to note that the telescope was invented in September 1608 in the Netherlands, "that a spectacle maker in the city of Middelburg had a certain device by means of which all things at a very great distance can be seen as if they are nearby. A few days later the States-General discussed the patent application of Hans Lipperhay on such a device. Within 2 weeks, however, two other claimants for the invention came forward, Jacob Metius of Alkmaar and Sacharius Janssen of Middelburg. The States-General decided that the invention, although very useful, should not receive a patent because it was too easy to copy..... These gadgets consisting of a convex and a concave lens in a tube, magnified only three or four times, and therefore some of the men whose interest had been piqued by the rumours about their miraculous effect were disappointed when they actually examined one. One man who was not disappointed was Galileo...What he did with the new device over the next six months was, however, crucial to the history of astronomy." *Sidereus Nuncius. Galileo Galilei by Albert Van Helden ISBN 0-226-27903-0.*

Peter I van Blommestein

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An August Hack on Swartkop - A Personal Account

Today it is hot. I pack my two-year-old son Kai into the backpack. We are going on our weekly hack.
"Let us greet the mountain," I say. "The fynbos cannot grow under myrtles. Let us take the myrtles out."
Sometimes I wonder what Kai will think if he ever meets a girl called Myrtle.

The CPNP has set up a troop of workers who are attacking with hatchets the hakeas that swarm into the ravine. They stare at me - a woman with a small child towering over her head. They stare at John (an octogenarian) and Pam - who seem to worship Swartkop and from whom I take my lead.
"We have always only aimed to maintain the mountain," says John as we walk away from the ravine, "until the park management could take over. Now it is time for us to busy ourselves elsewhere, over here." He points to the mountain's northerly bulge. "Monitor it. Clearing points of access."
The air is abuzz with light. John leads us to a place where his team - some have gone now - cleared Port Jacksons. We split. I find a shady spot where I leave Kai and tramp up. In between piles of dead trees sprout several baby myrtles. Pull them out carefully, without breaking them. Here is a slightly larger tree. I loosen the soil, loosen the stem. I push it back, bend it forward, swirl it round as it dances its last. I dig deeper, scratching at the soil with my fingers in leather gloves. At a depth of about five centimetres I guillotine the root, cover the hole, lay the tree upon the ground. Careful not to create large heaps, as these are fire hazards.
I notice a small angulate tortoise with a completely unblemished shell. I bring her to Kai. Put her down and she scuttles into the underbrush. I leave them there to do another round.

I walk high, nearing the water cylinders. I feel that today is different. Previously, I had plunged into myrtle-pools. Behind me, beside me, before me they had stood with their hardy, oval, blue leaves. I had had to breathe, to work, to breathe, to rest - in order not to despair over our Sisyphus-like task. Today, the mountain conceals its blemishes from me. The sea is a mirror of white light. Sunbirds are dipping, chirruping. Erica blooms and protea leaves nuzzle my arms. Our two-hour session is up. John and Pam are waiting upon the fire-break already.
"You are heroes," I say when I reach them.
John replies, "No. I do this out of selfishness. I love being here." He grins and marches off.
Pam turns to face me. "I go for John. I can't let him go off on his own," she says.
We speak about our work. I tell them about my struggles with the Sisyphus-tale: the boulder rolling down again, again. The myrtles seeding, blooming, even as I bend to pull them out. The way in which I have learnt to concentrate upon each separate tree

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when I destroy its root, without at that moment carrying in my consciousness the hundreds of other trees all about me. Pulling at each as if it were the only one. To protect myself from a sense of futility.
"Oh," says John, "it is not futile. Endless, yes, but not futile."
We part at the corner, agreeing to meet only every other week from now on, because of the CPNP takeover.
"I'm sure we all have many other things to do," says John.
"Oh yes!" retorts Pam. "A woman's work is never done!"
"Also endless," I say. I go home and do the dishes. Myrtle dishes. Endless, but not futile.

Silke Heiss

If you are interested in being involved in helping to clear Swartkop, please see the Forthcoming Events.

Simon's Town Charity Art and Craft Show

Venue: Town Hall, Simon's Town
When: 1st - 5th December 2000

Any person who resides or works in the Simon's Town district is invited to enter the Annual Charity Art and Craft Show. Entry forms are available at the Simon's Town Library and must be submitted to the convenor by **10 November 2000**. Conditions of entry and relevant information can be found on the back of the registration form.

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A Tanganyika Journal Part 9

December 14

Our second wedding anniversary has slipped away. On the evening of the great day I got dolled up in that one good dress, put out glasses and wine, and waited. And waited. Sounds of merriment were coming from the Mess tent, but no sign of Sailor. Eventually temper gained ascendancy over genteel upbringing and I hurled a glass, which bounced on the tarpaulin; a second try was unsuccessful. I decided to give Sailor a fright: I would hide in the darkness and when he came in he would be worried by my absence. I went to sit on a log, within sight of the bafu fire, and waited. After a while thoughts of spiders, scorpions and snakes drove me back to the tent, once again trying to break a glass, which obstinately refused to be smashed. When Sailor finally appeared he said not to worry about food, he'd already eaten. Lesson: in these parts, in such circumstances, a woman is wedded to a married bachelor. I've discovered that the glass is of French manufacture, guaranteed unbreakable.

December 20

As the dry season has advanced, the weather is no longer a subject for light-hearted chitchat. No farmer could peer heavenward more eagerly than we have done, willing those clouds to appear. My little Met station is discouraging.

Large, cheeky rats have moved in; during the three days I have spent laid-up with a low fever, the rats have scampered around as though they'd bought the place freehold. They ran along the crossbars of my mosquito net, investigated my little hoard of cosmetics and carried off a cherished cake of Yardley's soap. High time for my pellet gun to get busy.

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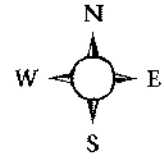

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Christmas Day

The rains have arrived and everyone has gone wild, running around like a bunch of children. Not that we would have been any dryer under canvas. All the tents leak; ours has collapsed, burying books and other valuable items in the mud. But we were light-headed with the sudden bodily ease, and laughed while we tried to identify the humps sticking up under the sodden brown mass of canvas.

January 3 1951

Sailor invited two visitors to have a meal with us: Punch from South Africa and Doc Glover, a Kenyan. This meant hunting for nyama; by sunset we'd lost three pigeons and bagged a francolin. This Filippi plucked and cut up and I set the pieces to simmering in half a bottle of sherry borrowed from the bachelors' Mess; a dollop of tinned butter, rice and a precious onion, chopped fine. There was a tin of cooking apples which I mashed with sugar, and a sort of cream made with Lactogen and water. Sailor charged our last bottle of port, using the old soda siphon we'd acquired, and made a quite passable - though somewhat sweet - sparkling burgundy.

We sat down to a dinner of soup (francolin carcass and our breakfast bacon), chicken pilau washed down with the "burgundy"; apple snow followed by coffee with Lactogen cream. "Ye gods," said Punch as he sipped a glass of wine. "I've heard a lot of moaning about Hell in the Bush, but you fellows certainly don't stint yourselves". Words fail me.

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Simon's Town SAPS Safety Hints

Attacks on pensioners and senior citizens seems to be an ongoing phenomenon. In view of this fact, the following safety hints for senior citizens are given:

Pensions

- Villains know where and when pensions are paid out. Arrange to have your pension paid into your account instead.
- Men should never carry their wallets in their back pockets. Rather keep them in an inside pocket that can be buttoned.

Domestic and Casual Workers

- Unfamiliar workers have often been pointed out as habitual criminals. Beware of strangers looking for employment pretending "they were sent to you".
- A job-hunter who cannot identify himself clearly and properly with an identity document during the first meeting must be turned away immediately.
- Never employ a total stranger and then go to the shop or visit someone immediately afterwards.
- Never give an employee a key to your house.
- Do not hide a key for your employee outside your house. Arrange with your neighbour to hand over and receive the key.

Safety in the Street

- Never walk alone or after dark.
- Avoid dark, deserted and quiet streets, paths and subways as far as possible - even during the day.
- Always try to remain in a group of two or more persons.
- Hold your bag firmly against your body.
- When you are mugged in the street, concentrate on the appearance and dress of the mugger. Your description to the police is extremely important. Shout 'Fire!' instead of 'Help!'.

Safety when you Shop

- Do not leave your hand bag or purse on a counter and then turn way - not even for a few seconds. This is all the time needed by the criminal to rob you of your possessions.
- Keep your credit cards, jewellery, house and car keys in a non-transparent jacket or dress pocket instead of your handbag.
- Do not put your handbag or purse in a trolley, even if it is covered by shopping.

Safety in the Car

- Make sure that your key is in your hand when you return to your parked car so that you can unlock the door and get in quickly.
- If you are followed, drive straight to the nearest police station.
- Fasten your seat belt. This will not only protect you in an accident, but will prevent an attacker from pulling you out of the car unexpectedly.

This is the first in a two-part series of safety hints for senior citizens, and everyone out there!

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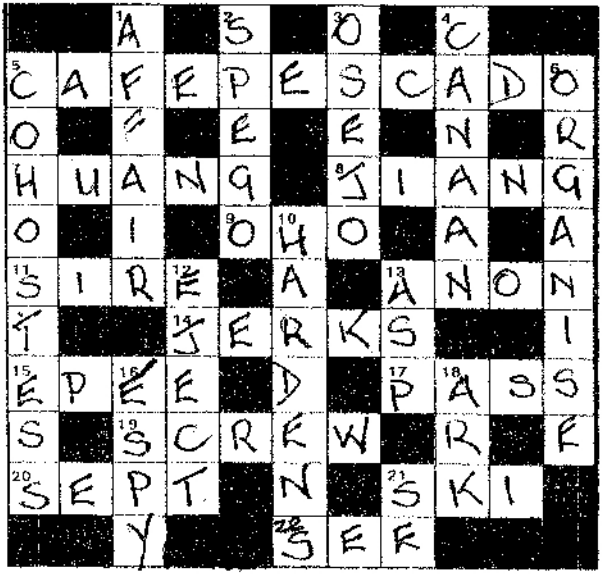
SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD 10



Unfortunately there is NO WINNER for Crossword No 10.

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	and Ian Allan	782 2736
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	and Wilf Nussey	786 1368
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Security/Safety:	Manu Choudree	782 7241
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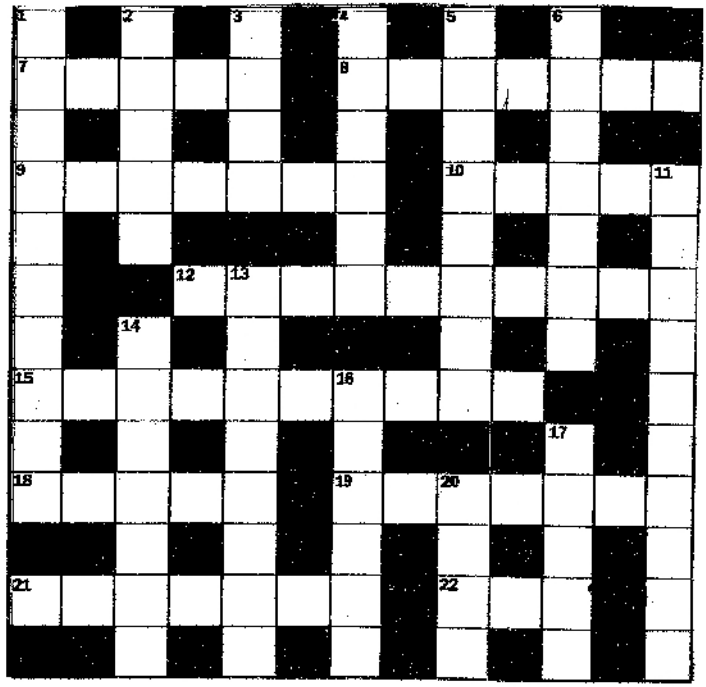
Environment:	Mike Berger	786 4823
Economic Development:	Andre Duraan	786 1918
Recreation/Community:	Dr Reg Loxton	786 1750
SA Navy:	Captain Chris Roodt	787 3049
National Parks:	To be named later.	
Pollution Monitor:	Dr John Morris	786 1765

CROSSWORD PUZZLE 11



Across

7. Sea (5)
8. Ancient Greek place given to music and dancing (7)
9. Sounds like a double fencing item! (4,3)
10. Initially Sam isn't a holy man
12. Maybe one could buy quiet lace jeans at this elegant boutique
15. "_ _ boat like a bird on the wing over the sea to Skye" (5,4)
18. At no time (5)
19. One expects ships to be doing this (7)
20. Flax seed (7)
22. A dram (3)

Down

1. Reputed to be the smallest inn in the country (4,6)
2. Number of seas? (5)
3. Peruvian Indian (4)
4. A cloak (6)
5. The cast does this on stage (4,2,2)
6. Officer to precede 1 down (7)
11. A Doctor of Divinity (10)
13. Civic big-wigs (8)
14. Beginning a tennis match? (7)
16. As opposed to "off" (6)
17. Vaporous (5)
20. Within (4)

PRIZE: R100 voucher valid at Café Pescado

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- 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.

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

2. 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)

3. 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. October – March 8am. No charge (apart from R20 admission to park) The next walks are: 15 October and 19 November. Enquiries: 786-1774

4. FRIENDS OF THE SIMON'S TOWN COASTLINE
Enquiries Ph. 786 3890 – All welcome

Tuesday 17 October at 7.30pm - Illustrated talk on "Penguins" by L Whittington. **Venue:** Museum Hall, Court Road, S.T.

Saturday 21 October at 9.30am - Alien Vegetation Hack, Boulders Park. **Meeting place:** Boulders Car Park, S.T.

Sunday 29 October at 9.30am - Morning Walk on Elsies Peak. **Meeting place:** 7-11 Shop parking area, Glencairn.

5. 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.
Next trip - Thursday 12 October. For times and pick-up points please phone 786 3137.

6. SPIER STEAM TRAINS
Sunday 29th October
Cape Town – Simon's Town return (stops at Plumstead and Muizenberg) Adults R60 children 12 and under R30. Departs Cape Town 10.00 am . Returns ex Simon's Town 2.00 pm
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.

7. SWARTKOP ALIEN VEGETATION ERADICATORS (SAVE)
SAVE needs extra hands, having been given the opportunity by Cape Peninsula National Park to participate in follow-up clearance activities of our mountain slopes. We start in **October**, the **1st** and **3rd Mondays of each month** at **9am** for a couple of hours. **Venue:** Watsonia Road (North end) Murdock Valley. Ph John 786 3406 or Silke 786 1874 for more information.

Deadline for November edition

Thursday 26 October

Publication Date - Monday 6 Nov
Contact Sue Sturman
Tel 786 5798 or 786 2436
Peninsula Tourism - Simon's Town
(Simon's Town Publicity Association)