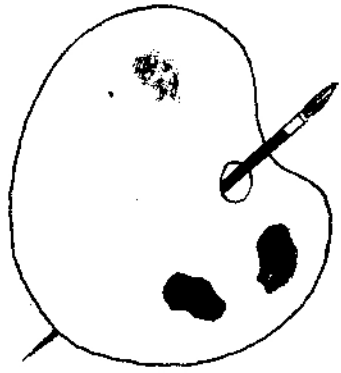
SNOEKTOWN *CALLING*

Vol 3 Issue 8 4 December 2000

CHARITY FUND RAISER

THE ANNUAL SIMON'S TOWN ART & CRAFT SHOW



8 -12 December
Simon's Town
Town Hall

December Sponsor - The Supporters Club

Editorial

Prescribed reading for every property owner in Simon's Town is the November publication by the Architectural Advisory Committee, *Guidelines for the Conservation and development of the Simon's Town Conservation Area* compiled by three eminent professional members of the AAC. I quote pertinent statement "In terms of intervention, it is usually better to consolidate than to repair, better to repair than to restore, better to restore than to rebuild and better to rebuild than to embellish. In all instances conservation should be based on a respect for existing fabric and should ideally involve the least possible physical intervention."

Groans of "Dope, I guess I did it wrong!" could be a common reaction. In my case, a sign of relief that I didn't go through with my original plan to replace the badly damaged sash windows with sliding aluminium frames. On the other hand, I suppose I had better paint my front door which I had carefully scraped to expose the original Oregon (Douglas Fir - conifer, yes, but not a pine). You see, I kind an obsession with wood, so, no point on quality wood, but I cancelled the front door. Also, my satellite dish could have been secured on the side of the house and not in front!

Thank goodness, we have a new owner of the Lord Nelson Hotel, a landmark building in Simon's Town. Repairs and restoration are under way - let's hope for a satisfactory result. We can only wish the new owners well.

New about Sneektown Calling: most of you will be aware of the shortfall of income in relation to cost - printing and distribution. I am grateful for donations via the Supporters Club and the occasional sponsor, but the bottom line remains negative to the tune of R2-4000 per month. A substantial increase in advertising rates was canvassed with businesses in the CBD with negative response. Business in

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Panoramic views of False Bay from this face brick 4 bedroomed residence. Well worth viewing

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Simon's Town is difficult - always has been, and being part of the community, they also deserve sympathetic consideration.
An alternative is a larger contribution through sponsorship. Therefore I invite ten additional sponsors - individual, corporate or association - at R2000 for each of the remaining months. I will accept a sponsorship by instalments, say, R200 per month over ten months. I await response.

There will not be an issue in January - the printers go on holiday. Next issue then in February.
I wish you all an enjoyable festive season - without too much festivity. Keep hope alive and God Bless.

Reg Loxton
Editor
2 Chapel Rd, ST
786 1750

Down the Historical Mile

The December meeting of SLAP was in session and Mientjie Boep-pens was bursting with eagerness to have the first say. You see, she had attended the public meeting to hear from the Municipal Election candidates.

Mientjie wanted to know who was this guy Albert Thomas? He said he was born here, went to school here, married here, had kids here - but we don't know him; so it must have been a long time ago. Which means this oukie is stok oud, too old for the job! If he worked as hard as Nicki, he would be vrek within a year. Ag, meneer die Voorsitter, dis te erg! And what's more, said Mientjie, what happened to the promised tea and cookies? Which is the tradition you know.

Never mind about the election, said Stoffel Boesman. Let's think seriously about a plan for the New Year. There was great enthusiasm: everyone was planning to attend the New Years jol on Jubilee Square.

Nay man, said Stoffel. We must think seriously of a project to work on in 2001. Well, you could see the steam coming out of their heads as they all thought of a worthy project. Suddenly Clara Fijnbosch said she had a wonderful idea: SLAP should produce a magazine, a really refined magazine, and her aunt Constance would be the ideal editor, coming as she did from Wynberg.

This suggestion met with unanimous approval, but Stoffel wanted to know what was meant by "refined". Well, said Clara, no Afrikaans words sprinkled in English sentences. Harold Hardekop raised an objection: was this not the Western Cape? Was this not the way everybody here spoke - of hoe sê ek?

It was agreed that the question of language refinement could be dealt with at a later stage. Meantime, how was this magazine to be financed? Schultz fingered his Lüger

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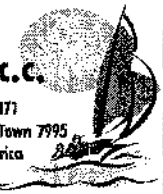

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Email: boulders@iafrica.com

and intimated that he would take care of that: advertising. High rates, big profits. Canvas the entire Peninsula for advertisers. But, said Mientjie, with so many advertisements there would be no room for anything else. Stoffel pointed out that in a really refined magazine there would be little to write about, apart from civic matters.

This is all well and good, said Harold Hardekop, but we don't even have a name for our magazine. There was immediate response, both suggestions and objections: "SLAP Forever": too aggressive; "SLAP Dag": not refined; "Your SLAP": too suggestive. Stoffel brought the argument to an abrupt end by reminding the meeting that, as yet, there was no cover design. Clara Fijnbosch said puppies were always popular. And dolphins and whales. Wingnut Williams suggested shi-, but the Chairman hastily interrupted him. That subject, he said, had already been used by Dok, and had caused a modicum of distress.

So with enthusiastic plans for the new SLAP magazine, the last meeting of 2000 was closed, with general greetings for a Happy Christmas and Voorspoedige Nuwe Jaar.

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NOW: **Diabetic Iced Coffee! Our Decaffeinated Coffee is one of the top brands in the world, made without the use of chemicals. Spoil your tastebuds with our home-baked cheese cake, chocolate cake, apple cake, apple cake and carrot cake.**

Armin and Michelle welcome you
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Simon's Town

Law and Order - Prevention is Better than Cure

Going Somewhere? At this time of the year many of us like to go on a little holiday, visit family up country, friends etc. A big problem is how much to spend, and for some a real problem is pets and gardens. Your pets could be put in a good kennel but they won't be happy campers. You garden could be watered by an automatic watering/timing system, OR everything's arranged - let's go!!

Would you not enjoy your holiday even more having your pets in their own home and someone watering/weeding your garden? We are trying to establish a ***"Housesitters Organisation"*** in Simon's Town by Simonstonians. The Chairman of the Neighbourhood Watch Mr John Page and his committee will be in charge of the organisation. Interested parties please contact the Neighbourhood Watch or the Community Police Forum, **786 2508 or 786 1610**.

If your property is "lived in" while you are on holiday it will certainly help to prevent burglaries and damage to your property. Please have a safe festive season - take care!

Blackie Swart, STCPF

Simon's Town Art Route

Just a reminder that the Simon's Town Art Route will take place as usual on the last Sunday of the month - **31 December** from **10.30am - 4pm**. Brochures are available from Galleries in the village as well as from the Museum. Enquiries Michele **786 3184** or Estelle **786 1212**.

HAVE YOU HEARD ???

Bon Appetit Restaurant has been listed in Wine Magazine's "Top 100 Restaurants in South Africa 2001".

We are the only Restaurant in the "Deep South" to be awarded this honour.

Judith and Manu and the Staff of Bon Appetit Restaurant thank all our Patrons for their support during our first year. We wish everyone "Joyeux Noël" et "Bon Appetit"!

Our Christmas and New year Menus are now available for your Festive Season reservations. Have you thought about a Bon Appetit Gift Voucher for that special gift or occasion?

Join us for Morning Coffee and Manu's freshly baked Croissants and Pain au Chocolat.

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Dinner: Tuesday - Saturday 18h30 - 22h00
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90 St. George's Street, Simon's Town

Simon's Town Civic Association

With the annual tourist flood, local government elections, Christmas and the Genuine Millennium (January 1 will be the first day of the first year of the Twenty-First Century) all approaching fast there is little inclination to bother about mundane matters. But they won't go away and they'll still be there when Simon's Town comes back to earth with a bump and a hangover and an overdraft in January.

For the record, these are some which have landed on the STCA plate in the past weeks:

Giving her final briefing to the committee before the December 5 elections, Ward Councillor Nicki Holderness said no further progress had been made by the Land Restitution Commission.

"Everyone is waiting for the Commissioner and the Commission to do the work they are supposed to do," she said.

The situation was complicated by different needs, political interference and claims on State land. Space had to be found in Dido Valley for some 200 Red Hill squatter families, plus land restitution claimants, plus affordable housing for people who worked in this area. She vigorously opposed a "site-and-service" scheme for the Red Hill families because that would be merely transferring people from one slum to another. A total of about 600 families was involved.

Creative thinking was needed to find a working relationship between **National Parks and urban authorities**. The SPM, Cape Metropolitan Council and City of Cape Town had given large parcels of land in the Peninsula to the Cape Peninsula National Park, but their representation on the park committee was minimal and at the whim of the Minister of Environment Affairs. The new National Parks Act gave the NPB "tremendous" powers and freed it from many obligations like rates and taxes. It gave the National Parks Board the right to increase entrance fees at will without consultation where such fees had existed before. Con-

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satisfaction was required only where there had been no fees. The NPA's attention was on other parks, not here. That revenue here was sucked away to use elsewhere.

The Act should be amended to provide for mutual management of parks abutting on urban areas. The urban edge here was clearly defined, but the interests across the line - those of the NPB on one side and of the municipality on the other - often conflicted. The NPB wanted a, priggishly fauna and flora protected; residents had to contend with porcupines and baboons. There were anomalies: most of Miller's Point fell inside the Cape Peninsula National Park, including a piece of land the SPM had been blandly leasing to a club.

A **bypass** between the west end of Humbleman Drive and the Red Hill road could be opened to relieve pressure on Simon's Town Road. The Bd Simon's Town Council approved it and the SPM had taken over the property. The difficulty was that Navy land was involved.

Other points the mayor aired:
Control of **signage** in Simon's Town had got out of hand. Offenders should be pursued and the law enforcement officers.
Metrorail should urgently upgrade the quality and reliability of its **railway service** to Simon's Town.
SPM officials can be expected to carry on in their present posts for at least a year after the advent of the Unity.
The public should be careful when using ATMs in Simon's Town, especially on Sundays. A German visitor was tricked of his card and lost R20 000.

At its November session the STCA Committee agreed to launch a **recruitment drive** in January/February. Strong members are a vital if the STCA is to have the representative voice it needs in dealings with the new Unity.
The membership fee will be R20 a year - to change for members of the former Ratepayers' and Residents' Association, but a marked rise for those of the old Business Club Association. Unfortunately there must be a fair fee and the STCA needs the funds to do the job properly. Any help in the recruiting drive will be most gratefully received. Anyone willing to help should telephone us. Details will be announced later.

Accounting matters will be a formality for the Public Bureau, Business Association and others involved about plans for a **New Year's Eve party** on Jubilee Square like last year's very successful one.

Captain Terry Kemsley of the Simon's Town Historical Society reported to the Committee that, according to the Director-General of Public Works, the future of the much vandalised **Palace Barracks** lies in the hands of the Ministry of Defence. However, he had learned that a branch of the Public Works, "State Property Buildings", has the property on the market for sale. This is being looked into. People may have noticed that the graceful and historically important arcades

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iron West Yard Gates, which for many months looked as if they had been hit by a truck, are almost back to normal. Captain Korsten reported that this is thanks to the Navy Works Branch and not the Public Works Department. (In the old days it was known as the "Please Wait Department".)

The Historical Society and the Quayside Lodge are working on a plan to bring members of other historical societies and museums from as far as Mossel Bay to Simon's Town in the off season for a weekend including historical talks and walks, boat rides, a braai at the FBYC, lunch on the Cable Restorer and a visit to Admiralty House and Museums. "Historic Mile" discs may soon be fixed to the Mile to tell pedestrians that they are walking along it.

The STCA is taking a neutral stance in the **local government elections**. We remind people they will have to cast TWO votes - one for candidate, one for party.

The STCA earlier objected to an application for an **art gallery and coffee shop** at the corner of Harrington and Main Roads on the ground that the traffic crush caused by the 7-Eleven there was already hazardous. The head of Metropolitan Transport Projects of the Directorate of Transportation and Traffic (the main road right through Simon's Town is a provincial not a municipal responsibility) has responded that access to the property involved is from Harrington Road and will not have a negative impact on traffic on Main Road. However, the five parking bays needed cannot be accommodated on the property. So the head of the MTP of the DTT urged that the owner and the South Peninsula Municipality come to some arrangement for parking possibly in Harrington Road, but at least 25 metres from Main Road. The Committee has agreed to a request from the owner to address them in person.

An organisation titled the Marine Environment Education Trust wants to erect a whale skeleton on top of the changing rooms at Seaforth beach and roof it in to create **a**

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whale education centre. The Committee had no particular objection, but decided it should first be exposed to public exposition in Snoektown Calling.

That's all for this month. If you have any news or views, let's have them - briefly.

Simon's Town Civic Association
P.O. Box 47, Simon's Town, 7995
Chairman: Mrs Jacky Weaver 7862335
Vice-chairman: Geoffrey Palmer 7866402
Communications: Will Nussey 7861566

Snoektown Calling Supporters Club

November

1. Individuals

K[illegible] (anonymous)	R1000.00
Mr & Mrs Reece-Williams	200.00

2. Associations

Simon's Town Historical Society	R200

3. Corporate — Nil

Simon's Town Business Association

This is the first of a monthly column by the S.B.A. Information Officer to inform members about the activities of the S.B.A.

The following events are planned by the SBA.

1. New Member Drive: In order to increase current membership numbers of the SBA, it

Lord Nelson Inn

Nadima and Stuart are refurbishing the Lord Nelson and will open mid December.
The Inn will initially be run as a B&B and light lunches will be served.

Emily's Den and a new Trafalgar ***"Wine Tasting Room"*** will be launched soon after.
Justine and Esther will open their colourful ***"Gift Box"*** shop shortly.

We will be delighted to see you back in the Nelson.

Contact: Phone/Fax: 786 3761
Cell: 082 293 2608

has been decided to give members a **free** listing of their business on our shared website www.simonstown.com. Members will also get reduced rates on individually designed web pages from as little as R200 for the initial layout and for R20/month you can have your business featured on www.simonstown.com. Another advantage of membership will be automatic entry to our "Scooter Raffle" that will be held early in 2001.

2. **A Gala Evening**, featuring a guest speaker will be held in the beginning of next year, where the winner of the scooter raffle will be announced. Once again, members will be charged special rates. For more info contact ***Johan or Hester Fourie*** (Sheriff Offices).

3. **Night Shopping** is planned for businesses just prior to Christmas. Participating shops and businesses will be individually visited to plan the dates for this event and to place an advert in the Echo. So get your festive lights up and running for the 1/12/2000 to 15/1/2001. For more information contact ***Armin Seifert*** at the Cup & Saucer.

4. **The Simon's Town Whale Festival** is planned for October 2001, more details on this as planning for this event progresses.

The following issues are currently being addressed by the SBA:

1. **Refuse Removal:** Mr Peter Booysen of Personalised Waste Removals attended our last committee meeting and offered an alternative service to the costly service currently provided by the SPM. Mr Booysen will be going from business to business to give quotations on his service. No call charges would apply even on public holidays and weekends. For further information, contact ***Bob Gosney*** at Cafe Pecscado.

2. **Community Patrol Officer:** The SBA is currently investigating a service called, "Blues Buddies" who operate in Hout Bay and Sea Point, which would give us additional policemen like George Watton to patrol our streets. Funding for this will come from the whole Simon's Town Community.

Sex on a Plate

"London' Curryholics may be more hooked on their favourite dish than they realise: Curry can by physically addictive, according to a new study by British scientists. The spices provoke physiological symptoms that are typical of addictive substances and experiences, they say. Eating a curry raises the heartbeat and blood pressure to a much greater extent than blander fare such as fish and chips. The result is that the bodies of curryholics crave the food and can gain satisfaction even from the anticipation of an Indian Meal. "It is like sex on a plate." "You cannot get a rush from anticipating a drug, you need to take the drug itself" - The Times (Cape Times)

Get Addicted

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Addictive curries from around the world:
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From 22 November - Evenings.
Bookings recommended.

Mr Andre Duraan (President SBA) and Mr Johan Fourie (Deputy President SBA) are investigating this issue further.

3. SBA Logo: A logo was designed and approved and will be issued to members so membership in 2001 can be displayed in their businesses. Thanks to Trish Inggs for organising the logo.

If you have any questions about the above events and issues or you want to join the SBA, contact the persons mentioned after the event/issue or attend our next **open** meeting held on 11 **December 2000**. This would be an ideal opportunity for you to meet the committee and join the SBA for a mere R300 for 2001.

Wishing all Simon's Town Businesses a profitable Christmas Season!

Armin Seifert
Information Officer SBA

St Luke's Hospice

Our container shop based at False Bay Hospital will close for trading on ***Tuesday 12 December and re-open 16 January 2001***. The Village shoppe closes on ***Saturday 9th December and re-opens on 13 January 2001***. Donations of quality clothing, linen, bric-a-brac may be retained over the holiday and delivered to the container once it has re-opened.

We wish all our friends a blessed Christmas and a healthy, happy New Year.

Margaret Collet, Convenor

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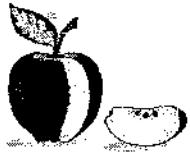
with
Two Veg
&
Chips

Thursday
Alfredo Tagliatelle
with
Home Made Pasta
Garlic Bread
&
Salad

Friday
Grilled Hake Fillet
with
Chips
Or
Baked Potato
&
Salad



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At a nominal Delivery Charge

PROPERTY WATCH No 25 - Dec

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. This application has been approved by the Urban & Environmental Services Committee subject to environmental and aesthetic objections being resolved between the objectors and the developer.

1.2. Erf No 1247, Simon's Town: (Cnr Harrington and Queens Roads, Seaforth). Application for a Departure to permit the establishment and operation of an art gallery and coffee shop on a residential property zoned for single residential use. The Department of Transport has carried out a Traffic Impact Assessment. This application is still being processed by the SPM.

1.3. Erven 2472 and 2473 Simon's Town (off Cotton Road): Application for rezoning (to build a private road), subdivision (into six erven) and departures (in respect of building lines). This has been approved by the SPM.

1.4. Erf 60, Simon's Town (Glencairn): Land Use departure application on behalf of the Waldorf Schools. Apparently a number of objections were submitted. A report being prepared for the Urban and Environmental Service Committee by independent consultants is still awaited.

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

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1.6. Erf 2298, Simon's Town - Boulders Beach Guest House: Application to rezone from General Residential to Business. The applicant has lodged an appeal against the Urban and Environmental Services Committee's refusal to approve the rezoning application. The decision of the Provincial Government is still awaited.

1.7. Erf 1180, 198 Queens Road Simon's Town: Application for a Land Use Departure to convert a Residential House into a Medical Practice. The closing date for objections is 5 December 2000

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 Urban & Environmental Services Committee has put forward a report to Province whose decision is awaited.

2.2. CFM 1404, Wildschutsbrand Farm: Application for Land Use Departure for the Establishment of a Restaurant and Tea Garden, an African Arts and Crafts Market and Overnight Accommodation. An Environmental Impact Assessment has been carried out by an independent consultant and a decision in this regard is awaited.

2.3. Erf 2204, Glencairn Heights: Application by Ericsson South Africa to permit the installation of a Cellular Communication Base Station and Antenna at 14 Golconda Street for the 3rd Cellular Service Provider. The closing date for objections is 31 January 2001.

Geoff Palmer
Simon's Town Civic Association

SPM - Notice to all Water Consumers

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 184 of the Municipal Ordinance No.20 of 1974 that, with effect from the date of publication hereof and until further notice, restrictions as applicable from **1 November 2000** and amended as highlighted in bold letters below for clarity in terms of delegated powers, subject to the exemptions provided for in para-

PAM GOLDING
PROPERTIES

Dudley Rosalie, Joy, Shirley and Eloff would like to wish all the past, present and future clients, of Simon's Town a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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Shirley Olivier on 082 703 880
Eloff Olivier on 082 530 4541
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graph 5 hereof, shall apply within the South Peninsula Municipal area.

1. The use of potable water connected directly or indirectly to or derived from Council potable water mains for the purpose of watering gardens and lawns is restricted to one hour, only on days of the month with even numbered dates, **and no watering at all shall take place on days of the month with uneven dates**.
2. No watering of gardens or lawns is permitted **between** the hours of **10:00** and **16:00**.
3. The use of hosepipes connected directly or indirectly to Council potable water mains for the purpose of washing or rinsing motor vehicles, motor cycles or motor boats, buildings, walls, windows, paths, pavements and paved areas, regardless of the nature of the material used for paving such areas, is prohibited.
4. The flow of water to an automatic flushing urinal shall be turned off outside of normal working hours. Attention is also drawn to Provincial Gazette Extraordinary Number 5014 (1996) which prohibits the use of automatic flushing urinals.
5. The restrictions referred to in paragraphs 1 & 3 only, shall not apply:

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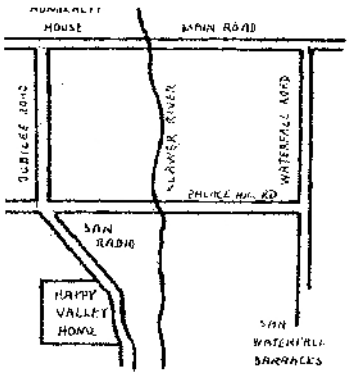

* Matrix of Kaolinite
* Good quality compost admixture
* pH modified to Neutral
* Excellent water retention properties
* Highly recommended for pots and containers, lawn top-dressing and general fill
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5.2. for the washing of certain paved areas at abattoirs, premises used for the processing of food and to car valet services;
5.3. where special exemptions have been granted in writing by the local authority;
5.4. where other sources of non-potable water are used and a notice indicating the source is erected in a position clearly visible from a public thoroughfare.
6. The restrictions referred to above shall not apply where special exemptions have been granted in writing by the local authority.

Any person who contravenes the provisions of this notice shall commit an offence and could be liable to prosecution in terms of the Ordinance and, in terms of Clause 213, be liable for a fine of up to R1000 or six months imprisonment, or both. Please report offenders to **797 7539**.

Jan Koekemoer
Chief Executive Officer, SPM

Peninsula Tourism

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

The first year in the 21st century has passed in a flash and has been an exceptionally busy year at the Peninsula Tourism information offices.

It was noticeable that whereas last year prospective visitors to the Simon's Town area tended to reserve accommodation well in advance, there has been a continuing flood of late enquiries in recent weeks. Most self-catering establishments are fully booked for the Christmas/New Year season, although several houses in the R500 - R600 per day

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ann & erich heinze

category are still available. We are looking for a single-storey, cottage/house with a safe, level garden from 26th December for two weeks for a Johannesburg couple with 18 month old twins.

From early November there has been a slight rise in the number of foreign and local visitors in Simon's Town. Although heavily booked with pre-booked accommodation, a considerable number without reservations were so delighted with the atmosphere and friendliness of our town that they decided to spend at least a night or two here.

Among the most interesting visitors to the Information Bureau were a group of Ubuntu people from the Ukuvuka organisation, which was formed after the devastating fires of January 2000. These men and women (most of them ex-Pelly community in Pelly) have been employed to remove alien vegetation and try to restore the damaged mountain environment in the Cape Peninsula. They are based at Peninsula Technikon and spoke to the group about the work of the Ranger Office and its need for providing local residents for sale to visitors, as well as other potential employment opportunities in the tourism-related sector. Dave Herwitz, the Chairman of Peninsula Tourism, Simon's Town very generously gave the group a free trip around the bay on his popular "Spirit of the Nuisance".

I was very pleased to be invited in return to the Pelshill Community Upliftment Festival by the voluntary community worker, Pat Yates. With Rachel Lambinon (Social Worker) Pat runs several skills training programmes for unemployed women. They also assist with services in the Pelshill Assembly of God Church. The Festival was held in the open under the pine trees. I visited the stand Pat Sampol, which is classed in several shipping containers. Clearly the leader, Mrs Dorothy de Goede of Sun Valley performs wonders in this very challenging environment. The school almost had to close in September for lack of financial support, so-

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tunately a new sponsor was found, but obviously the existence of this much-needed facility remains precarious in the poverty-stricken community.

In company with other visitors including Councillors Nicki Holderness and Gordon Merrington, we watched the choirs and dancing groups. Perhaps the most touching moment came when Mrs de Goede emerged from her school container in full African dress to join in the singing and dancing. Her surprise appearance was greeted with joyful delight and roars of approval especially from the children.

Pat told me that the community workers are hoping to teach the unemployed women to make clothing and other items, which could eventually be sold to generate some sort of income for this desperately poor community. She is appealing for donations of pieces of fabric, wool etc. and would welcome voluntary assistance in teaching sewing and any other useful handcraft or domestic skills. Anyone who can help - please phone Pat Motes at **783 1342**.

As Christmas approaches, I would like to request all local organizations to keep the Tourism Bureau informed about forthcoming events, which would be of interest to visitors to our town. Undoubtedly the highlight of the festive season will be the Anchor Players' Pantomime - very topical this year and entitled "once upon a time.com" by the multi-talented Cole Cameron. Our office is being inundated with calls from grandparents booking for the family Christmas treat. Simon's Town is very fortunate to have the Simonsberg Theatre run by the hard-working Anchor Players - special thanks to Cole, Sue Bolton, Mike Wilson and their wonderful team for brightening up our town with their lively, imaginative productions.

The end of the year seems to be an appropriate time to hand out bouquets -

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Thank and I would like to thank Cathy and Colleen of Peninsula Tourism for their constant support and our very special Committee of the Simon's Town Publicity Association. Our exceptionally hard working Councillor Nick Holdemoss has provided unfailing assistance to the Information Bureau and to the endless stream of visitors (especially journalists who seek interviews usually at very short notice).

In conclusion - I must remind readers that tickets for the Harmonime, the Solar Train (4 Sunday, [illegible] 3rd month) and the New Year Party can be booked at the Simon's Town Peninsula Tourism Bureau.

Wishing you all - especially all our members a bumper summer season with lots of happy visitors filling their accommodation. I have a great Christmas and we hope to see you dancing the New Year in on Jubilee Square.
Best wishes,

Sue Sturman

News from Naval Base Simon's Town

SA Navy Dockyard Tours

11 Dec 2000 - 12 Jan 2001

The SA Navy Dockyard tours start again on 11 December 2000 and continue until 12 January 2001. A bus will depart from Jubilee Square at 10.00am and 1.30pm daily. The tour will last approximately two hours, including an hour-long SA Naval Museum tour. The tours scheduled from 20 December until 10 January will also include a guided tour of the Combat Support Ship and Icebreaker SAS OSTRINGUA.

There will be no tours scheduled for Public Holidays or the afternoons of Friday 22 and 29 December.
For further information please contact the Public Relations Visits Section on **787 3850 / 787 3739 / 787 3827.**
There is no cost for the tours!

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South African Navy Diving - A Brief History

Part 3 - Peacetime Operations

As you've probably gathered by now, the South African Navy Divers are an asset of which the SAN is proud. Unlike most other branches or specialisations within the SANDF, the navy divers are capable of performing high quality civil assistance tasks. The yo-ho military terminology for tasks beyond the scope for which the divers have been trained for co-lateral satisfaction.

Bearing in mind that the navy divers are trained primarily as mine-clearance divers, the peacetime role of these individuals is extremely diverse. The divers of the SAN have performed numerous tasks and operations beyond the scope of work within and beyond the borders of the RSA. The majority of peacetime tasks involve search and rescue in some form or another.

The highest profile of any recent tasking was the SAN Divers and South African Air Force's (SAAF) involvement in the rescue operation of the ill-fated stricken passenger liner the MV OCEANOS off the Wild Coast on 4 August 1992. The bravery and professionalism of all involved in the mission resulted in one of the most successful rescue operations ever in recent times. The divers were lowered onto the decks of the stricken liner and instructed to prepare the passengers for evacuation by SAAF helicopters. The divers calmly organised the passengers into groups to commence the helicopter-strop lifts to safety.

The untold stories of this rescue are those of the individual divers who risked their own lives in order to rescue passengers from the stormy shark-infested waters. Once all passengers on deck had been rescued, a head count revealed that 21 passengers were not accounted for. A team of four navy divers volunteered to search the ship for the missing passengers. The team searched between the decks of the liner and no remaining passengers were found on board. The divers were airlifted from the deck of the OCEANOS and flown to the mainland. The vessel sank minutes later, before the divers landed ashore. The missing 21 passengers were later accounted for as reports came in of passengers rescued from the stormy waters by passing shipping.

The HONOURUS CRUX medal for bravery was awarded to 4 of the SAN divers for bravery during the operation. The international recognition for this rescue mission was immense due to the fact that not a single life was lost during this rescue operation.

On the 24th of May 1996, divers from the SAN scrambled to provide assistance to the people of Tanzania. A large and unfortunately overloaded lake ferry had capsized and sunk on Lake Victoria. In appalling conditions, the SAN divers recovered the bodies of 400 corpses from the Sunken MV BUKOBA. The condition of the recovered corpses was eventually so bad that the Tan-

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zanian government decided to terminate the operation, and seal the wreck with the remaining corpses inside as a memorial to those who perished in the tragedy. It was estimated that the ferry was carrying in excess of 1500 passengers.

The manner in which the SAN Divers conducted this operation gained great respect for the SAN Diving branch by the people and government of Tanzania. The impression created by the South African team was so good that a team of Tanzanian's were selected to complete basic diver training at the SAN Diving Centre.

The most recent corpse recovery by the SAN Divers took place during September 2000. The SAN Divers were called upon to dive on a sunken fishing vessel, the POKKIE M. The divers recovered the corpses of the drowned fishermen and transported them ashore with dignity.

Fortunately not all co-lateral utilisation taskings are corpse recoveries. SAN Divers have been used for taskings ranging from penguin clean-up operations to the rescue of injured marine mammals, salvage, under water construction and survey work.

The SAN Diving Centre has a bomb disposal capability. Although the peacetime activation of this elite squad of divers is rare, the team provides a valuable service to the country by disposing of ordinance or pyrotechnics located below the high water mark. A typical example is the disposal of maritime flare and smoke markers lost overboard from passing ships and washed ashore on our beaches.

The divers are a truly versatile group often used by other state departments. The millennium party held on Robben Island saw navy divers providing VIP protection services and searched for sabotage devices in and around the docks from which the President and his honoured guests embarked and disembarked.

The Divers of the South African Navy are an

HEATHER LUNDERSTEDT ESTATES cc

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THE AGENCY WITH THE "DIFFERENT" APPROACH

important resource to the Republic. Their ability to complete any task asked of them has made them an internationally respected force. Apart from their core business of military diving, their capacity to provide a professional waterborne service, when required, will ensure the future of this dynamic group of individuals for years to come.

Commander Richard Penn
Officer in Charge SA Navy Diving Centre

Navy Festival 2001

Navy personnel are currently preparing for the Navy Festival which is scheduled to take place from 5-8 April 2001.
Members of the community who wish to make suggestions for ways in which to improve the Navy Week or who would like to participate are requested to contact Mrs Karen Knight on 787 3860 before 8 December 2000 or after 8 January 2001.

World Aids Day

The Social Welfare Department at the Institute for Maritime Medicine (IMM) coordinated a programme in support of **World AIDS Day on 1 December**. The programme was as follows:

30 November at 10am - A squad marched through Simon's Town from Cole Point Gate to the SAS SIMONSBERG gate to commemorate World Aids Day. A symbolic ribbon was tied at the SAS SIMONSBERG Gate.

1 December at 10am - A programme of AIDS related activities, speakers were given at the SAS SIMONSBERG Cinema Hall.

4 December - Father Christmas Comes to Town

10am - Carols in the Bay Hall, SA Naval Dockyard.

11am - Father Christmas rides on a Fire Engine to Jubilee Square.

12pm - Father Christmas departs for Da Gama Park.

1pm - Father X-mas departs for Ocean View.

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

The N.S.R.I. is a voluntary organisation whose many stations are manned and staffed and run by volunteers. The funding for this widespread rescue service is gleaned from public donations and sponsorships. Funding is not easy to come by as many organisations exist only as a result of public largesse. Recently Station 10 was the beneficiary of a magnificent gesture which was orchestrated by N.S.R.I. headquarters by way of the Rotary Club of Table Bay. This Club holds an annual wine auction as part of its annual fundraising drive in order to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise.

This year at the auction, staged at the Italian Club in Rugby on the 15th of November, Mr. John Brits, President of the Rotary Club of Table Bay, stated the proceeds would go, largely, to the N.S.R.I. to assist in providing Rescue/Recovery vehicles to allow for better coastline coverage. He also thanked the many sponsors and suppliers of donations and supporters for once more coming forward to support a most worthy cause.

Mr. Ian Wienberg, Chief Executive Officer of N.S.R.I., said that Sea Rescue had come a long way since modest beginnings in 1967, of one rubber boat and two crew members. Today there are 28 rescue stations with 700 volunteer men and women. He said that N.S.R.I. would not exist without funding by friends and interested people like you and the public at large. He stated that the beneficiaries of this auction would be the stations of Simon's Town and Kommetjie. He wished all the bidders well and said that perhaps their efforts would save a life in the future.

Octavian's Gift by Peter Keene

Paris 1993. Lars Nielsen is in the prime of life. He is married to a beautiful woman, has two wonderful children and is a military diplomat in the most glamorous city in the world. It could have been perfect.

But the facade is starting to crumble. Someone at the embassy is gaining unauthorised access to secret files. Nielsen's wife Monica is unhappy with her marriage and the Italian naval attaché is pursuing her. At home in South Africa the process to negotiate a transition to democracy teeters on the edge of an abyss.

And then things get worse.

From Moscow to Nice, Pretoria to Prague strands are woven that will ensnare Nielsen in a web of conspiracy and intrigue.

Behind the scenes the murderous Jeanne pursues her own evil ends.

While Nielsen struggles to overcome his ambivalence about the changes taking place in his country he begins a journey that will unlock the explosive secret of Octavian's Gift.

This remarkable novel by retired naval officer Peter Keene, can be obtained by phoning 786 1907 or, directly from the author at 083 254 3826

Price: R69.00

Station 10 personnel led by Station Commander Dave Roberts were on hand to assist with the showing of products to be bid for and to assist the auction in general. All in all it was a most successful evening which produced an approximate sum of R72 000 which amount would be quadrupled by Rotary International and thus assure Station 10 of its new vehicle and allow for the refurbishment of its present vehicle to be handed over to the Kommetjie Station. Station 10 is deeply grateful to all the people who organised and supported this event!

Station Commander Dave Roberts and certain crew members were also privileged to attend the annual cheese and wine function which is organised by the Beaumont family of Bergvliet in memory of their late son Eddie. The function was held at the Bergvliet Sport Club and was also a great fundraising success. Station 10 is also deeply grateful to the Beaumont Family for their continued support!

To continue the series of introducing Station 10 members to readers of "Snoektown Calling", please meet ***Angus Miles*** of Welcome Glen. Angus is 24 and a bachelor, and has been a dedicated member of Station 10 for most of the past seven years. He became interested in the organisation when he was introduced to it by a good friend when he was still a scholar at Simon's Town High School. Angus is a qualified member of "B" boats crew. He has completed a Basic First Aid Course and an Electronic Navigation Course and the Radio Operators Course (for which he still needs to write an examination). He is also a member of the Simon's Town Fire Department (volunteer). Angus contends that what keeps him interested in the organisation is that it is like a family unit and all members work together to keep everything going. He also enjoys the excitement of a call out and being in a position to be able to aid people in distress situations. Angus works as a telephone technician for a firm in Pinelands called Ifusion and is available to attend callouts

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after working hours and at weekends. Well done Aligusi. We appreciate your dedication to a worthy cause.

On the 25th of November at 09:35 a call was received via cell phone to Simon's Town Fire Department from the subcat "Apple Pie" off Cape Point. They reported double engine failure due to fuel starvation and were anchored and requested a tow. "Spirit of Freemasonry" was launched at 10:04 with Cosewalk Dave Fellows in charge. At the same time the 4x4 driven by Louis Duimelaar was despatched to act as radio relay. On arrival at the scene the boat skipper said that one engine was working, but due to unreliability they requested the "Spirit of Freemasonry" follow them to Simon's Town. They arrived at False Bay Yacht Club under their own steam.

The 26th of November brought a call from Port Control Cape Town at 0930, that a small fishing boat was overturned at Surfers Corner at Muizenberg. The cellphone number of a Mr Andre Blouws was given as a contact. The 4x4 was despatched to the area. Later Mr Blouws informed us that the boat had been assisted by another vessel and that they were progressing under their own steam. No boat was launched on this occasion.

On the 6th of January 2001 the Shoreline Committee of Station 10 will be holding a street collection in Simon's Town, Fish Hoek and at Lakeside for funds for Station 10. Please dear Madam's Supporters generously. It is a worthy cause. We wish you all a merry and safe Christmas and a happy New Year. Please keep safety uppermost in your mind. Yours sincerely,

Don Bullery
Member Station 10
Shoreline Committee

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Friends of the Simon's Town Library

It is with great rejoicing that we are now able to say without doubt, that the transformation of the Library to the Old Municipal Offices, is now a committed project of the South Peninsula Municipality and will take place in the New Year. It has been mooted that the present library will be made available as a Community Centre, where various groups and associations of Simon's Town can hold their meetings, functions etc. We hope to be able to call on Friends to volunteer should we need assistance with the move. Also it seems highly likely that volunteers will be required for various duties now that we have larger premises and space to handle – but more of that next year!

Our Librarian advises that a large consignment of new Books, Videos and CDs is expected in December and I am sure we all look forward to this exciting event. For the present, Melanie recommends some new books and videos which arrived this month:

Fiction

Winter Solstice by Rosamund Pilcher

Holding the Zero by Gerald Seymour

The Truth by Terry Pratchett

Videos

"Wag the Dog" a comedy with Robert de Niro

"Full Circle" a BBC production by Michael Palin concerning his travels around the Pacific Rim, which you are sure to find extremely interesting.

Under non-fiction, we have received new crockery and gardening books. Also a consignment of Science Fiction and Fantasy books have arrived. So come and see what the Library has to offer you in light of new material. Enjoy!

Parents might like to take note that during the holidays children can attend "Story Time" at the Library. This event was a great success last year – the children were most enthusiastic. We will keep you all advised of the date at a later stage when all the arrangements have been completed.

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Dealers and the Public that on **December 15** we will be holding a really **BIG sale** of secondhand books at the usual venue outside Simon's Town Pharmacy. Diarise this date and see you there!

Bookworm

Palace Barracks

Folk might or might not know that I, as Chairman of the Simon's Town Historical Society, wrote to the Minister of Public Works, Ms Stella Sigcau, on 14 June 2000 concerning the appalling state of the property. A letter of acknowledgment was received but nothing else has been received indicating what is to become of the property. A second letter was directed to the Minister on 31 July 2000 expressing the Society's sincere thanks for the clean-up of the grounds by the Department of Public Works, but again enquired as to the fate of the property. No reply was received to this request.

On 1 September 2000 I again wrote to the Minister explaining that I had yet to receive a reply to the Society's two previous letters. I also pointed out that during a site meeting at Palace Barracks in August 2000, a senior member of the Department of Public Works, Ms L. Ramncwana and Mr Vlok of the Western Cape office had informed both Cllr Holderness and Mr David Hart of SAHRA, that the Department was engaging a security company to guard the property on a 24 hour basis. This of course has never taken place and all that has been done is the boarding up of windows and doors.

I then thought I should try a new approach and made an appointment to discuss the matter with Mr J Momberg, the local ANC MP. The meeting took place on Monday 23 October 2000. Mr Momberg has assured me that because Palace Barracks is of such historical importance, he will now personally take the matter up with the Director General of Public Works and report back. Let us hope that something will at last be done to address the matter of Palace Barracks and its eventual fate.

Terry Korsten

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"A Fly in our Soup!"

Thanks to the clearing efforts of alien vegetation by National Parks and Friends of the Simon's Town Coastline, local hiking trails bloom with a fair share of the Peninsula's 2250 indigenous species. Therefore, together with its diversity of marine life in rock-pools and some 135 migratory bird species at Sleitrain VG, our region is attracting more ecotourists than ever before. Perhaps of interest to some of them and ourselves is that many of the beautiful long-tube flowers are pollinated neither by bee, bird, nor butterfly, but by a long tongued fly. Most remarkable, they have formed a "guild", which gives each member its own site on the fly's body to deposit pollen!

This subject has been extensively researched by Dr. John Manning and Dr. Peter Goldblatt of the Compton Herbarium at Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens. In our particular region, no less than 20 kilospring to early-summer flowering species of *Geraniaceae*, *Iridaceae* and *Orchidaceae* are pollinated only by *Moegistorhynchus longimatis*, which has a proboscis almost 30 mm long. These include the lilac disa (*Disa harvejana*), marsh painted lady (*Gladiolus augustus*), painted lady (*G. cornicus*), white lady (*G. undulatus*), white bobiana (*D. lobulosa*), *Pelargonium myrrhifolium* and the pulp's watsonia (*Watsonia barbarica*). All are similar in colour with cream in pink markings and red-streaked petals.

With almost human connotations, guild members "strike a deal" with the fly. They offer incredibly large quantities of nectar without loss of quality, whereby the sugar concentration is relatively constant with a high sucrose to hexose ratio. In payment, the fly must be prepared to have pollen deposited on up to five separate areas of its body. These differ between members to avoid contamination. However, typical of Orchidaceae deceit, *Disa diaconis* mimics

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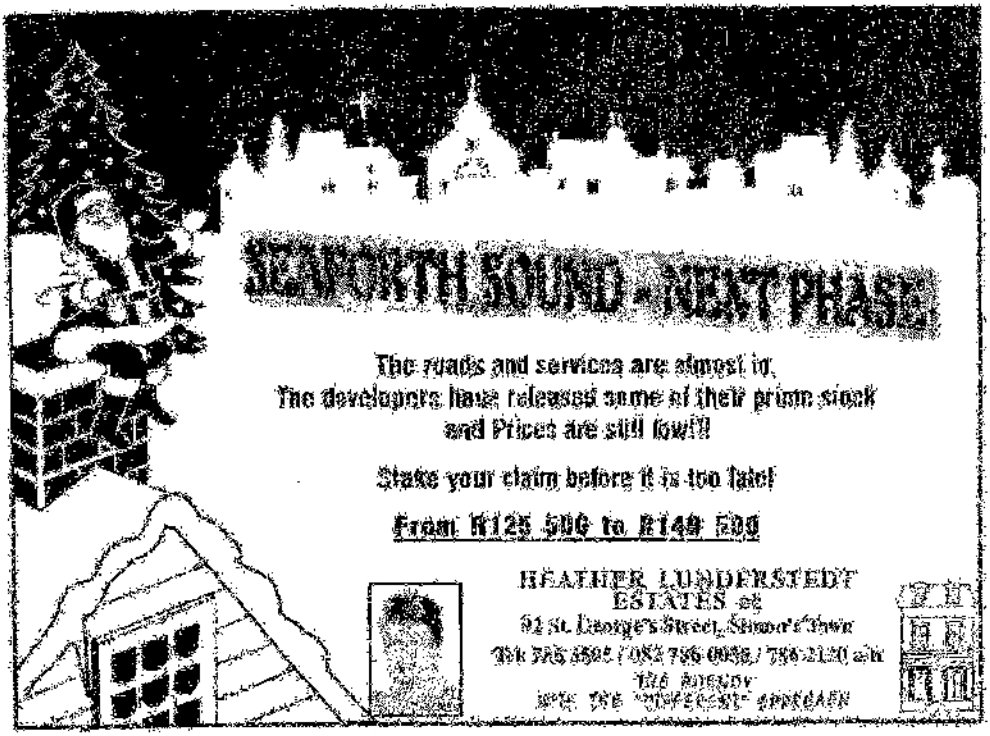


guild markings - but produces no nectar!

Two further species of long-tongued flies (*Philoliche gulosa* and *P. rostrata*) also pollinate Cape guild members, but mostly further north. In any case, they are active at a different time and their tongues are too short to compete. As Darwin observed in 1877, the tongue must be only slightly shorter than the floral tube for its complete insertion. Since our friend - *M. longirostis* - has a tongue to meet this requirement on the Peninsula, we can safely conclude that cooperation only exists between different species and guilds in specific regions.

So should we find a fly in our soup sticking its tongue out at us, let's not complain. It could well be a keystone species peculiar to this unique ecosystem!

Bevan Pank, Science Writer

"False Bay Water Quality"

Some of you may remember me as the beachcomber whose reports were seldom acted upon, or for my deadly dull "fishy tales" which now feature regularly in *Divestyle* magazine. Hopefully, this report on the water quality of popular bathing beaches and on allied subjects applicable to our region will be more interesting to readers.

Thanks to the Navy's environmental awareness, Simon's Bay teams with marine life and few bathing beaches close to a dockyard elsewhere have such unpolluted water. As proof, residents and visitors alike will be pleased to know that its quality compares favourably with even the most stringent criteria laid down by the European Union. Albeit those of us who know the Mediterranean in particular might need to

The Annual Simon's Town Charity Art and Craft Show

Due to the local elections, the show has been set back one week.

Dates: 8 - 12 December 2000
Times:
Friday 8 December 9am-5pm
Saturday 9 December 9am-7pm
Sunday 10 December 9am-7pm
Monday 11 December 9am-7pm
Tuesday 12 December 9am-4pm
Venue: Simon's Town Town Hall
Opening: Friday 8 December 6.30pm - Cheese and Wine
]Tea/coffee and eats will be available daily.

The Annual Art and Craft Show was started by Dr Reg Loxton for two specific reasons. Firstly, to support local artists and crafters by providing them with a venue to display their work. Secondly, and most importantly, to raise funds for those charities and support services which serve our local community. This effort becomes increasingly important as our district is part of an ever-enlarging Municipality.
All funds raised from the sale of items on display, entrance fees and door receipts will go to LOCAL organisations who help us when we most need it.
The proceeds from the sale of tea/coffee and eats supplied by our local churches will go directly to the churches concerned.

Entrance Fee: R5
SUPPORT *YOUR* LOCAL CHARITIES

take some of the figures with a pinch of salt! This is the tough "80th Percentile" guideline test for faecal coliforms, which specifies that 80% of samples must contain less than 100 counts per 100 ml of sea water. The following values from the Cape Metropolitan Coastal Water Quality Committee are for October to March from 1996 to 2000 and plus signs indicate where they have exceeded the limit:
Glencairn: 33, 12, 48 and 8. Long Beach: 263+, 262+, 14 and 15. Seaforth: 18, 109+, 17 and 110+. Fisherman's Beach: 14, 4, 2 and 8. Miller's Point: 8,12, 30 and 4.

It is important that we interpret the values merely as indicators. This is because even an unnoticed seal carcass close to the sampling site can result in a "rogue" figure. So although for some reason, the value was high at Seaforth only on the 9th. of February, it reflected on last summer's count. What we are therefore reading is information which may be useful to scientists but meaningless to us. In any case, the problem is now history and there is no cause for concern. I don't know whether the 15 sewerage pumping stations in the naval dockyard have a formal monitoring system for faecal coliforms. However, I am certain that all others in the region - including both Nos. 4 and 4a at Seaforth - are inspected daily by the SPM's Sanitation Department.

At my instigation, Boulders Beach is now being monitored for bacterial pollution and the six samples taken so far have given a count of only ten. Irrespective of whether a storm-water outfall or the penguin colony is responsible, this low value is well within acceptable limits for safe swimming - even by international standards. Besides, few pathogens from warm-blooded animals survive longer than a few hours in sea water.

Although the parasites and viruses often found in dog faeces are more robust, pets

Simon's Town Auto Service Centre

Shell, formally known as Clifford's Garage, has had a name change. It is now **Simon's Town Auto Service Centre.** It has been a landmark in Simon's Town for many years and will continue to serve the community.

Darryl and Lance Thompson are at your service for your requirements. A Deli/Takeaway and Convenience Store will be in full swing by the start of the Festive Season. We will be serving a variety of fresh salads, rotisserie chicken, hamburgers & chips, hot dogs etc. as well as some delicious cakes and other home-made treats. Lance will also be catering for small functions. Just come in and give us some ideas on what you would like to see in the store which will known as **SOUTHERN WINDS CAFE.**

Chris is upstairs running his own workshop which is fully equipped and has a fitment centre - he replaces exhausts, tyres, shocks, radiators and does full services.
You can phone him on **786 2283**.

Simon's Town Creative Workshop
9-15 July 2001

A current of expectation is running through the Town as more and more are joining in the Simon's Town Creative Workshop. The aim is to generate funds for Simon's Town in an atmosphere of culture and learning. Friends and friend-of-friends are all invited to become involved.

In addition to the School, Museum, Bronze Age Sculpting School, False Bay Yacht Club and Amlay House, Noordhoek Training Centre and the Library will be participating in various workshops and demonstrations. De Steven van der Merwe is planning the classical music programme and Sue Bolton and Cole Cameron have exciting ideas for the Simonsberg Theatre. The Art Route and Art Group will be showcased. The Navy is being very supportive!

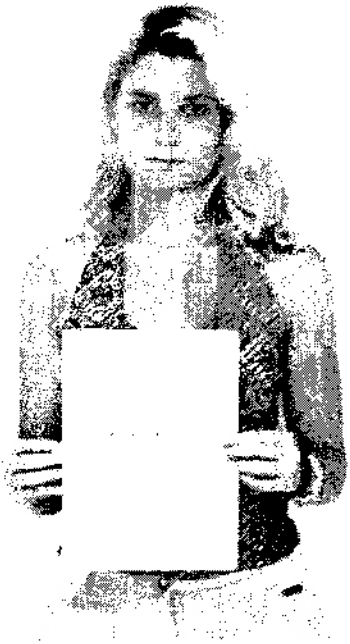
The logo is on the drawing board and the project will be officially launched very shortly. A concept of partnership will be employed to match business with workshop that will allow business to demonstrate and sell products relating to the various workshops.

Some very exciting learning experiences will be happening! Needed: co-operation, organisers, business skills!
Please contact **Phoebe Cottrell 786 2952**.

contribute very little to water contamination when walked on a beach. The problem is therefore aesthetics rather than a health hazard, especially since few dog owners use a "poop scoop". However, faeces can be risky in an enclosed area such as the tidal pool at Glencairn, if mothers rinse their baby's nappy. This also applies to Simon's Bay, if rebels in the otherwise highly disciplined yachting fraternity at anchor flush their onboard toilets. Neither is it wise to swim immediately after a rainfall, because the worst problem is contaminated stormwater. Fortunately, the mostly clockwise currents during summer bring little bacterial pollution from runoffs on the Cape Flats. By the way, it is a fallacy that rock lobsters are found at sewage outfalls because they eat faeces. The reason is that they are hunting filter-feeding mussels, which thrive on the discharged nutrients.

As an aside, another initiative of mine over the last few years was to finally persuade the authorities to erect signs at Muizenberg and along Boyes Drive explaining the brown water. Visitors had to realise that it is not sewage but micro-algae, upon which many fish feed. CMC's Catchment Management Department excelled themselves by also including facts on oceanography and red tide. Since many of our restrictive signs - and particularly in marine reserves - are missing or barely legible, it would make the ideal template for standardisation. With the title of "Fact File on False Bay", a full-size cardboard version can be seen at the Simon's Town publicity office.

Although treated sewage effluent can safely be discharged into the sea, it has been deemed unsafe - despite original assurances - for Glencairn's vlei since the toxic algal bloom. This is irrespective of whether it is channelled or spread, because the quality of general standard effluent at the Waste Water Treatment Works in Simon's Town is way below the requirements of an acceptable discharge for such a purpose. Although the vlei will therefore revert to a sea-



Eliza Coetzee

Simon's Town School bids farewell to a wonderful person and an exceptional learner — our Deputy-head student leader.

Eliza' s contribution to her school and prize-giving saw her walking off with a host of prizes:

Diploma in Maritime Studies (Distinction)
Standard Bank Shield (Best Academic Achievement in Grade 12)
Hartmut Smith Trophy for Bilingualism
Frieslaar Dux Trophy for Loyalty, Integrity, Leadership and Academic excellence and outstanding service to the school.
Certificate for services rendered to Simon's Town School as Deputy-head Student Leader.
The Cape Town United Services Association Trophy for Maritime Studies
Newall Family Prize for Maritime "A".
Suid Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns — Taaleksamen op Hoër Graad.
Silver Certificate for maintaining an exceptional high standard academically during 2000
Certificate for Diligence
Certificate for Best Achievement in Mathematics and Accounting

Eliza achieved these remarkable accolades because of her belief in always doing her utmost, never shirking her responsibilities and above all, never to accept mediocrity.

We thank her parents for their commitment and support and wish Eliza everything of the best for the future.

J.Visser

(Head of Department : Afrikaans. Grade 12 Head)

sonal wetland, CMC's Catchment Management Department has approved funding for improvements. These could include deepening and reshaping of specific areas, controlling bulrushes, removing alien vegetation and re-establishing indigenous shrubs. Hopefully, this second time around, the new plants will receive more care and pathways will be kept safe from littering undesirables.

Whatever doubts we may have on beach-litter control, alcohol consumption, trashing toilet facilities, break-ins of isolated cars and other problems, there is one certainty: All the popular swimming beaches from Glencairn to Miller's Point are safe from faecal coliforms. Furthermore, the presence of hydrocarbons and heavy metals has proved less than expected. The only danger is UV radiation - even when lying under a beach umbrella - especially between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. So let's protect ourselves with a block-out cream or lotion this coming holiday season and enjoy our beaches!

Bevan Pank, Science Writer

Traffic Lights at Seaforth Rd

I would be interested to hear comment through your columns on my suggestion that the pedestrian traffic light near the school on Queen's Rd be moved to the T-junction at the top of Seaforth Rd.

The reasons for this suggestion are as follows:

1. The redevelopment of the Seaforth Restaurant and the increased use of the Seaforth parking area will significantly increase the traffic at the junction of Queen's Rd and Seaforth Rd.
2. The present mirror opposite the top of Seaforth Rd is "invisible" in rain or fog and is deceptive at night or when there is heavy traffic along Queen's Rd.
3. The Seven Eleven has increased both vehicular and pedestrian traffic close to the T-junction. Pedestrians and scholars cross Queen's Rd at this point, rather than at the pedestrian traffic light.

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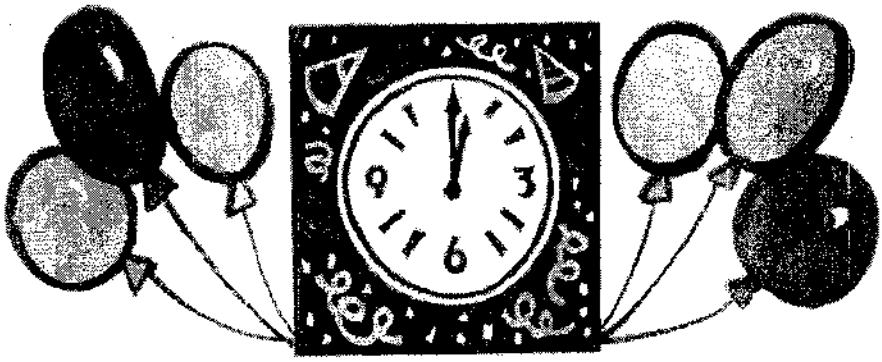

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SIMONS TOWN MILLENIUM COMMITTEE

4. The pedestrian traffic light is not easily visible to traffic approaching from the "South". I have personally seen cars driving through this "red light". However a traffic light at the top of Seaforth Hill would be easily seen from both the "South" and "North" approaches.

In my opinion, moving this light may prevent a major accident at this busy intersection.

Boet Doorntjuse

The Night Sky

December is the last month of the 20th Century as the new millennium begins on January 1, 2001. Julius Caesar and Pope Gregory XIII decreed that the new year begins on 1 January.

A date that could have been different, which was also meaningful, was the date of the Earth's perihelion, when the Earth is at its closest point to the Sun, on 3 January. The Earth is only 91,5 million km from the Sun on that date, at 147 million km away. The Earth is furthest from the Sun at its aphelion on 4 July in the middle of the northern hemisphere's summer, when it is 152 million km away.

At this time of the year the Seven Sisters and the Hyades, which make up the constellation of Taurus the Bull, are dominant in the evening sky with Orion and Gemini low down. In 1867 Sir William Herschel discovered the planet Uranus in the constellation of Gemini.

The bright red giant called Aldebaran, the eye of the Bull, is not far from Saturn and Jupiter. Higher up in the sky is the beautiful Pleiades cluster known as the Seven Sisters. Seven stars may be seen by a person having good eyesight on a clear night. Those having poorer eyesight will see fewer Pleiades. By using binoculars or a telescope with a magnification of 25 stars will be seen. Many are identified with greater magnification. How many Pleiades can you see using binoculars?

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In mythology, the Pleiades were the seven daughters of Atlas, but one named Sterope married a mortal, and so faded. "There seems no doubt that this one star has faded, so the legend is probably based on astronomical fact. The poet Byron mentions it in Beppo "Like the Lost Pleiad seen no more below." (on Earth) R. Quarnby. "Our Southern Sky".

The Planets

Mercury, magnitude -0.9 is in Scorpius and is visible in the early morning for a few days only, reaching superior conjunction with the Sun on 25 December.

Venus remains the brilliant evening star, magnitude -4.2, in Capricorn. On the 11th it is 3° south of Neptune and on the 23rd 1° south of Uranus, and on the 1st and between the 28th and 30th it is very close to the New Moon.

Mars at magnitude +1.4 is visible as a morning star. On the 13th it will be 3° from the brighter star Spica. On the 20th it will be 4° south of the Moon.

Jupiter continues to shine very brightly at magnitude -2.8 and with Saturn and Aldebaran (the eye of the Bull) form a bright triangle in the evening sky between Taurus and Orion. On the 10th it is 3° north of the Moon. It is a bright silver object half as far from Earth as Saturn. Four of its moons are clearly visible using binoculars.

Saturn at magnitude -0.2 is a bright cream coloured object higher in the sky than Jupiter and the red Aldebaran. It will be 1° south of the Moon on the 9th and remains part of the triangle.

Uranus, magnitude +5.9, just visible with the naked eye, is in Capricorn. It is 2° north of the Moon on the 2nd and on the 29th.

Neptune at magnitude +8.0 may only be seen with binoculars or a telescope, is 1° north of the Moon on the 1st. It is close to Venus in Capricorn.

Pluto is not visible this month.

The Moon

New Moon is on 25th December; First Quarter 4th December; Full Moon on the 11th; Last Quarter the 18th.

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Shawwal will be between 25 and 27th.

The Sun

Sunrise on the 1st is at 5h29 and Sunset at 19h48. Sunrise on the 20th at 5h32 and Sunset at 19h57.

The Solstice Solstice is on 21st December, when the Sun is vertically over the Tropic of Capricorn, but from the 22nd the Sun starts moving north-wards again.

There will be a partial eclipse of the Sun over Simon's Town on the 21st June 2001, but it will be total over Central Africa. There will be a partial eclipse over North America on Christmas Day this year.

Comets

There have been no reports of any comets.

Aurora Austr.

There is a lot of Sun Spot activity causing floods all over the world which will continue for about another year, as we are in the middle of a major 11 year cycle of Sun Spots, but no reports of Aurora have been received.

Meteors

The anticipated Leonid storm was a great disappointment. The sky was clouded over on the 16th, but on the 17th only 3 were seen between 4-5am. It is hoped that the new millennium which starts at midnight on 1 January 2001 is more of a success story than the last year of the 20th Century.

The Astronomical Calendar for Southern Africa for 2001 is available from

The Business Manager, Astronomical Society of Southern Africa, P.O. Box 9, Observatory, 7935.

Cheques for R35 to be made out "Not Negotiable" to Astronomical Society of Southern Africa.

Peter I van Blommestein

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A Tanganyika Journal Part 11

February 4

Sailor and I have returned from a short holiday in Nairobi - called unkindly but with some justification, "Nairobbery" - Sailor happily weighed down by an assortment of 78rpm records and a box of South African grapes, me mulling over the moth-eaten state of my hair. "Oh yerss," the hairdresser had said when asked whether she could do a bubble-cut. While she snipped away she prattled about the absolute thrill it had been to do Stewart Granger's locks - he was an absolute darling. Deborah Kerr of course was an absolute pain in the neck; wouldn't utter a word about her work in "King Solomon's Mines". I came out of the salon with my hair an absolute mess.

In the plane from Nairobi was a dapper little man who let it be known that he'd come to write-up the true facts of the Groundnut Scheme for his newspaper, the London Times. We were impressed. When the plane made a whistle stop somewhere along the line, our pilot came into the waiting room and announced that there was some malfunction which couldn't be sorted out here, but he was sure we'd make it home. The newsman high-tailed it out of the waiting room, saying he had to get back to the UK as soon as possible.

February 17

Today our airmail copy of the Times arrived - and there, in black and white, was an article by the Special Correspondent. The Southern Province, he states, is a scene of desolation, of tumbleweeds blown by the relentless wind, of abandoned houses - a ghost town from which every soul has fled. Our hard-working, highly successful young agriculturalists are outraged and would love to play bok-bok with that little squirt. Never again will anyone believe a word printed in the Times.

February 28

I was going to have a baby, I told Sailor. "What, <u>again</u>?" he scoffed. "I've never known anyone have babies as frequently as you do, with nothing to show for it. You belong in the Guinness Book of Records, old girl".

Well, this time, it's official. I have visited the OFC's mobile clinic; the doctor wore sandals, shorts and a fuzzy red beard. He asked a few questions, nodded and told me I couldn't be <u>more</u> pregnant. "I expect you'll want to go Home to have your baby". I said I wasn't sure the Corporation would grant a passage to the Union. "Ah," said the MO, "South African? It's a piece of cake for you girls to give birth - a bit of old hat."

March 7

After a great deal of gazing abstractedly into the distance, Sailor has decided that I could, after all, go to South Africa for the confinement. He hoped to be released from his OFC contract in order to accept an offer to proceed to a new job: a 2 to 3 years survey for the Government. A chance to tackle a really big undertaking all on his own - obviously his mind is made up.

March 10

I have been packing (slightly hampered by the Bump) books, crockery and kitchenware, while Sailor writes reports, speaks to Big Names and winds things up. The days fly past without touching sides.

March 30

Chez Margot, Dar es Salaam

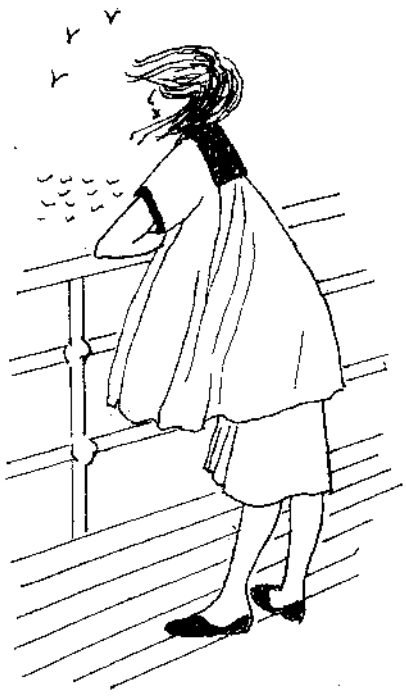
The last night before I leave for the South and Sailor goes off into the Unknown, and goodness knows what hazards. We sat up at the bar for a while and Etienne the chef and barman mixed us his special dry martinis. I recklessly - considering my delicate condition - had two, while Etienne related that whenever he and Margot, his lover, quarrelled she would have their enormous double bed turfed out onto the street. To

make a statement, said Etienne.

March 31
Aboard Warwick Castle
Tried to watch Sailor's descent into the harbour-bound launch but couldn't see for tears. Kind people helped me to my stateroom and I sobbed, reading the bon voyage cables from home. Odd: in 2½ years of a fairly rough and sometimes frustrating life, I have never cried. Until now.

April 8 1951
The pretty young nurse from Sick Bay came on her daily visit this morning. She said most of the passengers had been terribly unwell coming through the Moçambique Channel. "But you look fine and perky, m'dear," she said. "Of course, you know, it's the ballast you're carrying".

THE END



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Curriculum Vitae
Vice-Admiral J.F. Retief, SD, SM, MMM

Full Names: Johan Frans Retief
D/O/B: 20 March 1946
Place of Birth: Cape Town, RSA
Marital Status: Married
Religion: Dutch Reformed Church
Education: B Mil(Military Science) Diploma Computer Science
Home Language: Afrikaans
Other Languages: English
Mustering: Combat Officer, SA Navy
Current Appointment: Chief of the Navy

Decorations & Medals:
Bar to the Southern Cross Decoration
Southern Cross Decoration
Southern Cross Medal
Military Merit Medal
Pro Patria Medal
Southern Africa Medal
General Service Medal
Unitas Medal
SANDF Good Service Medal (Gold)
SANDF Good Service Medal (Silver)
SANDF Good Service Medal (Bronze)

Dates On Which Ranks Were Awarded

4 January 1965	Midshipman
7 December 1966	Ensign
6 December 1967	Sub-Lieutenant
1 May 1970	Lieutenant
1 October 1973	Lt-Commander
1 January 1978	Commander
1 January 1985	Captain
1 October 1995	Commodore
1 January 1993	Rear-Admiral
1 November 2000	Vice-Admiral

Courses Passed/Qualifications Achieved
Midshipman Training (1964)
Sub-Lieutenant Qualifying Course (1968)
Lieutenant Qalifying Course (1970)
Diving Supervisor's Course (1971)
Log Torpedo and Anti-Submarine Course (1972)
Strike Craft Weapons Officers Course (1976)
Naval Command and Staff Course (1981)
Strategy and Strategy Formulation Course (1987)
Joint Staff Course (1988)

Career Details

Before Joining the SA Navy: Citizen Force training in the SA Navy in 1964
Since Joining the Navy:

Jan 65	Military Academy	Student
Jan 68	SAS SIMONSBERG S Lt Qualifying Course	
May 68	SAS SIMON VAN DER STEL Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer	
Oct 69	SAS NAUTILUS Commanding	Officer

	Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer
Mar 72	SAS SIMONSBERG/HMS VERNON Torpedo & Anti-Submarine Course
Nov 72	SAS SIMONSBERG Officer in Charge Torpedo and Anti-Submarine School
Sep 73	Naval Base Durban Training Officer Malawi Navy
Oct 74	SAS SIMONSBERG Course Officer
May 75	Naval Base Simon's Town Training Officer Strike Craft
Oct 77	Strike Craft Flotilla SSO Personnel
Dec 78	SAS JIM FOUCHE Officer Commanding
May 81	SA Naval Staff College Student
Dec 81	Strike Craft Flotilla SSO Operations
Dec 83	SA Naval HQ SO Surface Warfare
Jan 85	SA Naval HQ Director Naval Operations
Jun 88	SA Defence College Student
Jan 89	*Intelligence Division SSO Research
Nov 90	*Ministry of Defence Military Secretary
Jan 93	SA Naval HQ Chief of Naval Operations
May 96	*C SANDF Division Inspector-General SANDF
Apr 97	*Defence Secretariat Inspector-General, Department of Defence
Nov 00	Chief of the South African Navy

*Indicates appointments to Joint Posts

Details of Family

Wife	Helena Margaretha (Née Naudé)
D/O/B	5 October 1945
Occupation	Housewife
Children	
Chris Francois	10 July 1971
Kobus Naude	15 April 1980

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NEW YEAR
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and the Staff of Fish Hoek Printing

Simon's Town SAPS Hints for Festive Season

As the festive season approaches, many members of the public will be attending parties and functions where alcohol will be available.

Before drinking and driving consider the following:

• Even before you reach the maximum blood alcohol level of 0.05g/100ml blood, your ability to drive a vehicle safely or walk in traffic is affected. One beer is enough to affect the way you think and act in traffic. The saying: "After a few drinks, I am a much better driver", is wishful thinking. Alcohol impairs your judgement, leading to a perception that you are doing things better. Tests under controlled situations have proven this. Let's keep death off our roads: don't drink and drive or walk.

• In traffic a driver or pedestrian must make multiple decisions in split seconds. After a drink or two, your ability to switch attention from one thing to another will be slower/impaired. Faced with a situation where you have to make several decisions simultaneously, you may not be able to make such decisions in time.

Don't Drink and Drive

• Alcohol affects the following functions of your brain:

- judgement
- vision
- co-ordination and
- balance

It would be foolish to drink and drive or walk. Driving or walking in traffic is a complex task. You have to be alert, make constant decisions, use your judgement, hand, foot and eye co-ordination and display a positive attitude. Only dummies drink and drive/walk.

• Alcohol lowers your inhibitions, resulting in your being less cautious, more likely to take risks, speed, be less considerate towards other road users and to perform dangerous stunts. In short, you are a more aggressive, less defensive driver.

• About 90% of the information we receive while driving or walking alongside the road is through our vision. Alcohol affects the eye muscles which move and focus your eyes. Don't be blindfolded by alcohol.

Alcohol affects your sight in the following ways:

• Blurred vision - Identifying something in the road in time to avoid a collision.

• Pupil dilation - Your ability to adapt your vision from darkness to light diminishes.

• Double vision - This could be fatal when walking in the road and not seeing an approaching vehicle in time.

• Depth perception - Your ability to judge distance between moving vehicles is impaired/diminishes.

• Tunnel vision - Normally, when looking straight ahead, you will notice objects or motion outside your direct line of vision. After a few drinks, it would be difficult to spot a pedestrian walking close to the roadway.

• Night vision - Alcohol impairs your ability to see small details at a distance at night. After a few drinks, you might not be able to identify a hazard on the road in time to avoid a collision.

Practical examples of drivers who had a few drinks

• They forget to dim their headlights for oncoming traffic.

• The change speed or lanes frequently without any reason.

• They will overshoot stop signs or completely ignore them.

• They will drive on the shoulder of the road or towards the centre line.

• They will be unable to anticipate possible dangers on the road ahead.

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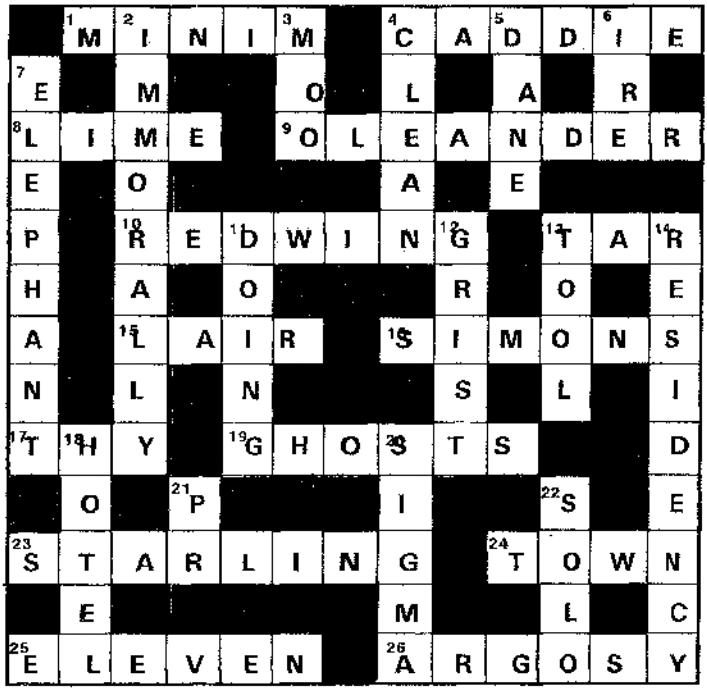

WINNER for Crossword No 12 - Diana Buttar

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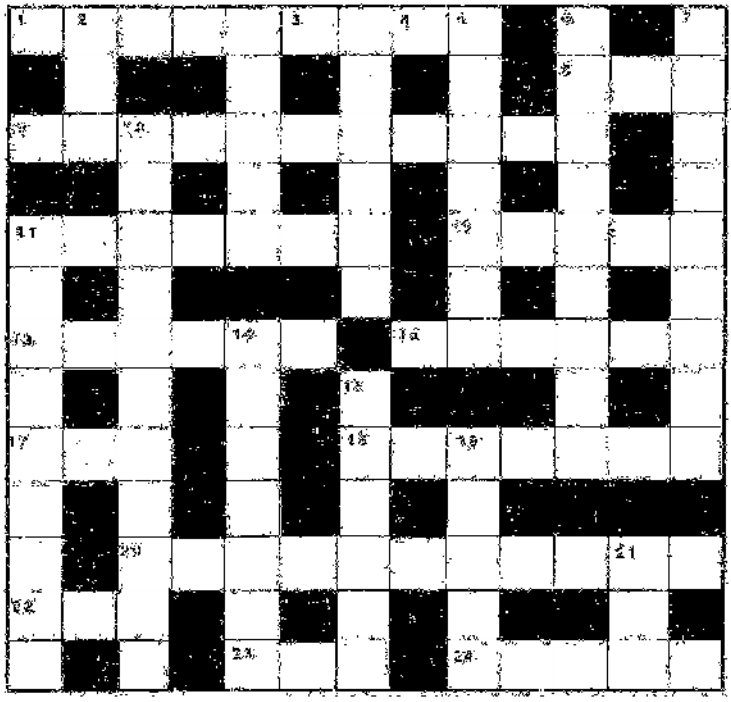
Vice-chairman & Property Report:	Geoffrey Palmer	786 5402
For the ex-GCA:	CPO Manu Choudree	782 7241
	and Ian Allan	782 2736
Treasurer:	Ian Allan	782 2736
For the ex-STRRA:	Dr John Morris	786 1765
	and Wilf Nussey	786 1368
Communications:	Wilf Nussey	786 1368
Red Hill:	Amos Lombo	780 9204/W
		780 9123/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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE 13



Across

1. Wolves in sheep's clothing - or a politician on pre-sit (9)
8. Mohammed's boxer (2)
9, 20, 21 down, 3 down. What shall we do with the drunken sailor? (2323, 443, 3, 5)
11. There is a room that is that in postage stamps in Simon's Town (7)
12. Apropheteae (5)
13. Alyabhisman (6)
15. Parallel road (6)
17. Conquiro (5)
18. Swell up (7)
20. See 9 across (3,3,2,9)
22. Aussie-ostrich (ypabbit) (8)
23. Past tense of 17 across (3)
24. He (5)

Down

2. That cow arterst (3)
3. See 9 across (5)
4. Large antelope (6)
5. Physicist (7)
6. Adjust or better patient shoe (9)
7. Revealed (9)
10. Quickly goes into bar (4,4,8)
11. Super cargo traveller (6)
14. Prickly pear (7)
18. Esteem (6)
19. Maybe times to strike (5)
21. See 9 across (7)

PRIZE: R100 voucher valid at Café Pescado

Name: ..... Tel. No: .....

- Entries in plain envelope addressed to Snoektown Calling Crossword Puzzle 13 delivered to Simon's Town Home Store before 29 January 2001.
- First correct entry drawn will be the prize winner.
- Only one entry per person permitted.
- Result and solution in the following issue of Snoektown Calling

FORTHCOMING EVENTS DECEMBER 2000

1. ANCHOR PLAYERS SUMMER SEASON
It's here - Simon's Town First Home Grown Pantomine Fun for the whole family In ***Once Upon a Time . com*** **6 to the 16 December** at Simonsberg Theatre, West Dockyard. Written and directed by Cole Cameron, this shouldn't be missed! Tickets: Simon's Town Publicity 782 5798 / 782 2436.

2. WALKING TOURS OF THE HISTORIC MILE, SIMON'S TOWN
Every Tuesday and Saturday (booking essential). Bobbie - 7863189 (Tues), Audrey - 786 1805 (Sat).
GHOST TOURS – Tues to Sun 4pm (Booking essential).

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, 8am October - March. No charge (apart from the R20 admission to park). The next walk is **17th December**. Enquiries **786 1774.**

4. PENSIONERS FREE MONTHLY SHOPPING BUS
To Pick'nPay from Murdoch Valley (Ixia Crescent bus terminus) then Simon's Town, Glencairn and Fish Hoek to Sun Valley and return. For date of next trip, times and pick-up points please phone **786 3137**.

5. FRIENDS OF THE SIMON'S TOWN COASTLINE
Enquiries Ph 786 3890 - All welcome

Saturday 9th December - Environmental activities including the following:

Marine Education Walk at **9 am** at Long Beach, S.T. led by Yves Lechanteur. (Enquiries 715 9783).

Short fynbos walk at **3pm** - Meeting place Boulders car park (In order to avoid parking problems, please share transport).

Social Dinner at **7.30pm**, Oatlands Holiday Village (For tickets at R50 per person contact Elaine 786 3562; Sharon 786 1072 or Yvonne 712 9997).

Sunday 10th December at 9.30 am
Alien vegetation hack at Boulders Park.
Meet: Boulders Car Park, S.T.

Saturday 16th December at 9.30 am
Combined walk with Simon's Town Flora Conservation Group to Rooikrans area.
Meet: Da Gama Parking Area, S.T.

6. CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT WITH THE NAVY BAND

16 December at 6.30 pm on Jubilee Square. Silver Collection in aid of St Luke's.

Next issue of Snoektown Calling will be
in ***February 2001***
Please have your submissions ready by
Friday 26 January 2001
Contact Sue Sturman
Tel 786 5798 or 786 2436
(Simon's Town Publicity Assoc)