

SNOEKTOWN *CALLING*

Vol 4 Issue 1

4 June 2001



The Storehouse, West Dockyard

June Sponsor - Dr & Mrs Peter Fraps

Editorial

The controversy over the armed robbery in Glencairn rages on; elsewhere in this issue, Ian Allan reports on the proceeding of a public meeting convened by the Simon's Town Civic Association to debate this event. This report offers little by way of positive guidance as to what should happen next and guidelines that could be helpful to the citizenship of Simon's Town as a whole.

For instance, I had requested a statement detailing: what happened, what was done wrong, what can be learned from the unfortunate event and how should we organise ourselves in the future.

Unfortunately no such report was presented for publication - so we are none the wiser. Let's hope future developments will provide the guidelines we

desperately need.

In the meantime, remember, you are being watched!

Reg Loxton - Editor
2 Chapel Road
786 1750

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Down the Historical Mile

Again, one of the West Dockyard gates is down, exclaimed Harold Hardekop. Mr Chairman, it's a disgrace! And I know why they can't fix the gate, it's because the blacksmith's shop is closed down. As one can see, Harold was very excited at the May meeting of SLAP. Wingnut Williams also came in with strong support about the poor state of affairs in the East Dockyard.

Never been so slap, Mr Chairman and Wingnut reported further that he saw the Dok with a bunch of other okies being taken around all the workshops on an official tour of inspection. What it was all about was uncertain but the story goes that the yard is to become commercial, no matter what the Navy says about security. Well now, says Wingnut, he has a chommie in the SAA workshop in Jo'burg and he says the SAA workshop is now commercial.

Wingnut explained that he and his chommie were both apprentices in the Dockyard. So Mr Chairman, that is the way to go. Ja, said Mientjie Boep-pens, then the yard will be full of people, like it was fifteen years ago, and there will be money in the town again. Smiles all round, and Mientjie did a bit of a jig to show how happy she was.

On a more serious note, Mr Chairman, said Piet Pompies, I have to report on a serious crime in Glencairn Way, an armed robbery. Ja-Nee, dis verskriklik, said Clara Fijnbosch, what is the place coming to, and she had heard that Schultz had been approached for advice and assistance. So the debate went on with many ideas and proposals including: they should fence them-

selves off like they have to do at Seaforth to keep the penguins out. So endeth the meeting on a sad note - arme mense, said Mientjie, Foeitog!

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Ward Councillor's Report

1. Signage in the CBD

The current signage regulations prohibit sign on this sidewalk. As a special circumstance, businesses on the main road were allowed one sign each. Unfortunately, some businesses have not complied. There have been several complaints repeatedly from the City Council.

The result is that the regulations will now be enforced and no pavement signs allowed. Notices will be sent to all businesses to this effect and illegal signs will be removed.

Before there is howl of anguish about this, perhaps we could learn some lessons and distinctive signage from Ka's Bay. Their bath pots mounted signs and striking wall paintings have been painted by a local artist, Ben Scott-Bugis. Each sign has something that perfectly describes what is sold or produced there.

Simon's Town's signs are colorful, imaginative and heavily dependent on irony (illegal in the conservation area) or Double-Dick. The sidewalk is also not enhanced by dog excrement!

2. Seaforth Restaurant

The completion of the front outshell will now be going ahead and the building of the new restaurant and public facilities will commence. In terms of the contract, the original tenderer was able to sell his company and the financial guarantees being satisfactory, the development could continue.

All the conditions of the original contract remain in place viz. the approving plan for the building, the environmental controls for managing the building site, the time frames and the penalty clauses.

The only deviation is in the position of the

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public lavatories. The original plan was approved with the toilets in the section which originally was the change rooms. However, the SPA Wastewater Department discovered a technical complication in the fall of the sewer system. The public lavatories will now be sited next to the existing pump station in the car park. Hopefully this will also include some upgrading of the building. The current awful lavatories will be demolished and the site restored.

Officials are investigating the potential problem of penguins nesting on Seaforth Beach. It may be necessary to erect some kind of wall or barrier.

On a personal note, I must add that I am the only ward councillor who has baboons and penguins to deal with - as well as the more ordinary resident!

3. Red Tape

The current negotiations with Public Works Department with regard to the acquisition of Wharf Street, Cole Point and Dido Valley have taken another turn. A new consignment of red tape has just been delivered to central government!

In the case of Wharf Street and Cole Point, although the sale has been agreed to in theory and money allocated by the local authority, the process cannot be finalised without the approval of a certain Land Disposal committee - and this committee was disbanded in February.

With regard to Dido Valley: the Office of the State Attorney has been instructed by PWD to proceed with the transfer process but the State Attorney says the land consists of a number of portions of varying irregular size. Each erf has its own title deed document and the original documents must be found and checked and... need I go on. By now any reader has slumped to the floor unconscious. None of these issues seemed important when the State expropriated the land from the former Simon's Town Municipality in the seventies.

4. Jetty Lights

There have been constant problems with these lights. I requested a full investigation and a written report. It appears that the actual installation was faulty: the cables were not correctly sealed; capacitors were burnt out because of water damage etc, etc. The next question is how non-waterproof fittings could have been used at all on a jetty.

Alderman Nicki Holderness
Ward 69, City of Cape Town

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Simon's Town Civic Association

MAY NEWSLETTER

Two Warnings

First, some **thief** - possibly a collector of exotica or scrap metal - has stolen a number of the brass plaques in Simon's Town marking places of historical and general interest.

It is a mean kind of vandalism. They are there to enhance Simon's Town for everyone's benefit. They were lifted expertly. At the Lord Nelson Hotel the screws and plugs were neatly replaced after the plaque was taken. The Historical Society will replace them at much cost with aluminium plaques. If anyone has information about the thefts, please tell the police or the society.

Second, the Community Police Forum and Business Association say people calling themselves "Friends of the South African Police Service" and claiming the approval of the Commissioner of Police have been

phoning people here and in nearby areas asking for money to help the Simon's Town Police. They do NOT have the Commissioner's approval. The CPF, Business Association and the Police themselves disassociate themselves totally from these people.

It is good to know local residents are willing to donate money, but they should please check with any of our established organisations before paying a cent. The only valid channels of assistance are the CPF, Business Association and also Chubb Security, who are launching the complementary "Bobbies-on-the-Beat" system (more about that later). Please spread the warning in your neighbourhood about the unidentified canvassers.

Request to Residents

The STCA needs your help in helping the municipality to improve services. The

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Unicity is doing much in some parts - resurfacing the main road in Murdoch Valley, cutting back sidewalk bush, repairing sewage pipes and stormwater drains - but cannot see everything.

To assist we are making **an audit of concerns** that pose threats to your person or property. You know your areas best. We want to know about problems there. Please pick up pen or pencil right now and send us the details in writing so we have motivation for remedial action. Ask your neighbours to do the same even if they are not STCA members. Don't even think "It won't help" - negative thoughts gain nothing.

Send your information in this format:

1. The problem and its precise location: (Eg: huge pothole at XXX, missing manhole cover at YYY, failed streetlights at ZZZ;
2. Your surname, initials and title;
3. Your physical and postal addresses and phone numbers;
4. Have you told the local authority or any officials? Yes or No.
5. If "Yes" then tell us Who? When? And

How?

We are already in contact with senior municipal officials about problems with potholed roads and drainage, the non-existent management of the Glencairn Vlei, the traffic blockages at Seaforth and a variety of other problems and will follow through with whatever this audit reveals.

Calendar

We previously suggested that if you have any **upcoming events** of public interest to announce you should do so through Simon's Town's own Internet website, simonstown.com, by sending the information to the Museum. Instead, please send it to the secretary of the Publicity Association, who are co-owners of the site. She is Mrs Elizabeth Davey and her e-mail address is evh@iafrica.com.

General News

Report back:

- Councillor Mrs Nicki Holderness told the STCA committee she would recommend to the Unicity council that **street cleaners** be on duty in Simon's Town on Sundays because of the rising number of visitors.
- Development at **Dido Valley** was being further delayed because the area planned for housing needed more geotechnical study, which meant more expense. The infrastructure cost for one erf would be R12 000 but the Housing Fund would pay only R10 000. The Navy was still eager to develop housing there for its personnel.
- She had asked the council to take a second look at the road barrier at the **Seaforth parking area** because of the congestion it was causing.
- Asked about applications for **liquor licences**, she pointed out that under the new sub-council system communities would have far more say in their being granted or refused.

Fire Station

Last time we reported that the Simon's Town Fire Station, which is manned by volunteers, was in desperate need of **materials and furniture** to equip its recreational area. The



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Business Association announced that they will pay for the refurbishing of the recreational area but that tables, chairs and any other useful furnishing would be welcomed.

Neighbourhood Watch

John Page, chairman of Neighbourhood Watch, told the STCA committee that the proposal for the NW to also take on **neighbourhood cleanliness**, watch for illegal dumping and similar chores was good in theory but not in practice. It would be more than people could cope with but he would put it to his committee.

Cape Peninsula National Parks

Justin Buchmann informed the STCA, following its recent meeting with the directorate of the CPNP, that the question of whether the Boulders **penguin** park would be extended or not was subject to negotiations between the CPNP and the Unicity. As to controlling penguins outside the park, the CPNP had long helped by retrieving them from residential areas but this practice had got out of hand and they could no longer

cope. Legally, the parks staff were not permitted to use any of their resources outside the parks. It was the responsibility of property owners to provide their own barriers to intrusion, as they had to do for any wild animals. Similarly the municipality would have to protect its own property, like the Seaforth beach. The Simon's Town Country Club would have to fence the golf course itself if it did not want penguins there.

The penguin saga was ongoing. They could not expand north because of the dockyard. There was no indication how far south they might spread. Mr Buchmann said research into penguin movement control had been going on for more than five years in various parts of the world - including Port Elizabeth, Australia and Peru - and so far all efforts to relocate the birds had failed. The CPNP in conjunction the Ukuvuka project is running a comprehensive public programme of **eliminating alien vegetation** along the urban edge - in addition to hiring contractors for some R1.7 million, using World Bank grants. Schoolchildren and



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adult volunteers are helping in an **"adopt-a-plot"** scheme and hackers work regularly in the Simon's Town area, among them members of the Friends of the Simon's Town Coastline.

This is extremely valuable work which the STCA strongly supports. It is also an excellent way of keeping fit. Any environmental group wanting to **join in** should contact Monique Ruthenberg or Justin Buchmann at **7809100**. Individuals should preferably contact their neighbourhood green groups. Residents of Simon's Kloof are the only ones so far to have taken the trouble to talk to the CPNP and plan with them to clear aliens in their area.

Gum trees in **Simon's Kloof** were being removed step by step - undergrowth first, then trees, many of which had been fire damaged and were dangerous - and gradually to enable replacement vegetation to establish and avoid mudslides. Specialist contractors had to be hired to remove trees on high, steep slopes. There would be **no replanting**; indigenous flora would be left to

re-establish itself, which it was already doing.

The **historic footpath** to the Signal School and Just Nuisance's grave would be cleaned up in the near future. The CPNP had a **five-year plan** to clear the entire park of alien vegetation and would continue with follow up programmes, but it might be 50 to 60 years before the park could be declared entirely free of aliens.

Water

Dr John Morris said something had been very wrong with the municipal water supply in the Glencairn shopping area where there had been an unacceptably high level of pollution. No explanation had been found. The pollution had declined but people complained that the water smelt strongly of **chlorine**. An explanation was being awaited.

Library

The business of moving the library from its present premises into a **new home** in the more spacious old municipal building has at last begun and will take some time. The move has caused some upheaval for Ward Councillor Nicki Holderness, who has shifted her office upstairs. In future the STCA will also meet in a conference room upstairs.

Security

Chubb Security will finance the **"Bobby-on-the-beat"** scheme for three months including salary and uniform. The Bobby will work with the Community Police Officer funded by the Business Association. The STCA has given the project its blessing.

STCA Committee

The STCA **annual general meeting will be on Wednesday, July 25**, as we announced last month. Please **diarise it**. You will be asked to vote in or ratify replacements for a number of committee members.

They are:

- Vice-chairman **Geoffrey Palmer**, who is stepping down because he will be away from Simon's Town frequently;
- **Cdr "Blackie" Swart** of the Community

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Police Forum, who has been recalled to duty:
 • **Andre Durzan** of the Business Association, who is retiring because of business commitments;

• **Dr Reg Loxton**, community and education professor, who is retiring for personal reasons;

• **Capt. Terry Korsien**, sexual affairs portfolio, who is retiring because of pressure of work;

• **Minu Choudhry**, one of the Singapore representatives, who has other commitments.

Simon's Town Civil Association
 P.O. Box 47, Simon's Town, 7995

Chairman: **Mr. Jack Weaver** 7625335
 Vice-Chairman: **Geoffrey Hobson** 7625453
 Treasurer: **Ian Allen** 7522732
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Simon's Town Community Police Forum

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Don't know who to phone
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In the South Peninsula crime is on the increase. Much of it is burglary, theft, assault, rape and occasionally murder. Alert neighbours can help to solve these crimes by reporting strangers in the area acting unusually, cars parked, people carrying goods, just events that are a little out of the ordinary. Write

that car number down, record a good description of that stranger, learn to observe and remember details. Even if you haven't had the courage to report it at the time, it could be useful later. Add details of time and date to your notes. **Better still let the police know in good time.** I promise you they won't laugh – they'll be delighted. Do you have any idea how much they depend on YOU in order to do their job. They crave information. Let's give it to them – it might just save a life, prevent a rape or help recover some stolen valuables.

Not all the crime is against property and person. The South Peninsula is experiencing a serious increase in the poaching of marine life, particularly Abalone. Is this serious? The implications are devastatingly serious. Associated with these armed poaching syndicates is serious violence, gang warfare, drugs trafficking and general mayhem. We are sending under-armed and unprotected young men and women out there to deal with these peo-

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ple. These criminals are waterborne and land-based. They often stash their illegal hauls ashore and retrieve them after dark. Watch for suspicious activity along the coast. **Report it.** If you are wrong nobody is going to laugh. Only thanks are due to people who are public spirited enough to make that call.

**YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET INVOLVED --
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Phone:

• Inspector Cassie Carstens

(Cell) **083 518 1659**

(Work) **786 2127** (SAPS Simon's Town)

• Inspector Craig Finlay

(Cell) **0722731650**

(Work) **786 1828** (SAPS Border Police)

• Carl Nortier, SA National Parks Law Enforcement (Work) **780 9526**

You can phone any of these numbers for anything, but it'll be easier if you phone Cassie for Land Based Crime Matters and Craig and Carl for Poaching or Water Based Crime Reports.

Glencairn Heights - Crime Concern

A well-attended Public Meeting was held at Phoenix Lodge on the 24th May 2001 to discuss this subject. There are 380 residential properties in the area and the attendance by ±175 people (including spouses/partners) ensured a highly acceptable representation of opinions. Cdr Blackie Swart, Chairman of the Simon's Town Police Forum, chaired the meeting.

A local resident spoke on the errors made and lessons learnt from a recent armed robbery. Stress was placed on the need for on-going vigilance and the fact that we are all under observation in one way or another, be it from compost/fish vendors, door to door callers or building workers and the like. Chubb have produced a booklet covering protection of home and self.

Capt Dupisani (SAP) provided a clear picture of the restraints under which the Police oper-



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ate both from a manpower and vehicular point of view. This is particularly relevant given the considerable area that has to be covered. The vehicle situation should be improved in the near future following the kind donation of a vehicle by Thorp Delta.

Manu Choudree, a Glencairn Heights resident and CPO of the SAN Military Police, provided a brief breakdown of crime figures he has been able to obtain from residents since the beginning of the year. While not bad by the standard reflected in the daily press, one crime is one too many.

The meeting then moved onto proposals. Those of an electric fence or traffic booms were rejected by general consensus but will be revisited by a working committee (see below). If upheld, reasons for such rejection will be detailed.

Mr. Martin Smolders of Chubb, Mr. Alan Dillon of Mountain Men and Mr. Colin Reeves of Combat Force then gave three short presentations. These differed in context to some extent both in services offered and approximate costs involved.

Mr. John Page of Simon's Town Neighbourhood Watch gave an outline of the functions of an effective Neighbourhood Watch system, stressing that this is not an alternative to a security system but an enhancement to those services offered by the three previous speakers. The theme was to get to know your neighbours.

The question of an Identification System for workers in the area was felt to be difficult, if not impossible, of implementation but ideas were put from the floor and will be further investigated by the working committee. Of particular concern are building contractors. No strong feelings were voiced either for or against the introduction of street lighting. It is highly unlikely that funds would be available to provide this service even should we demand it, and if it was, rates would increase.

Volunteers were then called for from attendees to form a working committee to investigate proposals in more depth, in particular those put forward by the three security companies. This committee should have met prior to the publication of this article. Names were also sought of those who would be interested in becoming involved in Neighbourhood Watch work. Twelve people came forward for the committee and several for the Watch. This latter aspect will be ongoing until we have covered as much of the suburb as is feasible.

Finally we would mention that this meeting was held under the auspices of the Simon's Town Civic Association. While all work is carried out voluntarily we do have overheads such as hall hire and printing costs. This meeting for example cost R200 and is paid for from subscriptions. If you are not a member and wish to join kindly contact me on 782 2736.

Ian Allan, Treasurer



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PROPERTY WATCH No 29

JUNE 2001

1. CURRENT APPLICATIONS.

Details of applications currently being dealt with by the South Peninsula Administration 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. Comments from all parties have now been received and are being collated and processed. No change from report no 28.

1.2. Erf No 1247, Simon's Town: (Cnr Harrington and Queens Roads, Seaforth). Application for a Departure to permit the es-

tablishment and operation of an art gallery and coffee shop on a residential property. A draft letter of approval is with the Director of Environmental Services.

1.3. Erf 60, Simon's Town (Glencairn): Land Use departure application on behalf of the Waldorf Schools. A report by independent consultants has been received but additional information is still required.

1.4. Erf 2930, Simon's Town (Erica Road, Murdock Valley): Proposed Alienation or Lease of portion of this municipal land. This Erf was to be subdivided and the two portions purchased by the Applicant and a neighbour, subject to a final valuation of the property. However one applicant has withdrawn his offer to purchase and it appears that the other applicant may do likewise.

1.5. 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. No change.

1.6. Erf 1180, 198 Queens Road Simon's Town: Application for a Land Use Departure to convert a Residential House into a Medical Practice. A decision regarding parking facilities is awaited from the Municipality on the basis of information provided by the applicant. This is currently being processed.

1.7. Erven 4348 and 4349, Welcome Glen: Application for consolidation, rezoning from undetermined use to single residential and for subdivision into 10 portions. This was turned down by the SPM and is on appeal to the Provincial Government. No change from report no 28.

1.8. Erf 4595 Caimside: Application to subdivide into two portions was not approved by the SPM and has been referred on appeal to the Provincial Government, whose decision is awaited. No change.

1.9. Erf 625 Simon's Town: (Military Way, Bayview) Application to subdivide into two portions without formal road access to one erf. One portion is to be consolidated with Erf 2643 following formal agreement.



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1.10. Erf 2212, Glencairn Heights: Application for a Bed and Breakfast establishment. Objections were received by SPM, who now await response from the applicant re parking facilities. No change.

1.11. Erf 2464, Forest Hill: Application for subdivision into two parts. Further outstanding information is awaited.

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 Provincial Government's decision on a report submitted by the Urban & Environmental Services Committee is still awaited. No change from report no 28.

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. A decision on the findings of an independent Environmental

Impact Assessment Report is still awaited and further details will be available shortly.

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. Objections have been received and an independent consultant has been employed by the SPA to advise on all cellular transmission masts in the area.

2.4. Erf 3321, Glen Marine: Application by Ericsson South Africa to permit the installation of a Cellular Communication Base Station and Antenna at Erf 3312, Seemeeu Street for the 3rd Cellular Service Provider. The closing date for objections was 2 March 2001. Objections have been received. (See comment under 2.3.)

2.5. Erven 3117, 3333 and 2904, Simon's Town: These erven are being disposed of by the SPA. Offers for erven 2904 and 3333 have been received and are being considered.

Geoff Palmer

Simon's Town Civic Association

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Bobby on the Beat

You have probably heard or read in **Snoektown Calling** of the idea to provide further support to our rapidly eroding police force through the deployment of community funded security personnel.

We do have a Community Police Officer, funded by public subscription, but it seems likely that the CPO could be withdrawn when the new Municipal Police Force is formed. We understand that Simon's Town is considered too law abiding to warrant the continuation of this service, though we should support it until such time as it is withdrawn.

The conclusion is that we, the citizens of Simon's Town & Glencairn, have a clear choice. We can do nothing and rely on our public service whilst crime increases and prevention diminishes, or we can accept that we need to begin the process of looking after ourselves. There will be those of us who choose the former, saying with no little justification, that we pay rates and taxes and are entitled to government protection. Others

will recognise that entitlement is not going to protect our lives and our property.

One of the biggest obstacles, is the raising of the finance necessary to fund our community protection service. Another is management, though for the time being our energetic Police Station Commissioner provides a solution to that problem. Your Police Forum has searched for a means to get a service in place sooner rather than later, so that we can begin the process of self protection, in support of the established forces of law and order. It is clear to us that we will need to rely on private enterprise to provide us with the service we need. We simply don't have the financial or management resources necessary to try to go it alone.

Martin Smolders, a senior manager at Chubb Security and a committed resident of Simon's Town, has put forward a proposal. Clearly, though Chubb would be taking a risk, their proposal will probably bring a significant volume of additional business to them in the long run. In the short term, and at no cost to the community, the proposal will allow us to implement and test a system of additional protection with the presence of one or more "Bobbies on the Beat."

To the Police Forum this seemed like a satisfactory partnership. It should be made clear however that the Forum does not wish to influence citizens in favour of one security company against another. It is stressed that this proposal originated from Chubb, and that no other security company has been approached by the Forum. It was felt that this is a Chubb initiative and that it would not be ethical to canvas alternative suggestions from their competitors. However, should any such competitor display initiative to come forward with any alternative proposals we would naturally consider them.

Chubb have a significant number of clients in the Simon's Town/Glencairn area, a number of patrol vehicles already in the area, and operate a base at the Glencairn 7-11. The fact that they have such a large number of clients (up to 1000) in this area



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demonstrates that a large proportion of us already rely on a private security organisation for protection. Obviously, the more clients they have, the greater will be the number of patrols

The Chubb proposal is to provide, at no charge for a trial period of three months, a security officer on foot patrol in the town, during daytime hours, working in conjunction with the CPO and under the supervision of our Station Commissioner. Part of his purpose will be to provide protection and information for visitors. It is planned to provide a uniform which will have a specific and identifiable Simon's Town flavour.

The community would be urged to observe the activities of this officer, to communicate with him and you will be asked to let the Forum know your feelings on a variety of issues during the trial period

If the trial is a success Chubb will do two things. Firstly they will endeavour to persuade the community to contribute a modest monthly sum, perhaps R10 per household per month, including those citizens who

are already clients. They will also invite those citizens who are not already clients, to subscribe to additional protection services. The second thing will be **to expand the community services in line with funds they generate** through this process.

Your Police Forum wishes to stress a number of points:

1. Although the service will be provided by Chubb, it will operate in partnership with the SAPS.
2. Despite the initial investment risk by Chubb, they are acting in their own commercial interest.
3. At first the presence will only be seen in the town, but increased coverage will quickly be seen in the residential areas.
4. There is no obligation on any citizen to contract any service from Chubb.
5. The monthly contribution to this service is a voluntary one.
6. This system will complement NOT replace the CPO.

ST Community Police Forum

Duncan Bates *Professional Land Surveyor*

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News from Naval Base - Simon's Town

United States Navy Continues Joint Exercises with the South African National Defence Force

A high powered delegation of United States (US) Naval Personnel led by Read Admiral Stanley W. Bryant, arrived in Simon's Town to hold discussions with Rear Admiral Eric Green of the South African Navy (SAN):

Rear Admiral Bryant who is the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the United States Naval Forces in Europe, spent four days in the Cape Town area visiting various Naval Units. "There is a lot of infrastructure here that could be put to good use" he said, "but there are no plans for US warships to use this infrastructure as there was no US deployment of any significant scale in the area". Despite this he said "Should the need arise though, in the whole of Africa, this must be the only choice we'd have".

Rear Admiral Bryant announced that another US West African training cruise would take place from 4 Nov to 7 Dec 2001. The training cruise is aimed at exchanging skills with the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) at providing humanitarian aid to disaster stricken areas. This type of

exercise is to be the second of its kind with the previous one, held in 1999, proving a great success. During that exercise, a US Landing ship dock supported an amphibious landing by US Marines and South African Forces in a mock operation to rescue stricken civilians from an area hit by a natural disaster. This year's exercises will take on a similar role, Admiral Bryant said, with similar exercises with Togo and Nigeria taking place after the South African one. After the exercise with the SANDF there will be an opportunity for the US Forces to interact with the South African Community in Cape Town.

The discussions with the SAN were not only about the infrastructure and the exercises that are to be held, there was also an opportunity for discussions on a common problem with all the navies around the world and that was the retention of personnel. Ideas were swapped on how to retain personnel who had undergone expensive technical training, only to lose them to higher-paid jobs in the private sector.

Admiral Bryant said that it was very important for the US Navy to maintain and build upon the good relationships already forged with the SAN. He further went on to announce a visit by a US Coast Guard Cutter to Cape Town from 28 May to 1 June 2001.

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Operation Abridge: Building Bridges of Friendship

1 February started off much the same as any other day. With one notable exception; later that evening the SAS DKB would set sail for a land of mystery and romance. Yes, we set sail for India. With our loved ones still clinging to our thoughts we set off upon our sojourn.

Ops Abridge entailed the deployment of the DKB to Mumbai to participate in the IFR. Many international fleets would participate in the Indian anniversary celebrations, contributing to a total of more than 70 naval vessels. After the IFR, a courtesy call would be paid on Kochi and La Reunion.

This was the plan. But like with all good plans, something has to come undone. On setting sail we were diverted to Durban to uplift relief aid for the stricken Gujarat region in India. This area was struck by an earthquake that left death and destruction in its wake. 3 Feb saw a brave and valiant effort by the ships company and volunteers loaded the cargo until late at night in the pouring rain.

Despite the adverse weather conditions, these sailors valiantly carried out their allotted task. What was probably the most remarkable was the perfectly calm seas and balmy weather that we experienced. Who among a select group of 60 can forget the

dreaded crossing of the line ceremony?

On 15 Feb we finally reached our anchorage in Mumbai. A host of events swiftly followed our arrival including the IFR, International City Parade attended by thousands and other local entertainment including the splendid cuisine - although fragrant and tasty, it proved to be rather spicy both on consumption and the morning directly after.

Sixteen fortunate members of the ships company had the enviable privilege of visiting Agra and that timeless work of art, The Taj Mahal - a monument to the love between Shah Jahan and his favourite wife Mumtaz Mahal (Doesn't that make your bunch of flowers seem insignificant!!!).

After the total sensory onslaught of Mumbai and its surroundings, on we sailed to the quaint little fishing village of Kochi. Unbelievably, this sleepy little town proved to be even hotter to the point of being unbearable!

After a host of cocktail parties, luncheons, dinners, excursions and meeting the locals, our brief romance with India was finally at an end and we set sail for La Reunion.

Beach, beer and topless babes proved to be too much for the DKB ships company and after only three days the short stay in paradise was ended.

Au Revoir La Reunion, Bonjour Simon's Town!

Taken from 'The Drakensburger'

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Nestlé SA Navy Chef Of The Year Competition

The SA Navy Chef of the Year competition, which is held annually, was held at the SA Navy Catering School in Simon's Town on Friday 11 May, kindly sponsored by Nestlé.

The aim of this competition is to:

- Identify the best chef in the SA Navy
- To promote a higher standard of catering in the SA Navy
- To motivate chefs by providing an avenue whereby they can demonstrate their culinary skills and abilities
- To improve the image of chefs and the catering craft

Six chefs from through the SA Navy competed for the prestigious title of the Nestlé SA Navy Chef of the year 2001. The competition took the form of a basic menu, allowing the entrants to compete on the same level and for the judges to compare the meal created on composition, taste and texture

and presentation with no unfair advantages to the entrants. The judging criteria also took the form of kitchen management aspects such as hygiene, timing and wastage.

Only serving members of the SA Navy in the rank group of Seaman to Chief Petty Officer were permitted to participate. Each participant was to prepare a three course meal consisting of the following:

First Course - Vegetarian (no meat, fish or chicken).

Main Course - Fillet of beef, choice of potato and a selection of pan-fried vegetables.

Dessert - Nestlé Surprise (must contain a Nestlé product).

Each participant was allowed the opportunity to exhibit their own creativity by choosing their own dishes in accordance with the basic menu. No recipe books were allowed and each participant was to cook for six people, at a cost of R35 per head.

On Friday 11 May 2001 the competitors arrived at 07.00 and commenced with final checks for the final competition. Finally the moment of truth arrived when the judging commenced at 12.30 followed by a luncheon. The judging team consisted of Mr Garth Stroebel, Executive Chef of the Mount Nelson Hotel, Mr Paul Hartman, Manager of the South African National Culinary Team and Mr Garth Shnier, Member of the South African National Culinary Team. No members of the SA Navy Catering Department participated in judging. On completion of the luncheon the winner was announced and prize giving commenced.

The winner of the competition, **CPO T. Sigapragasan** from Navy Mess, Pretoria, will represent the SA Navy in the SANDF Chef of the Year Competition to be held in 2003. CPO T. Sigapragasan is an accomplished chef having represented the SA Navy in Germany in the International Culinary Olympics, and recently was the Catering Manager for President Thabo Mbeki's official residence in Pretoria. CPO T. Sigapragasan is looking forward to go into the training of young chefs in the SA Navy where he said, "It is important that chefs realise that food must be respected and prepared in a healthy manner as we are what we eat".



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Simon's Town Museum News

During May 2001 we were in the process of converting a storeroom in the lower section of "The Residency" into an office. When we moved an old work table we found a section of the flooring to be totally rotten and beetle infested and so proceeded to lift the offending floor boards.

Lying on the surface under the floor boards were a number of rather interesting artefacts so we called in Ms Ute Seemann, the Historical Archaeologist who is in the process of researching the use of the cells from the time of the slaves, and who has undertaken a number of excavations for us both inside and outside the Museum. Her immediate reaction was: "this has to be excavated".

Terry Korsten, Mike Saggerson and Janet Cartwright from the Simon's Town Historical Society, three colleagues of Ute Seemann's, plus Cathy Salter Jansen and Cherry Dille from the Museum, volunteered

to carry out a "dig" under Ute's supervision, the following Saturday. It was our first experience of actually working on a dig and we found it so exciting, brushing away the soil in eager anticipation hoping to find "something", carrying our buckets full of soil to be sieved and then sorting the remains for further "treasures". Physical (and exceedingly grubby) work, but so fascinating and rewarding.

While we were digging, sieving, and sorting, a group of 100 school children from Bellville visited the Museum and we were able to demonstrate to them how an archaeological excavation is carried out. They were so fascinated, the teachers had difficulty dragging them away from the site. Other visitors to the Museum also came and watched and some even helped with the sorting.

It is thought that the room was originally the Governor's kitchen (1777). On one of the old "Residency" Plans c1830 the room is marked "sitting room", probably part of the Constable's Quarters. There was also a school in the building at one stage, but we have never known whereabouts. However the artefacts we found are possibly related to all three.

Here are some of the items: coloured beads, slate pencils, fish bones and scales, rodent bones and skulls (no human bones), bits of clay pipe stems, a range of coins, a dolls leg, a saucer from a dolls tea set, a piece of oriental carved ivory which could possibly be a parasol handle, pins galore, a musket ball, marbles, clay billiard ? ball, cowrie shells (used by slaves for trading), peach and apricot pips and some blue and white porcelain.

We eventually reached a hard clay floor and, under what had been a kitchen range, an outline in the clay indicating the presence of tiles at some stage - the Governor's kitchen? At this stage the professionals took over and dug out a 30 x 30cm hole

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into the clay floor where they found a hard plaster floor and finally, sterile soil - unlike the excavation in the cells where they reached the clay floor and foundations of a structure which was on the site prior to 1777.

The dig was completed, but we still have a lot of sorting to do and Ute Seemann will only present her report once the research into the cells is complete. Should anyone be interested in assisting us with the remainder of the sorting we would be really grateful or, if you would like to see the artefacts, contact either Cathy or Cherry at the Museum (786 3046).

Cherry Dilley, Curator

Flowers for the Historic Mile

We are sure that Simon's Town residents - and Tourists - appreciate the lovely and colourful tubs around Jubilee Square

which have been done (and are looked after) by Petra Collins. This wonderful and community minded lady has now undertaken to revive the beds at the beginning of the Historic Mile on the Main Road at the corner of Admiralty House and Long Beach Road. Petra has in mind an easy, colourful indigenous type flower bed and is hoping people will help by donating plants - which we probably already have in our gardens. Please phone Petra for information at **786-1661**.

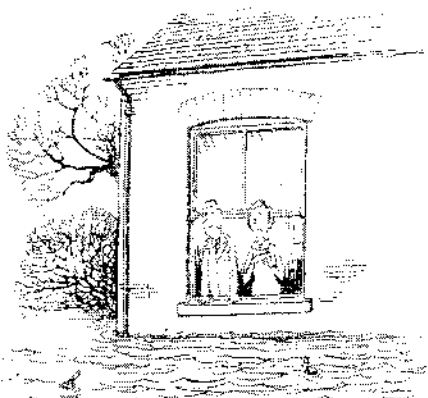
A load of compost has been donated by a local Garden Club and the Municipal gardeners are helping, but we are hoping to have a roster of Simon's Town residents who would be prepared to help with the watering during dry periods. Perhaps two friends or a couple can get together - 12 pairs means only 1 week every 4 months! So come on Simon's Town, let us help to make a colourful entrance to our town.

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The Storehouse, West Dockyard

In 1743 Baron van Imhoff, Governor General of the Dutch possessions in the East Indies, arrived in Simon's Bay. He could see that Simon's Town had many needs, for accommodation and storage, and his high rank enabled him to plan for its development. Within a month a start was made on the Storehouse (which still stands).

This Storehouse, or "Pakhuis", was the key building in Baron van Imhoff's development plan. It was designed to accommodate anchors, cables, canvas, timber, rope and cordage for the repair of ships and their sails, also to store provisions for their crews. As well, it would be used to accommodate the sick from the ships, and the hospital and stores staff, as well as other members of the Company's staff stationed at Simon's Bay.

The site for the building had to be excavated from the mountain slopes, the spoil being thrown down the steep bank onto the beach below, in order to extend the level

area. The nature of the site necessitated a long narrow building; requirements demanded maximum floor space, resulting in a 2-storey building. The resulting structure was 400ft. long, 20ft. wide and 25 feet high, with a flat roof.

Additions and modifications were made over the years. The hospital was moved to a new building in about 1765, and when the Royal Navy appropriated the storehouse in 1795 it contained, in addition to several storerooms, separate rooms and a kitchen for the officers, barracks and kitchen for the private soldiers of the garrison; a blacksmith's shop, a lumber room and bake house. The Navy also appropriated half the upper storey for use as a hospital.

The officers and private soldiers were soon moved into barracks elsewhere, together with the naval hospital, the bake house and the blacksmith's shop; thus the whole building for the first time became a store house, pure and simple. By the year 1878 even this amount of storage space had become inadequate. At this time a third storey with a low-pitched slate roof was added and the whole building so extensively renovated that today it is difficult to say how much, if any, of Imhoff's "pakhuis" remains. Except for the pitched roof and additional floor, its appearance and utilisation have remained virtually unaltered for well over two centuries.

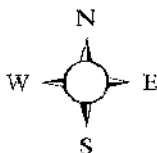
Footnote by Capt. Terry Korsten

During RN times the storehouses were used for general stores and clothing stores. From the clothing stores the sailors drew their uniform issue including shoes.

When the South African Navy took over in 1957 they continued to use the building for the same purpose, until the present day. Those organisations who have occupied the building over the past SAN years include:

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During the widening of the Main Road (about 1965), the original water pipes leading down Quarry Road across the Main Road and into the southern end of the Storehouse building were uncovered, and it was found they lead into a "kitchen" area with its original stone pip floor.

Reference

Willis HC, Brock BB, Brock BG, 1976

Title: Historical Simon's Town

Publisher: AA Balkema

Halt Elder Abuse Line (HEAL) Expands Service

The Halt Elder Abuse Line (HEAL) has celebrated 3 years of service by expanding to make the helpline more accessible. The telephonic helpline will be open for longer hours and calls can be handled in several official languages (including English, Afrikaans and Xhosa). HEAL was first launched in 1998 as a telephonic helpline to deal with the issue of elder abuse.

Elder abuse can be physical, emotional, sexual or financial abuse, neglect or the violation of an older person's rights. Elder abuse occurs in families, in the community and residential settings. The problem affects all race and income groups.

HEAL National Co-ordinator, Mrs Pat Lindgren, welcomed HEAL's expansion. 'We know the 4,000 calls HEAL has received to date are the tip of the iceberg. Elder abuse is happening in every community and thousands of homes throughout South Africa. We hope our growth of services will encourage more people to make a potentially life saving call and enable us to assist the abused and exploited older people of South Africa'.

HEAL operates throughout South Africa on the toll free number **(0800) 003 081**. The line is open from **8h30 to 16h30 Monday to Friday**. Trained counsellors answer calls on all aspects of elder abuse, offering sup-

port and information about available resources.

HEAL is a partnership of the South African Council for the Aged (SACA), the Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB) and the Association of Retired Persons & Pensioners (ARP & P). The National Development Agency, Standard Bank Foundation, PG Corporate Services (Pty) Ltd, the Department of Welfare Western Cape and Community Chest Western Cape have contributed funding for the project.

Call **HEAL on (0800) 003 081**. All calls will be dealt with in the strictest confidence and callers are welcome to remain anonymous.

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References available.

A Boxing Night to Remember

In conjunction with Navy Week the Simon's Town Naval Ladies Association held a prestigious "Box & Dine" on board the SA Navy replenishment ship, SAS OUTENIQUA in Simon's Town on 3 April. After visiting the Simon's Town Community School, which is predominantly supported by naval parents, the Ladies Association decided to channel all their efforts into this function towards raising funds for a very worthy cause, the upliftment of this school.

The evening took the format of six amateur boxing bouts, a sumptuous dinner, a raffle and an auction of unique naval memorabilia. A star attraction of the night was our very own Mike Bernardo, a double world champion in boxing and kick-boxing. Amongst the various items auctioned was a magnificent masthead lamp, which now graces the SA SIMONSBURG.

All competing boxers were amateur boxers and the two competing boxers were brought

into the ring on a mini jeep, heralded by the navy trumpeters.

The Simon's Town Naval Ladies would like to thank the various members of the navy who were involved for their tremendous support. The navy once again performed as a cohesive unit and we really appreciated the fact that we could depend on the naval 'family' for consistent support. Many accolades were received from all quarters, and a memorable evening for all the sponsors was thoroughly enjoyed.

The evening realised a massive **R37 000 donation** towards the school. The highlight of the whole event was the eventual hand-over to the Community School, and this function was held at the school on 3 May amidst great excitement amongst the children, teachers and staff. The school provided a wish list wherein the Naval Ladies chose inter alia educational toys, curtaining for the whole school, re-grassing the playground, garden umbrellas, music centres for all the classes, uniforms for the staff, setting up a 'rules of the road' play area, first aid kits etc. Mrs Nikki Green at the end of her speech quoted Martin Luther King's most famous saying "I have a dream". The Simon's Town Community School had a dream, and we hope that the Simon's Town Naval Ladies Association has helped realise a portion of that dream.



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Nikki Green (convenor) and the Naval Ladies Association

Notes on the Cape Clawless Otter

Aonyx capensis is the largest otter in the southern sub-region of Africa, only slightly smaller than its close relative from Zaire northwards. The Cape or Clawless otter attains a length of 1,5 meters and a weight of 15kgs. The Natal or Spotted Necked otter is about half this size, has claws and is far more water dependent than our Cape species which roams in a variety of habitats wherever there is a source of food.

Aonyx is active in the early mornings and late afternoons but will hunt at night when the prey is nocturnal. Their diet is not dependent upon fish; crabs and frogs being favoured. Cape otters will set up "holts" or dens wherever there is food and fresh water and they hunt within a radius of up to 13 km. The Cape otter is far less dependent on fresh water other than for drinking than the Natal species, and will operate anywhere from dry grassland to tropical forest and in specific regions will set up holts close to the sea.

In Simon's Town this is where we can be lucky and see otters along the shore line all the way from Seaforth to Cape Point. I have seen spoor and scats (droppings) at several places along this stretch of coast with a high intensity at Buffels Bay. It is always clear from the scats that crustaceans are an easy meal. Analysis of the scats from the Tsitsikamma Coastal Reserve revealed a diet of over 35 species which were predominantly crab, octopus and fish. However where fish or birds are plentiful, these are also taken. I wonder whether there are any cases of penguin eggs or chicks being eaten by otters at Boulders? Both would be easy prey and plentiful.

Otter sightings along our coastline are worth recording as they may well be on the increase with abundant food, fresh water and no natural enemies. An interesting sighting of a pair of otters near Boulders which had the effect of scattering the penguins in a panic. This may mean that otters are a

recognised predator.

As the control of penguin populations along our coast is a much debated topic and other predators such the Water and Cape Grey mongoose have reduced in numbers, a natural predator which is as much at home in the water as the penguins, may be a factor in stabilising the penguin numbers. Any views on this from our Museum or the Friends of the Coastline or Wildlife???

Ian Howse 786 1442



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Navy Stories

Learning Curve

Combat Branch Midshipmen get a very sound basic instruction in all the other support branches as well. This particular group were doing their engineering orientation course at SAS Wingfield. After being at Wingfield for about six weeks, the Executive Officer (XO) invited the Ward Room members to his residence for the monthly wardroom function. As it was the first time round for the midshipmen, they asked the Gunnery Officer (a blond, red-dish haired Lt) what the dress was. He replied "Bowties, jockstrap and takkies" of course. "Bowties" indicated mess dress in winter months - no problem. "Jockstrap and takkies" - not a clue!

So on the evening of the function, the midshipmen put on their uniforms and bowties (only officers wear mess dress) and walked over to the XO's residence, bearing flowers and chocolates for the hostess. Once arrived, the front door bell was pushed - ring, ring (the Mid's were told to arrive on the dot of 1900hrs), the front door opened and there stood the XO in bowtie, jockstrap and takkies. Being quick witted Combat Branch midshipmen, they apologised for being in the wrong dress, should they go and change? The XO said not to worry, you lads can use the spare room to get (undressed)/dressed. On entering the lounge the midshipmen saw the rest of the officers and their ladies - dressed in ordinary, casual clothes.

Moral of the story "You don't only learn about naval subjects as a midshipman, but about a sense of humour and life in general.

The Joke is on Who?

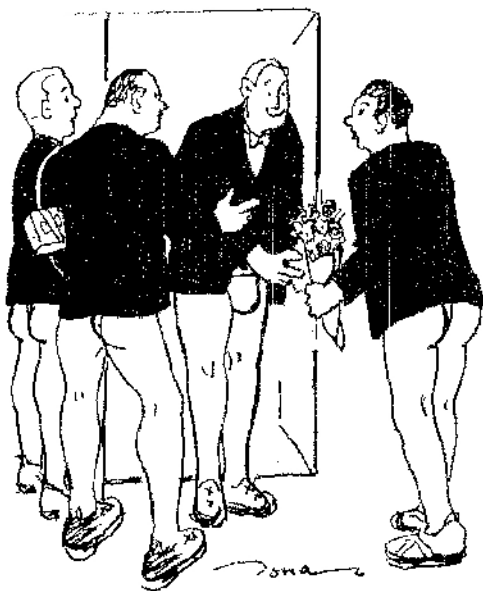
During a senior naval staff course visit to the air force base at Hoedspruit, the course members were very well entertained by the very hospitable air force pilots: beers, braais and more beers. The next morning

rather early ±06h00, the members had to be embarked in a Dakota aircraft for a low level flight over the operational area. The two young pilots (Captain & Lt) did attend the merry making the evening before but excused themselves early in the evening.

All senior Naval Officers eventually onboard, the pilot turned over the engines - no go. Chugk! Chugk! A red faced Lt came into the passenger area from the cockpit and asked if the officers would "mind giving a push start?" Being co-operative Naval Officers and Gentlemen - "of course not!!" Everybody disembarked and paused (some brains had started to actually wake up).

An army officer asked what the take off speed would be and commented that they could never run and push that fast. Some are a bit slower than others. What!?!

Matelot



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

June 2001

May has been a relatively quiet month with only one call-out to a stricken fishing trawler.

Station 10 is very pleased to welcome back **Paul and Olivia Alexander** from their sojourn in Pretoria which proved too difficult for them to achieve their original goal. They are back here now and will boost our crew capabilities to a great degree. Chops Craig has also been singularly honoured and our boat-house is soon to have new doors.

On Tuesday the 5 May, Station 10 received a call-out from the Cape Town Port Captain which stated that the fishing vessel "Martina" had sent out a Mayday call that they were sinking about three miles off Cape Point. The Station 10 nine metre craft "Spirit of Free Masonry" is at present being tested at the builders, so only the five metre semi-rigid vessel was on hand to answer the call so the Port Captain was asked to alert Gordon's Bay to have their nine metre craft on stand by.

As it happened the SA Naval ship SAS Fleur was exercising in the area and had received the Mayday call and were responding to it when they gave the position of the casualty about 2-3 miles North East of Cape Point. At 19:50 a Navy Namacurra reported that they had sighted a red flare and confirmed the position of the casualty. As the casualty was confirmed in False Bay, Station 10 launched the semi-rigid and sent the 4x4 mobile to act as a radio link for it.

At 20:40 a report was received from the Fleur to say that they were at the scene and that they were taking off the crew and they had a doctor to attend to them. They had divers on-board the stricken vessel which had a stability problem and had rolled when a wave had taken away the starboard gunwhale along the full length of the vessel, leaving her listing with water in the hull with pumps going. A Namacurra was escorting the casualty back to Simon's Town. When it was decided that the rescue craft

would return to base, Gordon's Bay would be told to stand down and the mobile would return to base as well.

At 21:20 the rescue craft and the mobile were back at the NSRI base when a request was received from the Navy to supply medical crew to accompany Namacurra Y16 to assist with evacuation of patients from the Fleur. Darren Zimmerman and Geoff Burchell were taken to the ship where they took over the care of one crew member with a fractured left arm and a fractured right foot and escorted him back to a Navy ambulance that was waiting at SAS Simonsberg. Dave Roberts and Denis Zimmerman were at Naval Base to assist with off loading further patients from craft Y16. All crew were safely offloaded and assisted at SAS Simonsberg. Station 10 participants in the rescue were crew of the semi-rigid rescue craft: Coxswain, Darrin Zimmerman with

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Stewart Buchanan and Russel Wright. 4x4 mobile: Warren Combrinck and Chavonne Haupt and Station Control: Dave Roberts, Karin Combrinck and Denis Zimmerman.

Ex Station Commander **Chops Craig** was recently afforded a singular honour. At a gathering at the Bellville Velodrome where all Emergency Services such as Fire brigades, Ambulance crews, Airforce helicopter crews and Paramedics etc. from all over the Western Cape were represented, Chops was presented with a plaque by the head of the ambulance services, Mr Ahmed. The wording on the Plaque read 'Emergency Medical Services, Volunteer 2000/2001 Mr Chops Craig from the EMS Volunteer Corps'. On making the presentation Mr Ahmed said the plaque should have read Volunteer of the Millennium. As this year is the year of the volunteer, it was indeed a great honour for Chops to be recognised in this manner by all his peers as well as it is a great honour for Simon's Town to have one of its citizens accorded such recognition.

Bravo Zulu (as the Naval accolade says) Chops Craig!!

Speaking of volunteers. One wonders how people come to volunteer and on talking to **Warren Combrinck** he told me that he watched a television documentary whilst sitting in his lounge at Saldanha Bay that was all about the NSRI. He was so impressed that he telephoned the local police station and asked if there was a Sea Rescue station in the vicinity. He was given the phone number of the Station Commander who invited him to attend a Station meeting the next night and that is how the NSRI gained a very valuable member. Warren was not just any volunteer as he was a qualified Naval seamanship instructor and a training specialist. That was in 1985 and Warren worked his way up in the NSRI until he was a qualified boat coxswain. He also spent his last two years at Saldanha as the coxswain of an Air Sea Rescue Craft and completed a Bridge Watchkeeping course which qualified him to take an

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The Simon's Town Trust

In 1988 Warren left Sandvick and came to Simon's Town. From 1988 until 1999 Warren was a senior member of the Komaggas MSLI where he helped to get the flagging station up and running. Warren then joined Station 10 where he became the Station Training Officer. He was then appointed to the National Operational Training Committee of the MSLI. This is the body that formulates the training policy for the MSLI. Warren has stood down as Station 10 training officer and is now the senior store controller for "A" Crew. Warren is married to Kaiti who is also a member of Station 10 where she is also a controller and two of their four children are also involved at Station 10. Warren's daughter is a Station 10 crew member and his son who is still at school is a crew member as well. All in all a wonderful family interest in helping those in trouble at sea.

The large sliding doors at the Station 10 clubhouse will be renewed this week. The doors have rusted and when strong winds blow they are in danger of coming off their hinges. Crews have also been hard at work painting and renovating the deck for the "Spirit of Free Masonry" when she comes back from the makers in Cape Town. Well, that's all for this month. Safe sailing to all those venturing out on the sea. Mike Ayre.

Don Dallery
Member Station 10 Shorelink

Friends of Simon's Town Library

Bookend Brio-A-Brio Sale to be held at the Library on Saturday 26 June, 8.30am. Please come and give the Library your support as you always do. Enquiries Lorah 786 3432 and Betty 786 3890.

Summary of accounts for financial year ending 28 February 2001 as follows:

<u>Early 3</u> <u>Liabilities</u>	<u>Barlow</u> <u>Trust</u> <u>R</u>	<u>Simon's Town</u> <u>Trust</u> <u>R</u>
Funds	82 000	245 395
Settled	23 000	178 625
Income		
Model 8 Reserves		<u>4566 011</u>

Disbursement from earnings only and not capital. The following is a brief checklist of requirements for qualification to obtain assistance from the funds:

1. The Simon's Town Trust

1.1 The applicant must be over 60 (sixty) years of age.

1.2 The applicant must receive an income of not more than R25200 per MONTH deducted annually by DPM.

1.3 The applicant must be a permanent resident of Simon's Town (not Municipal area), included are the residents of Simon's Town who were subjected to forced removal.

1.4 The applicant must be referred to application of accommodation (including rent) repaid/rent free.

1.5 There shall be no discrimination according to race, creed, colour, religion or gender.

1.6 The applicants must be supported by sworn affidavits and signed by a competent professional eg. Registered Welfare Officer.

The Barlow Trust is less stringent in its requirements except that the person applying for financial assistance must be over the age of 60 years.

2. Applications are to be submitted to:
The Chairman
Simon's Town Trust
P.O. Box 257
Simon's Town 7825

Beach & Coastal Patrol - June

As to be expected, S.P.A. officials can seldom spare time driving around looking for problems. They therefore appreciate their attention drawn to them in this publication. Unfortunately, it does not always reach distant located departments. A copy of last month's report was therefore e-mailed to an acting executive director of Engineering Services. This resulted in immediate action to remedy the odorous sewage system at Seaforth and to remove dumped rubble from Long Beach.

The list of problems was also passed on to Roads & Drainage, as well as Amenities & Libraries. Both have at least made a start to improve our situation. Since Cleansing and Parks & Recreation can also be involved, this and any future report will be sent to all concerned Departments.

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This month the spotlight falls on our litter problem, which at Glencairn alone extends from the main road traffic lights to opposite the beach subway. There are beer cans, wine bottles, plastic bags, car parts and even a full garbage bag dumped next to the Glen Vlei Nature Reserve sign in Glen Road. There are also un-swept curbs along the same side of Main Road to as far as the Glen Road bridge. Here, a sink hole can be clearly seen on the broken surfaced pavement and one side of the bank is collapsing. The main road is also breaking up near this turnoff.

There are other problems in the same area. At least one drain in Glen Beach Way is partially blocked with cans and gravel from un-swept gutters. Directly opposite in the main road is a very badly damaged drain. There is also a trip hazard on the pavement opposite the bus shelter in the form of an inverted lid to a water mains. Finally, a long length of shade cloth near the beach-front car park has collapsed where its supporting cable has snapped.

All of these problems are ongoing and need attention at regular intervals before they become serious. Hopefully, we will see a sufficient number of improvements before the next report to give the S.P.A. some good publicity.

Beachcomber

False Bay Chess Club

(Established by Surgeon Commander Holford in 1947)

"Sea Cadet Mate" ... a Navy rank? No, a living chess display in the operetta "The Sea Cadet" in 1876.

Come to the Monday meetings of the Club at 8pm in the Fish Hoek Library Hall, when all will be revealed. Players of all standards welcome. Your move!

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It will cost you R50 to join with a R30 per month subscription.

The highlight of this service is that it is offered in one's own home and ranges from frail to convalescent care, be it of a temporary, permanent, part-time or round the clock nature!

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

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

Sister Elizabeth Swart
Simon's Town Home Nursing Service



Simon's Town Post Office

The Post Office is in danger of closure, so the Postmaster tells me; due mainly to declining revenue.

Besides normal postal services the P.O. will transact:

- TV Licenses
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The P.O. does not handle:

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So, if we want to keep our Post Office, let's support it as much as we can.

Reg Loxton
Editor



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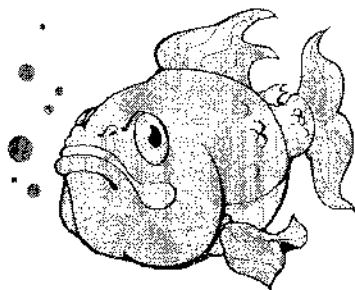
From the Bosun's Chair

From where I sit, I am looking out on driving rain and a 30 knot North Wester. What a pleasure, as I remarked to a fellow yachtsman but five minutes ago. Unless we have plenty of rain this winter we will be bathing in goat's milk and drinking red wine or vice versa however your 'kinkies' lie.

Seriously though, our local dams are very low and what we are receiving is welcome. Although one has to walk around in Ollies and seaboots to get things accomplished on the Marinas. We currently have two visiting cruising yachts in Snoekies waiting for a window in the weather and Southerly winds to push them up the West coast to St Helena and thence further West.

Visiting British Warship HMS Glasgow and

her supply vessel Black Rover added a change of colour and sound to Simon's Town. In the harbour at present is the French Warship "Bouganville" standing out with the Tricolour at the stern and its shrill piping and bugler calls.



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Simon's Bay Seawatch 2

As previously reported, the Institute for Marine Technology (IMT) in Simon's Town kindly volunteered to freely host a public meeting about our sea water quality on 28th February. It was to provide annual feedback on an ongoing "Seawatch" programme. Although unable to attend, I later managed to get hold of three important papers. For the benefit of others who were also not present, I now summarise them as follows:

One of the papers was presented by an Honours Group from the UCT Department of Oceanography. Acknowledgements were given to IMT, the Hydrographic Office and SA Navy. Some sampling sites in and around Simon's Bay had low oxygen or high urea values particularly during winter. Otherwise, the water quality is good in respect of chemical variables.

A section of the paper was devoted to excess nutrient concentrations. These can cause thick unsightly phytoplankton blooms, low oxygen levels in water due to decay and loss of marine organisms. The numerous sites for ammonium, nitrate and phosphate concentrations included storm-water outlets, as well as the Baviaankloof river where problem areas were identified.

The second paper by Ms B Maritz covered surface ammonia, nitrates, oxygen and temperature. All were normal except in the yacht jetty, where ammonia values rose at times. It also had generally lower values for dissolved oxygen, because its sheltered corner allowed little wind mixing of the surface layer.

Included in the paper were sampling results of storm water from July 99 to September 2000. These were presented by Carl Wainman of IMT in conjunction with Adrian Web - a UCT Honours student. No less than 26 sites were covered from Boulders to Glencairn (including the Naval Harbour) under rainy conditions. The only potential problem area was the harbour wall, where

values for copper and nickel were raised by irrigation standards of the SA Water Quality Guidelines. The Navy now plans to take remedial action.

The last paper by Mjikisile Vulindlu of CMC's Scientific Services Department dealt with bacteriological pollution. Values of the guideline test for faecal coliforms as at March 2000 were given by me in the December issue of *Snoektown Calling*. Little has since changed and most of our beaches achieved high standards. This is despite the fact that storm water and rivers are potentially big polluters. However, alternative indicator organisms will be introduced. One is *Escherichia coli*, that originates from humans and any warm-blooded animals. Another is *Enterococci* (faecal streptococci), which survives longer in natural water than the former.

Scientific Services have since e-mailed me the levels of bacterial pollution from 8th

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March to 26th July last year at Boulders Beach. Despite the presence of a penguin colony, the faecal coliform counts were infinitesimal. To local residents and visitors alike who swim with or without penguins off our beaches, I therefore say - enjoy!

Bevan Park
Science Writer

Cape Point Fees To Go Up

The Cape Peninsula National Park (CPNP) committee has recommended to the SANParks' Board an increase in gate fees at Cape Point.

As of November 2001, entry fees at the Cape of Good Hope gate will increase from R20 to R25 for adults and from R5 to R10 for children under the age of 18. Minimum fees for vehicles seating between 13 and 43 passengers will be increased from R80 to R100, and for vehicles seating over 43 passengers from R220 to R275.

Queries can be directed to 701-8692 or capepeninsula@parks-sa.co.za.

A Tanganyika Diary

- Part 5

October 23 1952

Christopher's birthday. At 12 months he has a fair vocabulary - some of it apparently colourful. On being urged to eat his food he pushed it away and said "hapana chakula - mefi tu". Regina gasped "Kristof!" I take it that mefi is a rude word, not normally used to describe food.

Next to the boma are two large, substantially built rectangular cement troughs, about 15 inches high and filled with soil. One contains a shattered headstone; it's just possible to make out that a Lieutenant Friedrich somebody, aged 20- something, was laid to rest here. The other grave is unmarked. Sailor says they probably succumbed to malaria. CD uses these structures to test his walking skills, hoisting himself up and edging along the low walls, hand over hand.

Simon's Town Auto Service Station

Now is the time to come and visit our **TAKE-AWAY**. We have a different main meal everyday with a delicious home made soup to warm you up this winter. There is the normal take-away burgers, chips, hot dogs, etc. as well as our tasty roasted chicken daily. Do pop in and come and see what we have in store for you.

The **EXHAUST CENTRE** is upstairs with our excellent mechanics who are there to help you and to give your car a good service at an excellent rate. We also have **Raymond** who is a fundi on cleaning up the odd dent and respray at a very reasonable rate to make your car look as new as the day it was made.

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Sailor recently hired an mpishi, who stated that he could do a breakfast of boiling egg, fried egg and portuguese egg - which sounded interesting but turned out to be poaching egg. We learned that our new cook was at one time official cocktail-snack maker to the British Resident in Dar es Salaam. That was the limit of his skills; what the old boy excelled in was getting drunk and having lost weekends. He was found one Monday morning lying under a bush. The track of a leopard's pugmarks was seen to go towards Mpishi, then veer suddenly and make a wide detour around the sleeping body.

December 20

The survey pushes ever further afield. Access to Blocks B and C - an area of about 300 square miles - has been difficult and unreliable. The motor road from Ifakara to Chita only functions for 5 months in the year.

January 2 1953

We spent Christmas up in Mahenge, crossing the Kilombero, "wider than a mile" (maximum width of the Valley is 40 miles), and slip-sliding up the steep incline to the Government settlement, the Landrover packed with ourselves, Regina and sundry watu in case the gharrie got stuck in the mud.

The men stationed here are hard drinkers; their womenfolk come a close second, and their talk is smutty - I'd thought that only men frequenting bars were so crude. At one of several parties my beautiful white silk dress was ruined: some oaf lurched against my chair and dumped a large glassful of red wine into my lap.

The houses are handsome, solid and well furnished; there are pretty gardens. Beauclerk the DC, who evidently fancies himself as a lady-killer, was vastly annoyed when I cold-shouldered his coy advances. Dirty old man. All in all, it was good to get back to the village and our little haphazard home; with the exception of the Aikins (Victoria is a New Zealander), I wouldn't like to have those people as neighbours.

While we were in Mahenge, Sailor and I, with Christopher in the pushcart, climbed further up the hill to the old German fort. Buildings meant to last forever, a splendid panoramic view over the terrain. A well-chosen site for their purpose. Mahenge was once Mahenge Province under German occupation and was an important German headquarters. Looking down from that lofty perch I thought: no problem of malaria up here. No dangers from tsetse fly. A well-chosen spot indeed.



Masiphumelele Gospel Choir

The Masiphumelele Gospel Choir will be singing in St Francis Anglican Church, Simon's Town on Sunday 17 June during the 9h30 Communion Service.

The choir of fifteen men and women was formed a year ago. They practise every evening and have achieved a high standard. They are looking for a platform to launch themselves and also to raise funds to buy uniforms.

The people of St Francis Church are happy to promote the choir, and invite members of the public to attend the service on 17 June. There will be a collection for the choir at the end of the service.

The Night Sky

The very bright and beautiful morning 'star' has been seen by most people who have faced east in the early morning during the last few weeks. I was asked *why* this planet is not called 'Aurora', who was described by the poet Virgil in the *Aeneid*. It was the Lamp of Dawn. Aurora was the daughter of Hyperion and Thia, and was known as the goddess of the Dawn. She rose from her couch, which she shared with her husband Tithonus, at the end of each night and went in her rose coloured chariot, drawn by white horses, to open the gates of Day.

This bright planet is not called 'Aurora' because sometimes it is an evening planet, but at others is a morning one. In addition several other planets may be the "Morning Star", Mercury, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn may take on this role. This jewel in the morning sky is Venus.

The Southern Cross, with the Pointers Alpha and Beta Centauri, continues to dominate the southern sky above the Simonsberg mountains, while on the Ecliptic (the pathway of the planets) Virgo and Leo are low in the west after sunset followed by Libra (the Scales) and then the dominant winter constellation Scorpio (the Scorpion), which is overhead at midnight. This constellation has a number of bright stars, but the brightest one is the red giant Antares, with a diameter of 350 million miles. This is several hundred times the diameter of our Sun. Antares has a companion, a green star of 7 magnitude, which is visible if seen through a telescope of 8 inches or larger. In the tail of Scorpio there are a number of coloured stars, some are red, others green, yellow and one is blue. There are four bright white stars in the claws, three to those whose eyesight is not so good. Those having excellent sight will see twin stars near one of the stars forming the claws, anybody can see them using binoculars.

Scorpio is followed on the Ecliptic (east) by Sagittarius the Archer, made up of mainly bright second magnitude stars, in the bright-

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object of the Milky Way, which is the centre of the universe.

In the northern sky looking towards Fish Hook and Cape Town, several bright stars are visible at this time of the year. Due north of Vega in the north west is gold coloured Arcturus, a double star in the constellation of Boötes the Herdsman. Going further south north Vega is Lyra the Harp opposite Scoopio, while in the north east opposite Sagittarius is Altair in Aquila the Eagle.

The bright star in the constellation of Canis, near the False Cross and Achenar are the bright stars that watch over the mountain.

The Planets

Mercury, magnitude 1.0 is in conjunction with the Sun and will not be visible until the 28th, when it appears as a morning planet in the east.

Venus, magnitude -2.2 is the bright jewel in the early morning sky. Look to the east after dawn. It is no brighter than Mercury as seen after sunrise. It has not been so bright since 1988, and requires a morning watch until December. It will start getting dimmer then the middle of next month.

Mars, magnitude 2.8, rises in the east in the early evening in the constellation of Ophiuchus. Mars increases in size the month to over 20 arcseconds in diameter as it comes within 67 million kilometres of the Earth on June 21st, the closest and nearest it has been since 1956.

On a night of good seeing, particularly after rain, using 8" or larger telescopes, both the polar ice caps and a dust storm may be seen.

Jupiter, magnitude -1.9 has left the evening sky, being visible again in the morning sky in the constellation of Gemini, at the end of the month.

Saturn, magnitude +0.1 becomes visible again in the evening sky with Mercury and Venus and on the 29th with Jupiter.

Uranus, magnitude +5.8 is in Capricorn and rises after midnight. On the 11th, will be 3° south of the Moon.

Neptune, magnitude +7.2 is in Capricorn

with Uranus. On the 10th it will be 2½° north of the Moon.

Pluto, magnitude +15.9 remains in Ophiuchus, but is only visible using a large telescope.

The Moon

New Moon is on the 21st, (when there will be an eclipse of the Sun). First Quarter is on the 28th, Full Moon on the 6th, Last Quarter 14th. The Moon is at apogee, furthest away at the 11th and at perigee on the 29th.

The Sun

On June 1st Sunrise is at 4.14am and Sunset at 5.43pm. On the 30th Sunrise is at 7.52am and Sunset at 5.44pm.

The Vernal Equinox occurs on the 21st at 10am, when the Sun has reached its most northerly position at 23½° over the Tropic of Cancer, so it is in daylight here in Simon's Town.

The Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn in the Southern Hemisphere were so named by the Greeks over 2000 years ago, when the

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CRIME REPORT

Simon's Town SAPS

Launch of the Simon's Town Car Guard Scheme

On 13 November 1996 the Happy Valley Home in Simon's Town was officially opened in a bid to help the homeless of the streets. This came about after the establishment of the Simon's Town Community Police Forum (STCPF) and was one of its first projects to make Simon's Town crime free. A further aim is to make the homeless residents self-sufficient.

Early in 2001 it was noticed that professional diving schools making use of Simon's Town diving spots had become targets of car break-ins. **Capt. "Dup" Du Pisanie** had the idea of using suitable Happy Valley Home residents to protect vehicles by posting them as car guards. After liaising with the STCPF and the administration of the Happy Valley Home, the "Car Guard" scheme was officially launched on **Friday 18 May**. Members of the Car Guard wear orange vests with white letters whilst on duty, and anyone wishing to make use of their services can contact Mrs Dollery on **786 5087**.

A small fee is payable for their services.
Insp GT Store



Chubb
ARMED RESPONSE

Sun was in those Constellations in its northern and southern journeys, but due to the Precession of the Equinoxes, the Solstices now occur in the Constellations of Taurus in the Northern Hemisphere and Sagittarius in the South. Now that we are in the 21st Century, the geographers should wake up and call the Tropics by their correct names Taurus and Sagittarius. Astrologers who use the old Babylonian tables are also out by two signs of the Zodiac, so instead of saying you were born in ... remember you weren't!

June 21st is also the day of the Eclipse of the Sun. First contact at Simon's Town will be at 13hr 17min. Maximum Eclipse is at 14hr 36min. Fourth Contact at 15hr 49min. There will be less than 60% visible in Simon's Town. Nobody should look at the Sun, except when they are using special Solar glasses, or suitable welding goggles. The Solar glasses are obtainable from Mr Cliff Turk, Cape Centre, Astronomical Association of South Africa, PO Box 13018, Mowbray, 7705. He has also written an excellent book on Eclipses. The minimum order is ten pairs of glasses.

There will be a Total Eclipse of the Sun over South Africa on December 4th 2001, which will be a spectacular event. There are three different types of Solar Eclipses, Total, Partial, or Annular, depending on the positions and distances apart of the Sun, Earth and Moon. Between 1st and last contact there is a possible 4 hour interval, although totality may be from a second to 7½ minutes, but this is rare, as there are few eclipses of over 3½ minutes.

Meteors

The Ophiuchids are expected between June 8-16, with a peak on the 13th, between 8pm and 5am.

The June Lyrids are expected between 11-21 June from 11.30pm - 2am.

Comets

No new comets have been reported.

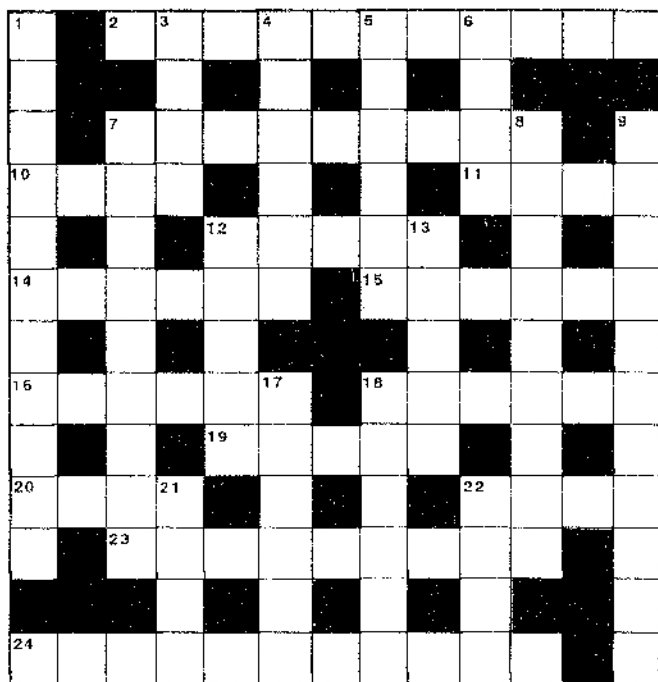
Peter I. van Blommestein

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4****WINNER for Crossword No 4 - Shane Schulz****Simon's Town Civic Association
Committee Members and their Portfolios:**

Chairman:	Mrs Jacky Weaver	782 5335
Vice-chairman & Property Report: For the ex-GCA:	Geoffrey Palmer	786 5402
	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 5

Across

2. Motolo's skin is cleft (6,5)
7. A bird-breeder absorbs popular capitalist (9)
10. Pull back part of the hospital (4)
11. An OK heterogeneous Nigerian town (4)
12. A bar is the place to return to make merry (5)
14. This gentleman used to out on a Berlin river (6)
15. An odd Marx cat creates uproar (6)
16. The top of the foot must be with the other marchers (6)
18. The seance is disturbed by the appearance of a Roman philosopher (6)
19. From saying, "Hailo", answers will provide temporary relief (5)
20. Test an old lover next morning (4)
22. Go stealthily, short of a pound, to the bow (4)
23. "Certainly, right now", you might say. But that was 24 hours ago (9)
24. It takes a hired dollar to get you to Pine Haven (3,4,4)

Down

1. The key to watering the Admiraal's vegetables (6,5)
3. I make an offer for the same (4)
4. No rage can make the donkey answer (6)
5. You'll usually find the fall guy up in the mouth!
6. A Welsh emblem goes back for the foundation of a boat (4)
7. Candid people's local place to bark ... or swim? (6,3)
8. Crayfish eggs under a file get blown fruit (9)
9. A sea-shore stroll will give a sight of the penguins (7,4)
12. Even pounds enfold the first lady (5)
13. Fifty surrounded by a confused employer lays down the law (5)
17. The short man follows a position by mail (6)
18. About Ronald's return - he's noisy at night! (6)
21. I object to quiet network (4)
22. The affectionate head of the family is down and out but up in the middle (4)

PRIZE: R100 voucher valid at Café Pescado

Name: Tel. No:

- Entries in plain envelope addressed to Snoektown Calling Crossword Puzzle and delivered to Simon's Town Bottle Store before 20 June 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

JUNE 2001

1. SIMON'S TOWN MUSEUM

Phone **786 3046**

Wednesday 20 June, 5.30 for 6pm

'St Petersburg and the Baltic' - a talk with slides by Audrey Read.

R10 per person (includes refreshments).

2. FRIENDS OF SIMON'S TOWN COASTLINE

Enquiries Ph **786 3890** - All Welcome

Wednesday 13 June, 7.15pm for

7.30pm - Illustrated talk on 'Adventures in Pre-History - an archeologist's view of the past in the Western Cape' by Mr Tim Hart, Academic Archeological Researcher and Consultant. Museum Hall, Court Rd, Simon's Town, enquiries **786 4823**.

Saturday 16 June, 9.30am - Hack of alien vegetation and planting of indigenous shrubs at Boulders Park and Links Crescent. **Meet** at Boulders car park, enquiries **786 3890**.

Saturday 23 June, 9.30am - Alien vegetation hack with Flora Conservation Group between Woodlands and Glen Marine. **Meet** at entrance to Woodlands suburb near Da Gama Park. Enquiries **786 1620** and **786 3890**.

Sunday 24 June, 9.30am - Combined all-day walk with Flora Conservation Group to the Amphitheatre, Silvermine Nature Area.

Meet at Dalebrook Beach parking area, Kalk Bay (opposite Holy Trinity Church), enquiries **789 1334**.

NB - On all walks please bring suitable clothing for changeable weather.

3. MASONIC CLUB, SIMON'S TOWN

Quiz held on the 1st Friday of each

month - R10pp (supper R5 pp).

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

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

Dates for June: 8 June - Dance

All events commence at **8pm sharp**.

Sylvia on 782 7191 or Norma 786 2126.

4. SIMON'S TOWN FLORA CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Do your bit to promote fynbos by joining the Simon's Town Flora Conservation group's conservation hack on **Sunday 17 June at Red Hill 9.30am-noon (meet opposite Pinehaven)**; and on **Tuesday 19 June at Froggy Pond 9.30am-noon (meet at far end of Dorries Drive)**.

Information: Peter Salter **786-1620**.

There is also a hack every Thursday afternoon on Elsie's Peak.

Contact Ilushka Allan **782-2736**.

5. SIMON'S TOWN HOME NURSING SERVICE

AGM will be held on **Tuesday 19 June at 2.30pm** at the Simon's Town Museum, Simon's Town.

For information on our service, please phone **786 1242**.

Deadline for July Edition

Thursday 21 June

Publication Date - Monday 2 July

Contact Sue Sturman

Tel 786 5798 or 786 2436

(Simon's Town Publicity Assoc)